

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Area Forum

NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Welcome to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's latest (August/September) 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
October/November 2025
issue of the Newsletter
FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2025





HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

Not long now until our annual **Harmans Cross Fete and Show on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August**. We will have all the usual

entertainment – live music, children's entertainment and games, bar, BBQ, a huge host of stalls and our Big Raffle with proceeds again shared this year with the amazing Dorset charity Mosaic which provides bereavement counselling and support to youngsters.

We are already looking for donations of pre-loved books, jewellery, bags and bric-a-brac so if you are having a clear-out then please keep us in mind. We have set up a gazebo at the 'railway side' of the Hall alongside the garage which we hope will be a convenient way of dropping off any books, bric-a-brac etc, and we will clear that every day or so.

We will also have a Plant and Produce stall and we will welcome donations for this as well. Please bring plants along to the Hall on the Saturday or Sunday immediately before the Fete, and we will look forward to receiving produce e.g. tomatoes, vegetables, fruit etc on the morning of the Fete. And of course, the café would be delighted to accept any cakes from 9am on Monday morning as well.

Movie Night – Tuesday 12 August – Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy

Bridget is alone once again, widowed four years ago, when Mark was killed on a humanitarian mission in the Sudan. She's now a single mother to 9-year-old Billy and 4-year-old Mabel, and is stuck in a state of emotional limbo, raising her children with help from her loyal friends and even her former lover, Daniel Cleaver. Pressured by her Urban Family – Shazzer, Jude and Tom, her work colleague Miranda, her mother, and her gynecologist Dr. Rawlings (played by Emma Thompson) – to forge a new path toward life and love, Bridget goes back to work and even tries out the dating apps, where she's soon pursued by a dreamy and enthusiastic younger man. Now juggling work, home and romance, Bridget grapples with the judgment of the perfect mums at school, worries about Billy as he struggles with the absence of his father, and engages in a series of awkward interactions with her son's rational-to-a-fault science teacher (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

Doors and bar open at 7pm and admission is just £6

Other dates for your diaries

Coffee Junction: August 7 and 21, and September 4 from 10.30am

HXVH Church: There is no Church service on Sunday 17 August at HXVH. We are attending the 5pm service at St Aldhelm's Chapel instead – please feel welcome to join us

And finally ... we are looking for a new Secretary to the Management Committee

The role involves taking Minutes of meetings (c8 meetings a year) and organising the AGM. If you have a spare 1-2 hours per week and would like to get involved in our active and sociable team, please contact Alison Clough at alison.an.clough@btinternet.com or on 07768 558341.

Alison and the HXVH Committee



Purbeck Sounds have a busy few months, having been asked to run the PA system for the Corfe Food and Drink Festival at Corfe Castle and The Rotary Event on Sandpit field, Swanage on 7th August.

Our meetings have involved lots of planning with the organisers, use of space, equipment, music, special guests and announcements to be made on the day.

These events are occasions we very much enjoy supporting the community and the opportunity to meet our listeners.

The Studio is based at 17b Commercial Road, Swanage, opposite Chococo, if the lights are on, we welcome you to pop in to say hello!

Latest News from the Focus Centre

It's been a busy few months!

Our **Welcome Lounge** had it's busiest month so far last month, helping people find support with things as varied as overcoming addiction, support for carers, housing issues, mental health and more.

As soon as you walk in through the door, our staff and volunteers are working for you! Why not pop in and see what we can do to help?

Find out more here: <https://wellbeingswanage.org/the-focus-centre/welcome-lounge>

Building works are underway to improve the facilities here for the many groups and organisations providing wellbeing support for people in Swanage. The conversion of a defunct industrial kitchen to a lovely welcoming space for groups is nearing completion, along with the refurbishment of a bathroom to meet Changing Places standards.

Our brilliant volunteers have been busy improving the **garden** spaces. Ali was delighted to find 21 Pyramidal and 3 Common Spotted Orchids growing on our front lawn, while volunteers have been growing and planting a variety of garden plants to brighten up the beds. If you have plants to donate, or would like to help with gardening, please get in touch!

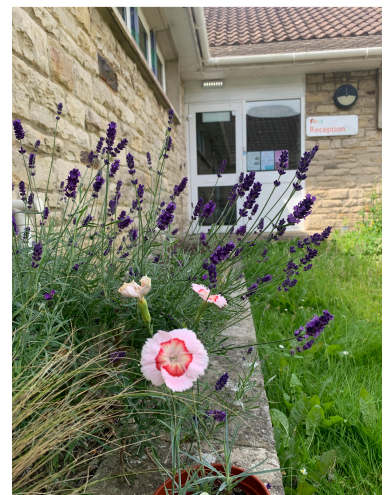
The range of services you can find here is getting longer by the day! Whether it's baby groups, drug and alcohol support, parenting advice or mental health support, there is loads available!

Some new recent **services** include a really friendly Depression Support Group (meeting weekly), a lovely SEND support group for families, while the amazing Access Wellbeing drop-in mental health support will be starting a second day soon!

To find out more, including days and times, visit <https://wellbeingswanage.org/the-focus-centre/wellbeing-swanage-timetable>

Ali Tuckey

CEO: Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust





Our gardening team has continued to work hard in the Wareham Hospital garden meeting every Tuesday morning enjoying the lovely space and each others company. We were delighted to welcome the RHS judge in late June who having visited last year could appreciate the improvements we have made and we are hopeful for acknowledgment of our work in the RHS Britain in Bloom 'it's your neighbourhood scheme'. We have been so grateful to Wareham Town Council, Worth village hall team and those individuals who have kindly donated plants .



The fine weather has meant that many are using the garden including members of the Community Mental Health team (CMHT) who have recently moved to the hospital site thanks to a generous donation from the Wareham Friends.

We would be so pleased to welcome members of the Purbeck Community to our AGM being held at the Masonic Hall ,Wareham at 2.30 on Wednesday 17th September when our speakers will be Alex Lister, Integrated Community Services Director from Dorset Healthcare and Carly and Louise, both members of the CMHT. And we are holding a coffee morning on Saturday September 20th at Wareham Town Hall from 10-12 when members of Zephyrae will be musically entertaining us. We will be drawing our raffle at this time and thank all those who have kindly provided prizes.

Our quest for new Trustees continues and we have an urgent need for someone to take on the Treasurer role responsibilities. Please contact me through the hospital if you can help us 01929 557550.

Enjoy the summer months and we hope to see you in September!

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair



Jacquie Hall from Wareham Community Growers with RHS Judge John Morris and members of the garden team

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



Time is moving on so quickly this year and once again members of SCDP are planning to take part in the annual Carnival celebrations - please look out for us in our green shirts.

We are very fortunate to be annual recipients of a Carnival grant which helps us to maintain the ever-growing fleet of public access defibrillators across the Purbeck area which now total over 50 but as we are replacing some defibrillator cabinets and upgrading some of our defibs which have been in place since we started this community project in 2015 - all costly - we will always be very grateful for donations to support the work. These can be made through Corbens in Station Rd . Swanage or direct by bank transfer

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

A/c 28100368

Sort code 30-99-12

Hope to see you during Carnival Week and thank you for your ongoing support of SCDP .

Maggie Hardy for SCDP



Last years carnival team



Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

Swanage Town & Community Partnership

WORKSHOP INVITE

What do we want Swanage to look/feel/be like in years to come? What future does it hold for our next generations?

We would like to invite organisations, community leaders and interested parties to our workshop to consider the town and community partnership's new vision, undertake a review of the Swanage Community Strategic Plan and its themes, and discuss the Partnership's future.

Together we can create incredible things.

Email Sarah at Swanage Town Council to register your interest - s.relph@swanage.gov.uk

**The workshop will be held on
Wed 24th Sept @ 2.15pm
Herston Village Hall**

We hope to see you there,

Alex Brocklesby, Chair for Swanage Town & Community Partnership

Langton Fete

St George's Church

Langton Matravers

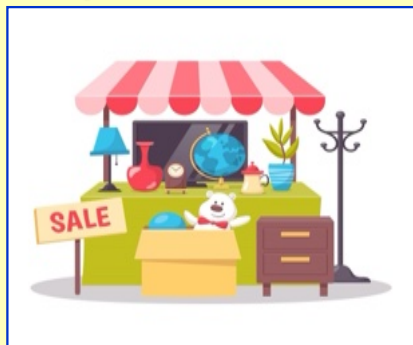
**Sat. 9th August
2-5pm**

**With The Swanage Town Band, USA Ukulele,
Allsort'd Choir and Jules the Entertainer**

**Books, Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Preserves, Light Refreshments,
Pimm's & Real Ale, Children's Games & much more!**

All proceeds to St Aldhelm's Parish

Seafront Stall



Swanage Seafront

Saturday 23rd August

10am to 4pm

**All proceeds towards
Dementia Friendly Purbeck
For 2nd Admiral Nurse in Purbeck**



Homes for Ukraine



Might you consider hosting a refugee from Ukraine?

As Russian attacks on Ukraine continue, requests are still being received from families forced to flee their homes because of the war.

New hosts are still needed under the government 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, with 'thank-you payments' of £ 350.

If you might be able to provide accommodation and would like more information about the possibilities, please contact Dorset Council at:

ukraineresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you would like informal advice about what hosting entails, please get in touch with Purbeck Connect Ukraine at:

purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com

Tel. 07506 837141

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





Wareham Lions will be supporting Wareham Wednesdays

You will find us on Wareham Quay every Wednesday in August for their themed evenings from 6pm until 10pm where there will be live music, local food, licensed drinks and refreshments available, plus fairground style stalls and small children's rides. Public and accessible toilets can be found on the Quay.

All events have a firework display at 9.45pm and the events finish at 10pm.



Swanage Pier Big Summer Raffle 2025

Summer Raffle Prizes

- Limited-edition print by local Purbeck artist CathyVeale
- The Blue Pool
- Coastal Cruises Boat Trip
- Compton Acres
- Farmer Palmer's
- Moors Valley Country Park & Forest
- Spinnaker Tower
- Swanage Pier Trust
- Swanage Railway
- Swanage Bay Sauna
- Swanage Florist

There's still time to get your raffle tickets!

Help support the Pier AND be in with a chance to win some amazing prizes.

Tickets are £1 each.

On sale at the Pier gate, shop and ONLINE

The draw will take place at midnight on Tuesday 26th August 2025

Good Luck !



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



Updates from the National Trust

Record number of seahorses

Divers recorded 17 seahorses in Studland's seagrass beds in June – the biggest number since lockdown. Volunteers regularly monitor the seagrass beds to assess the effects of the eco-moorings, which are less damaging to this precious environment than traditional anchors. We have two kinds of seahorse in Studland Bay – spiny and short-snouted. Did you know:



Photo: The Seahorse Trust

- Seahorses are a kind of fish.
- They are masters of camouflage, changing colour with their environment or to express emotions.
- They use their tails to grip seagrass, and their snouts to suck in plankton, plants, tiny fish and shrimps.
- The male seahorse carries the babies, giving birth to some 2000 tiny seahorses at a time.

Seahorses are protected by law, so it's illegal to touch, chase or disturb them. You need a wildlife licence if you're diving or snorkelling and intending to photograph, film or monitor seahorses. Never use flash photography as it can kill them.



Shimmering beauties

It appears to be another bumper year for silver-studded blue butterflies in Purbeck. These tiny iridescent creatures will fly up in clouds as you walk the heathland paths. The heath on either side of Ferry Road in Studland is especially good for them. Silver-studded blues are in decline nationally, so it's fantastic that the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve is providing the conditions they need to thrive.

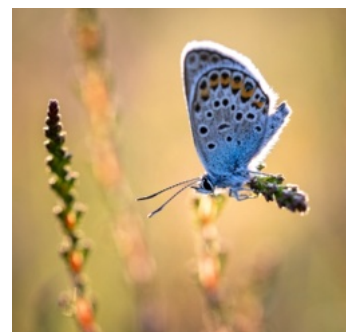


Photo: Mark Singleton

Life and death at Corfe Castle

It's all been happening on the peregrine platform! Sadly, in June, two dead peregrines were found in the castle. We had one inspected by Defra, but it was found to be clear of bird flu. So, the mystery of the deaths remains. On a happier note, two more of these impressive birds went on to build a nest and successfully rear a fledgling. Watch for them screeching and diving around the keep.

Teenage environmentalists

We recently hosted a group of teenagers at Weston Farm, Worth Matravers – and contrary to popular opinion, they fully embraced the outdoors! The Year 12 students (16–17 years) learned about how we are restoring nature at the farm, joined in with practical tasks like clearing brambles from paths and litter picking, and walked to the coast. Their reward was a pasty and (soft) drinks at the Square and Compass! Simon Holmes, Head of Sixth Form at The Purbeck School, said: "This is another great example of our partnership with the Trust. It was wonderful for our pupils to spend time together outdoors and along the coast."



Photo: Jill Bailey

Middle Beach update

Work begins in September to remove the failing sea defences at Middle Beach, Studland (pictured). This is the last stage in our project to remove all coastal defences and allow the cove to realign naturally. Our vision is that the area will rejuvenate into a beautiful sandy cove, enhanced for both people and wildlife.

The project comes in response to the effects of climate change, which have resulted in rising tides, storm surges and accelerated coastal erosion. Recent storms have seen up to four metres of the cliff falling in one night. The Trust has gradually been moving structures from the beach, including the former café, shop and toilets, as they became under threat of erosion. The beach area will be temporarily closed while work is underway, and afterwards until the cliff has stabilised.



Photo: Mark Singleton

Ragwort – a feast for pollinators

Ragwort is a UK native plant, and its golden daisy-like flowers bloom all summer in gardens, verges, grassland and meadows. Its flowers are a vital food source for a wealth of pollinating insects, including bees, butterflies and moths. But ragwort is also a plant that people love to hate. It contains toxins which if eaten in large quantities can cause liver damage in horses and cattle. But animals won't eat it in the wild – its smell and taste put them off. Problems arise when ragwort is dried into hay or silage, where the bitterness is lost and they can't recognise it.

There is a common misconception that people are required by law to remove ragwort from their land. But the government code of practice only recommends the removal of ragwort in areas of high risk – within 50m of land used for grazing by horses and other animals, or land used for feed/forage production. Find out more on our website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/spyway/ragwort

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

Cathy Lewis, National Trust

Unmasked Saturdays

A Monthly Beacon of Joy & Connection at Swanage Wellbeing, Focus Centre, Swanage

Swanage Wellbeing's new monthly event on the first Saturday of every month, **Unmasked Saturdays**, is quickly becoming a cherished highlight for families living with learning and physical disabilities. Launched to create a welcoming, inclusive space for connection and fun, these themed sessions are proving to be a resounding success.

Each month transforms the Centre into a hub of creativity and laughter as families come together to explore a different activity. From sensory art workshops to interactive storytelling and adaptive games, the carefully planned themes ensure everyone can participate, express themselves, and simply enjoy being together in a supportive environment. We only ask for one thing, 'you come just as you are!'.

We have received incredible feedback and returning families. Parents find respite and community, while children and adults alike light up trying new things. It's truly 'unmasked' – a place where everyone belongs exactly as they are.

The Festivities Continue!

The excitement builds for the next Unmasked Saturday on August 2nd 2PM - 4PM celebrating the spirit of summer with a Festival Fiesta! Get ready for vibrant decorations, playful festival crafts, and the undeniable highlight: a joyful, accessible Zumba session led by a wonderful local instructor Lucy! Lucy's inclusive approach ensures movement is fun and adaptable for all abilities.

Join the Fun!

What: Unmasked Saturdays: Festival Fiesta (August Theme)

When: 1st Saturday of every month 2-4pm

Next date: Saturday, August 2nd, 2PM - 4PM

Where: The Focus Centre, Swanage.

Who: Families supporting individuals with learning or physical disabilities

Cost: nothing it's FREE !!

Don't miss out on the laughter, connection, and festival vibes! The Focus Centre's Unmasked Saturdays are more than just events – they're building a vibrant community where families thrive together.



Volunteer Centre Dorset to Lead New Thriving Communities Initiative Supporting Older People

Volunteer Centre Dorset (VCD) has been awarded a two-year contract to lead the first phase of the Dorset Thriving Communities Network, funded with around £132,000 in grant funding.

This funding will support small networks of community groups and charities in Purbeck, North Dorset, and Weymouth.

The initiative will fund projects such as lunch clubs, arts classes, and warm spaces, designed to help older residents remain engaged and supported within their communities.

A review of the programme will be carried out after the first year by the Dorset VCS Assembly, reporting to the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board.

If you or your networks would like to register interest in being involved, please contact: support@volunteeringdorset.org.uk



CORFE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Soup 'n Pud

There will be no 'Soup 'n Pud' in
Corfe Castle Village Hall on
Saturday August 2nd '25 as all the
amazing volunteers are taking a
well earned break!

The usual, much enjoyed, choice of
2 soups with a roll and the choice
of puds and custard will return on

Saturday September 6th '25

If you haven't already enjoyed the
free tasty food and good company
please make a note of the next date
in your diaries.

Monetary or food donations are
always welcome.

**We look forward very much to
seeing you all there!**

MURDER WALK BY THE CASTLE

MORSE - POIROT - HOLMES - CADFAEL ...

CAN YOU SOLVE THE CRIME?

DoubleActCorfeCastle www.double-act.org.uk

Travel back in time & join our period costumed characters on a twilight walk in the shadow of the spectacular ruins of Corfe Castle. A whodunnit with a difference – so expect the unexpected!

North Castle Field - opposite Castle View NT car park just North of the Corfe Castle ruins on the A351

July 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th, 30th and Aug 4th & 6th 2025

Walk 7.00 till 8.30pm (approx)
Tickets - £5 a head (under 5's free)
www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group

For safety we will finish before dark!

The event will take place whatever the weather. The walk includes rough grass and paths that are not wheelchair friendly – sorry! You all take part at your own risk.

Carey Friends

Free information, support and learning
for Unpaid Carers

Venue: The Focus Centre, Swanage

Starting Tuesday 9 September 2025
for 10 weeks, 10am – 12pm



If you look after an adult in the Dorset Council area who could not manage without your help, you may be a Carer. This might include a friend, neighbour, family member, adult child spouse or partner.

Course content will include:

- Introductions and how to register as a Carer
- How to get your free Carer Friendly ID and Discounts card
- Dementia Awareness
- Navigating the Health System
- Navigating the Social Care System
- Practical Elements of Caring (e.g., Continence, Nutrition etc.)
- Equipment and Technology including Falls Concerns
- Looking After Your Own Health & Contingency Planning
- First Aid (optional and subject to a small fee)
- What Next and Celebrations!



To sign up please contact
the Purbeck Local Office / Kirsty Morns
Email: adultcarersteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 01929 557059

Purbeck Arts Club

Art Exhibition
Paintings, Poetry & Cards

Sat 16th – Mon 25th August
10am to 5pm

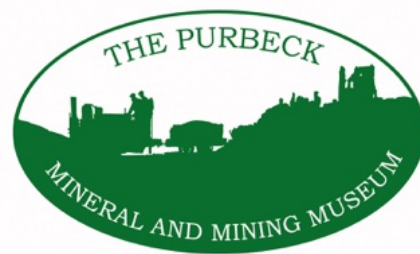
Catholic Church Hall
Rempstone Road
Swanage

Coffee Morning Sat 16th

Ramblers retrace the steps of Dorset's former clay miners

A group of enthusiastic ramblers from all over the country have completed a two-day walk along the forgotten track beds of Dorset's clay mining tramways and railways that fan out across the heathland and plantations between Corfe Castle and Poole Harbour.

After a special guided tour of the Purbeck Mining Museum, near Norden, the group walked the Middlebere Tramway to Middlebere Quay and then followed the old Pike's Railway from Ridge to Furzebrook. They then walked from Norden to Goathorn Pier on the southern shore of Poole Harbour following the route of the old Fayles Railway and the Newton Tramway before ending up at the old Swanage Pier Tramway. With special permission from the landowner, they also enjoyed a picnic lunch at Goathorn Pier.



Some of the members of the Railway Ramblers who enjoyed a guided tour of the Purbeck Mining Museum

"It really was a very enjoyable visit for everyone in the group", said Graham Gibson who organised and led the walk on behalf of the Railway Ramblers. The visit to the Purbeck Mining Museum was a perfect way to start the ramble and we are indebted to Nigel Cox, one of the museum's volunteers, for his very informative guided tour of the venue and engine shed. It really is a little gem of a place. We loved the authentic atmosphere of the old clay mine with its adit mine shaft. The model railway dioramas, the videos and the myriad of original mining ephemera also helped to bring to life an industry that has quite literally shaped this area of Dorset."

The visit to the Purbecks was the latest regional trip organised by members of Railway Ramblers, a national group with hundreds of experienced walkers who focus their walks on the country's disused and lost railways. It was also the latest in a growing programme of group visits hosted by Purbeck Mining Museum volunteers, where visitors are given special guided tours around the venue.

A celebration of Poole Harbour's long-forgotten maritime heritage

A lifelong interest in the traditional maritime vessels that were once a familiar sight in Poole Harbour has inspired a comprehensive series of paintings that has just been unveiled at the Purbeck Mining Museum. Following extensive research, self-taught artist Barry Cobb has captured the splendour and diversity of the many barges, ketches and tugs that ferried much-prized ball clay from the Purbecks to Poole Quay in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The paintings are now on show in a new display area at the museum, near Norden on the Swanage Railway.

"I grew up and worked in the Hamworthy area and have always been fascinated in local maritime history", says Barry. "The many vessels that were used in years gone by to transport clay across Poole Harbour and on to ports in Liverpool and London are of particular interest. They ranged from steam-powered paddle tugs and barges through to magnificent ketch sailboats as well as the larger sailing ships that took the ball clay to many European ports. In many cases, these vessels were the unsung heroes and heartbeat of the local economy in years gone by and I wanted to create images that would help to showcase their historical importance."

Due to the limited amount of information and photos of the local clay industry's maritime connections, Barry's paintings caught the attention of the volunteer committee at the Purbeck Mining Museum.

"Imagery that captures the spirit, effort and character of important but long-forgotten activities is very important for visitors to a heritage attraction like ours," says Nigel Cox, the museum's curator. "We're delighted Barry has agreed for us to display his paintings as it has provided a real insight into the important role that another natural resource - Poole Harbour - has played in helping to shape our local communities and economy."



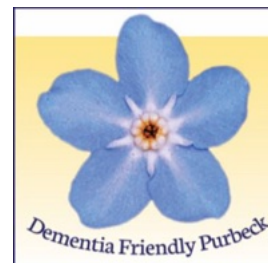
Barry Cobb with two of the maritime paintings

Barry Cobb is now retired and lives in Dorchester. He is one of the growing number of volunteers at the Purbeck Mining Museum and is currently training to operate the locomotives that run on the narrow gauge railway alongside the main museum building.

The Purbeck Mining Museum is housed in an authentic recreated clay mine building and is open most days from 11am to 4pm. There is no entry charge, although visitors are invited to make a donation towards running costs and maintenance of artefacts as the attraction is run and managed entirely by volunteers. The new display of Barry Cobb's paintings of maritime vessels is in the heart of the museum. For more information on the Purbeck's clay mining industry, full details on the museum's opening times and information on the roles and opportunities for volunteers just visit www.purbeckminingmuseum.org.

Admiral Nurse - Latest Good News!

Since April 2024 Dementia Friendly Purbeck have been putting all their efforts into raising £120,000 to support a second specialist dementia nurse for the Purbeck area. We can now announce that by raising £90,000 that Dorset Healthcare are prepared to start interviewing internally to fill this position. This would not have been possible without the fantastic community we have here in Purbeck. We cannot thank those of you who have put such an effort into everything you do, and have done, to support us. Such a variety of activities - from marathon running to pop up shops - from stalls selling homemade crafts to singing in choirs - plant sales at fetes and sponsored events - Swanage Market Stall and the list goes on and on. A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all of you who have given up your time, money and good will and we will let you know when our 2nd Admiral Nurse is in place.



Help & Information

On the first Friday of the month our friendly team of volunteers attend the Swanage Market where they are able to chat to the public and give information on dementia support for those living with dementia in the area. Do pop by for a chat and see the latest news of our activities

Dementia Friendly Garden

Come and drop by to our dementia friendly garden in Wareham. Easy to find at the entrance of the allotments in North Bestwell Rd. Our gardeners would be pleased to see you - they are there from 10am on Wednesdays.

A big thank you to **Swanage Town Band** for choosing Dementia Friendly Purbeck for their bucket collections when they perform at the Band Stand this summer. We look forward to seeing you there! Wednesday 16th July 7.00pm, Wednesday 30th July 7.00pm, Wednesday 20th August 7.00pm (Weather permitting - in Methodist Church if wet.)

Making Memories Dementia Friendly Café

meeting in the Show Bar. Mowlem Theatre, Swanage from 10 am to 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month. Meeting friends socially over a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cake with occasional entertainment - a stimulating way to share memories and experiences with other people and their carers

July 15th, Break for August, September 2nd & 16th, October 7th & 21st, November 4th & 18th, December 2nd & 16th

Wareham Rotary Open Gardens

On Saturday June 21st Wareham Rotary held an Open Gardens Day in Wareham raising funds towards our 2nd Admiral Nurse. Then in the beautiful garden belonging to the President Ann Popperwell we were given a cheque for the grand total of £2700. We would like to thank all the gardeners for their generosity and hard graft in their gardens.

Come and Support Us!

Wareham Carnival Sunday 20th July
Swanage Carnival Sunday 27th July
Swanage Market Friday 1st August
Purbeck Rally Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th August

Contacts

Email: info@dementiafriendlypurbeck
Website: www.dementiafriendlypurbeck.org

National Recognition for Purbeck Forget Me Not Dementia Cafe

Purbeck Forget Me Not Dementia Café – meets every Monday (excl BHs) 10.30 – 12.00noon at Swanage and Purbeck Rugby Club, Bestwall Road, Wareham. On July 19th this year the Purbeck Forget Me Not dementia café was shortlisted as a finalist to attend the annual Dementia Care Awards in London. It was an inspirational celebration of dementia care excellence across the country. Although not winners, we felt honoured to gain the recognition for the collaborative venture spearheaded by the Purbeck Admiral Nurse service. The Purbeck Forget Me Not group (FMN) is a community club for those living with dementia and their carers'. It is provided by Age UK - who deliver the Cognitive Stimulation Therapy Groups across Dorset, and the Purbeck Admiral Nurse service.

The group is supported by the local dementia friendly community with premises provided free of charge by our local rugby club. It is a truly collaborative community venture with input from the NHS, Social Services, local schools, musicians, and dementia support services. The philosophy is to support our families affected by dementia to adapt and adjust to the shifting sands of dementia. There is a flexible programme for everyone to enjoy, providing a weekly warm and welcoming safe space. Everyone brings their skills and talents to the group and the programme is driven by what members want to do. People attend as little or as often as they need

A fascinating insight into the sharks that roam British waters is being offered by Greenpeace and community group Planet Purbeck.



It will form the centrepiece of a wide-ranging “marine evening” staged in Swanage. Exeter University researcher Owen Exeter will show film and talk about his work in monitoring sharks, other fish and crustaceans using state-of-the-art tracking and camera technologies. It will include dramatic shots of some of the 30-plus species of shark seen in UK seas, which include Porbeagle, Blue and Thresher varieties, plus remarkable “fish-eye” footage from cameras attached to Basking sharks.

Mr Exeter, 35, whose research contributes to the conservation of Britain’s Marine Protected Areas, said people should not be scared of sharks but rather regard them as a vital component of the aquatic food chain and biodiversity. He added:

“I don’t think many people realise how many species we have here and how they are an integral part of British marine life. I hope I can surprise those who come to the evening, not just about sharks but also about how vibrant our seas are. It’s also a nice opportunity to show what Marine Protected Areas look like and how they are monitored to make sure they are effective and hopefully being improved.”

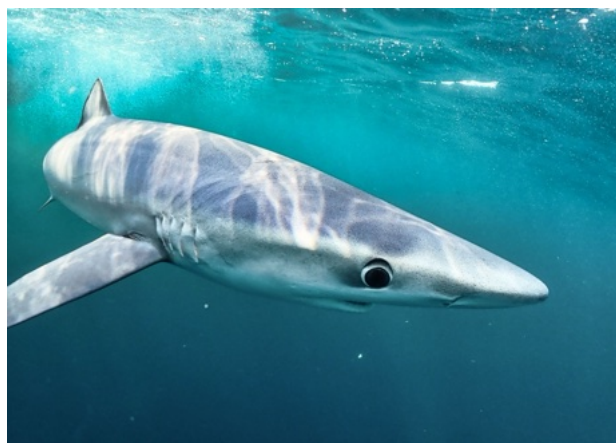
Other presenters at the event, scheduled for **Friday September 19** at Swanage’s Emmanuel Baptist church, will include Nick Measham, head of Wildfish, which battles to reverse the decline of fish populations and their habitats; Greenpeace speaker Doug Skinner; and Planet Purbeck co-leaders Rob Waitt and Luke M Luke.

Mr Skinner said most people are now aware of threats posed to nature and our climate, but he is determined to take a positive approach. He added:

“I’ll be highlighting what Greenpeace and others have done and are still doing, at the highest level, to protect the marine environment.”

Mr Skinner, the event’s organiser, said he was excited by the “great line-up of guests”. And after attracting an audience of more than 200 at a similar evening last year, he is aiming for a 300-strong sell-out this time.

Bookings can be made via the events section of www.planetpurbeck.org.



Connecting Purbeck Kids
with Purbeck Nature

Purbeck Goes Wild FREE family holiday club!

The first PGW holiday club brings you a schedule of 22 different events, happening on most weekdays of the school holidays across the six weeks - all nature events for Purbeck families. We’ve chosen quieter starting locations to make the most of Purbeck’s fantastic spots away from the crowds of visitors. Find this in the recent PGW newsletter (A5 booklet with puffins on the front given out to Purbeck schools).

All events bookable via Planet Purbeck’s [Eventbrite](#) page and include:

- becoming a nature detective
- exploring and adventure
- art & sculptures
- den building
- making new friends & discovering new places
- going WILD in Purbeck

Activities delivered by National Trust, Dorset Heath Partnership, Durlston Country Park, Leeson House, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust and Dorset Geological Association

We hope to see you there!



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

Have you seen the new Blacksmith Exhibition yet ? It's now available to view in the Local Studies room at the Coach House museum. Before the advent of hardware stores, the smith didn't just shoe horses: the exhibition shows the diversity of work undertaken at a forge, and the smith's role in the ongoing life and trades of a village over time. There are examples of domestic items such as keys, latches and a griddle pan, farming implements including scythes, sheep gelders and horn trainers, and a vicious-looking thatching

needle used by local thatchers. The smith also had a very important role in the stone trade, maintaining the sharp edges of the chisels used by Purbeck stonemasons. The museum is open every day except Sundays and Mondays, and we'd love to see you there.

The Society are in the process of planning for the upcoming series of talks over the winter, both in the afternoon and evenings. We will hope to explore the role of the Pellatt family and their 'Durnford Diamonds' in the life and fabric of Langton Matravers, and a short afternoon historic 'armchair stroll' up Langton High Street, is also likely to be offered. Watch the website and future Dubbers for further details of other topics and dates.

We are very pleased to welcome new volunteers to expand our loyal team. We need people to put up posters, set out chairs for talks, make tea, help with museum duties, including new custodians, and in many other ways. If you think you might be able to support us for an hour or two, please contact our Chair, Daryle Pearson, who would love to hear from you. She can be found at daryle.pearson@btinternet.com or you can get in touch through our website contact form.

LMLHPS/DDCAG Archaeological Dig

Would you like to try your hand at being a Digger ? The Society, in collaboration with the Dorset Diggers Community Archaeology Group, are undertaking a dig to explore medieval remains at a site in the locality. We are trying to find out how long the site was lived in, what the house structures were like, and any traces of the people who lived there. The dig is led by a professional archaeologist, and the team meet twice a week, usually on Wednesdays and Sundays. Volunteers can join in for half or a whole day: guidance and tools can be provided. The only requirement is that you are a member of the Society (necessary for insurance). For further information, contact lmhps23@gmail.com

Daryle Pearson and Mary Sparks, Publicity and Communications, LMLHPS

Swanage Food Bank



Greetings to all as we continue to wilt gently in the heat! Of course, quite a lot of people in our local communities have much more to contend with than just the heat, and **Swanage Food Bank** remains in operation **every week of the year** to help those who are struggling with their money, benefits, housing and bills etc which often has a knock-on effect on the ability to buy enough food.

Many thanks to all who drop in-date and unopened food, toiletry items or pet food into the **collection bins in Budgens, Coop, Costcutter, Spar and churches**. Bags for life are also really appreciated.

Our Top 5 Needs at the moment are:

Drinks: Tea, coffee, squash, juice

Snacks: biscuits, crackers, crisps

Pasta sauce & tinned / packet pasta meals

Tinned tomatoes

Tins of hot / cold meat or fish

If you think a neighbour, friend, family member or work colleague is struggling, please do encourage them to get in touch with us:- Swanage Food Bank, United Reformed Church, 112 High St, Swanage BH19 2NY

We are open on **Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays between 12 - 2pm.**

We can often deliver food, but this does become more tricky during the summer months as our delivery volunteers take holidays or are entertaining visitors etc. If you are able to arrange a lift to collect your food that is hugely appreciated.

To get help, phone us on **07759 230313**. Leave a message or call again a bit later if we can't get to the phone. Please phone in advance of opening times or the day before if possible.

We are an independent charity supported by the local churches and community. We are so grateful to all the different groups, pubs, businesses, fellow charities and individuals who hold collections of food or money for us. It is so appreciated and all finds a good home.

Best wishes for the rest of the summer,

The Swanage Food Bank Team

Swanage Folk Festival, 4-8 September 2025

Please could you spare a few hours to help the Swanage Folk Festival? It's a self-funded, volunteer-run event on the 4th to 8th of September and we need help at any point during the weekend. Duties may include helping visitors, checking tickets, managing road closures, and collecting donations. Volunteering is a great way to meet people, help the town and have fun. To volunteer, please complete an online application form at: <https://swanagefolkfestival.com/information/can-you-help-us/> or email volunteers@swanagefolkfestival.com.



The Swanage Folk Festival takes place on 5th - 7th of September. It fills the town with colour, music and dance. On Sandpit field there are free concerts on the Saturday and Sunday during the day, along with the amazing craft fair. The evening concerts are ticket only events with some of the UK's best folk bands, tickets are available from £30. You can see the bands and buy tickets at <https://swanagefolkfestival.com/programme/>

Gearing up for the Summer Fete

The Summer Community Fête will be back again, this year on Thursday 7th August. It will be held at the usual venue of Sandpit Field starting at 10 in the morning with a finish time of 5 pm. The event has been a mainstay of the Swanage summer programme over many years and plays a vital role in raising funds for charities locally and further afield.

All the familiar activities will be back, weather permitting, including hoopla, darts, 'hook a duck' and the cornhole game. There will be a large children's area with lots of games and activities and free face-painting. We will also have a tombola, a bottle stall and bric-a-brac. Refreshments will be available and many local organisations will have stalls. The Grand Raffle, featuring a stellar line up of prizes, will be drawn on the day and tickets will be available to buy either at the event or from outside the Co-Op and Boots in Station Road in the weeks preceding. We are most grateful to those Rotary Business Partners and other local businesses who have provided some wonderful prizes for this year's raffle.



We're really looking forward to seeing everyone again. Fingers crossed that the weather will be better than last year so that everyone will be able to enjoy the day! If you want to find out more about helping us on the day please contact us via our website, www.swanagerotary.org



Welcome Bart!

The Rotary year starts on July 1 so every June we hold a handover celebration, where the current President relinquishes the role the running of the club to the new President. We held our handover event this year on a beautiful summer's evening at Swanage Sailing Club. Over 40 Rotarians, partners and friends were present to see outgoing President Maggie Hardy pass the mantle to new incumbent Bart Libicki. Bart is from Polish descent and the splendid buffet at handover reflected that, including many Polish delicacies enjoyed by all.



Honour for David

One of our longest-serving and most dedicated Rotarians, David Pike, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the recent King's Birthday Honours.

David has served Rotary and the Swanage Community for most of his adult life and has now received a well-deserved award for his tireless efforts, not just in organising Rotary events but for his work with the wider community. His dedication is pretty much unmatched, and he is not letting the years dictate how much he can still put in, frequently demonstrating the energy of people half his age.

From all in Swanage Rotary, and we're sure the community at large, many congratulations David on your BEM!



Wool Home Library Service Volunteer celebrated

Our Wool Home Library Service team recently met for a coffee to congratulate Annabelle Glasspool as she was presented with a certificate and badge to mark 10 years of volunteering with Royal Voluntary Service. She is pictured here on the left receiving her award from Maria Jacobson, RVS Service Manager for Dorset and BCP (standing) and fellow Wool HLS volunteer Eileen Osgood.

The Home Library Service is for anyone across Dorset and BCP who loves reading and is unable to get to a library themselves. Royal Voluntary Service volunteers will deliver books free of charge to their home, based on their personal preferences, every 3 weeks. This includes large print and audio books. Anyone who would like to know more or knows someone who would benefit from the service please contact RVS on 01305 236666 or enquire at their local library. We can then visit to explain more and find out what you like to read.

A comment from one of our 361 Dorset clients in this year's survey:

'Receiving the HLS confirms to me that someone cares. I don't have any visitors and this breaks the loneliness. It makes me smile – and I can't wait to dip into the books and decide on the order I am going to read them!'

For further information about the Home Library Service in Dorset and BCP please contact Maria Jacobson on 01305 236666 or email maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Wild Together – Summer Nature Play Sessions

Does your family include a child aged 1-8 who may possibly have ADHD, be on the Autism Spectrum or be neuro divergent?

Are you looking for fun things to do together in the holidays?

Wild Together is a non- judgemental, supportive space.
A place where you and your children will be welcomed and celebrated

Come along for nature focused activities, a workshop, information sharing, and fun

Drinks and light snacks will be served
All sessions are free!

We also need your help!

Find out what support might be out there for you, and help us to design a brand-new project for Purbeck that supports both parents and children

29th July - Focus Centre, Swanage
30th July - Herston Village Hall
31st July - Corfe Castle village Hall
6th & 8th August - Focus Centre, Swanage
All sessions are 10am - 12.30pm

Together we can build strong communities
For Families....Like Yours!

Contact: wildtogetherinpurbeck@gmail.com



SWANAGE TOWN BAND

PLAYING IN THE BANDSTAND THIS SUMMER

Wednesday	21 May	7.00pm
Saturday	7 June	2.30pm
Wednesday	18 June	7.00pm
Saturday	5 July	2.30pm
Wednesday	16 July	7.00pm
Wednesday	30 July	7.00pm
Wednesday	20 August	7.00pm
Saturday	13 September*	2.30pm

IF WET, in the Methodist Church at 7.30pm (Wednesdays) or 3.00pm (Saturdays)

*All concerts in aid of Dementia Friendly Purbeck except 13 September which will be for Weldmar Hospicecare

We are also delighted to be playing on Saturday 9 August at 2.00pm at Langton Fete, St George's Church

THE MOWLEM

Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

What's On in August 2025

www.themowlem.com

On The Stage:

Summer of Music 25 – Supersonic Queen

Regarded as one of the UK's premier queen tribute bands
Monday 4th August- 7:30 pm

Summer of Music 25 – Abba Stars UK

The Premier Abba Tribute Band
Wednesday 6th August - 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – The Upbeat Beatles

No band does it better than the Upbeat Beatles.
Saturday 9th August - 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – Tina Live

This full-scale concert extravaganza pays tribute to the unstoppable Queen of Rock 'n'Roll
Monday 11th August- 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – Nothing But A Good Time

The ultimate live rock experience where adrenaline and electricity collide on stage!
Wednesday 13th August @ 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – The Zoots

THE ZOOTS are here to make your whole family bop to the '60s beats that everybody loves
Saturday 16th August @ 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – New Jersey Boys

'All Night Long' is an outstanding high energy celebration of Soul and Motown's greatest hits!
Monday 18th August @ 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – This Carpenters Masquerade

This Carpenters Masquerade is a captivating musical journey through the life and legacy of Karen Carpenter
Wednesday 20th August @ 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – From Gold to Rio

From Gold to Rio, celebrates the music of Spandau Ballet and Duran Duran.
Saturday 23rd August @ 7:30pm

Summer of Music 25 – Elvis: From Memphis to Vegas

Elvis – From Memphis to Vegas is the all-new Elvis tribute stage production
Monday 25th August @ 7:30pm

On The Big Screen:

Lilo & Stitch (U)

A lonely Hawaiian girl befriends a runaway alien, helping to mend her fragmented family.
1st, 2nd, 3rd August 11:30am

Jurassic World Rebirth (12)

Zora Bennett leads a team of skilled operatives to the most dangerous place on Earth, an island research facility for the original Jurassic Park.
3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 12th, & 14th August 7pm

Smurfs (U)

When evil wizards Razamel and Gargamel take Papa Smurf, the Smurfs embark on a mission to the real world to save him.
8, 10, 12 & 14 August 11:30am

The Bad Guys 2 (U)

Reformed criminals Mr. Wolf, Mr. Snake, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Shark and Ms. Tarantula are trying very hard to be good.
15, 17, 19, 21, 22, & 24 August 11:30am

Superman (12A)

Superman embarks on a journey to reconcile his Kryptonian heritage with his human upbringing as Clark Kent.
15, 17, 19, 21, 22, & 24 August 7pm

How to Train Your Dragon (PG)

On the rugged isle of Berk, a Viking boy named Hiccup defies centuries of tradition by befriendng a dragon named Toothless.
26, 27, 28, 29, 30, & 31 August 11:30am

Mission: Impossible -The Final Reckoning (12A)

Ethan Hunt and the IMF team race against time to find the Entity, a rogue artificial intelligence that can destroy mankind.
26, 27 & 28 August 7pm

The Ballad of Wallis Island (12A)

Old tensions resurface when former bandmates who were former lovers reunite for a private show at the island home of an eccentric millionaire.
1 September 2:30pm

In The Studio:

Artsreach presents: African Drumming Workshop

As part of the 2025 Artsreach summer programme of creative activities for children, we are thrilled to welcome Senegalese master drummer Cheikh Diop to The Mowlem for an interactive drumming workshop. This vibrant session is for parents and guardians and children aged 5+ to enjoy together – no previous drumming experience is required. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Two 1 hour workshops
Wednesday 13th August 12pm and 2pm

In the Showbar:

Greyhound's Leap - FREE Live Music

Greyhound's Leap is a young acoustic duo from the Isle of Purbeck with Sunny Angel on double bass and Luke Russ on guitar.
Friday 1st August, 7:30 pm

Flying G's Fireworks Disco

Family friendly, top quality disco with a great view of the fireworks!
Saturday 2nd August, 7pm

Friday Night DJs

DJ Bo Dadly (Afro, Latin, Jazz & Disco) Friday 8 August 8pm
DJ Carlos Fandango Friday 15 August 8pm
DJ Supersonic Si (Floorfillers from the 50s to the future) Friday 22 August 8pm
DJ Donna-Marie (Funk, Soul, Disco and feel-good tunes) Friday 29 August 8pm

Swanage Record Club

This club is like a book club but for records. Come appreciate great albums in full and enjoy a drink and chat! This event has different themes each month, Bring your themed tracks to play, or just bring yourself!
FREE EVENT
Thursday 14th July 6:30pm

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.

Friends of Swanage Hospital

Thank you to everyone who donated goods, helped with or attended the Friends of Swanage Hospital Afternoon Tea on Saturday 14th June. We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny afternoon for people to enjoy browsing the stalls and to have a cream tea in the garden.

The running of the event is very much a team effort and we are very grateful to those from Swanage and Purbeck Rotary, current and retired staff and other individuals who all pitched in to help the committee set up, run the event and clear up afterwards.

Thanks to everyone's support, we raised a fabulous £1,752.47. This will all be used towards ensuring that our hospital is able to continue to provide the best and most comprehensive services to our local community with the most up-to-date equipment. The support of our Friends and the local community is absolutely essential, so thank you for all of those who were able to help us to make it such a happy and worthwhile event. We look forward to seeing you at the Autumn Fayre !

Due to the size of our funds, the Friends of Swanage Hospital are now subject to a full annual audit, a process which means that we need to engage External Auditors, who liaise with the Charity Commission on our behalf. The initial audit necessitated all sorts of extra work for our Treasurer in the preparation of the 2023/2024 accounts, a lot of which was one-off, such as officially closing a long empty and dormant bank account, which required the current signatories to physically visit the bank branch. All this resulted in a delay to the submission of our 2023/2024 accounts to the Charity Commission. However, we are now well prepared for the 2024/2025 accounts and fully up-to-speed with all the things that we need to do to comply with the Charity Commission rules and guidelines.

We are currently awaiting input from Dorset Healthcare as to how the Acute Hospitals in Dorset wish to interact with the Community Hospitals in the area. Community Hospitals such as Swanage Hospital are, we understand, very much part of the plans to bring healthcare services to local communities. The Friends are expecting to be involved in funding some of the plans that involve Swanage Hospital. We are obviously supportive of any plans to use Swanage Hospital to provide existing and enhanced healthcare services to our local community, but are frustrated at the time it takes for anything to happen.

The Friends have recently provided funds for over £6,000 for new equipment in the Physio Gym at the Hospital.

The Friends have also paid for a 3 month trial of an interactive sensory table machine called Mobii. Mobii interacts with patients to improve their general mobility and also their physical & mental agility. It is in use at other Hospitals. If considered beneficial then the Friends will be fully funding the equipment for the Stanley Purser Ward.

We remain very grateful for the community's support of our wonderful hospital.

Date for your diaries : Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 7th October at 2.30pm



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

The Repair Cafe held at Herston Village Hall is developing rapidly as we learn and develop from each event.

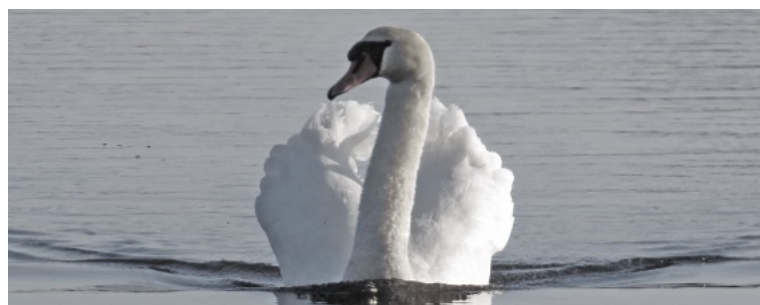
After just a few months we have a growing band of volunteers with a variety of skills all eager to have a go at repairing whatever arrives. We have seen, and fixed, a variety of clothing items, sewing machines, table lamps, and toys to name a few. Each event is very sociable as well as practical, bringing people together and enhancing the community spirit.

Volunteers with fixing skills of any kind are always welcome to join us and folk without fixing skill are welcome to join our welcome and support team.

Most welcome, of course, is anybody who brings along an item for us to repair. Let's get your items repaired and back in use rather than it sitting at the back of a cupboard.

We have a Facebook page – search Repair Cafe Swanage & Purbeck and webpage at www.repaircafe.org/purbeck. For more information you are welcome to e-mail to repaircafe@proton.me

**REPAIR
CAFE** Purbeck



DEADLINE

for contributions to the October/November 2025
issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans