

# Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Area Forum

# NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Hello again and welcome to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's latest (May / June) Newsletter.

As usual you can find news and activities from the many clubs, societies and institutions that make this beautiful area the great place that it is to live, reflecting the very best of the many special folk who live here. You can do your bit by passing this newsletter on to your friends, neighbours and other contacts. Also, if you are a member or participant in another group which does not publicise their activities in the newsletter, then why not make a contribution in our future issues?

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 July/August 2024  
issue of the Newsletter

**MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024**



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662



Are you looking for a space for: a regular booking, a one off event , children's party, or a blast from the past below, a supper! Our hall is an ideal affordable venue, with great kitchen facilities.

We would love to hear from you. Contact us via messenger, on 01929 424152 or [tania.leigh@sandpdt.org.uk](mailto:tania.leigh@sandpdt.org.uk)

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



## Swanage Youth Club

We have a brilliant youth club here at Herston hall running Friday evenings term time and some school holiday activity days all at a low cost, with so many young people attending and keeping us super busy we go through our resources very quickly.

We would love anyone who could offer some resources to get in touch, this could be sports equipment especially footballs, arts and crafts including paint, pens and paper, board games and your own time to attend club and cook with our young people.

Please do get in touch with us at [youthclubswanage@gmail.com](mailto:youthclubswanage@gmail.com).





## Men's Shed Faces Closure Crisis

The Wareham Area Men's Shed is being forced to search for a new home after being evicted from its current premises. And if it does not find one soon it will face closure, which would be a huge blow both for the men involved AND the local community.

The Shed was set up six years ago with the twin aim of providing a meeting place for lonely, disadvantaged or retired men who could then make objects out of wood to benefit the people of Wareham and beyond.

It has undertaken a vast amount of voluntary work for most local councils, schools, churches and charities such as the restoration of the car-wrecked clay mining trolley sited at Wareham Roundabout, for Wareham Town Council; a climbing wall for reception kids at Stoborough Primary School and a raft spider viewing platform for RSPB Arne. It has also made countless smaller items such as hedgehog houses, bird boxes and planters for local nature groups, and last year created a new tourist attraction for Purbeck by carving and painting a 14ft totem pole for the Blue Pool.

Until now the Shed, which has been growing recently and currently has 30 members, has been based in a workshop at Care Dorset's centre in Sandford Road, Wareham. But now Care Dorset, which is wholly owned by Dorset Council but run independently, has given it three months' notice to quit, citing an "operational need".

Shed chairman Harold Forbes said: "This means we must quickly find a new site otherwise there will be no alternative but to shut down. That would be an enormous shame both for our members and for the wider community, for which we have done so much over the past few years. Our reputation for making and repairing many and varied items out of wood has grown steadily and we know those for whom we have worked have been very grateful."

Mr Forbes said he was shocked by Care Dorset's notice to quit, which came out of the blue, and found their decision "very strange". He added: "Their stated purpose is 'Supporting adults to live better lives'. That's also the Shed's ethos. Many of our volunteers feel it gives them a purpose in life that they would otherwise not have."

The Shed, which is affiliated to the UK Men's Sheds Association, has been paying a modest rental to Care Dorset and could offer the same to a new landlord. It is seeking a site in the Purbeck area on which it could build its own workshop, or existing premises it could adapt. The only prerequisite is an electricity supply.

**If you or anyone you know can help, please contact Harold Forbes on 01929 792591 or email [warehamshed@gmail.com](mailto:warehamshed@gmail.com).**



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



As we come to the end of the current 5-year term of office for the Swanage Town Council I can look back on a very busy and fruitful time. I have enjoyed the many meetings and discussions which have resulted in plans and decisions we have made together to improve the safety and enjoyment of our beautiful town. I should like to thank the other 11 Councillors who have spent time sitting round the tables and computer screens in the last 5 years, for their input, hard work and courtesy as we worked through the decisions we have made.

The staff who are employed by the Town Council are unfailingly committed and helpful, and I feel we are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team. This has been highlighted by the award to the Visitor Centre as being a Gold medal winner in the whole of the South West Tourism sector.

I should also like to thank the members of the public who have attended meetings and raised issues which they consider important to the smooth running of the community and its infrastructure. Also, I am grateful to all those who contributed to our many and varied public consultations. And there are more to come as we embark on the Neighbourhood plan and revising proposals for the Green Seafront Stabilisation Scheme.

This year sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Swanage Town Council so I look forward to the continued efforts of this important assembly. A new logo has been created (free of charge) to celebrate the occasion and the Council will be considering how best to mark this significant milestone over the months ahead.

Finally, as many of you will know the local elections are taking place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. These elections are the foundation stone of our democratic system and the result will help to shape how services are delivered locally over the next 5 years. I send my best wishes to all the candidates who are standing for the Town Council and Dorset Council, and I hope that as many readers of this newsletter as possible will participate in this process, whoever you choose to cast your vote for.

*Cllr Tina Foster*



**SWANAGE  
BOWLING CLUB**  
*Lawn bowling on the Dorset Coast*

## Swanage Bowling Club 2024 Season

Swanage Bowls Club begins the season hopeful of matching or even improving on last year's successes. The Club won Division 1 of the Bournemouth & District Triples league and 2 of our ladies represented Dorset in the Pairs National Finals. Swanage also won the Division 1 League of the Dorset Mixed Triples Competition, having entered 4 teams across the leagues for the first time.

The Club welcomed lots of new members in 2023 and we would love to see more people join us this year. It doesn't matter whether you are an experienced player moving to Swanage, or someone who has never tried the game before, we would love to welcome you. A bonus is that Membership Fees are half price for the first year! You can also access free coaching.

We are holding two '**Have a Go**' sessions; the first is on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May** and the second on the **12<sup>th</sup>**. There are two sessions each day, one at 10am and the other at 2pm; all you need are flat shoes. You can find us at Beach Gardens off Caudon Avenue or Northbrook Road. Please feel free to call Barrie Tatman on 01929 421162 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there, but if you can't make either date Barrie can sort out a taster session for you.

We run internal Club Competitions, a fun and relaxed Triples competition and hold organised but relaxed roll ups during the week including a Friday night fun game followed by food. Our President, Linda Wallis, has chosen Swanage Pier as her Charity for the year, raising funds through social events. The Club Captains for this year are Julie Lomas-Smith and Tony Bell who also hold a fundraising day. We welcome Clubs from all over the Country who come to Dorset on Bowls Tours and this year we look forward to our own Bowls Tour in Eastbourne. Swanage Bowls Club is a great sports club providing healthy outdoor activity for all ages and abilities, with a real focus on mental and physical wellbeing.

We would love to welcome you!

# Swanage Pier Volunteer Recruitment Day

Saturday 18th May - 10.00am - 2.00pm

Volunteers are at the heart of Swanage Pier



Our volunteers provide hundreds of hours of support each month, without which Swanage Pier would struggle to survive. Thanks to this support, the Pier looks as glorious today as it would have done over 120 years ago. We welcome anyone with a few hours to spare, who likes meeting new people and wants to spend time supporting this amazing heritage site.

Volunteers get involved in all aspects of the Pier, from welcoming visitors at the gate, to Pier maintenance, as well as helping with events, education and serving customer in the gift shop.

This is why I volunteer ...

*'Learning more about the Pier, Swanage and the surrounding area including the sea, boats and wildlife'.*

*'Enjoy working in the shop meeting the customers - some of whom are very interesting with their long knowledge of the Pier'.*

*'It is a lovely Pier and I feel privileged to help keep it going and help visitors enjoy it as much as I do'.*

To find out more about becoming a volunteer come along on **Saturday 18th May between 10am-2pm** and chat to one of our friendly team.

<https://www.swanagepiertrust.com/volunteering.aspx>



## Other Events

**Tale of Two Piers Tour** – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June

**Fish and Chip Cruise** – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Park to Pier Walk** – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July

For full details visit - [www.swanagepiertrust.com/events](http://www.swanagepiertrust.com/events)



## David's Trek to Petra for Julia's House

November 2-9, 2024

David Kemp of Corfe Castle has signed up for the Trek to Petra in Jordan, to raise funds for **Julia's House Children's Hospice** in Dorset and Wiltshire. The Challenge includes walking up to 10 miles a day for 5 days, over desert and mountain terrain, in daytime temperatures up to 30°C, camping at night with temperatures possibly down to 0°C.

By the time you read this, the doughty band of Trekkers will have completed the first training walk in Cranborne Chase. The temperature and terrain are not quite what we expect in Jordan, but it helps to get legs in trim, improve fitness, check out clothing and equipment, and meet fellow Trekkers.

Have you bought your **Rock Quiz** yet? It's only £1, and if you complete it you might win a nice cash prize! Buy your **Rock Quiz** in Corfe Castle at **The Sweet Shop**, the **Village Stores**, the **Community Library**, or at **Village Hall Coffee Mornings**, or the **May Fair** in the Castle on Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the various shopkeepers and managers of those venues and occasions. There will also be 20p tickets for the **Fizz Flutter** (Champagne Draw), Purbeck **Rocks** Post Cards (20p), and **Rock** cakes (50p).

All contributions are welcome. My on-line donations page is [www.justgiving.com/page/david-kemp-1694853078368](http://www.justgiving.com/page/david-kemp-1694853078368). I am very happy to accept cheques or cash, or I can supply my bank details if you'd prefer to support **Julia's House** that way.

**Julia's House Children's Hospice needs and is very grateful for your support!**

David Kemp, 7 Colletts Close, Corfe Castle, 01929 480007 [davimukem@aol.com](mailto:davimukem@aol.com)



As my last update contained a serious error which I was unable to correct at the time, I must apply the appropriate correction here with profound apologies. We were, in fact, indebted to the Swanage Folk Festival which performed in Swanage in September's glorious sunshine and generously awarded Swanage Food Bank with the cheque of £1000 dated March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. Many, many thanks to them!

**Swanage  
Food Bank**



**This is Swanage Food Bank's first report from its new home, a spacious blue hall in the United Reformed Church** (which is on the right-hand side of the High Street just prior to the turning down Church Hill). The URC elders and members have kindly agreed to our tenancy there, and already our move from the Salvation Army Lower Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> April has been successfully completed with the help of Swanage Besom, and our own volunteers. A great thanks is owed to Robin Plowman and Ian Bandy for all their co-operative work in measuring and planning, and rebuilding our new shelving systems - which are really carefully designed and work perfectly with their magnetic fixtures. So thanks to all who have contributed to our move. A big thanks, too, to Darren, Budgens Manager, for kindly giving us 4 metal trolleys which we had been borrowing and using extensively for the past 7 years (at least!). We will, of course, continue to use Budgens for supplying us with plastic bags for home deliveries (with a reminder here to our clients to kindly return them to us for re-use by others).

The work continues as before and we have retained our phone number (07759230313), email facility, Facebook page, and our contacts with helping charities which may refer clients to us. Self-referrals are also still enabled. Our new address and details of service will appear on new Cards currently at a preparation stage. We will continue to make a weekly order from Morrisons to replace frozen, fresh, and other food items in short supply. Thanks to Jules for managing this work so efficiently.

We do appreciate all the funding which enables us to continue to make quite substantial purchases, such as our new fridge and the cost of our recent move. Our Treasurer, Ian Bandy, always welcomes your financial gifts throughout the year ([ian.bandy@gmx.com](mailto:ian.bandy@gmx.com)).

Thanks, too, for all your gifts of food items – these are always used and seem to disappear rapidly, especially tinned meats and fish of all kinds, baked beans, pasta in sauce, packets of biscuits (savory and sweet), and breakfast cereals. We are appreciative of unopened toiletries and homeware but not in need of items for babies at present.

*Pauline Werba, Chairperson*

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



  
Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

We are so grateful to the team of Defib Guardians who have continued to look after the Defibs and Cabinets during recent challenging bad weather, keeping the kit ready for emergency use. Thank you to all Guardians across Swanage and the villages for your dedication and commitment.

We are now planning more Defib familiarisation sessions and would welcome requests from local groups or organisations who would like to learn more about defibs and how to use them ([info@swanagedefib.co.uk](mailto:info@swanagedefib.co.uk) or on Facebook)

At the suggestion of one of our Stoborough guardians we are pleased to provide a session on April 24th, hosted by the Stoborough W.I, when we will be welcoming attendance from the Wareham area.

An event organised at the United Reformed Church in early March provided a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the work of one of our local Community First Responders, Jonathan Greetham who is retiring and leaving the area, by nominating him for a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship (the highest award Rotary makes) for his significant support of our local community in emergency situations and his links with SCDP. Jonathan leaves a strong legacy of emergency support behind him. Congratulations Jonathan.

