

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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CORFE CASTLE LATIN AMERICAN & BALLROOM	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
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DOUBLE ACT drama group	DAVID WATSON	481265
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



MARCH 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 527 March 2026

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Past editors

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

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

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

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

Editorial

Looking back at old additions of the CVN I see that I've commented in most March editions about how wet the first two months of the year have been. However, I'm sure that this year, 2026, will have won the prize for the amount of rain that has fallen. It also makes the point that there is always lots of rain every February.

An organisation called Wessex Internet gave a presentation to the Parish Council about plans to upgrade existing copper connectivity to fibre in Kingston as well as some of the more remote areas of the parish. This will improve the speed of connection with the aim of providing everyone with at least 50 Mbits/second. There will be a public meeting to share plans with members of the public before work starts.

For the last twelve years Peter Jones has provided us with his regular and thoughtful input entitled Pioneer View. Peter is now retiring and moving north. We thank Peter for his contribution and wish him all the best for the future.

Stephen

Some useful Telephone Numbers

(There are more in the middle of the magazine)

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

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The front page is a sketch of Kimmeridge Farm and Church – artist unknown, but possibly Joan Bracchi who completed many sketches of Kimmeridge.

FEBRUARY FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

As winter flooding and infrastructure concerns continued to affect the village and surrounding area, Corfe Castle Parish Council met on Monday 9th February 2026 in the Village Hall to consider community concerns, parish safety, financial matters and the protection of local heritage and landscape.

Community Concerns Raised: One member of the public attended the meeting and raised several issues. This included concern that properties in Webbers Close are being flooded. Frustration over the lack of progress in contacting local landowners regarding the Norden Park and Ride proposals. (Dorset Councillor Wilson explained that landowners will be contacted once Dorset Council has completed investigations into potential route options). Further issues included the temporary removal of the Village Square pump for repairs without apparent planning permission, and governance concerns relating to the Sports Trust.

Highways: Dorset Councillor Wilson noted there is patch resurfacing works underway on the Studland Road, though no full resurfacing is currently planned for 2026–27. Dorset Council has confirmed that additional 30mph repeater signs cannot be installed on East Street due to existing street lighting regulations. However, Councillor Wilson agreed to enquire about the possibility of a “30” roundel painted on the road near the school. The Clerk will arrange for a large “School” sticker to be placed on the shelter outside the school as this is owned by the Parish Council.

Parish Safety and Maintenance: The monthly playground safety inspection highlighted that a section of fencing is bowing, although posts remain secure. The Clerk will now obtain quotes for replacement of the affected section.

Planning and Licensing Matters: Councillors considered several planning applications and agreed to submit the following comments:

- 121 East Street – renewal of permission for extensions and a garage: *no objection*, noting the proposal mirrors an earlier approved application.
- Oil pipeline replacement between Wytch Farm Gathering Station and Well Site D: *no objection*, welcoming the use of horizontal directional drilling to reduce disturbance and future leak risk.
- Village water pump at Kingston – restoration works: *no objection*, praising Kingston Village Trust for restoring an important heritage asset at no public expense.

Thanks and Community Recognition: The Parish Council agreed to formally thank the caretaker for the ongoing work around the parish, and the Gardening

Club for their long-standing dedication to maintaining the green area and flower border around the public toilet block.

Looking Ahead

Councillors noted a number of upcoming meetings and events, including those relating to Railway 200 (the 200th anniversary of railways in the UK), transport advisory groups, and Perenco’s Furzey Island operations.

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, ideas, or want to get involved, reach out to the Clerk or your local Councillors. See you next month!

Next Council Meeting – Monday 9th March 2026, at 7pm in the Corfe Castle Village Hall, Bill Carter Room. To start the meeting is a public session, so please come and join us and have your say.

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

Corfe Castle Village Hall CIO, in association with
Artsreach, is pleased to present:

the Mark Harrison band

Constantly touring and multi-awards-nominated, Mark Harrison has a reputation for being unlike anyone else out there. Mark writes songs about things most people live and think about but don't hear songs about, and songs that tell stories they haven't heard before. Proper songs, with catchy melodies and memorable lyrics that you can hear.

Mark and his extraordinary band (Charles Benfield on double bass and backing vocals and Ben Welburn on drums) have a unique sound and style that is very much their own genre, and incorporates elements of classic roots, rock, folk and blues.

Light refreshments will be available.

Sunday March 8th 2026 at 7.30pm

Tickets (£12.50 adult, £6 u18, £35 family) available from
www.artsreach.co.uk, the Village Stores or David on 07590 352219

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Looking Forward into 2026!

At our 2nd February meeting, Double Act Members were treated a World Premier film show of our much enjoyed November Panto, "Alice in Cuckoo Land". It was especially a treat for the Alice' actors and stage crew because they had never seen the production! We were all still "Boo-ing" the Queen of Hearts too! The video recording and DVD production was undertaken by our member Dougal Dixon who is also directing our November '26 performance of "The Cat and The Canary".

On February 9th, we organised a membership gathering for the first read-through of Dougal's script. It proved a very interesting evening with turns being taken by attendees to sample each of the characters, photograph below; this will help our esteemed director with his casting decisions too. Formal auditions will take place on May 11th & 18th with weekly Monday evening rehearsals commencing in June.



Yet another award winning Double Act production is in the pipeline!

March 9th see us holding our Annual General Meeting in the CC Village Hall, commencing 7pm and all members (& visitors) are encouraged to attend. It is usually a reasonably brief affair, but it will be followed by an entertaining account of things that have not gone 'quite right' on stage. The talk title is "The Joys and Pitfalls of Amateur Theatre – by two oldish ladies"!

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!



NORDEN FARM SHOP & GARDEN CENTRE



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Spring is here!

Easter is just around the corner – so of course we have a gorgeous variety of chocolates, Easter cakes and biscuits for you to indulge in!

Garden Barn / Mini Garden Centre

- Loads more plants arriving each week from our trusted suppliers.
- Our well-stocked Garden Barn is still impressing those that haven't ventured in yet – have you been in?

Farm Shop

- As always, we have fantastic giftware, local spirits, wines & groceries galore!
- Big focus on the very best **local** produce.
- We have a wide range of gardening goods, new lines and sale items available.
- Our impressive range of toys & treats is proving popular amongst the little ones...and grown-ups too!
- **SALES & various offers continue on selected lines across the shop.**

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

**Corfe Community Kitchen
Soup 'n Pud
Corfe Castle Village Hall
Saturday March 7th 2026
12.30 – 1.45pm**

Considering the extremely inclement weather recently, we were so pleased to welcome 55 diners to our February lunch. There were some new faces at the tables, and we are always very happy to have more. If you have not been to one of our lunches, please do come along. You will find lots of friendly faces and there is time to chat and get to know them over a good lunch. Come along about 12.20 to find your seat and settle in!

