

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 (October/November) 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
December 2025/January 2026
issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025



Swanage Pier Trust Update

We've had a wonderfully busy summer on the Pier, filled with fantastic events and activities. From our weekly yoga classes and pop-up Pilates sessions to history walks, Park to Pier strolls, fish and chip cruises and our big summer raffle. We also had the pleasure of hosting eight beautiful weddings, each one bringing its own special magic to the Pier. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.



Events Coming Up

Spooky Half-Term Fun on the Pier

Get ready for a frightfully fun October half-term at the Pier! We've got a week full of exciting activities for children and families to enjoy.

- Halloween Trail – Hunt for spooky creatures hiding along the Pier
- Children's History Walks – Discover fascinating stories from the past
- Spooky Craft Day – Get creative with eerie crafts, hosted by our amazing volunteers

It's set to be a week of thrills, giggles, and ghostly good times - come along and join the fun.

A Magical Christmas Returns to Swanage Pier!

Get ready for a truly enchanting Christmas experience on Swanage Pier! This year, Marine Villas will once again be transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland, complete with festive entertainment and dazzling Christmas lights stretching along the Pier. We're thrilled to welcome back some very special guests—plus a few new faces! The beloved donkeys and reindeer will be returning to help spread holiday cheer. It's the perfect opportunity for families to make magical memories together. And of course, no Christmas celebration would be complete without a visit to Father Christmas himself! Children will have the chance to meet him in his cosy grotto, share their Christmas wishes and receive a special gift to take home.

Lighting Up Lives Returns

We're delighted to announce the return of 'Lighting Up Lives' to Swanage Pier this festive season—a heartwarming tradition that brings everyone together in celebration and remembrance. This beautiful display of lights not only creates a magical atmosphere but also serves as a vital fundraiser. With major restoration and improvement works planned over the next few years, every donation helps safeguard the Pier's future and preserve its heritage for generations to come. Whether you're dedicating a light to a loved one or simply soaking in the glow, your support makes a real difference.

Lighting up Lives – 'The Switch On'

Join us on Friday, 5th December for the official Christmas Light Switch-On! Watch as our special guest arrives in style to illuminate the Pier and kick off the festive season. It'll be a magical evening filled with entertainment, seasonal music and festive treats—perfect for gathering with loved ones as the Pier comes alive with the glow of Christmas lights.

Tickets for the Grotto and Lighting Up Lives sponsorship will be released on **Friday, 17th October**—so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. You won't want to miss it!

All our events coming up....

Park to Pier Walk – Sunday 28th September

Halloween trail - Saturday 25th – Sunday 2nd November

Children's History Walk – Thursday 30th October

Halloween Crafts – Thursday 30th October

Park to Pier Walk – Sunday 9th November

Lighting up Lives - Light Switch on Friday 5th December

Swanage Town Christmas Market - Saturday 6th December

Swanage Pier at Christmas - Various dates from 13th – 23rd December

To find out more information visit - www.swanagepiertrust.com/events

Wareham Whalers have had a busy year singing and raising money for charity. This year's charities are the RNLI and Planets Cancer Charity. Earlier in the year Whalers performed their concert "Between The Devil and The Deep Blue Sea" at Durlston Castle in Swanage as well as in Poole. The concert is being repeated in **Wareham in the Parish Hall on Sunday 16th November at 7pm**. In this concert, using readings and songs, Whalers will explore some of the many words and phrases that originated from life on board sailing ships that have found their way into every day English usage. This concert will be hosted by Wareham RNLI fundraisers with all proceeds going to the RNLI.



Hello everyone,

It is with immense excitement and a sense of honour that I introduce myself as the new Hub Coordinator at Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust. Stepping into this role and joining such a dedicated, amazing team is a genuine privilege. The work everyone here does to support our community is truly inspiring.

My passion for community support is driven by my professional background. I have spent nearly six years working directly within the learning disability sector, preceded by eight invaluable years with the NHS. This experience has given me a deep understanding of the needs within our community and a strong desire to ensure that the disability and learning disability community is not just supported, but is an integral and celebrated part of our town.

I am particularly excited about the upcoming development of Wellbeing Swanage and The Focus Centre over the next three years. This project represents an incredible opportunity to grow our services and make a lasting impact.

For me, working for the community is more than a job—it's my passion. My focus will be on listening to you and ensuring that the services we provide and develop here are the correct ones, truly meeting the needs of our town and local area.

I cannot wait to get to know you all and begin this journey together.

Warmly,

Rachel Tapping



Welcome to the Focus Centre!

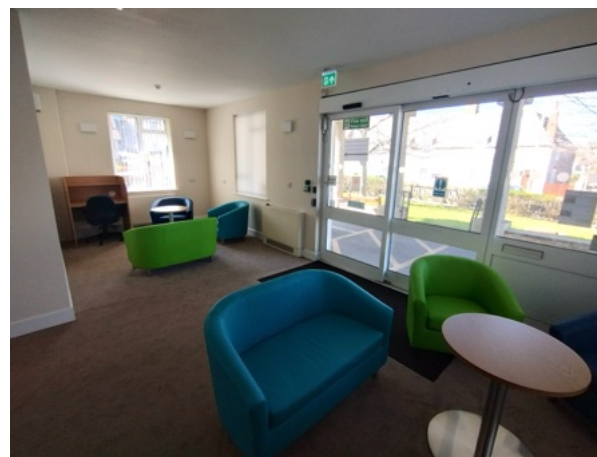
One of our volunteers tells us what it's like working in the Welcome Lounge:

I'm Sinead and I work in the Welcome Lounge alongside a team of incredible volunteers, with backgrounds ranging from teaching and SEND support to helping people with alcohol recovery. They're a lovely bunch of people.

Over the past year, I've spent a lot of time learning about different support that is out there for people. I've also had the pleasure of meeting so many inspiring people who dedicate their time to helping others.

Now that the Welcome Lounge is open it's wonderful to put that learning into practice. People can drop in for a chat – about anything really. Sometimes just talking to someone outside of your usual circle can make a big difference.

People come in for all sorts of reasons. I never know who is going to walk through the door, but that's part of what makes this role so special. I get the chance to really listen and, hopefully, help people find what they need.



Oscar-winning actor Mark Rylance and campaigning writer George Monbiot are coming together to host a public forum about how local communities like Purbeck can influence national and global progress.

Topics up for open discussion at the event – staged by community group Planet Purbeck at Sandy Hill Arts in Corfe Castle – will include thorny issues such as rewilding, tourist taxes and, in a wider context, efforts to solve the convergent economic and ecological crises.

Rylance, who won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in the Steven Spielberg film Bridge of Spies, and Monbiot, a leading critic of mainstream politics and passionate environmentalist, will conduct a Q&A session with each other and take questions from the audience. The actor, who is Patron of Planet Purbeck, will also auction a signed photographic portrait of himself as Henry VIII's scheming chief minister Thomas Cromwell – a prop used in the acclaimed BBC series Wolf Hall. And he will help to launch a Friends of Planet Purbeck scheme aimed at expanding the group. He said:

"I hope the chat with George will be full of ideas I haven't imagined and good humour. I will depend on the audience for the really smart questions.

"There is a desire to build up a group of people interested in similar things such as nature conservation and climate change so there is a place they can come with concerns – and make a difference with ideas and action.

"I believe in thinking internationally but acting locally. If you change a small or local thing well enough it will affect the rest, which is true in biology and the environments we live in. We can lift the whole system into a better place of harmony and equilibrium."

Guardian columnist and author Monbiot said of the event: "I'm greatly looking forward to it. We'll be navigating the great political and ecological crises in which we find ourselves, and hoping to chart a path through."

The forum, on October 11, is the third in a series of Planet Purbeck Presents events scheduled for the autumn.

It follows a "marine ecology evening" co-hosted by Greenpeace in Swanage on September 19 and a theatrical and musical performance of Stravinsky's short masterpiece The Soldier's Tale in Langton Matravers on September 26.

Details of all events can be found at www.planetpurbeck.org



Mark Rylance with the Wolf Hall photographic portrait he will auction at the forum

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



Coverage across Swanage is almost complete with our latest Defib recently installed in north Swanage in Ballard Way. We are indebted to the kind benefactor of the Defib and cabinet, to the family who allowed the kit to be placed in their garden area allowing public access to the defibrillator in an emergency situation and to Swanage Sparks for installing the cabinet free of charge.

Sadly for the Defib steering group we will be saying a fond farewell to Kyle Hickman and his family who are starting a new life in Perth, Australia in early October. Kyle's knowledge and experience have been invaluable to us so hopefully we can maintain strong links 'on line'. We wish Kyle and Catherine every success and happiness in this new chapter of their family life 'down-under'.

We are also saddened to hear of the death of Paddy Rideal one of our past Defib guardians who, like her many guardian colleagues, provided regular and committed maintenance to her local defibrillator ensuring the kit was 'rescue ready'. We send our condolences to Paddy's family and thank her for her dedicated support.

We are not holding an annual meeting this year but would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who support Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership in any way.

Maggie Hardy for SCDP

Much to be thankful for.

SCDP has been so grateful for the wonderful support received from our local community over our 10 year history both from our many volunteers who work hard to maintain and sustain the Defib project or by providing funding to support the ever increasing defibrillator fleet across our local area.





SWANAGE MUSEUM

Goings on at Corfe Castle
A talk by Mike Randall
Friday 26th September



YOU ARE ALL WELCOME
St Edwards Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road
7.30pm
Doors Open 7.00pm, Light Refreshments
Museum Members £3.00 - Non-members £4.00

Hello from Swanage Museum

The next Swanage Museum evening talk will be held on Friday, 26th September at St Edwards Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage.

The talk is **Corfe Castle**

Events and 'goings - on' at Corfe Castle that many guidebooks won't reveal. Hear some of the secrets of this wonderful and iconic castle that make it such a well - loved place to visit.

The talk is given by Mike Randall: Fellowship College Preceptors - LCP, BA (Hon) Long serving voluntary tour leader at Corfe Castle.

There will be light refreshments available from 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start and the charge for the evening will be £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

Further details are attached below and please do pass these details on to friends etc who might also be interested in attending.

As many of you will remember, Mike gave the fascinating talk 'Son of a Spy' earlier this year, and as Mike has worked as a tour guide at Corfe Castle for c12years and loved telling the lesser known stories as well as the 'gory deeds', this should be a really interesting talk and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Very best wishes

Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre

Swanage Skatepark Community Project Update

It's time to get excited! King Ramps are busy welding the steel frames for our phase 1 skatepark build. Installation is planned for October!

Construction of the ramps began in August after feedback from the design consultation was taken into consideration and some small tweaks to the final design were made.



Fundraising for Phase 2 is underway, we've already raised £12K towards this next section of the build and we've spent the summer working on new funding applications. This month we're looking forward to taking part in Planet Purbeck Discovery Fest and attending the Swanage Twon Carnival presentation evening.

We have corporate sponsorship and advertising opportunities available for businesses who would like to support us funding the next phase of the build. Please email swanageskatepark@gmail.com for more information.




Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

Community Fete raises over £8,000!

It was a cloudy and slightly windy day, but compared to 2024, nothing to worry about as the Swanage & Purbeck Rotary Community Fête took place on Thursday 7th August.

With 35 stalls, as well as traditional games such as hoop-la, darts, hook-a-duck and pull-a-cork, residents as well as holidaymakers found plenty to entertain them on what wasn't really a 'beach day'.

From the minute the event opened at 10am, Sandpit Field was filled with people, and both the charity and commercial stalls were busy with the Rotary games in the centre of the field proving popular with children and adults alike. The games were both affordable and fun and we'd particularly like to thank Nixons and Burt's Bits for donating prizes. The Children's Zone, expanded in size this year, proved a big hit, offering face painting, games and activities for our younger visitors.



Photo courtesy of Swanage News

The variety of entertainment from AllSort'd, Karen Grant, Live Ukes, Bruce Evans & Andrew Cannon and Keith Lockett ensured that anyone wishing to simply relax and listen had plenty to enjoy. Thanks also to Purbeck Sounds for compering in such a relaxed and professional way.

For those wanting refreshments, a plethora of food choices was available from Munch Catering, Burnt Toast, Ra-Ra's Tatties and Pantastic, all of whom had long queues for most of the day.

The ever popular raffle sellers were also busy all day, with over 2,500 tickets sold and more than 25 quality prizes won. These prizes were generously donated by local businesses and other members of the community to whom we extend our gratitude.

The day has proved to be a great success with over £8,000 raised. This is a major part of our fund raising efforts and means we can support many local and international charitable causes. A further £2,500 was raised by local charities who were able to book a stall for only £10. None of this could have happened without the hard work of Rotarians and many additional supporters who helped set up and take down as well as manning the stalls on the day. Thank you so much to everyone!

More details can be seen on the Swanage.news website.

A Quick Summer Update

We hit pause over July and August while many of our volunteers enjoyed a well-deserved holiday or helped out with all the exciting events happening around town. And honestly, we didn't feel we could match the spectacular Red Arrows!

**REPAIR
CAFÉ** Purbeck

What's Coming Up This Autumn

- Repair Café at Herston Village Hall – Join us on Saturdays:
 - September 27
 - October 25
 - November 29
- Planet Purbeck Festival – had a stand at this event on September 20.
- Sustainable Wareham Event – On November 8th we'll be at the Youth Centre on Worgret Road, celebrating Repair, Reuse, and Recycle. This will be a large event involving a number of different groups and featuring a Clothes Swap

Calling All Fixers (and Future Fixers!)

Our friendly crew of "Fixers" keeps growing, and we're always eager to welcome new volunteers—no matter what skills you bring. If you'd like to get involved, just drop us a line for more details.

Got Something That Needs Fixing?

Bring your items to any of our events, and we'll give them a go. And don't worry—tea, coffee, and cake will be waiting for you, too!

Updates from the National Trust

Beaver update – ‘tails’ of the unexpected!



Photo: The Swanage beaver, Mark Singleton

Six months ago, we released wild beavers into Little Sea, Studland. A lot has happened since then, including three kits being born, a female beaver taking a short break in Swanage, and sadly, the death of one of the male beavers. Their activities have been monitored by our wonderful team of volunteers, who have spent countless hours wading through trail cam footage (or actual swamps!) to record their whereabouts. Although it's upsetting to have lost one of the beavers, it does highlight that they are wild animals that aren't in enclosures, and there are always risks with reintroductions. The loss doesn't affect the long-term aims of the project to introduce more animals and establish a healthy, viable population of beavers in Purbeck. Read the full update here: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/studland-bay/re-introducing-beavers-to-studland



Vision for Middle Beach

This illustration is an artist's impression of how Middle Beach, Studland, might look when all man-made structures have gone and nature reshapes the cove. Work to remove the failing sea defences is underway and will continue until the end of October. It will involve some heavy machinery on the beach, so we apologise for any disruption. But the end goal is a beautiful, natural cove and wildlife haven. The beach where the work is taking place will remain closed until the cliffs have stabilised, but the car park, toilets, Sandy Salt Pig café and Fore Adventure will remain open.



Illustration: Richard Allen

Devastating woodland disease

Ash dieback is a devastating disease which is killing trees across the country. In Purbeck, Langton Westwood has hundreds of infected trees. Although standing deadwood is a great habitat for insects, birds and bats, we have to consider public safety, as the disease causes trees to drop limbs or topple completely. Following consultation with local stakeholders, we've agreed to fell some trees at Westwood and also close selected paths. Our aim is that people can still walk in the woods, but in areas that can be made as safe as possible. Tree safety work will be taking place throughout October and November, and signs are being erected that show which paths are closed. It's not all doom and gloom – although some trees will be lost, light will be allowed into the woodland floor which will attract wildflowers, butterflies, pollinators and birds. And scientists have recently discovered that a new generation of ash trees is showing more resistance to the disease, giving renewed hope for the future of ash trees in the UK.

Saving our silent hunters

Many of you will have enjoyed the sight of ghostly barn owls flying over the fields and hedgerows at twilight. But did you know that these beautiful birds are often found dead in cattle troughs? Like most birds, barn owls need to bathe, but their feathers are adapted for slow, silent flight so they aren't very waterproof. If they fall into a trough, their feathers absorb the water causing them to sink. To prevent this, we are trialling a system at Weston Farm, Worth Matravers – putting 'rafts' on cattle troughs. These are made of treated timber and strong plastic mesh, with polystyrene for permanent buoyancy. They allow cattle to drink but prevent owls from sinking. (Find out more on the Barn Owl Trust website.) We'd like to pass on a huge thanks to our dedicated carpentry volunteers who made and installed the rafts.

Purbeck trailblazes environmental awards

A group of youngsters in Purbeck have become the first in the country to gain their Environmental Leaders award, thanks to our Senior Community and Volunteering Officer, Jill Bailey. She delivered, coordinated and assessed the course, which involved 12 students from The Purbeck School (11 to 14 years). Jill worked with them to build leadership skills like teamwork, communication, confidence, organisation and problem-solving. Then they went out with our tenant farmer, Jake Hancock, to explore the heaths and learn about conservation farming. On World Ocean Day, they joined various organisations at Studland Bay to promote awareness of seagrass meadows, coastal erosion and plastic pollution on beaches. Our vision is to roll out the Environmental Leaders Programme across Purbeck and create sustainable career pathways for young people wanting to work in this field.

Slowing the flow

Work is about to begin on a project to reduce the risk of flooding along the Swan Brook – the stream that meets the sea in Swanage. This involves using natural measures to slow the flow of waterways. The six sites are on tenanted National Trust farmland, all located at the headwaters of tributaries that feed into the brook (Langton Matravers, Harman's Cross and Godlingston Manor Farm, Swanage). The first phase of work begins in September 2025, continuing to late October. If you would like to know more or get involved, please visit <https://planetpurbeck.org/projects/streams>



Photo: Jill Bailey



Art & Craft @ All Saints is back in the swing again! We meet Friday mornings during termtime in All Saints Hall. We are an inclusive group offering simple art and craft skills in a friendly environment and welcome people of all artistic skills or none. People experiencing challenges in their lives are especially welcome, as are carers. We keep our charges low (currently £7 per session with reductions for people on Benefits). During October we are Pebble Painting and after half term will be trying some clay work.

If you think you might like to join us, leave a message on 01929 475883 or email Suzanne on suzanne.artworkshop@outlook.com. We shall be delighted to welcome you!

Swanage Depression Support



We have been back in action for nearly six months now. We are a small, friendly, relaxed group for anyone experiencing persistent low mood or stress, anxiety or depression, whether diagnosed or not. We aim to share the ups and downs of our experience and offer encouragement to each other in a confidential environment.

We meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings, sometimes just to share, sometimes using a simple craft activity.

To find out more, you can follow us on our Facebook page ([swanagedepressionsupport](https://www.facebook.com/swanagedepressionsupport)) or you can contact Alan on swanagedepression@outlook.com or 07871 799479. We can have an informal chat over coffee in town to help you decide.

Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance need your support please

I have been raising funds in Swanage for two years now, and would love to get the helicopter OFF the ground.

To date I have raised £2,921.00 but would love to achieve £3,500 which would get the copter up and off for at least one mission. This is a huge amount of money that's needed every time there is a call for HELP. Swanage so far has been very generous with helping me with fundraising, one way or another.

Sadly I have had to fold my tables for the last time for any future sea-front stalls, but hope to continue with Table Top sales in and around Swanage. Thank you all for your support.

So please, if you run a club or association in town or in the area and feel you would like to help this special charity, please do get in touch with me for any further information.

A very BIG THANK YOU to the generosity of the Carnival Committee who always give £1,000 every year - it is greatly appreciated.

Daphne Saville daphne.saville@gmail.com



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



Swanage Neighbourhood Plan: Have Your Say!



Dorset Coast Forum and Swanage Town Council are inviting residents to share their views on the proposals for the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan. The Swanage Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, a mix of councillors and community representatives, is now ready to hear from the community and develop a shared plan for the town.

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out a community's vision and priorities for land use and development in their neighbourhood, alongside policies with statutory weight in planning decisions. These policies help protect character areas, green spaces and community facilities, while guiding where and how development takes place. Having an adopted Neighbourhood Plan also means the community benefits from a greater share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from chargeable developments - increasing from 15% (for communities without a Plan) to 25% once one is in place.

Once approved in a local referendum, and adopted, it becomes part of the statutory Development Plan for the Dorset Council area, meaning it must be considered when deciding planning applications, development proposals having to demonstrate how they meet the requirements set out in the policies of the Plan. Led by the local community, the Plan provides an opportunity for everyone to help shape future development and influence the well-being, sustainability, and long-term preservation of Swanage.

The policy themes currently under review for inclusion in the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan include:

1. Swanage Settlement
2. Housing Mix
3. Development Sites
4. Town Centre
5. Townscape Character
6. Open Space & Recreation, and Local Green Spaces
7. Community Facilities

Swanage Town Councillor Tina Foster, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, explains why this is a vital moment for Swanage:

"Since becoming a Town Councillor I have been keen for Swanage to have a stronger voice in planning matters and so welcome this chance to help shape the future of our town. There are benefits to having a Neighbourhood Plan as we will have more control over planning in Swanage and an extra 10% share of the Community Infrastructure Levy."

Dorset Coast Forum Coordinator Toni Powell emphasises the importance of community involvement:

"Neighbourhood planning gives the community a stronger voice and a shared vision for how Swanage should evolve. We strongly encourage everyone to get involved and have their say by completing the survey and joining us at one of the engagement events. Your ideas and feedback are vital and will help shape the draft Neighbourhood Plan."

Drop-in events will take place on:

- 25 September at The Focus Centre, 3 to 7pm
- 1 October at All Saints Church Hall, Ulwell, 10am to 2pm
- 8 October at Herston Village Hall, 3 to 7pm
- 15 October at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10am to 2pm

Share your thoughts via an online survey: <https://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-neighbourhood-plan/surveys/swanage-neighbourhood-plan-survey>

Further details and the survey are available at: www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-neighbourhood-plan

Image 1: Swanage Bay from The Downs, Credit: Swanage Town Council



Image 2: Lower High Street, Credit: Swanage Town Council



Image 3: High Street, Town Hall/Purbeck Hotel, Credit: Swanage Town Council



Image 4: Days Park, Credit: Swanage Town Council



THE MOWLEM

Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

What's On in October 2025

www.themowlem.com

On The Stage:

The 39 Steps

This hilarious, fast-paced stage adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's iconic thriller is packed with physical comedy, jaw-dropping quick changes, and edge-of-your-seat excitement.

9 & 10 October 7:30pm

Artsreach presents: Living Spit – Too Many Greek Myths

A Herculean challenge: to squeeze twenty of the greatest Ancient Greek myths into one chaotic, side-splitting show!

Suitable for ages 8+

13 October 6:00pm

On The Big Screen:

The Roses (12A)

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Theo and Ivy: successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. However, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentments soon emerge.

1 & 2 October 7:30pm

28 Years Later (15)

It's been almost three decades since the rage virus escaped from a biological weapons laboratory. Still living in a ruthlessly enforced quarantine, some have found ways to exist amid the infected.

6 & 7 October 7:30pm

The Life of Chuck (15)

From childhood to adulthood, Charles "Chuck" Krantz experiences the wonder of love, the heartbreak of loss, and the multitudes contained in all of us.

11, 14, 15, & 16 October 7:30pm

Purbeck Film Festival

Screening various films. See website for full details

17 October - 2 November

Diplo: The Mighty Dinosaur (U)

The titular dinosaur goes on an adventure to save his parents who have disappeared under mysterious circumstances. 27, 28, 29, & 30 October 11:30am

In The Studio:

SoundCellar & Swanage Jazz Festival present **The Henrik Jensen Trio**

The Henrik Jensen Trio delivers melodic, expressive jazz rooted in rich interplay and storytelling.

11 October 7:30pm

The Mowlem Comedy Club (14+)

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

15 October 7:30pm

Artsreach presents: Squashbox Theatre – Shivers & Shadows

Get ready to shiver, shake, shudder and scream with Squashbox! Expect an overflowing cauldron of a show, brimming with delightful frights and hilarious

horrors

Recommended 6+

*1hr Post-show shadow-puppet making workshop available.

Places limited – £4 per child.

Booking essential

28 October 2:30pm

In the Showbar:

Health and Wellbeing Event

You will be able to meet service providers, find out about local support services and get health and wellness information in The Showbar.

There is a short film 'Health Services Available in Purbeck' being shown in the theatre at

12.30pm.

2 October 11am - 3pm

Swanage Blues Festival

Three days of the top-quality blues music live in The Showbar as part of the 41st SwanageBlues Festival!

Friday 3rd October:

4pm – Kirris Riviere & the Delta du Bruit

8pm – The Scoundrels

Saturday 4th October:

4pm – The Mighty Howlers

8pm – The Terraplanes

Sunday 5th October:

1:30pm – Blue Touch

5:30pm – Blues Cruise

WEEKEND WRISTBAND £15 – available on the doorCash only for wristbands, please.

3 - 5 October

Swanage Record Club

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](#)!

Thursday 16 October 6:30 - 10pm

Oscar's Ultimate Quiz

Our monthly quiz – the biggest and best in town!

£2 per person in teams of up to six (bring cash on the night!)

Wednesday 29 October The Showbar opens at 5.30pm – arrive early to secure a table, quiz starts at 8pm!

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.



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY PURBECK ADMIRAL NURSE FUND

PLEASE SUPPORT

OUR GOAL— £120,000

RAISED - £99,000

£21,000 TO GO ! ! !

**Thank you to those who
have donated so far**

You are invited to a
coffee Morning
Saturday 25th October 10am - 12noon

Dementia Friendly Purbeck is very close to the target to provide a second Admiral Nurse for Purbeck. These specialist nurses provide life changing care for families affected by dementia.

Please help us to make a difference and come along and support this fundraising event. Donations for the raffle and offers of cakes would be greatly appreciated.



Tea/coffee, Cakes, a Raffle and Games!

At Bere Regis Village Hall



Organised by Alison Bennett, Family and Friends



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**

Dates for your Diary

**September 12th & 16th
October 7th & 21st
November 4th & 18th
December 2nd & 16th**



ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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

Unmasked Saturdays

Finding Connection and Joy: Unmasked Saturdays is a Roaring Success!

In a world that often asks neurodivergent children to "fit in," what if there was a place where they could simply be? A place where the pressure melts away, replaced by the simple joys of a shared activity, a new friend, and a of course squash and biscuits. This is the heart of Unmasked Saturdays!

For those who haven't joined us yet, Unmasked Saturdays is our FREE, monthly meet-up for families with school-aged children who are diagnosed or undiagnosed autistic, ADHD, or have a learning disability. Held on the first Saturday of every month from 2 pm to 4 pm, it's a dedicated two-hour window for fun, friendship, and, most importantly, feeling like you belong.

What Makes Unmasked Saturdays So Special?

The goal was simple but powerful: to create a safe, nurturing, and absolutely FREE space for children to make new friends within their community and participate in activities they genuinely enjoy. At the same time, it gives parents and caregivers a vital opportunity to connect with others who have an understanding.

A typical afternoon with us is filled with:

- A Fun Local Activity: We love partnering with fantastic local businesses to offer unique experiences that are engaging and accessible.
- A Creative Craft: A chance for children to express themselves in a low-pressure, joyful environment.
- Time to Chat (& Eat!): And of course, there's always time to share a drink and a biscuit (or two!) in good company!

A Warm Welcome to Maria!

Maria has joined the Team to help run the monthly group. We are so excited to have Maria's energy and expertise helping to shape the future of Unmasked Saturdays.

Join Our Community

The best part? It's completely free. We believe firmly that every single family deserves access to a community where they feel understood and celebrated. So, if you've been looking for a supportive group where both children and their parents/ care givers feel a sense of belonging, join us - you are welcome here.

For further information, please reach out to Rachel at The Focus Centre. We can't wait to meet you!

Rachel Tapping

[Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust | \(sandpdt.org.uk\)](https://sandpdt.org.uk)



Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

Friends of Swanage Hospital

The role of the Friends is to support Swanage Hospital and its staff by raising funds and making grants to support activities at the hospital. At present, there are ongoing discussions around the re-purposing of the Endoscopy Suite and we have had several meetings with various NHS representatives who advise the initial stage is a feasibility study to investigate costs and plans. The Trustees have indicated a willingness to fund this feasibility study and await more information around the outline proposal and a commitment as we are mindful of ensuring full benefit of the funds for the local community. The trustees are, of course, all keen for Swanage Hospital to thrive, but as trustees, we are responsible for ensuring that the Friends' monies are spent wisely and appropriately and we can fully justify any expenses and demonstrate the reasonings behind any decisions that are made.

The Friends of Swanage Hospital **AGM** is on **Tuesday 7th October at 2.30pm** at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage. Everyone is welcome to attend and all members/Friends will be sent an invitation shortly. Questions are invited at the AGM, but as this is the AGM of the Friends, it is not possible to answer questions on operational issues and hospital services at the AGM. If you have questions on these sorts of subjects, please email membership@friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk or write to the Friends c/o Swanage Hospital and we will try our best to forward your query to the appropriate person or department.

Our **Autumn Fayre** will be held on **Saturday 15th November from 10am to 12 noon** at the Catholic Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage. There will be various stalls including crafts, tombola, book stall and children's games as well as a raffle and refreshments. Please do come and join us for what always proves to be a fun event. Raffle tickets will also be on sale at the hospital reception from Monday 10th November to Friday 14th November between 9am and 4pm.

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



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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



I'm not sure where we should start!! It's been a very busy, successful Summer at Greengage. Open days, fetes, Rotary Summer Fayre, lots of visitors and our most successful year yet.

Very shortly we will also see our new building arriving so that is very exciting and will be very welcome. We hope to use it as a place where we can meet, chat and enjoy each other's company but also for meetings, training, workshops and more. We will also be upgrading our toilet facilities in the not too distant future.

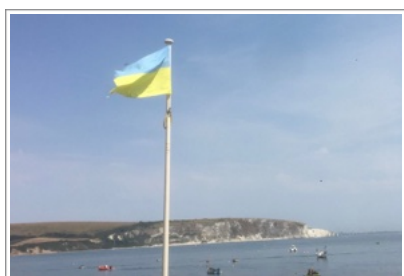
The building arrives mid October but, before then, we have an **Open Day** on the **26th September** to which you are ALL invited ... **11 until 3**, lovely plants, tea and cake and more.

Our Wallflowers, Stocks and Sweet Williams are ready for Autumn planting and we also have Violas and Pansies for Winter planting. We also have an interesting variety of herbs and perennials available.

We are open every Tuesday from 12 and Friday from 10. Please come and see us to look around the garden, have a chat or have a cup of tea with us. You will be very welcome!



Host family sought



Ukrainian lady seeks Host family in UK under 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme

Lady in her forties has been forced to leave her home in the Donbas region of Ukraine following Russian bombing. She speaks English and is seeking a host in England, so that she can live and work in safety.

The UK government is continuing to provide 'thank-you payments' to hosts who receive Ukrainian refugees.

If you might possibly be able to accommodate her and would like more details, please contact:

purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

'Britain's nearest to Oscar Peterson'
Digby Fairweather

M



Craig Milverton Trio

7.30pm Friday 28 November

The Showbar

Free Entry

Sponsored by Swanage Jazz Club

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Health and Wellbeing Event at The Mowlem on Thursday 2 October: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Everyone is invited to the free Health and Wellbeing Fair being held in The Showbar between 11:00am and 3:00pm. The PPG will be hosting a stand at this event - do drop by and say "Hello".

At 12:30pm, you will also be able to watch the first screening of a film about Health Services in Purbeck - please book your free seat to watch the film in the Mowlem Theatre by visiting The Mowlem's website at: <https://themowlem.com/event/health-and-wellbeing-event/>. There's no need to book if you are just attending the Health and Wellbeing Fair.



Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team

HEALTH & WELLBEING EVENT

Thursday 2nd October
11:00 - 15:00
at the Mowlem Theatre, Swanage

Drop in at anytime

- FREE ENTRY
- LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICES
- HEALTH & WELLNESS INFORMATION
- MEET SERVICE PROVIDERS

Film at 12:30: "Health Services Available in Purbeck" approx. 35 Minutes (tickets available from <https://themowlem.com/>)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SCAN QR TO BOOK NOW!

The Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team brings together all the providers of health and care services in Purbeck - including primary care, community care, adult social care, children and young people services and the voluntary sector - so they can work together more closely to help people stay well for longer and provide streamlined, personalised support when people need it. The PPGs in Purbeck are also working with the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team to ensure people living in Purbeck are involved in improving and shaping local services.

Results for the Patient Survey carried out at the Surgery in June 2025

The results of the Patient Survey carried out by the PPG on behalf of the Practice have now been published in the News section on the Practice's website, together with the Practice's response to the PPG's recommendations for further action - please see: <https://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/News>.

Our thanks to the 400 people who took part in our Survey. 86% described their overall experience of the Practice as good and 89% described their experience of making their appointment as good. 77% found it easy to contact the Practice by phone, 78% found it easy to contact the Practice via the website and 79% found it easy to contact the Practice using the NHS App. The results of the Survey are set out in full in the Report, together with all the comments provided by those who took part.

Although many patients rated their experience of using the Practice positively, getting an appointment at the Practice was clearly an issue for many of those who participated in our Survey. The PPG has therefore made recommendations to address these concerns - the PPG will be supporting the Practice to take forward these recommendations, which are also set out in the Report.

PPG Meetings

The PPG last met on 9 September 2025, when we were joined by Dr McIntosh, one of the GP Partners at the Practice. Our next PPG meeting will be held at the Surgery on **Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 12:30pm**.

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!

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.

Dr Margaret Guy
Chair, Swanage Medical Practice PPG

October at Harmans Cross Village Hall

October is a busy month at HXVH. First up we have ...



HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

Stalls at the Hall – Saturday 11 October

We are expecting a full house of tables full of produce, crafts and curios, supplemented by delicious homemade cakes, coffee and tea. Loads of free parking and free entry from 9.30am. If you are interested in having a table for your wares, please contact Kelly as soon as possible on 07384 848419.

Wedding Fayre – Sunday 12 October 1-4pm – free entry

Have you got a wedding to plan and celebrate? Come along and visit the Hall to find lots of different specialist local wedding suppliers. You can also check out the Hall as a venue whilst you're with us – we are licenced to perform your ceremony now as well

October is Movie Month with the Purbeck Film Festival

This year we have linked up with the PFF to offer 3 films through the month as follows:

Tuesday 14 October – Mystery Movie Night

Thursday 23 October – Small Things Like These

Tuesday 28 October – Brassed Off

Full details of films and advanced bookings can be made at the PFF website at <https://purbeckfilm.com>. Tickets are £8, or £6 for students and under 25s. Doors and bar open at 7pm and film starts at 7.30pm. More information also on our website at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/>

Other dates for your diaries

Coffee Junction: October 2, 16 and 30 from 10.30am

HXVH Church: Sunday 19 October starting at 6pm. Everyone very welcome

Alison and the HXVH Committee



Comments from the Chair Maggie Hardy



Again the Friends have had a good year and have been able to support Wareham Hospital and the wider Purbeck Community in several positive ways but our ability to help will become more challenging if we are unable to recruit more committee members/trustees to the Friends

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP ?

We do not benefit from large donations or legacies as other local community hospitals but we have been able to do a lot with the money we have, thanks to good stewardship and hard work.



Wareham Community Hospital, Streche Road, Wareham, BH20 4QQ

PURBECK COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

Our biggest expenditure, and taking 75% of our capital, has been to support the transfer of the Purbeck Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) to a base within the hospital, bringing everyone together on one site and making good use of the hospital premises..

Gardening Project



The CMHT is delighted to now work from the hospital and to make use of the hospital garden which has benefited from a 'makeover' undertaken by a very dedicated and committed gardening team who have worked hard to make our efforts much more than just a gardening project -we have developed a beautiful garden space enjoyed by patients, staff, visitors and, the gardening team..... a garden which we hope has been judged favourably by the RHS Judge who visited recently as part of the Britain in Bloom competition!



Visit from Local MP's

As a Friends group we have done our best to maintain the profile of Wareham Hospital over the last year. We have had visits from both local MPs, Lloyd Hatton and Vikki Slade who have both been impressed by the many



out-patients services provided at the hospital for the whole of the Purbeck area and committee members manned a stand at the recent Wareham Carnival which was visited by the Mayor of Wareham, Cllr Zoe Gover



Friends of Wareham Hospital Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our AGM on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17th at 2 pm in the Masonic Hall, Wareham when our speakers will be Alex Lister Service Director for the Integrated Community services and Louise and Carly from the Community Mental Health team.

PLEASE DO JOIN US and buy some tickets for our Grand Raffle which will be drawn at our COFFEE MORNING on SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER from 10-12 at the Corn Exchange, Wareham Town Hall when we will also be entertained by local musicians Zephyrae.

Please join us and be part of it!

WAREHAM HOSPITAL PROVIDES MANY IMPORTANT SERVICES - please help the Friends to support them and ensure that Wareham/Purbeck doesn't miss out in any NHS changes



Wareham Community Hospital, Streche Road, Wareham, BH20 4QQ - 01929 557550

Swanage Food Bank



Looking towards the end of the year already!

Swanage Food Bank continues to play an important part in our community for those who are really struggling to put food on the table. As the glorious summer has turned into a damp autumn, we've started to see a rise in client

numbers coming to us for help. We are here at the United Reformed Church, High St, BH19 2NY waiting to help on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 12-2pm.**

If you need one-off or occasional help, please self-refer yourself by phoning us on **07759 230313**. If you need more frequent help we would ask, after your first or second phone call to us, to get a formal Referral (ie. a phone call to the same number from an agency that is aware of your circumstances such as your child's school, your Social Worker, Mental Health worker, a church minister, the Focus Centre, your GP or Citizens Advice for example). We can then work together to help you.

It's sometimes quite tricky getting through to Citizen's Advice on the phone, so we highly recommend, if you can, finding them either at:

- > **Herston Village Hall Community Cafe**, Jubilee Rd, Swanage BH19 2SF on *Mondays 10am-12pm*
- > **Swanage Library**, High St, Swanage BH19 2NU on *Tuesday 10am-12pm (except 1st in month)*
- > **Swanage Market**, main long-stay car park, Victoria Ave on *Fridays 9.30am - 12.30pm.*

Please try to phone us or a Referral Agency a day or two before you completely run out of food.

Thanks to all in the community who support the Food Bank in so many ways, including donations of (in-date & unused) food, toiletries and bags for life, financial donations and in prayer. We appreciate them all so much. You keep us going!

As the nights draw in and we start to think towards the end of the year (sorry, I know it seems too early!) we invite you to start thinking about Christmas treats that you might be able to pop in one of our supermarket collection bins (Budgens, Coop, Costcutter & Spar), church collection crates - or drop them in to us direct during opening hours. We start distributing these extra special items to clients fairly early in December to help make Christmas a little less bleak, especially for families. (Please keep an eye on 'Best Before' dates if you buy them in Sept / Oct / Nov! Mince pies & similar are best left til the end of November or very start of Dec!)

Current Top 5 requests

- **Soup** (*tins or packets*)
- **Hot meat tins** (*eg. Stew, chilli, curry, chicken in white sauce, minced beef*)
- **Pasta sauces & meal tins** (*eg. ravioli, macaroni cheese, spaghetti bolognese*)
- **Rice Pudding & Custard**
- **Christmas donations** (*packets or tubs of sweets; nice, useful toiletries; interesting puddings - not necessarily Christmas puddings!*)

Please do encourage friends or neighbours to contact us on **07759 230313** if you feel they are struggling. We can usually deliver if necessary.

Thanks for supporting your Swanage Food Bank.

The Purbeck Society, continues its work in studying and protecting Purbeck's rich history, wildlife, geology and environment. Founded nearly 170 years ago, the society's archives are increasingly relevant to today's debates on conservation and climate change. In recent years, members have contributed expert feedback on planning applications and issues facing the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, while compiling a comprehensive list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets now incorporated in Swanage's Neighbourhood Plan. The Purbeck Society meets monthly at The Mowlem Community Room in Swanage, offering talks and outings for all interested in local heritage and nature.

The Purbeck Society

The autumn programme includes:

10th October, 2.30pm: "How Wellbeing Swanage Empowers Our Community" with Ali Tuckey
14th November, 2.30pm: Talk: Purbeck Natural History Forum.
10th December, 2.30pm: Purbeck Society Christmas Social

Dates of meetings for spring 2026 — January 10th, February 13th, March 13th (AGM) and April 10th.

Meetings are free for members, non-members are welcome (£3 entry, tea and coffee available). To learn more or join, visit www.purbecksociety.co.uk or email contact@purbecksociety.co.uk.



A busy summer for Purbeck Sounds working with community events including **The Corfe Castle Food Festival, Harman Cross Fete, The Folk Festival, The Rotary Fete, The Sandy Hill Arts Poetry Weekend, The Library Poetry events and Planet Purbeck.** We also launched our **Library 'Poetree'** part of raising the profile of Poetry in Purbeck with the Swanage Library

As Autumn draws in we are delighted to share our new shows which will keep you informed and inspired. Welcoming new presenters and new weekly shows:

Chris Bradey brings you the **Literature show 'Bookmarks'**

David Wise talks all things walking in his **'Walking Show'**

Grace Fanco talks travel and countries in her **'Travel show'**

Hannah Jameison - profiles the local community in **'Community Connections'**

Karen Grant - bring us the finest music in her **'Music Show'**

Autumn also see's us working with the **Swanage Literary Festival, the WI, Men's Shed, The Library, Blandford Literary Festival and The Swanage School.**



Purbeck Sounds, the **Voice of Purbeck** aims to keep the **community connected**, provide **human companionship** and serve the community through reciprocal arts, education, charities and business **connections**

www.purbecksounds.com



Award winning Double Act drama group proudly presents a fun filled family pantomime

By permission of Lazy Bee Scripts

Written by Peter Nuttall

Alice In Cuckoo Land

DOUBLE ACT logo

DoubleActCorfeCastle
www.double-act.org.uk
doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com

QR code

Corfe Castle Village Hall
27th, 28th & 29th Nov 2025 at 7.30pm
Matinee 29th at 2.30pm
Adults £10 / Children £5 (under 5s free)
Tickets from Corfe Castle Village Stores &
www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group
10% reductions for groups of 10 & over



And for our next Show -

Stand by for.....

'Alice In Cuckoo Land',

a Pantomime by Peter Nuttall.

As you may have seen already, your local multi-award-winning drama group is staging a pantomime this year, following on the heels of **'The Shaftesbury Tales'** in summer last year, **'This Secret Isle'** last November, **'Potato Pate'** at the VE80 event in early May and **'Cinderella'** mini-panto at the May Fair this summer. The characters you will meet this November mostly originate in Lewis Carroll's Alice books, but the plot of this pantomime certainly takes them into uncharted territory!

As well as welcoming back David Wellstead into the Dame role, we sport Nick Jubber and his son Rafe from Langton, as the Hatter and - well, you will have to come and see it to find out just what Rafe is doing this time! Alongside a very furry Karen Stevens, we also welcome back Dee Stephens as one of the Tweedle twins (partnering Emma Lacey), there's a stage debut for Julie Blinkhorn as the Knave of Hearts, while musical keyboard skills are provided by the incomparable Eve Baker.

Performances in Corfe Castle Village Hall are on Thursday to Saturday, 27th - 29th November at 7:30pm, with a matinee on Saturday 29th at 2:30pm. Tickets are £10 Adults, Children £5, under 5's free. 10% reductions for groups of 10 & over.

Tickets will be available from Corfe Castle Village Stores or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group.

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





Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

It's been a busy summer at the museum, with numbers up on last year. To tie in with our new Blacksmith Exhibition in the local studies room, we were very excited to have a real life blacksmith, Will Spicer, to visit on 6th September. He was accompanied by local stonemason Jonathan Sells, and they demonstrated their crafts, giving people the opportunity to have a go themselves. We are very grateful to them for doing this, and will hope to welcome them back next year. The museum will close for the winter at the end of September, and we look forward to welcoming you again at the beginning of April 2026.

Dates for your Diary

We are in the process of planning our usual series of winter talks; so far they are as follows:

Thursday 23rd October, 2025: **Durnford Diamonds**, by Mary Sparks.

Thursday, 20th November, 2025: **Brandy for the Parson, Baccy for the Clerk – Smuggling on the Coastline of Dorset**, by Mike Randall.

Thursday 15th January, 2026: **Geology of the Quarry to Castle Trail and Two Years of Radar in Worth Matravers and Leeson House**, by Patrick Corbett.

Watch the website for other talks/dates (currently in planning) in 2026, including some of our popular short afternoon events. All evening talks are at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend: £3 for members, £4 for non-members.

The first of the series for the winter, 'Durnford Diamonds' explores the role of the Pellatt family in the development of prep schools in the village of Langton Matravers in the twentieth century. Using newly available photos, maps and architectural plans, the talk explains the phenomenon of prep schools and shows how and why the Pellatts re-developed local buildings and even created a purpose-built school at Spyway, always using the diamond-paned windows to leave their mark in the built environment. The later use of these buildings is also explored, coupled with the author's personal experience of working or living at these institutions over time.

Our archaeology project in conjunction with the 'Dorset Diggers' is progressing well, with some exciting new finds. The team welcomes volunteers to join in: if you are interested, please use our website contact form to find out more.

Membership fees were due on 1st September. If a member, please renew! If not, please consider joining us. Annual Membership is £10.00 for individuals or £15.00 for family/joint membership, or for just £100 you can become a member for life. To join the Society, or renew membership, either talk to our friendly team at events, or follow the link to membership on the website to download the application form at: <https://www.langtonia.org/membership.html>

Daryle Pearson and Mary Sparks, Publicity and Communications, LMLHPS



**Corfe Community Kitchen
Soup 'n Pud**
**A choice of 2 soups and
2 puds with custard**
Corfe Castle Village Hall
Sat. Oct. 4th & Nov. 1st '25
12.30 – 1.45pm



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

Free Lunch

This venture is provided by volunteers, on a not-for-profit basis, in a friendly environment for local residents to increase community spirit. If you wish to make a donation, either of food or money please feel free but it is not obligatory.

Our September lunch was well attended, as usual, with folk returning to meet with friends and our super volunteers once more and to enjoy the good food and company. One of the soups was courgette, potato and pea which used the amazing courgettes donated by a kind villager plus potato also given by someone else. One of the puds was a lovely trifle using up muffins donated and frozen previously. We were lucky enough to have 2 crumbles with custard this month as we were using locally picked raspberries, blackberries and apples, all kindly given to us by locals. So once again we fulfilled our aim of using up surplus food and trying to make things as seasonal as possible.

In October we are intending using the chopped onions we have been given by a villager, in a French Onion Soup and the lovely blueberries that we picked at Lenchenbury Farm in a blueberry and lemon cake. November will be our 3rd Anniversary so there may be a few surprises!

Once again we need to thank our volunteers for their hard work and also The Village Bakery for donating the bread rolls.

Donations of food and money are always gratefully received!

If you haven't been before we would love to see you as it is an excellent way to make new friends, particularly if you are a recent arrival in the village.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY?

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary

**Soup & Sweet
Lunch**
in aid of
'END POLIO NOW'



Saturday 25th October
12 noon for 12.30pm
at Catholic Church Hall
Rempstone Rd
Swanage, BH19 1AH

**Charge is £12 for choice of
2 Soups with Bread & 2 Puddings**

Book a place by 'phoning 07857 925875

Raffle tickets will be on sale £1 per ticket

Rotary  Swanage & Purbeck

Purbeck Association of the National Trust (PANT)



Who we are

We are a local social group supporting the work of the National Trust, by organising talks, outings, social events and holidays. You don't have to be a member of the National Trust to join us.

What we're doing

Traditionally we've always taken a break from holding events in July and August, mainly because we know that many of our members are taking holidays or, living where we do, having friends or family to stay.

We got back into action in September with a lunch at Sculptures by the Lakes in Pallington and our first talk of the new season, when local author **Ilay Cooper** (*Purbeck Revealed*) took us far beyond his beloved Isle of Purbeck to another area on which he is also an expert - Shekhawati, a region of Rajasthan and the amazing murals on many of the buildings.

We follow up in October with a talk in All Saints Church in Ulwell, when **Luke Moulard** will tell us about life in the Dorset workhouses in the 19th century, with some surprising stories of the designers, builders and organisers of the institutions, and of the people who were housed in them.

In November we return to Carey Hall in Wareham on Thursday 20th when **Peter Sills** will tell us about The Purbeck Mining Museum, one of Dorset's 'best kept secrets'.

Everybody is welcome at our talks. They start at 2.30pm and entry is £4, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

In October we'll also be having a coach outing to the wonderful *Milestones Living Museum* near Basingstoke. Set over 3 floors this tells the story of how people used to live, the things they used and the work they did. The maze of Victorian and 1930s streets is packed with original vehicles, shops, factories and houses, most based on original buildings from in and around Basingstoke. There is also a collection of restored vintage vehicles and steam engines including fine examples from top Hampshire manufacturers.



In November we're having a Skittles session, and in December an overnight trip to visit the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire, to see the house decorated for Christmas.

We do all these things to enjoy ourselves, whilst also raising money for the National Trust locally. Earlier this year we met with the Trust and agreed to donate £2,000 for the Beaver Project at Little Sea, to enable the purchase of more cameras.

While writing, we'd like to send a big 'Thank You' to **Purbeck Sounds**. Presenter Maggie O'Neill interviewed our Chairman live on air in August, helping us publicise our presence in Purbeck and our activities.

Find out more

You can find out more about us, including details of our forthcoming activities, and of how to join us, by going to our website www.purbecknt.org.uk, or you can email us at info@purbecknt.org.uk, or call 01929 552872.

WAREHAM LIONS CLUB



If you feel a need to help in the community, contact.

Email; richardtweaver@icloud.com

Phone; 07771647400



WAREHAM LIONS



BRIC A BRAC SALE

TEA, COFFEE CAKES AND PLANTS

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER 10.00-1200 NOON

Town Hall, East Street, Wareham, Dorset,
BH20 4NS

DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK AND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

As Autumn has arrived and the Summer crowds have returned home, now is a great time to enjoy the sea air and open space at Durlston Country Park and National Nature Reserve.

On their daily walks, Durlston's rangers have been spotting the first avian migrants of the season, as Spotted Flycatchers and Redstarts refuel before embarking on their journeys South, and Swallows and Martins mass ahead of their truly epic flight to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our hard-working Hereford cattle will be continuing their vital work in Durlston's meadows this Autumn, grazing back the dominant grasses to create space and opportunity for rare wildflowers – please continue to keep your dogs under close control, and ensure you close gates behind you to avoid any escapees!

If you'd like to learn more about Durlston's natural and geological wonders, why not join expert naturalist (and SPDT CEO!) Ali Tuckey on his **'Layers in the Landscape' guided walk** on Sunday 19th October, to discover how geology, history, people and nature combined to create this unique landscape.

Our regular calendar of ranger-led guided walks continues, including explorations of the history and renovation of our Grade II Listed castle, and our popular **'Park to Pier'** event, taking in Durlston's Pleasure Grounds, the South West Coast Path and Swanage's lovingly restored pier – check our website for dates and further details.

For an insight into how our seas have shaped lives, between Tuesday 7th and Thursday 16th October the free **'Coastal Life Stories' photography exhibition** by the Dorset Coast Forum will celebrate the work of nominated Coastal Champions - exceptional individuals and organisations dedicating their time, expertise, and passion to protecting, enhancing, and shaping the Dorset coast and its communities.

From Monday 20th October to Saturday 1st November, Durlston will play host to the **Purbeck Film Festival Exhibition**, featuring images and articles from this year's selected screenings, and offering a unique glimpse behind the programme. A variety of films will also screen in the Fine Foundation Gallery throughout the Festival, from investigative documentary 'The Grab' to coming-of-age drama 'Last Swim', and Drama/ Horror/Thriller 'Die Before You Die' (15), including a Q&A with Director Dan Pringle and cast member Laurent Lucas.

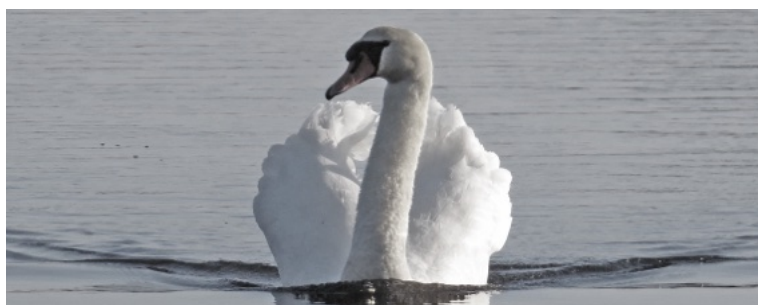
As Spooky Season descends, bring your little horrors between Wednesday 22nd October and Wednesday 5th November to enjoy Durlston's **Halloween Trail** – find the ghoulish clues and win a prize!

If you'd like to try your hand at a new art or craft, we have a selection of upcoming workshops with artist Madelaine Devenay and wood engraver Robin Mackenzie. On Sunday 12th October, adults and children alike can explore the fascinating craft of **glass engraving** at our Learning Centre, while a free exhibition of the intricate work of the Guild of Glass Engravers will go on display in the Fine Foundation Gallery between Wednesday 26th November and Sunday 7th December, with select works available to buy as early Christmas presents.

Finally, as the evenings draw in, wrap up warm and attend one of our popular **Stargazing events**, where (if the weather plays nicely) experts from the Wessex Astronomy Society will guide you in observations of Autumn constellations and the planetary bodies.

For more information on all events or to book your space, make sure to visit www.durlston.co.uk/events

Ross Packman – Engagement Ranger



DEADLINE

for contributions to the December 2025 /
January 2026 issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans