

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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BUSY BEES	SAM COLE	481631
CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES	STEFF ROBINSON	07584079401
CHURCH KNOWLE FOOD FAYRE	ANN WAINWRIGHT	480567
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CHURCH KNOWLE READING ROOM BOOKINGS	ANGELA BOON	480534
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CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY		480760
CORFE CASTLE CE PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL	AMY HOWE (Headteacher)	480428
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



JULY 2025

*An independent magazine for
the villages of Corfe Castle, Church Knowle,
Furzebrook, Kingston, Kimmeridge, Steeple and environs*

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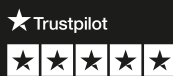
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Corfe Valley News

A monthly magazine providing news, information and items of interest for the villages of Corfe Castle, Kingston, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, Steeple and environs.

Established June 1982

Issue No 519 July 2025

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John Parsons 1982-85
James Kirkwood 1985-91
Geoff Marshall 1991-96
Kate Macdonald 1996-97
Linda Applin 1997 - 2004

Please send items for publication by 5 pm on the **15th** of the preceding month. All contributions can be left at 55 East Street or at The Post Office, Corfe Castle.

Preferably items should be e-mailed to corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk

Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue

Editorial

Our accounts are now complete, and a summary is published at the back of this edition. Our thanks again go to Mike Brett who has independently examined the accounts and produced the numbers. Our thanks also go to everybody who has contributed, via the envelopes, towards the cost and upkeep of the magazine. Your generous donations have helped us keep the magazine on a sound financial footing.

In addition to the money mentioned above we urgently need someone to take over management of delivery from Hilary, who has done it for many years. Despite our request in the last edition, we have not had any volunteers to help. If you want to find out more, please call 481265.

Please also see the continuing plea for other helpers in addition to delivery and distribution; there is an advertisement later in the magazine on page 12.

Stephen

Some useful Telephone Numbers

(There are more in the middle of the magazine)

Police non-emergency call line	101
National Electricity Number	105
NHS Emergency Medical Care Service	111
In the event of Gas Leak	0800 111999
Electricity Failure	0800 0727282
Swanage Police Station - out of hours calls rerouted	422004
Swanage Hospital	422282
National Trust outside office hours	07970-595963
Wareham Hospital	552433
Poole Hospital	01202 665511
Bournemouth Hospital	01202 303626
Dorset County Hospital	01305 251150
Corfe Castle Community Library	480760
Citizens Advice Adviceline: Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm	08001448848
The Samaritans	01202 551999
Street Light Defect - SEC Contracting	0800 068 4145
Childline	0800 1111
Dorset Councillor – Ben Wilson	07767 398627

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“The front page is a sketch of the castle from the halves by P R Gross”

JUNE MEETING FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

With summer in full swing and the community in bloom, here's a look back at the key points from the June meeting of Corfe Castle Parish Council.

Spotlight on Local History: This month's meeting began with a fascinating presentation from Dr Martin Ayres, author of *The Corfe Castle Censuses, Settlement Examinations and Petty Sessions Papers: Recording Everyday Lives in Rural Dorset, c. 1770–1834*. Dr Ayres offered insight into the book's development and the importance of preserving historical records. Following this, the Council agreed to donate £200 to the Dorset Record Society in support of this important work. Watch out for the book launch coming soon.

Improving Biodiversity: A proposal to enhance local biodiversity by installing swift boxes was approved. The Environment Working Group has been allocated up to £1,100 to fund additional nesting sites for swifts and other species.

Speed Surveys: The Parish Council agreed to commission two speed surveys, one near the Corfe Castle Club/Library and one between Townsend Road and Higher Filbank. This follows continued concerns around road safety and driver behaviour.

VE Celebrations

A grant of £500 was approved to the Christmas Festivities Committee to cover outstanding costs for the successful VE event on 8 May.

Playground and Skatepark: The playground roundabout remains out of action, but repair quotations are being sought.
. After reviewing the limited interest and high costs (over £45,000) associated with a potential BMX/skatepark, the Council has decided not to pursue this project further.

Planning application update: Full details for all planning applications can be found on the Dorset Council website, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning>. The following applications have been received by Corfe Castle Parish Council:

Application: P/LBC/2025/02787 & P/HOU/2025/02786, **Location:** 37-39 West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HA, **Proposal:** 02787 - Erect small rear single storey extension, minor internal alteration on first floor to create an ensuite bathroom 02786 - Erect small rear single storey extension, minor internal alteration on first floor to create an ensuite bathroom and alterations to the detached single garage in rear garden). **Comment:** The Parish Council has reviewed this application

carefully and appreciates that it involves both internal and external alterations to a listed property within the Corfe Castle Conservation Area.

We raise no objection to the internal remodelling, including the creation of the ensuite, especially as care has been taken to preserve visibility of the historic frame truss. However, we do have concerns regarding aspects of the external proposals:

- **Rear Extension:** While modest in scale, we are not convinced that the proposed extension complements the existing listed structure. The removal of the central pier, likely part of the original building fabric, raises particular concern. The proposed black timber cladding may also jar visually with the light-coloured stone of the main house and is arguably too stark a contrast in this sensitive setting.

- **Garage Alterations:** Although the garage is a 1980s addition, it was originally thatched to harmonise with the main house. Re-roofing with concrete tiles would undermine this historic coherence. We would prefer to see the roof rethatched, in line with the likely intent of previous heritage guidance.

In conclusion, while we understand the need to adapt historic buildings for continued use, we would prefer that the applicant consult with the Council's heritage officer and consider revising the external design proposals. We therefore object to the rear extension and garage alterations in their current form, but do not object to the internal changes.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 14th July 2025, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. To start the meeting is a public session, so please come and join us and have your say.

Parish Council contact details: Clerk: Michelle Harrington,
Telephone: 01202 670105, **Email:** clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk,
Write: 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ,
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC,
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Report a small collision or near miss to help target road improvements

Did you know you can report a small collision or near-miss online, even if there is no injury or little damage and no police involvement?

Having information about non-injury incidents and near-misses helps Dorset Council identify where road improvements are needed.



Near misses, which might be at low speed with another vehicle, a pedestrian or bike, and dents often go unreported.

They may be minor, but lots of small incidents at the same location can highlight the need for changes. This might be something simple, like new signs, or bigger like a new junction design.



If you've been involved in a small collision or near miss please report it to:

<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-a-non-injury-collision-or-near-miss>

Advert created by: Corfe Castle Parish Council

Who to Contact When:

If you have a problem, do you know who best to call to help deal with the issue? If not don't worry, the contacts below may help you.

My bin was not emptied:

Self Service Portal - <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-litter/report-a-bin-problem/missed-bin-collection>

Telephone: 01305 221040

A public litter bin is overflowing

Self Service Portal - https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP_Report_a_public_litter_bin_problem

Telephone: 01305 221040

To report a pothole

Self Service Portal - <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-a-pothole> - Telephone 01305 221020

To report an overgrown hedge, tree or verge onto the highway

Self Service Portal - <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-hedge--tree-or-verge-issue> - Telephone 01305 221020

To report a problem on a road or pavement

Self Service Portal - <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

Telephone 01305 221020

To request a highways gully clear

Self Service Portal - <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-gully--drain-or-flooding-issue> - Telephone 01305 221020

To request a road sweep on a highway near you.

Self Service Portal - https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP_Report_for_Mechanical_Road_Sweeper

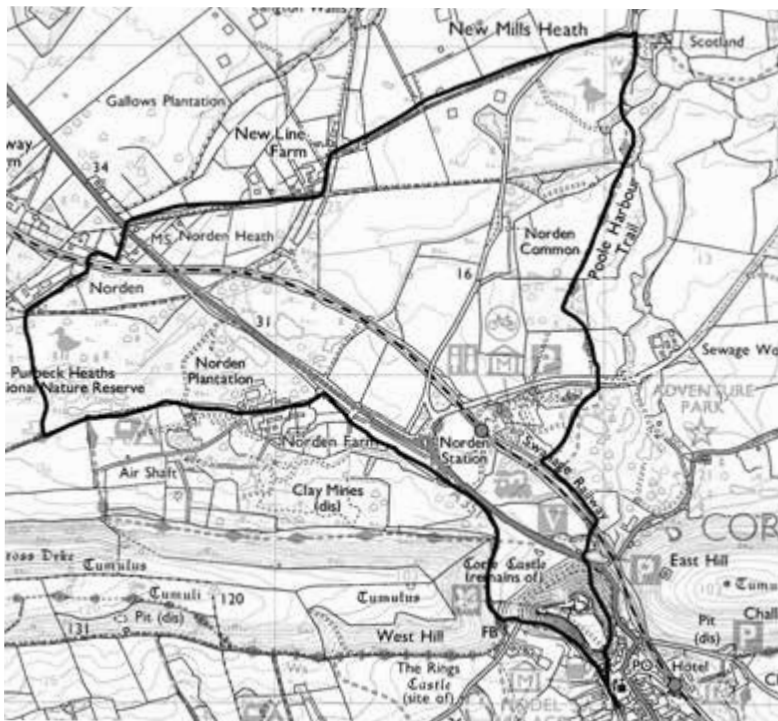
Telephone 01305 221020



The Corfe Castle Town Trust Summer Walks

There will be two local history walks taking place on
Saturday 2nd & Saturday 9th August at 10am
Meet by the entrance to the Town Hall in the churchyard.
The 5-mile walks (see map below) will last about 2-2 ½
hours and sensible shoes are a necessity.

Donations to support the Town Hall welcomed



Email Louise on mlouisehaywood@gmail.com for further details.



MURDER WALK BY THE CASTLE



MORSE - POIROT - HOLMES - CADFAEL ...



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www.double-act.org.uk

Travel back in time & join our period costumed characters on a twilight walk in the shadow of the spectacular ruins of Corfe Castle.

A whodunnit with a difference – so expect the unexpected!

Due to the popularity of these walks numbers may be limited for safety – so book early!

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

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

Walk 7.00 till 8.30pm (approx)

Tickets - £5 a head (under 5's free)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group

There may be a few tickets available on the gate for cash only (NO cards)

For safety we will finish before dark!



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

THE CORFE VALLEY NEWS NEEDS URGENT HELP?

We urgently need volunteers to help with the
Distribution and delivery of the CVN.

No previous experience required.

Only a few hours a month needed.

We particularly need someone to manage the deliveries.

If you could help please get in touch.

corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk or 01929480074

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Environmental Group Update



We have now hosted our Swift “walk and talk” event around the village. About 18 of us met by the Cross in the village square, and Richard Caldw gave us a brief talk about swifts and their behaviour and pointed out the properties around the square known to be used by swifts for nest sites. Julie Hatcher then gave a short talk on house martins, explaining some of the reasons why these summer visitors are in decline; insect decline, lack of suitable sites for nesting and dryer weather causing mud to dry up, leaving the house martins with nothing to build their mud nests with. Insect decline and a lack of nest sites also affect swifts, but happily before we had even left for our walk, we had spotted our first swifts!

We headed along West Street and discussed whether it might be possible to provide a swift box in St Edwards church. Richard explained that a specially built multiple nest box has been installed in St Nicolas Church in Worth Matravers, this being designed to be temporarily wedged in place for the nesting season and then removed, rather than being permanently installed in the church tower. It was felt that something similar could be installed behind the bottom couple of louvres in our church tower, subject to survey and the necessary permissions / consent.

Further along West Street we noticed a swift nest box, as well as a few house martin nests. We then made our way to the doctor’s surgery and Tom’s Mead, where we spotted lots of house martin nests, some obviously damaged and unused but we watched as birds went into and out of their nests several times. On our return to the Square, we waited for the swifts to head back to their nests for the night. We heard them screeching overhead before observing them shoot into their nests under the Purbeck stone roof tiles at full speed, quite an aerobatic feat!

All in all, it was a really enjoyable and educational evening, many thanks to Richard and Julie and others from the Swanage and Purbeck Swifts group. If you are interested in joining this group, their email address is swiftresearch67@gmail.com, or search for Swanage and Purbeck Swifts on Facebook.

We haven’t any events in July but Planet Purbeck and NT have a free “Picnic in the Castle” on Wed 2 July 6-9pm as part of “Purbeck Goes Wild”, see <https://planetpurbeck.org/event/picnic-in-the-castle/> for info and how to book.

Get in touch: Parish Clerk (Michelle) - environmentgroup@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: “Corfe Castle Environmental Group”.

Core Members: Helen, Tom, David, Luke & Richard



Nature updates from the National Trust

National Trust

Gorgeous grazers!

Have you seen these gorgeous golden-grey ponies on Middlebere Heath? They are Konik ponies, a hardy Polish breed ('Konik' means small horse). They have a distinctive black stripe along their spine, and zebra-like striping on their legs. It's a breed that's known to be friendly, calm and inquisitive.



Konic Ponies – Photo Cathy Lewis

The herd of five ponies was introduced last November by our tenant farmer, Jake Hancock, and two foals have recently been born. By grazing on the heath and marshes, they will help biodiversity by creating space for various plants and insects. And their dung is food for countless beetles, flies, worms and even fungi.



*Corfe Charity meadows
Photo Adam Burrough*

Now's the time to get out and explore Corfe Charity Meadows. The traditional hay meadows are bursting with wildflowers and full of the sound of buzzing insects and birdsong. The meadows are between Scotland Barn, Sharford footbridge and the Corfe River.

Elizabethan favourites

Don't miss the wild chamomile on Corfe Common this month. This nationally rare grassland plant flowers in abundance on the common, releasing an apple-like fragrance when crushed. Its smell, coupled with its cushion-soft feel, made it a favourite of the Elizabethans, who created herb gardens with chamomile lawns and seats (yes, benches topped with a 'living' cushion of chamomile).



*Wild Chamomile Corfe
Common – Photo Ben
Cooke*

Life and death at Corfe Castle



*Peregrine Corfe Castle –
Photo Gavin Branch*

It's all happening on the peregrine platform! Sadly, last month, two dead peregrines were found in the castle. We had one inspected by Defra, but it was found to be clear of bird flu. So, the mystery of the deaths remains. On a happier note, two of these impressive birds are still screeching around, passing food between themselves and nest building. We are hoping for happy news of chicks very soon.

Help glow-worms shine

We're looking for volunteers to help with glow-worm monitoring this summer. No

experience is needed.

Surveys of these magical beetles take place at various locations in South Purbeck between 10pm and midnight. You'd follow a set transect (between 1km – 5km long), once in July and once in August. You can choose the dates so long as conditions are suitably dry, still and warm.

If you're interested, please contact the Purbeck Natural History Forum which co-ordinates wildlife volunteers across the area.

<https://purbecknaturalhistory.org.uk/>

If you have any queries about wildlife or how we are looking after the Corfe Commons and Purbeck Heaths, email us on purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust



*Glow worm Durlston
– Photo Mark
Singleton*



**National
Trust**

News from the Castle

July 1496

In the summer of 1496, the castle was visited by Henry VII, who stayed from 27th July to 5th August.

Around this time the King decided to grant Corfe Castle (amongst other things) to his mother, the influential Lady Margaret, the Countess of Richmond. As mother of the King, she enjoyed legal and social independence which other married women did not, and her son's first parliament recognised her right to hold property independently from her husband.

Parliament granted £2,000 for the repair of the castle, although it does not appear that Lady Margaret ever lived here and may never have visited the castle. When Lady Margaret died in 1509 the property reverted to the recently crowned Henry VIII.

Hidden Treasures

If you didn't manage to catch Hidden Treasures of the National Trust on BBC Two, you can still view it on BBC iPlayer.



*Martin Papworth with sallyport arch –
NT Sophie Bolesworth*

Martin Papworth, Archaeologist (now retired) dug below an arch that fitted the description of a sallyport where Colonel Pitman let in enemy forces to betray the castle. The dig didn't uncover clear answers. Martin has subsequently released a video (on our Facebook and Instagram channels) explaining some further research and why he

strongly suspects this is indeed the sallyport fundamental to the history of the castle.

In the early 17th Century, a turret was built on the outer wall of the castle behind the suspected sallyport. The Hidden Treasures excavation proved the archway went all the way through the boundary wall but couldn't prove it continued through this turret. The explanation might be a flight of steps built into the turret taking the level below the current ground surface of the outside wall. This is

backed up by some history from Rev John Hutchins – one of the earliest historians who wrote about the castle. In 1770, Mr Hutchins spoke to local people to get anecdotal accounts of events at the castle that had been passed down through a generation. People told Hutchins the Parliamentarians gained access through a sallyport between the garden and well at the East of the castle which is exactly the spot of the arch. Martin is really encouraged by this evidence and feels his theory that this is the traitors gate can be proved if we dig a little lower...

Lighting up the castle

Doesn't the castle look magical lit up at night? Throughout the year we light it up to commemorate special occasions; from the anniversary of its capture during the Civil War, to our winter lights events and weddings held here at the castle. From time to time, we're also asked by charities and awareness campaigns if we can help highlight their causes by lighting the castle in various colours. While we can only accommodate a small number of these requests, we do our best to support where we can. You may have spotted the castle recently glowing blue for World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day.

Events at the castle:

Medieval sword weekend - 5 & 6 July

Love it Local food festival – 12 & 13 July

Festival of Archaeology - Time Team weekend – 19 & 20 July

Summer of Play – 19 July – 31 August



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Church Knowle Parish Council - June Meeting

The June meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 6:30pm. It was attended by seven members of the Council (Cllr Burt in the chair), five members of the public and the Dorset ward councillor Ben Wilson.

The Council has adopted an updated complaints policy and a new vexatious complaints and correspondence policy.

The Neighbourhood Plan

The neighbourhood plan is continuing, and the current tranche of the grant has been returned largely unspent. Grant funding for Neighbourhood Plans by the government has just been discontinued.

Report from Dorset Councillor

The Dorset Council is aware of the derelict house in the centre of Church Knowle.

The Dorset Council is reducing its use of chemical weedkillers to control weeds on highways structures using mechanical methods instead.

The leader of the Dorset Council, Nick Ireland is leading an initiative to transform Dorset into a national hub for renewable energy innovation.

Planning

Two planning applications were considered and supported:
P/VOC/2025/03049 Changes to proposed orangerie at Grand End.
P/TRC/2025/02631 Pollard poplar in Knowle Farmhouse garden.

Playing Field

The Playing Field equipment has had its annual professional safety survey and there were no urgent or hazardous items.

Vacancies on the Parish Council

There is still one vacancy on the council which has a full strength of nine and any interested parishioners can apply to clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk.

It was noted that the Swanage Railway is doing a lot of work removing gorse and other flammable vegetation from the sides of the railway in the parish.

The meeting finished at 8:16 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Church Knowle Village Hall at 6:30 on 8th July 2025.



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- Fully stocked with gardening tools and compost.
- Large selection of seeds and plant supplements available.
- Our well-stocked Garden Barn is still impressing those who haven't ventured in yet – have you been in?

Farm Shop

- As always, we have fantastic giftware, local spirits, wines & groceries galore!
- Orchard Bay Sourdough bread proving very popular. Monday, Wednesday, Friday deliveries.
- Big focus on the very best **local** produce.
- Large range of Lucy's Farm gifts
- Expansion of lines with the camping season approaching.
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Corfe Castle CE Primary
School & Pre-School



Firstly, I want to extend my thanks to the community for their support and engagement with our Summer Fair on Saturday 14th June. Money raised supports clubs, trips and resources here at the school. A huge thanks to our school PTFA for their enthusiasm and efforts in organising such a wonderful event that seems to grow year on year – long may that continue!

July is always a moment of both sadness and joy for some of our children as our year 6 prepare to spread their wings and set off on the next chapter of their lives and education; we hope that they leave strong and resilient with skills that enable them to persevere when faced with challenge and with dreams that continue to drive them through secondary and into the world beyond. This cohort have been a delight to teach and nurture and they will be missed as we wish them luck for year 7.

We also say good to Miss Amy Howe this year. She has been the pinnacle of change for the school, driving forward curriculum development and standards to ensure that we provide a strong well-balanced and rounded education for your local community and children. Alongside her, I have been able to rebuild community relationships and reverse past perceptions of our wonderful village school. As a friend and a colleague, I will miss having her here with me, but I know that she will not be far away as Coastal Learning Partnership will not lose her talents or skill set. From the school, and the community, we offer her a huge heart felt thank you as she takes on new challenges across the trust.

Summer Holiday Club:

Bookings are open still, however, we will not be open during the week commencing 25th August.

Thank you for all your continuing support, Miss Amy Howe (Headteacher) and Mr Robert Stoner (Acting Headteacher) and the whole team at Corfe Castle CE Primary School and Pre-School.

Corfe Castle Club

Mini Beer Festival

Saturday 19th July 2025



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News from The Castle

Summer is in full flow now, the flowers are out, and alfresco dining is in!

Friday Nights are still fish nights, but during the children's holidays it is too busy to continue steak nights on Thursdays; we have therefore to suspend them until the autumn.

We are however hoping to be hosting our magic Mondays throughout the school holiday period.

So why not come along and be amazed ... fun for everyone.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we can take full advantage of our outside areas including Barbeques and live music in the garden.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and as always we look forward to seeing you.



Looking to the Future!

'*Alice in Cuckoo Land – A Christmas Pantomime*' by Peter Nuttall, is now cast and in rehearsal, in preparation for the performances **Nov 27-29th**. The line-up of at least 12 acting parts includes some new faces and youngsters, as well as some old-stagers, and the early rehearsals have been full of enthusiasm and invention. With loads of humour, imaginative sets and costumes, a number of well-known songs, and the talented Eve Baker providing keyboard accompaniment, Paulette's first show as Director has all the signs of being wonderful entertainment for all the family.

Meanwhile, the ***Murder Mystery Walks*** are being rehearsed for '*al fresco*' performances on July and August evenings. See the details elsewhere in the CVN and around the village. Once again, the plot and script is from the 'pen' of Peter Smith, our indefatigable inventor of intriguing characters and story-lines, interweaving fact and fiction to great effect. Please note that ticket sales on the gate will be cash only, because of poor mobile signal, so it's better to get your tickets on-line earlier at -> www.ticketsource.co.uk/double-act-drama-group
It's great value at only £5! (Under 5's free!)

Walks are July 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th plus Aug. 4th, & 6th 2025; 7pm.

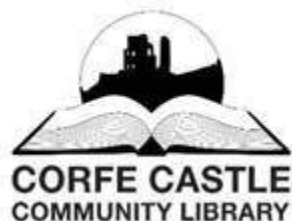
And, talking of tickets, the winners of Double Act's kitchen-themed '**QUIZINE**' will be able to claim their free tickets for either the Murder Mystery Walks or 'Alice In Cuckoo Land' in November. The most complete set of correct answers came from Maggs Pettitt, with Joy and Phil Carter coming a close second. Congratulations to them, and we hope they enjoy the shows! The Quizine made a total of £169.38p for the **Corfe Castle Village Hall Kitchen Refurbishment**; not a major contribution, but every little helps!

If you would be interested in joining our friendly safe group or for more details, please contact the chairman, David Kemp 01929 480007, or secretary David Watson 01929 481265 - or email doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com
New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome!



News from the Library

The Summer Reading Challenge 2025 'Story Garden' Takes Reading to the Great Outdoors



Throughout the summer, children joining The Summer Reading Challenge 'Story Garden' can discover new books and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge features artwork from award-winning illustrator **Dapo Adeola**, whose stunning illustrations will bring the Story Garden theme to life; creating an enchanting world where children can find magical creatures, plants and flowers to inspire their next reading adventure.

Recent research shows that children's enjoyment and engagement in reading is in decline, despite research from the OECD showing that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more important than parents' educational background or household income. The Summer Reading Challenge supports children to get excited about reading throughout the summer, helping to maintain their reading at a time when engagement can often dip.

The impact of the Challenge is clear: 95% of participants continue reading at least once a week after taking part and 70% report increased reading confidence

Last year's challenge reached close to **600,000** children in the UK, the Challenge helped start over **100,000** new library memberships and contributed to 13.3 million books being read and logged over the summer. Since its inception in 1999, the Summer Reading Challenge has helped start **15 million reading journeys**, making it a vital cornerstone in the children's reading ecosystem.

The Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge has already launched online (see <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>), and from **Saturday 5 July 2025** Children can sign up at the library to join the adventure and discover the magical world where stories grow.

Come in for a free Cuppa and a Biscuit!

We will be offering a hot drink and biscuits for anyone who would like to come into the library and have a chat (or even browse through the bookshelves!)

Normal Library Opening Hours

Monday 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Wednesday 10.00 -12.00 a.m. and 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.

Saturday 10.00 - 12.00 a.m.

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NEWS from THE PURBECK SCHOOL

An Outstanding Inspection Report.

Last Autumn we reported in the CVN on the exceptional exam results at the Purbeck School and that students achieved much more progress than other schools.

Good schools should deliver a lot more than exam results and Ofsted undertook a no notice inspection in April to look at the work of the whole school. The report was published on 9 June and is available on the Ofsted website.

The report reads as the best report on a school published in Dorset this year.

The opening paragraph of the report encapsulates everything The Purbeck School: strives for:

"The culture of the school is one of personal care and ambition for all. The value of 'kindness' underpins the work of the school to sustain high standards. The school has the highest expectations for the personal development and academic achievement of pupils. As a result, pupils make exceptional progress through the curriculum, and outcomes are high."

Here are some more statements from the report that highlight the 'exceptional' work of the school:

'Pupils make exceptional progress'

'The design for the Personal Development of pupils prepares them exceptionally well'

'An exceptional approach to Careers'

'Pupils conduct themselves exceptionally well'

The report does not identify any areas for improvement since the last 'Good' inspection, therefore indicating that under a graded inspection it would have been 'Outstanding' across the board. The inspection was not designed to offer formal grades and another inspection will take place in the next two years.

As Governors we know that the report really does reflect the high quality of the Purbeck School and that the credit lies with the Senior Leadership and staff. With all the gloomy news there is everywhere there is something to celebrate.!

Steve Clarke, Chairman of Governors

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Our speaker for June was Steve Dimmer who took us on a trip down memory lane, entertaining us with the history and stories about the 'Carry On' franchise of films. There were thirty one in total and they made two films a year. There were some iconic clips notably with Barbara Windsor and Kenneth Williams which made us all smile. He also told us facts and information that we didn't know, so educational as well as entertaining.

Forthcoming Speakers

1st July – 'The Murder of Sydney Spicer' by Paul Stickler

5th August - Annual BBQ

2nd September – Belly Dancing Extravaganza

7th October – The Amazing Life and Achievement of Marie Curie by
Alan Neal OPEN MEETING

4th November – Singing for Everyone – Tim Dowland

2nd December – The Fantastic Bow Tie Balloon Man – Rob Driscoll

We are a friendly group so please come along and join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2pm for an interesting talk followed by a cuppa and a chat. We have regular groups who meet each month.

Walkers Group: Meet 3rd Monday at various locations.

Strollers Group: Meet 2nd Tuesday at Collets Close

Aquarius Book Group: Meet 3pm on Wednesday every six weeks.

Lunch Club: Meet 4th Thursday at 12:30 monthly at various locations.

Contact: 2008aquariusladies@gmail.com for more information.



Corfe Castle Goes Orange for Paddington at Purbeck Film Festival

The countdown is on - Purbeck Film Festival's unmissable summer season is just around the corner, and this year it's finishing in spectacular style.

In a delicious twist, Corfe Castle will glow orange for one night only as *Paddington in Peru* screens under the stars - celebrating all things marmalade and the return of everyone's favourite bear on 23 August.

Festival Chair Andrea Etherington said:

"This year's Summer Screenings bring together an incredible mix of films, stunning locations, and the community spirit that makes the Purbeck Film Festival so special.



"Whether you're rediscovering a beloved classic or experiencing a new favourite for the first time, there's something truly magical about watching a film under the stars."

"And we can't wait to see Corfe Castle bathed in orange glow for Paddington's big night!"

The full summer line-up is now confirmed with two final magical screenings at Blue Pool, closing the festival weekend of 5-6 September:

- *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* – romantic comedy bliss in a dreamy setting.
- *Moulin Rouge!* – a bold, beautiful finale to the season.

Other highlights include:

- *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* at Corfe Castle, with the return of the "Sunset Shuttle" via Swanage Railway.
- *Wicked* by the pool at Knoll House – an enchanting musical in an equally magical setting.



*The Keep Illuminated –
Credit NT Jon Bish*

- *A Complete Unknown* at Carey's Secret Garden – a soulful journey in a secret paradise.

Fresh off its award as Best Film Festival 2024/25, the Festival is gearing up for its biggest and most magical summer yet.

Seats are limited so for more information, tickets, and volunteer opportunities, visit www.purbeckfilm.com or follow them on social media @PurbeckFilmFestival.

Corfe Castle Surgery

Kerry, Practice Manager and I share this column and we hope we keep you up to date with Surgery and PPG news . Please do let us know if there are specific areas you would like us to cover .

The PPG continues to work with our PPG colleagues across the Purbeck area, and I was pleased to have represented the PPGs and be filmed for some information videos to highlight the wide range of services available in the area.

As a Corfe PPG we are planning to hold some exercise classes for Surgery patients at the Corfe Village Hall , starting in the Autumn - please look out for more details in the surgery or in publications in the next couple of months .

Also we are delighted that Professor Howard Thomas has been able to arrange two further health talks again in the Autumn. They will be held at the Corfe Club and include;

'Shoulder Problems' by Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Rob Maverley on Thursday 9th October 2025

and

'Hip Problems' by Professor Rob Middleton, Orthopaedic Consultant on Thursday 13th November 2025

Please do support these talks which have proved very popular.

I have been pleased to receive feedback on Corfe surgery services and would ask that if anyone wishes me to raise any points with the Surgery team to contact me through the Surgery or via our email address corfecastleppg@gmail.com Thank you

Maggie Hardy, PPG Chair

cream teas + bbq + pimms tent + garden centre

Cake stall + tug of war + games + grocery stall + skittles



old curiosity + dress shop + bric-a-brac + coconut shy + skittles

THREE PARISHES FETE CHURCH KNOWLE

Sat 2nd Aug

A traditional Village Fete for all the family,
set in the grounds of The Old Rectory,
Church Knowle, BH20 5NG

Admission £2, children under 12 FREE

2pm start.

Proceeds for the Three Parish Churches of
Church Knowle, Kimmeridge and Steeple.

grand draw + ice cream + brass band + books

Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The VH Coffee Morning in June raised £157.25 for VH funds. Thanks to all those who attended, especially our loyal team of helpers. **Would you consider helping once a month?**

The June 100 club draw was made at the Coffee Morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 56, with member 30 getting second prize £10 and member 36 winning the third prize £5. If you would like to join the many villagers who support their local village hall in this way please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

We offer a large amount of secure storage space. For news on future availability please contact Judith Jenkins on 01929 480216.

regular weekly events:

Monday mornings	Purbeck Dance
Monday evenings	Double Act
Monday evenings	Purbeck Chess
Tuesday mornings	Toddlers
Tuesday mornings	Yoga
Tuesday evenings	Martial Arts
Tuesday evenings	Badminton
Wednesday mornings	Corfe Crafters
Wednesday mornings	Pilates
Wednesday afternoons	U3A Pickleball
Wednesday evenings	Youth Club
Thursday mornings	Silver Swans adult ballet
Thursday evenings	Cubs
Thursday evenings	Alcoholics Anonymous
Friday mornings	Pilates

regular monthly events:

1st Saturday morning	VH Coffee Morning
1st Saturday lunchtime	Soup 'n Pud
1st Sunday all day	Cameo Antiques Fair
1st Tuesday afternoon	Aquarius
1st Thursday evening	Gardening Club
2nd Monday evening	Parish Council
3rd Wednesday morning	Carers' Support (P Jones)

Artsreach events

We have just applied to Artsreach to host events for the forthcoming season (September through to March). Allocating events to the various villages is a complex process, and we will not know for some time which events we have been given. If you are interested in joining the team of helpers who assist in selecting and putting on these events please ring David on 07590 352219.

Fund-raising news

We are still awaiting a reply from the National Lottery in regard to our application for a grant for our kitchen refurbishment.

To book a room at the hall, preferably use the email address david@davidjatin.plus.com. Alternatively ring David on 07590 352219.



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You can find us on Google and click the blue '22 Reviews' underneath our photos/map on the right hand side of the page. 
OR You can use this QR code: 

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Corfe Community Kitchen Soup 'n Pud

**A choice of 2 soups and
2 puds with custard**
Corfe Castle Village Hall
Saturday July 5th '25
12.30 – 1.45pm



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

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

Our June lunch was well attended with over 50 diners. It was nice to see some new faces and some returning after a break. The more the merrier! They all tucked in to the tasty Tomato and Basil or Pea, Mint and Courgette Soups followed by Cherry Crumble with custard or Rhubarb Whip decorated with raspberries and cream. As usual there was very little left!

Thanks must go to 2 kind villagers that gave us their rhubarb despite being a poor year for growing it. Too dry in the Spring!

Thank you once again to our great and loyal team of helpers and also to Dragon's Bakery for providing us with the bread rolls. We are now looking forward to our July lunch on Sat. July 5th with a summery theme and also reminding you that there will be no Soup 'n Pud in August as we all take a well earned rest.

Please remember if you have any spare produce we would be only too happy to use it for you in our soups and puds, to add delicious local flavour.

Of course we value any other donations towards our Saturday lunches both in money and kind but most of all we look forward to welcoming lots of you at our simple but hearty meal. It is great to see the local camaraderie engendered over a lovely Soup and Pud!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY?

CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for JULY 2025

Please check timings and other details with the information available elsewhere in this magazine or with the organisers.

1	July	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius talk – The Murder of Sydney Spicer by Paul Stickler – Corfe Castle VH
2	July	Wednesday	6 – 9 pm	Planet Purbeck and National Trust Picnic in the Castle
5 – 6	July	Saturday/Sunday		Medieval Sword Weekend in the Castle
8	July	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Church Knowle Village Hall
12	July	Saturday	11 am – 3 pm	Open Garden and Driveway Sale at 22 West Street
12 – 13	July	Saturday/Sunday		Love it Local Food Festival in the Castle
14	July	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
16	July	Wednesday	2 pm	Harmony Rocks Summer Concert – Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage
17/18	July	Thur/Fri	12 – 5 pm	Open Garden – Knitson Old Farm House
19	July	Saturday	Midday	Corfe Castle Club Mini Beer Festival

All details are correct as at publishing date, but please check with the organization involved before attending any events.

1	August	Friday	6 pm	Twelfth Night – Play at the Bay Kimmeridge
2	August	Saturday	2 pm	Three Parishes Fete Church Knowle Old Rectory Field
2	August	Saturday	10 am	Town Trust Summer Walk around the Village – Meet by the Town Hall entrance
2	August	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
2	August	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup and Pud Community Lunch Corfe Castle Village Hall
5	August	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius BBQ
9	August	Saturday	10 am	Town Trust Summer Walk around the Village – Meet by the Town Hall entrance
11	August	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
12	August	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Furzebrook Village Hall
16	August	Saturday	12 midday – 4pm	St Edwards Church Fete on the Church Lawns
23	August	Saturday	pm	Paddington in Peru screened in the Castle
25	August	Monday	9 am – 4 pm	Harmans Cross Village Hall Fete and Show
4 – 7	September			Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival

More Useful Phone Numbers

Power and electrical - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks:
0800 0727282 (free phone land line) or 0345 072 1905 (free phone mobile contracts or local rate for pay as you go)
Western Power Distribution:
0800 365900 (free phone land line and mobiles)

Water - Wessex Water:
03456004600 (free from most land lines or local charges apply dependant on the land line or mobile provider)

Gas - Transco - Gas Emergency:
0800 111999 (free phone, mobile phone charged as per the local provider rate)

Roads and highways - Highways England (including incidents A35, A37 and A31):
0300 1235000 (local call rate or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependant on the provider)
Dorset Council (including incidents on the Dorset Council highway):
01305 221000 (10p per minute from a land line or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependent upon the provider)

Flooding - Environment Agency - Flood Line:
0345 9881188 (calls are charged depending on the callers service provider and where there call is made).

Dorset Council out of hours Emergency Contact Number – 01929 556561

Dorset Council Self Service Portal. This portal can be used to report anything to do with Dorset Council and to request services and information from the council. The web address for the Dorset Council is also below.

<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/en>

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>

Reporting non injury collisions or near misses

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/road-safety>

Anti-Social Behaviour 01305 762439 email ASB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

Rector Richard and Louise White revrichardwhite@outlook.com
 revlouisewhite@outlook.com
 01929 208578

Associate Priest Nick Webb 07866 546162
 fulloflifegardens@gmail.com

Pioneer Associate Priest – Lindy Cameron 01929 208469
 revlindyjane@gmail.com

Benefice Office: Tuesday and Wednesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Benefice Administrator: St George's Church, Langton Matravers

BH19 3HZ 01929 427822 admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org

Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns

For Kingston contact the Parish Administrator

admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org 01929 427822

For Corfe and the Valley Churches please contact Lynette McCallum

lynettereas21@yahoo.co.uk

www.staldhelmpurbeck.wordpress.com

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 John Lindsay 481498

Visit St Edwards Website - <http://stedwardscofecastle.co.uk/>

Revd Louise writes,

July is the month of hot, sultry days, of children and teachers looking forward to finishing the school year, and I particularly remember it as being the month of my Mother's birthday. She died six years ago, and is remembered with so much love, especially now that we are living in Dorset and I am reminded of all the places we went to with her. My Mum lived in Poole and loved visiting Purbeck. I lived in the North of England, and often on our phone calls she

would tell me about her visits to places such as Worth Matravers and Winspit, excited that they had spotted orchids and other wild flowers as she and my Dad walked the coastal path near there. Something which I now enjoy doing too!

The Church at Worth Matravers, St Nicholas of Myra, has recently had a four year project to completely rebuild its stone roof, has been restored. This has happened thanks to the generous donations of many people and different funding organisations, as well as the hard, dedicated, work of the roofers, and all who have contributed in different ways to this project. If you haven't visited St Nicholas Church, take time to enjoy the beautiful space there, a place where Christians have worshipped for hundreds of years, and where, I think, you can feel something of the beauty and wonder of God in that place. St Nicholas was known for his generosity and gifts, that same generosity and giving of gifts which has been happening in this extensive restoration project. May we all be a people who experience the generosity of God, and in turn give generously of the gifts we have, to bless the people and communities around us, and also those further afield. And may we all know the generosity of God as we enjoy this month, receiving His rest, restoration and provision for us.

Services in July 2025

Sunday 6th July

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Holy Communion

Sunday 13th July

Steeple – 9.30 am

Holy Communion

Corfe Castle - 10.30 am

Morning Worship

Kingston – 11.30am

Informal worship

Sunday 20th July

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Holy communion

Harmans Cross – 6 pm

Evening Worship

Sunday 27th July

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Holy communion

Kingston – 11.30 am

Holy Communion

There are also services every week in Langton Matravers and Worth Matravers. Information at www.staldhelm-purbeck.org

Bible Readings – July 2025

Sunday 6th July

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday 13th July

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Sunday 20th July

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Sunday 27th July

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Friends of St Edward's

A service to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Friends of St Edward's was held on June 22nd. The Committee for the Friends would like to thank all involved for making this such a special occasion.

Friends from near and far attended together with members of our normal congregation and visitors to the area. The service was led by Revd Richard, and included a blessing of the Friends' Book and a prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving for the Friends scheme.

The service was followed by wine and a splendid spread put on by Helen, Janet & Wendy.

St Edwards Fete August 16th

We are busy planning the fete which will be held on Saturday 16th August, from 12 until 4pm. We have decided to try for a Saturday this year and hope that more people from the village might be able to be involved.

If you would like to help in any way - providing cakes, joining the team who put up the marquee a day or two before the fete, helping on a stall, - anything would be much appreciated.

We will be raising money for our much loved church - especially important this year as we need to raise the money to put in a whole new heating system!

Please contact dawn.lindsay11@gmail.com or phone 481498



Could you open your heart and home to a future guide dog?

You could provide a vital role in transforming a tiny, playful puppy into a life-changing companion for someone with sight loss. As a volunteer puppy raiser for Guide Dogs, you can nurture a young dog during its crucial early months, laying the foundation for its future as a guide dog.

These life-changers-to-be arrive at around eight weeks old and stay with their volunteer families until they are approximately 14-16 months.

During this time, they learn essential basic skills and, more importantly, gain invaluable socialisation, where the pup is exposed to different situations and experiences.

Could you offer this to a puppy in training? Puppy raisers introduce their charges to a wide variety of sights, sounds, and smells – from bustling cafes and busy shops to the hum of public transport. These everyday outings are critical for a future guide dog to learn how to remain steady and focused in a range of environments.



Elli Cavazza, Guide Dogs' Puppy Development Advisor based in Dorset, said this early exposure is so important in shaping a confident and well-adjusted guide dog:

“Our Puppy Raisers do an amazing job helping our pups prepare for their future life as a guide dog. Being exposed to different situations and environments when they are small means they grow in confidence and can approach those environments with ease once in their working role.”

The role of a puppy raiser requires dedication, patience, and a genuine love for dogs. While there will undoubtedly be challenges – every puppy has their moments! – you won't be on this journey alone. Guide Dogs provides comprehensive support, covering all essential costs and offering ongoing training and guidance.

“You'll have a dedicated team behind you every step of the way to answer your questions and give you advice and support with your pup,” Elli added.

And while saying goodbye can be emotional, the knowledge that you have played such a fundamental part in enabling someone with visual impairment to live a more independent and fulfilling life is incredibly rewarding.

Volunteer Puppy Raiser Susan from Dorset said:

“The reason I volunteered as a puppy raiser was to make a difference but have discovered, in addition, that every morning brings new exciting challenges and every night a feeling of pride in what my puppy has achieved.”

Guide Dogs is looking for more volunteers to join their puppy raising scheme in Dorset. If you have the time to dedicate to the development and socialisation of a future guide dog, this could be the perfect volunteering role for you.

To learn more about becoming a Puppy Raiser and to apply, visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppyraiser or contact Claire.Rossall@guidedogs.org.uk

You can also join one of our free virtual information events on Puppy Raising – the next session is on 20th August from 12-1.30pm, [Email Claire](mailto:Claire.Rossall@guidedogs.org.uk) for details.



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SUMMER FETE

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CORFE CASTLE**

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST
Noon until 4:00 PM

- Refreshments
- Cake Stall
- Trips Up the Tower
- Childrens Games
- Barrel Organ
- Stalls
- Bouncy Castle
- Raffle

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Pioneer View

Dear friends,

In these uncertain times with wars around the world and the rising cost of living on our doorsteps, the search for hope continues as we pass through the storms of life. Hope or having a positive state of mind that things might change for the better, is the antidote that gets us through.

There are signs of clear blue skies poking through the loneliness and despair that these uncertain times bring. With all these changes on the horizon I am reminded of the words of the song "You will never walk alone"

**When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark**

**At the end of a storm
There's a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark**

**Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown**

**Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone**

You'll never walk alone

**Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone**

These words always resonate with me, and the message is simple, hope is always there if we search for it. So, let us, together, walk through these uncertain times.

A quote to ponder as we as we travel the road less travelled

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."
Demond Tutu

Go well.

Peter

Chair Growing compassionate communities

Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

It has been wonderful to see so much sunshine over the last month, although this brought its own challenges to the garden. Judging just how much water to give to avoid either under or overwatering can be difficult, and my garden certainly had more than its fair share of powdery mildew and aphids. Still the roses seem to be particularly beautiful this year.

In June we visited the gardens of Anderson Manor, a Grade I listed Jacobean manor house, nestled in over three hectares of Grade II listed gardens at the end of a tree-lined avenue. They are privately owned but we were privileged to be able to explore on a private visit and there was so much to enjoy: a topiary garden, a bowling green, old hedges, herbaceous borders, a gravelled ladies' walk, a walled garden within which is a gravel garden, parterre and an orchard, a lime walk, and woodland.

Our visit to West Green House – The Opera Garden, in Hampshire, on 3 July will be covered in the August notes. West Green House has a series of unique, connected gardens and features. Highlights include The Orangery, Grotto, Paradise Garden, Water Garden, Greenhouses, a Lake, an Edible Hedge, the contemporary Garden of Five Bridges and their famous Walled Garden.

There are no meetings in the village hall during July and August and our first meeting in the autumn will take place on September 4th. with a talk by Ellen Rignell from a new Dorset seed company, Winnow Farm Seeds, on saving seed and growing resilient plants. We look forward to seeing you then. We wish you lots of Happy Gardening. Enjoy your Summer.

If you are interested in Gardens and Gardening and would like to join a friendly local group, please get in touch with Chris on 01929 480095 or 07815 058880, cclarkecorfe@gmail.com. We love to welcome new members. Meetings, with interesting talks and speakers, plant sales, seed swaps and social events usually take place in the Village Hall, Corfe Castle, at 7.45 pm for coffee and starting the programme at 8pm. Non-members are welcome to join us for £3 if they are interested in a particular talk.

Chris Clarke
For the Committee.

PurbeckParkys,

PurbeckParkys - Please note **change of time:**

Still meeting on the Third Wednesday of each month at the Swanage Cricket Club but for the summer

we start at 2pm and end at 4pm

July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15

If you need more information please contact me: david.gynes@parkinsons-uk.goassemble.com



Corfe Crafters

Wednesday 9.00am to 12 midday

Contact Cheryl - 07745242511



Harmony Rocks Choir

Just a gentle reminder that our Songs & Scones summer concert is on Wednesday afternoon 16 July at 2pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage. Tickets are £12.00 including a cream tea. You can buy your tickets from Sue Smith 01929 477148 or emailthequilter@yahoo.com and from Anne Elford 01929 288325 or anne.elford10@icloud.com. We hope you can join us for this happy summer's afternoon entertainment.

National Garden Scheme Gardens Open for Charity **Knitson Old Farmhouse and The Stables**

Knitson, Corfe Castle BH20 5JB

17th & 18th July

12-5pm Adults £8 Children free.

Both gardens are opening together under one admission price.

Refreshments available.

More information at ngs.org.uk

Or phone Becca 07553877947

Dorset Button Morris

Dorset Button Morris will be dancing out during this coming summer. During our dancing we will collection for a local charity. This year we are collection for Dorset Search and Rescue.

We are aways short of dancers so if your interested in joining us please contact any dancer or e mail buttonrapper@gmail.com or mctyrer@gmail.com

Please check our website for any updates on dates and timings. <http://www.brmm.org.uk/DorsetButtonsMorris/>

Date	Time	Location
2/7/2025	8pm	The Oak Dewlish
9/7/2025	8pm	Greyhound Winterborne Kingston
16/7/2025	8pm	Countryman Winfrith
23/7/2025	8pm	The Ship Wool
30/7/2025	8pm	The Antelope Hazelbury Bryant
6/8/2025	8pm	Square and Compass Worth Matravers
13/8/2025	7.30pm	Swanage Sea Front
20/8/2025	7.30pm	Durley Chine
27/8/2025	7.30pm	Bankes Arms Studland
3/9/2025	7.30pm	Wareham Quay
6/9/2025	All day	Swanage Folk festival

Karl Thomson – Singer from Langton Matravers

Nineteen-year-old Singer-songwriter & Musician 'KARL THOMSON' from Langton Matravers, Corfe Castle released his first Music EP this month called 'SEED OF THE TAME' which contains 4 tracks and is available to listen to on all social media platforms!

Karl music is a blend of Vibrant Rock, Folk & Alternative styles.

[Karl Thomson - Topic - YouTube](#)

[Karl Thomson - Topic - YouTube](#)

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www.youtube.com



More about the Siege of Corfe Castle

We have received an interesting note from Michael Bond about the Lawrence family and the siege as a follow up to the article in last month's edition:-

The piece by the National Trust about the siege of Corfe Castle in 1643 refers to "a Captain Lawrence". This is an inadequate reference to the leading member of perhaps the most prominent family in the Isle of Purbeck at the time after the Bankes family. The family still own property in Corfe Castle.

In 1643 the Lawrence family owned Creech Grange and I believe Tyneham and the associated lands. They had been there for some time. Look on the wall of Steeple Church where there is a plaque commemorating the marriage of a girl from the family to a Mr Washington whose roots were in Washington, then a small town and now a suburb of Sunderland in Co Durham. The Washington family do not appear to he had a family coat of arms so adopted the Lawrence coat of arms, a stripe and a few stars. A few generations later a young Washington went to seek his fortune in one of the colonies of the emerging British Empire, and one of his descendants was involved in a successful rebellion. The independent country which emerged named its capital city after him and took as its national flag the Lawrence/Washington arms. The national flag is known as the Stars and Stripes.

When the Parliamentary forces ended their siege of the Castle they seem to have taken out their frustration on the home of "Captain Lawrence", and ransacked Creech Grange. In order to restore their home the Lawrences borrowed money from the Bond family, who although supporters of Parliament had done well financially out of the Civil War and the Restoration. When the Lawrences could not repay the debt, the Bonds foreclosed and seized Creech Grange.

Michael Bond

Stephen Silcock

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CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

I'M NOT THE RELIGIOUS SORT!

“No thanks, go and talk to someone else. I’m not the religious sort.”

Well, that doesn’t surprise me. I have heard this said to me lots of times over the years. And my answer has always been...’neither am I religious’ But I am a Christian and being a Christian is not being religious.

When I think of religion, I think of cold stone churches, Gothic architecture, the stained-glass windows, the candles, the expensive robes. And quite frankly, what has all that got to do with being a Christian? After all, Jesus managed without any of that, didn’t He?

The earliest Christians were keen to stress, that they had no temple, no altar and no priests. They were simply not the religious sort!

What they did have, was a person, who knew them, loved them and never left them. They had a living personal knowledge of the God who had made them. When you have that, you do without rituals and ceremonies.

So, prayer becomes not a liturgy, but a conversation with a friend. Worship is not a tedious ceremony that you go through on a Sunday. But the heartfelt admiration of a fantastic God and the natural outpouring of love to His Son. Listening to the sermon, is not being bored for ten minutes, but hearing the Bible explained and applied to our lives.

Becoming a Christian after you have been religious is a tremendous change and rather like opening the windows of a stuffy room and blowing all the cobwebs away. This is something I have experienced myself personally, because I came out of Religion when I was 38yrs old..

That’s why Christians don’t need especially ornate churches, for where two or three came together, the presence of God was there with them. They don’t need priests, because Jesus had opened up the way to God. They don’t need candles, to symbolise the light of God’s truth, they have it in their hearts and minds. They don’t need set prayers or written out words in books, because they can speak to God from their hearts.

Christianity is for people who are not religious. If you insist on being religious, you will find it almost impossible to become a Christian, because your religion will get in the way.

That’s what happened to the Pharisees (the religious leaders of Jesus’ day). Their religion kept them away from Jesus, just like it does with many today. So, take another look at the real thing.

Don’t let your dislike of religion keep you away from Jesus.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”

Matthew 7:13-14

SUNDAY SERVICES

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Summer of Festivals

After dipping our toe in the water, so to speak, last year by attending the Love It Local Food & Drink Festival at Corfe Castle, we're back again this summer with a flurry of local events. Come along and meet some of the team who will be representing us at these fantastic events:



Food & Drink Festival - Corfe Castle

Back for the second year running on 12th & 13th July and this time serving up a selection of Smash Burgers

Swanage Carnival

Making our inaugural appearance at the brilliant Swanage Carnival and serving up a range of exciting flatbreads.



Harman Cross Village Fete

We're honoured to be invited to this prestigious local event and will be bringing our hog roast along, sourced from GWR Holes in Kimmeridge.

Sawmill Restaurant

Don't forget to visit us at site for the new summer menu. Come and join us to dine in the Sawmill restaurant or al fresco in the courtyard.

CONTACT US: 01929 481066

ENQUIRIES@KINGSTONCOUNTRYCOURTYARD.COM



Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service

If British Summer Time and warmer days mean you will be visiting one of Dorset and Wiltshire's local heathlands or outdoors spaces to enjoy the wildlife and wilderness, please take a picnic.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) is encouraging residents and visitors to bring a picnic and not a barbecue when out and about. Warmer and breezy weather increases the risk of accidental or deliberate fires in our open spaces.

A wildfire can move at speeds faster than an Olympic sprinter, so we are asking everyone to follow some simple steps:

- If you are enjoying our open spaces when a fire occurs, get to a safe place and call the fire service on 999 immediately, with as much information as possible.
- Consider downloading and using What3Words to identify your exact location.
- You can also help by reporting any anti-social behaviour on our heaths and open spaces to the Police on 101.

Landowners and land managers are also advised, where possible, to be prepared for fires and ensure that fire breaks are cut and well maintained with any cut grasses and vegetation removed from the site.

For more information on heath fires and countryside safety, please visit our website [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Heath fires and countryside safety](#)





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Kimmeridge News

Play At The Bay - 1st August – Kimmeridge Bay

Miracle Theatre is back on the road this summer with a new open-air production of Shakespeare's dazzling comedy Twelfth Night, a joyous, chaotic tale where love knows no boundaries!

It is the story of twins Sebastian and Viola who are separated from one another by sea and storm. Shipwrecked and without her brother for the first time, Viola finds herself washed up in Illyria, a playground for the hedonistic and lovesick elite. What unravels next sends the story spinning into a tangle of unrequited love, mistaken identities, hilarious awkwardness, cruelty, and mischief.

Blending Miracle's playful spirit with the Bard's wit, expect plenty of belly laughs, heartache, gloriously outrageous characters, and a contemporary twist proving once and for all that it's hearts, not parts, that truly matter!

Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the county's rural arts charity.

Site open at 6pm with BBQ, Bar and Hot Drinks available (cash payments).

Bring your own chair/blanket to sit on. Assistance dogs only. Recommended 7+

Standard Ticket £16, Under 18s £8,

Family ticket £40 (admits 2 adults, 2 U18s)

Book online (preferred) at <https://artsreach.co.uk/event/twelfth-night-miracle>

Telephone booking: Debbie Evans 07879 473693 or Rose Clarke 07713 845599

Email enquiries: villagehall@churchknowle.com

Kimmeridge Keildh

Our last barn dance was on Friday 13th June – with live music from Arish Mel with Malcolm Churchill calling. We had a great time, including fine views from the balcony of the thunder & lightning! Since we started in 2012 we have now raised £7020 for the Village Playground, Hall & Museum. We take a break now until 12th September

Steve & Helen Earwicker

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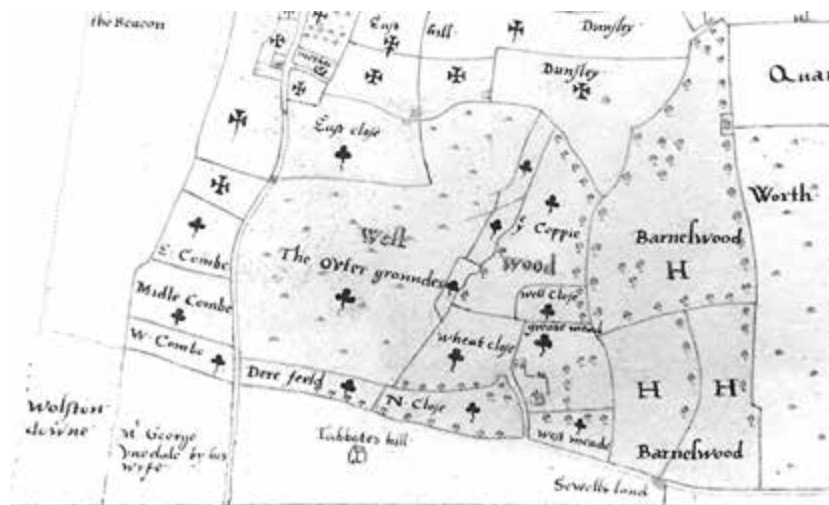
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Westwood Farm

Westwood Farm is a property owned by the National Trust lying to the east of Tabbits Hill Lane. The farmhouse has been dated to the 16th century. Then it lay in the parish of Langton Wallis and a court roll of 1543 records 3 houses here (only one is shown on Treswell's map 40 years later) with a garden, 2 orchards, 152 acres of land and pasture for 140 sheep, 60 large cattle and 2 horses. Barneswood was let separately. Unusually for this area, the farm was compact with all the fields adjoining each other.



Westwood Farm in 1585.

George Nightingale held Westwood Farm . 'H' refers to Wilkswood Farm tenanted by the Havellands

In the early 17th century, John Simons was tenant but by May 1673, the Farris of Swanage took out the lease on the farm for 100 years, however, Henry Farr surrendered this lease in 1712. By 1725, Christopher Summers had taken out the tenancy of the farm with the first of the Gover family taking over the property in 1742. From then on, the Govers were tenants until the early 19th century. The farm was now nearly 180 acres (of which 51 acres belonged to Barneswood and were let with Westwood). The number of sheep able to feed on Aylewood Down had been reduced to 120. It was noted that the land was rather undulating, and working it was laborious, which made a livelihood here rather difficult.



Westwood Farm in 1779

Not much had changed between 1585 and 1779 although 'The Outer Groundes' had now been divided up into smaller plots with 'Lime Kiln Close' added (the chalk pit lay to the north on the downland). Tree groves were also planted on over 10 acres of land. Part of the wood still remains today.

Louise Haywood



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My Pottery Studio is part of a lovely arts & crafts community with an exhibition area & lots of car parking. I'm usually there 9.30am-2.30pm Monday-Friday during term time... you're very welcome to drop in.

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What's On at Harmans Cross Village Hall

MOVIE NIGHT – TUESDAY 8 JULY

LES MISERABLES

A different genre of film for July from your Movie Night Committee. This is the 2012 epic period musical film with a stunning all-star cast – Hugh Jackman as Jean Valjean, Russell Crowe as Javert, and the amazing Anne Hathaway as the tragic Fantine, among many others. It's mesmerising and with our amazing sound system will be absolutely stunning. We have the trailer available to view on our website at www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk. Doors and bar open at 7pm, and the film starts at 7.30pm.

MOVIE NIGHT – TUESDAY 12 AUGUST

BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY

A date for your diaries – Bridget Jones is coming to HXVH in August – not to be missed.

HXVH FETE AND SHOW

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25 AUGUST

It's that time of year again and we are already preparing for the Fete. As always, we will have Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Books, and pre-loved clothes and bags so please don't hesitate to have a rummage around for anything you think might be deserving of a new home. We have a box awaiting your kind donations alongside the garage at the side of the village hall – many thanks.

OUR REGULAR EVENTS

All our usual clubs and regular events (see website and calendar for details) and you will be welcomed. A special final mention as always to Coffee Junction on July 10 and 24 at 10.30am, and Church at HXVH on Sunday 20 July at 6pm.

AND FINALLY – SECRETARY TO HXVH

With our current Secretary planning to relocate to be closer to family, we are searching for someone to join the team at the village hall, to help and support in the further development of the great sense of community we are all trying to engender. If you are interested, please contact Alison Clough at alison.an.clough@btinternet.com

Alison & the HX team



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

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

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

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

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REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HALL

Monday

- Ballett – Miranda Hindson telephone 07919441836 6pm – 8pm
mjballer@gmail.com
- Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00 bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com
- Shotokan Karate – www.warehamskc.co.uk

Tuesday

- Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00 – bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com
- Walking Netball 10 – 12 am
- Pilates – Alex Moore telephone 07536103364 almoore1@live.co.uk
- Sandford and Wareham WI contact susiedean42@gmail.com

Wednesday

- Model Railway Group Peter.c.hollis@gmail.com

Thursday

- Shotokan Karate www.warehamskc.co.uk

Friday

- Weekly Health Qigong Fitness 9.30 & 10.30 am – Penny Youssef
07969925502
- Short Mat Bowls @ 14:00 – bowlingbarbara2023@outlook.com

Church Knowle Parish Council meetings take place at Furzebrook Village Hall February, April, June, August, October and December 2024 (2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6.30).

January, March, May, July, September, November 2024 meetings will be held at Church Knowle Village Hall (2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6.30)



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CORFE CASTLE CHARITY

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Want to retrain for a new career?

..... perhaps the Corfe Castle Charity can help!

Grants and "no-interest" loans are available to help
with
the costs of travel, books, equipment and living
expenses

The Trustees of the Corfe Castle Charity will consider
applications for assistance from people living within
the Parish of Corfe Castle (which includes Kingston).

The Trustees will also consider applications for
assistance in connection with the following :

- Sickness and disability
- Domestic and Family expenses
- Grants to organisations

For further information please contact:

The Clerk to the Trustees,

Mrs. Mandy Meaker

2 Battlemead

Corfe Castle BH20 5ER

Tel: 01929 480873

Corfe Valley News - Summary of Income & Expenditure **Year ended 31 March 2025**

Income		
2024/2025		2023/2024
11959.00	Adverts	9561.00
4204.00	Organisations/Societies/Donations	5700.60
2449.86	Individual Donations	3856.90
£18613.28	Total	£ 19118.50

Expenditure		
16780.00	Printing	15606.00
448.18	Stationery & post	359.55
£17228.14	Total	£15965.55
1324.00	Accrual for March costs paid in April	1322.00
£1385.14	Net surplus (deficit)	£1830.95

Stephen Dru Drury (Editor)

Advertising and other Charges

The Corfe Valley News is a non-profit making organisation run entirely by volunteers. We therefore rely on advertisers, organisations and societies to contribute to the costs of production. Our current charging rates are shown below. We are also greatly helped by the donations made by individuals each year. We send out donation envelopes each spring. Donations can be made by BACS payment: the Sort Code and Account numbers are provided below.

	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Full Page	£35.00	£94.00	£180.00	£335.00
Half Page	£22.00	£60.00	£100.00	£185.00
Third of a Page	£14.00	£40.00	£73.00	£135.00
Quarter of a Page	£12.00	£32.00	£60.00	£105.00

Payment by BACS: Sort Code 30-99-12 Account Number 00864273

Postal Address:

Karen Spooner, Meadowside, 129 East Street, Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5EG

Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre	The Pre School
Each	10.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning	Springwell Close
Each	2.30 - 4.30	Whist and tea	Springwell Close
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Village Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre	The Pre School
Each	9.15 – 10.45am	& 11am – 12 Yoga	Langton Scout Hut
Each	9.30 - 11.30	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	10.30-noon	Parent & Child	C C Village Hall
Each	6.15-7.45pm	Brownies (term-time)	C C Village Hall
Each	6.30 – 7.30pm	Adult	C C Village Hall
		Ballroom Dance	Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7.30pm	CK parish Council	Odd months Furzebrook VH; even CK

WEDNESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre	The Pre School
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.00am-12.00	Corfe Crafters	C.C. Village Hall
Term time,	5.30- 6.45pm jnrs 6.45-8.00pm snrs	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
Each	8.30	Poker	Corfe Castle Club

THURSDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre	The Pre School
Each	10.00 - 11.30am	Busy Bees	CC Primary School
3rd	11.30am	Probus Club	Mortons Manor
3rd	7 pm	CC Environment Gp	Mortons Manor
Each	6.30 – 8.00 pm	www.purbeckyoga.com	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall

FRIDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre	The Pre School
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Classes	Furzebrook Studios
Each	8.30pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club

SATURDAY			
1st	10.30am	Village Coffee	C C Village Hall

SUNDAY			
Each	1.00pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club

Please send any alterations to this list to the Editor, at the address in the front. Whilst care is taken to establish our advertisers are bona fide, readers are advised to take their own precautions before entering into any agreement