The menu for March: A choice of bean soup or chicken and sweetcorn soup with a fresh bread roll. The desserts: either trifle or a fruit topped traybake with custard. All our meals are home-made (apart from the custard!)

Thank you to Nigel and Joan at The Village Bakery for donating the bread rolls each month and also to all who donate food and money to the cause. It really helps us to follow our aim of using up good produce that might otherwise have gone to waste. Thank you too to our trusty band of volunteers, they're great!

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.





National Trust

Nature updates from the National Trust

Can you help Purbeck's precious seabirds?

Purbeck's stunning coastline is home to many breeding seabirds. Some are thriving, but sadly, others are struggling.

Guillemot and razorbill numbers are steady, but kittiwakes and fulmars have been in decline for decades. And our much-loved puffins are on the brink of survival.

In 1965, Trev Haysom of Langton Matravers, a skilled ornithologist, started keeping records of the seabirds here, and his work has continued almost every year since. Recently, the surveys have been carried out by the National Trust and Durlston Country Park. But with rising costs and reduced budgets, the 2026 survey is under threat. So, Birds of Poole Harbour has launched a fundraiser so this vital data gathering continues.



Fulmar, courtesy Mark Singleton

Can you help? Find out more here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/purbeck-seabirds>

Wetland research at Corfe Common



Emperor dragonfly, Courtesy Mark Singleton

Corfe Comon has been selected as part of a government research programme into groundwater wetlands. These are unique wetlands that rely on groundwater for their survival, rather than rain or surface water. They are rich in biodiversity, supporting many plants and aquatic insects, which are in turn food for bats and birds.

The Environment Agency is installing groundwater monitoring dip wells on the common. They won't affect your walks, and the surveys will be carried out by qualified professionals, including ecologists and hydrogeologists, ensuring minimal ecological disturbance.

Heralding the spring!

It feels like it's been a long winter, but at last nature is heralding the spring. Have you noticed that skylarks are in full voice – filling the air with their unmistakable, uplifting song? It's the males that sing, to defend their territory

and attract a mate. They sing as they spiral higher and higher into the sky, then hover in mid-air before plummeting back to earth.

Another early joy of spring is a glimpse of a male brimstone butterfly. Often one of the first butterflies to emerge, they're so vividly lemon-yellow that environment writer, Michael McCarthy, wrote: "The brimstone is so bright it looks like a piece of sunlight that has become detached from the sun's rays and freed to wander."



Swallow, courtesy Steve Smith

Hares have been, well, mad as March hares! The males chase females, and when the females become fed up, they stand on their hind legs and 'box' the males to fend them off. And of course, we'll soon see the return of swallows – flashes of iridescent blue and streaming tail feathers as they dart and dive through the air. For many, they are the happiest, most hopeful harbingers of summer.

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

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News from the Castle



National
Trust

Thank goodness it's March and there's hopefully some brighter weather ahead!

Early this month the castle is getting a major refresh in how its story is told with new interpretation — the visuals and text that help visitors understand its history.

Five new handheld “interpretation paddles” now guide you through the ruins, each exploring a different theme, from medieval daily life to Civil War sieges and ongoing archaeological discoveries. Use them as standalone stops or follow the full trail.

If you haven't been up in a while, it's the perfect time to see the castle with fresh eyes.

A few dates to be aware of:

Book Fair – 7 March

Our annual second-handbook fair takes place **inside the castle** this year. Free entry for village residents, and donated books are very welcome. All proceeds support castle conservation.

Castle Closure – 12 March

The castle will be closed for our annual staff and volunteer spring conference.

National Lottery Open Week – 7–14 March

Visitors can bring any National Lottery ticket, Scratchcard or Instant Win Game for **free entry**. A thank-you to players who help fund good causes like ours.

Easter at the Castle – 28 March–12 April

Enjoy family-friendly garden games and a fun trail with chocolate eggs.



Photo of a medieval dice unearthed at the castle soon to feature in an archaeology exhibition from May.



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Church Knowle Parish Council – February Meeting

The February meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 6:30pm. It was attended by seven members of the Council (Cllr Gilbert in the chair) and 3 members of the public.

Public Discussion

It was noted that the Blue Pool is in discussions with Swanage Railway about making a Blue Pool halt on the line. Should this go ahead it will need planning permission, which will involve public consultation, and environmental approval as construction and access work will be required in this environmentally sensitive place.

It was also noted that the Blue Pool Illuminate event spills light over a wide local area causing a nuisance to local residents and potential disturbance to nocturnal wildlife.

Planning

One application, P/HOU/2026/00138, for a single storey extension was considered and the Council resolved to have no objection.

An update on previous Blue Pool planning matters was discussed. The tree houses built in the SSSI (P/FUL/2024/02849) are allowed to remain as hides but overnight sleeping is prohibited. The application for a new garden centre (P/FUL/2025/06766) is still pending and it is recommended that it go to the full planning board.

Playing Field

A new flowering Cherry Tree will be planted to replace the ash that had to be felled.

Cotness Ridge

The roads along Cotness Ridge are being monitored for abuse by off road vehicles with a view to building a case for closing these during the winter.

Corfe River

Wessex Water are putting works in hand to build surge tanks to prevent spillage of untreated sewage into the river.

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.

The meeting finished at 8:07 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Church Knowle Village Hall at 6:30 on 10th March 2026.

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SUNDAY 15th MARCH 2026

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Starters

Classic Prawn Cocktail £9
Smooth Chicken Liver Parfait with Toasted Sourdough £9
Welsh Rarebit and Tomato Chutney £8
Brown Onion Soup with tender Pulled Beef and a Grilled Cheese Crouton £10

Main Courses

Traditional Roasts served with all the trimmings & gravy from the stockpot

Roast Topside of Beef £20
Roast Crispy Pork Belly £19
Roast Chicken Supreme £19
Roast Leg of Lamb £20
Mixed Roast – Beef, Chicken, Pork (supp £5)
Nut Roast, Vegetarian Gravy, Olive Oil Roast Potatoes (V, VGO) £17
Pan Fried Fillet of Sea Bream with Seafood Chowder & Angel Fries £24
Butternut Squash & Wild Mushroom Risotto with mild Goats Cheese & Rocket £18.50

Desserts

Warm Cherry Bakewell Tart with Vanilla Ice Cream £9
Raspberry & White Chocolate Crème Brûlée, Shortbread Biscuit £9
Warm Sticky Toffee Pudding with Toffee Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream £9
British Cheeses, Chutney, Biscuits & Grapes £13.50
Ice Creams & Sorbets £3 per scoop

2 courses £29

3 courses £35

with a little gift for Mum

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.

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Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School



This month, I would like to say some key thank yous:

Thank you **parents** for your continued support with learning at home, your involvement in clubs, and your help with school events. We are especially grateful for your fantastic support of our recent Book Fair. In our fifth year of hosting, it was our most successful yet, raising £448.53 in rewards for the school. This will directly benefit our children through additional books and resources. We truly appreciate your ongoing support. The PTFA,

Thank you also to our incredible **PTFA** who put so much of their own energy and time into our school events and without whom these events wouldn't be possible. Recent community engagement has seen the PTFA forge a new link with one of our local pubs. The Greyhound reached out specifically to our PTFA, who were more than happy to engage and explore how we could best work together.

With many plans already in the pipeline, I would like to thank The Greyhound for their active engagement in building links. We have already received some new induction hobs, which can be used for DT and Cooking Club. This is particularly exciting, as our electric hobs were beginning to fall into disrepair.



With other projects on the horizon, I am excited to see how we can continue to strengthen relationships across our community.

Join our Pre-school!

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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
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- 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		Forthcoming Events	
Poker Night:	Wed 8.30pm	Please check our Facebook page and noticeboards for any future events	
One Card Bingo:	Fri 8.30pm		
Meat Draw:	Sat evening		
One Card Bingo:	Sun 1.00pm		

Membership application forms are available from the Club Steward. Annual Membership is £10.
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Surgery and Patient Participation Group

Many may be aware that our Surgery is part of the Purbeck Primary Care Network (PCN) which covers the six GP Practices within our local area. Also, as PPG Chair I meet with my colleagues from across Purbeck on a regular basis to maintain links and support each other in an ever- changing NHS environment where we are all aiming for the best care for our local patients and support for the Surgery teams.

At the end of January '26, Dr Mark, Kerry our Practice Manager and I attended a PCN meeting held at the Corfe Village Hall to hear the results of the recent survey undertaken by the PCN when, as residents, we were all invited to give feedback about our health needs and how they were being met. This was a public meeting which also gave those present feedback on the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood (INT) projects.

The priority areas identified for the projects were *Communication & Public Engagement; Mental Health and Wellbeing; Obesity; Frailty; Estates and Pharmacy* .

It was impressive to note the work undertaken in the last year by the PCN and to see again the film prepared by the PCN which highlighted the services available to us in Purbeck. (I was invited to be the spokesperson for the PPGs!)

The link for this film is as follows;

<https://vimeo.com/1094006054aaba93ad?ts=0&share=copy>

We have a good infrastructure in place in Purbeck where health care professionals are working hard *together* to provide us all with the best care possible. There will be 'hiccups and concerns' which is where we can help as a PPG. If there is something you would like us to raise with the practice on your behalf (although the Corfe team is always willing to help where they can) please get in touch corfecastleppg@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the Surgery and I will contact you.

Kind regards
Maggie, PPG Chair

“

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Senior Associate Solicitor

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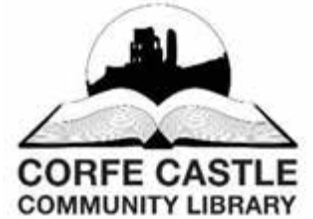
Sam Fooks

07772794056

samfooks1988@icloud.com



News from the Library



The talks continue this month with something slightly different - a Question-and-Answer session with local author Gill Calvin-Thomas.

‘Vex Not Her Ghost’ and ‘Sister Olive Wouldn’t Hurt A Fly’ are both partially based in Purbeck. Find out more from Gill about the process of writing two successful novels and how to get published! Free entry but donations are welcomed towards library funds.

Increased Opening Hours!! New this year, the library is open for an additional session on Fridays from 3.00 until 5.00 pm. Have you dropped in yet? We’d love to see you. Free tea or coffee and a biscuit are always on offer at any of the sessions. Come in for a chat and choose a book whilst you are here. The titles get refreshed regularly and you can order from the extensive stock of Libraries West.

Library Volunteers - new volunteers are always welcomed! If you can spare time to volunteer maybe once or twice per month, please do drop in and speak to one of the assistants on duty. Training is given and new friends are made!

Normal Library Opening Hours

Monday 3.00 - 5.00 pm

Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00 and 3.00 - 5.00 pm

NEW Friday 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm ***NEW**

Saturday 10.00 - 12.00 noon



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News from The Castle

The month of March brings lighter evening's, warmer weather (hopefully!), and that feeling of Spring. One special event stands out this month, the event where we celebrate those special women in our lives, Mothering Sunday. See below for more details on how we're celebrating...

Mothering Sunday 15th March

It's all about mum on the 15th, so why not bring the family & show her how much you care with us. We have created a beautiful menu, including King Prawns, traditional roast dinners and Seabass! Why not finish off with a cheeky cheesecake? Starting at just £22.95 for 2 courses and a special something for mum, get your table booked today!

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

St Patrick's Day 17th March

Come & celebrate St Paddy's day in true Castle Inn style. The pub will be dressed up with beautiful decorations, and we'll be offering a few Irish specials to celebrate this fantastic day! Bookings recommended.

From all the staff at The Castle Inn, have a wonderful month.



8, West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HD

Phone - 01929 480449

Email - contact@thefoxinncorfecastle.com

OUR MARCH OFFERS

Monday – Friday, 12pm – 5pm

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

Sunday Evening Roast

Make the most of our last month of buy one get one free on roasts until the Autumn. This will be running every Sunday evening in March from 6 – 8pm with our last evening being Sunday 29th March. Advance bookings only.

Mother's Day

Book now for Mothering Sunday, 15th March. We shall be serving roasts from 12-8pm. As a special treat for all our wonderful customers, we will be running 2 sittings for our 2 for 1 offer on roasts, one at 5pm and one at 7pm.
Booking essential.

Winning Wednesdays

Get 25% off food every Wednesday evening in March, from 5.30pm - 8.30pm! Booking recommended!

St Patrick's Day

Celebrate St Patrick's Day with us on Tuesday 17th March, with live music from Alex Hedley, from 8pm!



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Modern Adoption was the topic for our February meeting. Karran & Haylee from Aspire Adoption gave us an overview of the adoption process, what it involves today, and how it has changed over the years. It is a complicated journey with lots of checks and procedures to follow to ensure a positive and safe outcome for both the children and their forever family. The process has evolved to adapt to the modern needs and the talk was both interesting and informative.

Future Programme of Speakers

Tuesday 3rd March – AGM (with some fun & games!!)

Tuesday 7th April – Black Shed Flowers

Tuesday 5th May – ‘No Bad Hair Days’

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: 3rd Monday at various locations.

Strollers Group: 2nd Tuesday at Collets Close (**3rd Tuesday in March on 17th**)

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

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

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



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Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The VH Coffee Morning in Febuary raised £148.71 for VH funds. Thanks to all those who attended, especially our loyal team of helpers.

The February 100 club draw was made at the Coffee Morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 66, with member 16 getting second prize £10 and member 36 winning the third prize £5. If you would like to join the many villagers who support their local village hall in this way please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

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

regular weekly events:

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

Annual General Meeting Tuesday March 31st

Thank you for the response so far to the invitation to join the trustees ... we do still have a few vacancies. 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. If you are interested please contact David before Friday March 13th on 07590 352219 or david@davidjatk.in.plus.com.

All parishioners are invited to attend the Village Hall AGM, at which there will be reports by our Treasurer and by our Chairman. Trustees for 2026-27 are elected by anyone present and there is the opportunity to ask questions. The AGM is in the Bill Carter room at 6.30pm on Tuesday March 31st.

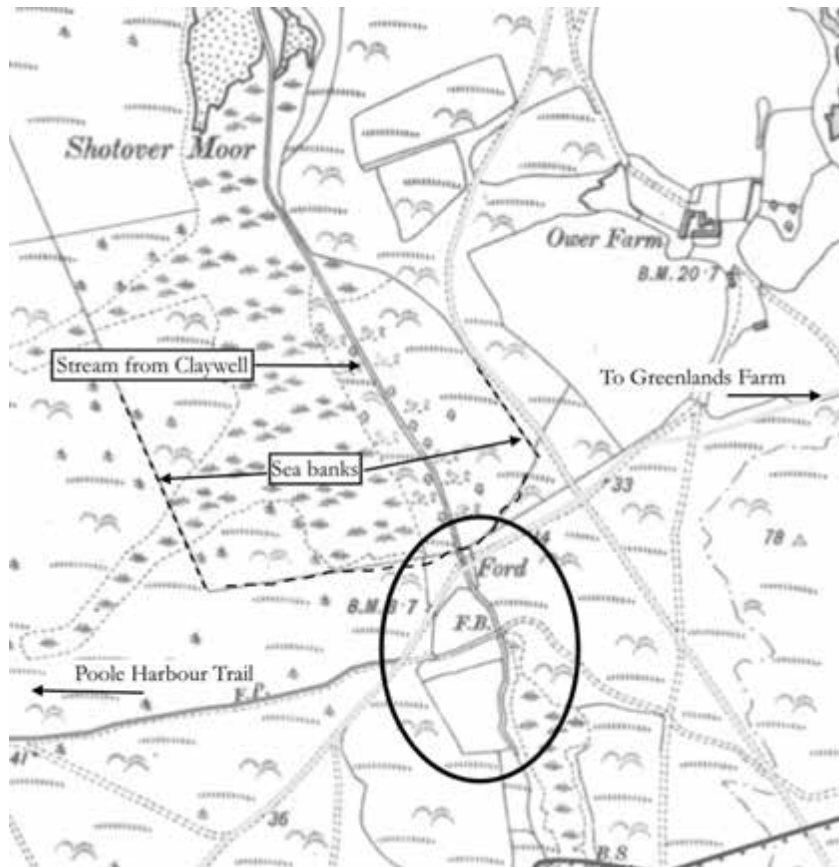
Kitchen Project

The Trustees are hopeful that some significant progress has been made on the funding of the kitchen project; we hope to be able to start work in 2026.

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

Milford, near Ower

At the far northeast corner of the parish, just before Ower Farm, lies 'Shotover Moor'. A damp area fed by the stream that passes by Claywell and flows onwards over the moor and on to the sea at Ower Bay.



The 1902 OS map shows the old sea dykes (the banks can still be seen today) and the main way from Wytch to Greenlands Farm, Studland, which walkers and cyclists will know. Today, the bridleway crosses the Claywell stream at a ford over a concrete bridge as the footbridge (F.B.) no longer exists. A closer look at the map (inside that circle) shows that there was a cottage here within the field boundaries (see below).



The 1888 OS map with Milford Cottage.

An unfinished map of 1772 revealed an old brick kiln standing close to the footbridge; it was still standing in 1805. The cottage fell into decay and is not shown on the 1902 map. The sea banks are ancient and were part of land that belonged, before the reformation, to the Abbott of Milton. An undated roll (likely about the 13th or 14th century) mentions the dykes and the stream from 'myllbord' (mill ford). So where was the mill that stood here in medieval times? It is a mystery as it has yet to be discovered.

Louise Haywood

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- ☎ 07999 683 647
- ✉ animalunderstanding@outlook.com
- 🌐 www.animalunderstanding.co.uk



Details :

Wednesday evenings :
Sandford Community Hall
Puppy class @ 6.30pm
Teenage class @ 7.45pm

Thursday evenings:
Church Knowle Village Hall
Puppy class @ 6.30pm
Teenage class @ 7.45pm

£150 (for 6 week course)

1:1 training and behaviour consultations also available

CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for MARCH 2026

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

3	March	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius AGM – plus fun and games - Corfe Castle Village Hall
5	March	Thursday	7.45 pm	Gardening club Lecture – Dorset’s Walled Gardens - Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	March	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	March	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n’ pud Community lunch - Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	March	Saturday	7 pm	The Orlando Singers – Lady St Mary’s Church Wareham
7	March	Saturday	10 am – 1 pm	Still life collage workshop – Sandy Hill Arts
7 - 15	March	Sat – Sunday	10 am – 4 pm	Soyoko Takahata Art Exhibition- Sandy Hill Arts
7	March	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	March	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n’ pud Community lunch- Corfe Castle Village Hall
8	March	Sunday	7.30 pm	Artsreach – The Mark Harrison Band - Corfe Castle Village Hall
9	March	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
9	March	Monday	7 pm	Double Act AGM - Corfe Castle Village Hall
10	March	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Church Knowle Village Hall
15	March	Sunday	10 am – 1 pm	Under the sea glass workshop – Sandy Hill Arts
21	March	Saturday	7 – 9 pm	Emily Maguire Music Gig – Sandy Hill Arts
21	March	Saturday	7pm	Church Knowle Jazz Night – St Peters Church Knowle
27	March	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Kimmeridge Keilidh – Kimmeridge Village Hall

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

4	April	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
4	April	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n’ pud Community lunch- Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	April	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius – Black Shed Flowers - Corfe Castle Village Hall
13	April	Monday	7.00 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting - Corfe Castle Village Hall
14	April	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Furzebrook Village Hall
25	April	Saturday	7 pm	Wareham Choral Society – Musical Journey across Europe Lady St Mary Wareham
5	May	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius – No Bad Hair Days - Corfe Castle Village Hall
11 & 18	May	Monday	7 pm	Double Act Auditions - 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

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@googlemail.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,

Twenty three seconds. I timed it. That's how long it takes to pray the Lord's Prayer without racing through it. Just seventy words in the traditional version, sixty three in the modern.

Many of us could say the Lord's Prayer without even thinking. Its familiar words are spoken at baptisms and weddings, at Sunday services, in schools, at bedsides, and in moments of national remembrance. It is probably the best-loved prayer in the world.

It's the prayer Jesus gave his disciples when they asked how to pray. Passed on from generation to generation over two thousand years. But what did Jesus'

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With Mother's Day around the corner (March 15th), it's the perfect time to introduce our Wax Melts Bar.



Similar to a scented candle, but without a wick, a wax melt is used in a wax melt burner (also available). Each melt can be heated several times and you can mix different melts to create your own fragrance!

We have a lovely choice of scents, and each is decorated with dried flowers - a 'pick and mix' box of 6 and a burner makes a wonderful gift.



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CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

WHY CHRISTIANITY STILL MATTERS EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE

If you don't consider yourself a Christian, you're not alone. Many people today see Christianity as outdated, restrictive, or simply irrelevant. Some have been hurt by religious people. Others struggle with intellectual doubts. Still others just don't see the need for faith at all. So why even consider Christianity?

Christianity isn't about rituals, politics, or moral superiority. It centres on a historical person: Jesus Christ. Even secular historians agree that Jesus existed. He claimed not only to teach truth but to *be* the truth. He forgave sins He challenged religious hypocrisy and He willingly went to His death. He rose from the dead-an event called the Resurrection.

If the Resurrection happened, Christianity is true.
If it didn't, Christianity collapses. That makes it worth examining.

Perhaps the most misunderstood aspect of Christianity is that it is not primarily about becoming more moral or more religious. It's about reconciliation with God. Christians believe that through Jesus, God offers forgiveness and a restored relationship- not because we earned it, but because He chose to give it.

If Christianity were true, would you want to know?

You don't have to pretend belief. You don't have to silence your doubts. But you might consider exploring:

- Read one of the Gospels (for example, the Gospel of John).
- Pray — even if you're unsure anyone is listening.

If nothing else, you'll understand one of the most influential beliefs in human history.

And if it is true, it changes everything.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"
(John 3:16).

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast."
(Ephesians (2.8 – 9)

**For the times of our Services, please see our Noticeboard.
Coffee Morning each Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary) - 07908 807115 - Fr_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk



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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

In February, at the first meeting of Corfe Castle Gardening Club of 2026, we held our AGM. We reviewed last year's programme of events and discussed the new speakers and exciting garden visits we have planned for the coming year. The present committee were unanimously re-elected but would welcome any members who would like to join the committee as fresh ideas would always be positively received!

Following our AGM we held our fun quiz. It was a nail-biting result as two teams achieved the same final score. We then had to go to a tiebreaker question, which was swiftly answered by one team member. Well done to the winning team, you know who you are! Thank you Hazel for another fun and challenging quiz!

Next Meeting March 5th, starting at 7.45pm. Our speaker will be Phil Broomfield, who will be delivering his new talk entitled, 'Dorset's Walled Gardens'.

The Committee would like to politely remind members that the Gardening Club starts at 7.45pm. We are all aware that the Village Hall car park is very small and before our meeting two other groups are using it. With everyone's safety in mind, it is important not to arrive too early to try and park and enter the building as the parents of the Cubs are arriving to collect their children. This is an important handover time for the Cub Leaders.

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.

Wareham Choral Society

WCS are delighted to announce that our lovely local Mezzo-Soprano Grace Lovelass will be joining us for our 'Musical journey across Europe' accompanied by our talented organist Paul Ellis on 25th April 2026.



Corfe Crafters

Wednesday 9.00am to 12 midday

Contact Cheryl - 07745242511



The Orlando Singers

Lady St Mary's church, Wareham 7th March at 7.00pm
'Greater Love hath no man'

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

Dorset Buttons Morris Dancers presented a cheque of £905 to Dorset Search and Rescue.

This was collected during our 2025 summer dancing out.



Pictured, is Paul of Dorset Search and Rescue, Margaret of Dorset Buttons and a few of our dancers and band.

Dorset Search & Rescue is a team of highly trained volunteers who work with the Police, Coastguard

and other emergency services in the search, rescue or recovery of missing persons across the whole county of Dorset.

Additionally, we provide swift and flood water rescue teams, assistance in the search for significant objects (including crime-based searches) and support to the statutory agencies at major incidents.

Last year we had 46 call outs with a total of 2,465 man hours spent searching. This year has proved to be just as busy so far.

Dorset Search and Rescue are extremely grateful to the Dorset Buttons Morris side for their generous donations. It will be put to very good use to maintain our search teams".

To help us keep dancing and collecting for local charities we in urgent need of dancers. <http://www.brmm.org.uk/DorsetButtonsMorris/>

Purbeck Youth Music

Purbeck Youth Music Trustees enjoyed a very jolly afternoon in the Mowlem Showbar on Saturday 7th February when together with Matt Tarling, they received a generous cheque from Jon Baker, Chair of the Swanage Folk Festival.

Matt runs the Purbeck Trad Folk Collective for PYM and the group made up of Purbeck school students ranging in age from 8 to 16 had been invited to perform. Their set of jigs and polkas soon had the feet tapping and they

received a most enthusiastic reception from the audience. They played Irish, Cornish and Finnish tunes.

Jon Baker was keen to emphasise to the audience that unless young people learn the traditional tunes of our isles and beyond, the future existence of our Swanage Folk Festival which has been going for many years, is under threat. For centuries the aural tradition of learning tunes by listening, watching and copying older players has stood the test of time and Matt teaches his students to play by ear in this way. Most of the violin students learn in the classical way at their individual lessons but their experience is enhanced by being able to learn by ear too in the Folk Collective.

The plan is to expand the group to include other instruments in time.

In other PYM news, some PYM students took part in the first round of the Rotary Music Competition in Swanage on Sunday February 8th.

Sing for Joy! After delivering signing lessons for Yrs 3 and 4 in all 10 primary schools from Swanage at one end to Winfrith at the other, Susannah Nettleton will be presenting two concerts for PYM entitled Sing for Joy: March 6th at Lady St Mary's Church Wareham at 2pm and March 16th for the Swanage schools in Emmanuel Church at 2pm.

Around 150 pupils across Purbeck are now learning an instrument with the support of PYM and over 350 young singers are involved on the PYM singing groups.

We are immensely grateful to all our generous contributors who enable PYM to fund this important work which enriches the lives of so many young people. If you would like to contribute please visit our website www.purbeckyouthmusic.org

Dilys Thomas (PYM Trustee)

Sandy Hill Arts Programme

7 March Saturday 10-1 pm Still Life Collage Workshop Sandy Hill Arts

7-15 March Sat-Sat. 10-4 pm Sayoko Takahata Art Exhibition Sandy Hill Arts

15 March Saturday 10-1 pm Under the Sea Glass Workshop Sandy Hill Arts

21 March Saturday 7-9 pm Emily Maguire music gig Sandy Hill Arts

2026 at Sandy Hill Arts- Corfe Valley's Arts Centre

We have a fantastic programme of exhibitions, events, gigs and courses lined up for 2026.

2026 sees several exciting new visual arts initiatives, reflecting our vibrant artist community on site. We are delighted to have launched our inaugural **Tony Viney Open Art Award** with an exhibition and prizes later in the Spring. Tony Viney, as many of you will know, was the inspirational driving force behind much of Purbeck's art infrastructure, and founded Sandy Hill Arts after saving the site from development. See website for submission details - you may still have time to apply, by 15/3/26.

We are proud to have become an accredited **Arts Award Centre** which we will offer local young people this year. The Arts Award gets young people actively engaged in creativity, gaining a recognised qualification along the way. In the summer, we are organising a **Community Art Postcard Exhibition - 'Messages and Memories'** with artists and community groups from across Purbeck. Our exciting year of exhibitions starts in March with Sayoko Takahata followed by Shannon Ribbons and Benji Losely Williams in April, as well as a packed programme of open studios, events and art exhibitions as part of **PAWF and DAW**.

Spring brings the best local and national musical talent with **EMILY MAGUIRE** in Room 14 followed by a brilliant line up of top musical talent in our marquee, supported by our **Arts Council Grassroots Music** grant. Look out for some extraordinary performers such as **ME AND MY FRIENDS**, the unique **MOMOKO GILL**, Brighton based **ATTICOMATIC**, the spellbinding contemporary/Indian classical duo **BALLADESTE** and the fabulous **THIS IS THE KIT**. Check our website to see full details, our latest listings - and book early to avoid disappointment!

Our **Poetry Festival** returns on the 5/6th September with some truly gifted poets thanks to our TS Eliot Foundation grant. We host a unique Festival of Purbeck Stone in conjunction with Burngate Purbeck Stone Centre from 10th October - and watch out for an exciting new showcase of the work of talented local playwrights on 12th September and a pilot Photography Festival in October.

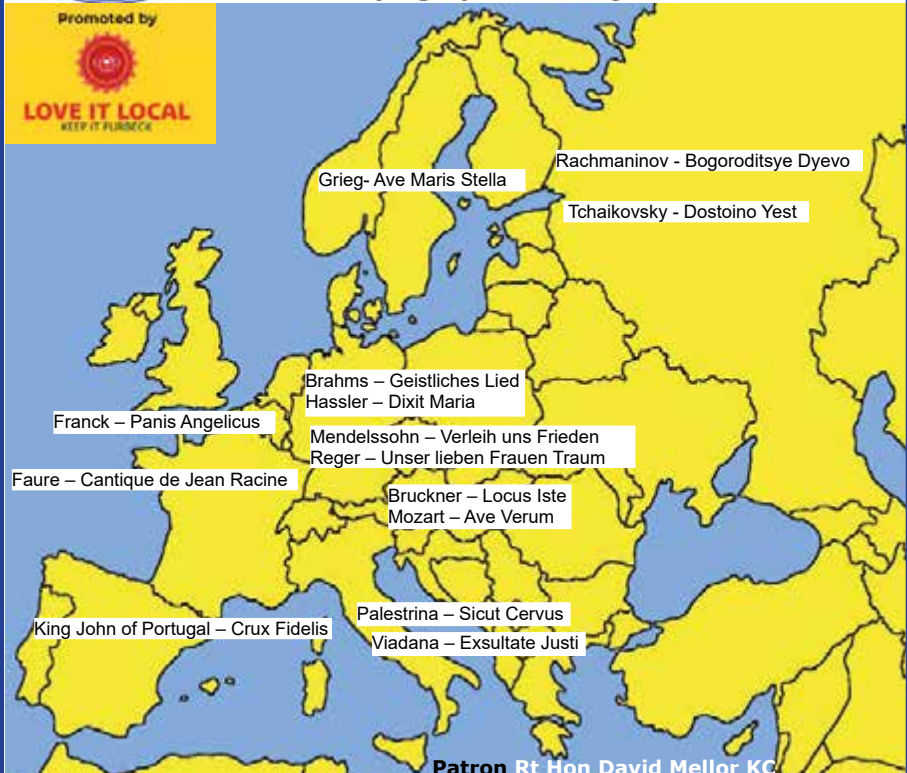
We continue our broad range of courses and workshops: Easter sees the return of our ever popular **blacksmithing for young people** workshop, along with a new art club for young people run by Zara Saganic - check out our **'Zartclub'** webpages. Charlotte Fereday will be offering her textiles **Still Life** workshop in March and Terry Smith will be returning with his ever-popular **signwriting course** in April. Our regular two day **Raku ceramics workshop** returns on 29th March/12th April with Jayne Cunliffe and Richard Jeffery - other dates throughout 2026 to follow. Heather Gibbons will be offering her popular **'From the Drawing to the Painting' 6 week course** and Jenny Green has a new range of **glass fusion workshops**. We welcome Pia Elliot for the first time this year with her Mandala Drawing workshops and Rohan Gotobed with his 2 day playwriting course in July. .

The **Boilerhouse Gallery** will be open on **Saturdays and Sundays** until Easter - then full time Tuesday to Sunday for the rest of the year, with works by this co-operative of studio artists working across a huge range of media.

We hope Sandy Hill Arts is making life more colourful and exciting for everyone in the Corfe Valley. Keep your eyes on our website www.sandyhillarts.co.uk and socials for further updates and the details of all our events, exhibitions and courses. Please come and be a part of it, please come and volunteer with us and please let us know what you would like to see. We know we would like to see you. Find us next to the railway station in Corfe Castle village.



Wareham Choral Society
A Tour of European Sacred Music
Saturday 25th April 7pm
Lady St Mary Church,
Wareham BH20 4ND



Join us on a musical journey across Europe to celebrate Sacred Music from the 16th to the 20th century!

Conductor Hazel Ricketts **Organist** Paul Ellis **Mezzo-Soprano** Grace Lovelass


For their financial support for this concert, thanks to:
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- Ballett – Miranda Hindson telephone 07919441836 6pm – 8pm
mjballett@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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**Barn Dance with
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Wednesday 8 April
Curry & Games Night

Saturday 25 April
Seafood Night




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BENJAMIN JESTY, A PURBECK PIONEER by Paul Randall

It often happens that important discoveries are made by non scientific persons by noting reactions and trial and error. In many cases the credit is given to professional men who have studied on similar lines, come to the same conclusion but have published in scientific terms. Such is the discovery of vaccination against smallpox by a humbly born Dorset farmer, Benjamin Jesty.

Smallpox was the scourge of the Middle Ages and decimated the population. Kings and Queens, high and low died victims of this terrible disease and it in no small measure accounted for the low expectation of life and death of many children.

A distinguished medical practitioner, Doctor Jenner of Berkeley in Gloucestershire is credited with the discovery that immunisation from smallpox can be obtained by inoculation and in 1796 claimed the reward offered by the Royal College of Physicians and the subsequent everlasting fame. He made his first practical experiment in that year and was hailed as a national hero. The Royal family were among his first patients.

Ben Jesty was a small-time tenant farmer living at Cerne Abbas but he was of an enquiring disposition, and came to the same conclusion twenty two years before. He experimented on his family and friends reporting to a local doctor that he had observed that the pustular eruption from which his milkmaids suffered on their hands from milking infected cows, resulted in immunity from smallpox which was rife at that time. His first experiment was on his wife and this was done with a darning needle steeped in lymph from cowpox pustules. He noted that a small fever ensued which soon abated.

The news soon spread in farming circles and Ben's darning needle pricked many an arm. My great grandfather knew Jesty but was not convinced enough to submit his family but many did. When Jesty was an old man the news of his experiments had reached London and it was thought appropriate to ask him to come to town to speak about them to the Jenner Society and the Royal College. He was not at all keen and flatly refused to buy a new suit for the occasion ("Danged if I will dress up for Lunnon Volk!") He was publicly fêted and his contribution acknowledged. His portrait was painted and may be seen in the British Museum with Ben in his "Market Suit". He was a very bad sitter and could only be made to keep still if piano music was played to him.

He formed a poor opinion of London saying that its only advantage was that he could get a daily shave. In Dorset he made a weekly visit to the barber on Market day as was common with many Dorset farmers.



Ben was presented with a pair of gold mounted lancets but nothing else. He was not particularly excited about his great contribution towards the health of the nation and lived happily at Downshay Farm two miles from Corfe until his death in 1816. Dorset folk should pay a visit to Worth Matravers churchyard to honour him. His memorial stone is inscribed "*He was an honest and upright man particularly noted for*

being the first person that introduced cowpox and from his great strength of mind made the experiment from the cow on his wife and two sons in 1774".

Editorial note:

Paul Randall was a local historian and bank manager, and for many years Town Clerk of Wareham. He was also a career soldier serving in the Royal Signals, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, having fought as part of the 8th Army in North Africa. He lived in the village and was a great supporter of the then Royal British Legion Club as well as being a founder member of the now defunct Twinning Society, which hooked up with Pont Herbert in Normandy. Many of his historical articles were published in the CVN during the early noughties; they will be re-published over the coming months as they are of general local interest.

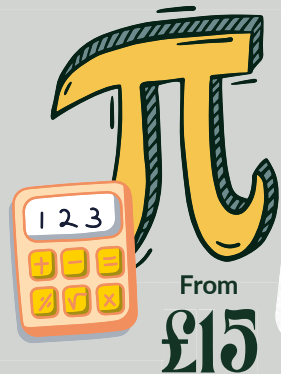
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Pioneer View.

Dear Friends,

I have been writing this column for the last 12 years, and now it's time to move on. I'm planning on going back up North, so this will be my last Pioneer View.

It's been such a privilege to write these monthly reflections on life and journeying, so I'd like, for the final time, to reflect, this time on goodbyes and why these are important.

Goodbyes are important in life as it provides closure and a mark in the sand, and allows us to move on to the next 'hello' in a more healthy way. In my case, it will be to East Yorkshire, which was my old stomping ground and where I went to college. It will be good to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Saying 'goodbye' is always difficult as we are emotionally invested in the past. However, goodbyes help us to move on into the future and grasp the hello that is waiting over the hill. The question I have for you is, how have you managed goodbyes in your life? Are there people or situations you've not yet said goodbye to?

One way that I hope I've facilitated in saying goodbye to loved ones, is through the Growing Compassionate Communities memorial trees that provide a place to say goodbye to loved ones that passed during Covid. They are quiet places of remembrance. The Corfe Mullen tree is located across from the Naked Cross nurseries.

Finally, I leave you with a quote to reflect on from William Shakespeare:

"Parting is such sweet sorrow"

Thank you for reading my thoughts each month.

Go well,

Peter



Kimmeridge News

Resuscitation & Defib training

Kimmeridge's very own Keith Welsh is running a free CPR and defib awareness session at The Studio, The Mowlem, Swanage at 2pm on Saturday 14th March for South West Ambulance Service. Should last about one to one and a half hours. Anyone welcome.

Kimmeridge Keilidh – Friday 27th March

Our next Kimmeridge Keilidh (Barn Dance!) is on 27th March at 7:30pm in the Village Hall at The Etches Collection. Music from Arish Mel & caller Jane Wilkins. 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

Well, what can I say, it's been a rather wet start to the year to say the least.

Despite the terrible weather the tollgate feeders are busy with an abundance of Blue tits & Great tits taking advantage of whatever food they can get, often in competition with the more dominant Green finch/ Goldfinch and Great spotted Woodpeckers.

Plenty of floor feeding birds with 30+ House Sparrow 10+ Chaffinches (looking much healthier, no scaly legs), Dunnock/Robins/wren/collard Dove/ Wood pigeon, and on quiet mornings hundreds of Jackdaws and Rooks litter the road as far as the eye can see collecting bits of seed and gravel; upon inspection they are quite easy to tell apart, the Rook is larger with a heavy grey bill and black glossy feathers, the Jackdaw is smaller with a bright mischievous grey/white eye and a silver/grey feathers on its neck side and nape, it is more upright in posture and tends to strut about.

A record number of 6 white tailed Eagles were recorded together at the end of January in Kimmeridge Bay and since then we have seen 3 (sub adults) on a fairly regular basis. I will at some point contact the Roy Dennis release program to try and identify the WTE we are seeing.

The Grey wagtail is still in residence around the tollgate, adding a welcome pop of bright yellow to even the dullest days as it bobs along with its ridiculously long tail flashing its yellow flanks (never fails to make me smile).

With all the storms comes an influx of Gulls into the surrounding fields including a flock of 150 Mediterranean gulls and a few (not so common) common gulls and a guest appearance by a single adult Little gull.

On writing this (mid-February) I can confirm we also have Barn, Tawny and short eared owl regularly out hunting along the surrounding ridges, although I can't imagine the field vole populations are doing well in our current weather conditions.

Spring migration will soon be upon us, last year pat and I recorded our first returning wheatear around 22nd Feb on Middlebere heath, and so the cycle continues.....

Happy birding – Cheers - Rose & Pat



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The Rambling Gardener

March is a great month as each day is longer and by the end of the month the sun will be up for twelve hours a day. Also crocus, daffodils and camellias will be coming into flower, and the sun will get warmer. Spring is on its way.

We hope that the sun will dry up the mud! The mud in February reminded me of the shock when my family and I came back to muddy England from the clean snows of Canada in 1946. It wasn't fun to clean the mud off the cows before milking them when they had come in from eating cabbage or kale in knee-deep mud. We were so happy to see the spring flowers coming up. The snowdrops look lovely at the end of winter and they don't mind what the weather does, live for a long time and flower beautifully unless they get overcrowded. The best time to divide them is after they finish flowering but while the leaves are still green. In this way a few snowdrops can become a carpet in a few years. You can buy hundreds of different varieties if you wish. March is the time to start preparing the garden to look beautiful and produce for the year. If you have compost put it on as a mulch. Prune shrubs that are growing too big: cut out weak growth, any canker that you see, and long growth that could be hurt by wind. Nearly everything likes being cut back hard.

Sow seeds of all the vegetables and flowers that you like and do try something new; immigrants to Britain have had great success growing quite exotic vegetables here as seen on Gardeners World. Many old fashioned and new seeds are best started in pots in the house or in a cloche or green house. Some, like peppers, tomatoes, okra and aubergines need 22°C to germinate. Others, including cabbages, peas, beans, lettuce and celery, only need lower temperatures though they would grow best if started inside for later transplanting outside.

One lovely tuber that I want to try is the Peruvian Oca which is similar to potato in growth but needs germinating inside and a good crop needs a longer warm season, which we are getting more often now. Unprocessed food is good for you so do keep sowing mustard, cress and peas in the house to garnish your food, and I hope that many people have still got some stored food like squash and apples.

Sow hardy annuals like love-in-the-mist and cornflowers which make a good show for a long time. Do sow flowers in the vegetable plot as well as the flower garden to attract pollinators and get good crops.

March is a good time to plant for long-term beauty too; the RHS magazine suggests planting a small tree called *prunus x subhirtella autumnalis* that has pale pink flowers all winter and *chimonanthus praecox* which has a wonderful scent. They both like growing here and don't take up a lot of space. I hope that you enjoy the Spring in your garden and if you would like any advice, or just a chat, please do come and visit me.

Rachel. Tel: 01929421681. Email: rjehelfer@gmail.com

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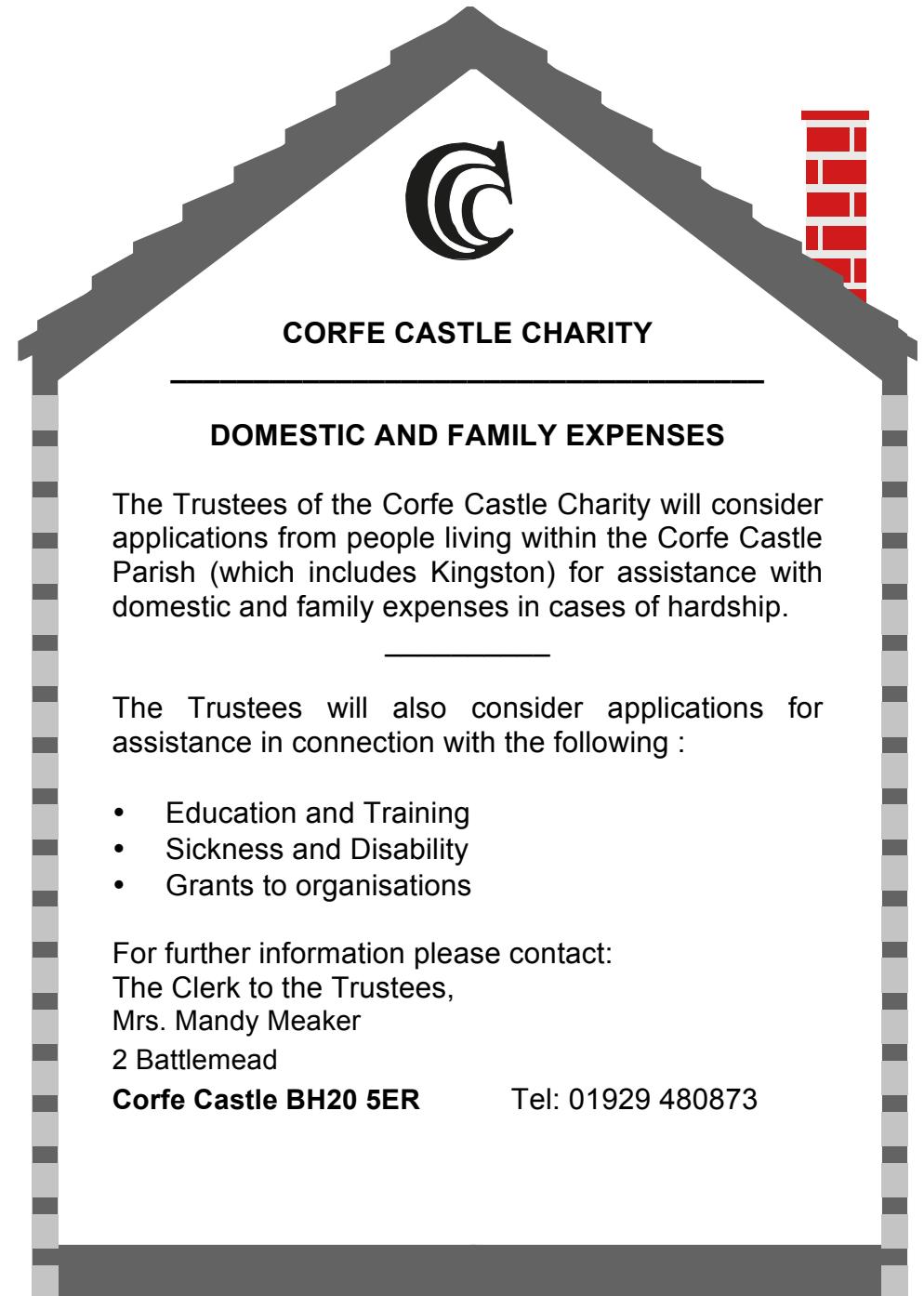
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CORFE CASTLE CHARITY

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY EXPENSES

The Trustees of the Corfe Castle Charity will consider applications from people living within the Corfe Castle Parish (which includes Kingston) for assistance with domestic and family expenses in cases of hardship.

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

- Education and Training
- Sickness and Disability
- Grants to organisations

For further information please contact:
The Clerk to the Trustees,
Mrs. Mandy Meaker

2 Battlemead

Corfe Castle BH20 5ER

Tel: 01929 480873



Church Knowle Village Hall

Traditional Village Hall available for hire - £10 per hour *

Large Car Park – Close to the Church – PRS Licence - Wifi

All enquires – 07880 780677

or email – villagehall@churchknowle.com

* **Minimum hire charge of £40.** *Additional charges may apply*

Regular and long-term hires by negotiation

Advertising and other Charges

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

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

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

Postal Address:

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

Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

MONDAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
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	Corfe crafters	CC VH
Term time,	5.30- 6.45pm s	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
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