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# CORFE VALLEY NEWS



## JANUARY 2026

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

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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 525 January 2025

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

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

Preferably items should be e-mailed to [corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk)  
*Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue*

## Editorial

Happy New Year to all our readers and helpers. May 2026 prove a better year than 2025, but we say that every New Year!!

This month we have provided a set of pull-out middle pages. This pullout has been produced by the Purbeck Energy Group. The Corfe Valley News has not checked any of the figures given and cannot vouch for their correctness. However, they will hopefully help you see how much energy various household machines and appliances use.

The Purbeck Energy Group is coordinated by Sustainable Swanage and has representatives from councils and environmental groups in Purbeck. The purpose of the group is to find energy solutions that enable individuals, organisations and communities across Purbeck to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Purbeck Energy Group is working closely with Planet Purbeck and together with other environmentally focused groups aims to reduce energy use, to save £££ & lower our carbon footprint.

The centre pages of this edition of CVN can be pulled out and kept as a reference document. The usual “what’s on” centre pages will then be available.

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

## **Corfe Valley News**

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

Established June 1982  
Issue No 525 January 2026

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The cover picture is a sketch of West Street by P R Gross

## DECEMBER MEETING FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

As winter drew closer and the evenings shortened, Corfe Castle Parish Council met on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 in the Village Hall to reflect on current challenges and progress, covering topics from winter road safety and community wellbeing to careful financial planning and protection of the wider landscape.

**Community Concerns and Winter Safety:** During the public session, a concern was raised about a recent accident caused by icy conditions on a local stretch of road (B3351 Corfe Castle to Studland). In response, the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk would contact Dorset Council Highways to request additional warning signage highlighting hazardous bends and road conditions, aiming to improve safety for residents and visitors during the winter months.

**Dorset Councillor's Update:** A detailed written report was received from Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson. Particular emphasis was placed on Dorset Council's online reporting system for drainage, potholes and vegetation issues, an especially timely reminder at this time of year. The Parish Council is encouraging prompt reporting of problems before they worsen via [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement)

**God's Acre and Community Spaces:** Progress continues on plans for a Garden of Reflection and an area for scattering of ashes at God's Acre. Councillors approved the purchase of three large locally sourced stone seating features, which will be prepared with space for memorial plaques. This development will provide a quiet place for reflection and remembrance, enhancing the cemetery landscape for years to come.

**Finance and Responsible Planning:** Looking ahead, councillors discussed the 2026–27 budget and precept. While most elements of the budget were agreed, final decisions on the final precept level and reserve allocations were deferred until January. Councillors emphasised their intention to balance financial sustainability with fairness for residents. The provisional resolution is to hold the Parish precept at its current rate, and ensure reserves are adequate. This is possible as Dorset have notified us that more households will be paying tax next year.

**Volunteer Safety and Community Support:** Recognising the value of councillors and volunteers who assist with outdoor activities, the Council approved the purchase of clearly marked hi-visibility vests. These will be stored alongside flood signage and emergency equipment, supporting safe and visible community action during events or emergencies.

**Planning and Licensing Matters:** The Planning Working Group reviewed applications received during the period. Councillors agreed to submit no objection to an application relating to the replacement of an oil-fired boiler at the Old Church of St James in Kingston, noting the involvement of the Conservation Officer and sensitivity to the conservation area.

**Reporting B.O.A.T. Misuse and Rural Damage:** Corfe Castle Parish Council is asking everyone to help protect our countryside by reporting damage to local Byways Open to All Traffic (B.O.A.T.s). Damage can include deep ruts in tracks, erosion of the surface, damage to verges or banks, blocked drainage, churned-up ground, or harm to surrounding vegetation. This type of wear goes beyond normal use and can make routes unsafe or unusable for walkers, riders and other legitimate users. Incidents can be reported directly to Dorset Police using their online rural crime reporting form: <https://www.dorset.police.uk/ro/report/rwc/rural/report-rural-crime> It is important to note that reporting is not mainly about catching offenders, which is often not possible after the event. Instead, each report helps build an accurate picture of how byways are being used and where problems are occurring. If damage becomes severe or continues over time, this evidence can be shared with the Environment Agency and other relevant authorities. This may support further action, such as monitoring, additional controls, or, where necessary, the temporary closure of a B.O.A.T. to prevent long-term harm to the landscape.



Report mis-use either scan the QR code or call 101.

As we wrap up our December Council updates, we wish all readers a Happy New Year!

**Next Council Meeting:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 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.

**Parish Council contact details:** Clerk: Michelle Harrington,  
**Telephone:** 01202 670105, **Email:** [clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk),  
**Write:** 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ,  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC](http://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC),  
**Website:** [www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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](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

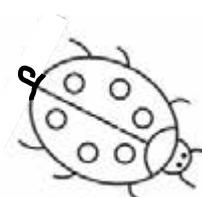
#### **To request a highways gully clear**

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

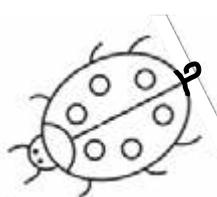
#### **To request a road sweep on a highway near you.**

Self Service Portal - [https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP\\_Report\\_for\\_Mechanical\\_Road\\_Sweeper](https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP_Report_for_Mechanical_Road_Sweeper)

Telephone 01305 221020



# Family



# Beetle Drive

In Aid Of

# Parkinson's UK

## Corfe Castle Village Hall

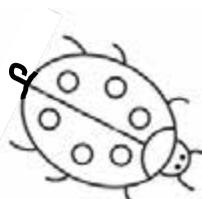
### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

### 6.30 For 7pm Start

Adults £5 Children 5-15 **FREE!**

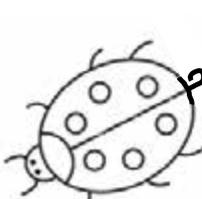
## Prizes for Best Beetle

## Refreshments



## Grand

## Raffle



Phone 07716 684853 OR 07722 141009 For tickets



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please feel free to get in touch:  
[ccfestivities@gmail.com](mailto:ccfestivities@gmail.com)

Thanks to everyone who supported us in 2025, with time, money, gifts for raffles, very welcome random donations, and in many other ways.

After the cancellation of the 2024 event our finances took a hit, but a fundraising campaign helped and we were given several very generous donations during the year by individuals and local organisations.

Special thanks are also due to:

- **Dragon's Bakery, The Model Village and The Bankes Arms for sustaining the lights team with hot drinks and butties (the bakery also made and donated all the rolls for our hotdog stall)**
- **The Fox Inn for their continued support and especially for cooking the hot dog sausages, we cannot apologise enough that this contribution was not mentioned at switch on night**
- **Macelio at the Model Village for holding our big fundraising Midsummer party and for switching on the lights**
- **Norden Farm Shop for the small trees**
- **Rempstone Estate for the magnificent centrepiece tree**
- **Mortons Manor for powering the lights on their side of East St**
- **Perenco for their generous donation towards electricity costs**
- **The local folk at the National Trust for the use of their facilities**

*Long may the lights continue to brighten our village at Christmas*



Happy New Year to everyone!

With threats of climate catastrophe, war with Russia, and who knows what else, we all need a bit of escapism and cheering up. Where better to find that but in the embrace of Double Act!

**Congratulations** to Paulette and her team for a truly enjoyable production of 'Alice In Cuckoo Land'. The audiences were not as numerous as we'd hoped but



those that did come had a great time, and behaved exactly as they should in a pantomime – 'Oh Yes They Did!' As a bonus, almost £114 was raised for our chosen charity, Dorset Wildlife Trust.

**Our first meeting** of 2026 will be on Monday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hopefully we will have the chance to watch a recording of 'Alice in Cuckoo Land' – some of the cast never saw what it looked and sounded like from the audience viewpoint, so it will be a good opportunity to see it at last. Non-Double Act folk are welcome to come to the meeting, including perhaps those who couldn't get to the show. This will be organised as a social evening as well.

**We are looking** forward to a highly entertaining presentation on theatrical 'Things that went Wrong', on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This will follow a brief AGM. For April's meeting, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, we hope to have a workshop and demonstration on how to do stage make-up, which should include such delights as Pantomime Dame make-up. That could result in some people going home in heavy disguise!

**In November** our main production will be 'The Cat and the Canary', which Dougal Dixon has been preparing for a while. Make sure you put the dates in your 2026 diary now: November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

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](mailto:doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com)  
*New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome!*



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National Trust

## Nature updates from the National Trust

### Remarkable resurgence of wildlife

Five years after the creation of the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR) – volunteers have revealed a remarkable resurgence of wildlife.

At the recent AGM of the Purbeck Natural History Forum, speakers presented the highlights of a year of wildlife monitoring:

- Dartford warblers have reached a record 97 breeding pairs at Arne, an extraordinary recovery for a species that was almost extinct in the UK in the 1960s.
- Silver-studded blue butterflies on the Studland heaths saw their highest ever counts in 2024 and 2025. This is in a time of national butterfly decline.
- A nationally rare ground beetle, famed for its iridescent green and gold colouring, is thriving on Hartland Moor.
- Water voles, an endangered species, have been recorded on several sites on the heaths.
- Pine martens, critically endangered in England, have been recorded for the first time at Little Sea.

Read more here: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/spyway/remarkable-wildlife-resurgence-on-purbeck-heaths](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/spyway/remarkable-wildlife-resurgence-on-purbeck-heaths)

### Berry bonanza

Have you noticed the shrubs on Corfe Common and the Purbeck Heaths are bursting with berries? It's been recorded that 2025 was a 'mast year', when trees and shrubs produce an unusual abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds, known as mast.



*Dartford warbler, Paul Wright*

This usually happens about every five years. But why do trees do this? The answer seems to be that it takes a lot of energy for a tree to produce such an abundance, so they can't do it every year. Instead, they build up their resources until they are ready to produce a bumper crop. When this happens, there's too much for birds and mammals to eat – allowing some seeds to escape and grow into saplings. Clever tactics, eh!

### Fabulous flocks

It might seem bleak outside, but January is a fabulous time for birdwatching. The farmland and hedgerows are bursting with flocks of goldfinch, linnet and yellowhammer. On the heaths, look out for the so-called 'Viking birds', winter-visiting thrushes from Scandinavia which



*Holly berries, Cathy Lewis*



*Redwing, Pete Christie*

love berries or windfall fruit.

Redwings, with their striking white eye stripe and rusty-red underwings, often gather in large flocks. Fieldfares are bigger, grey and chestnut-coloured with a yellowy-toned breast. They aggressively defend their food, chasing away any other birds that get too close.

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](mailto:purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust



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## News from the Castle



National  
Trust

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year from all of us at the National Trust in Purbeck.

### 2026: Home and Hearth

In 2026, our year-long theme 'Home and Hearth' explores the castle as a domestic space, what it was like to live there and be part of its community. We'll share human stories from its long history through events including an archaeology exhibition with 3D touchable replicas, open weekends, apple festival, and living history. Regular favourites return, like the food festival and teddy zip wires, alongside new highlights: Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts in summer and Diwali celebrations later in the year.

Event details will be on our website in January, but please note they may change or be cancelled at short notice. If you're planning around an event, please get in touch.

### Castle lights

On Sunday, 11 January, we will light the castle in memory of our dear colleague, Wendy Pearl.

### Blacksmithing workshops – medieval key making



Local blacksmith Alistair Butcher from AB Forgeworks is offering one-to-one medieval key making workshops in the castle grounds, inspired by archaeological finds from AD 800–1100. Alistair is also incredibly knowledgeable about the castle and moonlights as one of our storytellers!

Workshops run on 25 January and 22 February.



## Corfe Community Kitchen Soup 'n Pud

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

**Corfe Castle Village Hall**

**Saturday January 3<sup>rd</sup> '26**

**12.30 – 1.45pm**



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

### Free Lunch

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

Well Christmas has been and gone and here we are in a New Year! Where did that year go? Our Festive Lunch in December was especially well attended with many folk entering into the spirit by wearing their favourite sparkly jumpers and hats. We continued to use up donated courgettes in one of the soups and apples in one of the puds. This autumn's bounty knew no bounds! Thanks so much to the contributors. Our nod to Christmas was in the other soup and pud with chestnuts and mince meat featuring heavily and was rounded off with chocolates to accompany the teas and coffees.

We are very grateful to Lizzie for planting up our tea cup daffodil table decorations which sold very well. They, alongside homemade donated jams and chutneys, helped to swell our coffers somewhat and provided some additional festive cheer.

At the time of writing we are undecided about January's menu but you can be assured that it is as wholesome as always and served in our usual cheerful way by a wonderful group of volunteers.

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 2026 brings you good health, happiness, friendship and company such as we try to provide for all, at our Soup 'n' Puds.

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR from the SOUP 'N' PUD TEAM**

## Church Knowle Parish Council – December Meeting

The December meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 6:30pm. It was attended by eight members of the Council (Cllr Burt in the chair), Dorset Cllr Ben Wilson and 13 members of the public.

### Planning

One application was considered:  
P/FUL/2025/06766 The conversion of an existing building to new Garden Centre.

There was much discussion about this application especially with regard to environment and bat surveys and it was agreed to defer the Parish Council's comments on this until the January meeting. This will be held in the Furzebrook Village Hall.

### The Precept

It was agreed that the precept for the parish be kept the same as last year at £16,000 for the year.

### The New Inn

The New Inn is now open again with a new landlord. Details of opening hours and hospitality can be found on its website: [www.the-newinn.co.uk](http://www.the-newinn.co.uk)

### 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](mailto:clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk).

The meeting finished at 7:46 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Furzebrook Village Hall at 6:30 on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Note this a temporary departure from the usual venue schedule.

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

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

See our website [swanagerailwaymuseum.co.uk](http://swanagerailwaymuseum.co.uk) or email [corfo.museum@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:corfo.museum@swanagerailway.co.uk)





Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School



December was another wonderfully busy month filled with festive preparations. Highlights included a PTFA North Pole Breakfast, the PTFA Christmas Fair, two delightful nativity performances and a KS2 Carol Service. We also enjoyed a PTFA Wreath-Making Workshop, a PTFA Movie Night and various class Christmas parties, all topped off with a very special visit from the man in red!

We were also delighted to be invited to lead Once in Royal David's City and sing Silent Night at the St Edward's Church Carol Service on Sunday 14th December. Ten children, spanning from Year 2 to Year 5, represented the school — a small but mighty group who exuded confidence and sang beautifully to the church congregation. The children particularly enjoyed the mince pies after the service. As always, a huge thank you to the families who continue to support the school's community efforts; I am extremely grateful.



On our wall hangs a beautiful painting, kindly donated by the artist Val Hargreaves. The painting was inspired by a visit to the top of St Edward's Church tower, where inscriptions on the lead sheeting record times gone by, including the names of families still resident in the village today. This special artwork now hangs proudly in the school corridor.

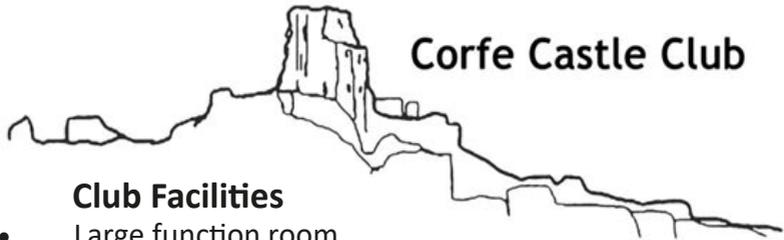


## Join our Pre-school!

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Call or email us today to find out more.  
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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

## Club AGM

## Weds 4th February

## 7.30pm

Membership application forms are available from the Club Steward. Annual Membership is £10.  
 Local beers, ciders and lager at very reasonable prices.  
 Soft drinks, snacks, tea and coffee also available.

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### News from The Castle

Happy New Year from The Castle Inn! 2026 is upon us, and like us, I'm sure you're all looking forward to a fresh beginning & a cracking year ahead! We are sure we can entice you in with our delicious food, friendly staff & cosy atmosphere. Let's see what we have going on this month:

#### 30% Off Your Bill

Who doesn't love a January deal? This month only, we are offering 30% off the total bill. This is a bookings only deal, so all you need to do is give us a call with your preferred date & time and quote "CASTLE30" to take advantage of this fabulous offer!

#### Thursday is Steak Night!

Looking for delicious steaks from local butchers, discounted prices & a warm & cosy country pub? Look no further... The Castle Inn is the place to be on a Thursday evening, so get your table booked today to avoid disappointment.

#### Sunday is the day of the Roast!

Sunday we serve roasts all day long, so take your pick from tender beef, succulent pork, juicy chicken or delicious nut roast, all served with steamy veg, crispy roast potatoes, parsnips, yorkshire puds & gorgeous gravy! Enough to tantalise even the harshest roast critics taste buds!

From all the staff at The Castle Inn, we wish you a happy & healthy 2026!



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## EVENTS

Wednesday 14th January  
**Curry & Games Night**

Saturday 24th January  
**Burns Night with Piano Man Marky Dawson**

Saturday 14th February  
**Valentines Night Menu**

Thursday 26th February  
**Quiz Night**

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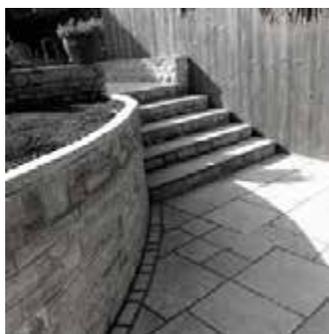
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## SF CONSTRUCTION

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- Patios
- Fencing
- Stone Work
- Brick Work
- Extensions
- General Building

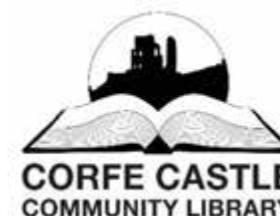
**Sam Fooks**

07772794056

samfooks1988@icloud.com



## News from the Library



*A Happy New Year to all our borrowers, volunteers, and friends!*

### AGM and a Talk about the History of Swanage Pier

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Corfe Castle Library will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 2.00pm in the Bill Carter Room of the village hall. It will be a short meeting, we aim for 10 minutes (we have achieved shorter ones in the past!). This will be followed by a talk entitled ‘*Some History of Swanage Pier*’ by Cathy Evans.

### Increased Opening Hours !!

The new year sees an additional opening hours slot. The library will now be open on Fridays from 3.00pm to 5.00pm. We hope this will attract children on their way back from school who will have less pressure to get home to do homework etc. than on a normal school day.

### New Committee Secretary Needed

We are making an appeal to you, your neighbours and your friends, the library committee is in need of a secretary.

The committee meets every 4 to 6 weeks and we need a secretary to take notes at each meeting, type up the notes and prepare an agenda for the following meeting.

Our retiring secretary, Martyn has multiple duties but these have been shared between the committee members in order to attract a new secretary.

### 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.

\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Friday 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. \*\*\*NEW\*\*\*

Saturday 10.00 - 12.00 a.m.

## **Surgery and Patient Participation Group**

A New Year message from Kerry, Practice Manager and me, Maggie Hardy.

First we would like to send every best wish for 2026 to all Staff, patients and all volunteers connected with our Surgery and thank everyone for their continued support.

As a PPG we recognize how lucky we are to have Corfe Surgery, which is envied by many, and we are keen to involve a greater cross section of our practice community in the work of the Patient Participation Group.

Like me you may be surprised to know that the greatest proportion of our practice population is in the 0-65 age group(1032 men and 1087 women) and so, we would like to attract support from this group and if possible include male members of the surgery population recognising of course that many in this age group will be working.

Early in the new year we will be asking patients to complete a questionnaire when visiting the surgery to let us know if the surgery offers the flexibility of appointment times that suit modern working and our younger population and to see if anyone would be willing to support our PPG work.

Whilst the PPG committee meets 3 times a year for about 1.5 hours in the surgery building around lunchtime, we would welcome input from those willing to receive an agenda and minutes and send in any thoughts to inform the meeting or indeed we could consider changing our meeting time!

The Surgery website includes lots of information for younger patients and Purbeck is fortunate to have a YOUTH PPG which runs out of Wareham surgery but covers the whole area and can be accessed through the website.

If you are wondering what a PPG actually does - we are a group of people who are patients of the surgery who want to help it work as well as it can for patients, doctors and staff. The NHS requires every practice to have a PPG. Our experiences matter and we can all bring ideas to the surgery to help the surgery team to look after us - so important in this ever-changing NHS.

The PPG can be contacted through the surgery or by email [corfecastleppg@gmail.com](mailto:corfecastleppg@gmail.com)  
Please do get in touch with us and help if you can .

Maggie Hardy PPG Chair and Kerry Norman Practice Manager



**8, West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HD**

**Phone - 01929 480449**

**Email - [contact@thefoxinncorfecastle.com](mailto:contact@thefoxinncorfecastle.com)**



### **OUR JANUARY OFFERS**

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#### **Sunday Evening Roast**

Buy one get one free on our roast dinners every Sunday  
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#### **Winning Wednesdays**

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Who knew you could make so many things from balloons. We were truly entertained at our December meeting by Rob Driscoll 'The Fantactic Bow Tie Balloon Man'. He had an amazing box of balloons and proceeded to make bunches of flowers, toys, people and even a Tyrannosaurus Rex complete with pearly white teeth. We learnt about the history of balloons and a little known fact, that Faraday made the very first balloon. He shared pictures of some of the projects that he had done, one for the WWF with an animal (some endangered) for every letter of the alphabet to raise awareness. It was hard to believe that they were made from balloons. Following the talk there was festive food and refreshments!! A very enjoyable afternoon.

### Future Programme of Speakers

6<sup>th</sup> January - The Bankes Family at Kingston Lacey

We are a friendly group so please come along and join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:2008aquariussladies@gmail.com) for more information.

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**SOUTHWEST  
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## Corfe Castle Village Hall

### general news:

The VH Coffee Morning in December raised £155.16 for VH funds. Thanks to all those who attended, especially our loyal team of helpers.

The December 100 club draw was made at the Coffee Morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 47, with member 35 getting second prize £10 and member 80 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)

### Extra Trustees Welcome

The village hall continues to play an important part in maintaining a flourishing social life in the village, and year by year the number of regular users increases.

We do have a few vacancies on our Trustee board. The workload involved need not be excessively onerous ... we usually meet only 3 or 4 times a year, but there is also the opportunity for greater involvement if people want. The key requirement is a heart for our village community.

Trustees are elected by everyone attending the annual AGM (March 31st). If interested contact David on 07590 352219 or david@davidjatin.plus.com.

### Grand Fun Christmas Quiz Night and Raffle

Thank you to all who attended the Quiz in December. A great time was had by all, and particular thanks to our fabulous quizmaster Baz. A total of nearly £850 was raised for the Kitchen fund.

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



## Half a century of bird watching

*Happy New Year!* With 2026 now upon us, this year's **Big Garden Birdwatch** is fast approaching. This is a yearly citizen science project run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in which people of all ages can

spend an hour of their choosing to count the birds that visit their gardens, balconies, or local parks. This year, the event will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January.

The **Big Garden Birdwatch** began in 1979 and has grown steadily since then. Over half a million people took part in 2025. This collective effort over many years has provided valuable data that help track bird population changes and inform conservation efforts.

Sad to say, but I had started my birdwatching before 1979! Being all too conscious of the rarity now of many species that I used to see easily when I was young, I revisited my annual bird list from half a century ago and consulted the British Trust for Ornithology's website to see how the species I saw then have fared since.

In 1976 I saw 153 species of bird (I was quite keen back then). Of those, the BTO website provides changes in population abundance since the late 1960s/early 1970s for 112 species. Of those, 47 species (42%) have declined in abundance. Some of the declines have been catastrophic, being 90% or more for lesser spotted woodpecker, redpoll, starling, grey partridge, spotted flycatcher, willow tit, tree sparrow and whinchat. In contrast, of the species I saw in 1976, 65 species (58%) have increased in abundance. I must confess that this rather surprised me. However, of those 65 species, the ten that have increased in abundance most since the 1960s/1970s are almost all waterfowl (one swan, four species of geese and two species of duck) but include one wading bird – the black-tailed godwit - and two birds of prey – the common buzzard and the osprey. Many of those increases can probably be explained as recoveries from historically excessive levels of hunting or persecution. That is especially true of the osprey, which has come back from the brink of extinction in the UK thanks to tireless and ongoing conservation efforts (including the relocation of young ospreys to Poole Harbour in recent years). Although you won't see an osprey on the **Big Garden Birdwatch** in January

(they are all now in Africa) you can see them flying over the Corfe Valley on migration (I saw three last autumn).

Amongst the garden birds you might see on the **Big Garden Birdwatch** there have also been a surprising mix of winners and losers:

Garden Birds going down	% change since 1960s/1970s	Garden Birds going up	% change since 1960s/1970s
<b>Starling</b>	<b>-91%</b>	Blue tit	+23%
<b>House sparrow</b>	<b>-73%</b>	Sparrowhawk	+46%
<b>Greenfinch</b>	<b>-67%</b>	Coal tit	+50%
<b>Mistle thrush</b>	<b>-63%</b>	Goldcrest	+51%
<b>Bullfinch</b>	<b>-51%</b>	Robin	+55%
Song thrush	-46%	Great tit	+77%
Dunnock	-42%	Long-tailed tit	+83%
Chaffinch	-24%	<b>Magpie</b>	<b>+106%</b>
Blackbird	-20%	<b>Wren</b>	<b>+118%</b>
		<b>Goldfinch</b>	<b>+129%</b>
		<b>Crow</b>	<b>+132%</b>
		<b>Jackdaw</b>	<b>+140%</b>
		<b>Woodpigeon</b>	<b>+158%</b>
		<b>Collared dove</b>	<b>+197%</b>
		<b>Great spotted woodpecker</b>	<b>+378%</b>

Some species that were very familiar to me as garden birds when I was young are now much scarcer – numbers of five species (in **bold** above) have declined by more than half since then. On the other hand, some other garden birds are much more abundant now, and you are more likely to see them in your garden this year than you were 50 years ago. Eight species (in **bold** above) have more than doubled in abundance over that time. These include the now very familiar magpies, crows, jackdaws, woodpigeons and collared doves. Not everyone's favourites I know, but familiarity invariably breeds unwarranted contempt.

Long-term surveys like the **Big Garden Birdwatch** help enormously in detecting and improving our understanding of patterns of change like those described here. So, why not sit back with a cup of tea for an hour or so, see what you can count in your garden, and make your contribution to one of the world's biggest and longest running citizen science projects. You never know what you might see! Good counting. For more details see this website:

**[Big Garden Birdwatch 2026 | Everything you Need to Know](#)**

**Richard Caldow**

## CORFE VALLEY NEWS

## CALENDAR for JANUARY 2026

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

3	January	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning	Corfe Castle Village Hall
3	January	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n' pud Community lunch-	Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	January	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius talk – The Bankes family at Kingston Lacey	
10	January	Saturday	6.30 pm	Smiling Seas Quiz Night - In the Etches Collection	
11	January	Sunday	pm	Castle lit in memory of Wendy Pearl	
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 –	Furzebrook Village Hall
23	January	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Kimmeridge Keilidh –	Kimmeridge Village Hall
25	January	Sunday	All day	Blacksmithing Workshop – in the Castle	
29	January	Thursday	2 pm	AGM of Friends of the Library and talk History of Swanage Pier' by Cathy Evans.	CCVH

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

2	February	Monday	pm	Double Act Open Night -	Corfe Castle Village Hall
5	February	Thursday	8 pm	Gardening club AGM and Quiz -	Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	February	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning	Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	February	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n' pud Community lunch-	Corfe Castle Village Hall
9	February	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting –	Corfe Castle Village Hall
10	February	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting –	Furzebrook Village Hall
25	February	Sunday	All day	Blacksmithing Workshop – in the Castle	
27	February	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Kimmeridge Keilidh –	Kimmeridge Village Hall
28	February	Saturday	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Family Beetle Drive in aid of Parkinsons –	Corfe Castle Village Hall

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:revrichardwhite@outlook.com)  
[revlouisewhite@outlook.com](mailto:revlouisewhite@outlook.com)  
**01929 208578**

**Associate Priest Nick Webb 07866 546162**  
[fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com](mailto:fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com)

**Pioneer Associate Priest – Lindy Cameron 01929 208469**  
[revlindyjane@gmail.com](mailto:revlindyjane@gmail.com)

**Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns**

**For Kingston contact the Parish Administrator**

[admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org](mailto:admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org)      **01929 427822**

**For Corfe and the Valley Churches please contact Lynette McCallum**

[lynetterees21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynetterees21@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.staldhelmpurbeck.wordpress.com](http://www.staldhelmpurbeck.wordpress.com)

### Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109      Jeremy McCallum 480389

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

**Revd Louise writes,**

How does it feel, now that the celebrations of Christmas are over, and the New Year has begun? Is there a sense of relief that it is all over, of thankfulness for good times had, or dread because January with its long dark days lies ahead, with nothing to cheer us perhaps, only energy bills and the dreaded credit card bills.

Over the past few months, thankfulness is a theme that has been continually cropping up. It is not something I am naturally good at, but it is something that I would like to get better at. I don't believe that I should just be thankful when things are going well, but that it is something which is beneficial in every

season of life, including in January! It is something which can be cultivated, and that can alter our sense of wellbeing.

Why is being thankful so good for us? Why is it something which the Bible continually reminds me to be? In a world which is struggling so much, with anxieties, conflicts, new levels of violence, extreme climate events, perhaps it is even more important that we remind ourselves about the good things which we can enjoy, and that we have been given. I believe that God is good, and that it is because of His great love for the whole world that He came as a baby, to live and to show His love, and to die for us. He promises us life, and His love and peace. By His goodness and grace we are forgiven and can know His presence in us and with us.

These good things don't alter when things around me are going wrong, or I am feeling down. The beauty all around me is a constant too, be it the beauty of a bare hazel tree with just a few catkins on it, or a frosty morning in the hazy winter sun. Or maybe the kind words of a neighbour who is aware of what I am going through, or seeks to encourage.

May we find things in our days, especially these dark January days, that bring us joy, and are gifts that we can be thankful for.

### Services in January 2026

#### **Sunday 4th January**

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Holy Communion

#### **Saturday 11th January**

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Morning Worship

Kingston – 11.30 am

Informal Worship

#### **Sunday 18th January**

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Holy Communion

Harmans Cross 6 pm

Evening Worship

#### **Sunday 25th January**

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am,

Holy Communion

Kingston – 11.30 am

Holy Communion

Please note there are no services at Steeple, and the church is temporarily closed to visitors, while essential building work is being done.

There are also services every week in Langton Matravers and Worth Matravers. Information at [www.staldhelm-purbeck.org](http://www.staldhelm-purbeck.org)

### Bible Readings – January 2026

#### **Sunday 4th January**

Second Sunday of Christmas

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a  
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23  
or Luke 2:41-52  
or Matthew 2:1-12

#### **Sunday 11th January**

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

#### **Sunday 18th January**

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

#### **Sunday 25th January**

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

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## CHAPEL on the GREEN

### A New Year, A Fresh Beginning

A new year often feels like a clean page. Many of us make resolutions, hoping to leave behind what hurt us and move toward something better. Even for those who are unsure about faith, this shared desire for renewal is something we all understand.

Christianity speaks directly to this longing for a fresh start. At its heart is the belief that God is not distant or condemning, but loving and patient. The Bible tells a story of a God who meets people where they are—tired, broken, doubtful—and offers them hope rather than judgment.

For Christians, the new year is a reminder that change does not have to rely on willpower alone. It is rooted in grace: the idea that we are loved before we improve, accepted before we have everything figured out. Jesus' life and teachings centre on forgiveness, compassion, and new beginnings—for anyone willing to receive them.

Even if you don't consider yourself religious, the message is worth reflecting on. What would it look like to start the year believing that your past does not define you? That you are more than your mistakes? That love, mercy, and purpose are possible?

A new year invites all of us to slow down, to reflect, and to hope. Christianity simply offers this assurance: no matter where you've been, a new beginning is always possible.

As the year begins, may you find peace, courage, and a renewed sense of meaning—and may this season remind you that hope is never out of reach.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

**Jeremiah 29:11-12**

Rob Taylor

**For Sunday Services please see the Chapel Notice oard.**

**Coffee Mornings each Wednesday from 10.30am -12.30pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wishing you all a Happy New Year with New Beginnings and New Opportunities**

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary) 07908 807115 [Fr\\_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk)

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## Notices and Thanks

### Corfe Castle Gardening Club

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing, Happy Christmas.

The Gardening Club enjoyed a festive, jolly Christmas Bring and Share Supper on 11<sup>th</sup> December and, as usual, our members produced a wonderful spread of varied and delicious food. Then evening was full of laughter and chatter, with fun games provided by the committee and a great raffle. Thank you everyone who contributed to the evening.

**We would like to welcome all the new members who joined the club in 2025. We are going from strength to strength, and we want to continue to flourish and explore and enjoy all things ‘Gardening’. 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 on 5<sup>th</sup> February. We will have a short AGM followed by Hazel’s fun gardening quiz. Please be ready to pay your subs for the next year which are held at £12 for the year. This includes all our speakers and the hire of the hall, which is incredible value.**

**We wish you all a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY 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](mailto: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.

## Remembrance 2025

Thank you to all those individuals and businesses who supported the Royal British Legion’s Remembrance events in and around Corfe Castle in November. The counting is now complete and together we have raised just over £2,700 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you again.

John Patterson, Chairman - Corfe Castle RBL

### Kingston Old Post Office

Notice No.1, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Article 13. Proposed development at Village Water Pump, adjacent to The Old Post Office, West Street, Kingston, Corfe Castle, Dorset. Name of Applicant: Mr B Woodman, on behalf of Kingston Village Charitable Trust. Proposal : Listed Building Consent Application to perform restoration works to the pump stonework and metalwork. Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should do so in writing within 21 days of the date of service of this notice, or within 14 days of the publication in the newspaper to: Head of Development and Planning, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ



**Corfe Crafters**  
**Wednesday 9.00am to 12 midday**  
**Contact Cheryl - 07745242511**



### 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.

### 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](mailto:david.gynes@parkinsons-uk.goassemble.com)

The next two meetings are: January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>

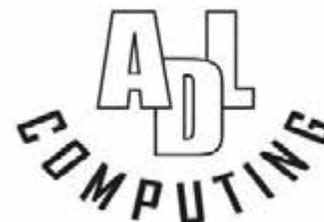
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# LUNCH MENU

2 COURSE 17.50

3 COURSE 21.00

MONDAY *TO* SATURDAY

Valid from 5th January 2026 to 13th February 2026

Must include a purchased drink per person

Please quote promotional code **LUNCH25** when booking or show voucher on arrival.



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MONDAY

TO

SATURDAY

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## SUNDAY ROASTS MENU

**TWO COURSE SUNDAY LUNCH\*** for | 24.95  
MAIN COURSE & DESSERT

**ROAST TOPSIDE OF DORSET BEEF** (GF by request) | 22

Roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, roasted and glazed carrots and parsnips, buttered garden greens, braised red cabbage and mashed swede.  
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

## VALENTINES MENU

Available for dinner 14th & 15th February 2026



### STARTERS

**CRAYFISH, PRAWN & CRAB COCKTAIL**

Marie Rose sauce, rustic bread & butter (GF by request)

**COQUILLES ST. JACQUES**

Scallops with a creamy mushroom Gruyere sauce (GF) (3 supplement)

**WILD MUSHROOM RISOTTO**

Truffle oil & Italian hard cheese (V) (GF) (VG by request)

**DUCK, RED ONION & TRUFFLE TERRINE**

Mixed leaves, rustic bread, onion marmalade

**SEAFOOD CHOWDER**

Luxury creamy soup of cod, mussels, clams, prawns, potato & bacon with rustic bread & butter

### MAIN COURSES

**PAN FRIED HALIBUT**

Tender stem broccoli & a champagne cream sauce (GF)

**DORSET PORK TENDERLOIN**

Apricot & Brandy stuffing with a cider cream sauce

**LAMB WELLINGTON**

Loin of lamb, mint pea puree, puff pastry & Madeira sauce (5 supplement)

All served with dauphinoise potatoes & seasonal vegetables

**KIMMERIDGE LOBSTER & BURGER**

2 Smashed patties, cheese, brioche bun, salad, gherkin & half a Kimmeridge Bay lobster in garlic butter & skinny fries (10 supplement)

**CAULIFLOWER STEAK**

Cous cous salad, vine tomatoes & chimichurri sauce (V) (VG by special request)

### DESSERTS

**ITALIAN RASPBERRY MERINGUE**

Mixed berry coulis (GF)

**LEMON ZESTER**

Vanilla ice cream topped with meringue pieces and lemon sauce

**STEAMED CHOCOLATE & ORANGE PUDDING**

With vanilla ice cream (VG by request)

**APPLE TARTE TATIN**

Vanilla ice cream (V)

**SALTED CARAMEL CHEESECAKE**

With caramel drizzle

| 39.50 per person

**BOOKING  
ESSENTIAL**

| 10 deposit per person

Pre Orders Required

# MOTHERING SUNDAY LUNCH MENU

Table available for 3 sittings at lunch on Sunday 15th March  
12/12.30pm 2/2.30pm & 4/4.30pm

## STARTERS

- SPICED PARSNIP SOUP (VG on request)  
Crusty bread & butter
- DUCK, RED ONION & TRUFFLE OIL TERRINE  
Mixed leaves, rustic bread & onion marmalade
- SIMPLY SMOKED SALMON  
Mixed leaves, rustic bread & lemon mayonnaise
- CRAYFISH, PRAWN & SMOKED SALMON COCKTAIL  
Mixed leaves, Marie Rose & brown bread & butter  
All starters GF by special request

## MAINS

- ROAST TOPSIDE OF BEEF  
With Yorkshire pudding & horseradish sauce
- ROAST LEG OF LAMB (please order in advance)  
With Yorkshire pudding a port & redcurrant jus (3.5 supplement)
- TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY BREAST  
With Yorkshire pudding, pigs in blankets & cranberry sauce
- POACHED SALMON IN A VERONIQUE SAUCE  
(grape, white wine & cream)
- BUTTERNUT SQUASH, LENTIL & ALMOND WELLINGTON  
(V) (VG by request)

All GF by special request

All served with roast potatoes, parsnips, carrots,  
garden greens, tenderstem broccoli, swede & red cabbage |  
Add Pigs in blankets | 6 Add cauliflower cheese | 6

## DESSERTS

- MANGO AND PASSION FRUIT MOUSSE
- ITALIAN RASPBERRY MERINGUE
- TOFFEE CHEESECAKE
- ESPRESSO MARTINI TIRAMISU
- APPLE & GOOSEBERRY CRUMBLE TART

2 courses | 29.5 3 courses | 34.5  
Children's (under 12's) 2 courses | 15

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** | 5 deposit per person  
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# MOTHERING SATURDAY BRUNCH

Available Saturday 14th March 10am - 2pm

## COCKTAILS

Bloody Mary | Bucks Fizz | Espresso Martini

## NON ALCOHOLIC

Buckless Fizz (Ginger Bear & Orange Juice) Or A Fruit Juice Of Your Choice  
English Breakfast Tea | Earl Grey Tea | Specialty Teas | Cappuccino | Latte | Americano | Flat White

## BREAKFAST

**Full English** - Two rashers of bacon, pork sausage, fried egg, grilled tomato, hash browns, baked beans & mushrooms. Served with malted grain or white toast & butter

**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)

| 20 per person | 5 deposit per person

INCLUDES A FREE GIFT FOR ALL MUMS

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

## CHILDREN'S 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

Gluten free available on request

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## MOTHERING SATURDAY AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 14th March 2pm-4pm  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

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ASSORTED SANDWICHES

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

CANAPÉS

Chicken liver & redcurrant parfait on a crostini  
Avocado & tomato bruschetta  
Miniature pork pie with house chutney

SWEET TREATS

Scone, clotted cream & strawberry preserve  
Selection of miniature cakes, pastries and tartlets

SELECTION OF DORSET TEAS & COFFEE

| 29.5 per person

| 5 deposit per person  
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## Anne Bond writes

After the excitement of our seaside stay in Weymouth which successfully saw off the Whooping Cough, my brother, the twins and I became a gang of four relatively quickly. When my brother was still very young Dad was sent to the USA for 6 months to do a course at a military school in West Virginia, and after the separations of the war years, my mother was going with him. We were left in the care of Nanny, the Nursery Maids and my mother's two beloved cleaning ladies. We didn't miss our parents; our world was the Nursery, the Kitchen Gardens, Home Farm, and the people we saw every day such as the postman.

When I was six, Nanny left. For me, the eldest child, she had been the major adult in my life, all my life, a figure I had learned not to hate but whom I didn't love either. I loved my mother. I hardly knew my father.

My mother had lived in Paris with her parents, twin brother and much younger sister until she was nineteen and the Second World War began. Her father, our grandfather, a WWI wounded decorated hero, worked in the French branch of a stockbroking firm called Williams DeBroe, and then was asked to join General de Gaulle's staff in the UK. After the war, around 1950ish I think, word reached Mum that Jeanne, their cook in Paris, now widowed and barely existing in war-ravaged France, was very ill, starving herself in order to feed her own children. I don't know how exactly, but she came to live with us in Dorset. When I was older, she taught me to cook, basic French cooking: bechamel sauce, buttery scrambled eggs, and "if in difficulty, add cream". Mum was bilingual; we all absorbed some French without thinking about it.

Dad was posted to various places in Germany as part of the international Occupation Force, and sometimes we went with him. Most UK army families lived in purpose-built groups of houses known as 'cabbage patches', but the houses were too small to house two parents, four children, and a nanny-come-governess, so a house in a German street was always found for us. In one, the little girl next door and I made friends despite there being a 'non-fraternisation policy' imposed. We dug a hole beneath the dividing garden fence, and our mothers dutifully pretended ignorance.

Mummy always took us back to Dorset for the summer, braving alone the long drive, German roads, travel by ship and all the difficulties involved.

With love, Anne

## A tireless leading light of three charities in Wareham has been honoured by the High Sheriff of Dorset.

Retired marketing executive Harold Forbes is co-founder, chairman and treasurer of Wareham Area Men's Shed; the organiser of the town's litter pickers, known as the Wareham Wombles, and a trustee and treasurer of the Wareham District Development Trust.

He was presented with a High Sheriff's Award "in recognition of great and valuable services to the community" by Dorset's ceremonial dignitary Callum Bremner at a ceremony in the Shed's workshop at Lenctenbury Farm, outside Wareham.



*Harold Forbes (right) is presented with the award by Dorset's High Sheriff Callum Bremner*

Mr Bremner paid tribute to Harold's "commitment, generosity of spirit and unwavering enthusiasm, which exemplifies voluntary endeavour and civic spirit".

The Sheriff also praised his "inspiring personal resilience" given he has continued his voluntary work while also supporting his wife Karin through long and arduous treatment for a serious illness.

Harold said he was "extremely honoured" to receive the award.

Asked what drives him to be so involved in the community, he replied: "I guess when you retire you lose a sense of purpose – you don't have the same structure or pressure on you. I find life is better with structure and a bit of purpose. And what's nice is that, as opposed to working, the things I do are hobbies which no one is forcing me to do.

"They keep me active, keep my brain sharp and challenge my creativity."

Members of the Men's Shed said Harold was known for his keen wit and ready smile.

Retired doctor Philip Dawson, who nominated Harold for the award, added: "We all need leaders at every stage of life, even in retirement. And Harold, with his remarkable ability to combine fine organisation with good humour, is a tremendous example."



*Wareham's Sheddars at the presentation ceremony.*

Philip Daubeny, chair of the Wareham District Development Trust – which tends parts of the town including Priory Meadow – said: “Harold has been very busy on behalf of Wareham and Purbeck for many years. He is a tremendous asset and thoroughly deserves this award.”

## **Kimmeridge News**

### **Smiling Seas Quiz Night – 10<sup>th</sup> January – 18:30**

The wonderful Smiling Seas is holding it's annual Kimmeridge Quiz Night in the hall at The Etches Collection. Emily House & the other volunteers working with her do an amazing job clearing plastic from our beeches – this is your chance to support them!

Tickets are £10 each and this includes food & drinks (but bring your own alcohol!). Tickets on the door – but cash only please.

There will be a raffle during the evening and any contributions of raffle prizes gratefully received.

For the quiz, you are welcome to come in a team or alone – we'll find you a team to join. We are relaxed about the number in a team, but probably around 6 is good.

It should be a great evening – do come and join us!

### **Kimmeridge Keilidh – 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

Our next Kimmeridge Keilidh (Barn Dance!) is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 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.

Future dates are: 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 27<sup>th</sup> Mar, 24<sup>th</sup> Apr & 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Steve & Helen Earwicker**

## **Pioneer View**

Dear Friends,

As we enter a new year the usual tradition is to make new year resolutions. Can I suggest that we first reflect on last year's resolutions and see how we did with those?

There is a sense that that the past often shapes our future. I am reminded of the moto of Durham University:

“Shaped by the past, creating the future “

I wonder when you reflect on last year and your resolutions how have they shaped you? Here are a few questions to ask yourself to help you reflect:

How have you moved on in the light of the challenges you encountered last year? What are the lessons have you learned from the decisions you made last year?

These are useful questions to reflect on. It very much confirms my view that we are shaped by past experiences and decisions. However, it throws up another challenge, that it's important we face our past and embrace it before moving on into the future.

With every goodbye there is a hello. I wonder what you will be saying goodbye to before saying hello to 2026.

There are several ways to approach this that may facilitate a goodbye and a hello. One that I use a lot is simply writing a letter to the past, situation, or a person. Writing a letter provides a reminder of people and friendships we have around us. It can teach us to not take these relationships for granted. It may often give us fresh insight and a deeper understanding of where we find ourselves in life's journey.

A quote to ponder:

“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are.” —J.P. Morgan

Wishing you all a Happy New Year

Journey well

Peter

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### REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HALL

#### Monday

- Ballett – Miranda Hindson telephone 07919441836 6pm – 8pm  
mjballat@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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 6.30).

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

## CORFE CASTLE'S HEROINE

Many of my generation left their families in World War II and during that time there were countless examples of bravery by women left to guard their homes from enemy attack. Before this century we have to go back to the Great Civil War, which began in 1642 and ruined many a town and village. Historical records give instances of a select band of ladies who defended their homes from the Roundheads. Notably they were Lady Digby at Sherborne, Lady Arundel at Wardour, Lady Harley at Brampton Brian and Lady Saville who successfully organised the defence of Sheffield Castle. Pride of place, however, must go to our own Lady Mary Bankes, who with a family of 14 (one a babe in arms) defended Corfe Castle to the bitter end.

This gallant lady was born Mary Hawtrey of Ruislip in Middlesex. Her family was an old and respected one of Norman descent. She met young John Bankes when he was studying law in London and married him in 1618 at the age of twenty. Her portrait which hangs in Kingston Lacy, shows her as a middle-aged determined and capable woman. With the accession of Charles I in 1625 her husband's career rocketed. He became an MP and Attorney General in 1634. The following year his wealth enabled him to buy the Corfe Castle Estate from the Hattons. They had done little for Corfe and the inhabitants must have rejoiced to have a resident family who faced up to their responsibilities in every way. In spite of the threat of war the elder boys received a good education and later made the Grand Tour of Europe. This undoubtedly encouraged the young Ralph Bankes in his love of art and sculpture.

Sir John, as he now was, had to spend much time either at Court or on circuit and Lady Bankes managed the estates well, until the outbreak of war. The first attack on the Castle on May 1<sup>st</sup> was repulsed largely by her indomitable leadership. Her garrison consisted of only a few soldiers led by Captain Lawrence and her loyal servants. A fresh blow descended when Sir John died at Oxford in 1644 leaving his widow to cope with a large family and a hostile neighbourhood. Both Poole and Dorchester had Roundhead garrisons. The second attack in June next year was a short one as the enemy were driven off. But the final siege in the winter lasted for 48 days during which time the Castle was continually attacked by large forces. Dame Mary never lost hope. Her sons and daughters joined in the defence and Corfe was one of the last Royal strongholds in the Country.

Finally the traitor Colonel Pitman delivered the Castle by treachery and to save further bloodshed Lady Bankes surrendered the keys to Colonel

Bingham. He was so impressed by her bravery that he returned them but warned that the Castle must be evacuated prior to its destruction. It is believed that Lady Bankes took refuge at first at Afflington which was one of her farms. Wholesale looting of the Castle then ensued. We know that certain townsfolk who supported Parliament helped themselves, and Colonel Bingham and Sir Walter Erle in no small manner. The rules of war permitted this, but it seems now a despicable act. Fortunately the priceless oil paintings were saved.

Local legend has it that the Bankes gold and silver plate had been buried in the Castle well and has never been found. This is most unlikely since Sir Ralph spent much time in endeavouring to recover his property. He wrote to Colonel Bingham and Sir Walter Erle about furnishings with little success. The homeless family rented houses near Blandford at Chettle and Damory Court but planned to rehouse themselves on their Kingston Lacy property as soon as their finances permitted. Ralph prudently married the Brune heiress of Athelhampton and two of his sisters had husbands, who exerted influence during the Commonwealth period. With a knighthood and a place in Parliament for Corfe, Sir Ralph consulted architects as to the building of his new mansion.

It was sad that Dame Mary did not see its completion since she died, regretted by all, in 1661. She had proved a good wife and mother and a brave commander during one of the most troubled periods in our history. The magnificent bronze statue of this gallant lady stands at the entrance to Kingston Lacy. It was executed by Baron Marochetti, and Mary Bankes stands in a defiant posture holding a sword and the keys of her Castle. Every time I pass it I pay homage to our own Corfe Heroine.

Paul Randal



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## Happy New Year!

To all our lovely customers, neighbours and friends.

With love from the SG Team

Wishing you all a wonderful 2026! We're certainly hoping for a more positive year, after our fire at the end of 2025.

I'd like to thank our wonderful volunteers who helped clean up the shop and get it open again: Alison, Cairn, Dawn and Jenny, as well as the SG Team: Keira, Roisin and Sarah. With all hands on deck we managed to open the first room within 36 hours!

Thanks also to so many of you in the village for your warm wishes and support.



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

- Sickness and disability
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## Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

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 <sup>nd</sup>	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 Ballroom Dance	C C Village Hall Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	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	<a href="http://www.purbeckyoga.co.uk">www.purbeckyoga.co.uk</a>	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	Swanage 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

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