*Maggie Hardy, SCDP*





# HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

## What's On at Harmans Cross Village Hall

### Movie Nights – doors and bar open at 7pm, admission just £5

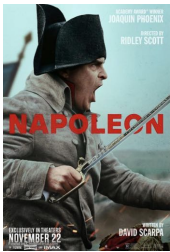
Reviews and trailers can be found on the Movie Nights section of our website at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/>

Our next screenings are:



HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
**NAPOLEON**



Doors and bar at 7 pm - Film at 7.30pm  
Tickets for sale on the door only - £5.00

### Tuesday 14 May – Napoleon

Having read a number of reviews of Napoleon, it's fair to say that the views are very polarised – its seems you either love this film, or find it dull and “an insult to French history”. Those who have loved it have described it as phenomenal and Ridley Scott's best work – not bad considering this is a Director whose films have garnered 9 Oscars and a host more nominations. It might not be a perfect 1:1 from history to screen, but like Ridley himself said, who cares? If the film is entertaining, gets the majority of its story correct, and informs the audience, then “who cares”. The film does not shy away from portraying Napoleon's flaws and weaknesses, such as his arrogance and his ambition. However, it also shows the human side of Napoleon, his vulnerability and his love for his wife, Joséphine. Joaquin Phoenix is mesmerizing as Napoleon. He captures the emperor's charisma, intelligence, and ruthlessness with a raw and visceral intensity. Vanessa Kirby is also excellent as Joséphine. She brings a sense of grace and dignity to the role of Napoleon's wife, who was often overshadowed by her husband's larger-than-life personality. The battle scenes in Napoleon are some of the most impressive ever put on film. Scott uses a variety of techniques to create a sense of chaos and scale, including slow motion, fast-cutting editing, and aerial shots. The result is a visceral and unforgettable viewing experience. But perhaps the answer is to see it and make your own mind up. And you can see the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAZWXUkrjPc>

### Tuesday 11 June – The Great Escaper

Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson star in this true-life heart warmer about the 89 year old 2<sup>nd</sup> WW Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who in 2014 jauntily sneaked out of his seaside care home (where he lived with his wife Irene) on a secret mission to get aboard a cross-channel ferry and attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of the D-day landings in Normandy – having failed to get included on an official group excursion. Of course the British press immediately dubbed him “the great escaper”. Caine is Jordan, of course, bringing plenty of droll and lugubrious spark to the role, shuffling up and down the seafront, grumpily denouncing the trendy cyclists almost running him over on the pavement as “tossers” and letting the air out of their tyres. But he is arguably upstaged by Jackson as Irene, or Rene, who is sarky and sardonic to everyone, including her care worker Adele. I think Bernard and Adele may well be the old folk some of us might aspire to being in due course !! But this is a fabulous film starring two British legends, and we are screening it 60 years almost to the day after the D-Day landings See the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=C-Qw4asqFUJ>

### Coffee Junction – in the small meeting room from 10.30am

**Thursday 16 and 30 May. Coffee Junction has had to give way to Polling Day for the local elections on Thursday 2 May.**

### HXVH Church – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6pm

Next HX service is Sunday 19 May.

### Booking the Hall

A reminder to anyone interested in booking the Hall that our new Bookings Guru is Kelly King. There's loads of information available on the 'Make a Booking' section of our website and you can check availability using the online calendar which is always kept up to date. Kelly can be contacted on either 07384 848 419 or email at [bookings@harmanscrosshall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@harmanscrosshall.co.uk).

*Alison and the HXVH Committee*

## Studland Snippets

**Studland Parish Council** are considering the creation of a survey on a 20 MPH speed limit. The lengthsman is tending to verge side hedges and contributing towards the general tidiness of the village. You may well notice this as you drive or walk through the village. The expensive adult fitness equipment in the playing field is being well used even by children. Roads such as Heath Green Road, School Lane, and Watery Lane are in need of sweeping. Dorset Council can assist here. The beach is being further eroded due to high tides and easterly winds

**The Purbeck Society** has a new chair: Jessica Sutcliffe. The programme of talks is going ahead. The next talk is likely to be on Corfe Castle

The Dorset branch of the **Campaign to Protect Rural England** (the Countryside Charity) continues to support the provision of affordable and low cost housing for Dorset residents. Such housing appears to be needed especially in the Swanage area.



# OPEN DAY

## Swanage Children's Centre and Day Centre



**Soon to be renamed, the Focus Centre, the buildings will be open to the community on 11 May between 11am and 2.00pm.**

Following the Community Asset Transfer of these buildings, from Dorset Council, reported in the last Newsletter, a Community Open Day is planned for 11 May when everyone is invited to tour the site.

Come and see the exciting plans, which include a Family Hub, a Wellbeing Hub and a continuing Day Care Centre. You will be able to comment on our early ideas. It will also be an opportunity for you to give feedback and put forward your own thoughts.

There will be a play area, open on the day, for children, and tea and cake will be available, while you are browsing the plans.

Said Bob Foster, Chair of the SPDT, "We see this project as a very good example of the Community working together with local authorities to improve services locally. This is why we are keen to hear the views of local people, at this early stage, so that we can incorporate them into the plans currently being drawn up."

The event will be advertised locally, closer to the day, but this is your opportunity to get it in your diary early.

SPDT will be providing regular updates on the progress on site, soon to be renamed, the "Focus Centre", with a particular focus on wellbeing, children and families and support for the local Community, generally, including Swanage and surrounding villages.

**Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust**  
19 April 2024



The Children's Centre



The Day Centre

## COMMUNICARE WILL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

and would enjoy the company of as many people as possible to join us for a

**SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING**

**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**TUESDAY 21st MAY at 2.30 pm**

followed by Tea & Cakes afterwards for much chat and friendship and fellowship. We would love to be joined for this from our fellow helpers and friends dotted around Swanage that are interested in what we do to help everyone. We all help people out in various different ways - and would love to hear from you and have your company. If you cannot come, and want to send us a note of encouragement, please do so. Note across the phone or pop it into Corbens for us and they will pass it to us, nearer the time. Many Thanks !

*For more info, please ring Jenny Lazenbury on 01929-426644 or Carol 01929-427576 or Jeanette 01929-480932*





## Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

The PPG last met on 19 March, when we were joined by Ella Scrymgeour, Public Health Dorset's Locality Link for Purbeck. She described the role of Public Health Dorset, as well as all the work she is doing within Purbeck. Natasha Ritchie, the Practice Manager, updated us on the proposed changes to the GP Contract in 2024/25, including the below inflation uplift in funding that has been announced for General Practice in 2024/25.



Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14 May 2024**, when we will be joined by Lizzie Eden, who promotes Carer Engagement by supporting Carers Leads in GP Practices across Dorset.

As I write this update, we are making final preparations for undertaking a Patient Survey at the Surgery during the week beginning 15 April 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).**

## Lewis-Manning Hospice Care - new Day Hospice opening in Swanage



Lewis-Manning Hospice Care is a charity providing support to people with life-limiting illnesses and their loved ones.

They offer a range of free services aimed at helping people to live well through their illness, closer to home and at home. These include Hospice at Home, Day Hospices, Lymphoedema Clinics, Breathlessness Service, Creative Arts and Wellbeing, and Bereavement & Family Support.

They will be opening a new Day Hospice in the Cricket Club in Swanage on **Friday 19 April 2024**.

You can find out more about the free services they offer on their website at: [www.lewis-manning.org.uk](http://www.lewis-manning.org.uk).

## COVID-19 Spring Boosters

This April through to June, adults aged 75 and older, residents in care homes for older adults and people aged 6 months and over who have a weakened immune system can top up their protection against COVID-19 with a Spring vaccine.

You may be invited by the NHS via letter, the NHS App or by your GP to get your COVID-19 vaccination, but you do not need to wait to be contacted before you book if you are eligible.

You can book your appointment on the [National Booking Service](#) from **Monday 15 April**. Vaccination Clinics, including the vaccination clinic at Wareham Hospital, will be opening from **Monday 22 April**.

## Carers Fair

An event for Carers will be taking place on the afternoon of **Wednesday 12 June 2024** at Carey Hall in Wareham. This will provide an opportunity for Carers living in Purbeck to find out more about all the organisations that can help them in their caring role.

*Mrs Margaret Broadhurst (Dr Margaret Guy)*  
Chair  
Swanage Medical Practice PPG

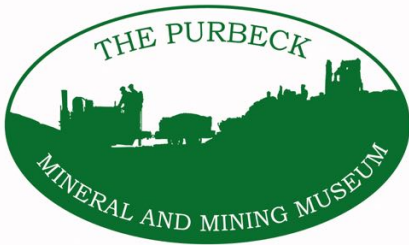
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**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. ... Our primary purpose is to stay sober and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



## British heritage in the spotlight for young French visitors

The Purbeck Mining Museum enjoyed a very successful Easter as it opened its doors to the general public for the new season. Immediately following the Bank Holiday weekend, the attraction also hosted its first school group of the year. Over 54 students and 4 teachers from the Charles de Foucauld College in Brest, France, visited the museum during a special trip to the UK which also included visits to two other popular heritage destinations, Stonehenge and Beaulieu.

Travelling on a steam-hauled train from Swanage, the young French visitors had the chance to see the Purbeck's most familiar and iconic landmark at Corfe Castle before taking the short walk to the Mining Museum at Norden. Here, they were given a guided tour around the museum, including the timber-lined and iron-arched mineshaft within the restored mine building as well as the various displays of equipment, artefacts and other mining materials. Their visit culminated with an enjoyable lunch in the popular picnic area adjacent to the museum and steam railway and with fabulous views looking towards Corfe Castle, before catching a return train to Swanage.

The museum is expecting to host many other school groups from across the UK and overseas during 2024, given the high level of interest in Dorset's natural and industrial heritage. Such group visits are dependent, however, on having enough visitor reception guides at the museum which is run entirely by volunteers. If you are interested in joining the friendly group of volunteers just visit <http://purbeckminingmuseum.org/contact-us/> to find out more.



The museum recently welcomed more than 50 students and teachers from a French college.



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662



A month or so and we are well into the new growing season at Greengage Community Garden and we have continued to plant out our hedge with new saplings to fill any gaps, create 6 new mini raised beds, weed and tidy our veggie beds and start sowing for the coming season ... leeks, cabbage, alyssum, lobelia and lots are almost ready ... and lots more have been sown. Broad beans are doing well and right across the board, germination rates so far have been excellent! We are planning to create more hanging baskets and containers this year along with more herbs and cut flowers.

We would love to show you all this and we open Tuesday from 12 and Friday all day – please come and see what we do.

We already have events in our calendar and on the 13th April will be supporting the Library Open Day. We will be attending Picnic in the Park at Herston in May and there will be our open days and plenty of other things to keep us busy!! We have just been asked to create the Hospital hanging baskets, attending their summer fete, helping at Carnival and there will be lots more as the summer progresses!

We believe that Greengage is a special place, we have a group of lovely, friendly people and we have lots of fun and we grow plants!

What could be better!

Please come and visit. You will be very welcome.

*Bob Walters, Greengage Chair*



## *The Shaftesbury Tales Take Shape!*

Did you see publicity for the Short Story Writing Competition, set up by Treehouse Theatre to provide material for the Tales? That competition has now finished and some of the winning entries will give us the characters and settings for our 'Tale', as well as for the other participating groups, including Corfe Castle Primary School and The Purbeck School. Weather permitting, the first performances will be on the **Church Lawns at 7pm on July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> some of the participants will walk to Wareham, following the likely route that St Edward's body was carried. Two more performances follow in **Wareham on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**, and over the next two weeks the production will move north with locals involved in performances at the various stopping places. Many of the walkers will be in costume, and there may be animals and music! The journey ends at **Shaftesbury on July 24<sup>th</sup>** as part of the Shaftesbury Fringe.

We are starting to put together our scene which features part of the story of Edward the Martyr, with other scenes telling other parts of the saga. Who murdered him? Why? How come he was made a Saint? What happened to his body? No spoilers yet!

This promises to be an amazing and unforgettable occasion, so look out for more information as July approaches! Tickets for all the shows are now on sale at [www.treehousetheatre.com/shaftesburytales](http://www.treehousetheatre.com/shaftesburytales), along with information about the whole project.

However, rest assured that Double Act will be back as usual in Corfe Castle to stage **'This Secret Isle'** in November. And there's a possibility that Double Act will also be hosting a **Ball & Socket** evening, (in support of the Village Hall kitchen revamp) probably in October.

Your local Drama Group certainly does its best to entertain in a variety of ways!

**If you would be interested in joining our friendly safe group or for more details, please contact the chairman, David Kemp 01929 480007, or secretary David Watson 01929 481265 - or email [doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com](mailto:doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com)**

*New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome*



## **FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL**

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

Following on from Wareham Hospital's list of services in the April Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust/Swanage Area Forum newsletter, we thought that it would be useful to include a list of the services that Swanage Hospital provides so that the community can see the wide breadth of services that are offered from Swanage and Wareham Hospitals, hospitals at the heart of our local communities.

The Friends of Swanage Hospital are keen to support the services listed below and do all that we can to maintain them and are also anticipating and hopeful of more services being introduced over time. Being a Friend of Swanage Hospital (or Wareham Hospital or ideally both) means that you can help us to demonstrate your support of hospital services locally and give us a strong voice. Details on becoming a Friend of Swanage Hospital can be found on our website – [www.friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk](http://www.friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk)

In addition to in-patient beds in the Stanley Purser Ward, the MIU (Minor Injuries Unit) and X-rays, Swanage Hospital provides the following services :

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening
- Audiology
- Cardiology – Consultant
- Cardiology – Physiologist
- Child Health
- CMHT (Community Mental Health Teams) - Older Persons
- Diabetes Clinic
- Diabetic Eye Screening
- Employment specialist CMHT
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- General Surgery
- Glaucoma Review
- Gynaecology
- Haematology
- Health Checks (40-74)
- Heart Failure – Nurse Led
- Holters (24 hour tape)
- Lewis Manning Breathlessness
- Ophthalmology
- Orthoptics
- Orthotics
- Parkinson's – Nurse Led
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- REACH addiction service
- Respiratory DAIRS Nursing Team
- Respiratory DAIRS Physio
- Respiratory Medicine
- Spirometry
- Steps2Wellbeing
- Stoma – Nurse Led

*Deirdre Selwyn, Chair, Friends of Swanage Hospital*

# THE MOWLEM

## Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

### What's On in May 2024

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

#### Live on Stage:

**Simon Evans - Have We Met? - Saturday 20th April at 8pm**  
After finally solving the mystery of his existence and true identity in *Work of the Devil*, Simon finds that he has still not overcome the more daily challenges of remembering what he came upstairs for, who these grown-ups are that live with him and how can that footage be from 2009, when he only bought those shoes a few months ago? Our last defence against tyranny, the consolation of the just and the seat of the soul. Without memory, the illusion of self crumbles. Mine, however, is shot. So where does that leave me?

**The History of Rock -Friday 26th April at 7:30pm**  
Join us as we celebrate a rock line-up like no other headlined by one of the greatest bands of all time! Audiences will be taken on a thrilling ride through the history of rock – but this time, we're turning the spotlight on Led Zeppelin, as they headline the ultimate line-up. Experience this iconic music brought back to life by an exceptional band made up of some of the finest musicians and performers.

**Artsreach Presents: She'Koyokh - Sat 25th May at 7:30pm**  
London-based She'Koyokh have been stars of the UK klezmer scene for over 20 years, described by the Evening Standard as "Britain's Best klezmer & Balkan music band". Their music is a melting pot of culture and style, from 19th-century Eastern European Jewish wedding music to festive music from the Balkans, Greece, and Turkey.  
There is also a She'Koyokh workshop at 4pm - see after film listings for details.

#### Movies:

**Wicked Little Letters (15)**  
When the residents of Littlehampton start receiving letters filled with obscenities and hilarious profanity, Rose, a rambunctious Irish immigrant, is accused of the crime.  
Starring Jessie Buckley, Olivia Coleman and Timothy Spall.  
Directed by Thea Shamrock. 27th April - 2nd May

**Bob Marley: One Love (12A)**  
Jamaican singer-songwriter Bob Marley overcomes adversity to become the most famous reggae musician in the world.  
Starring Kingsley Ben-Adir, Michael Gandolfini, Lashana Lynch.  
Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green. 3rd May

**Zone of Interest (12A)**  
The commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife, Hedwig, strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp.  
Starring Sandra Huller, Christian Friedel, Marie Rosa Tietjen.  
Directed by Jonathan Glazer.  
6th - 9th May

**Back to Black (15)**  
The life and music of Amy Winehouse, through the journey of adolescence to adulthood and the creation of one of the best-selling albums of our time.  
Starring Marisa Abela, Eddie Marten, Jack O'Connell. Directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson.  
10th - 16th May

**The Fall Guy (12A)**

After leaving the business one year earlier, battle-scarred stuntman Colt Seavers springs back into action when the star of a big studio movie suddenly disappears. As the mystery surrounding the missing actor deepens, Colt soon finds himself ensnared in a sinister plot that pushes him to the edge of a fall more dangerous than any stunt.  
Starring Ryan Gosling, Emily Blunt, Hannah Waddingham, Lee Majors. Directed by David Leith.  
17th - 23rd May

**Butterfly Tale (U)**

Two monarch butterflies become friends during their yearly migration south. However, their journey is not as simple as it seems as Patrick has only one wing and Jennifer is afraid of heights. Together, they trek across the country for a better life, overcoming unpredictable weather and hungry birds to find out what it means to be truly brave.  
Starring Mena Massoud, Sophie Cadieux, Tatiana Maslany.  
Directed by Sophie Roy.  
24th - 30th May

**Seize Them! (15)**

In Dark Ages Britain, Queen Dagan's rule is toppled by a revolution, and she becomes a fugitive in her own land. The Queen faces hardship and danger as she embarks on a voyage to win back her throne.  
Starring Aimee Lou Wood, Nick Frost, Nicola Coughlan.  
Directed by Curtis Vowell.  
24th - 30th May

#### Events in Community Room:

**Artsreach Presents: She'Koyokh Workshop**  
**Balkan & Yiddish Dance Workshop with Live Music from She'Koyokh**  
Take part in a dance workshop led by members of She'Koyokh with live music from this wonderful 7-piece band. To include Balkan and Yiddish circle dances as well as a few set dances. No partner required and open to all ages and levels but places are limited.  
Saturday 25th May at 4pm

#### Events in The Showbar:

**Oscar's Quiz Night**  
£1 per person, up to 6 people per team, prizes to be won!  
Wednesday 22nd May at 8pm  
The Showbar is open Monday - Saturday 5.30pm – 9.30pm and later for events. It is also open on a Monday from 10am to 3pm for hot drinks.  
The Showbar also has its own Facebook and Instagram which we'd encourage you to follow for specific updates on events, special offers and features on drinks sold in the bar.

#### Mowlem Visual Arts Exhibitions:

See our new visual arts exhibition by Clare Baskerville with her exhibition 'Gathering In'. Gathering and seasonal collecting has always been at the root of Clare's practice. Season or site specific, she responds to an amount of material gathered. Usually ephemeral structures, which might notionally prop, contain or support. This twisting, binding and emergent use of materials, expresses a visual outcome of making sense of something or just following that human desire to quietly create. She starts work openly with lots of surplus natural materials and then a very stripped back outcome emerges. It's a sculptural process; locate, gather, prepare, construct, re-construct and reduce. Balance rather than symmetry, is present in her work, an attempt to create order from all the fragmented parts.

The exhibition be available for viewing until 17th May

**Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and check our website for the latest update on our programme, timings and bookings.**

# HERSTON Community Picnic

*created by the Herston community for the Herston community*

**Monday 6 May 2024**  
**11am - 3pm**  
**Herston Community Park**

bring your own picnic • cakes & cuppa from cafe  
11am ukulele band • 2pm Allsort'd Choir • other music to be  
garden games • 11-12 activities on playground  
nature & outdoorsy activities  
face painting • arts and crafts • freebies










## MUSIC AT SWANAGE BANDSTAND

### \* 2024 \*

Swanage Town Band .....Wednesday 22nd May 7-8.30pm  
Durnovaria Silver Band ..... Sunday 2nd June 2.15-4.15pm  
Swanage Town Band ..... Wednesday 12th June 7-8.30pm  
Swanage Town Band ..... Saturday 22nd June 2-4.30pm  
Wareham Town Band ..... Sunday 7th July 2.30-4.30pm  
Swanage Town Band ..... Wednesday 10th July 7-8.30pm  
Swanage Town Band ..... Saturday 13th July 2-4.30pm  
Devizes Town Band ..... Saturday 20th July 1-3pm  
Wareham Town Band ..... Sunday 21st July 2-4pm  
Swanage Town Band ..... Wednesday 24th July 7-8.30pm  
Wareham Town Band ..... Saturday 10th August 2-4pm  
KEM Concert Band ..... Sunday 25th August 2.30-4.30pm



01929 766018  
welcome@swanage.gov.uk  
www.visit-dorset.com/swanage



Yoga, renowned as one of the oldest systems for personal development, is celebrated for its holistic approach to physical and mental well-being. Backed by numerous studies, yoga's benefits are undeniable. Notably, the [Times newspaper](#) on 28 February 2023 hailed yoga as a top midlife habit for enduring health, a sentiment echoed by [Medical News Today](#).

Here is an extract:

*'A trial published recently in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology suggests that yoga improves cardiovascular health, including the health of arteries. The lead researcher Paul Poirier of the Quebec Heart and Lung Institute at Laval University, says that yoga is recommended for the management of hypertension in its forms both as an exercise and as stress relief.*

*Harvard Medical School emphasised yoga's unique mood-boosting properties in a study that said: 'All exercise can boost your mood by lowering levels of stress hormones, increasing the production of feel-good chemicals known as endorphins, and bringing more oxygenated blood to your brain. But yoga may have additional benefits. It can affect mood by elevating levels of a brain chemical called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which is associated with better mood and decreased anxiety.'* You can find the full article [here](#)



If you are a new beginner or have not practised yoga for some time, come and join our friendly Iyengar Yoga classes in Corfe or Langton Matravers.

**Corfe Castle Village Hall 10 am - 11 am , Tuesdays**

**Langton Matravers Village Hall 10 am - 11 am, Wednesdays**

If you are a more experienced practitioner join our **Studland Iyengar Yoga Class 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm, Tuesdays**

It's never too late to start!

Semra O'Reilly  
07932180327  
yogawithsemra@gmail.com



**SWANAGE ANNUAL  
PARISH MEETING**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2024  
7PM**



The annual Town Meeting or Parish Assembly is an open forum for residents to raise any issues of interest relating to Swanage.

In addition to your local Town and Dorset Councillors, representatives from local organisations have been invited to make short presentations to the Meeting, and refreshments will be served.

**Venue:  
The Centre, High Street, Swanage  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

Please submit your Agenda items and formal written motions at the Town Hall, Swanage by noon on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024, in writing, by telephone 01929 423636, or via email to: [admin@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:admin@swanage.gov.uk)

**Please come along and be part of an evening  
to celebrate the Swanage community**



A bright Easter Saturday  
An Easter egg hunt on Swanage Pier  
The children scamper to search out the secreted eggs and bunnies,  
to note down the clues and win the prize.

The adults saunter in the sunshine.  
The plaques on the pier catch their eye.  
"What do they mean?"  
"Fond and joyous remembrances of those we have loved and lost"

A photo on a phone  
"This is the medal... Awarded to my friend..."  
On the screen, the medal gleams.  
On the water of the bay, the sunlight glistens.

"They were sleeping."  
A swipe to the next image  
"This is the hole."

A coffin-sized trench in concrete and sand.  
"This is where he was sleeping ...  
when the Russian shells fell."

What can you say?  
"He was your friend... I'm so sorry..."

The war in Ukraine — here on the Pier.  
"We're here for you."

Here on the Pier — Here in Purbeck

*If you would like to join in supporting Ukrainian refugees in Purbeck  
as a volunteer — through your giving — as a host*

*please contact:  
[purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com](mailto:purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com)  
tel. 07506 837141*



## ***Making Memories***

**Dementia Friendly Café  
meeting at the Café 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**

**May 7th  
May 21st  
June 4th  
June 18th  
July 2nd  
July 16th**



## **Swanage Rotary Quiz night**

**In aid of Swanage School Robotics**

**Wednesday 22nd May at Swanage School, Herston  
Arrive 6.45pm for 7pm start**

**Wine, cider, beer and soft drinks available for a donation**

**Tickets £5.00 per person for teams of up to 6**

**Don't worry if you're on your own - we can make up teams!**

**Call or text 07956 724805 to participate and for payment details**

# SWANAGE SKATEPARK Community Project launches Crowdfunder to give skatepark fundraising a rolling start!

Registered charity, Swanage Skatepark Community Project (SSCP) aims to raise £20k in community crowdfunding towards the cost of rebuilding Swanage Skatepark by 9th June to be awarded with £6k in match funding from Sport England.

Swanage Town Council removed a large portion of skate ramps in 2023 when they became unsafe, without the funds to replace them. These ramps are sorely missed, especially because they were most used by beginners to build their confidence. After resurfacing some of the skatepark area, Swanage Town Council committed £15,000 towards the cost of new equipment, however this is nowhere near enough to restore the skatepark to be the valuable community resource it once was. SSCP volunteers, led by Lorna Haines who has a long legacy of fundraising for the Skatepark, are working to secure local and national funding to raise £200,000 to replace and improve on the lost ramps. This campaign is important as it shows funders the local community of Swanage support the skatepark.

It was in 2003 that Lorna Haines ran her first London Marathon to raise money for Swanage Skatepark. Now, 20 years later, Lorna is due to run another marathon to raise money for the Skatepark; she will take part in the [North Dorset Village Marathon](#) and Relay on 5th May 2024.

## Lorna Haines says:

*'Rebuilding the skatepark to ensure we have a fun and accessible facility will lead to more positive outcomes for the young people of Swanage. Wheel based sports are known for creating a better sense of wellbeing and can attract people who wouldn't normally engage in mainstream sports. Happier and healthier young people create positive ripples that will be felt by the rest of our community too.'*

The Swanage Skatepark Crowdfunder campaign has been generously supported by local businesses who have offered some great rewards in return for your donations. For example: by contributing £10 to the future of the skatepark you could get a voucher for a buy 1 get 1 free cream tea at Brook Tea Rooms or a donation of £100 could be rewarded with a sea kayak experience for two from Fore Adventure.

## James Woodford from SSCP says

*'When I was younger this was always a busy place, we had no idea it was only funded and provided by Lorna's efforts. Now the skatepark and the young people of Swanage are suffering again, another setback for this generation who already lost so much due to Covid-19 lockdowns. This is not just about building a bigger skatepark; creating better physical infrastructure will give people of all ages an alternative social and physical outlet and bring more vitality to the town. We really need the community to get behind this. There have been loads of positive changes in the area recently, new businesses and improvements that make Purbeck a better place, let's not stop now.'*

The Crowdfunder will be live from Monday 15th April and will close 9th June after the Skatepark Community Day, kindly funded by #Willdoes.

Visit <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/swanage-skatepark> to make a donation

More info on our website: <https://www.swanageskateparkcommunityproject.com/>

Or email: [swanageskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:swanageskatepark@gmail.com).

Swanage Skatepark Community Project are also looking for volunteers who could donate their time to help our project in the long term AND we're looking for volunteers to bake a cake for sale at the **Skatepark Community Day** taking place 1st June. If you can help please email: [swanageskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:swanageskatepark@gmail.com).

Swanage Skatepark Community Project is a Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust project, registered charity no: 1162662.



Lorna Haines. Photo: Andrew Smith, Swanage News



Our small gardening team is making great progress in the Wareham Hospital garden clearing heavy ivy growth and preparing the area for future planting and easier maintenance. It is very rewarding to see the garden being used by out-patient visitors to the hospital who are enjoying the beautiful spring flowers that have emerged through the cleared areas. What has not been rewarding and has been somewhat disheartening for me and my garden team members has been the vandalism experienced within the garden with flowering bulbs removed from the fountain and strewn around the garden. The incident has been reported and we are not deterred as this is a very special garden area that is worthy of 'TLC' and we will continue our work as we are planning a garden party on **SATURDAY 22nd JUNE at 2pm** and would welcome support.

We will be holding a raffle and would welcome prizes please which can be left at the Hospital reception.

Our new pull up poster is now displayed in the hospital reception area and receiving wide interest with many surprised at the many services offered at the hospital.

We continue to work hard to maintain the profile of this much needed hospital facility and thank all our supporters and those staff who work there .

We can be contacted through the hospital 01929 557550 or by email [friendsofwarehamhospital@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwarehamhospital@gmail.com)

Best wishes,

*Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair*



## Housing on Land at Washpond Lane and Ulwell Road

On the strength of the Swanage Town Council approvals, Hastoe Housing Association (who specialise in building sustainable affordable homes) have gone ahead and commissioned architects to prepare a pre-application proposal. In turn, the Council have visited the site with Hastoe and our own Trustees to assess the site prior to preparing the scheme that they would feel comfortable to present. As soon as we feel confident that we have a suitable viable scheme we will once again consult with the Swanage Community. Naturally we are eager to reach this landmark point.

We are now also close to confirming the partnership agreement with Hastoe, which is only waiting for their final agreement, before we embed this legally for the Washpond Lane site.

We are also close to having a legal agreement with Dorset Council over the transfer of the site. The Heads of Terms have been agreed and our Solicitor are now working with the Council Solicitor to have this written up and legally approved.

Earlier this month our Trustee, Gary Richardson, gave a talk about the Swanage Community Housing Trust to an enthusiastic Rotary Club. Many thanks to Gary for doing this.



## Gearing up for the Summer Fete

This year's Summer Community Fete takes place on Thursday 8 August. It will be held at the usual venue of Sandpit field and will include all the usual favourites as well as some new activities.

Like last year, our main theme of the fete is community and we invite local groups to head to our website and apply for a free pitch. These are limited in number and starting to fill so please get in touch. Please note there is only one free pitch available per organisation.

The traditional games such as hook-a-duck and splat the rat amongst others will be back with a nominal charge of 20p a go with lots of prizes to be won even by just taking part.

As ever we have a children's zone area which provides sporting and artistic activities all at no cost - but parents must be in attendance with their child. We are also offering FREE face painting once again which was so popular last year and much appreciated by parents.

### Help needed!

If anyone would like to volunteer at our fete, please head to the Swanage Rotary website, <http://www.swanagerotary.org/>, and fill out the "volunteer to help" form. We would be very grateful for all help you might be able provide.

We require help to assist on our Rotary stalls including the raffle, hoopla, bottle stall and all the other fun games. Those helping to run the stalls would be involved for two-hour blocks. This ensures you get chance to spend time enjoying the rest of the fete! We also need help to keep the site clean and tidy and with gate duty to provide safe access for the wonderful musicians who provide free entertainment!

Alternatively, if you are not able to help during the day but have some free time during the evening of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August or after the fete on the Thursday, we would appreciate help to set up and take down as many hands really do make light work!

Finally, if you are a local business or organisation and would like to hire a pitch for the fete - again please head to the website and follow the link to apply. If you would like to donate a prize to our raffle please email [secretary@swanagerotary.org](mailto:secretary@swanagerotary.org)



### Corfe Community Kitchen

#### Soup 'n Pud

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

**12.30 – 1.45pm**

**Corfe Castle Village Hall**

**Saturday 4th May 2024**

**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 to increase community spirit. If you wish to make a donation, either of food or money please feel free but it is not obligatory.**

It was lovely to see some new faces at our April Lunch, especially those that might otherwise be eating at home, alone! David Gynes spoke about Parkinson's Day in April and the local group of 'Purbeck Parkies' who would be honouring it with wearing blue clothing. We also applauded George Preston, who has sadly recently died, for his dedicated and valuable input to the Village Hall over the years.

There will be the expected tasty food and friendly chat at our May 4<sup>th</sup> Soup 'n Pud and if you feel you have any surplus fruit and veg that would be useful to our meals, then please let us know. With summer around the corner keen gardeners are often overflowing with the fruits of their labours. Rhubarb is frequently in abundance around this time so if you have it in excess we would graciously take it off your hands as rhubarb crumble is always a firm favourite with our diners!

Our usual merry band of volunteers will be helping with serving and the tasty bread rolls will again be provided by the Village Bakery, for which we are very grateful. We know that without all this assistance we would be unable to manage. If you would like to join in the fun we would be very happy to see you. Remember that you get a lunch as well! We are hoping to hold a 'Kiddies Kitchen' session with the Toddler and Pre School Groups, their parents and staff on Tues. June 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.00 noon in the Village Hall which will be in the form of an age appropriate lunch. Lots of finger food!! We are very much looking forward to this venture, as are they and we are hoping that this should give the Village Hall Trustees more support to pursue grant applications towards improving the kitchen facilities for all users.

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



## Updates from the National Trust



**National  
Trust**



### Puffins - teetering on the brink

We've installed cameras to investigate why the puffin colony near Dancing Ledge is on the verge of extinction. In the early 1900s, these iconic birds were abundant along the Dorset coastline, but they have declined severely since. The colony in Purbeck is now tiny (three breeding pairs) and isolated – the nearest being Alderney on the Channel Islands or the Isles of Scilly off the Cornish coast. Possible reasons for the decline are lack of food or predation of the chicks by rats, gulls or crows. We'll know more when the images from the cameras are studied after the nesting season. The best way to see the puffins is by boat. Look out for the guided cruises organised by Durlston Country Park and Birds of Poole Harbour.

Photo: Pete Christie

### Rare blue butterfly thrives in Studland

The dazzling silver-studded blue butterfly has seen a population explosion on the Studland Peninsula. This is even more special because this rare heathland butterfly is in decline across the UK. The butterfly gets its name from the light blue reflective 'studs' (scales) found on the underside of the wings. Males are bluer than the females (which are brown with metallic blue spots). Look out for them in June and July. Volunteers have been monitoring the populations of silver-studded blues on either side of Ferry Road since 1976. Ecologists aren't sure why their numbers are increasingly so dramatically, but they definitely thrive where there is a mix of short heathland plants and patches of bare soil for them to bask in.



Photo: Mike Wenham

### Harnessing the horse power!



Toby Hoad with Celine & Ety. Photo Cathy Lewis

Timber is being removed from Langton Westwood, Langton Matravers with the help of Purbeck resident, Toby Hoad, and two heavy horses. Rather than using tractors and heavy-duty machinery, the coppiced timber is being extracted by the horses. This allows timber to be pulled out between standing trees, minimises soil compaction and causes less disturbance to wildlife and people. There is no pollution, and as an added bonus, the horses' dung is food for a range of invertebrates. Coppicing involves removing some trees to allow more light into the woods. These sunny glades will then attract wildflowers, butterflies, bees and other insects. Particular species include early purple orchids, wild strawberry, violets and primroses, and butterflies such as the silver-washed fritillary, brimstone and gatekeeper. This management also ensure there is mixed age range of trees, essential for a healthy woodland. Toby Hoad offers horse logging services across the south. It is a traditional way of countryside management and is keeping these skills alive.

### Clouds of colour at Corfe Castle

Corfe Castle was recently transformed into myriad colours. Over 3,000 visitors joined in the celebrations for the festival of Holi – 'Rang Barse', in collaboration with the BPC Indian Association. The castle was filled with joy, with Bollywood beats playing, dancing and colourful organic paint powder adorning people's faces and clothes. Food stalls offered traditional Indian cuisine.

The event has been widely picked up by the media, with BBC South Today covering it on the day, and articles spreading as far as Indian news outlets. We're proud to have supported this wonderful local Indian association to share their celebrations of Holi with everyone.



Photo: Sophie Bolesworth

Cathy Lewis, National Trust

Singing for Pleasure  
Every Thursday  
2pm until 3.30pm



Swanage Dementia Friendly  
£2 per session which includes  
a drink and biscuit

All Welcome



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



## 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



## Swanage Warm Welcomes

Monday **Pop-In Café Emmanuel Baptist Church**

10.30am - 1pm hot drinks, games and light lunch



Citizens' Advice Community Café, Herston Hall

10am-12pm coffee, cakes, advice, fair share pantry

Swanage Library Cuppa and Company 10.30am - 12.30pm

Tuesday **The Link Methodist Church 10am - 12noon**

Wednesday **T-Pot Rectory Classroom**

St Mary's Church 10am - 12.30pm tea and tasty cakes



The Loft 17a Commercial Rd Community space

12.30pm - 3.00pm chat and vegetarian meal



Thursday **Coffee Pot All Saints Church Ulwell**

10am - 3.00pm coffee and cake light lunch at 12.30pm

The Link Methodist Church 10am - 12noon 103 High Street

Friday **Coffee112 Swanage URC High Street**

9.30am - 12noon bacon butties, tea and cakes



Come and join us very soon!





At our April meeting we were delighted to welcome Nick and his daughter Lily at our April meeting from **The Dorset Ginger Company**. This was a very 'hands on' talk with the opportunity for us to taste all of his wonderful drinks in addition to a new yet to be released product. We started off with the lemonade that contains no ginger at all and finished with 'The Strong Ginger' drink that is the second strongest in the world, second only to Jamaican ginger.

We learnt some very interesting facts such as that the ginger is from one specific farm in Chile. This arrives as a resin that is so concentrated it can cause serious burns if it comes in to contact with the skin. Only the tiniest amount is used for each batch of drink. The Dorset Ginger Company recently moved from its original home in Lytchett Matravers to Poole. They are now next door to 'Aunty Val's ability Centre', that provides employment to people with disabilities through making jam, marmalade and chutney. The Dorset Ginger company has collaborated to develop and sell marmalades and chutneys with ginger, with the manufacturing carried out by Aunty Val's.



We rounded off the talk with a fun quiz with the prizes being the bottles of ginger drinks we had tasted. We all then had the chance to purchase products and with the aid of the recipe books given to us by Nick, we have plenty of exciting cocktail and mocktails to try at home.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

This month we will welcome representatives from **Carey's Secret Garden**. It is nearly a year since we last heard from the team and it will be interesting to hear what has been happening in that time. Will there be Ospreys nesting, how is the garden developing, what events will be happening over the summer?

#### The Village May Fair, Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May in the Castle Grounds

After the success of last year, Aquarius will be hosting the refreshment tent again, providing cakes, sandwiches, teas and coffees etc. We are asking for volunteers to bake cakes, make sandwiches and serve these on the day. No meat or fish please as they don't keep well and please indicate ingredients and any allergens included in your makes. Let's hope the weather is as beautiful as it was last year, as we welcome all the local and distant visitors to the Castle.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> June

**Amy Brenan owner of Heirlooms Jewellers in Wareham** will be talking to us. She has extensive experience in the field of antique jewellery having spent ten years of her career as Head of Jewellery at a leading auction house. Amy has valued and successfully sold many important collections over the years and is a qualified member of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A), the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and a member of the Society of Jewellery Historians.

#### Aquarius is planning a trip to the Costume Museum at Blandford Forum on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June

New Members – we are a friendly lot so please 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 are 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: [2008aquariusladies@gmail.com](mailto:2008aquariusladies@gmail.com) or phone Sue Sedgley at 01929 289102



## DEADLINE

for contributions to the July/August 2024 issue  
of the Newsletter

**MONDAY 17 JUNE 2024**

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans