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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



DECEMBER 2025

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

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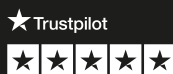
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Corfe Valley News

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 524 December 2025

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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

Here we are once again in December and running up to Christmas. As usual there are many activities to whet our appetites in the area.

The Christmas lights have gone up; congratulations to everyone involved. They do so much to brighten up the village during these dark and short days. Thank you to the dedicated group who do this every year.

Santas sleigh will be going around the village on the 19th and 20th and on the 20th there will also be carol singing in the square.

As always at this time of year our thanks go to everyone involved with the production and distribution of the CVN. Without you all it just would not happen, so thank you very much.

Also, all at the CVN wish all our readership a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

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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Contents

6-8	Corfe Castle Parish Council
8	Who to Contact When
9	Corfe Castle Environmental Group
11	Double Act Drama Group
14-16	National Trust
17	Corfe Community Kitchen
18-19	Church Knowle Parish Council
22	Corfe Castle School and Preschool
23	Corfe Castle Club
27	News from the Library
28	Corfe Castle Surgery and PPG
31	Aquarius
35	Corfe Castle Village Hall
43-45	Purbeck Passage Houses
46-47	Centre Page Calendar
48	Useful Phone Numbers
49-53	Church of England
58-59	Chapel on the Green
60-64	Notices and Thanks
78-79	Purbeck Puffins
81	Harmans Cross Village Hall
82-84	Kimmeridge News
85	Furzebrook Village Hall
89	Corfe Castle Charity
90	Advertising Information
91	Regular Events in Corfe Castle and environs

NOVEMBER MEETING FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

As autumn deepens and mist settles over the Purbeck Hills, the Parish Council gathered on Monday 10th November 2025 in the Village Hall to discuss the matters that shape daily life in Corfe Castle, from community safety and village upkeep to heritage preservation and local engagement.

Community Voices and Volunteering: One resident attended the meeting, highlighting the important work of the Community Speed Watch team, which now operates with fewer volunteers than in the past. The Council expressed gratitude to those continuing this valuable service and agreed to help recruit new members.

Reports and Updates: Dorset Councillor's Report: A detailed update was received, including the recent outcome of the Sandbanks Ferry Inquiry. The Inspector approved toll increases with modifications, maintaining bulk ticket discounts and rejecting the proposed road toll, a positive result for local residents. Dorset's housing land supply was also discussed, with implications for future planning decisions.

National Trust Update: Representatives from the National Trust shared exciting news about 'Purbeck Goes Wild 2026', a initiative involving young people in learning about local ecology. The Council thanked the National Trust for their continued engagement with the community.

God's Acre Charges: The Copncil reviewed the level of charges for burials, memorial stones etc as it is clear that the current income will not fund long term maintenance and more would have to be paid by Parish tax payers . The Council resolved to set out charges at a level comparable with Swanage charges. This will mean a substantial increase from next April. The budget for 2026-7 will be considered again at the December meeting.

Policies, Safety and Maintenance: A comprehensive review of Council policies and risk assessments was undertaken and approved. To view any policy or risk assessment please visit our website.

Scouts' St George's Day Parade: The Parish Council received a request for use of the car park in West Street to enable the Scout's to hold a St George's Day Parade on Sunday 26th April 2026. The Parish Council agreed to apply to Dorset Council on their behalf for the free use of West Street Car Park for Scouts, their families, and others taking part in the parade.

Highways: School Safety Signage: The Clerk will ask Dorset Council to replace the existing "Crossing Ahead" signs with clearer "School" or "Children Crossing" signage.

Festival Traffic: The Parish Council will again raise its concerns with Dorset Council about the impact of festival traffic on residents when festival goers leave. Pavement Parking: Following local feedback, the Parish Council agreed to contact homeowners along a problem stretch to encourage considerate parking and prevent obstruction of pavements. Please could everyone take care when parking, and think about others. "Can a wheelchair user or carer with a pram, safely pass my car?"

Looking Ahead: Councillors and the Clerk noted a busy schedule of upcoming meetings with Dorset and Purbeck partners, covering topics from transport to youth engagement. Preparations also continue for projects such as community transport, and the Reflection Garden at Gods Acre.

Planning and Licensing Matters: The Parish Council reviewed several local planning applications, and after carefully considering the impact on neighbours and the historic character of the village agree to submit the following comments:

Application No: P/FUL/2025/06049 .Location: Corfe Castle Sports Field Hollands Close Corfe Castle BH20 5HE. Proposal: Erection of outdoor gym equipment and new gate in existing fence enclosure Comment: No objection.

Application No: P/LBC/2025/06169 & P/FUL/2025/06168, Location: 42 East Street Corfe Castle BH20 5EQ, Proposal: Removal of temporary hoarding to footpath, remove remaining sections of existing failed retaining wall, construct new blockwork diaphragm wall clad with reused stone flags., Comment: As the property lies within a conservation area and the internal side of the wall is visible to passers-by, the Parish Council wishes to record its objection to the application and requests that both sides of the wall be faced with Purbeck Stone, not just the external face.

Application No: P/HOU/2025/06048, Location: Applecross Colletts Close Corfe Castle BH20 5HG, Proposal: Replacement of an existing shed with a Malvern Hopton Summerhouse. Comment: Corfe Castle Parish Council has no objection: This appears to be a re-siting of the proposed summerhouse. Previously it was on the boundary with the adjacent property, replacing an existing shed, but it now appears that they want to put it in the corner of the plot. This is arguably a better location for it.

Next Council Meeting: Monday 8th December 2025, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. The meeting starts with a public session, giving residents the chance to have their say.

As we wrap up our November Council updates, we wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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,
Website: www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Environmental Group Update

A FEW TIPS FOR A GREENER CHRISTMAS



SECRET SANTA

Instead of buying friends or family individual presents, opt for a Secret Santa gift exchange. Each person is allocated someone to buy for, either by drawing names out of a hat, or by using an online tool. Everyone agrees to the budget for each present and provides their wish list. This can be a lot less stressful than trying to buy for lots of people, and as the budget is higher, people can include on their wish list a present they'd really love to receive. It should also result in less unwanted gifts, thereby reducing waste.

TABLE DECORATIONS

As many Christmas crackers are not recyclable and the gifts inside are often made of plastic and/or thrown away after one use, why not try making your own? In my family, we organise a lovely sociable pre-Christmas crafts day, and as part of this we make our Christmas crackers. We use scrap materials (loo roll cores, used wrapping paper or crepe paper, old ribbons, etc) and just buy the snaps and little gifts to go in them, which ticks both the money saving and green boxes. Alternatively, you can buy a cracker making kit (e.g. Poole based The Cracker Company has a lot of different options).

CHRISTMAS TREES

From a green viewpoint, real trees are preferable to artificial trees, ideally one with roots you can look after and use each year! Otherwise, after the big day, trees can either be home composted, put in your garden waste bin, taken to the tip or you can support a local charity by arranging for them to collect it for a donation – e.g. Lewis-Manning Hospice Care offer this, book online or ring 01202 708470. If your preference is for an artificial tree, the recommendation is to use it for at least 10 years, so try to buy a better quality one.

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Get in touch: Parish Clerk (Michelle) -
environmentgroup@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: "Corfe Castle Environmental Group".
Core Members: Helen, Tom, David, Luke & Richard



THE BANKES ARMS HOTEL, CORFE CASTLE
PUB & RESTAURANT WITH ROOMS

CHRISTMAS 2025 PARTY MENU

STARTERS

Artichoke and Hazelnut Soup, Chestnut, Winter Truffle

Chicken & Duck Liver Parfait with Chutney & Toasted Sourdough

Beetroot & Gin cured Salmon, Avocado Puree, Citrus Crème Fraiche

Warm Winter Vegetable Salad, Dorset Blue Vinny, Walnuts

MAINS

Slow Cooked Beef Cheeks in Stout, Creamy Mustard Mash, Maple Roasted Carrots

Roast Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing & Gravy (Traditional Garnish)

Seared Trout, Bubble & Squeak, Dill Hollandaise, Greens

Roasted Butternut Risotto, Goats Cheese, Rocket, Pumpkin Seeds

DESSERT

Blackberry Parfait, Honeycomb, Blackberry Puree, Meringue

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce

Sticky Banoffee Pudding, Vanilla Ice Cream

British Cheese & Biscuits with Chutney, Grapes & Apple

Tea or Coffee & Warm Mince Pies £4.50

Two Course £29.50

Three Course £35.50

Please inform a member of staff regarding any allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements before placing your order.

All our food is prepared freshly to order in a kitchen where allergens including nuts, gluten, celery, shellfish, mustard and sulphates may be present.

For parties over 6 people, a deposit of £15pp will be required at the time of booking and an optional 12.5% service charge will be added to your bill.

Give us a call to book on 01929 288188
or email: info@bankesarmshotel.co.uk www.bankesarmshotel.co.uk



Double Act wishes everyone a truly Happy Christmas!

At the time of **writing** this our Pantomime is in the final traumatic stages of rehearsal! The stage is yet to be constructed, costumes finished, lighting set up, and everything prepared for you, our loyal supporters, to enjoy our latest production of 'Alice in Cuckoo Land', Paulette's debut as Director.

At the time you are **reading** this, our Pantomime has been and gone. The proscenium arch and stage have been dismantled and hidden away for another year, and normal Village Hall activities can be resumed. We thank all regular Village Hall users for their co-operation when Double Act's annual production takes over for an extended week, and sincerely hope everyone considers it worthwhile!

So, was it fun? Did Alice and her friends manage to sort out the evil Queen of Hearts? Was Christmas finally allowed to happen, and did the Hatter and Old Mother Wobbly finally tie the knot and live happily ever after?

Looking to the future, Double Act's programme for 2026 is beginning to take shape. Our AGM with an entertaining presentation on 'Things that went Wrong!' about mishaps on stage will be on Monday March 9th, and 'The Cat and The Canary' will be on stage November 26th to 28th. This will be Dougal Dixon's first outing as Director of our main production, and we expect some surprises!

Other Double Act events during 2026 will of course be flagged up in the CVN and elsewhere as the year progresses. Remember, new members are always welcome, in any capacity – there is lots of fun stuff to get stuck into in a group like ours, not just the obvious bit of being on stage. Join in if you can!

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!



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Nature updates from the National Trust

Have a really wild Christmas!

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



Countryside, where we feature the wonderful wildlife of our area.

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

Photo: Purbeck Natural History Forum

Hamza's Hidden Wild Isles

Don't miss this stunning nature series on BBC iPlayer. Wildlife cameraman Hamza Yassin takes us on a tour of the hidden nature of the UK. In the first episode alone (spring), there was incredible footage including the courtship displays of great crested grebes, hares boxing, nightingales singing (they have a repertoire of up to 1,000 different phrases learned from other birds) and numerous adders curled up together to bask. And guess what? All these can be seen here in Purbeck!



Photo: BBC

Hamza ends the first episode with a note about the decline of songbirds, and the need for scrub and 'untidy' countryside for birds and other wildlife to thrive. Hear, hear!

Slowing the flow

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

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



Photo: Cathy Lewis

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

Jewels of the common



Scarlet Wax Caps. Photo courtesy Sophie Pain

Have you seen the rainbow colours on Corfe Common, where waxcaps have emerged through the grassland? These mushrooms have shiny caps in vibrant jewel colours of violet, yellow, green and pink. There are about 40 species of waxcap in the UK, usually found in areas with short, grazed vegetation, or where the ground has been disturbed.

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



News from the Castle

We had a great October half term, with families enjoying our ever-popular teddy zip wire and pumpkin display. At the end of the week, we donated the pumpkins to Margaret Green Animal Rescue and the animals including chickens and Thelma the pig had a feast.



Photo: Charlotte Taylor

Christmas is nearly upon us and we're thrilled to team up with the festivities committee again and welcome Father Christmas to the tea rooms for the village lights on December 6.

The castle will soon feature natural decorations from the Purbeck Estate, firepits, and marshmallow toasting. Monty and Matilda Mouse will be making a return and ask families to guess where the mice have travelled this year from themed displays around the ruins.

Other events include:

Christmas crafts | 20-23 December | 10am-3pm

Family crafting activities in the lodge to make something festive.

Winter Solstice | Sunday 21 December | 7am-10pm.

Join us on the shortest day to watch the sunrise over East Hill, with hot drinks and snacks from Goat Coffee's GoatBox.

Winter lights | Saturday 13 and Friday 19 December | 5pm-7.15pm

The castle will be open late for our popular winter lights events and we'll be encouraging visitors to travel by bus or train.



Corfe Community Kitchen Soup 'n Pud

**A choice of 2 soups and
2 puds with custard**

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday December 6th '25

12.30 – 1.45pm

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

Free Lunch

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

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

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

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

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

Once again we must thank The Village Bakery for donating the bread rolls and also all the lovely folk that donate food and money to the cause. It really helps us ring the menu changes and to follow our aim of using up food that might otherwise have gone to waste. We hope that Christmas brings you good friendship and company such as we provide for all, at our Soup 'n' Puds.

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

Church Knowle Parish Council – November Meeting

The November meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 6:30pm. It was attended by eight members of the Council (Cllr Burt in the chair) and two members of the public.

Public Discussion

The results of the traffic survey that had been made available to parishioners who requested them were discussed. It was felt that the decision not to impose any speed limits on the Grange or Furzebrook Roads was the wrong one. It was argued that this should be revisited in light of the increased tonnage and frequency of heavy good vehicles using the road and the large increase in tourist numbers going to the Blue Pool. Residents have been campaigning for over 30 years to have a speed limit and, while mercifully there have been no serious accidents, near misses are a frequent occurrence leaving many residents fearful of walking along the road. While there were only a few vehicles measured exceeding the speed limit this is because the speed limit is 60mph. There are however a significant number of vehicles exceeding the proposed speed limit of 30mph.

It was also observed that there are often cycling and running events routed through the parish and that these are on narrow roads with a present speed limit of 60mph. A reduction in the speed limit has obvious safety advantages.

The Arne Parish Council is continuing to push for a speed limit and Church Knowle is fully in support of their campaign.

Tender for Firewood

Two offers for the firewood from the felled ash tree in the playing field have been received and the higher one of £200 was accepted. This tree will be replaced in the next couple of months.

There were no planning applications to consider.

The New Inn

Sadly the New Inn is now closed and the owners, Punch Taverns, are advertising for a new pub landlord. This is the only pub in a parish that has no school, post office or shop and it is hoped that it will re-open.

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.

Change of Chair

Cllr Derek Burt stepped down as chairman and Cllr Ian Gilbert was voted in as the new chairman.

The meeting finished at 8:15 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Furzebrook Village Hall at 6:30 on 9th December 2025.

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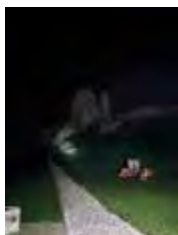




Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School



Over the past two months, we've been very active within the community with lots of exciting events. These included the UKS2 Sleepover in the school hall, complete with a movie, pizza, and a night walk through the castle grounds, followed by hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows.



The school also joined St. Edward's Church for both the Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day services. As part of the tradition, the children named and placed the crosses around Tommy in the church grounds.



With Christmas quickly approaching, the school is buzzing with activity. Our Christmas Fair will take place on Friday, 5th December, followed by the Nativity performances the following week. We will also be holding the KS2 Carol Service at the church, and singers from the school choir will join the Church for their Carol Service on Sunday, 14th December.



Join our Pre-school!

Spaces available for 2 to 4 year olds with up to 30 hours government funding available.

Call or email us today to find out more.
Corfecastle.office@coastalpartnership.co.uk
 01929 480 428

From all the team at Corfe Castle CE Primary School and Pre-School we thank you for your continuing support.



Corfe Castle Club

Club Facilities

- Large function room
- Free Wi-Fi, Pool Table, Dartboards and Table Games
- Garden with seating and 2 Boules Pitches
- Large screen TV for showing major sporting and other key events . We also have : 
- Chubby's rolls & pies
- Families welcome

Opening Times

Mon/Tues: 12.00 - 2.30pm & 6.00 - 8.00pm
 Weds/Thurs/Fri: 12.00 - 2.30pm & 6.00 - 11.00pm
 Saturday: All day 12.00 - 11.00pm
 Sunday: All day 12.00 - 7.00pm

Weekly Events

Poker Night:	Wed 8.30pm
One Card Bingo:	Fri 8.30pm
Meat Draw:	Sat evening
One Card Bingo:	Sun 1.00pm

Forthcoming Events

13th Dec - 9.00pm - Live Music
 'Fever Street'
 20th Dec - 7.30pm - Christmas Draw
 Come and join us for New Year's Eve

Membership application forms are available from the Club Steward. Annual Membership is £10.
 Local beers, ciders and lager at very reasonable prices.
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The Castle Inn



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News from The Castle

December is upon us and the Christmas feeling is in the air. We do love seeing our lovely little village decorated for the festive season - makes it feel all the more magical. We have lots in offer this month, including Christmas Eve festivities & New Years Eve Around the World in 7 Courses. See all the details below:

New Years Eve – Around the World in 7 Courses

Our infamous New Year's Eve night is returning for another year! 7 different dishes for 7 different countries, this fun-filled evening is sure to see your new year is celebrated in the best possible way. Bookings are being taken now, so secure your table today.

Christmas Eve Suppers

We'll be getting ready for Christmas Day around a warm fire with delicious food & Mike's famous Eggnog on Christmas Eve, and we'd love for you to join us. Bring along the family, and you may even see the big man himself!

Have your Christmas Party with us!

Looking for a cosy, cottage setting in the lovely village of Corfe Castle? Look no further; Our delicious party menu is sure to tickle those taste buds, starting at only £22.95 per person. Gather your friends & family, work colleagues or club members for a memorable evening.

From all the staff at The Castle Inn, we wish you a wonderful Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

NORDEN FARM



Open seven days a week!
Mon-Sat 8:30am - 6pm
Sunday 9:00am – 5pm

Christmas

- **CHRISTMAS EVENT COMING TO NORDEN ON SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**
MORE DETAILS IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE! 😊
- We're encouraging you to get ALL your Christmas gifts & treats from Purbeck's incredible selection of independent shops... including us!
- We have a large selection of Christmas food, drink and gifts
- There's even delicious warmed Mulled Cider to try (& buy!) during Nov. & Dec.

Garden Barn

- We're Purbeck's original Christmas Tree destination seller & have helped you create special Christmas memories for 30+ years
- So let the annual Christmas Tree pilgrimage to Norden begin...
- From Mid Nov, we'll have a huge selection of potted Nordmann, Norway in stock – sawn trees will be with us in late Nov. **FREE LOCAL TREE DELIVERY!**
- We have stands, lights & lovely tree decorations as well.

Farm Shop

- There's a fantastic range of giftware, local spirits, wines & groceries galore!
- Loads of the very best local produce
- Pets: Spoil them from our impressive range of toys & treats

Delivery

- Order by 5pm on Monday to receive your delivery on Tuesday (£5 fee)
All Barn, Pet or Garden supplies are limited to a maximum of 10 bags/bales per delivery. Kerbside delivery
- Check our website or give us a call – The team will be happy to help.

shop@nordenfarm.com - 01929 480098 - www.nordenfarmshop.com

★ SANTA'S SLEIGH and ★ CAROL SINGING IN ★ THE SQUARE. ★



FRI. 19TH AND SAT. 20TH DECEMBER.

Friday 19th. 5 pm - 7 pm. Santa's Sleigh will start at Halves Cottages, then East Street and the side roads.

Saturday 20th. 5 pm Santa's Sleigh will start at West Street turning circle and progress to the square.

Sat. 20th. 6.15 pm - 7.15 pm. Join us for carol singing in the square. Mulled wine and mince pies. Proceeds to Corfe Castle and Swanage and Purbeck good causes.

Swanage & Purbeck
Rotary
Charitable Incorporated
Organisation



News from the Library



Christmas Celebration

A Merry Christmas to all our borrowers, volunteers, and friends!

You are welcome to come to our Christmas celebration. It'll be on Saturday 20th December 10.00-12.00. There will be drinks, nibbles and cake!

AGM - it's that time of year again!

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Corfe Castle Library will be held on January 29th 2026 at 2.00pm in the Bill Carter Room of the village hall. There will be a talk afterwards.

Come in for a free Cuppa and a Biscuit!

During normal opening hours we will continue to be offering a hot drink and biscuits for anyone who would like to come into the library and have a chat (or even quietly 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.

Christmas and New Year opening

The library will be closed Dec 24th and 27th.

At the time of writing (early November) it is unclear whether it will open on the 29th it depends whether any of our dedicated volunteers can cover it! See notices in the library in December for more information.

Corfe Castle Surgery

I would like to start with a very big THANKYOU to all Staff, PPG volunteers and patients for their support during our two Saturday flu clinics in October. It has been another successful campaign, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

With Christmas just around the corner I wanted to confirm this years opening hours as follows; Please make sure that you have enough medication for the festive season!

Monday 22nd December 8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 23rd December 8.30am- 6.30pm
Wednesday 24th December 8.30am -6.30pm
Thursday 25th December **CLOSED**
Friday 26th December **CLOSED**

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th **CLOSED**

Monday 29th December 8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 30th December 8.30am- 6.30pm
Wednesday 31st December 8.30am -6.30pm
Thursday 1st January 2026 **CLOSED**
Friday 2nd January 8.30am- 6.30pm

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Kerry Norman, Practice Manager and Maggie Hardy, PPG Chair.
corfecastleppg@gmail.com



8, West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HD

Phone - 01929 480449

Email - contact@thefoxinnecorfecastle.com

OUR WINTER DEALS

Monday – Friday, 12pm – 5pm

Homemade Pie and Chips / Traditional Fish and Chips
with a FREE dessert

Sunday Evening Roast

Buy one get one free on our roast dinners every Sunday
evening from 6 – 8pm in December.
Advance bookings only.

Steak Night

Wednesday 3rd, 10th, and 17th December from 5.30pm -
X2 Rib Eye steaks, Koffmann's chips, homemade onion
rings, watercress, peppercorn sauce and a bottle of wine.
ALL for £50! Booking essential.

Boxing Day Brunch

We will be serving breakfast from 10am until 12pm on Boxing
Day, with our all day menu then starting at 12pm.

New Year's Eve

Join us to see in the new year with live music from Alex
Hedley as well as The Big Fat Fox Quiz of the Year!
£10 a team (max 6 people). Prizes throughout the night!
Optional meat and cheese boards available to graze on whilst
you enjoy the evening

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The November meeting had lots of audience participation. Tim Dowland organises twelve choirs across Purbeck and Poole and has had many years in the music industry, performing as a child in several west end productions and then touring with a band. He also worked as a voice coach for the BBC programme 'The Voice' where he discovered that he liked helping people improve their singing. He had parts of two songs for us all to sing and didn't think we were too bad (or was he just being polite). They were two different song types, the slower tempo 'Can't help falling in love' and faster tempo 'Mamma Mia'. After some tweaking and suggestions, -the final run through was much improved. Singing definitely made us all feel good.

Future Programme of Speakers

2nd December – Christmas celebrations with entertainment from 'The Fantastic Bow Tie Balloon Man' – Rob Driscoll

6th January - The Bankes Family at Kingston Lacey

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: 2008aquariussladies@gmail.com for more information.



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AT THE SCOTT ARMS KINGSTON

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

EVERYONE WELCOME FROM 8PM + £5 ENTRY PER TEAM

Book your team's table online using DOJO. Simply scan the QR code or visit thescottarms.com. Enter 'Quiz Night' in the special requests box when you book.

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Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The VH Coffee Morning in November raised £132.07 for VH funds. Thanks to all those who attended, especially our loyal team of helpers.

The November 100 club draw was made at the Coffee Morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 20, with member 35 getting second prize £10 and member 86 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 mornings	Surgery Keep Fit
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)

Fund-raising news ... a Grand Fun Christmas Quiz Night and Raffle

The Trustees will be running another Quiz Night to raise funds for the kitchen on the evening of Sunday 14th December. You can enter as a team or as an individual - see advert elsewhere in the CVN.

At half-time there will be a raffle, with some amazing prizes. Amongst them are:

tickets for a Brenscombe Outdoor Centre high ropes course

a bottle of malt whisky

a Hall and Woodhouse meal voucher

Chococo goodies

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

Mortons Manor Festive Menu

Dinner £58

ROAST BUTTERNUT & SAGE SOUP

Mature cheddar croquette

SAUTÉED PRAWNS

Guacamole beignet, lime, coriander, red chilli & tequila salsa

ROSARY GOAT'S CURD SALAD

Pickled baby beetroot, walnut, orange & maple dressing

CONFIT DUCK LEG BON BONS

Apple & calvados purée, pickled ginger



PROSECCO & PASSION FRUIT GRANITÉ



ROAST BREAST OF TURKEY

Pistachio & apricot stuffing, duck fat roasted potatoes, smoked bacon chipolatas, maple glazed parsnips, braised red cabbage, carrot & swede purée, Brussels sprouts, turkey & sage jus, cranberry & orange sauce

FILLET OF STONEBASS

Chia seed crumb, lightly curried crushed potato, iman byaldi, baby spinach, mint yoghurt

CONFIT PORK BELLY

Red cabbage kimchi, tender stem broccoli, gochujang, black sesame & yuzu dressing

STIR FRIED TEMPEH SALAD

Bok choy, Asian coleslaw, sweet soy, ginger & lime dressing



WARM CRANBERRY BAKEWELL TART

Orange curd, tonka bean ice cream

BUTTERMILK PANNA COTTA

Spiced mulled red wine poached pear, almond brittle

WHITE CHOCOLATE, AMARETTO & RAISIN CHEESECAKE

Matcha sable biscuits

STEAMED CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Cranberry & nut granola, brandy sauce

Celebrate with our Festive Menu, available from Saturday 6th December for Lunch & Dinner. This menu is available until Tuesday 23rd December.

Our Festive Menu is also available for Lunch.

Please call our reception team to make your reservation for this festive time.

Please call or email for all reservations and enquiries

01929 480988

stay@mortonsmanor.com

45 East Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5EE



Christmas Bingo BONANZA!

ST EDWARD'S CHURCH

CORFE CASTLE



FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 6.30 for 7PM at
Corfe Castle Village Hall

£10 includes Bingo Books and **Christmas Prizes!**



There will be a Raffle,

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Funds raised will go towards new heating
for St Edward's Church

Tickets: Elizabeth 07703 387189

Corfe Castle Village Hall



Grand Fun Quiz Night Sunday 14th December 2025

7pm for 7.30pm

in aid of the Village Hall Kitchen Improvement Fund

Nibbles will be provided, Drinks & Cheese Straws will be on sale, and also tickets for a grand half-time **Raffle**

quizmaster
Bazza



Come as a team of up to 6
Or come by yourselves to
make up a team on the night


Tickets £5 each or team of 5 or 6 for just £25
at the door or in advance from David on 07590 352219





DON'T FORGET!

**Saturday
6th December 2025**

-  4pm Refreshments
-  5pm Lights switch on

This will be followed by
 **ARRIVAL OF THE REAL
FATHER CHRISTMAS**

The arrival of Father Christmas through the square will be followed by the distribution of gifts at a magical event inside the National Trust Tea Room **BY TICKET ONLY**.

- This event will only be advertised in the CVN
- This is in order to avoid a repeat of crowd problems
- To help in this endeavour we respectfully request that you do not share details on social media

Please note!

As a local organisation we focus on local schoolchildren (up to end of year 6, i.e. up to 12 years of age), their younger siblings, plus local children, grandchildren, etc., who are visiting our local residents.

- If you have a child at Corfe Castle School or Pre-school, tickets for your family will be made available by the school... **NO NEED TO CONTACT US**.
- If you require tickets, for local child(ren) who attend school elsewhere or if you live in the village and have child visitors, please email ccfestivities@gmail.com with your name, address, number of tickets and age of children. *Only if you do not have email, and cannot ask someone to email on your behalf, as a last resort phone 07584 079401.*



Happy Christmas

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

10am - 4pm Free Admission

Handcrafted Gifts by Local Makers Complimentary Festive Drink

<p>Robin Claridge Silver Jewellery</p> <p>Tim Rose Ceramics and Pastels</p> <p>Mike Topham Humorous wire pictures</p> <p>Weekdays by appointment</p>	<p>Wander through a winter gathering of Purbecks finest artisans. Sip something warm, browse something beautiful, and find unique gifts for your family and friends</p> <p>Phil Hill, Luca Ciaramella & Stan Davis Abstract Art</p>	<p>Julie Burns Applique Cushions & Xmas Decorations</p> <p>Emily Clarke Vintage Textiles</p> <p>David Hyde Metal Garden Sculptures</p> <p>Tel 07889 247981</p>
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Purbeck Passage Houses

Long ago if one wished to get to the bustling port of Poole from Purbeck, transport was usually by horse, cart or boat. The quickest way to get there would have been by water. However, bad weather could delay travel by sea, so a business opportunity arrived, creating the need for an amenity for passengers to shelter in (and maybe have a drink or two) thus the 'Passage House' was born.



Isaac Taylor's 1796 map of Poole Harbour

Four 'Passage Houses' served Purbeck - one at Gold Point, Arne, one at Wytch, another at Ower and the fourth at South Haven on the Studland Peninsula.

Arne

Arne's passenger service to Poole was set up in 1721 for 'honest an orderly passengers' by George Whiffen, a retired mariner. There may have been a rowboat service prior to that as in 1753, a new Passage House was built.



The Passage House and clay house at Ower in 1772.

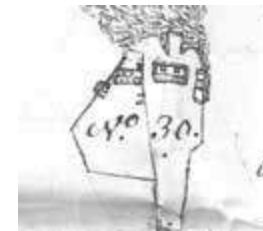
By 1789, part of the 'Passage House' or 'Severett House' as it was otherwise called, was used to store clay which was shipped to Poole and onwards to the Potteries for Josiah Wedgwood. Two boatmen lived here in the late 1700s, but its use declined and by 1889, Charles Dickens (yes, that one) noted that it had fallen into disuse.

South Haven, Studland

Another 'rowboat service' existed here before the Ferry house was built here in 1678. It crossed between North Haven Point to South Haven and in 1581, the Governor of Branksea Castle, amused himself by shooting at the passengers until one day he killed someone which stopped his entertainment! The tenant of the Ferry House had to maintain the passage boat. Like all the other houses, alcohol could be bought here which lead to one Swanage lady drinking one too many glasses. She'd set off at 6am and walked to Little Sea to take the boat to the Isle of Wight to sell straw bonnets. Arriving at the Ferry House she had a light refreshment of bread, cheese, beer and some chasers, continued drinking during the crossing until she passed out in the boat and eventually returned home having sold nothing.



and thirteen passengers 'many of them in liquor' attempted to escape to Brownsea but were smothered in the mud. The six who stayed with, or near to, the boat were rescued. The ferry service was still operating in 1889 and was also used as a carriage service for goods and building materials not available in Purbeck like slate.



The quay, ferry house, garden and yard at Wytch in 1772. It was rented out to George Brinton by John Calcraft.

Ower

'The History of Dorset' claims that Ower was the chief port in Purbeck, principally used for exporting stone and marble. The marblers paid a 1lb of pepper yearly on Ash Wednesday to be able to use Ower quay. Since 1710, stone has not been exported from here as clay took over.



During the late 19th century, the Inn was abandoned as even by 1820, a house guest recorded it in his diary as a hovel, the rooms filled with chimney smoke, and it flooded so he was obliged to stand in water.

Louise Haywood

CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for DECEMBER 2025

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

1	December	Monday	6.15 pm	Bingo – Kimmeridge Village Hall
2	December	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius - The Fantastic Bow Tie Balloon Man – Rob Driscoll
5	December	Friday	6.30 pm	St Edwards Christmas Bingo Bonanza – Corfe Castle Village Hall
5 – 18	December			Charity Christmas mail operating around Purbeck
6	December	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	December	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n' pud Community lunch- Corfe Castle Village Hall
6/7	December	Saturday/Sunday	10 – 4 pm	Festive Artisan Market at Norden
6	December	Saturday	5 pm	Switch on of Christmas lights.
8	December	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
9	December	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Furzebrook Village Hall
11	December	Thursday		Gardening Club Members Christmas Supper – Members will be informed separately
11 – 13	December	Thurs – Sat	10 am – 6 pm	Christmas tree festival – Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage
12	December	Friday	7.30 pm	Kimmeridge Keilidh – Kimmeridge Village Hall
13	December	Saturday	2 pm	Singing for Christmas – Harmony Rocks Choir - St James Kingston
13	December	Saturday	3.30 pm	May Day singers Winter Concert – St Georges Langton Matravers
14	December	Sunday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Village Hall Quiz Night – Corfe Castle Village Hall
14	December	Sunday	10.30 am	Nine Lessons and Carols in St Edwards Corfe Castle
19 – 20	December	Friday, Saturday	5 – 7 pm	Santas Sleigh around the village
20	December	Saturday	10 am– 12 midday	Library Christmas celebration
20	December	Saturday	6.15 pm	Carol Singing in the Square
21	December	Sunday	6 pm	Kimmeridge Carol Service – Kimmeridge Church

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

3	January 2026	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	January	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius talk – Kingston Lacey
12	January	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
13	January	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Church Knowle Village Hall
29	January	Thursday	2 pm	AGM of Friends of Corfe Castle Library

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

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.staldhempurbeck.wordpress.com

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 Jeremy McCallum 480389

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

Revd Richard writes,

“He's making a list, and checking it twice; He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice...”

This year is the 1700th anniversary of the famous Council of Nicaea in 325AD. And there's a good chance Santa was there! Or rather St Nicholas of Myra, from whom we derive the name Santa Claus.

The Council centred around the question of whether Jesus was indeed divine. There's a story that as the Council met, Nicholas became so angry at Arius, the leader of the group that refused to accept Jesus's divinity, that he marched across the room and punched him. The Council immediately sent Nicholas home for such bad behaviour!

I rather like the idea of a Christmas card depicting Santa Claus punching someone and then having to move his own name from the nice list to the naughty list.

The story of the punch may well be myth. We have rather more evidence that Nicholas’s life was marked by constant generosity as an overflow of his own faith in God’s unconditional generosity in Jesus.

The idea that only those who have been good enough get a gift is the very opposite of the message of Christmas.

“Christmas is the time when Christians recall God’s greatest gift – the gift of Christ given to people of dubious moral standing like us. Not because we deserved it, but despite the fact that we didn’t. It’s why we give gifts at Christmas, not to win favours from others, but for the sheer joy of it.” (Bishop Graham Tomlin)

Whether we imagine ourself on the naughty list or the nice list, a saint or a heretic, the gift of God himself is offered freely to us.

Services in December 2025

Sunday 7th December Corfe Castle – 10.30 am	Holy Communion
Saturday 13th December Church Knowle – 6 pm	Carols and readings
Sunday 14th December Corfe Castle – 10.30 am	Nine lessons and carols with participation of the school choir
Kingston – 11.30 am	Informal worship with Christmas carols
Sunday 21st December Corfe Castle – 10.30 am, Harmans Cross - 6 pm Kimmeridge – 6 pm	Holy Communion Christmas Service Carol Service
Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24th December Corfe Castle – 4 pm Corfe Castle – 11.30 pm	Christingle Midnight Communion

Christmas Day – Wednesday 25th December Steeple – 9.30 am	Christmas worship with Holy Communion
Corfe Castle – 11 am Christmas	Christmas Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday 28th December Church Knowle – 10.30	Benefice Holy Communion with refreshments

For services in Langton Matravers and Worth Matravers see information at www.staldhelm-purbeck.org

Bible Readings – December 2025

Sunday 7th December	Second Sunday of Advent Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday 14th December	Third Sunday of Advent James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
Sunday 28th December	First Sunday after Christmas Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18

Decorating St Edwards for Christmas

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on the morning of
Tuesday 23 December between 09.30 and 12.00.

Please come and join us. No skills as a flower arranger are necessary. We would also welcome any spare “Greenery” especially if it has berries attached!

If you simply wish to leave Greenery, please just put it in a bucket in the kitchen.

Coffee and Biscuits will be available as bribery to those working
Any queries please call: Jill Revans 01929-480852

10th Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival at Emmanuel Baptist Church Thur 11th - Sat 13th Dec - Update

The final preparations are now taking place for this year's Christmas Tree Festival, which will actually mark our 10th year in Swanage. It moved from St James' Church, Kingston in 2015, and has continued to grow each year apart from the 'virtual Tree Festival of 2020', when we ran an on-line Festival with photos submitted of the many beautiful trees in people's homes, (covid restrictions). It begins on Thursday 11th December at 10am and runs until Saturday 13th December and is open until 6pm each evening'

This year we have over 45 local trees which will all be uniquely decorated, many with carefully crafted decorations, to celebrate Christmas Around the World. It is such a special time of year and there are many traditions right around the globe that have their roots in the Biblical Christmas Story, when the Lord Jesus was born just over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

There will be a full programme of live music, featuring various choirs, music groups, soloists and school groups, as well as storytelling for pre-school groups. Each day the seasonal café will offer hot drinks, snacks, light lunches and a range of cakes and once again there will be an opportunity to dress up in the life size stable.

On Sunday afternoon at 4pm, there is a quiet reflective Remembrance Service called 'Lights of Love', at which people can light candles to remember those who are no longer with us. Also, we plan to have a large of Tree of Remembrance, on which anyone in the community can add colourful ribbons inscribed with names of friends and family whom they wish to remember.

There is no charge to visit the Christmas Tree Festival, but donations are welcome as this year we hope to support Julia's House, a hospice near Broadstone, also we aim to send funds towards a new helicopter for the Dorset Air Ambulance Service, which is often needed in this area.

There will be something for all ages, also the trees are decorated by people of all ages – from toddler groups to schools, estate agents, businesses and local charities, swimmers, choirs and care homes. Do come and enjoy the event and

may it encourage the peace and hope that we long for in these days. May it be a time to reflect on how blessed we are and at the same time, help us to appreciate God's amazing global plan - the greatest gift of all – Jesus, our friend and Saviour.
Judy, Janet and Team

St Aldhelm Christmas Tree Festival

A final word on the St Aldhelm Christmas tree festival, we still have a few places available for anyone wanting to decorate a tree, either for themselves or to promote an organisation, application forms can be found on our website <https://staldhelmxmastreefestival.wordpress.com>.

We are always very grateful for anyone donating cakes, as with the refreshments we get through a vast quantity of cake which helps to raise the money we give to our local charities, also we are still looking for any singers/musicians, either small groups or choirs willing to give up half an hour of their time to entertain at the festival.

The festival runs from the 6 -8 December, at St Georges Church, Langton Matravers for more information phone 01929 424431, or email staldhelmxmastreefest@gmail.com.

Most importantly please come along to this years event, we cannot do it without your support.

Colin & Sandy Garner



Carols at St James Kingston

December 14th 11.30

The Informal Service this month will be Carols and Seasonal Readings.

Followed by festive mulled wine and mince pie!

All are Welcome.





10th Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival at Emmanuel Baptist Church **Thur 11th - Sat 13th Dec - Update**

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Judy, Janet and Team

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CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

If we want to describe Christmas in three words, what would it be? Eating too much, filling a stocking, the Kings speech or last-minute shopping? But what about "Christ Is Born"? Where do they all fit in?

It's hard to teach people the true meaning of Christmas when it has been turned into such a Commercial Event. Christmas has become so busy and so commercialised that we hardly have time to stop and think about it's true meaning. It shouldn't be this way and it doesn't need to be this way.

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It's the Good News- that God sent His only Son to earth to save His people from their sins. Christmas is not a myth, nor is Jesus a mythical character. He really existed and is still alive today! Jesus was really born in a stable in Bethlehem. There has never been anyone like Him. He lived a life of humility, kindness and compassion.

We have known the story of Jesus' birth in the manger since childhood. Why should we rejoice at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem? The answer is because of who He is. He is Christ the Lord. There has never been a better Christmas present than God's gift of His own Son to be the Saviour of the World and this gift is far more valuable than any sum of money. We shouldn't treat it as just a story for kids. It really happened.

'And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the Angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 8-12

Wishing You Joy As We Remember The Miracle Of Christs Birth This Season. "Let The Peace Of Christ's Love Be With You This Christmas And Always.

We Have A Candlelight Carol Service On Thursday 18th December At 6pm. We Will Have Mulled Wine And Mince Pies For All.

**Sunday Services On The 7th, 14th And 28th December At 10:30am.
Refreshments Served After Each Service.**

**Coffee Mornings With Crafts Every Wednesday Between 10:30am –
12:30pm**

Church Secretary: Celia Taylor Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk 07908 807115



Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

As I write this in mid-November, the heavy downpours are continuing but I know that shortly the sky will clear and the beautiful autumnal sunshine will light the garden. I have no idea what weather December will bring us but I'm sure we will be looking forward to Christmas and planning our winter arrangements.

In November we were delighted to welcome **Nick Webb**, who runs **Full of Life Gardens** who are based in Swanage but cover the Purbeck area and beyond. Nick is also one of the ministers in the St. Aldhelm Benefice. When he said he would be talking about some of the gardens he manages and the highs and lows of being a professional gardener we weren't sure what to expect. What we had was a fascinating story of a young man who became interested in gardening when he was 8 and through hard work and learning on the job developed into the talented and sought after gardener he is today, offering all aspects of garden design and maintenance.

He founded Full of Life Gardens in 2009 in a small way but soon became known and was asked to take on larger gardens. He now specialises in large gardens as well as small family gardens, working with his expert team and often co-operating with Simon Goldsack from Holme for Gardens. It seems that no challenge is too great for Nick and his team including tight deadlines, gardens ranging from those that flood to those with year long drought and demanding terrain. We saw slides of some of the beautiful gardens Nick has designed and built which illustrated the process from design to completion. We would love to have him back to learn more.

On the 11th December we will be having our Member's Christmas Bring and Share Supper and you will have received details of this.

It should be a fun evening to round off our gardening year.

There will be no meeting in January but the Committee are busy making plans for the new year. We will, of course, have our annual AGM and quiz with great prizes in February.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and lots of wonderful gardening in 2026.

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.

Harmony Rocks Choir

Remember Remember 13 December - Harmony Rocks Choir will be 'Singing for Christmas' at St James' Church, Kingston at 2pm.

This is a Saturday afternoon Free Entry concert (no tickets required) and this could be your lucky day if you win one of the prizes in our raffle. Proceeds from the raffle and a retiring collection will be donated to Julia's House Dorset & Wiltshire Children's Hospices and St James' Church. Light refreshments will be served after the concert. For those who don't know, St James' Church is accessible by the No 40 bus or by car with parking at Houns Tout car park.

We can't wait to share our Christmas celebration concert with you and yes, the snowballs have been packed.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS MAIL 2025 🧑🏻 🎄

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary Post Boxes will be in place from December 5th-18th in:

Dragons Bakery Corfe Castle

Studland Stores

Salt Pig Farm Langton Matravers

A member of our post team will also be in

Harlees Fish Restaurant in Station Road from 10am-3pm each day

50p per card to addresses in Purbeck.

All deliveries AFTER December 20th

Keep Posting ! 🧑🏻 🎄

Wareham & Purbeck Vintage Ploughing Match

The day started dry which was a great bonus with lots of spectators. The tractor and trailer rides were popular as always by all ages.

The rain started luckily when everyone had finished ploughing but prize giving was a wash out. Despite this we managed to raise £1,204.51 for Julia's House.

A big thank you to all our sponsors, businesses who donated raffle prizes, Ploughmen and spectators without you all the committee would not have managed to donate so much to such a worthy cause.

Last but not least Mr & Mrs A White for letting us use their land at Compact Farm, Worth and Robin Samways.

"Ring Christmas Bells with the Belvedere Singers

This year's Christmas concert is very much a local affair with soloists Nick Aiko Dando (trumpet) and Martha Harwood (soprano) both hailing from Swanage and both being Purbeck Youth Music Ambassadors. Nick will be playing the Slavonic Fantasia by Carl Hohne while Martha will sing the solo in O Holy Night and also join the choir as soloist in Kenneth Leighton's Lullula, a very beautiful twentieth century version of the text of Coventry Carol. As ever, the choir will be singing music from across the centuries with both familiar and sometimes more unusual Christmas pieces. These will range from Gaudete (1582) to Walking in the Air and Winter Wonderland from more recent times. And the icing on the cake is that the audience gets to join in one or two special pieces - not least the eternal favourite, The Twelve Days of Christmas. What could be more fun?

The concert is at 7.30pm on Saturday 6th December, St Mary's Church, Swanage. Tickets are £9, on the door or from choir members. Under 18s free.

Clive Watkiss"

Free digital advice sessions in Swanage

Do you know someone who needs help with their digital device? Do you or a friend have a technical issue you'd like solved? Want to learn more about online services such as booking GP appointments or applying for benefits online? Then Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions are ready to help you in Swanage Library.

They hold bookable face-to-face sessions at Swanage Library on Mondays from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. To book an appointment go into the library or call the Digital Hotline on 01305 221048.

Purbeck Youth Music

Purbeck Young Musicians' December Opportunities

The music groups now established in Purbeck Youth Music (PYM) have some exciting opportunities coming up.

On **Saturday December 6th** our Young Ambassadors have been invited to perform at the Belvedere Singers Christmas concert in St Mary's Parish Church Swanage. PYM will be represented by Martha Harwood (voice) Amy Jerman (piano) and Nick Aiko Dando (trumpet).

On **Sunday December 7th** Matt Tarling and his Tradfolk ensemble, plus Gary Austin, Rebecca Field-Bunney and the PYM Wind Band, Amy Jerman and her Mini Big Band as well as PYM Young Ambassadors will be performing at St George's Church Langton Matravers for the St Aldhelm Christmas Tree Festival. The proceeds from this magical event will be split between the RNLI and our own PYM, for which we are most grateful.

On **Thursday December 11th** Jemma Clunies-Ross will be bringing her woodwind group to Emmanuel Baptist Church for their Christmas Tree Festival and we also hope to support Swanage URC Christingle service on **Sunday December 14th** with some young musicians.

Dilys Thomas (PYM Trustee)

Purbeck Furniture Bank (previously Besom in Purbeck)



Alongside recycling all that is generously donated to us, we have decided to recycle ourselves! As we are at the stage where our yearly insurance is due, we feel it is an opportune time to break our ties with The Besom Network nationally, and function independently where we hope to foster and develop a more local focus with the community and churches.

Why include the name 'Bank'? We feel it says what we do – we take things in and we give things out. Also, and more importantly, it aligns us with the Swanage Food Bank, with whom we have much in common.

We have always functioned slightly differently from the guidelines and procedures of Besom Network nationally and this difference has continued and evolved over the 25yrs we have been in existence, as the needs of the service have grown and developed. It is something we have been discussing for some years now - we have the blessing of Besom's founder members here in Swanage to take that step.

We have much work to do as we recycle ourselves and applying for charitable status is a priority. In the meantime, as we gradually reinvent ourselves, we will continue to collect good condition furniture, linen, kitchen items (inc. white goods), in fact anything needed to furnish a home, and we continue to deliver to those in need.

We continue to embrace the notion of working with all people of goodwill to do God's work in the world. Our vision and fundamental principles for doing God's work will always underpin everything we do.

Thank you to all who support us

Davina Freedman, on behalf of the Purbeck Furniture Bank team (PFB)

Contact: 07519 977732

purbeckfbank@gmail.com

Purbeck Mummers



As usual Purbeck Mummers will be out Boxing Day around Corfe Castle and Worth Matravers

12 mid-day Corfe Castle Square

12.30pm The Fox

1.00 pm The Bankes Hotel

1.30pm Castle Inn

2.15pm The Square and Compass

We usually perform during December before Boxing Day but due to low numbers we have shortened our 2025 tour. If you would like to join us please contact us on purbeckmummerscast@gmail.com. We cannot let this English tradition die out locally.

PurbeckParkys Support Group

PurbeckParkys is a Support Group for people living with Parkinson's, including family, carers and supportive friends. It is run monthly on the third Wednesday 2pm - 4pm at the Swanage Cricket Club BH19 1LG. More information, including about how to volunteer to help at the meetings, available from David Gynes, the Coordinator at: david.gynes@parkinsons-uk.goassemble.com

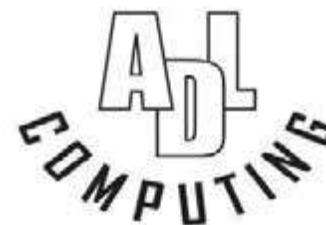
The next three meetings are: December 17th, January 21st, February 18th



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Anne Bond writes

This follows from last month when I described the old-fashioned routines of living in a large unmodernised house 70-something years ago.

In March of 1949, another baby joined the household - and he was a boy! Almost immediately, all we girls got Whooping Cough. It was vital that the new-born baby shouldn't catch it. There were no medicines to keep him safe, and no cure for us; the disease just had to be allowed to run its course. The expensive answer was to despatch us in the care of the Nursery Maids to a hotel on Weymouth Sea Front until we were no longer dangerous to the baby. History doesn't relate how the hotel staff reacted.

I was five years old, and the twins were two. I remember exploring the Sea Front, rows and rows of stalls selling everything imaginable from tin seaside buckets to candy floss and food. Apparently, one of us children swiped a colossal flat fish from where it hung over the edge of its display table and skipped back to the hotel swinging it merrily. There was no swimming because it was only March, but we all enjoyed paddling in the little waves breaking onto the smooth wet sand. Our west-Dorset cousins lived near the sea. When we went swimming with them, each child had a rubber ring attached to a long length of clothesline. You wore the rubber ring around your waist while their Nanny sat firmly on the pebbly beach with the ends of the clotheslines tied around her middle. Their beach had a fierce undertow so was quite dangerous. Here in Weymouth, it was just gentle sea and sandcastles.

Christmas the year of my brother's birth was wonderful. We had a vast Christmas Tree with clip-on real candles on the lower branches that were extinguished each night. Most of the families from neighbouring farms came to tea. I remember sitting on the floor around the tree with all the children, a roaring fire in the hearth, small presents for everyone, and thinking in my childish mind: 'how *beautiful*, how *friendly*, this is how things ought to be *all* the time!' I had on a pretty dress, and white socks just like my friend Joyce, the gardener's daughter. Nanny made us wear brown socks on weekdays, white only on Sundays. Later, all four of us wore everyday yellow aertex shirts and grey shorts, the girl's ones with pleats and side fastenings, and my brother's pair with buttons down the front and pockets each side.

With love, Anne

Rachels Thoughts

Time flies and Christmas is nearly here. We hope for good weather and getting together with friends and family over Christmas. It is time to be inside cooking and making things. I enjoy spinning, knitting and mending my clothes on the long dark evenings sitting in front of a fire. Right now I am trying to finish spinning, plying and knitting a cot blanket for my youngest great-grandchild, Sophie.

If the weather is bad it is not fun going outside, anyone can plant cress, mustard, peas or cabbage in trays inside to cut when two or three inches high for fresh nutritious greens.

Everyone who went to Mary Sparks talk about the schools in Langton enjoyed it. I wish I could talk like Mary did, and she has done a great job doing research back into the 18th Century. It must have taken many hours of hard work - thanks Mary.

Over Christmas is a great time to look through plant catalogues and work out what to get for your garden in 2026. Do remember to get hardy plants with beautiful foliage (and maybe flowers) that will love your soil and sun/shade. It is still not too late to gather leaves for leaf mould which helps plants during difficult weather. Gather in a dust bin bag, fill place upside down and put fork holes in. Will rot beautifully.

December is also a good time to be untidy in the garden; you can leave piles of twigs for wildlife, and deadheads on the ground as mulch.

I will be making my wreaths in the morning on the 18th and 20th. Please do contact me if you would like to join me for the wreath making as well as some warm fruit punch.

Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year Rachel

Tel: 01929 421681 Email: rjehelfer@gmail.com

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Served with a pan gravy and horseradish sauce.

ROAST LEG OF DORSET PORK (GF by request) | 20

Roast potatoes, crackling, Yorkshire pudding, roasted and glazed carrots and parsnips, buttered garden greens, braised red cabbage and mashed swede.
Served with pan gravy and apple sauce.

TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY BREAST (GF by request) | 20

Roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, Yorkshire pudding, roasted and glazed carrots and parsnips, buttered garden greens, braised red cabbage and mashed swede.
Served with pan gravy and cranberry sauce.

TRIO OF ROASTS (GF by request) | 24

Beef, Turkey and Pork with all of the trimmings.

VEGETABLE WELLINGTON (V) (VG by request) | 22

Roast potatoes, roasted and glazed carrots and parsnips, buttered garden greens, braised red cabbage and mashed swede.
Served with homemade gravy and cranberry sauce.

CHILDREN'S ROASTS (BEEF, TURKEY, OR PORK) | 12 (Under 12s)

SIDES

Cauliflower Cheese | 6 Pigs in Blankets | 6

***TWO COURSE SUNDAY LUNCH 24.95 MAIN COURSE & DESSERT**

Must include a purchased drink per person. Not valid on Bank Holiday Sundays or Mothering Sunday. Sides and additions chargeable. £3 supplement on Trio of Roasts & Disaronno Affogato



CLAVELLS FESTIVE MENU

STARTERS

Smoked Salmon - Lemon & dill crème fraîche, beetroot salad & rustic bread *GF by request*

Spiced Parsnip & Butternut Squash Soup - Rustic bread *V GF & VG by request*

Crayfish, Prawn and Crab cocktail - Marie Rose sauce, rustic bread & butter
(£2 Supplement) *GF by request*

Chicken liver, cognac & cranberry parfait - rustic bread, onion marmalade & dresses leaves *GF by request*

Wild Mushroom Risotto - Truffle oil & Parmesan shavings *GF V & VG by request*

MAIN COURSES

Traditional Turkey - Cranberry & hazelnut stuffing, pigs in blankets, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, cranberry sauce & roast Jus *GF by request*

Lemon Sole - Crushed new potatoes, tenderstem broccoli & a lemon caper butter sauce

Confit of Duck Leg - Dauphinoise potatoes with a morello cherry & port sauce (£3 supplement) *GF*

Kimmeridge Pork Fillet - Dauphinoise potatoes with a creamy apple & calvados sauce *GF*

Butternut Squash, Lentil & Almond Wellington - *V GF & VG by request*

Served with carrots, brussels sprouts, mashed swede, braised red cabbage, & garden greens

DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas Pudding - A brandy custard *VVG & GF by request*

Apple Tarte Tatin - Vanilla bean ice cream *V*

Italian Raspberry Meringue coulis & fresh mint *V & GF*

White Chocolate Profiteroles - With a shot of baileys *V*

English Cheeses & Biscuits - House chutney, celery & grapes (£3 supplement) *V GF by request*

Vegan dessert options available on special request

2 Courses £29.50 | 3 Courses £32.50

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Not available Christmas Day Pre orders & a £5 deposit per head required

Call: 01929 480701 OR Email: enquiries@clavellsrestaurant.co.uk




CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MENU

Available 25th November until 31st December

STARTERS

Homemade Tomato Soup - Rustic bread & butter (V) (VG & GF by request)
Garlic Bread - (V) (VG & GF by request)
Honeydew Melon - Served with raspberries (VG) (GF)

MAIN COURSES

Traditional Turkey - Pigs in blankets, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, gravy and festive vegetables & cranberry sauce (GF by request)
Cheese Burger OR Moving Mountain Burger - Served with french fries (V) (VG)
Chicken Goujons - Served with french fries and baked beans

DESSERTS

Chocolate Brownie - Served with vanilla ice cream (GF)
Christmas Pudding - With custard (V) (GF & VG by request)
2 courses 15.00
3 courses 17.50

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CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

Available 25th November until 31st December
 14.00 - 17.00

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Brie & cranberry
 Smoked salmon & dill mayonnaise
 Coronation chicken
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 Egg mayonnaise

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 Miniature pork pie with house chutney

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Available 25th November until 6 January - 10am until 11.30

A Festive Cocktail **Or** Non Alcoholic Cocktail | Breakfast | Tea or Coffee

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COCKTAILS

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NON ALCOHOLIC

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Latte | Americano | Flat White

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Vegetarian Full English - Two Quorn™ sausages, two fried eggs, grilled tomato, hash browns, baked beans, wilted spinach & mushrooms. Served with malted grain or white toast & butter V

Avocado & Poached Eggs - Malted grain toast, avocado, two poached eggs, cherry tomatoes, balsamic glaze V

Scrambled Eggs & Smoked Salmon - Creamy scrambled free range eggs, whole grain toast, butter & smoked salmon

Crab Benedict - Toasted English muffin, white crab meat, two poached eggs, hollandaise sauce

Pancakes with Bacon & Maple Syrup - 5 American-style pancakes, grilled bacon & maple syrup (V available by request)

CHILDREN'S FESTIVE BRUNCH

10 per person (Under 12s)

Apple Juice **Or** Orange Juice

Little Full English - Sausage, fried egg, bacon, hash brown, beans, toast & butter

Pancakes with Bacon & Maple Syrup - 3 American-style pancakes, grilled bacon & maple syrup

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Choose from 4 delectable flavours:

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Served with creamy mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables
& rich savoury gravy

A drink to complement your meal:

500ml of Ale or Lager | 125ml glass of house wine | Soft drink alternative



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Purbeck puffins: 2025 **News.**

This time last year I wrote a piece for the CVN about how our local puffins fared in 2024. Here is the annual update.

The first sighting in 2025 was on the 20th March when six puffins were seen. Some of

them came ashore and one pair mated on the sea. This was a promising start to the season, confirming that we had the same number of puffins preparing to breed as in the previous two years. Mating was seen again on 5th April and 23rd April and there was evidence suggesting one bird may have laid an egg on 21st April. With an incubation period of 41 days, this first-laid egg should have hatched about the 1st of June.

On the morning of 1st June there were lots of excited emojis on our WhatsApp group following a report of two separate sightings of a puffin flying into the cliff with fish! However, these sightings were of birds(s) in flight and seen only very briefly. If the first chick had hatched on 1st June, fish-carrying by the adult puffins should, if they had reared chicks to fledging age, have lasted until at least 12th July. However, although a further 43 hours of observations between 1st June and 12th July gave us many sightings of puffins, not another puffin was seen carrying fish.

On 9th of June, a puffin was photographed on the sea with strands of seaweed dangling (fish-like) from its bill, which it brought into the cliff. Maybe the birds seen briefly on 1st June were also carrying seaweed rather than fish! Either way, the lack of any further sightings of fish carrying puffins between 1st June and 12th July means that they cannot have reared any chicks to fledging age in 2025. It is most likely that none of the eggs laid in late April even hatched.

The puffin carrying seaweed into the cliff on 9th June was probably (re-) building a nest – most likely having recently laid a new egg to replace one it had laid earlier and lost. On 17th and 25th June one puffin showed all the signs of incubating an egg again. However, the 25th June was the last day on which puffins were seen on the cliff. On 1st July we found just 2 puffins far out on

the sea and on 4th July we found 4 puffins again far out to sea. Watches on 10th and 12th July found no puffins at all! They had all gone – before any replacement egg laid in early June might have hatched. This egg may have been predated or maybe just abandoned due to the departure of the other puffins.

So, our three pairs of puffins all failed to rear any pufflings to independence in 2025 – the same result as in 2024 and 2023. We still don't yet know why the puffins seem to be failing every year but predation of their eggs or chicks is the most likely cause. Crows were seen many times landing on the cliff ledge and looking into the crevice where the puffins nest. A stoat was seen on the clifftop nearby, and although we did not see any rats, I am sure that they are scampering around down there too. Getting proof of predation in future years remains a priority. However, solving this particular “*who dunnit*” could easily take several more years. Some pre-emptive action to reduce the vulnerability of the puffins to predation of their eggs or chicks might be needed now. With only six ageing puffins left, they might be running out of time!

Thanks to everyone who contributed puffin sightings in 2025 including: John Allen, Kathy Allen, Katie Black, Jules Bond, Steve Butler, Pete Christie, Tom Clarke, Victoria Copley, Dawn Cosh, James Dawkins, Tony Fulford, Garry Hayman, Sue Haysom, Debs Kelly, Sophie Lake, Hilarie Lewis, Tim Marchant, Nahid Rahman, Helen Schneider, Martin Shaw, Mark Singleton, Matt Swaine, Peter Tinsley, Steve Turner, Suzanne Turner and anyone else I might have forgotten.

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December at Harmans Cross Village Hall

We have some lovely events in the run up to Christmas at Harmans Cross Village Hall.

Saturday 29th November – Stalls at the Hall – 9.30am-12noon

With local produce, crafts and curios, this is a lovely chance to find something special and different for friends and family. And when you've browsed all the stalls, and filled your bags, then sit down and have a lovely slice of homemade cake and a hot brew. Free entry and plenty of parking, so we look forward to seeing you.

Tuesday 9 December – Movie Night – the Lady in the Van

Starring Maggie Smith and based on the memoir created by Alan Bennett, it tells the (mostly) true story of his interactions with Mary Shepherd, an elderly woman who lived in a dilapidated van on his driveway in north London for 15 years. Doors and bar open at 7pm.

Live Music – The Churchfitters are back – Wednesday 17 December

Our favourite 3-piece folk band and their amazing collection of homemade instruments are back for another Christmas Cracker. Tickets available from our website via Ticketsource for £15 but please hurry – we have limited space and it may already be a sell-out: www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Special-Events/ See our video of their last Christmas show with us in 2023 at the same link.

Harmans Cross Christmas drinks – Friday 19 December from 7pm

Bring your own bottle and join us for some festive cheer and a pre-Christmas community gathering. We will provide the crisps and nuts and Christmas carols.

HXVH Christmas Carol service – Sunday 21 December at 6pm

Please join us for a very friendly and informal Christmas carol service with a lovely selection of some of our favourite Christmas carols. And all rounded off by a lovely chat, mulled wine and Christmas goodies.

And finally, we hope you all have a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2026.

Alison and the HXVH Committee

Kimmeridge News



Peter Hedley

After a long, valiant battle with Amyloidosis Peter Hedley passed away on the 12th October aged 92 years old. Peter was born in Gillingham, Kent in 1933. He was evacuated to North Wales during the war and then after the war moved to Parkstone and attended All Hallows School in Devon.

In 1956 he joined the British Army and served in the armoured corps (3rd Carabiniers) for 15 years with postings to Aden, Cyprus and Germany.

He then went into the art world and worked in galleries in London and Windsor before moving to Dorset and opening The Peter Hedley Gallery in Wareham, in 1983, which he ran successfully for 27 years.

Much loved by his wife Jennifer and their 4 children, 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Bingo!

Kimmeridge Christmas Prize Bingo - Monday 1st December

Eyes down for the Purbeck wide famous Kimmeridge Christmas Prize Bingo - no expense spared here - you get reusable cards to play on, house and line prizes, two raffles and not forgetting the pièce de résistance - our very own Patrick Ward calling in his finest designer gear!

You don't need to be a bingo fan, just a fan of having a great evening of laughter with the possibility of going home with something you never knew you needed. Teas/Coffees/Squash available in the break, if you want anything stronger then BYO

The proceeds from this event fund the Children's Christmas party in Kimmeridge for Children from Kimmeridge, Bradle and Blackmanston along with maintaining our superb village playground.

What better way to spend a cold December Monday evening?????? Bring your own refreshments for whilst playing. Tea and Coffee is free in the break. Doors open at 6.15pm, eyes down at 7.00pm!

Christmas Carol Service

Come and sing traditional Carols in Kimmeridge Church on Sunday 21st December at 6pm. This service of carols & lessons is instead of the usual Christmas Eve Service – next year we hope to be back to normal!

Kimmeridge Keilidh – 12th December

Our next Kimmeridge Keilidh (Barn Dance!) is on Friday 12th December at 7:30pm in the Village Hall at The Etches Collection. Music from Arish Mel & caller Malcolm Churchill. Tickets on the door £7.50 adults, £2.50 under 16s. No Bar – bring your own drinks & nibbles! All profits from these dances are shared between the Etches Collection and the Village.

Steve & Helen Earwicker

Eyes to the skies

Hi all, after a quiet few months at the tollgate, finally the season has settled into a winter pattern, albeit very mild still when writing this (15/11)

The beautiful autumn leaves are still providing some cover for the odd Chiffchaff/ Willow-warbler and Blackcap left over from our glorious summer. The feeders at the hut have been inundated with Finches and Tits and we even have a resident first winter Grey Wagtail (not to be confused with the many Pied Wagtails this one has bright yellow underparts) who has been most entertaining, spending its mornings on my car windscreen & mirrors. There are still plenty of Collard Doves, Sparrow, & Chaffinches taking advantage of seed on the floor left by the messy feeding Goldfinches.

Yellowhammers have been visiting recently and in greater numbers, I counted x6 together making it a toll hut record, but I have also noticed them more frequently in the hedgerows around the Bay.

Large flocks of Goldfinches, Meadow Pipits and Linnets are feeding in the surrounding fields, and down in the bay we have our own mini murmuration of Starlings at least 300/400 strong feeding mostly in the field by the coast guard cottage's. Some of you may have noticed changes in the fields around the Bay Area where more cover crops have been planted and some field edges left unharvested to benefit our existing wild bird populations and to attract and

encourage the more elusive Corn Bunting and Cirl Bunting perhaps (fingers crossed).

In the last few days (14/11) we have seen the return of the White-Tailed Eagles hunting along Smedmore ridge; they have been a regular feature during the winter months for the last three years only disappearing in May this year to breed for the first time, perhaps they are the same birds that were recorded fishing at Chapmans pool on 08/11? The ridge is also popular with Red kite, Buzzard, Sparrow hawk and Kestrel.

Also, keep checking house/ church and barn roofs for incoming Black Redstart, I've already seen one at Blackmanston and the second on the fossil museum roof in Kimmeridge, the Red tail is a giveaway.

Happy birding - Cheers - Rose & Pat



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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.hollins@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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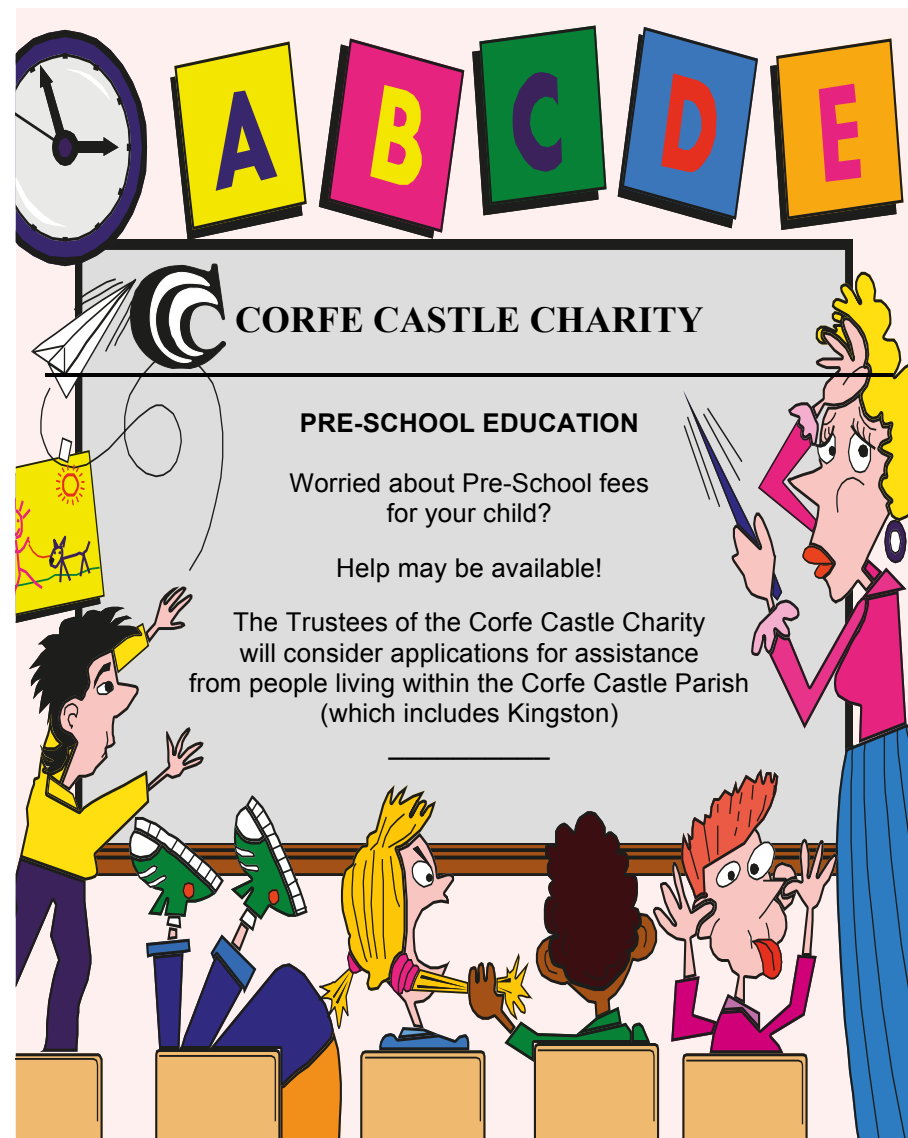
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MONDAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Each	10.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning	Springwell Close
Each	2.30 - 4.30	Whist and tea	Springwell Close
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Village Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	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 Group	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
WEDNESDAY			
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.00am-12.00	Corfe Crafters	CC VH
Term time,	5.30- 6.45pm	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
Each	8.30	Poker	Corfe Castle Club
THURSDAY			
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.co.uk	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	9.30am	Pilates & Stretch	CC Village Hall £10
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Classes	Furzebrook Studios
Each	8.30pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club
SATURDAY			
1st	10.30am	Village Coffee Morning	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