

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Welcome to The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's October/November 2026 newsletter, consisting of articles from many local organisations in our communities. Please make this community newsletter a success for all those fine folk that contribute and the wonderful local organisations that they represent. You can help by circulating the newsletter to all your members, friends and contacts so that they can note the many options for them all to take advantage of and/or participate in Purbeck's vibrant community life.

Included in this issue is a special **Swanage Area Health Services Supplement** provided by the Swanage Area Community Health Group which includes four pages of the details of services and support that local people can access at The Swanage Community Hospital and the routes to those facilities, along with a list from The Swanage Medical Practice (Patient Participation Group) of their the last six editions of the PPG newsletters, which also includes advice to patients including referral routes to specialist health support providers. Also included are the recent reports from the Friends of Swanage and the Friends of Wareham Hospitals.

If you can help by sponsoring the printing of future editions of this newsletter please contact myself at melvyn.norris@icloud.com or call me on 07446 677924.

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 2026 / January 2027 issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026



Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust

Charity Reg. No. 1162662

Wellbeing Swanage

August update



In the Welcome Lounge we had the busiest month ever with 47 people accessing the Welcome Lounge.

We have had enquiries such as looking for groups and activities from people new to the area and looking to make connection. We have also had more serious enquiries from people looking for support with personal things.

Community Connectors

Eight new people have signed up as Community Connectors, helping extend outreach to the Herston area.

Plan: Hold an open evening October 22nd at the cafe to engage current Community Connectors and recruit new members. The event will explain the purpose and aims of the group and will be promoted through social media and flyers.

Volunteers

Volunteers are now taking on new roles and learning opportunities. This includes updating the website directory and becoming more involved in the centre's administration. We have also welcomed three new gardeners, who are supporting the sensory garden project and helping with gardening at HVH.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer get in touch with us at the Focus Centre focuscentre@sandpdt.org.uk 01929 208376

Focus Cafe Opening

For the cafe opening, we supported AllSort'd by developing new ideas and helping create a welcoming community space. We set up an outdoor play area for children and worked with the community to donate play equipment. One particularly popular feature is the sand wall, which gives children a sensory way to explore and play.



We are now exploring ways to use the cafe for future events in partnership with the local community and schools. One event currently being planned is a Halloween activity for younger members of the community.

One successful August event was Pink Day for Cancer, which raised £250.00 It was a strong showcase for future events.

Building Works

The final works on the main Focus Centre building and Cafe are now complete! Final finishing touches are being completed with the last area being painted. The building looks absolutely amazing and has been completely transformed.

Services

Access Wellbeing (Help and Care) I am very excited to share that Andy is back with us at the Focus Centre all day on a Monday. Andy will be seeing clients on a 1-1 basis whilst his Colleague Aoife will see clients in the welcome lounge.

Citizen's Advice – I am pleased to share that citizens advice has been getting busier week by week and support from the Focus Centre has been a really positive change for everyone.

The **Family Hub** services will be back to normal for the Autumn with Growing together under 1's restarting along with our Health Visitors baby weighing, Breastfeeding Network infant feeding support and speech and language groups.

Gardens

With new volunteers the gardens are beginning to look great. Plans are being drawn up to transform the outside spaces. The top garden next to the family hub will create a family friendly space to draw people into the building.

The bigger garden will become a wonderful community space and sensory garden, with help from local volunteers and groups the project will also help bring people together and make them feel part of something exciting.



Swanage and Purbeck

We need people to spread the word to friends, family and neighbours about the help that's out there!

Wellbeing

22nd October 6.30 pm - 8pm

@ The Focus Centre
107 High Street, Swanage,
BH19 2NB

Drop ins are welcome but to get an idea of numbers please email rose.ward@sandpd.org.uk or phone the Focus Centre on 01929 208376



Purbeck Connect Ukraine

Through its project,
Purbeck Connect Ukraine,
Swanage Action for Refugees
is continuing to support
Ukrainian refugees in Purbeck
Ukrainian lessons for children
English lessons for adults
Coffee and chat

Saturdays
10:00 - 12:00 hrs
Emmanuel Baptist Church
160 Victoria Avenue
Swanage, BH19 1AZ

Conversation classes and advanced English lessons
various days during the week

For more details, please contact:
purbeckconnectukraine@gmail.com
tel. 07506 837141



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

Monday

Welcome Lounge

At the Focus Centre

Drop in for help to find services you need

10.00 - 16.00

Growing Together Baby Group 0-1yrs

At the Focus Centre

Book appointment
01929 557000
purbecklocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
10.30 - 11.30

'Access Wellbeing' Mental Health Support

At the Focus Centre
Drop in/Appointment

www.DorsetAccessWellbeing.co.uk

10.00 - 16.00

Young Talkers

At the Focus Centre

Book appointment
01929 557000
purbecklocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
13.30 - 15.00

Reach Drug and Alcohol Service

At the Focus Centre

Drop in and Referrals

9.00 - 17.00

Job Centre

At the Focus Centre

Drop in
1st of the month only

10.00 - 15.00

Community Cafe, Pantry, Citizens Advice and Digital Advisor

At Herston Hall

Drop in

10.00 - 12.00

A Band of Brothers

At the Focus Centre

Drop in
2nd of the month only

19.00 - 21.00

All activities are free unless otherwise stated!

Tuesday

Welcome Lounge

At the Focus Centre

Drop in for help to find services you need

10.00 - 16.00

Health Visitor and Newborn Hearing

At the Focus Centre

Referrals and Drop in
(Alternate weeks from 25/11/25)

9.00 - 14.00

Citizens Advice

At the Focus Centre

Drop in

10.00 - 12.00

Swanage Volunteer Bureau

At the Focus Centre

Drop in 1st of month

10.00 - 12.00

Alcoholics Anonymous

At the Focus Centre

Drop in
01202 296000

19.45 - 21.15

Wednesday

Welcome Lounge

At the Focus Centre

Drop in for help to find services you need

10.00 - 16.00

Seahorses Homestart Wessex Toddler Group

At Herston Hall

Drop in

9.30 - 11.00 (term time only)

Health Visitor Clinic and Baby Weighing

At the Focus Centre

Drop in

10.00 - 11.30

Child Speech and Language Therapy

At the Focus Centre

Book appointment

01202 443 200

Dhc.slt.queries@nhs.net

Community Fareshare Food Distribution

At the Focus Centre

Register 1st then drop in
www.fareshare.org.uk

9.30 - 10.30



Friday

BFN Infant Feeding Support Group

At the Focus Centre

Facebook

@BFNSwanageBreastfeedingSupportGroup

Drop in 9.45 - 11.15

Swanage Youth Club

At Herston Hall

For more information email

youthclubswanage@gmail.com

Facebook @SwanageYouthClub

Every day

'Explorers' Childminding Wraparound Childcare (0-5 Years)

At the Centre
www.explorerschildcare.co.uk
01929 426355

AllSort'd

At the Focus Centre

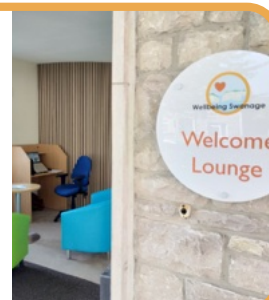
www.allsortd.org
01929 557207

The Welcome Lounge

A safe private space to talk

Trained staff and volunteers are here to listen and help you find the support you need

Monday - Wednesday
10.00 - 16.00



The Focus Centre

107 High Street
Swanage
BH19 2NB

Herston Hall

12 Jubilee Road
Swanage
BH19 2SF

Phone : 01929 208376

Email : focuscentre@sandpdt.org.uk

Website : www.wellbeingSwanage.org.uk

What3Words: Speedy.Following.Bound



Despite the scorching summer heat, riders on all wheels made the most of the skatepark!

This summer, a new group of skatepark users came together to form the 'Swanage Girl Skate Crew', organising several meet-ups to help more women and girls feel comfortable and welcome at the park.

We've been busy carrying out a survey to understand the impact of the Phase 1 Ramps on our community. **64% of respondents say they're now using the skatepark more often because of the new ramps.**

We're currently working on a few grant applications that we hope will close the funding gap and make the Phase 2 build possible in 2027!

We're just a few weeks away from finding out whether we'll be awarded £2,000 from Co-op, and we need everyone's help! If you shop at Co-op, please become a member and select Swanage Skatepark as your chosen cause. It's simple: log into your membership account online, or download the Co-op app, and choose us as your local cause there. We need the most votes to win

You can reach us at swanageskatepark@gmail.com with any questions or support for our project



Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

**CO-OP MEMBERS
CAN SUPPORT
LOCAL PROJECTS**

Choose us as your cause.



Visit the Co-op App to find out
more or coop.co.uk/membership

OWNED BY YOU.
RIGHT BY YOU.

photos: Andrew Davids



**Purbeck
Forget-Me-Not Group**
Your local Dementia Support Group

We meet:

In Swanage:

**Wednesdays at 10.30am at Emmanuel Baptist
Church, Victoria Avenue BH19 1AZ**

In Wareham:

**Mondays at 10.30am at Swanage & Wareham
Rugby Club, Bestwall Road BH20 4HY**



Dementia Friendly Purbeck is part of Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust, Registered Charity No 1162662



Dementia Friendly Purbeck

SUCCESS!!

A massive THANK YOU to those of you who
have helped to raise funds providing Purbeck
with our second Dementia Specialist

ADMIRAL NURSE



"It's been a hard battle this Summer"

The recent hot weather has affected us all in many different ways which has included a potential deteriorating effect on the Defibrillator estate we are proud to have in our local area. Ian Brown who leads the SCDP Monitoring and Maintenance Programme states that "it has been a hard battle this summer" with the hot weather impacting our devices.

BUT thanks to Ian's hard work and that of our wonderful team of Defib Guardians who review the defibs and cabinets on a regular basis, reporting back to a central point, it has been possible to maintain our estate and keep the defibs 'rescue ready' for an emergency situation; It has however been necessary to change the batteries on several devices in recent weeks - all of which comes at a cost!

A new battery can be as much as £294.00 inc VAT. Our SCDP finance officer, Dave Corben, always 'shops around' to get the best price but with over 70 defibs within SCDP, funds are needed to cover the batteries and the pads which need replacing after 2-3 years (unless used).

Some of the defib cabinets are also now showing signs of age and need replacing. They cost £600. We are therefore asking for financial support to help us sustain this important work within our local community which has seen an increased deployment of defibs during the recent hot summer.

Since we started the project in 2015 defibs have been deployed 343 times. Donations can be made at Corbens in Station Road Swanage or on line: **Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership 30-99-12, account number 28100368**

The whole SCDP steering group team has been busy during the summer with our attendance at the Swanage Carnival, Rotary fete, Lifeboat Fayre and Harmans Cross fete when it has been helpful to demonstrate the use of a defibrillator and maintain the profile of SCDP. In particular we have focused on the need to remove a ladies bra during defib use and CPR; this reluctance can have a negative effect for women.

With best wishes - the SDCP Team (not forgetting with thanks our Defib Guardians)



Ian Brown with new defib at Herston Village hall



Mary Buck and Claire Nadaf showing importance of bra removal; Help from the NCI Mascot at the Lifeboat Fayre; Dave Corben, Ian Brown and Claire Nadaf at Swanage Carnival

Swanage Depression Support

It is with great regret that we have to announce the closure of this group. We have attracted so few people to our meetings that we are really not viable. We tried to revive an earlier group that had fallen into abeyance, but the situation seems to have changed – or perhaps we adopted an inappropriate model. We are disappointed to be letting down the 3 or 4 people who sporadically attended, but cannot see a viable way to continue. Perhaps there needs to be a more radical approach to supporting people with mental health needs in Swanage.

We are grateful to people who have offered us encouragement over the past eighteen months, including pointing people in our direction.

Alan Dominy on behalf of the Steering Group



The rain of the last week or so has been very welcome to us all and our garden continues to give some lovely produce..cabbage, beans, tomatoes, chillies and so much more.

We had a stall at the Rotary Club Fayre in August which was very well supported and we continue to have people coming in to see what we do and have a cup of tea and/or join us!

It is 10 years since the start of Greengage and on the **25th September** we have an **Open Day** to which you are all invited. A celebration, or anniversary, of our first ten years!

We have also produced a book recording 10 years of Greengage and this will be available for all to look at on the 25th. At the Open Day, there will be lots of plants, tea, cakes and an opportunity to look at our new Garden Room and our renovated toilet block. We will also be holding a grand raffle with some lovely prizes...probably the best raffle ever??

Our lovely volunteers work hard to ensure that Greengage is as welcoming as we can make it. They are the best! We look forward to seeing you on the 25th September or any Tuesday from 12 or Friday from 10.



Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662



Are you looking for a flexible volunteer role?
Could you help older people in Wareham
get to vital medical appointments?



We are looking for volunteer drivers
who live in Wareham. You will
be joining a friendly team and have the support of a
dedicated line manager. Fuel expenses paid.
Please phone 01305 269444 or email
enquiries@ageuknswd.org.uk if you can help.

Age UK North, South and West Dorset
5 Crown Square
Poundbury
DT1 3EN

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



CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Thursday 29th October – Talk at 2pm:

'Powered by Water and a Horse'

Louise Hayward will be telling us all about the Parish's mills, meadow
drowning and mulched or watery!

Tuesday 10th November at 2pm:

The Friendly Food Club will be joining us in the library! Come along
for tips and hints on food swaps, understanding food labels and how
to make sure you get your "5 a day"!

Tuesday 17th November - Talk at 2pm:

'The Falklands, Resolute Islands in Turbulent Seas'

Nigel Hayward CVO

**ALL TALKS IN THE LIBRARY ARE FREE TO ATTEND AND EVERYONE IS VERY
WELCOME. DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED TO HELP WITH THE
LIBRARY RUNNING COSTS**

LIBRARY OPEN:

Monday 3 – 5pm, Wednesday 10 – 12 noon & 3 – 5pm, Friday 3 – 5pm, Saturday 10 – 12 noon.
Get in touch: email corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com or phone 01929 480760 when open.



HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

COFFEE JUNCTION

Our next Coffee Junction mornings are Thursday 1st, 15th & 29th October.

Everyone is welcome to come along for a relaxed and informal get-together over coffee or tea. Whether you'd like a chat, fancy a game of cards, want to bring along your favourite board game, or simply enjoy some company, Coffee Junction is open to all. We look forward to welcoming both familiar faces and newcomers alike.

HXVH CHURCH

Our next gatherings are Sunday 18th October, Sunday 15th November and Sunday 20th December at 6pm – a very friendly, informal and happy service for anyone and everyone.

PURBECK FILM FESTIVAL

October is Purbeck Film Festival month and we are delighted to be hosting three screenings at Harmans Cross Village Hall.

First up on Tuesday 13th October is the classic 9 to 5 (1980), starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin. In the spirit of the evening, there will even be pink G&T available at the bar!

On Wednesday 21st October, we will be showing Rebuilding (2026), starring Josh O'Connor, a moving story about loss, family and finding community after a devastating wildfire.

Finally, on Tuesday 27th October, we have Wuthering Heights (2026), Emerald Fennell's new adaptation starring Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi.

All three films start at 7.30pm, with the doors and bar open from 7pm. Tickets are £8, available online through the Purbeck Film Festival or on the door.

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER – THE CHURCHFITTERS

Following their completely sold-out Christmas Cracker at the hall, we are thrilled to welcome The Churchfitters back to Harmans Cross!

This wonderfully unique folk trio combine everything from fiddle, flute and banjo to musical saw, saxophone and even a bass guitar made from a frying pan! Expect fantastic musicianship, beautiful harmonies, humour and a high-energy evening of live music.

Doors and bar open at 7pm. Tickets are £17.50, and advance booking is recommended after their last visit sold out.

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER – HXVH'S FIRST QUIZ NIGHT

Get your thinking caps ready! Harmans Cross Village Hall's first Quiz Night takes place on Saturday 14th November.

We're looking forward to a fun evening of friendly competition at the hall. Full details will be announced shortly, so keep an eye out for more information.

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER – STALLS AT THE HALL

Our popular Stalls at the Hall returns for a special pre-Christmas morning on Saturday 28th November.

Come along from 9.30am–12 noon and enjoy a morning of local shopping, with homemade crafts, gifts, produce, jewellery, cards, bric-a-brac and more. Hot drinks and delicious cakes will also be available from the kitchen, and entry for the public is completely free.

Tables are £10 each, and we're now taking bookings from stallholders. To reserve a table, please get in touch.

For more information about our upcoming events or to book tickets, please visit:

www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Special-Events/

For any enquiries, please contact Bethani Rawlings: bethanirawlings.hxvh@gmail.com | 07384 848419

HXVH Committee

LIVE MUSIC NIGHT



HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL



Back by popular demand!

THE CHURCHFITTERS

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2026 @7.30pm

Tickets: - **early bird offer** - £16 from September 1st and £17.50 from October 1st.

Only Online at www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk

The Churchfitters is a folk band like no other. A double bass made out of a saucepan. Heart-wrenching vocals accompanied by a musical saw or a glass harp. Foot-stompingly fast fiddle mixed with infectious funk-rock rhythms. And traditional tunes reinvigorated with mesmerising jazz sax. This is a concert like no other!

Licensed Bar

FURTHER DETAILS 01929 289209

Car Parking



STALLS AT THE HALL
Harmans Cross Village Hall
Saturday 28th November
9:30am – 12:00pm
A wonderful morning of local stalls and Christmas shopping

Gifts * Crafts * Festive Treats * Bric - a - brac
Christmas Decorations * And much more!

Tables **£10** each

Shop Local
Shop Handmade
Shop Small

To book a table contact Bethani Rawlings
bethanirawlings.hxvh@gmail.com
07384 848419

HXY HALL
FREE entry for the public



PURBECK FILM FESTIVAL
Film Culture Community
GREAT FILMS * VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

AT HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER	WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER	TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
JANE FONDA LILY TOMLIN DOLLY PARTON 9 to 5 Pink G&T at the bar! "THEY TOOK REVENGE. NOW THEY'RE TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS." (1980)	JOSH O'CONNOR MEGHAN FAY KALI REIS LILY LATORRE AMY MADIGAN REBUILDING A film by MAX WALKER-SILVERMAN SOME PLACES HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY BACK (2026)	Margot Robbie Jacob Elordi Wuthering Heights A film by Emerald Fennell Come Undone. Meet the Characters. Valentine's Day 2026

FILMS START 7.30PM
DOORS & BAR OPEN FROM 7PM

TICKETS **£8**
AVAILABLE ONLINE OR ON THE DOOR

LICENSED BAR
SNACKS
A GREAT NIGHT OUT LOCALLY!

Support Local Cinema
Film Friends Community

FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO BOOK TICKETS VISIT:
www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Special-Events/

HXY HALL
Harmans Cross Village Hall

PURBECK FILM FESTIVAL | LOCAL FILMS BRIGHTER TOMORROWS



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating 50 years of the Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre! Marking a half-century since our beginnings in the rectory tithe barn was a truly special moment for our town. Our anniversary gathering was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on five decades of preserving Purbeck's rich past, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, supported the events, and helped make this milestone so memorable.

Of course, our 50-year journey would never have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers, both past and present. From the visionary founders who first gathered our local history collections in 1976 to the wonderful team who welcome visitors and manage our archives today, your passion is the beating heart of our museum.

As we look ahead to refreshing our displays and launching new technology for the future, we would love to welcome new faces to our volunteer family. Whether you have an interest in local research, enjoy greeting the public, or simply want to lend a hand, joining us is a rewarding way to support your community—pop into the museum at The Square or reach out online to get involved!



Purbeck Sounds - your voice in the community

After a hugely enjoyable summer, participating in local events, we took a deep breath and are now planning and taking part in the autumn happenings which never seem to slow down in Swanage and Purbeck.

Our appearances at the Swanage Carnival this year gave us a chance to talk to you all face to face. Poetry presenter, Fi, organised a treasure hunt with the Wild West theme for the children during the daily community hour. Lots of children had to discover the bandit who was 'terrorising' the gold prospectors. We all dressed up in outlandish outfits and had a wonderful time. Fi was also responsible for a live poetry event interviewing local poets and encouraging the audience to put their literary skills to the test.



Cathy Phippard, the Radio Station director and Pierre Martel one of our Young Stars at the Swanage Carnival at the Swanage Carnival



We are convinced that there is a huge untapped interest in poetry in Purbeck and Fi, host of Friday lunchtime show Words to Inspire, ran another of her poetry workshops at, Sandy hills Arts at Corfe Castle.

Steve Whale, our Friday morning presenter, who has an equally important life known nationally as an all-round entertainer, hosted the Wareham Wednesday events assisted by our presenters who gathered music requests from the crowds. One of our young stars presenters, Araceli, commented on the raft race. Steve, was also the DJ at the popular Swanage and Purbeck Rotary Fete, supporting the Rotary Club in its fund raising.

Another new presenter, Joe Burns, aka Mr Punch, was kept busy presenting his Friday morning breakfast shows then dashing to the beach to bring the Punch and Judy show to life for the 10th year.

As we go to press Purbeck Sounds has taken part in the Planet Purbeck Discovery Fest at Shore Road, Swanage for the second year running. We invited several environmental experts to speak to on the day and they are currently due to appear in a series of special radio show.

On November 25th we are running a Treasure Hunt at Newton Manor Hall thanks to Alan May. It will be a case of get into action, answering some testing questions and getting a prize at the end - fabulous. We can all be children again!



Our presenter/singer Karen Grant is due to rejoin us on air after a short break. Karen has also kindly agreed to star in a Christmas concert on November 17th at Newton Manor Hall. Details of tickets will be available soon.

We are currently working hard to publicise the Swanage literary festival, now in its second year in its present form. Members of the Purbeck Sounds team are currently interviewing a talented group of writers, poets and authors who will be taking part during the weekend of 6th and 7th November at the Mowlem Theatre, Swanage.

We are hugely grateful to the Literary Festival organisers for including us in their arrangements and you will be able to meet our presenters on both days.

In the meantime, keep listening to our musical programmes, our varied specialist shows and our community shows starting from the breakfast show on Monday morning with Hannah. Listen on your smart speaker, google Purbeck Sounds on your phone or go to Purbeck Sounds on your laptop.

Based in our studio in Commercial Lane, Swanage we would love to hear from you. We are always interested in training new presenters, especially teenagers to join our Young Stars team. Then there's technicians and supporters as well as advertisers as part of the voluntary crew.

Contact us on purbecksounds.co.uk

The highly-acclaimed **LIVE** nationwide tour

jonathan. veira

jv

**NOT
DEAD
YET!**

An uplifting, musical
celebration – full of life,
love and laughter!

"West End quality... the
whole place was buzzing.
Don't miss this amazing,
amusing, moving
and wonderfully
exhilarating show!"

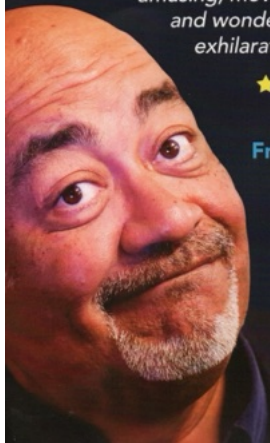
★★★★★

Friday 16th October 2026 at 7.30pm

Emmanuel Baptist Church
160 Victoria Avenue, Swanage
Dorset, BH19 1AZ

In support of: **ALLSORT'D**
www.allsortd.org

Tickets: £10.00 (cash only) from local
churches and Corbens Estate Agent.
Enquiries: 01929 499223
annempayne3@gmail.com




TWICE WINNERS OF BBC RADIO 2 FOLK AWARD
'BEST DUO'



KATHRYN ROBERTS & SEAN LAKEMAN

Friday 2nd October, 7.30pm

Church Knowle, Wareham - St Peter's Church

Book via ticketsource.co.uk/cklive
or call 07879 473693

CKLIVE Folk Evening in aid of Friends of St Peter's, Church Knowle
(Registered Charity No. 1214204)
kathrynrobertsandseanlakeman.com

Award winning Double Act drama group proudly
present the classic haunted house melodrama

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

Written by
John Willard
Adapted for
Double Act by
Dougal Dixon



**DOUBLE
ACT
drama group**

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



Corfe Castle Village Hall
**18th, 19th & 20th Nov 2026 at 7.30pm
and November 21st at 5pm**
Adults £10 / Children £5 (unsuitable for under 5's)
Warning – flashing lights, scary scenes, dread & murder.
Tickets from Corfe Castle Village Stores &
www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group
10% reductions for groups of 10 & over

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

On a dark & stormy night, an ancient law insists that the will & testament of eccentric old Cyrus Carduelin must be read at midnight on the 21st anniversary of his death. And where-else but in the gloomy library of his deserted mansion that may or may not be haunted – in the presence of the squabbling, jealous survivors of his dysfunctional family, who cannot leave until morning. There may even be a murderous monster lurking in the shadows!

None of these cliches are new because it all started in the 1922 Broadway hit by John Willard, The Cat and the Canary. This invented the concept of the "old dark house" melodrama and presented it as thrilling, involving entertainment. Various films and theatrical productions have followed but now Double Act drama group are bringing their own unique interpretation to the stage presented in the spirit in which John Willard wrote it.

This presentation of The Cat and the Canary has been adapted for Double Act drama group by local imaginative writer Dougal Dixon, bringing the action up to date & moving the setting from up-state New York to the storm blasted heathland above Wareham, giving it a contemporary local twist!

Do the true riches of the Carduelin estate really reside in a lost cache of priceless diamonds? Is there actually a ghost in the wainscoting of the crumbling mansion? What is the truth behind the story of the killer monster? Dare you come to be intrigued, mystified, amused & thrilled by jump-scars & cliffhangers in ...

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

Corfe Castle Village Hall
November 18th, 19th, 20th at 7.30pm and 21st at 5pm.
Adults £10 – Youngsters £5
Tickets from Corfe Castle Village Stores and
www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group
Are you brave enough to face an atmospheric evening of theatre?

Updates from the National Trust



Photo: Camera Retrieval, Cathy Lewis

Mission accomplished!

The three puffin cameras were successfully retrieved from the cliff near Dancing Ledge. The motion-activated cameras captured an incredible 50,000 images, which our dedicated volunteers are now cataloguing to uncover more about puffin life, nesting habits, and potential chick predators. We're especially excited because one camera was focused directly on the ledge where a puffling emerged in July. We can't wait to see whether it documented the chick as it grew. Huge thanks to Dr Richard Caldow for the time and expertise he has devoted to this project, and to the volunteers from the Purbeck History Forum who monitored the ledge throughout the seabird breeding season.

Beaver baby boom!

Our beaver family on Little Sea, Studland, welcomed two more kits this year, bringing the family total to seven. Trail cameras have captured the youngsters pestering their parents, playing together, and nibbling on vegetation.

Meanwhile, the other beaver pair in the nearby wetland hasn't produced any kits this year (that we know of). They're still young and seem to be making the most of a carefree lifestyle. Maybe next year!



Photo: Beaver Kit, Pam Ballam

Safe flight, songbirds!

Did you know that thousands of songbirds fly over Purbeck on autumn nights? Willow warblers, blackcaps, wheatears and whitethroats are on the move, migrating to Africa and southern Europe. They fly under the cover of darkness, taking advantage of cooler temperatures and avoiding daytime predators. Incredibly, they're thought to be guided

by the stars and the Earth's magnetic field. Most of them are insect-eaters, so they leave the UK as their food supply dwindles. You might spot them in your garden by day, feasting before their long journey. Next time there's a calm, dry night, step outside and listen. You may hear their faint whistles and calls as they say goodbye... till next year.



Pregnant Male Seahorse, Dr Ken Collins



Photo: Willow Warbler, Mark Singleton

Love is in the...water!

Volunteer divers in Studland Bay have recently seen seahorses in elaborate courtship displays involving dancing, colour-changing and tail-twining. They have also spotted several heavily pregnant males (yes, seahorses and their kin are the only animals where the male has a true pregnancy!). Find out more on the brand-new Studland Bay Marine Partnership website, where you can explore the bay's incredible underwater world, learn about our internationally important seagrass meadows, and find out how using eco-moorings rather than traditional anchors helps protect this fragile habitat. Dive in and explore at www.studlandbay.org

Restoring our precious peatlands

Two peatland restoration projects are underway on Studland's heaths to restore these precious habitats. At Greenlands Mire, work has resumed to restore this valuable mire system, where historic drainage and erosion have disrupted the site's natural water systems, leaving the mire drier, less able to form peat, and more vulnerable to climate change. The next phase focuses on the headwaters below the Isle of Purbeck Golf Course. Natural flood management techniques, such as leaky dams and peat bunds (embankments), will be used to slow water flow and raise water levels across the site. At Agglestone Mire, we are resuming work in the wet woodland near Knoll House Hotel. The aim is to restore natural water flows by filling old drainage ditches and reconnecting the woodland to the floodplain. Please note that the footpath through the woodland will be closed (the route is not a public right of way).

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

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust



Photo: Peatlands Restoration, Gen Crisford



Club President Brian Beeston before and after his head shave



Presidents Day

It was a fantastic day at Swanage Bowls Club, as eighty+ members and friends gathered in glorious sunshine for a very special themed social event.

As ever the afternoon featured some competitive bowling before everyone gathered to enjoy a delicious barbecue on the club's new decking, which proved to be the ideal venue for relaxing and socialising.

Alongside the cowboy fancy dress, music, dancing, and grand raffle, a major highlight of the day was a brave gesture by Club President Brian Beeston. Brian took part in a head shave to raise money for Cancare, a local charity dedicated to supporting the families of cancer patients. Thanks to the generosity of everyone present, the event and head shave together raised in the region of £1800!

A sincere thank you goes to everyone who attended, supported the raffle, donated to the charity, and helped make the day such an outstanding success for both the club and a very worthy cause.



Corfe Community Kitchen Soup 'n Pud

A choice of 2 soups and 2 puds with custard

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday October 3rd '26, 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.

We had a great September lunch having had a break during August. We didn't spend the gap recharging our batteries because we catered for the 'Evening of Eastern Promise' which raised £825 towards the Village Hall kitchen. In addition to that Soup 'n' Pud have bought nearly £500 worth of good quality kitchen equipment, to add to those we had already provided, for us and all other hirers to use. We hope that the kitchen will now be well used by lots of organisations with the utensils being useful and hopefully well looked after.

Once again autumn has proved a great time for excess fruit and veg and folk have been very generous with their donations. Our meal in September was almost entirely made up from these plus remaining sorbet and ice cream from our August evening event. The courgettes and some of the beetroot for the soups came from West St. allotments and the rest of the beetroot and plums for the crumble were given by people in East St. and Higher Filbank. We were also given some home grown black grapes which were lovely. We have just been gifted a lot of apples from another resident so they will no doubt be appearing in October's menu. We are very grateful to all donators from across the village. Such amazing Corfe community spirit. Please keep them coming!

We are always very thankful for the help and support we get from our volunteers, without whom we would be unable to function and The Village Bakery for donating to us the bread rolls.

We look forward to welcoming regulars and new folk alike on Saturday October 3rd.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE SOUP 'N' PUD A TRY?

SWANAGE & PURBECK ROTARY CIO - PEOPLE OF ACTION!

As an International Organisation Rotarians around the World are known as *People of Action* and within Swanage & Purbeck we live up to that definition!



Alison and Steve Leigh, Rotary Fete Organiser

Since starting our new Rotary year on July 1st we have organised street collections for Venezuela and Nepal, organised a successful Community Fete in August, and held a Rotary stall along the sea front to highlight the **END POLIO NOW** initiative - a project we have supported for many years and are so pleased that Polio eradication is almost complete.

The **Summer Community Fete** held on sandpit field, overlooking the Swanage Bay and blessed with sunshine for the whole day, provided a wonderful setting for the fete which brought together many local charitable organizations who were able to highlight their own charities and raise valuable funds with Swanage & Purbeck Rotary also able to raise **£5053.59 for our funds** which will support the work we do both locally and internationally.

We are so grateful for the many raffle prizes kindly donated from local businesses and Rotarians and to those who gave up their time to provide musical entertainment throughout the day.

Of course our biggest thanks go to those who continue to support this family event every year which provides value for money with our games, entertainment and free face painting!



Photos: Swanage News

Responding to International Emergencies

As local Rotarians we are swift to respond to *international emergency situations* and have been overwhelmed with the support and generosity we received in our recent street collections for the earthquake victims in Venezuela when we raised **£1333.75** and earlier this month when we were able, with a top up from S&P Rotary, to send a further **£3000** to SHELTERBOX in support of these disaster areas.

This is an amazing response from our local community - "thank you"



Our Autumn plans are progressing:

- In early October we will be supporting our District Governor Steve Parsons at his District Conference in Torquay; Steve is a local and a member of Swanage & Purbeck Rotary whom we are proud to support.
- We will be holding a **'Soup and Sweet' lunch on Saturday 24th October**, World Polio Day, at the Catholic hall, Swanage, 12 for 12.30, choice of 2 soups and 2 puds, in aid of End Polio Now. £12.00 a ticket.
- **And** we are still hopeful that we can run the Christmas Market on Saturday December 5th if we can get the necessary volunteer support to hold the event.
- We will be out with **Santa on his sleigh** during the first two weeks of December and providing a local **Christmas Mail** service in early December.

If you too are a 'person of action' please visit our website to find out more about Rotary or contact us by email [secretary @swanagerotary.org](mailto:secretary@swanagerotary.org) and consider joining us- you will be warmly welcomed.

Swanage Pier Trust Update

We've enjoyed a wonderfully busy summer on the Pier, packed with fantastic events and activities. From our weekly yoga sessions and history walks to Park-to-Pier strolls, fish and chip cruises and our much-loved summer raffle, there has been something for everyone to enjoy. We were also delighted to host five beautiful weddings, each bringing its own unique charm and special memories to the Pier. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and supported our events throughout the season. Your support makes everything we do possible.



Spooky Half-Term Fun on the Pier

This half term, join us for a hauntingly fun seaside experience packed with Halloween surprises, family-friendly activities and plenty of spooky magic for all ages.

- Halloween Trail – Saturday 24th – Sunday 1st November - Hunt for spooky creatures hiding along the Pier
- Spooky Craft and Games Day- Wednesday 28th October – Unleash your creativity this October half term with our frightfully fun Halloween craft and game session!

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

Swanage Pier Quiz Night – Thursday 19th November

Join us for a fun and friendly Quiz Night at the Royal British Legion on Thursday 19 November, in support of Swanage Pier. Hosted by Glen's Charity Events on behalf of the Swanage Pier Trust, the evening will feature a varied mix of quiz questions to suit all interests and levels of knowledge.

Royal British Legion - Arrive 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start - £3.00 per person - Teams of 6

A Magical Christmas Returns to Swanage Pier!

As the festive season approaches, Swanage Pier will be transformed into a magical winter wonderland filled with Christmas cheer. From Santa's enchanting grotto to the sparkling lights that illuminate the Pier, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

What to Expect at Our Christmas Grotto Events

Join us this Christmas in our spectacular Winter Wonderland Marquee, where festive fun awaits the whole family. Discover sparkling decorations, seasonal music, Christmas crafts, games, activities, and plenty of festive cheer. Take family photos in Father Christmas's sleigh or our snowy mountain cable car, post your Christmas wishes in our magical post box, and enjoy a personal visit with Father Christmas.

Our popular Festive Fun Days also include the opportunity to meet Father Christmas's reindeer and our lovable Christmas donkeys. Plus, enjoy wonderful entertainment from Kevin Burke, featuring magic, juggling, and balloon modelling, alongside festive songs from the Pier Christmas Choir. We're thrilled to share that tickets for all grotto events are on sale now, so book early to avoid disappointment. swanagepiertrust.com/christmas-on-swanage-pier

Lighting Up Lives Returns

We're delighted to welcome back Lighting Up Lives at Swanage Pier this festive season. This much-loved tradition brings our community together in celebration, remembrance and reflection, while helping to support the Pier's future. Every light dedication and donation contributes to vital restoration and improvement projects, helping preserve this iconic landmark for generations to come. Whether you're honouring a loved one or simply enjoying the festive display, your support makes a real difference.

Lighting Up Lives: The Switch-On

Join us on **Saturday 5th December** for the **Lighting Up Lives Christmas Switch-On**. Watch our special guest illuminate the Pier and officially begin the festive season. Enjoy seasonal entertainment, festive music and treats as Swanage Pier sparkles with Christmas lights. Bring your family and friends and be part of this magical community celebration. Light Dedications Open on Monday 28th September - swanagepiertrust.com/lighting-up-lives-christmas-2026

All our events coming up....

Halloween trail - Saturday 24th October – Sunday 1st November

Halloween Crafts – Wednesday 28th October

Swanage Pier Quiz Night – Thursday 19th November

Park to Pier Walk – Sunday 29th November

Lighting up Lives - Light Switch on Saturday 5th December

Swanage Town Christmas Market - Saturday 5th December

Swanage Pier at Christmas - Various dates from 12th – 23rd December

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



What's On at The Mowlem – October 2026

www.themowlem.com



Theatre

The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-time
9 & 10 October 7:30 PM

Cinema

Pressure (PG)

26, 28, 29 & 30 Sep 2026 7:30pm

1 Oct 2026 7:30pm

& Sons (15)

5, 6 & 7 Oct 2026 7:30pm

5 Oct 2026 2:30pm

Tony (15)

12, 13 & 14 Oct 2026 7:30pm

12 Oct 2026 2:30pm

NT Live: The Misanthrope

15 Oct 2026 7:00pm

Purbeck Film Festival

16 Oct - 31 Oct

Purbeck Film Festival is Dorset's longest-running film festival, bringing an exciting programme of independent, international and classic cinema to venues across Purbeck each autumn. Find out more about our screenings on our website.

Music

Live Music in The Showbar (FREE entry)

Pent Up House Trio - 6 Oct 2026 7:30pm

Swing Easy Too - 24 Oct 2026 2:00pm

Comedy

The Mowlem Comedy Club (14+)

21 Oct 2026 7:30pm

Community

'SAS Rogue – The Clandestine Life of Peter Weaver'

5 Oct 2026 2:00pm

Swanage Record Club

8 Oct 2026 7:00pm

The Mowlem's Open Mic Night: Show Off @ The Showbar!

21 Oct 2026 7:30pm

Oscar's Ultimate Quiz

28 Oct 2026 8:00pm

Looking Backwards Towards The Future: The Story of Ultravox - author talk with Richard Evans

29 Oct 2026 7:30pm

About The Mowlem

The Mowlem is a thriving arts hub for Swanage and a charitable organisation offering creative events throughout the year. We are an independent cinema with a 380-seat auditorium, studio space, gallery, and Showbar. Each year, we host over 300 events and welcome more than 25,000 visitors through our doors. Community and culture are at the heart of what we do, and we regularly partner with local festivals, schools, and amateur societies, as well as professional artists, companies, and productions.

More information:

<https://www.themowlem.com> / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Website](#)

For more information, please contact: Tia (Marketing Coordinator) marketing@themowlem.com

Mowlem Institute Charity: Reg. No. 243486



I'm doing everything I can to save money on my energy bills, and I've recently heard about new plug-in solar panels. I can't get traditional panels installed because I rent a flat, plus they're very expensive. Are plug-in solar panels a suitable alternative for people like me?

Plug-in solar panels are designed to sit outside on a balcony or in a garden, and plug directly into your mains electricity to generate power.

Like traditional panels, they can help cut your energy bills by generating electricity you can use in your home. Though they produce less power, plug-in kits are cheaper upfront and more accessible to renters or flat-dwellers with outdoor space, as they don't require roof access or professional installation.

There are a few things to consider before you buy. Firstly, you'll need to make sure it's right for you and your home. You'll need an unshaded outdoor space that ideally faces south, though east or west will still catch some sun for part of the day. The government estimates you could save up to £110 a year on your energy bills with a plug-in solar kit, but your actual savings will depend on things like where your panels are located and if you have the flexibility to use appliances during the day.

One big difference to be aware of is that unlike traditional panels, you must use or lose the power you generate. Current rules mean most people won't be able to store electricity in a battery, and you can't get paid for any unused power generated by your kit.

It's important to check if you need permission before you make a purchase. Read the government's official online guidance to see if you need approval first. The key thing to know is that if you rent or live in a leasehold property, you should speak to your landlord or freeholder. And if your home is a listed building or in an area with planning restrictions, you should speak to your local council.

Follow the government's safety rules, included in the online guidance, before plugging in a new kit. Key rules include plugging your kit into a safe wall socket (never an extension lead) and sticking to the strict limit of one kit per household.

To ensure your kit is compliant with UK regulations, only purchase an all-in-one kit that features a 3-pin UK plug and a UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) mark. If you've already bought one that doesn't meet these criteria, see if you can return it, or contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service for advice.

Finally, you'll need to register your kit with your electricity network company. Your electricity network company provides the wires to your home and is different from the company you pay your bills to. You can find your network company via your electricity bill or by visiting the Energy Networks Association (ENA) website.

Volunteers Wanted

If you would like to help the local community, Citizens Advice is looking for volunteers to join their friendly team. They have vacancies for an Adviceline Adviser, where you provide help over the phone and also an Outreach Adviser, where you would go out on the Advice Bus to different locations. More information can be found on their website www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/volunteer

Local Citizens Advice Drop-in Locations

The Focus Centre, Swanage Drop-in

A reminder that there's a new drop in service in Swanage at The Focus Centre, 107 High Street, every Tuesday, 10am-12pm. No appointment is needed, just come along and have a chat with the friendly advisers. All drop-ins and outreaches can be found on their website here www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/in-person

Advice Bus

The Advice Bus stops weekly at Swanage Market on a Friday morning, 9.30am-12.30pm and at Corfe Castle at the Residents Car Park, West Street, the third Friday of the month. Next on the 16th October and the 20th November, 1pm-3pm. Visit their website for all of the bus locations www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/advice-bus

Energy Advice

The Dorset Energy Team provides free energy advice to households across Dorset. They can offer energy efficiency advice, help with billing issues and meter problems. They can also help with supplier questions, prepayment meters, carbon monoxide awareness and provide free CO monitors and advise about available support. The Dorset Energy Bus visits locations around Dorset where Energy Advisers are on hand to answer questions. The bus timetable can be viewed online here www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/energy

To speak to an energy adviser, call the Energy Line on 01929 775500, leave a message and someone will return your call, or email: energy@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk.

For more information about Citizens Advice services, including all of our outreaches, visit www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk or to speak to an Adviser, call the Dorset Adviceline freephone on 0800 144 8848, 10am-4pm weekdays.



Swanage Food Bank

It's back to school time and the Food Bank continues to help local folk and families who need emergency food aid.

We are at the United Reformed Church, High St, BH19 2NY on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 12-2pm.

If there is a one-off emergency, clients can reach us by phoning 07759 230313. If a client has already received a self-referred food parcel and requires further help from the Food Bank, they will be asked to contact Citizens Advice to get a referral. Citizens Advice can provide support in assessing if the household is receiving all the benefits to which they might be entitled and might also provide further assistance on managing financial affairs.

Further Access to Food in Swanage

Surplus food at low cost – register at the Larder with proof of address. (email for enquiries: food4thoughtpurbeck@gmail.com)

Mondays 9 - 10am St Marks School Hall, High Street (for families)

Wednesdays 9.30 – 10.30am outside the Focus Centre, Chapel Lane, Swanage (open to all)

Community Pantry – food waste project, collecting good quality food that would otherwise go to waste. Donations welcome.

Mondays 10am – 12 noon Community Café, Herston Village Hall, Jubilee Road, Swanage

The Loft Lunches – a hot meal, all welcome, small set charge.

WEDNESDAYS 12.30 – 2pm, now at The Emporium, High Street entrance, Swanage.

Food Bank Donations

If you are able to help with a contribution to the Food Bank stocks this month, the following items would be much appreciated:

Tins of tuna/sardines • Tins of tomatoes • Pasta • Toothpaste • Washing powder

We have good stocks of baked beans, spaghetti and savoury biscuits in our store and don't need any more at present.

Our Blue Food Bins for donated items can be found in Budgen's, the Co-op, Costcutters and SPAR. Collection points can also be found in local churches. We welcome gifts of tinned and dried food and drinks. Items must be within their Best-by date.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to support the work of the Food Bank!

Love walking and supporting others?

We need new Walk Leaders

Looking for a fun, friendly way to get active?

What you get:

- **training** (includes online videos and a 3-hour in-person session)
- **support** from the team
- **flexible time commitment**
- the opportunity to **give back to the community**

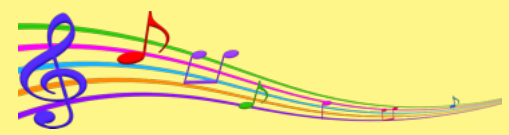
Help volunteer on our weekly walks in:

Swanage on Tuesday mornings & afternoons



Contact us today and start your journey as a Walk Leader:
healthandactivity@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
01425 480811





Singing for Pleasure

Join us every Thursday at 2pm
at Emmanuel Baptist Church
160 Victoria Avenue

Bring along your favourite song titles and
we'll sing them together
it's good for all of us
Finishing after light refreshments at 3.30pm
£2 per session
Supported by Dementia Friendly Purbeck

All Welcome





Bournemouth University students enthuse about volunteering experience at Dorset heritage attraction

Highlighting the value and contribution of younger volunteers, two Bournemouth University students have been supporting one of Dorset's heritage visitor attractions throughout the summer. Kris (22) Blaszczec and Juremi Pinnick (21) are both Tourism Management students and joined the team of volunteers at the Purbeck Mining Museum to gain practical experience at a popular local venue and apply many of the skills developed on their course.

"It has been a wonderful experience," says Kris Blaszczec. "What a huge privilege to be part of such a motivated team. Juremi and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time at the museum. No two days are the same and we've been helping to greet visitors and maintain the museum's displays and facilities. We've also conducted a market research exercise and developed new initiatives for all generations of visitors.

"It was great for us to receive such a warm welcome and to be so actively involved in day-to-day operations at a venue that continues to go from strength to strength. Such real-life experience and insight into the management of a museum run entirely by volunteers has provided an excellent launch pad for our future careers in visitor attraction management."

According to Paola Hobson, the Purbeck Mining Museum's Volunteer Group Administrator, the enthusiasm and drive of Kris and Juremi have inspired fellow volunteers and visitors alike.

"They have both made a huge contribution in helping us to highlight the significance of clay mining in the evolution and ecology of the Purbecks. They really have made a difference at so many levels and we're delighted they have valued and enjoyed their time with us. Future visitors will also benefit from their efforts this summer – not least with a number of new visitor engagement ideas and a special leaflet to promote the new trails that have been constructed in the 20 acre woodland around the museum."



Bournemouth University students Juremi Pinnick (left) and Kris Blaszczec have spent the summer volunteering at the Purbeck Mining Museum

It couldn't be easier to become a volunteer at the Purbeck Mining Museum", adds Kris. "I saw the opportunity on the museum's website, completed the volunteering form, confirmed the placement with my tutors at the university ... and here I am! It's a fantastic team to join – not just for more mature adults but also the younger generation and students studying everything from engineering, geology and natural history to tourism and industrial history."

The Purbeck Mining Museum at Norden is part of the Swanage Railway Trust and is open most days throughout the summer until October. It shows what it was like to work in one of the area's many clay mines in years gone by and features an underground mine tunnel as well as periodic demonstrations on the mine's restored narrow-gauge railway. Full details on opening times and volunteer opportunities can be found at www.purbeckminingmuseum.org.

Bournemouth University has extensive connections with heritage attractions around Dorset and has enjoyed a close relationship with the Swanage Railway over many years, where two of the Tourism Management tutors have also been volunteers. The university's Tourism Management multi-accredited courses are underpinned by internationally recognised research in tourism and hospitality. They provide a first class education and training for anyone with career aspirations related to global hospitality and the wider travel and tourism industry.

Art Workshop

We have started the new year with enthusiasm, working with papier mache. We have room for more members, so if you would like to join us for the second half of this half term, please get in touch (£28 for 4 sessions, starting 2nd October.)



All
Saints
Swanage
loving
learning
serving
together



Art and Craft @ All Saints

Paper Mache and Paper Clay

Friday mornings 10—12 All Saints Church Hall

£56 for 8 sessions starting 4th September 2026

Reduced Prices available.

Booking essential

People facing challenging life situations especially welcome.

Individual attention given.

Art Workshop, Swanage
01929 475883
manager.artworkshop@outlook.com
artworkshop swanage

Supported by:
Valentines Trust
Dorset
Community
Foundation



Saturday 7th November, 10am – 12.30

All Saints Church Hall, Ulwell Road, Swanage.

Entry £1 (under 16s, 50p)

- * Your Stall Here!
- * Jams and chutneys
- * Handmade crafts
- * Bric a Brac
- * Coffee and cake
- * Connect with local groups and organisations
- * Creativity by Art Workshop on show

Table Hire (6' x 2') £5. Stallholders from 9am

Book at manager.artworkshop@outlook.com (07871 799479)

A local community event by



DEADLINE

for contributions to the December 2026 /
January 2027 issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

NEWSLETTER October / November 2026

HEALTHCARE SUPPLEMENT



Outpatient Clinics at Swanage Hospital

Purbeck Community Health Group have been working with local health services to facilitate local people to access outpatient services at Swanage Hospital wherever possible.

So many people have shown how much they value health services being located near where they live. Approaching 4,000 people have signed the petition to request that services are reinstated at Swanage and Wareham Hospitals. The Town Council, our Dorset Councillors and our MP, Lloyd Hatton, fully support health care being provided close to home wherever possible.

The table below lists the outpatient clinics currently available and the referral route. Although referral is usually through your GP, hospital specialist or other health care professional, there are also a number of clinics that you can refer yourself to, please see below for details.

Please note that the referral process for the clinics run by University Hospitals Dorset (Poole & Bournemouth Hospitals) is under review and all referrals will be moved onto a central booking system. If you receive an appointment elsewhere for a clinic that is available at Swanage, you can call the central appointments team and request a reschedule to Swanage, if possible.

Clinic	Provider	Referral route
AAA Screening	Dorset & Wiltshire National Screening Programme	Invite from central screening. If you are male and aged 66 or over and missed or did not receive your initial invite, you can self-refer directly to the Dorset and Wiltshire AAA Screening Programme. Direct Phone: 01722 429174
Audiology	Dorset HealthCare	GP or Self referral for over 50's on the DHC website - please see details: https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-and-sites/physical-health/audiology-hearing Under 50, your surgery can email dhc.audiologyreferrals@nhs.net and ask for a Swanage Hospital appointment
Cardiology – Consultant	University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) Poole	This is GP referral and Swanage can currently be selected on the electronic referral system (eRS). However this will be changing, and your Practice will then refer to a central booking system at UHD. Once the appointment is made, if this is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.
Cardiology – Physiologist	University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) Poole	This is GP referral and Swanage can currently be selected on the electronic referral system (eRS). However this will be changing, and your Practice will then refer to a central booking system at UHD. Once the appointment is made, if this is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.
Child Health (Paeds)	University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) Poole	GPs refer to University Hospitals Dorset. The Poole Consultant will request Swanage Hospital at triage – please mention to the Consultant.

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs)	Dorset HealthCare	Referral via GP or other health professional, however 16 to 17 year olds can self refer on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs) website https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-and-sites/mental-health-and-learning-disabilities/camhs-child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services/camhs-self-referral-form
Community Mental Health Team (Older Persons)	Dorset HealthCare	Adults: GP referral direct to service. Morning Clinics are offered as required, normally 1-2 times/month and this will continue.
Diabetes Clinic	UHD Poole	GP referral. Referrals need to be emailed to Poole General Hospital, as this is not currently available on the electronic referral system.
Diabetic Eye Screening	NEC Care	The Dorset Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (part of the National Screening Programme) is run by NEC Care. Invitations are generated centrally for screening, which is offered every year to anyone with diabetes aged over 12 and over, please see details on: https://neccare.necsws.com/your-local-provider/dorset/ If you have not been invited for a test, please discuss with your GP practice to ensure that you are on the register.
Employment Specialist Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)	Dorset HealthCare	Where a patient is already engaged with the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT), staff can refer to this clinic, or self referral is available via email to dhc.dorsetworkmatters@nhs.net
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	UHD Poole	GPs refer to University Hospitals Dorset. Referrals need to be emailed to Poole General Hospital, as this is not currently available on the electronic referral system. There is 1 clinic happening in Swanage at present. All patients who are referred in from Swanage are graded and triaged to clinics across Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals. Patients may get an appointment in Swanage if they are suitable to be seen in the Consultant personal clinic that takes place there.
Flourish (specialist PTSD clinic)	Dorset HealthCare	Referral via Mental Health Practitioner (MHP), GP, or Steps2Wellbeing
General Surgery	UHD Poole	This is GP referral and Swanage can currently be selected on the electronic referral system (eRS). However this will be changing, and your Practice will then refer to a central booking system at UHD. Once the appointment is made, if this is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.
Glaucoma Review	UHD RBH	GP or Community Optometrist refers to Community Health and Eyecare (CHEC)
Gynaecology	UHD Poole	This is GP referral and Swanage can currently be selected on the electronic referral system (eRS). However this will be changing, and your Practice will then refer to a central booking system at UHD. Once the appointment is made, if this is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.

Haematology	UHD Poole	We understand that this is GP referral via the electronic referral system (eRS). However this will be changing, and your Practice will then refer to a central booking system at UHD. Once the appointment is made, if this is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.
Heart Failure – Nurse Led	UHD RBH	GP can refer via the electronic referral system to the Cardiology Team for triage
Holters (home blood pressure monitoring)	Dorset HealthCare	Surgeries can refer for 24 or 72 hours tape to Swanage Hospital via the electronic referral system (eRS)
Lewis Manning Breathlessness	Lewis Manning	Referrals by healthcare professionals only. Referral form on https://lewis-manning.org.uk/referral-form/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMluYqhrej8IAMVApF8Bh1lvS9-EAAYASAAEgKbOPD_BwE
Ophthalmology	UHD RBH	Ophthalmology has gone over to the new system where all referrals go to UHD. Your GP or Practice can request Swanage where possible. Once the appointment is made, if it is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.
Orthoptics (Children)	UHD Bournemouth Hospital (RBH)	GP referral to RBH or High St Optician
Orthotics	Dorset HealthCare	Healthcare professionals can refer and Swanage can be selected on the electronic referral system (eRS)
Physiotherapy	Dorset HealthCare	Self referral via DHC website https://www.msksdorset.nhs.uk/ Or ask for a self referral form at Swanage Hospital reception
Podiatry	Services offered by Dorset HealthCare (DHC) and by University Hospitals Dorset (UHD)	The DHC service is Self referral https://podiatry.service.dhc.nhs.uk/self-referral The UHD service is GP Referral to a central booking system. Once the appointment is made, if this is not at Swanage, patients can call and request that the appointment to be moved to Swanage, if possible.
REACH Addiction Service	REACH Drug and Alcohol Service	Referral by a professional is directly to Service via email or phone Or self referral is available via https://pds.drugreferrals.com/
Respiratory: Dorset Adult Integrated Respiratory Service (DAIRS) Nursing Team	UHD Poole	GP referrals are to go via UHD Respiratory first, referral to be screened by Respiratory Consultant first prior to going to DAIRS. If accepted for DAIRS, Swanage Hospital is an option for an outpatient appointment.
Respiratory: Dorset Adult Integrated Respiratory Service (DAIRS) Physio	UHD Poole	GP referrals are to go via UHD Respiratory first, referral to be screened by Respiratory Consultant first prior to going to DAIRS. If accepted for DAIRS, Swanage Hospital is an option for an outpatient appointment.

Respiratory Medicine	UHD Poole	GPs can submit Advice & Refer request on electronic referral system (eRS). The Consultant will then review the request as per Advice & Refer processes. If a face to face appointment is needed patients can be booked into the Swanage Hospital clinic.
Spirometry	Purbeck Primary Care Network	GP Referral to Respiratory Nurse
Steps2Wellbeing	Dorset HealthCare	GP or other professional referral, or Self Referral To self refer online go to: https://www.steps2wellbeing.co.uk/easy_ways_to_refer/ To self refer by phone call 0800 484 0500
Stoma – Nurse Led	UHD Poole and RBH	Post operation, patients should be automatically referred to this service. After this, self referrals can be made, and Swanage can be requested, by calling 0300 019 4813 (Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals) or 0300 019 8199 (Poole Hospital)

Please note: although we have done our best to clarify what clinics are available and how to access these, we are not infallible, please do let us know if your experience is different, and we can update our information.

As detailed in the table, the referral systems for the University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) clinics are changing. All clinics are also subject to staff availability.

The Parkinsons Nurse Led annual review service is not currently available at Swanage Hospital. UHD hope to get the annual reviews up and running again, perhaps in 6-9 months once the training of the new starters is complete. UHD will regularly update regarding the situation on the intranet page and via Parkinsons UK. Meanwhile, patients with Parkinsons have been advised how to get in contact, if needed, and given a traffic light system to help them decide when to get in contact.

Swanage Hospital Services

Outpatient Clinics are only one of a range of services available at Swanage Hospital. In addition to the Outpatient Clinics, the Hospital has:

- **a Minor Injuries Unit**, open 9am-6pm (last patient seen 5.30pm) 7 days a week. This is open access, enabling patients to be assessed face to face. At weekends you may need to ring the bell as reception may not be staffed.

If you would like to be assessed face to face, please make this clear on arrival. The x ray department is open 9am-2pm Monday-Friday, so if you need an x ray outside these times you will be advised where else you can access this.

If you decide to phone 111 for a telephone assessment, to avoid an unnecessary journey, please make clear that, unless you need to go to A&E, you would like to be treated at Swanage Hospital. Use it or lose it!

- **15 Inpatient beds** for rehabilitation and end of life care.

Please see Friends of Swanage Hospital website for more information on hospital services: <https://friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk/hospital-services/>

If you want to get in touch with the co-ordinator of this report please contact Debby Monkhouse, Co Ordinator, Community Health Group at debmonkh@aol.com

Swanage Medical Practice - Making the Best Use of Local Health Services

Below is a list of newsletters, which can be downloaded from:

<https://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Newsletters-about-making-the-best-use-of-local-health-services---Swanage-Medical-Practice>.

Newsletter 1: Sources of information, advice and support about health issues

Newsletter 2: Keeping well and self care

Newsletter 3: Services provided by community pharmacies

Newsletter 4: Community health services you can refer yourself to

Newsletter 5: Maternity services and services for children, your people and families

Newsletter 6: Mental health services

Printed copies of these newsletters are available at the surgery.

Neighbourhood Health and Wellbeing

Our Dorset

Purbeck
Integrated Neighbourhood Team

Our Vision: To have a community approach to living well in Purbeck.

Annual Update

Hear what's been happening over the last year, ask questions and get involved.

**Thursday 19th November
2-4pm
The D'Urberville Centre
Collier's
Wool
BH20 6DL**

Tea and Coffee provided!
No booking needed.

Transforming neighbourhood health and care together

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Winter 2026 Flu Vaccination Campaign

It's that time of year again! We urge everyone who is eligible to book their flu jabs as soon as possible.

You can have a free NHS flu vaccination this Autumn if you:

- are aged 65 or older
- are aged 6 months to 65 years and have certain long-term health conditions
- are a child / young person aged 2 to 16 years (up to Year 11)
- are pregnant
- live in a Care Home
- are the main Carer of an older or disabled person, or receive a Carer's Allowance
- live with someone with a weak immune system
- are experiencing homelessness or are staying in a homeless hostel or night shelter
- are a frontline health or social care worker (vaccine offered through your employer).

The Practice is sending text invites to those eligible, if they have a mobile phone number for them. The text includes a link to book an appointment on either 3, 10 or 17 October. Those eligible who do not have a mobile number on their record will receive a letter inviting them to make an appointment.

The majority of school-aged children will get their flu vaccine at school - although the Practice is inviting children aged 6 months to 17 years with certain long-term health conditions to attend the Surgery for their flu vaccine.

More information about flu vaccination can be found on the Stay Well Dorset website at: www.staywelldorset.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu/.

Winter 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

People eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination can now book an appointment - appointments are available from 1 October 2026. We encourage everyone eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccination now.

You can have a free NHS COVID-19 vaccination this Autumn, if you are:

- aged 75 or over
- living in a Care Home for older adults
- aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system.

You can either book online via the [National Booking System on the NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk), or through the NHS App or by calling 119. You can also visit a walk-in clinic, without needing to book an appointment.

More information about COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the Stay Well Dorset website at: www.staywelldorset.nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid/.

Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team Engagement Event - save the date!

The next Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team Annual Update will be held on **19 November 2026, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, at the D'Urberville Centre, Collier's Lane, Wool, BH20 6DL.**

Do you come along to hear what's been happening over the last year, ask questions and get involved. Everyone is welcome - you do not need to book. Tea and coffee will be provided.

PPG Meetings

The PPG last met on 8 September, when we were pleased to hear that more patients are choosing to use **SystemConnect** to communicate with the Practice and to request medical advice. **Please note that this service is only available during Surgery Opening Hours: 8:00am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding all UK bank holidays).**

We were also pleased to hear that a new senior Practice Nurse has joined the Practice. A second Admiral Nurse, funded by Dementia Friendly Purbeck, is now also working in Purbeck.

The PPG will next be meeting **at the Surgery on Tuesday 10 November 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.

We would be particularly pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on the role of Secretary for the PPG.

Dr Margaret Guy, Chair, Swanage Medical Practice PPG



Friends of Wareham Hospital - Celebrating 60 Years



As we celebrate 60 years of Friends' support to Wareham Hospital we are delighted to say that we have been granted CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANIZATION STATUS (CIO) and once Registered we will be known as **'THE FRIENDS OF WAREHAM HOSPITAL & PURBECK COMMUNITY SERVICES'**

We have worked hard to achieve this new position, hoping that our modern approach will help us to attract new Trustees and ensure the sustainability of the Friends Group. We have been grateful to DORSET COMMUNITY ACTION (DCA) for its help with the lengthy process.

Several years ago we recognised that the change in health provision to a more local community approach which supported 'beyond the hospital alone' was an important step to take and so we are very pleased to officially support Purbeck Community Services as well as the hospital.

Our funds do not mirror those of other Community Hospitals in Dorset but we do our best to provide relevant equipment for the many out-patient clinics now provided at the hospital and enhance the environment with special attention to the garden.

Our garden project has been well appreciated by visitors and patients and we are very pleased to have our work recognised by the RHS as part of the South and South East Britain in Bloom Competition - we will collect our award at RHS Wisley in late September.

The Wareham Friends' Garden Team has been recognised by Dorset Volunteers and will be attending a celebration event on Friday October 2nd in Dorchester

We are a small team working hard to help and support local services in Purbeck -we would value your help too .

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF SUPPORT TO WAREHAM HOSPITAL



Chair:
Maggie Hardy

The Friends supported the hospital when it was known as Christmas Close and since the mid 1980's have been involved and supported the current Wareham Hospital building. There have been many changes over the years but our support for services in Wareham has never lessened and we are proud to still be closely linked with this valuable Purbeck asset.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE!



Marketing the profile of the Hospital has been a main focus with fundraising raffles, garden parties and developing an award winning garden for the benefit of patients, visitors and staff



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

Services at Wareham Hospital & Good News

We are very excited to report that the reinstatement of the **Chemotherapy Service** is expected in the New Year



Wareham Carnival

Friends of Wareham Hospital Annual General Meeting

To be held at 9.30 -10.00 am at Wareham Town Hall on Saturday 26th September 2026.
(prior to a fundraising coffee morning at 10am to 12.30pm)

- * Welcome & Apologies
- * To vote Minutes of 2025 AGM
- * Chair's Report
- * Treasurer's Report
- * Membership Report
- * Election of Committee

Please join us and be part of it!



Charity Status News

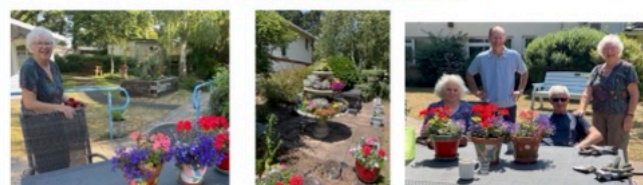
We are aiming to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and have submitted an application to the Charity Commission



Our Biggest Investment This Year

The Friends have donated £30K towards the transfer of the Community Mental Health Team to the Wareham Hospital Site. The Community Mental Health Team 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 and visitors!

Our wonderful volunteer gardeners



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



FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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

Friends of Swanage Hospital

Sometimes you just have to knuckle down and do the housekeeping – and that’s what we’ve been up to over the past few months; looking at how we work and where we can make improvements.

One of the things we’re looking at is our website – and quite frankly it is in need of more than a good dusting! We’re really committed to improving our connection with our community and ensure everyone is able to see who we are and what we’re up to. We want you to be able to contact us easily and be confident of a response. We want to shout out loud some of the wonderful things being done by our hospital staff and volunteers.

This means lots of work is going on to develop a new website with great functionality so you will know exactly who your trustees are, how donations are being spent and can learn about hospital services as well as the work we have planned in liaison with Dorset HealthCare and the hospital team. There’s quite a lot of thought and planning being put in to make the website simple to use yet comprehensive in terms of content and four trustees are working to make sure we have a responsive site where you will easily be able to become a Friend, can email any questions, make donations and keep up to date with what’s going on. We’re very excited about its potential and will let you know as soon as we launch.

We’ve also been looking at our finances and had very positive conversations with Dorset HealthCare who are keen to endorse a five-year strategic plan of investment at Swanage Hospital so we can make sure that the money you have donated is used productively in line with future health service developments and supports the long-term viability of Swanage Hospital, its staff and services. This will include major works to develop the site and attract new services, as well as continued investment in diagnostic and patient equipment, staff development and specialist training. Exciting times – and something Trustees will be working on through the autumn and winter. We will, naturally, share this with you as soon as we can and report back to you on our progress against the plan each year. Building relationships and working hand in hand with Dorset HealthCare to maximise the value of our community hospital by ensuring appropriate investment has to be the way forward for all our benefit. As Chair, I want to credit the incredible work of our Investment Manager and Treasurer in growing the funds you have so brilliantly donated and which mean we can undertake several major projects.

Two dates for your diary. First, our AGM will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Tuesday 6 October, starting at 2.30pm. The purpose of the AGM is to report on the financial year April 2025 to March 2026, but we also try to give a flavour of some of our ambitions for the future and gain some feedback from a member of Dorset HealthCare’s senior management team.

The second date is our annual autumn fayre/coffee morning which will be held, as usual, at the Catholic Hall in Rempstone Road. This will be from 10 to 12 on Saturday 14 November and we look forward to meeting many of you there.

Until next time, take care.