

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Area Forum

NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Photo: Shutterstock

Welcome to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's latest (June/July) Newsletter. As usual, this issue highlights many of the local seasonal activities in our wonderful community. We produce this newsletter to enable as many as possible of our vibrant community organisations to reach out and publicise their activities.

You can do your bit by passing this newsletter on to your organisation's members, 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?

Newsletter Coordinator: Mel Norris
Trustee Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
email: melvyn.norris@icloud.com mobile: 07446 677924

find the newsletter at www.sandpdt.org.uk



DEADLINE
for contributions to the
August/September 2025
issue of the Newsletter
MONDAY 14 JULY 2025



Focus Centre celebrates with an Open Day!

On Saturday the 17th May, staff, volunteers and local people came together to celebrate the official opening of the 'Gerry Norris Wing' of the Focus Centre, a new Wellbeing hub for people in Swanage.

Gerry Norris (along with her husband Mel) was a tireless community champion and campaigner for day services for people in Swanage. Gerry led a campaign which saved the centre from closure in 2007 and her husband and fellow campaigner Mel (a Trustee of Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, who now own and manage the Centre on behalf of the community) was on-hand to cut the ribbon!

The day also included performances by the fabulous Allsort'd choir, kids activities, home-made cake and the chance to explore the building, hear about future plans and suggest ideas.

Said Ali Tuckey, CEO of Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust;

"The day was a really lovely celebration and it was so uplifting to see the building and gardens bustling with people of all ages!

We are so grateful to Gerry (and Mel) - without them, we would not have this amazing opportunity!"

The Centre now offers a wide range of services, from mental health support, to wrap-around childcare, day services for adults, drug and alcohol support, speech and language therapy and lots more and the Development Trust would love to hear from you, if you have suggestions about what services you would like to see there.

The new 'Welcome Lounge', in the Gerry Norris Wing, is a friendly space where you can drop in, have a chat, and get support to find wellbeing services that are right for you and is open Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 4pm (closed Bank Holidays).

To find out more visit www.wellbeingswanage.org.uk or pop in and visit!

Ali Tuckey

CEO: Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust



Part of Dorset's **Family Hub** network

Monday	Welcome Lounge At the Focus Centre Drop in for help to find services you need 10 - 4	'Access Wellbeing' Mental Health Support At the Focus Centre Drop in/Appointment www.DorsetAccessWellbeing.co.uk 10 - 4	Growing Together Baby Group 0-1yrs At the Focus Centre Book appointment 01929 557000 purbecklocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 10.30 - 11.30	Reach Drug and Alcohol Service At the Focus Centre Drop in and Referrals 9 - 5	Community Cafe, Pantry, Citizens Advice and Digital Advisor At Herston Hall Drop in 10 - 12
Tuesday	Welcome Lounge At the Focus Centre Drop in for help to find services you need 10 - 4	Health Visitor and Newborn Hearing At the Focus Centre Referrals and Drop in (1 st and 3 rd of month only) 9 - 1	Alcoholics Anonymous At the Focus Centre Drop in 01202 296000 7.45 - 9.15		
Wednesday	Welcome Lounge At the Focus Centre Drop in for help to find services you need 10 - 4	Health Visitor Clinic and Baby Weighing At the Focus Centre Drop in 10 - 11.30	Community Fareshare Food Distribution At the Focus Centre Register 1 st then drop in www.fareshare.org.uk 9.30 - 10.30	Depression Support Group At the Focus Centre Book 07871 799479 SwanageDepression@outlook.com 7 - 9.30 (1st and 3rd of Month only)	Child Speech and Language Therapy At the Focus Centre Book appointment 01202 443 200 Dhc.slt.queries@nhs.net
Friday	BFN Infant Feeding Support Group At the Focus Centre Facebook @ BFNSwanageBreastfeedingSupportGroup Drop in 9.45 - 11.15	Swanage Youth Club At Herston Hall For more information email youthclubswanage@gmail.com Facebook @SwanageYouthClub			
Saturday	'Unmasked Saturdays' SEND Support Group At the Focus Centre Facebook @UnmaskedSaturdays 2 - 4 (1st of the Month)				
Sunday	Stretch, Tone, Relax Exercise Class At the Focus Centre Book 07711 432244 10 - 11 (term time only £8 per class)	<div><div>The Focus Centre 107 High Street Swanage BH19 2NB</div><div>Herston Hall 12 Jubilee Road Swanage BH19 2SF</div></div>			
Every day	'Explorers' Childminding Wraparound Childcare (0-5 Years) At the Centre www.explorerschildcare.co.uk 01929 426355	Adult Day Care At the Focus Centre Referral via www.CareDorset.co.uk	Phone : 01929 208376 Email : focuscentre@sandpdt.org.uk Website : www.wellbeingSwanage.org.uk What3Words: Speedy.Following.Bound  		





The Wareham Men's Shed is seeking a home and a name for a stunning rocking horse it has created from two sheets of plywood. The Sheddors are asking any Purbeck charity or children's group who would like the horse – free of charge – to apply for it via email. And as a bit of fun, they are inviting the whole community to come up with a suitable name ... other than Dobbin!

Project leader Phil Stephens (third from right in photo below) said: "I suppose we could sell the horse to raise funds for our Shed but we would much rather give it away to a worthy cause – an organization that can use it for a child or children to ride, which after all is its purpose."

Phil, an 82-year-old retired engineer, assembled a small team of Sheddors to help him fashion the rocking horse at the group's base at the Purbeck Connect day centre in Sandford Lane, Wareham. Shapes of horse parts in various sizes were cut from the plywood sheets and bonded together to form a three-dimensional body before countless hours of sanding smoothed off the rough edges. The horse was given dapple-effect paintwork before being mounted with metal swivels on a heavy stand fabricated from planed and shaped lengths of ash wood. A child's saddle was made from an old full-size one bought at a car boot sale. And finishing touches included a leather bridle and reins with fastenings; donated stirrups and real horse hair for the mane and tail.

Phil said: "I knew it would be a challenge involving several different skills but I was given lots of help by the team and I think we are all a little proud of the result."

If your charity, school or children's group would like the rocking horse, or if you just want to suggest a name, email warehamshed@gmail.com.



ZIP WIRE CHALLENGE!

On Sunday 11th May a team of 10 'brave' Rotarians and friends undertook the Zip Wire Challenge on Bournemouth Pier and had a wonderful time on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

Inspired by the courage and energy of two octogenarians all were motivated to climb the many stairs to the top of the tower and step off the platform and enjoy the zip wire experience.

Sponsored monies will be used to support the Presidents charities, End Polio Now and Swanage Community Defibrillator partnership (SCDP)

SWANAGE ROTARY WELCOMES ITS FIRST CORPORATE MEMBERS

Swanage and Purbeck Rotary already operates a successful Business Partner programme with over 25 members. We are delighted to announce that two of these organisations – estate agent HGH and bespoke printing and embroidery provider I Can Be - have committed to a deeper relationship with Rotary by becoming Corporate Members.

Corporate Membership is a UK wide scheme that allows organisations to nominate one of its employees to be a Rotary member with up to four more employees becoming 'Alternate Members'. All these people can then take part in projects, receive information about club activities and attend meetings. More information about Corporate Membership is on our website – swanagerotary.org.





We are delighted to announce that Harmans Cross Village Hall have been fully and formally licenced to hold wedding ceremonies at the Hall. We hope this will make us an even more attractive venue for brides and grooms – arrive in style by steam train or classic car whilst all your guests make use of the ample parking available. Exchange vows with the beautiful backdrop towards Corfe and then celebrate in our fabulous facility, with loads of activities for children in and around the playground and a separate extra room with large screen TV if needed. Thanks to Kelly and Alison for all the efforts in securing this special licence.

SPECIAL GUESTS AT HXVH WITH SWANAGE RAILWAY

HUGE, HUGE EXCITEMENT (hence the capital letters) here at Harmans Cross Village Hall as we welcome Swanage Railway and their special guest in the coming weeks.

Firstly, over the weekend of **Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June**, none other than **PADDINGTON BEAR** will be holding a meet and greet at HXVH. Please ensure you don't miss out by booking your tickets at Swanage Railway at <https://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/events/view/paddington-at-swanage-railway> and remember to bring your marmalade sandwiches.

And then two weeks later over the weekend of **Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 July**, it's the turn of **PEPPA PIG**. Again, please don't miss out and go as soon as possible please to the Swanage Railway website at <https://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/events/view/peppa-pig-at-swanage-railway> to get your tickets.

WHAT ELSE IN JUNE – HOW ABOUT A MOVIE?

Our monthly **Movie Night** in June is **Tuesday 10 June** and we are screening **The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**, another recent classic and an opportunity to check in again for more love and laughter as new arrival Richard Gere joins the all-star ensemble cast – including Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy and Dev Patel – returning for this heartwarming sequel. Now that his first venture has been proven successful, ever-confident Sonny (Patel) is busy juggling plans for a second resort ... as well as his own wedding. But his efforts are constantly hampered by hilarious complications, and in order to pull it all together, he'll need a little help and encouragement from his resident friends.

You can find the trailer on our Movie Nights page here <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/> Doors and bar open at 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Admission just £6.

ANYTHING ELSE? – YES OF COURSE!

All our usual clubs and regular events (see website and calendar for details, and you will be welcomed). A special final mention as always to **Coffee Junction** on June 12 and 26 at 10.30am, and **Church at HXVH** on Sunday 15 June at 6pm.

Alison and the HXVH Committee

Repair Cafe Purbeck had been dormant for several years. After a few months of research and planning the new Committee took the plunge to relaunch on 26 April with an event at Herston Village Hall.

A new Facebook page gained over 100 followers within a few days which was most encouraging.

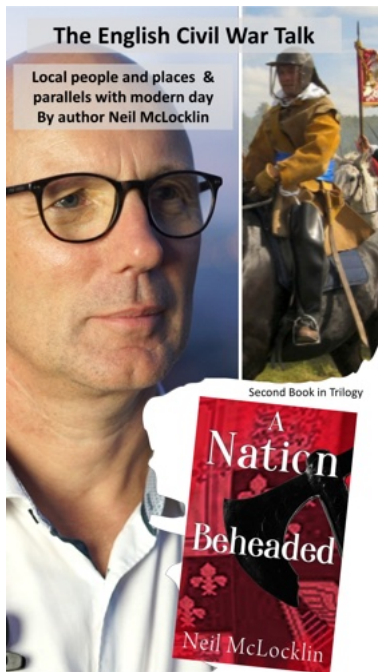
On the day a steady stream of visitors came along some with items for repair and others just to see what we were about, all were able to enjoy tea and cake.

We were able to repair clothing items, bag handles, chair spindles and a vintage sewing box amongst others. We also had 'fixers' who gave advice on ailing pot plants and software issues and the ability to offer Electrical Equipment Testing (better known by the previous name 'PAT testing'). Time and technical knowledge constraints meant we were not able to repair everything presented but our first event was deemed successful and we all enjoyed the experience. A number of items were saved from being dumped which is our main aim.

We are always ready to welcome new volunteers with any practical skill and particularly would like to meet anyone with ability to do simple repairs to small electrical items such as kettles, radios, toasters. The Repair Cafe takes place once a month for two hours, in the manner of most other Repair Cafes so not being too demanding for volunteers

For more details see our Facebook page 'Repair Cafe Swanage & Purbeck' and the website Repaircafe.org. If you are interested in volunteering as a 'fixer' or helper email repaircafe@proton.me.

**REPAIR
CAFE** Purbeck



A presentation by
Neil McLocklin

The English Civil War local people and places

Catholic Church Hall

7:30pm

Friday, 30th May 2025

Light Refreshments

Price: £4 (£3 Swanage
Museum members)



Building upon Neil McLocklin's previous talk, with the publication of his second book *A Nation Beheaded*, the talk will continue the story of the Bankes and other local families and places at this traumatic and transforming time in English history".

Vyshyvanka



Vyshyvanka is the art of traditional Ukrainian embroidery, with both men and women sporting colourful embroidered shirts and blouses

You are warmly invited to a Vyshyvanka workshop on
Saturday 31 May 2025
from 10:00 to 12:00 hours
at Emmanuel Baptist Church,
160 Victoria Ave, Swanage, BH19 1AZ

Come and learn about the symbolism of the embroidery, the techniques used and the styles employed in the different regions of Ukraine

Try your hand at some embroidery yourself

All materials provided free of charge

Related activities for children

Enjoy a cuppa and a slice of Ukrainian cake courtesy of our Ukrainian guests



For more information, please contact:
purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com



Canzonetta

Music for a summer afternoon

Sunday 22nd June 3pm

St James's Church, Kingston BH20 5LE



free admission
retiring collection for Church funds
join us for tea and cake afterwards



Art Exhibition

Paintings, Poetry & Cards

**Sat 16th – Mon 25th
August**

10am to 5pm

Catholic Church Hall
Rempstone Road
Swanage

Coffee Morning Sat 16th

Swanage Bowls Club

The season is well under way. We have welcomed several teams from Clubs near and far and been rather good at beating them! Swanage is on the 'circuit' for Bowls Clubs' tours and so far we have enjoyed some friendly games against Plymouth Retired Civil Servants and Fleming Park in Eastleigh. Our next visitors are from Rugby.

Weekly practice sessions, roll ups and Club meets are in full swing and our Club Triples Competition is the highlight of the playing week. Team E will be the team to beat this season (not that I am biased!). This year sees a change in strip with navy blue trousers for League and County Competitions, making us stand out from the crowd of whites.

We always enter the National Top Club competition and our hopes are riding on the men's team now that the ladies' team has been knocked out. We've been Dorset champions in the ladies in the last few years, so it's over to the men to bring back that accolade. The Club has teams in 4 of the Bournemouth and District Saturday Triples leagues, the Dorset Men's League, Bournemouth and District Ladies' League, Dorset's Men's Percy Baker Trophy and Dorset's Ladies' Edna Paisley League. At this point we are doing well in both Men's leagues, with mixed results in the Saturday Triples.

Swanage Bowls Club is well known for the relaxed and friendly social events. We like a good old fancy dress game and have 2 themed events planned so far; Spanish for President's Day and Flower Power for the end of season. These are always accompanied by great food from a local catering business. The Club night every Friday is a jolly event, with a relaxed game, an open bar, food and a meat raffle.

Finally we have held our Have a Go Events and welcomed 66 people to the Green. This has resulted in new memberships, with others taking cards enabling them to have 3 free go's. If you weren't able to make the events but would like to try out the game, we would love to see you. Please give our secretary, Barrie, a call on 01929 421162.

You can find out more about the Club on our website www.swanagebowlingclub.org.uk or our Facebook page.



Magic Table



We have the use of a Magic Table and can bring it to your club or group for cognitive entertainment. Pictured here at the Making Memories Café at the Mowlem. There is a large selection of interactive lights that are projected onto the table and participants can change the colours and move shapes using their hands or different tools such as paint brushes.



SINGING FOR PLEASURE COMMUNITY CHOIR NEWS

ALL ABILITIES - ALL AGES - ALL VOICES - NO NEED TO READ MUSIC

The majority of the songs we sing are traditional in origin and popular music from the 1950's to the present day, but Karen occasionally challenges us to sing something less familiar.

The overriding requirement being that we sing for the sense of the FUN and ENJOYMENT it brings us.

We are also pleased to recently extend our cooperation with the "AllSorted" group and to have the opportunity to support their stage production at the Mowlem on 16th April.

We always have room for more people to join us, both for singing and the after singing social time with tea, biscuits and occasionally, cake.

We meet at 2.00pm on Thursday afternoons at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 160 Victoria Avenue, BH19 1AZ.

For any further information please contact:
David on 07762 556307 or Janet on 01929 427706.



Dementia Friendly Purbeck

www.dementiafriendlypurbeck.org

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) last met on 13 May 2025, when we welcomed another new PPG member. We were also joined by Dr Mark Law, one of the GP Partners at the Practice, and were delighted to hear that a new GP Partner has joined the Practice - he will be taking over Dr Heard's patients when she retires in June. During the meeting, we agreed our top priorities for the year ahead, which will be to:



- Promote awareness of the PPG and recruit new PPG members
- Undertake another Patient Survey in the June 2025
- Support the Practice to keep people informed of changes in the way services are delivered at the Practice
- Work with the Practice to encourage people to make use of services they can refer themselves to directly, without needing a GP appointment
- Promote the uptake of the NHS App and other online NHS/GP services
- Work with the Practice to review the Practice Website to ensure it complies with the National Guidance published in January 2025.

We agreed that we will also:

- Promote awareness of Wellbeing Swanage and other services provided at The Focus Centre in Swanage and at Herston Village Hall - as well as other health and care services provided in Purbeck and other local self-help and support groups
- Work with the PPGs of the other Practices within the Purbeck Primary Care Network (PCN) - and the Purbeck Youth PPG - to support the PCN to deliver its priorities, including the development and implementation of the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT)
- Support the Practice to deliver initiatives that promote health and wellbeing, prevent ill health and support self-care
- Promote awareness of the Purbeck Youth PPG (YPPG) and its remit, and support efforts to recruit new YPPG members
- Contribute to the work of Action for Health and Care in Purbeck, the Purbeck-wide group set up in 2023.

PPG members will also be hosting a stand in the Reception area at the Surgery during PPG Awareness Week, which will be taking place during the first week of June (2-6 June). Do drop in and say "Hello".

The PPG works with the Practice Manager and the GPs at Swanage Medical Practice to help improve and shape local services. The PPG 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! Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on **Tuesday 8 July 2025 at 6:00pm**, when we will be joined by Natalie Bartlett, Purbeck Primary Care Network's Digital and Care Coordinator, who will be talking to us BP@Home, a service which helps people to have their blood pressure monitored more accurately at home. You can find more information about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings and our current Priorities, at: www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group.

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

NHS Spring COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The Spring 2025 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme will be running until **17 June 2025**. The vaccine is being offered to all those aged 75 and over and to those aged 6 months to 74 years who have a weakened immune system. It's important to get the Spring COVID-19 vaccination because it will help boost your protection and help reduce your risk of getting serious symptoms.

You can book your jab via the NHS App, online on the nhs.uk website at: www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/ or by calling 119 free of charge. More information about how to get your COVID-19 vaccination can also be found at: www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-service.

Carers Event at The Focus Centre on 10 June 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Purbeck Primary Care Network and Dorset Council are hosting an event for Unpaid Carers at The Focus Centre on 10 June 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. There will be information and advice available from Carer Support Dorset and other organisations - do come along.

New Women's Health Website

A new Women's Health Website, developed locally with Dorset women, went live on 7 April 2025 and can be found at: www.ourdorset.org.uk/women. It includes advice about women's health issues and where to find the best support.

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

SWANAGE WI – FIVE YEARS OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

Just over five years ago, a group of women met at Herston Village Hall and decided to form Swanage WI. Fast forward five years and Swanage WI is thriving. We had only just opened when the pandemic resulted in closed doors at Herston Village Hall, but, undaunted, we took to meeting by Zoom until we could meet in person again. Since then, we have increased our membership and moved to The Centre in Chapel Lane as we soon outgrew the hall in Herston.

Many friendships have formed, members have tried their hand at many activities and we have been fortunate to be able to listen to some fascinating speakers. Many groups have been formed to reflect the interests of members and our Social Team has ensured that there are many and varied events for members to enjoy.

At our May meeting, we celebrated in true WI style with homemade cakes, tea and, of course, some fizz. We looked back at five years of fun and friendship, and are starting to look ahead to the next WI year.

The WI logo is “Inspiring Women” and our members have been inspired to try new things, make new friendships, get involved in the community and have also inspired others to do the same.

We don’t know what the next few years will bring, but we will do all we can to keep Swanage WI relevant, fun and friendly.



Swanage Food Bank Phone: 07759 230313

Here for emergency supply of food to our local community in Swanage and the local villages

Opening times: 12 - 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (except Bank Holiday Mondays)

At Swanage United Reformed Church, 112 High St, BH19 2NY

Please phone us first if you need food or pet food

**Swanage
Food Bank**



Repeat clients: please remember to get a Referral Agency (someone who knows your situation or Citizen’s Advice) to contact us each time just to confirm that you need food.

We are working with Dog Friendly Dorset to offer free pet food to local people who are struggling to provide for their four-legged friends. Please phone us – you don’t necessarily need to get human food as well.

We can often arrange delivery of food if you are not able to collect, but this is sometimes harder during the summer months.

Donations can be dropped into the collection bins in Budgens, Coop, Costcutters and Spar, collection crates in many local churches or directly to the Food Bank during opening hours.

Many thanks to all who support us. If you are a praying person please pray for our clients, especially that homeless people will be found appropriate accommodation (if they want it) and that those in most need of food will find their way to us.

Current needs:

Drinks (squash, juice, coffee)

Cereal

Tinned meat and fish

Pasta meals (tins, pots, packets)

Pasta sauces

Tinned fruit and desserts

Swanage Town Band celebrates 30 years!

Swanage Town Band was originally formed in the 19th century but was reformed in its current format in the mid 1990's. 2025 marks 30 years since the inaugural meeting of the band which was held on 25th April 1995. It was decided at this meeting that enough musicians had come forward to start a band and the first rehearsals and performances were held later that year. You can find out more about the Band's history on its new website:

www.swanagetownband.co.uk



The Band now has around 40 members, including one of the members from 30 years ago! The uniform has changed over the years but we continue to perform on the Bandstand and at other local events. We collect for local charities at our concerts: this year we are supporting Dementia Friendly Purbeck.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.30pm at Swanage Methodist Church with Musical Director John Watkins. We welcome new players, so if you are interested in joining please contact us via the contact form on our website or email swanagetownband@gmail.com.



SWANAGE TOWN BAND

PLAYING IN THE BANDSTAND THIS SUMMER

WEATHER PERMITTING

Wednesday	21 st May	7.00pm*
Saturday	7 th June	2.30pm
Wednesday	18 th June	7.00pm*
Saturday	5 th July	2.30pm
Wednesday	16 th July	7.00pm*
Wednesday	30 th July	7.00pm
Wednesday	20 th August	7.00pm

* in Swanage Methodist Church if wet

The Town Band will be playing an extra date in the bandstand on Saturday 13th September at 2.30pm. This concert will be in aid of Weldmar Hospicecare



Purbeck Goes Wild for spring & summer!

Incredible FREE family nature experiences, nature challenges, newsletters, activities in schools and more... get involved, bring your family along to our Purbeck Goes Wild events, read your child's newsletter from school, become a local champion of our work, volunteer your time to support these events and activities, and chat to the **National Trust** and **Planet Purbeck** at this summer's local fetes and fairs. A flavour of the events we have planned: an evening picnic in the castle on 2nd July, find the puffins on 19th June and explore the dinosaur footprints on Sunday 29th June ... visit the Planet Purbeck webpages for more info and booking links

<https://planetpurbeck.org/purbeckgoeswild/>

Purbeck Goes Wild has been created by the Purbeck Nature Network, a group of 30 local organisations, landowners, businesses, schools and community groups, formed two years ago in June 2023. Recognising the need to work together to ensure all of Purbeck's children and young people get opportunities for more school trips, focused careers pathways into nature/outdoor sector and more nature experiences in Purbeck.

*If you find a copy of 'Pier' in Swanage – a beautifully designed A5 community journal magazine printed on thick matt paper – you will see Purbeck featuring on page 12...

If you want to find out more, I am keen to chat! Email me on Alexandria.brocklesby@nationaltrust.org.uk

Alex, Children & Young People lead for the National Trust in Purbeck



Connecting Purbeck Kids
with Purbeck Nature



Upcoming Events on Swanage Pier

A Visual History of Swanage Pier

From 23rd May until the end of July

Step onto the Lower Deck of Swanage Pier and explore its history through photographs. This exhibition shows Swanage Pier's journey from its Victorian beginnings to its role in maritime history. Each photo tells a part of the Pier's story, showing how it has changed over time. You'll see how Swanage Pier has evolved and remained a beloved landmark. Photographs will be displayed at the end of the Pier until the end of July. Normal Pier admission applies.



Fish and Chip Cruise

Join us for a delightful early evening circular cruise to Poole Harbour with City Cruises, departing from Swanage Pier. As you sail, enjoy vast panoramas of sky, sea, and sand, passing by Old Harry Rocks, Studland Bay, Sandbanks, and into Poole—the largest natural harbor in Europe. Fish and chips will be served on the boat at Poole before heading back to Swanage. All proceeds from this cruise will go towards supporting the work of Swanage Pier Trust.

- **Date:** Friday 18th July, Wednesday 30th July, and Friday 8th August
- **Departure Time:** 6:30 pm
- **Return Time:** 9:00 pm from Swanage Pier
- **Price:** £29.50 per person (includes fish and chips at Poole)
- **Fully Licensed Bar on Board**

Yoga on the Pier

We are thrilled to announce the return of Yoga on the Pier classes this summer. Celebrating our seventh year, these sessions bring joy and relaxation to all who participate.

Every Tuesday and Thursday from the 10th June, at 8am, Saturday 28th June and Saturday 19th July, at 5.15pm

Summer Raffle

The Swanage Pier Summer Raffle is back, offering a wide array of prizes — including a limited edition print by local Purbeck artist Cathy Veal, local experiences, dining vouchers and unique gifts. There's truly something for everyone! This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for both residents and visitors to support the preservation of the Pier.

Visit our website to purchase your tickets - www.swanagepiertrust.com/events

Other Events

Park to Pier Walk – Sunday 8th June, Sunday 27th July



We have had an amazing few months and the last month has been particularly busy. Our open day was a lovely occasion with tea and cakes and lots of lovely visitors enjoying the garden and the sunshine with our lovely volunteers! Every Tuesday and Friday we have been busy. The plots are looking great and the greenhouse is thriving!

What are we not growing is probably a better question than what we are growing!! ... lots of flowers, vegetables, chillies, tomatoes ... the list goes on and you are always welcome every Tuesday from 12 and every Friday from 10 to see what we are doing and growing. The kettle is always on!

The really big news, however, is that we are just about to start on our new building. The base is going in as I write this and the building will be an amazing all weather resource for us. It will be used as a social area for volunteers, for our meetings,

training, school groups etc. We will be fitting a small kitchen area also which will create even more possibilities for us! We will also be renovating our toilet block. We will have a grand opening when its all ready but we have no exact time for this except later in the year! We will post details as things progress.

We have completed the hospital hanging baskets and will be renovating their planters over the next week. We will also be at the Hospital tea party in June and there will be plenty of other events during the Summer.

Exciting times at Greengage ... please come and see us.



In April **Swanage Skatepark Community Project** (SSCP) hosted a day of workshops and a skate jam in memory of Will Paddy. The group is delighted to share that funds raised from the raffle, tea & cake sales, and generous donations from SkateNotBored, Planet Purbeck, and Munch are being split between #Willdoes and SSCP. As a result, #Willdoes will receive £447, and £772 will go towards SSCP's campaign to fund new ramps.



The tender for a phase I build in the skatepark with a budget of £75,000 has now closed. The SSCP team are reviewing responses to the tender with Swanage Town Council and a decision will be made on the park builder for the job in early June. The group anticipates a public consultation day on the design later in June with the build due to take place in Autumn 2025.



THE MOWLEM

Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

What's On in June 2025

www.themowlem.com

On The Stage:

Author Talk: Damien Lewis – SAS Escape Stories

Tuesday 3rd June 7:30pm

Join former war correspondent and bestselling author Damien Lewis to discuss his latest book, SAS Great Escapes Four.

There will be an opportunity to buy a signed copy of the book after the event.

Caught in The Net by Ray Cooney

12th, 13th & 14th June 7:30pm

From the company which gave you Jack And The Beanstalk and last year's hilarious farce, Cash On Delivery, Swanage Drama Company presents another farce. Join us for a laughter filled evening, directed by Brian Travers.

Richard Digance

Friday 20th June 7:30pm

Richard Digance is a BAFTA Nominated entertainer. His TV career spanned 17 years, culminating with his own ITV show for London Weekend Television

Swing 'n' Sinatra

Friday 27th June 7:30pm

Celebrating 100 years of Sinatra and Swing Music! – Five Star Swing return with a journey through the decades of this unforgettable genre.

On The Big Screen:

Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)

2nd & 4th June 7:30pm / Monday 2nd June 2:30pm

Bridget Jones finally has some luck in her life. Starring Renée Zellweger, Leo Woodall, Hugh Grant. Directed by Michael Morris.

NT Live A Streetcar Named Desire

Thursday 5th June 7pm

Gillian Anderson, Vanessa Kirby, and Ben Foster lead the cast in Tennessee Williams' timeless masterpiece.

Mickey 17 (15)

6th, 7th & 9th June 7:30pm

A disposable employee is sent on a human expedition to colonize the ice world Niflheim. Starring Robert Pattinson, Anamaria Vartolomei, Naomi Ackie.

One to One: John & Yoko (15)

16th, 17th & 18th June 7:30pm / Monday 16th June 2:30pm

The film is centered around concert footage and audio from Lennon and Ono's "One to One" benefit concert held at Madison Square Garden in 1972

The Salt Path (12A)

22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th & 26th 7:30pm / Sat 21st & Mon 23rd June 2:30pm

A couple embark on a year-long trek along the South West Coastal Path. Starring Gillian Anderson, Jason Isaacs, Marianne Elliott.

Black Bag (15)

28th & 30th June, 1st & 2nd July 7:30 / Monday 30th June 2:30pm

Intelligence agent George Woodhouse faces the ultimate test — loyalty to his marriage or his country. Starring Michael Fassbender, Cate Blanchett, Marisa Abela. Directed by Steven Soderbergh.

In The Studio:

SoundCellar Presents: Dorset Youth Jazz Orchestra + special guest Eddie Gripper

Saturday 7th June 7:30pm

DYJO is an intermediate to advanced youth jazz orchestra led by renowned local jazz musician Terry Quinney. For this performance they will be joined by rising star jazz pianist Eddie Gripper. Presented by SoundCellar in association with Swanage Jazz Festival

Fundraiser Event: Psychedelic Assisted Therapy for PTSD

Wednesday 11th June 7pm

All proceeds from ticket sales go to Heroic Hearts Project UK

Psychedelics are at the forefront of a mental health revolution, offering new hope for those struggling with trauma and personal transformation. This event brings together experts from the fields of psychopharmacology, therapy, and lived experience to explore the science, stories, and strategies behind psychedelic-assisted healing.

Author Talk: 'Never Had a Dad' with Georgie Codd, in aid of Dorset Mind

Friday 13th June 7:30pm Dorset author Georgie Codd tells the story of 'dadvertising' in national newspapers and magazines on a weird, one-off mission to find a father figure.

Not recommended for children aged under 12.

The Mowlem Comedy Club (14+)

Wednesday 18th June 7:30pm

Off The Kerb Productions Present: The Mowlem Comedy Club

Your chance to catch the best comedy talent in a club environment!

Off The Kerb's shows are renowned for their superb lineups, showcasing exciting up-and-coming talent along with established names on the UK comedy circuit.

In the Showbar:

Menopause of Sound – Day Disco for Women

Saturday 7th June 4:30- 7:30pm

Get ready to dance, laugh, and let loose! Menopause of Sound is the ultimate day disco designed for all women over 30 embracing life's next chapter.

Swing Easy Too Plus Guests FREE

Saturday 14th June doors open 2pm music starts at 2:30pm

Swanage Record Club FREE EVENT

Thursday 19th June 6 - 10pm

This club is like a book club but for records. Come appreciate great albums in full and enjoy a drinks and chats! Join the discussion on the Club's Facebook page!

Oscar's Ultimate Quiz

Wednesday 25th June

The Showbar opens at 5.30pm – arrive early to secure a table, quiz starts at 8pm! Quiz-master Oscar presents a wide-ranging general knowledge quiz, lots of fun, and a chance to play music bingo at the end. The top three teams win prizes! £2 per person in teams of up to six (bring cash on the night!)

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.

Over the last couple of months it has been very satisfying to welcome, at different times, our two local MPs. Lloyd Hatton, South Dorset MP, his constituency covers Swanage and part of Purbeck and Vikki Slade, Mid Dorset MP covering Wareham. Both have shown great interest in Wareham Hospital and the services provided with Lloyd raising the 'lost' Chemotherapy clinic with senior Health officials and in the House of Commons. In my many years of working in Purbeck I can't recall Wareham Hospital ever being mentioned in the House of Commons!

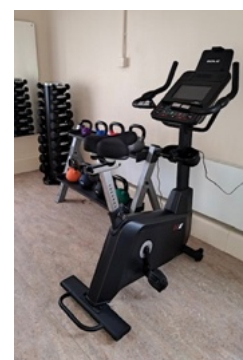


As a Friends Group we work hard to raise the profile of Wareham Hospital and Purbeck services so are delighted to receive this level of support from both MPs at a time of such change for the NHS.

Vikki was very impressed with the number of clinics available at Wareham Hospital on her recent visit and showed great interest in the Family Eating Disorder Clinic which runs daily Monday-Friday. This clinic provides an excellent service and makes great use of the hospital building so we are trusting that contracts will be renewed at the end of March '26. Clients from this clinic and visitors also value the hospital garden which is tended by our small gardening team who are so pleased to see the garden being used and appreciated.

I was delighted to record Vikki's visit with a photograph being taken in the garden with Brad Rootes, Dorset Healthcare Locality Manager and me

The Friends have recently funded gym equipment for the Wareham Physiotherapy dept. which is being well used, and we are about to provide funding to support the transfer of the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) to Wareham Hospital. This move will bring many Purbeck mental health services together on one site which as a Friends Committee we commend whilst recognising that our limited funds will be significantly diminished. Therefore fundraising will become very important for the Friends so we would welcome new members and support at our **AGM on WEDNESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER , 2pm at the Wareham Masonic Hall** and at our fundraising coffee morning on **SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 10-12 at Wareham Town Hall.**



Wareham Hospital Friends do not receive the wonderful financial support received by other Dorset Friends groups but we feel we make good use of the money we do have and are very proud of our achievements over nearly 60 years of support to Wareham Hospital and Purbeck community services. We are in need of new Trustees to support our work - please get in touch with me through the hospital if you are able to help .

Kind wishes to all

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair

Do you have any spare time during the week or at weekends?

Why not join the team at Swanage railway museum, based at Corfe Castle station as part of the front of house team?

Shifts are 10-4 and can be split. It's a lovely location to work, telling the history of Swanage Railway. You don't need any railway knowledge, just enthusiasm and a smile.

See our website swanagerailwaymuseum.co.uk or email corfe.museum@swanagerailway.co.uk

Updates from the National Trust



Young environmentalists meet minister

Students from the Purbeck School were among the first in the country to gain qualifications in the new Environment Leaders Programme. Under the guidance of the National Trust, the 13 sixth form students worked on initiatives across the Purbeck Heaths. They included projects to raise awareness of threats to ground-nesting birds, tree planting, tracking the grazing pigs and creating an Instagram account to encourage other young people to get out into the countryside. The students reported that the scheme had helped build their self-confidence and leadership skills, as well as ignite a passion for nature and the outdoors. The award presentation was attended by local MP, Lloyd Hatton.

Mystery of puffin decline

Photo: Cathy Lewis

Despite extensive footage from remote cameras last year, the reason for the decline of the puffin colony near Dancing Ledge remains a mystery. The cameras were installed in 2024, in the narrow fissure on the cliff where the puffins nest. The hope was that footage would reveal why pufflings (chicks) aren't surviving to fledge, with predation by rats thought to be the most likely cause. Volunteers have since combed through over 70,000 photos – but no rodents were captured on film. The investigations have been led by marine ornithologist, Dr Richard Caldw. Although disappointed that the cameras didn't reveal what the problem is, he and a team of volunteers are continuing monitoring this year. We're also asking boat operators to share any photos which show exactly where the puffins are nesting. Then we plan to reinstate the cameras next year, using better equipment in more precise locations.

Not just pretty faces...

The cattle that graze across Purbeck countryside do an amazing job in maintaining our wildlife habitats:

- They use their long tongues to pull up coarse vegetation, this allows a wider variety of plants to grow.
- They create areas of bare soil which are important basking sites for insects and reptiles.
- Their dung provides food for beetles and flies, which in turn feed many birds and bats.
- They push through thick scrub and keep it open.

If you see the cattle, please give them plenty of space, especially when there are calves. Keep dogs on leads where they're grazing (the exception is if the cattle approach you, then let your dog off the lead so you can both move to safety.)



Photo: Zoe Hunter



Photo: Jill Bailey

Arty dogs lead the way

Colourful canines are appearing across the Purbeck Heaths to remind people to keep their dogs on leads during the ground-nesting bird season. The six 'arty dogs' are the creation of local schoolchildren, under the guidance of teenage Environment Leaders from the Purbeck School. As well as messages about ground-nesting birds, the artworks also encourage people to pick up after their dogs. The Purbeck Heaths, which include Studland's heathland, are internationally important for ground nesting birds such as nightjars, skylarks and woodlarks. Any disturbance can cause the adult birds to fly from the nest, leaving the eggs and chicks vulnerable to predation.

Have you heard them yet?

The 'air dancers' are back, filling the evening air with their evocative cries. Did you know:

- Swifts eat, drink, sleep and mate while flying.
- They only land when they nest. They struggle to take off again if they fall to the ground.
- They eat flying insects like mosquitoes, midges, flies and moths.

Sadly, swifts are in decline, partly due to the loss of old buildings where they can nest. Can you help by installing a nesting box on your home? Find out more at <https://swift-conservation.org/>

Wildfire risk warning

There is a high risk of wildfires on the Purbeck Heaths at the moment. Sadly, there have been several cases of arson on other heaths in Dorset, so please be vigilant and call 999 if you see any suspicious activity. Help keep everyone safe and protect our precious wildlife.

If you have any queries, please email us on purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk

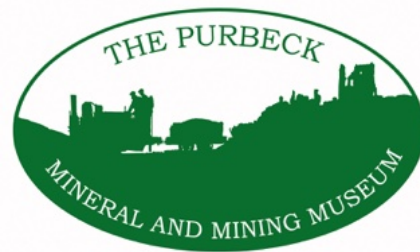
Cathy Lewis, National Trust



Photo: Chris Cowell

Dorset couple praised for their contribution in helping to showcase Purbeck's industrial heritage

Two familiar faces will be retiring as volunteers at the Purbeck Mining Museum near Norden at the end of May. Sue and Derek Double of Poole are stepping back from the clay face after many years greeting and advising visitors to the increasingly popular heritage attraction that is part of the Swanage Railway.



"Both Sue and Derek deserve wholesome praise for providing such a warm welcome to visitors over many years," says Peter Sills, Chairman of the Purbeck Mining Museum. "Their passion and commitment has been infectious for visitors and fellow volunteers alike and we are indebted to the huge contribution they have made in helping to drive footfall and ensure every visitor – both young and old - enjoys their visit to the museum. On behalf of all of the museum's volunteers, I wish them a long, healthy and happy retirement."



Sue and Derek Double have been praised for their contribution to the Purbeck Mining Museum, near Norden, as they confirm their retirement.

Sue originally joined the museum's team of volunteers in 2014, when the attraction was very much in its infancy, and received a 10 year long service award at a special meeting of volunteers last November. Her husband, Derek, began working as a volunteer ticket inspector on the Swanage Railway in 2001 and moved over to join his wife as part of the front of house team at the Purbeck Mining Museum seven years ago. He will be receiving a 25 year long service award from the Swanage Railway later this year.

In recent years they have taken the bus from Parkstone to Poole and then on to Norden to carry out their duties, opening the gates to the museum and greeting the growing number of visitors. For many years, they were joined by Alfie, their much-loved and very popular dog who they sadly lost last year.

"Being so actively involved in such an interesting attraction has been really rewarding," says Derek, who was previously an Insurance Officer with both Hampshire and Dorset Police. "We've

loved every minute! I originally moved over to the museum on a temporary basis following an operation on my leg, but it suited us both – and Alfie! - and I enjoyed it so much that I decided to stay."

"I've really loved meeting so many people from all over the world during my time at the museum," adds Sue. "It really has been a joy to be part of such a friendly and committed team and to provide both local people and those from much further afield with insight and experiences that really shine the light on Purbeck's industrial heritage. Although we're now stepping back from frontline duties, I am sure we will continue to watch the museum's continued development with interest and, health permitting, I do hope we can help out the team from time to time."

More information about the museum and further details on the roles and opportunities for volunteers are available at www.purbeckminingmuseum.org. The Purbeck Mining Museum is housed in an authentic and recreated mine building at Purbeck Park near Norden station on the Swanage Railway and is open most days from 11am to 4pm. Full details of opening times are available on the museum's website.

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



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA?

A condition that can make you feel isolated. Dementia is a disease just like any other disease. It's a disease of the brain, nothing to be ashamed of!

Dementia Friendly Purbeck a local charity can help support you.

We have a Memory Café in the Mowlem Show Bar 10am – 12pm every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Why not come along and meet people who understand. There's tea, coffee and home-made cake. Most times we have entertainment.

You can still live well with dementia, come and spend a couple of hours sitting, chatting and enjoying the fantastic views of Swanage Bay. Bring family or friends you would be very welcome.

Singing for Pleasure Every Thursday 2pm until 3.30pm



Swanage Dementia Friendly

£2 per session which includes
a drink and biscuit



All Welcome

Carers Week 9 – 15 June 2025

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

The campaign is brought to life by thousands of individuals and organisations who come together to provide support for carers, run activities, highlight the vital role carers play in our communities and draw attention to just how important caring is.

This year the theme is 'Caring About Equality' highlighting the inequalities faced by unpaid carers, including a greater risk of poverty, social isolation, poor mental and physical health. Far too often, carers of all-ages miss out on opportunities in their education, careers, or personal lives, just because of their caring role. Get involved in Carers Week 2025, and together let's work towards an equal society, where carers are truly valued, recognised and supported.

You can learn more and find out about events taking place in Dorset at: www.carersweek.org



PurbeckParkys Meeting at the Swanage Cricket Club BH19 1LG Wednesday 18 June 2025

We are a Parkinson's Café, a group that offers friendship, support and information to our fellow Parkys All are welcome

Activities this month include Taster sessions for Croquet and 'Walking well with Poles' as well as Table top Games. Refreshments available as well as chat and laughter.

Contact us on Facebook: PurbeckParkinson's Group, or Instagram: @purbeckparkys, or email david.gynes@parkinsons-uk.goassemble.com

Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A registered charity in England and Wales (256197) and in Scotland (SC039564).



'10 years on and so much to celebrate'

As a Defib Partnership over the last 10 years we have worked hard, with amazing community support, to provide Public Access Defibrillators across Swanage and the local villages. From an initial aim, in 2015, of 4 defibs we now have almost 50 in place. Another aim at our start was to ensure that our project was SUSTAINABLE and that position has not changed.

We are delighted that fundraising has taken place in Wareham to increase the number of defibs there too and these will also form part of our Partnership.

Monitoring and maintenance of this extensive estate of Defibs will remain a priority for SCDP as will succession planning of our support team of both steering group members and defib guardians – all of whom provide dedicated and committed support to this important service in our local area. Offers of help are welcomed as is any financial support. Enquiries can be made through Corbens in Station Rd, Swanage.



With thanks to Mary and Terry Buck some members of our SCDP team were able to celebrate our 10 years with a Cream Tea at the Swanage Bowls Club when both defib guardians and steering group members enjoyed a lovely afternoon in the sunshine.

Our SCDP team has recently been joined by Dr Claire Nadaf. Claire is a nurse by profession and is a local from Swanage. Claire brings very valuable experience and knowledge to our partnership and we are so pleased that she wishes to 'put something back into the community' with SCDP.
Welcome Claire

Maggie Hardy, SCDP



DEADLINE

for contributions to the August/September 2025
issue of the Newsletter

MONDAY 14 JULY 2025

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans