

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 (December 25/January 26) 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
February / March 2026
issue of the Newsletter
FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 2026





The big news is that our new Garden Room is now in place!! The floor has been sealed and our water collection system has been installed. We are now in a position to fit out the inside with power and lights, a small kitchen area and more and hopefully by early next year it will be fully functional. It will be a wonderful addition to Greengage.

We will be having a grand open day next year to celebrate when the Garden Room is ready so keep an eye open for information.

Our thanks to the Co-op, Talbot Village Trust and the Town Council who have made it all possible.

We have had a productive harvest and we had a stall at the Hospital Autumn Fair in November. Our **Christmas Fayre is on December 12th from 11am** at Greengage and we will have Rob's reindeer available, lots of lovely bulbs, herbs, plants, table settings, raffle, tombola, tea and cakes and much more!!

You will be very welcome. Please put the date in your diary!



Langton Matravers Local History and Preservation Society

December 2025

www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

With the museum now closed for the winter, we are now into our season of talks. These are an opportunity to get together and learn about a range of subjects in a friendly atmosphere. Our first talk, 'Durnford Diamonds', about the Pellatt family and the prep schools of Langton, was well-supported and enjoyed. It was good to see so many members and friends. We're now looking forward to the November talk on smuggling – see details below. As our usual 'third Thursday' date is so close to Christmas, we decided not

to schedule a talk for then, as we know how busy you will be: we've added an extra date in April instead.

Dates for your Diary

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.

Thursday 19th February, 2026: **Stone Mason** – a talk by Jonathan Sells.

Thursday 19th March, 2026: **Quarrying** – a talk by Chris Suttle.

Thursday 23rd April, 2026: **The Deserted Medieval Village at Afflington** - a talk by Chris Tripp, 'Dorset Diggers' Community Archaeology Group.

All talks are held at Langton Village Hall at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend: £3 for members, £4 for non-members.

The April talk will be a chance for the leader of the dig, Chris Tripp, to update us on findings so far, and explore the history of the deserted village (actually a hamlet). The dig is a joint project between the 'Dorset Diggers' and the Society, and several members have taken an active role: do get in touch if you'd like to try your hand with a trowel next Spring! The second season has just finished, with some interesting new finds which help us to understand more about the settlement, who lived there and when. It's very exciting to be part of a project which is helping to 'make history', and we look forward to what next year's explorations may unearth.

We are also excited to announce a new Society publication: Mrs Jasmine Cattle has kindly allowed the Society to publish her mother Cecily Bower's memoirs of life in Langton in the mid 20th Century. Called 'Use the China', the booklet provides a fascinating 'oral history' of the everyday ups and downs of living in the village, and gives a vivid picture of what it was like during WW2 and after. The booklet will be available at talks, or you can buy a copy through the website www.langtonmatraversmuseum.org

As we move into the busy pre-Christmas season, look out for the Society's Christmas Tree at the St Aldhelm's Christmas Tree Festival on 6th-8th December at St George's Church, Langton. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year, and look forward to seeing you at future talks.

Daryle Pearson and Mary Sparks, Publicity and Communications, LMLHPS

Your Community Hub for Support and Wellbeing:

Welcome to The Focus Centre!

Life can be wonderful, but let's be honest—it can also be challenging. Whether you're navigating the ups and downs of your mental health, facing the difficulties of a serious illness, looking for community, or in the thick of the beautiful chaos of parenting young children, we all need a little support sometimes. That's exactly why The Focus Centre is here. We're your local hub, offering a warm welcome and practical services designed to lift you up and help you thrive.

Caring for Those Affected by Life-Limiting Illness with Lewis Manning

When a life-limiting illness like cancer touches you or someone you love, having specialised support can make a world of difference. Once a month, on a **Tuesday 10am–2:00pm** here at the Focus Centre, Lewis Manning, a fantastic charity dedicated to providing incredible palliative and bereavement care will provide you with the friendly support you need.



Lewis Manning offers a range of free services designed to support patients and their families, helping them live life to the fullest. Their compassionate approach focuses on improving wellbeing and providing comfort during difficult times, ensuring no one has to face their journey alone.

To discover the full scope of their vital work, you can visit their website: www.lewis-manning.org.uk

Supporting Your Family's Journey with Home-Start Wessex

Parenting is one of life's most rewarding journeys, but it can also feel overwhelming and isolating, especially when your children are very young. You are not alone!



Every **Thursday morning 10:30am-12:00pm**, we are delighted have Home-Start Wessex here supporting parents and their baby/child up to the age of 5 at the Focus Centre.

Home-Start Wessex understands the realities of family life. Their trained, compassionate volunteers offer a lifeline of friendly, practical, and emotional support for families with children under five. Their mission is a powerful one: to give children and families the best possible start in life.

To find out more about the incredible work they do, you can visit their website: www.homestartwessex.org.uk

You are welcome here. At the Focus Centre, our goal is simple: to provide a welcoming corner of your community where you can find friendship, support, and practical help. However you are feeling, whatever you're going through, take that first step and come and see us, or call 01929 208376.

We can't wait to welcome you.

Rachel Tapping
Hub Co-Ordinator



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



Christmas on Swanage Pier



This year, we're in full festive swing!

The cherished 'Lighting Up Lives' event returns to Swanage Pier this festive season. For the past four years, this magical celebration has offered hundreds of people a meaningful way to honour loved ones and celebrate the special individuals who have touched their lives. Make your tribute today — your sponsorship will directly support the major restoration and improvement work planned over the coming years.

Join us on Friday, 5th December at 5:30 PM for the first night of the Pier illuminations!

Throughout December, meet Father Christmas and his reindeer, enjoy visits from the ever-popular donkeys and say hello to your favourite Christmas characters. Plus, enjoy live music, entertainment and so much more!

New this year — come and decorate your own Christmas wreath on Tuesday, 2nd December in a festive afternoon by the sea.

And don't miss our stall on Saturday, 6th December at the Swanage Christmas Market! Discover festive gift ideas, enter our Big Winter Raffle, and try your luck on the tombola — fun for all ages!

All our events coming up....

Christmas Wreath Workshop – Tuesday 2nd December

Lighting up Lives - Light Switch on Friday 5th December

Swanage Christmas Market – Saturday 6th December

Swanage Town Christmas Market - Saturday 6th December

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

Festive Fun Days – Saturday 13th and Sunday 21st December

Christmas Crafts – Thursday 18th December



For full information on all events and how to dedicate a light visit - www.swanagepiertrust.com/events



Father Christmas is flying in for the festive season and can't wait to welcome your family to his enchanting grotto—right here on the Pier! Bring the little ones to share their Christmas wishes, snap a photo in his sleigh, enjoy festive crafts and receive a special gift!

Santa's Grotto & Winter Wonderland

Sunday 14th, Friday 19th, Saturday 20th, Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December

Festive Fun Days

Saturday 13th December: Magical Entertainment + Christmas Donkeys + Live Music

Sunday 21st December: Magical Entertainment + Christmas Reindeer + Live Music

Secure your time slot and bring your loved ones to experience the sparkle and joy of Christmas in this truly magical seaside setting.

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 MUSEUM

A History of Purbeck Architecture A talk by Brian Margetson Friday 28th November



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



North, South
& West Dorset
ageUK
Let's change how we age

Coming Soon!

Swanage Forget- Me- Not Group

Launching 14th January 2026

Support group for those living with Dementia and their carers
Wednesday's 10.30-12.00
Emmanuel Church, Victoria Avenue Swanage
£2.50 per person

Activities, Quest Speakers, Warm Drinks and a Warm Welcome!

For more information: call 01305 269444
Email: wellbeingsservice@ageuknswd.org.uk



Through its project

Purbeck Connect Ukraine

Swanage Action for Refugees

is continuing to support Ukrainian refugees in Purbeck

with:

- Coffee mornings for Ukrainians and volunteers**
- English lessons for adults**
- Ukrainian lessons for children**
- Support with access to accommodation and essential services**
- Social meetings**
- Visits to places of interest**

For more information, see our Facebook page:

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

or contact:

purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com



'Britain's nearest to
Oscar Peterson'
Digby Fairweather



Craig Milverton Trio

7.30pm Friday 28 November

The Showbar

Free Entry

Sponsored by Swanage Jazz Club

Swanage Rotary gets ready for Christmas!

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary is part of a global network of 1.2 million men and women who are united in their determination to act to make a difference. Our Christmas programme is a perfect example where we raise money for projects to enrich the lives of others but also generate community spirit. Here's a summary of what we are up to this year!



Christmas Market

Rotary's ever popular Christmas Market will this year be held on Saturday 6 December. We'll be in Station Road and Institute Road, starting at 10.00 and finishing by 4.00. There will be sacksful of Christmas gifts, festive music, food and drink, and the unmissable (and FREE!) Santa's Grotto for children.

Please note traffic on Kings Road East will be two-way on this Saturday and subject to a speed limit of 20 mph for pedestrian safety.

Christmas Mail

We can deliver your Christmas cards to local friends and family in all BH19 post codes (plus Corfe Castle and Church Knowle) for only 50p per card!

Harlees on Station Road have very kindly offered to host our Swanage office which will be open on weekdays between 10am and 4pm (from 5th to 17th December). There will be additional collection boxes at the Studland Stores and Salt Pig Café @ Putlake in Langton. All mail will be delivered after 18th December.

Santa's Sleigh

Rotary's legendary Santa's Sleigh will once again be delighting children and adults as it weaves its merry way around the streets of Swanage, Langton and Corfe. There will be Christmas carols (of course), sweets for smiling children, and big waves from Santa as well as from our pointy-hatted elves with their collecting buckets (and credit card machines where required!!). Keep an eye on Facebook for updates in the event of inclement weather.

If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer on the sleigh please email swanagesanta@gmail.com



Santa's Sleigh Schedule

Here's a day-by-day summary of where the Sleigh will be (weather permitting). Please check our Facebook page for updates.

SWANAGE

Saturday 29 November From 15:00: Artisans on the beach and Switch on Swanage

Wednesday 3 December Victoria Av • Smiths Farm • Prospect Cr • Rabling Rd • Northbrook Rd • Walrond Rd • De Moulham Rd • Dolphin Ct • Cauldron Barn Rd • Cauldron Meadows

Thursday 4 December Kings Road W • Locarno Rd • Argyle Rd • Hanbury Rd • Court Rd • High St • Princess Rd • Howard Rd • Linden Rd • Newton Manor Cl • Cecil Rd • Morrison Rd • Hendrie Cl • Findlay Pl • Ancaster Rd • Aigburth Rd

Saturday 6 December Christmas Market - including Free Santa's Grotto! Station Rd/Institute Rd

Monday 8 December High St • Townsend Rd • Richmond Rd • Manwell Rd + Dr • Osborne Rd • Queens Rd + Mead • Mount Scar • Gordon Rd • Priests Rd • Hoburne Rd • Foxhill Cl • Mariners Dr • Cowlease

Wednesday 10 December Ulwell Rd • Whitecliff Rd • Moor Rd • Parsons Cl • Hill Rd • Redcliffe Rd • Ballard Wy • Bay Cr + Cl • Streche Rd • Ballard Rd • James Day Md

Thursday 11 December High St • Jubilee Rd • Shirley Cl • Bell Street • Marsh Way • Ash Cl • Priest's Rd • Purbeck Vw • Panorama Rd • Hillview Rd • Wills Rd

Friday 12 December Holmes Rd • Sydenham Rd/Bay Vw • Casterbridge Cl • Higher Days Rd • Shaston Cl • Shottsford Cl • Kingswood Cl • Alderbury Cl • Anvil Cl • Leeson Cl • Benlease Wy • High St

Saturday 13 December Swanage Co-op, 10 am-4 pm

Monday 15 December Bell St • High St • Steer Rd • Hillsea Rd • West Dr • South Rd • Newton Rise • Newton Grange Cl • Cow Lane

Tuesday 16 December Cauldron Barn Pk • D'Urberville Dr • Anglebury Ave • Northbrook Rd • Greensands Wy • Brickyard Cl • Old Grammar School Rd • Wessex Wy

Thursday 18 December Burlington Rd • Victoria Rd • Ulwell Rd • Seaward Rd • De Moulham Rd • Bonfields Ave • Northbrook Rd • Cauldron Barn Rd • Cauldron Cr • Battlemead • Cauldon Ave • Beach Gardens • Gannetts Pk • Vivian Pk

LANGTON MATRAVERS

Tuesday 9 December Capston Fld • High St • Tom's Fld Rd • Old Malthouse Ln • Durnford Dr • Gypshayes • The Hyde • Steppes • Lower Steppes • Nine Barrow Vw • Steppes Hill • Serrells Md • Three Acre Ln

CORFE CASTLE

Saturday 20 December Crazy4Corfe



Swanage Food Bank

Thank you for your support!

Firstly, a BIG 'THANK YOU' for your generous donations to the Swanage Food Bank over the Harvest period - these are appreciated so much and have made a welcome boost to our stocks.

This month we would be grateful to receive the following items:

- * Large/small tins of cold meat - ham, corned beef
- * Tins of hot meat and vegetarian meals - chicken in white sauce, ravioli, macaroni cheese
- * Savoury Crackers
- * Christmas treats - mince pies, nuts, Christmas cakes, chocolates, selections of biscuits, snacks, etc, etc.

Please keep an eye on 'use-by' and 'best before' dates so that these will last over the actual Christmas period - but otherwise it would be lovely to receive these as early as possible so that they can be included in December food parcels.

We currently have a plentiful supply of baked beans, soup and tuna.

Remember, if you need occasional help from the food bank, please self-refer by phoning us on 07759 230313. If you need more frequent or ongoing help, please get a referral from an agency that is aware of your circumstances - like Citizens Advice, your Social Worker, Mental Health Worker, the Focus Centre, your GP or a church minister.

The food bank is usually open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 12-2pm at the United Reformed Church, High Street, BH19 2NY. If you need our help, please call us in the morning on those days to arrange a food parcel.

Note: The food bank availability over Christmas and New Year is as follows:

Mon 22 Dec - open as usual
Wed 24 Dec - CLOSED
Fri 26 Dec - CLOSED
Mon 29 Dec - open as usual
Wed 31 Dec - CLOSED
Fri 2 Jan - open as usual

And finally - If you want to make some new friends, while learning to cook cheap, healthy and tasty meals, why not join Cook and Connect at the URC, High Street, Swanage. This fun, friendly, free course starts on Thursday mornings from November and continues into 2026 - book your place here: www.thefriendlyfoodclub.org or call 01202 057100. Everything is provided and carers and support workers are also welcome to come along.

Our members have continued to enjoy many games of whist, crib, dominoes and Scrabble, while others have been busy painting by numbers, making jewelry and other handicraft pursuits.

We were visited by a couple of community-minded 8-year-olds, who had collected their unwanted toys and had a sales stall to raise money for our group. They are lovely twin girls who were applauded by our members for their generosity and thoughtfulness, a great credit to their family and the younger generation.

Nick Reed came along to talk about the various strange items around Swanage that have the City of London mark on them, all brought here as return ballast when stone was taken to London. This included the landmark clock tower as well as the numerous bollards around the town. All together, it was a fascinating tour around the town.

Our outings have so far been restricted to garden centres, Holme and Dobbies, but we are hoping to spread our wings a bit later this month when we are looking toward the Christmas season. Our Christmas party will be on 24th November when we hope to welcome Santa Claus distributing presents, as well as enjoying mince pies and cake with our tea.

The party will be our last Monday afternoon meeting for this year but we are all looking forward to next years' games, talks, entertainment and outings, as well as lots of chat with each other.

Just a reminder that we do offer a service to wheelchair users of transport in our specially adapted vehicle for doctor, hospital etc. visits as well as for special social occasions. Please contact the number below to book this service.

We always welcome new members to our club. Disabilities are not necessarily the obvious ones; if you live on your own and would like company once a week, please contact us, as well as anyone else who would like to give the Club a try.

The number to call: 07426 928224.

SWANAGE DISABLED CLUB

Charity no: 1133375



A folk trio will be making a much welcome return to the Harmans Cross village hall near Swanage as part of their Christmas concert tour.

The Churchfitters are three virtuoso musicians from England and France who perform on a stage that bristles with instruments, and they are a folk band like no other. Sister and brother, Rosie, and Chris Short together with Boris Leuret from Lannion in France have sold out at the hall on previous concerts there.

Boris is part bass player, part mad inventor who hates to play a regular instrument when he can cobble together a better one out of scrap metal, while Chris is a fine fiddle and mandolin player plus, he also plays the musical saw! Rosie is a talented songwriter, she's also a 'one woman orchestra', deftly swapping between flute, saxophone, banjo, tin whistle, dulcimer, ukulele, and any number of things you can shake, rattle, or whack with a stick.

Their Christmas concert at Harmans Cross is on Wednesday December 17, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets have now gone on sale and are available online at www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk under events. They are priced at £15 (unreserved seating). There will be a licenced bar and car parking is available.



**HARMANS CROSS
VILLAGE HALL**



Worried about energy bills this winter?

With winter approaching, and the increase in energy prices, people may be worried about affording their energy bills and keeping up with payments. Citizens Advice want to let people know that help is available.

It's understandable to feel anxious about energy bills at this time of year.

If you're struggling to afford your bills, it's important to act quickly; support is available and there are things you can do to ensure you're not overpaying.

The first thing is to contact your energy supplier - they're responsible for helping you come to a solution, like setting up an affordable repayment plan if you've fallen behind. If you're behind on your bills, Citizens Advice can also help with debt advice.

Energy bills can go up and down for many reasons, and if you think your bills don't look right, you should check to see if they're based on accurate readings. You might be getting estimated bills if your smart meter has stopped automatically sending readings, or if you have a non-smart meter and haven't sent a reading for a while.

To help make your home easier and cheaper to heat, you might be able to apply for support with the cost of energy efficiency upgrades like insulation, a new boiler or a heat pump.

To identify the support that may be available, Citizens Advice Dorset Energy Team provides free energy advice to households across Dorset. They offer energy efficiency advice, help with billing and supplier issues, meter problems and can provide free CO monitors. They also have an Energy Bus that stops at locations around Dorset offering free energy advice to residents.

If you attend a local group or event, the energy team can give free energy talks which cover energy saving tips and advice whilst answering questions from the group.

They also offer free fuel poverty & energy advice training for frontline workers, working with vulnerable people who may be at risk of fuel poverty. You will learn how to recognise people struggling with fuel poverty and offer the right support. Online training is free to attend for anyone working or volunteering in a frontline role.

For more information about the training and the energy advice talks contact the Dorset Energy Team, by calling the Energy Line on 01929 775500, leave a message and someone will return your call. Or email: energy@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk or visit their website for more information: www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/energy





Will you be alone on Christmas Day?

Join us for

Traditional Christmas Day Lunch

at Swanage United Reformed Church
High Street, near Arkwrights (Spa).

12.30 for 1.00

Followed by entertainment

Transport arranged if needed.

(Offers to drive appreciated)

No fixed charge – but contributions
appreciated (Bring your own wine, if you wish)

Reserve your place by texting or ringing Alan
on 07748 672069

or e-mail alan.dominy@outlook.com

Tell us about dietary, mobility & communication needs

SWANAGE TOWN BAND

SWANAGE TOWN BAND CONCERT

Wednesday 3rd December 7.30pm
Swanage Methodist Church, High Street, Swanage, BH19 2LZ
Free admission. Retiring collection for band funds and Admiral Nurse

CAROLS ON THE BANDSTAND

Wednesday 10th December 6.30pm
If wet, we will play on Wednesday 17th December at 6.30pm,
weather permitting
Collecting for band funds and Admiral Nurse

www.swanagetownband.co.uk
f follow us @swanagetownband Registered Charity Number 1214942



FESTIVE ARTISAN MARKET

NORDEN, CORFE CASTLE, BH20 5DT

Sat 22 & Sun 23 November
Sat 29 & Sun 30 November
Sat 6 & Sun 7 December

10am - 4pm Free Admission

Handcrafted Gifts by Local Makers ✨ Complimentary Festive Drink

Wander through a winter gathering of Purbecks finest
artisans. Sip something warm, browse something beautiful,
and find unique gifts for your family and friends

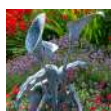
Robin Claridge
Silver Jewellery
Tim Rose
Ceramics and Pastels
Mike Topham
Humorous wire pictures
David Hyde
Metal Garden Sculptures

Julie Burns
Appliqué Cushions
& Xmas Decorations
Emily Clarke
Vintage Textiles
**Phil Hill, Luca Ciaramella
& Stan Davis**
Abstract Art



Look for our flags on A351 at Norden
Weekdays by Appointment

Tele: 07889247981
///painting.blossom.perfumes.



Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



As part of our partnership over the last ten years our priorities have been to provide defibs strategically placed across the local area, provide familiarisation in the use of defibs to help reduce the fear of using one, monitor and maintain the defib estate and very importantly ensure sustainability of the defib project.

We continue to work to our original objectives with approaching 50 public access defibs now in place across the local area - all have volunteer defib guardians and all are monitored and maintained with replacement batteries and pads changed when required

In an extension of our work we have recently allocated loan defibs to those churches in Swanage that do not have a public access defib attached to their site; these will be accessible during church events and will also have a dedicated guardian for each unit. It will still be imperative and important that the 999 Ambulance is requested immediately in any cardiac incident and urgent help is required.

On Remembrance Sunday I was proud to represent the Defib Partnership (SCDP) at the church service at St Mary's and also to lay a poppy wreath at the war memorial following the service feeling honoured to be part of such a special occasion and to join with my Rotary colleague Bart Libiki, President of Swanage & Purbeck Rotary on what became a very wet day!

On behalf of my SCDP steering group colleagues, Ian, Dave, Mary and Claire (and Kyle in Australia) may we wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmastime and offer sincere thanks for the help and support offered by all volunteer Defib guardians who give commitment and dedication to this important community work.

Maggie Hardy SCDP



Step outside with a Nature Buddy

If you've ever wanted to spend more time outdoors but felt unsure about how to start, you're not alone, and help is at hand.

The Nature Buddies Network is a Dorset-wide initiative designed to support people to get outdoors and enjoy nature to improve their health and wellbeing. Whether you're feeling isolated, anxious, or lacking the confidence to get outside alone, Nature Buddies can help.

Managed by Dorset National Landscape in partnership with Volunteer Centre Dorset, and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project matches trained volunteer Nature Buddies with people who could benefit from FREE, gentle, friendly support to enjoy the outdoors.

Nature Buddies can accompany you on a walk, help you visit local green spaces, support you to try an outdoor activity or even take part in nature-based activities with you at home.

It has been proven that spending time in nature - even just a couple of hours a week - can lift your mood, ease stress, boost your immune system and improve your physical wellbeing. Whether it's a stroll through a local park or simply sitting among trees, let nature be your natural health service.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a Nature Buddy please visit: <https://www.dorset-nl.org.uk/project/nature-buddies-network> to find out more, or call Kate on 01305 228246 / email: kate.townsend@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Health and Wellbeing Fair held at The Mowlem on 2 October

It was really good to see so many people at this event, which was organised by the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT).



If you were not able to attend, you can watch the film about health services in Purbeck, shown at the event, by following this link: <https://vimeo.com/1094006054/09aaba93ad?ts=0&share=copy>.

The INT would like everyone in Purbeck to complete the Survey, which was launched at the event, so they can better understand your health and wellbeing needs. The following link takes you to the questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/e/05BBHhuzyw>. Alternatively, you can scan this QR code:



Winter 2025 Flu Vaccination Campaign

You may have heard that this year's flu season has started earlier than usual. Flu rates are already much higher than normal for this time of year. Australia has just experienced its worst flu season on record and there are concerns that the UK is also facing its worst flu season in a decade. The NHS is urging everyone eligible to have a flu jab as soon as possible.

Those eligible for a free flu jab at the Surgery this Autumn include:

- People aged 65 or older
- People aged under 65 in high-risk groups
- Children aged 2-3 years
- People who live with someone with a weak immune system
- Those who provide unpaid care to an older or disabled person.

If you've not already had your flu jab, please ring the Surgery to book an appointment.

Dorset HealthCare is providing free flu jabs for housebound patients and care home residents, as well as for school age children (Reception to Year 11) and young people in special educational schools aged up to 25 years.

Pregnant women are being offered free flu jabs through their Maternity Service.

Frontline health and social care workers are being offered free flu jabs through their employers.

Winter 2025 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

We also urge everyone who is eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

This Autumn, those eligible for a free NHS COVID-19 vaccination include:

- People aged 75 or over (including those who will be 75 by 31 January 2026)
- People living in care homes for older adults
- People aged 6 months to 74 years who have a weakened immune system.

You can book via the NHS Vaccination and Booking Services webpage at: [Vaccination and booking services - NHS](#) or by calling 119. You can also visit a walk-in clinic, Without needing to book an appointment - find out more at: [Community walk-in clinics - Stay Well Dorset](#).

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination

RSV can cause serious lung conditions, particularly in babies and adults over 75. As RSV rates are also increasing, we urge everyone eligible to get their RSV jab.

You can get a free RSV jab at the Surgery if you're aged 75-79 or if you turned 80 after 1 September 2024. Older adults only need one dose.

Pregnant women are also being offered free RSV jabs through their Maternity Service to help protect their babies after they're born.

PPG Meetings

The PPG now has 15 members. At our last meeting on 11 November, Diana Edmonds, Chair of the Friends of Swanage Library, updated us on the services offered by Swanage Library, as well as the work of the Friends. We look forward to working more closely with the Friends of Swanage Library in the future.

Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 12:30pm.

You can find out more 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



Corfe Community Kitchen

Soup 'n Pud

A choice of 2 soups and 2 puds with custard

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday December 6th '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.

In November we continued to use the abundant crop of donated apples from local people making tasty Dorset Apple Cakes and Apple and Blueberry Crumbles. Everybody seemed to enjoy these seasonal puds that followed our Squash Soup (a huge home grown squash provided by one of our new diners) or our Banger and Beans Soup. As it was our 3rd Anniversary we surprised folk with our home made toffee apples! Hopefully all teeth and dentures remain intact! We certainly had fun making them together.

We were also able to announce to the diners that the 3 of us had been awarded the top 5* rating by the County Environmental Health Officer for our kitchens and food preparation! A real accolade and the icing on the top of our Anniversary cake!

By the time you read this we will have held our 3rd AGM, to which all our volunteers were invited. It is also our opportunity to thank them for all their help and support, without which we would be unable to function. However we are always happy to welcome more into the fold as well as additional diners.

With Christmas fast approaching our December lunch will reflect the season with Chestnut Soup and Mince Meat tart for pud. Please enter into the spirit of festivities by wearing a Christmas jumper or other appropriate garment to help us celebrate. It is not obligatory of course!

Once again we must thank The Village Bakery for donating the bread rolls and also all the lovely folk that donate food and money to the cause. It really helps us ring the menu changes and to follow our aim of using up food that might otherwise have gone to waste.

We hope that Christmas brings you good friendship and company such as we provide for all, at our Soup 'n' Puds.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR from the SOUP 'N' PUD TEAM!

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.

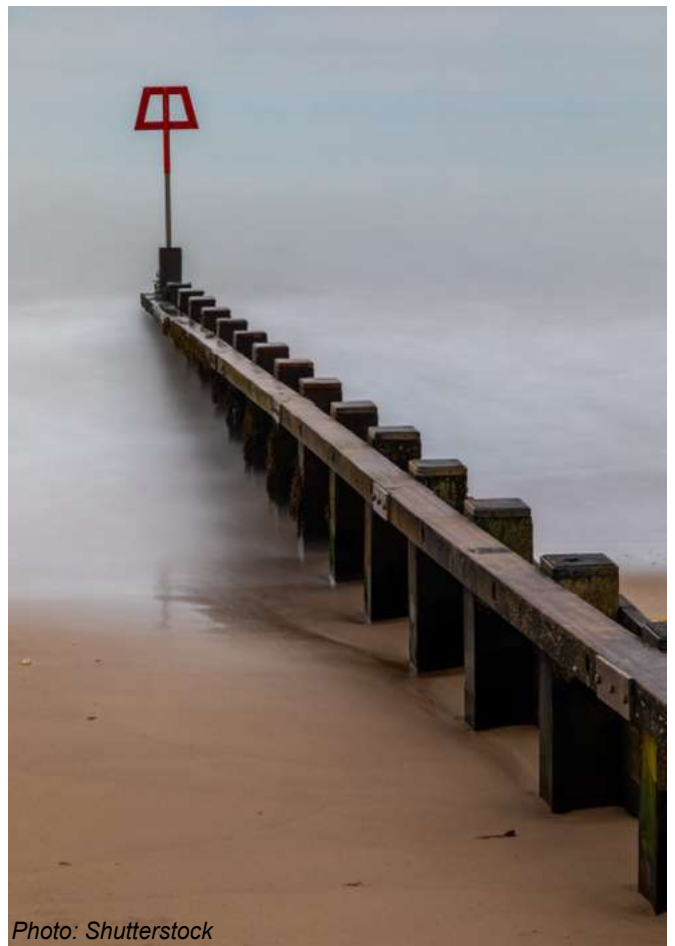


Photo: Shutterstock

Updates from the National Trust



National
Trust



Photo: Purbeck Natural History Forum

Have a really wild Christmas!

Firstly, we wanted to wish you all a really wild Christmas and nature-rich New Year! Thank you for your support this year and for the lovely feedback we've had about our updates. Remember, if you're on Facebook, you can follow us on National Trust Purbeck Countryside, where we feature the wonderful wildlife of our area.

Pictured is an extremely rare ground beetle that volunteers from the Purbeck Natural History Forum have found to be thriving on Hartland Moor. The iridescent colours couldn't be more Christmassy!

Storm-proofing our streams

You might have noticed some strange-looking installations in the fields around Langton Matravers and Swanage. These are various methods we're using on our tenanted farmland to help prevent flooding downstream.

One of the techniques is slowing the flow in ditches by creating leaky dams made from stacks of logs. In open fields, tree trunks have been pinned to the ground where floodwater is known to run. These will act as barriers in storms, spreading water over the floodplain rather than it careering downhill. In other areas, scrapes (hollows) and bunds (embankments) will encourage storm water to form temporary ponds where it soaks into the soil gradually.

If you see water flowing around any of these devices after a storm, please send us photos or videos. This will help show which interventions are most effective and if any need to be modified.



Photo: Cathy Lewis

Middle Beach transformed!

Thanks to perfect weather and sea conditions, work at Middle Beach was completed ahead of time. The old sea defences and concrete slipway have been removed, and the cliff has been reprofiled to make a more gradual slope. The cove is now being left for nature to reshape – we hope you agree that it already looks so much better without the ugly man-made structures!

As predicted, in the initial phase, the coastline is adjusting rapidly. For that reason, this section of the beach will remain closed. We are also monitoring the material that's washing out of the cliff (the area was once used for landfill) – we've had everything from bricks, blocks and metal pipes, to ceramics and bottles.

This video shows the project developing, including fascinating footage of heavy machinery lifting out the old sea defences. <https://youtu.be/dMlnyX6KZxw>

Going for gold

There's no mistaking this gorgeous bird with its bright red face and yellow wing patch. The goldfinch is a very sociable bird, often seen in large flocks, filling the air with its melodic twittering song.

They are specialist feeders, their fine beaks allowing them to extract otherwise inaccessible seeds from thistles and teasels. If you want to attract them into your garden, try cultivating thistles and teasels, or putting niger and sunflower seeds in your bird feeder.

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

Cathy Lewis, National Trust



Photos: Cathy Lewis and Fleur Castell



Photo: Mark Singleton

THE MOWLEM

Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

What's On in December 2025

www.themowlem.com

On The Stage:

Andy Parsons – Please #@\$ Off To Mars (14+)

After his nationwide critical-smash sellout 2023/24 Tour, Andy is back with a brand-new show.

4 December 8:00pm

Christmas Singalong Concert with Bournemouth Concert Brass

Get into the festive spirit with our brand-new Christmas Singalong Concert at the Mowlem!

6 December 2:30pm

Santa and The Pirates (that don't want Christmas!)

Father Christmas has a problem – somebody has robbed his reindeers, they've nicked his naughty list AND they've 'elped themselves to his elves! 45 minute show followed by a meet and greet with Father Christmas!

7 December 2:00pm

Cabaret with Claus (14+)

Glad Tidings abound as Charlie Bicknell and Louise Innes return with 'The Christmas show. 'An evening of shamelessly festive insanity.

12 December 7:30pm

On The Big Screen:

The Choral (12A)

A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers.

28 Dec, 1, 2 & 3 December 7:30pm

1 Dec 2:30pm

The Running Man (15)

In the near future, "The Running Man" is the top-rated show on television, a deadly competition where contestants must survive 30 days while being hunted by professional assassins.

6,8,9,10 & 11 Dec 7pm

8 Dec 2.30pm

Christmas Karma (PG)

A new Christmas classic is on its way. CHRISTMAS KARMA sees one of history's greatest novels – Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol – transformed into a fresh, festive and feel-good Christmas musical.

15, 16 & 17 December 7pm

La Traviata (12A)

'La Traviata' is one of the best known operas in the repertoire, with a strong narrative thread at its heart. This is not live capture of a stage performance, it is a movie, filmed on location with a diverse cast of singers and a troupe of magnificent dancers.

18 December 7:00pm

Wicked: For Good (PG)

Now demonized as the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba lives in exile in the Ozian forest, while Glinda resides at the palace in Emerald City, reveling in the perks of fame and popularity.

19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, & 30 Dec 7pm

20, 21, 22 & 23 Dec 11:30am

24 & 31 Dec 10am

In The Studio:

A Christmas Carol with Mitch Benn

Mitch Benn is bringing his sold-out show A Christmas Carol to The Mowlem Theatre. Using Dickens' original abridged text, let Mitch immerse you in the Christmas spirit with the beloved classic! This is a family show.

3 December 7:30pm

Art Club

Led by Helen Leary, Art Club workshops are suitable for kids ages 7 and above, who love learning new art skills and exploring their creative side. These sessions will include collage and montage, sculpting with clay and painting. We require one guardian accompanying a child/set of children to be present during the workshop.

6 Dec 10am - 12pm Mud to Masterpiece Clay-day

13 Dec 10am - 12pm Paint outside the Lines

SoundCellar & Swanage Jazz Festival present Dorset

Youth Jazz Orchestra led by renowned local musician Terry Quinney, features talented young players on a full big band lineup.

14 December 7:30pm

The Mowlem Comedy Club (14+)

Your chance to catch the best comedy talent in a club environment! Off The Kerb's shows are renowned for their superb lineups, showcasing exciting up-and-coming talent along with established names on the UK comedy circuit.

17 December 7:30pm

In the Showbar:

The Pent Up House Trio – Live Jazz in The Showbar

The first Tuesday of every month. Entry is free and the music starts at 7.30pm. They will be exploring the past, present and future of Jazz. The trio will also provide a platform and performing experience for local young players. Free entry

2 December 7:30pm

Swanage Record Club

Join Swanage Record Club in The Showbar to listen to records.

This club is like a book club, but for records. This event has different themes each month. Bring your themed tracks to play, or just bring yourself! This month's theme is 'Absolutes'. FREE EVENT

11 December 6:30pm

Christmas with Castle Voices Choir – FREE event

Castle Voices rehearse every Tuesday evening in the Studio and this is their first public performance in the Showbar – bring your friends for a festive drink and some Christmas cheer! Entrance is free but please bring your loose change as we'll be passing round a hat!

17 December 7pm

Oscar's Ultimate Christmas? Quiz

Our monthly quiz – the biggest and best in town! Quiz-master Oscar presents a wide-ranging general knowledge quiz, lots of fun, and a chance to play music bingo at the end. Plus, the top three teams win prizes! £2 per person in teams of up to six (bring cash on the night!)

18 December 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.

The autumn has continued to see Purbeck Sounds grow a community radio station. We have attended events including the Swanage Literary Festival, meet with the WI, Men's Shed and worked with the Swanage school with their very talented young poets. Our new shows are thriving, and we will be launching a new Musicians show with Chris Edwards later in November. This is just a reminder of some of the new shows we have on offer.



- Steve & Karen's Coffee Break with Karen Grant and Steve Zodiac
- Bookmarks with Chris Brady
- Purbeck Wanders with David Wise
- Notes from Abroad with Grace Franco
- Breakfast with Hannah Casey

We are also in the process of launching our new initiative **Friends of Purbeck Sounds** where we are inviting people to become a friend of the station and input into the station's development, we are also planning a party with our partners. Just before Christmas one of our presenter **Karen Grant** is doing a concert to raise money for Purbeck Sounds. This is a **Christmas Concert at Newton Manor on the 18th of December**, do hurry to buy your ticket as they will sell out.

In late September we held our AGM changing to an afternoon meeting which did not bring the increase in attendance we had hoped for but we were delighted to see many at our coffee morning held at the Town Hall in Wareham at the end of September where we were able to draw our Autumn raffle, listen to music from Zephyrae and raise over £1300 for our funds - a great result.

We will be holding our Christmas raffle during late November early December when tickets will be on sale at the hospital reception at £1 each. We are always very grateful for the support we receive both from donations of raffle prizes and ticket sales.

Our Friends gardening team has increased in number and has continued to work hard and were delighted to receive a Level 4 'Thriving' award at RHS Wisley as part of the Britain in Bloom 'it's your neighbourhood scheme'. The certificate was presented at the Wareham Community Growers event by the Mayor of Wareham Cllr Zoe Grover.



The Wareham garden continues to be a much admired and enjoyed space and has a new statue, affectionately called Delilah, now watching over the garden and us!

The positive comments we receive from patients, staff and visitors to the hospital are lovely to hear - there is colour wherever you look!

We are still seeking new Trustees to join our Friends committee, please do help us to continue supporting both the Hospital and Purbeck community services and making a difference for us all locally.

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair



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



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



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

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 Pete' 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.

This year's Christmas concert by the Belvedere Singers is very much a local affair with soloists Nick Aiko Dando (trumpet) and Martha Harwood (soprano) both hailing from Swanage and both being Purbeck Youth Music Ambassadors. Nick will be playing the Slavonic Fantasie by Carl Hohné while Martha will sing the solo in O Holy Night and also join the choir as soloist in Kenneth Leighton's Lullaby, a very beautiful twentieth century version of the text of Coventry Carol.

As ever, the choir will be singing music from across the centuries with both familiar and sometimes more unusual Christmas pieces. These will range from Gaudete (1582) to Walking in the Air and Winter Wonderland from more recent times. And the icing on the cake is that the audience gets to join in one or two special pieces - not least the eternal favourite, The Twelve Days of Christmas. What could be more fun?



DEADLINE

for contributions to the February / March 2026
issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 2026

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans