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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



APRIL 2026

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

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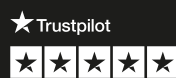
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Corfe Valley News

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

Established June 1982
Issue No 528 April 2026

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

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

Preferably items should be e-mailed to corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk
Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue

Editorial

Some of you may have noticed that the pump in the square had been taken away to be refurbished. It is now back in position and looks superb. Louise, who is chair of the Town Trust has written an article about the pump in this edition of the magazine. She draws attention to the fact that my grandfather Dr Dru Drury had a lot to do with the pump back in the 1920s and subsequently. It makes an interesting read.

By the time this edition of the magazine is falling through letterboxes the parish council will, hopefully, have selected a new clerk. Michelle is moving on to help set up a new Town Council in Broadstone. The recruiting process for a replacement has been under way since early March and although Michelle will be a hard act to follow the Council is hopeful that a suitable candidate will be found.

In the meantime, the weather is improving and we can hopefully look forward to a great Spring.

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 cover picture is a sketch of Dacombe House, now Morton's Manor, from "Rambles in the Isle of Purbeck" by C E Robinson and dated 1882.

MARCH FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

After a soggy Monday evening, it's a sunny day in Corfe Castle as I write this, giving the village a cheerful backdrop to reflect on the latest Parish Council meeting.

Public Voice: Five members of the public attended, with one raising concerns about recent flooding affecting a local home. The property suffered water ingress after road drains on East Street backed up during recent storms. The Parish Council advised residents to contact Dorset Council annually to ask that they "jet" the drains. In the meantime the Clerk will contact Dorset Council to request a silt-level investigation along East Street, particularly near the Kingston turning.

Report from Dorset Council: A written report from Dorset Council was noted, highlighting £5 million in additional funding to repair highways damaged by recent floods. Dorset Council confirmed ongoing repairs locally and urged residents to report any road damage via the Dorset Council portal.

Purbeck Watercraft Byelaw 2027: Dorset Council is consulting on proposed updates to the Seaside Pleasure Boats Byelaws 2013, which are set to become the Dorset Council Purbeck Watercraft Byelaw 2027. These changes aim to improve safety, protect the environment, and ensure that everyone using Purbeck's coastal waters can enjoy them responsibly. The updated byelaw will guide how Purbeck's coastline is managed, and your feedback helps ensure it is fair, practical and effective. One of the changes has attracted comment: whether the limit of barring boats from the shore should be reduced to 200metres from the current 300 metres Consultation closes: 15 April 2026. To have your say head to <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/place/purbeck-byelaws-consultation>

Report from the National Trust: James Gould updated the council on upcoming activities at Corfe Castle, while Project Officer Gen Crisford discussed a river improvement project across Purbeck, including Swanbrook River enhancements and a proposed Corfe River initiative in partnership with local councils and Planet Purbeck. James said that the Trust felt they were guardians of the Castle but it was not "theirs". It was a resource for the whole community and more ideas on how to use it for community benefit were welcomed

Annual Residents Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 27th April 2026 in the main hall of the Village Hall. Attendees can enjoy free tea, coffee, and biscuits while browsing displays from local organisations and charities. Come along to discover what's happening in your parish, meet

community groups, and show your support for the people and projects making Corfe Castle a vibrant place to live.

Planning Applications:

P/VOC/2026/00842 & P/VOL/2026/00920. Old Dairy Cottage, Woolgarston Road – Roof repairs, gable waterproofing, and installation of conservation rooflights. The council raised no objection, noting prior efforts to prevent water ingress had been unsuccessful.

P/HOU/2026/01120. Cromwell Cottage, East Street – Erection of a single-storey summer house and a veranda-style porch. The council raised no objection, noting plans for a green/timber structure to blend with surroundings.

Cultural Purbeck: The Parish Council signalled support for an Expression of Interest for Swanage and Purbeck to become UK Town of Culture 2028, with financial commitments to be discussed in April.

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!

Our Clerk, Michelle, has received a well-deserved promotion to help set up a new Town council in Broadstone. The Council will miss her greatly and wish her well in her new career. We hope to make a new appointment on 1 April but Michelle will be with us until 29 April

Next Council Meeting – Monday 13th April 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
May Fair
Monday 25th May
2026 10am-4pm

Takes place in the outer bailey of the Castle

There will be a mix of stalls, refreshments and entertainment, something for all the family

Pitches for stalls are FREE for local organisations/crafters and charities

This year we are especially grateful to the National Trust who say:
The Village May Fair is organised "By the village, for the village". To support our local community, free entry to the castle will be available on the day to residents of BH19 and BH20 postcodes. Proof of residence is required on arrival.

This event goes back to the 13th century, with the Castle owner of the time traditionally allowing the villagers to hold an annual fair one day each year, for the benefit of local organisations

For info/stall enquiry email ccmayfair24@gmail.com

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Coming Soon:

We have a Stage **Make-Up Workshop** on Monday April 13th! This will be lead by Davinia of the Make-up Academy in Bournemouth, and will be an interactive session covering make-up fundamentals, practical tips, and demonstrations, with plenty of time for questions. It's fine to come along and just watch, but if you'd like to be more involved, come as you are, or – if you have them - please bring along your own basic make-up kit, a small mirror, brushes or applicators, and make-up wipes or tissues. We expect to cover the full range from minimal make-up for outdoor performing, such as Murder Mystery Walks, through to pantomime dames, and it will cover all ages. Who knows who you will be when you go home! This event is at 7pm in Corfe Castle Village Hall as usual.

May Fair, Monday May 25th in the Castle.

Double Act is preparing a short entertainment to present a couple of times in the Castle during the May Fair. It will be a short performance in pantomime or melodrama style, and would be a great opportunity for some of our younger members to have a go without having to learn loads of lines. There will be a few rehearsals at times to suit the cast. It is sure to be great fun for both Double Act members and the enthusiastic audience of Castle visitors! Check for details in the CVN or contact doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com.

'The Cat and the Canary'...

...in a new up-dated and localised version by Dougal Dixon, is to be Double Act's main production in November (19th -21st). There are plenty of parts for willing thespians, and we would especially welcome some young fellows, teenagers to 40s-ish, or anyone of any gender and age who thinks they could look like a young man! What we glean from our Make-up Workshop on April 13th may help of course! Casting will be on Monday evenings May 11th and 18th in the Village Hall at 7pm.

Double Act's AGM:

Several new members have joined the Committee, which will shortly choose a new Secretary and Chairman. The Society is in excellent health, financially and in its active membership, and we always welcome newcomers—why not come along and see if it's for you?

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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Mon-Sat 8:30am - 6pm
Sun 9am - 5pm

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

**A choice of 2 soups
and puds with custard**
Corfe Castle Village Hall
Saturday April 4th '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.

March was again an excellent month for the numbers of diners attending. We had several new faces including a lovely couple from Canada, visiting the area, who had seen the lunches advertised and thought it was too good an opportunity to miss! Everyone enjoyed the 2 soups and puds and we even ran out of trifle on the first serving, as it was so popular.

We are now looking forward to April and our lunch on Easter Saturday. So as you would imagine there may be the odd chocolate egg about! If you would like to dress in your spring finery that would be lovely but it is not imperative but Easter bonnets will be most acceptable. We will be serving an old favourite of leek and potato soup and using the butternuts kindly given to us by a villager in the other soup. The puds we will keep a secret!

We are always so grateful for the help and support we get from our volunteers, without whom we would be unable to function. However we are always happy to welcome more into the fold as well as additional diners

We must, at this point, thank The Village Bakery for donating the bread rolls over the last 3.5 years. It has been so kind of Joan and Nigel. We wish them all the best in their retirement and look forward to welcoming the new incumbents to the bakery.

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

Nature updates from the National Trust



National Trust

Perilous time for puffins

At the time of writing, we're anxiously awaiting the return of the puffins to Dancing Ledge, near Langton Matravers. There is concern for the colony following recent reports of thousands of dead puffins washing up on Europe's beaches during this winter's storms.

Historically home to more than 80 puffins, the colony at Dancing Ledge has dwindled to just three pairs. Although these birds have shown signs of nest building, they haven't successfully raised any fledglings in recent years. The suspicion has long been that predators such as rats or crows are taking the eggs or chicks.

Working closely with ornithologist, Dr Richard Caldow, we have again commissioned high ropes experts to install remote, motion-sensor cameras on the narrow fissure where the seabirds breed. Learning from last time, we've placed the cameras in specific locations to film deep into the ledge. There was some concern from locals that the cameras themselves might disturb the



Puffin with camera, courtesy Pete Christie

puffins, but this wasn't the case – in fact, we have many shots of puffins and other seabirds sitting right beside them!

There has also been speculation locally about whether human activity, such as coastering, rock climbing or boating is adversely affecting the puffin colony, but the monitoring team believes this to be unlikely. The

cameras revealed that the puffins are most active overnight, when humans aren't around.

Nature's symphony

Now's the time to get out and enjoy nature's symphony. The dawn chorus is performed by birds looking for love, and to defend their patch. It starts at sunrise, and the loudest singers are the males. Thrushes, blackbirds and robins are among the first to rise, then others gradually join in – wrens, chiffchaffs,

blackcaps and willow warblers. On Corfe Common, you might also be lucky enough to hear a yellowhammer, linnet or stonechat. If you're not an early riser, remember there's the dusk chorus too. It might not be quite so loud, but it's guaranteed to soothe your soul!

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



Yellowhammer, Courtesy Pete Christie

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Easter

News from the Castle

National Trust

The Easter bunny has delivered early this year (over 2300 eggs!) and through to 12 April we're looking forward to welcoming families on our Easter trail. Our popular garden games in the Outer Bailey are back as are our chocolate* eggs (£3.50 additional charge). *Dairy, Free From or vegan eggs available.

New interpretation panels

Our five new interpretation panels to guide visitors through the castles history, have been installed. Each of the panels have handheld paddles that explore a different theme, from medieval daily life to Civil War sieges and ongoing archaeological discoveries. Please do come and explore.



The new interpretation panels

Castle View visitor centre

Castle View will be open daily until the end of October.

A few dates to be aware of :

St Georges Day parade – 26 April

Isle of Purbeck and Wareham Scouts will be parading to the castle and replying their commitment.

Lighting of the castle – 11 April

Castle will be lit in blue for world Parkinsons Day.

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**GOOD FRIDAY
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Chips
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and perfect for the
long weekend

Great Food • Family Fun • Country Pub Charm
Make The Castle Inn part of your Easter tradition!

Church Knowle Parish Council – March Meeting

The March meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 6:30pm. It was attended by five members of the Council (Cllr Gilbert in the chair), 9 members of the public, 2 members of the Police Rural Crimes Unit and Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson.

Public Discussion

The Police Rural Crimes Unit attended to give a report on the ongoing investigation into the alleged disturbance of a nationally important bat site in and around buildings that had been developed without planning approval by the Furzebrook Estate. They explained that they needed to get a court order to collect evidence to meet the high standard required for a prosecution and that court orders were very difficult to obtain. They also answered questions on aspects of rural crime.

The damage to the Cucknowle ridge is continuing to be monitored and that reports are best logged on the Police portal under Heritage Crime. This will guarantee a response.

The law on rifle shooting for deer was clarified. An unlicensed and possibly inexperienced shooter can shoot deer if he is accompanied by a licensed shooter. Deer must always be shot with a high powered rifle.

Planning

Two applications were considered:
P/HOU/2026/00865, for a single storey extension was considered and the Council resolved to have no objection.

P/FUL/2025/07539, the extension to the Dorey's quarry clay mining operation by Imerys was considered and the Council resolved to have no objection.

Corfe River

Wessex Water are putting works in hand to build storm surge tanks and work on these will start in May.

Playing Field

A new flowering cherry (*prunus sargentii*) will be planted in the playing field to replace the ash tree that had to be felled.

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 8:22 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Furzebrook Village Hall at 6:30 on 14th April 2026.



CHURCH KNOWLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Steering Group is keen to let everyone know that good progress is being made on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan. Owing to some unforeseen problems we reluctantly had to delay a presentation of the results of the Housing Survey, but we intend to bring you a full update on everything in the early summer. Please look out for details.



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www.heartwoodtreemanagement.co.uk



THE BANKES ARMS, CORFE CASTLE

VILLAGE PUB & DINING WITH ROOMS

EASTER SUNDAY - 5th APRIL 2026 Aperitif Bloody Mary £9 ~
Aperol Mimosa £12 ~ Elderflower & Peach Gin Spritz £12

Starters

- Pea & Ham Hock Soup £8
- Welsh Rarebit Crumpet with Marmite Onions £8
- Classic Prawn Cocktail £9
- Homemade Pork Pie with Piccalilli £9
- Salmon & Garden Herb Terrine wrapped in Oak Smoked Salmon with Capers & Chervil £9

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 Hake with Hasselback Potatoes, Broad Beans, Peas, Spinach & Bacon £24
- Roasted Squash & Wild Mushroom Risotto with Goats Cheese & Rocket £18.50

Desserts

- Warm Cherry Bakewell Tart with Vanilla Ice Cream £9
- Rhubarb & Ginger Crumble Trifle £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

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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 Saturday: All day 12.00 - 11.00pm
 Sunday: All day 12.00 - 7.00pm

Weekly Events		Forthcoming Events	
Poker Night:	Wed 8.30pm	Sat 4th April—Cocktails & Hawaiian Shirt Night	
One Card Bingo:	Fri 8.30pm	18th July—Beer Festival	
Meat Draw:	Sat evening		
One Card Bingo:	Sun 1.00pm		

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News from the Library



The sharp-eyed readers of the CVN will note that the library has increased its opening hours and we are pleased to report that the additional Friday hours from 3pm-5pm are proving very popular. Do come along and browse the shelves for your weekend reading! In addition, we are delighted to welcome our recent newly signed-up members. Happy reading!

On 19th April, at 2pm, Alan Neal will be presenting his talk which covers the life and achievements of Marie Curie. Long before the term 'glass ceiling' was coined, Marie rose to the highest levels of the male dominated scientific community. Come along to learn about the amazing story of an extraordinary woman. **Our talks are free but all donations received help to boost vitally needed library funds.**

Another way to support your community library is to become a 'Friend of Corfe Castle Community Library' by making an regular donation of your choice. Pop into the library to pick up a form for details. Your donations will support the running of the library and you will receive an optional monthly newsletter, as well as early notice of talks and children's activities and seasonal get-togethers. New volunteers are needed to assist during opening hours. Do drop by to find out more!

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.

Please note the library will be closed Friday 3rd and Monday 6th April (Bank Holidays). Open Saturday 4th April.



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Our March meeting saw the formalities of the AGM with a round up of the year and re-election of committee members. Cathy Brett stood down but all the rest of the current committee members are remaining and they welcomed a new addition, Debbie Asquith. A cheque for £1079.10 was accepted by Barry Bristow from Harlequin Care, our chosen charity for the year. He gave us a brief overview of what they do for carers at their clinics held around ten times a year. They fulfil a very great need and enhance the days of many people. The AGM was followed by a choose and snatch prize game which was good fun and ultimately ended with everyone winning something! To round off the afternoon there was a selection of yummy cakes and a good cuppa!

Future Programme of Speakers

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: 2008aquariustladies@gmail.com for more information.



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Corfe Castle Village Hall

general news:

The VH Coffee Morning in March raised £166.34 for VH funds. Thanks to all those who attended, especially our loyal team of helpers.

The March 100 club draw was made at the Coffee Morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 80, with member 26 getting second prize £10 and member 31 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

Kitchen Project

Trustees are delighted to be able to tell readers that we now have access to sufficient funding to undertake the work of extending and renovating the kitchen. This is due in large measure to Corfe Castle Charity. They are not only offering a grant towards the work, but they are also providing an interest free loan to enable us to start the work this year before inflationary price rises take it out of our reach. Of course we will need to continue to fund-raise to help pay off the loan, but we are confident that our financial position enables us to take this step.

Trustees will have voted at their meeting after the recent AGM on whether to accept the proposal offered by our chosen two contractors. If agreed, we anticipate that work will begin on Monday April 27th and last 3 or 4 weeks. During this time the kitchen will be closed, but we are very hopeful that use of the main hall (and of course of the BC room and GP room) can continue as normal.

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

The Town's Pump



When the Borough of Corfe Castle was officially dissolved, in 1883, the civic regalia was eventually passed to the newly formed Corfe Castle Town Trust in July 1889. The Trust also took over responsibility for the property that the mayor and his barons had previously looked after which included the cross and two water pumps. To this day, The Town Trust still has a duty of care towards them and recently had to repair the casement on The Square's pump as it had started to rot. It is now in pristine condition.

Readers may be interested in the following extracts taken from the minutes of The Town Trust:

16th October 1924: Dr Dru Drury and Francis Newbery told the trustees that they were restoring the Village Pump to the position in the Square which it had held prior to its removal. The trustees felt that it did not concern them as it was the Bankes Estate property.

5th March 1956: Dr Dru Drury said that both the Village Pump and The Sign in the Square belonged to him personally. Mr. Brown suggested that knowledge relating to the past history of the Town Hall and other premises in Corfe Castle should be collected before it was lost.

1st November 1956: The secretary of the trustees wrote to the trustees of Dr Dru Drury's estate to ascertain ownership of the Village Pump, The Sign, and the prints and pictures in the Town Hall.

24th April 1957: It was discovered that the prints and pictures had been given to the Town Hall by Dr Dru Drury. The Village Pump and The Sign did not belong to Dr Dru Drury, but it was hoped that the Trust would maintain them.

2nd June 1959: An electric plug was installed in the Town Hall. An electric fire was to be purchased. The Town Hall was now scheduled as a listed building. The Village Pump and the "Gift of Four" [otherwise called in the minutes 'The Sign of Four'] were repaired and repainted.

18th November 1982: It was decided to place a stone in the trough of the Village Pump by the cross to prevent it being filled with litter. [By 27 October 1983, this stone had been stolen.]

4th November 1985: The Millennium sign and the Village Pump were refurbished.



30th November 1989: Six fiberglass copies of the Town Seal were made (two were placed on the two pumps).

Another 'Town Trust' pump stands outside 'Grace Cottage', East Street. Around the village there are several pumps in various stages of preservation. Some have elaborate ironwork around the spouts.



Examples of ironwork.
One is dated 1825.

PS: Dr Dru Drury was the current Editor's grandfather.

The Corfe Castle Town Trust

CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for APRIL 2026

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

2	April	Thursday	7.45 for 8.00pm	Gardening club Lecture – Local Purbeck Flora - Corfe Castle Village Hall
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
11	April	Saturday	Evening	Castle lit in blue for World Parkinsons Day.
13	April	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting – Corfe Castle Village Hall
13	April	Monday	7 pm	Double Act – Make Up Workshop - Corfe Castle Village Hall
14	April	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Furzebrook Village Hall
19	April	Sunday	2 – 4 pm	Sandy Hill Arts – Meet the Team
24	April	Friday	6.30 pm	Lecture – The Destruction of Convoy PQ 17 – Church Knowle Village Hall
24	April	Friday	7.30 pm	Kimmeridge Keilidh – Kimmeridge Village Hall
25	April	Saturday	7 pm	Wareham Choral Society – Musical Journey across Europe Lady St Mary Wareham
25	April	Saturday	7 pm	Orlando Singers Concert – St James Kingston
26	April	Sunday	Morning	St Georges Day Parade – Isle of Purbeck and Wareham Scouts parade to the Castle
26	April	Sunday	4 pm	Mayday Singers – St Georges Langton Matravers

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

2	May	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning Corfe Castle Village Hall
2	May	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n‘ pud Community lunch - Corfe Castle Village Hall
5	May	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius – No Bad Hair Days - Corfe Castle Village Hall
11	May	Monday	7.00 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting - Corfe Castle Village Hall
11 & 18	May	Monday	7 pm	Double Act casting for “The Cat and the Canary” - Corfe Castle Village Hall
12	May	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting – Church Knowle Village Hall
16	May	Saturday	Afternoon	Launch of Purbeck Film Festival – Afternoon Tea – Encombe House
25	May	Monday	10 am to 4 pm	May Fair in the Castle
10	June	Wednesday	2 pm	Summer songs and cream tea – Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage

More Useful Phone Numbers

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

Western Power Distribution:

0800 365900 (free phone land line and mobiles)

Water - Wessex Water:

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

Gas - Transco - Gas Emergency:

0800 111999 (free phone, mobile phone charged as per the local provider rate)

Roads and highways - Highways England (including incidents A35, A37 and A31):

0300 1235000 (local call rate or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependant on the provider)

Dorset Council (including incidents on the Dorset Council highway):

01305 221000 (10p per minute from a land line or 3p - 40p per minute from a mobile dependent upon the provider)

Flooding - Environment Agency - Flood Line:

0345 9881188 (calls are charged depending on the callers service provider and where there call is made).

Dorset Council out of hours Emergency Contact Number – 01929 556561

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

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

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

Reporting non injury collisions or near misses

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

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

Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

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

Associate Priest Nick Webb 07866 546162
fulloflifegardens@gmail.com

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

Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns

For Kingston contact the Parish Administrator

admin@staldhelm-purbeck.org 01929 427822

For Corfe and the Valley Churches please contact Lynette McCallum
lynetterees21@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://stedwardscorfecastle.co.uk/>

Revd Louise writes,

Easter is nearly here, spring has sprung, we are relieved that another winter is over, and hopefully we will not see too much more rain. As spring progresses I am waiting excitedly to see what happens to our “out of control” grape vine which has been seriously hacked back. Will it spring into life and become a productive, well controlled vine, giving us plenty of grapes?

The Gospel reading for Easter day is Matthew's account of the resurrection. Two women approach the tomb as the day is dawning. Mary Magdalene and another Mary go to where Jesus' body has been laid, and there is a great earthquake, as the stone over the entrance is rolled away and an angel appears.

A very scary scene, the guards who were watching over the tomb fall down as if dead, they are so afraid. But the two Marys receive the message from the angel that Jesus has risen and they should tell the other disciples to go to Galilee where he will meet them.

God has entrusted the all-important message of the resurrection to these two women. Women whose witness at that time was disregarded. Yet he chose these two faithful women, who had come to the tomb because of their love for Jesus. God trusts us with his message of Jesus' resurrection, that hope that goes beyond everything because it holds for us the promise of God's life, in us, forever; of God's love for us, forever. He trusts us, no matter who we are, or how inadequate we feel, he chooses to trust us with his message of hope for our world. A world that right now needs to hear that message, that God has overcome death, is with us now, bringing light and life to us now, and that we can know the presence of Jesus alive with us and bringing His peace to us each day of our lives.

Services in April 2026

Wednesday 1st April

Kimmeridge – 3pm – Holy Week Service (Plus cream tea at Clavells)

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Corfe Castle – 6.30pm

Holy Communion

Good Friday 3rd April

Corfe Castle – 10.30am

Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday 5th April

Steeple - 9.30am

Corfe Castle – 11.00am

Easter Communion

Easter Communion

Sunday 12th April

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Kingston – 10.30 am

Morning Worship

Holy Communion

Sunday 19th April

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am

Harmans Cross 6 pm

Holy Communion

Evening Prayer

Sunday 26 April

Corfe Castle – 10.30 am,

Kingston – 11.30 am

Morning Worship

Holy Communion

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

Bible Readings – April 2026

Sunday 5th April

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

Sunday 12th April

Second Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Sunday 19th April

Third Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Sunday 26th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

St. Edward's, King & Martyr Parish church, Corfe Castle

REVISION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL FOR 2026

The Electoral Roll revision needs to be completed two weeks prior to being displayed for two weeks before a Church APCM which, in Corfe Castle this year, will be May 10th.

Any additions, removal or address changes etc. need therefore to be with me by Saturday April 11th please.

Joy Carter 480925

Flowers for Easter Day at St Edwards

We shall be decorating the church with Greenery & Flowers on Saturday 4th April starting at 0930. Donations of Greenery & Flowers are needed. All who would like to help are welcome. No expertise required. Coffee, Tea and Biscuits will be available as an incentive.

If you are unable to attend but have Flowers or Greenery to donate, please leave them in the kitchen at St Edwards.



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Happy Easter!

Pop in for lovely new cards and gifts, including chocolate filled eggs and rabbits, as well as locally decoupage hanging eggs. Plus cute decorations and plenty of new Spring ranges.

Huge congratulations to **Kim Day** - one of our resident local artists - on winning the Sky Landscape Artist of the Year Award! It was very well deserved. (If you missed it you can catch up on Sky Go, NowTV, YouTube, Freeview and Dailymotion).

As always, we have Kim's cards, prints and originals for sale, including the Corfe painting that featured in the programme and contributed to her win!

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CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

Millions of people across the world celebrate Easter.

For many, Easter is associated with traditions: family meals, chocolate eggs, or a long weekend. But the true meaning of Easter is the claim that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, that claim can sound difficult, even unbelievable. Yet the story of Easter continues to attract attention because it addresses some of the deepest questions human beings ask.

According to the Bible, the events remembered at Easter began with a tragedy. Jesus of Nazareth was executed by crucifixion—a brutal form of Roman punishment. To his followers, it seemed like the end of their hopes. But the Bible records something unexpected. Three days after his death, Jesus' tomb was found empty, and many witnesses claimed they saw him alive again. This event, called the resurrection, became the foundation of the Christian message.

“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14)

In other words, the entire Christian faith stands or falls on this single claim. Easter doesn't have to be a demand for instant faith. Instead, it can be an invitation to consider a possibility: what if the story is true? If Jesus really rose from the dead, it would mean that death doesn't have the final word and that God's love reaches further than many imagine.

The Bible also says that Jesus' death was not merely a tragic event but an act of sacrificial love. Christians believe that through his death and resurrection, God offers forgiveness and a restored relationship with humanity. One of the most famous verses in the Bible expresses it this way: ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*** (John 3:16) that verse includes those people who doubt, question, or feel distant from religion.

This Easter, you don't have to pretend to have all the answers. But you might consider taking a small step, reading a Gospel, reflecting on the life of Jesus, or simply asking whether the message of Easter could hold more truth than you once thought.

Rob Taylor

For Sunday Services please see our noticeboard.

Coffee Morning each Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm

Celia Taylor (Church Secretary) Fr_e2talk@yahoo.co.uk / 07908 807115



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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

At last we have had a month with some warm sunshine amongst the rainy days and the garden is full of beautiful bulbs, blossom and the fresh, acid greens of new spring growth. Soon the deep violet-blue of our native British bluebells will be drifting amongst the trees.

In March we welcomed back Phil Broomfield. He has a passion for horticulture and runs a gardening business – The Garden Doctor. One of his many interests is studying garden history and he calls himself The Garden History Detective.

Phil's talk entitled 'Brick by Brick: Dorset's Walled Gardens', took us on a tour that criss- crossed the county. His beautiful images introduced us to twenty gardens, some of which we had heard of and others that were completely new to us. He told us about the garden's uses in the past and showed us how they look today.

A very interesting and informative talk, that left members scribbling down the names of gardens they would like to visit in the future.

Our **Next Meeting on April 2nd at 7.45 for 8pm** will be equally fascinating and full of information and wisdom from Jim White, who following a first class degree in Botany from London University, worked in nature conservation for his entire career. Jim is passionate about nature and will be sharing his extensive knowledge in a talk about Local/Purbeck Flora.

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, from 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



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.

Beetle Drive for Parkinsons UK

Thank you to all the people who came to the Beetle Drive on the 28th February. We raised £675 for Parkinson's UK. The money will be used for the national nurse's appeal for the society and will be matched funded. Also, thanks to all the local businesses, who gave generously to the raffle. With thanks David Gynes and Barry Stocks

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 Button Dance Programme

Date	Day	Time	Place
6 April	Monday		West Bay (Easter)
13 May	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Wareham Quay
17 May	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Lulworth Cove
20 May	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Green Man Wimborne
24 May	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Square and Compass
27 May	Wednesday	7.30 pm	Lambs Green
3 June	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Countryman
10 June	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Bakers Arms
1 July	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Oak at Dewlish
8 July	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Greyhound Wint Kingston
15 July	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Clay Pipe
22 July	Wednesday	8.00 pm	Corfe Castle Square

Contact <http://www.brmm.org.uk/DorsetButtonsMorris/>

The Orlando Singers perform on Saturday 25th April
St James' church, Kingston at 7.00pm
"There is an old belief"

HARMONY ROCKS CHOIR

Songs & Scones this year will be Wednesday afternoon, 2pm 10 June 2026 at Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage.

This is our annual summer songs and cream tea event taking place a month earlier than usual.

Tickets will be £12.00 each which includes a cream tea. These will be available from 6 May 2026 from emailthequilter@yahoo.co.uk and anne.elford10@icloud.com.

Our chosen charity for this event is PurbeckParkys who are the local support group for people in our area with Parkinson's, their carers, families, and friends, and operates under the umbrella of Parkinson's UK. Please make a note in your diaries - 10 June - for an enjoyable summer afternoon's entertainment. By the way, the scones last year were amazing!

Purbeck Film Festival celebrates 30 years with Encombe House anniversary event

The Purbeck Film Festival will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2026, launching the milestone year with a special celebratory event at Encombe House.

Founded to bring a rich mix of cinema to Purbeck, the festival now screens films in distinctive venues across the region each October, while its popular Cinema Under the Stars series brings outdoor screenings to iconic locations including Corfe Castle and the Blue Pool.

Reflecting on the milestone, festival patron Sir Mark Rylance described the event as "quite remarkable", saying that at a time when many cinemas and festivals struggle to survive rapid technological change, small festivals like Purbeck are a "godsend for filmmakers" that help nurture the human heart of cinema.

The anniversary year will launch with a special Afternoon Tea at Encombe House on Saturday 16 May, where guests will enjoy a garden stroll and entertainment from the Fingask Follies.



Encombe House copyright Richard Brown

Andrea Etherington, Chair of the Purbeck Film Festival, said:

"Reaching 30 years is a wonderful moment for the festival and for everyone who has supported us along the way.

"We're thrilled to begin our anniversary celebrations at Encombe House, one of Purbeck's most beautiful settings.

"Our sincere thanks go to James and Arabella Gaggero for so generously opening their home to help us mark this special occasion.

"Special thanks are also extended to the Dick Odgers Memorial Trust whose generosity has made this event possible."

More information and tickets are available via the Purbeck Film Festival website: www.purbeckfilm.com.

SWING EASY TOO

Swanage band singing songs from the 'Great American Songbook'. Also ballads, Bossa novas, latin, swing and jazz.

Forthcoming gigs:

Wed 01 Apr 26	ShowBar, Mowlem Theatre	2 p.m.
Fri 17 Apr 26	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Sun 19 Apr 26	Village Inn, Ulwell, Swanage **	13.15
Sat 25 Apr 26	ShowBar, Mowlem Theatre	2 p.m.
Tue 28 Apr 26	Grand Hotel, Swanage	12.15
Fri 08 May 26	Orchard Café, Holme Nurseries	12.30
Sun 10 May 26	Village Inn, Ulwell, Swanage **	13.15
Tue 26 May 26	Grand Hotel, Swanage	12.15

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SANDY HILL ARTS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS



Sandy Hill Arts is a community charity dedicated to the promotion of the **creative arts, education and performance** in Purbeck. It's on a remarkable site, bounded by trees and a stream, next to Corfe Castle Railway station. There are **20 artists' studios, a marquee and three gallery spaces**, including Room 14 and the **Boilerhouse Gallery**.

We have varied exhibitions and events throughout the year. We also take part in Purbeck and Dorset Art Weeks, as well as running festivals of our own linked to poetry, the performing and visual arts and the environment.

COME ALONG FOR TEA AND CAKE TO MEET THE TEAM ON SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2-4PM

WHAT WE NEED

VOLUNTEERS WILL TAKE ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SHA EVENTS:

- ENSURING SIGNS FOR EVENTS ARE PUT UP
- SETTING UP AND PACKING AWAY GAZEBOS, CHAIRS BEFORE AND AFTER EVENTS
- WELCOMING VISITORS, CHECKING TICKETS
- RUNNING THE BAR AT EVENTS INCLUDING SETTING UP AND PACKING AWAY BAR
- PATROLLING GROUNDS DURING EVENTS
- GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING AND TIDYING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER EVENTS
- HELPING PREPARE FOR AND HANG EXHIBITIONS
- HELPING STEWARD EXHIBITIONS
- DIRECTING VISITORS ARRIVING ON FOOT FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE TRACK ON SANDY HILL LANE
- DISTRIBUTING FLYERS AND OTHER PUBLICITY MATERIAL
- WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN IT, ACCOUNTS, FUNDRAISING AND LAW, DESIGN AND WEB MANAGEMENT.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

VOLUNTEERING BRINGS A HOST OF BENEFITS:

- MEET NEW PEOPLE
- YOUR CHANCE TO UTILISE YOUR EXISTING SKILLS, SHARE THEM WITH THE TEAM
- VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND PARTIES
- FREE TICKETS TO EVENTS SUPPORTED
- 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL COURSES/EVENT TICKETS
- A REFERENCE SHOULD YOU NEED ONE
- THE CHANCE TO HEAR BRILLIANT MUSICIANS, MEET FANTASTIC ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS
- THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SANDY HILL ARTS DEVELOP ITS PROGRAMME AND PROVISION

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- A WARM SMILE AND FRIENDLY OUTLOOK
- HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND PATIENCE
- THE ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PUBLIC, OTHER VOLUNTEERS AND ARTISTS

THERE'S NO MINIMUM TIME REQUIREMENT TO VOLUNTEER WITH SHA.

THINK ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT YOU CAN SPARE. AS A VOLUNTEER YOU WILL BE SUPPORTED BY YOUR VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR. IF YOU ARE OVER 16, BASED IN THE UK AND CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES IN ARTS EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT INFO@SANDYHILLARTS.CO.UK

INFO @ SANDYHILLARTS.CO.UK
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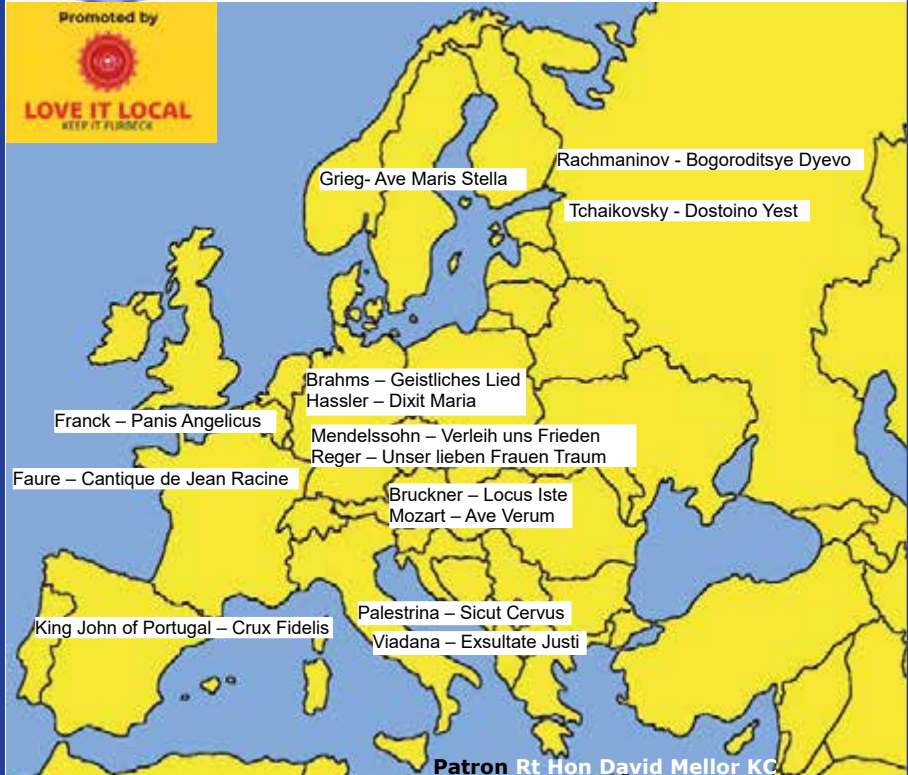


SANDY HILL ARTS, SANDY HILL LANE, CORFE CASTLE, BH20 5JF
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Wareham Choral Society
A Tour of European Sacred Music
Saturday 25th April 7pm
Lady St Mary Church,
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Join us on a musical journey across Europe to celebrate
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Conductor Hazel Ricketts **Organist** Paul Ellis **Mezzo-Soprano** Grace Lovelass

For their financial support for this concert, thanks to:
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<https://thekingsarms-stoborough.co.uk/>



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 mjballet@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
- Art classes/courses 10.30am – 12.30pm - info@earth-art.org.uk.
 07720353454

Thursday


- Shotokan Karate www.warehamskc.co.uk
- Art classes/courses 10.30am – 12.30pm - info@earth-art.org.uk.
 07720353454

Friday

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

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

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



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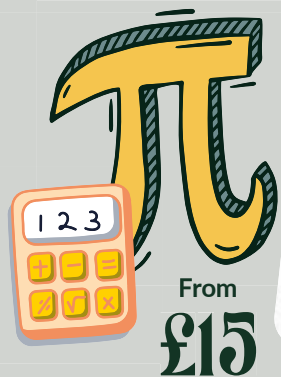
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Talk by Naval Historian and former Submariner, Andy Boyd



A Tale of Strategy, Courage and Human Fallibility

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With new evidence, Andy Boyd, local author of *Arms for Russia and the Naval War in the Arctic*, takes a fresh look at how and why this disaster happened, and its consequences.

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Kimmeridge News

Welcome!

Julie & Nick Ford are grandparents again! Arthur John Best was born on 9th February to Jo & Harry – congratulations & welcome!

Big Sara

Welcome too to Big Sara, the huge Allosaurus Fossil who has come to visit us from the beginning of March at The Etches Collection. Well worth a visit and included in the Museum ticket price! But check times on the Etches Collection website - www.theetchescollection.org

Easter Church Services

There is a special Holy Communion in Kimmeridge Church during Holy Week on Wednesday 1st April at 3pm – usually followed by Cream Tea at Clavells! All Welcome. On Easter Sunday there will be a service at Steeple Church at 9:30am and at Corfe Castle Church at 11:00

Kimmeridge Keilidh – Friday 24th April

Our next Kimmeridge Keilidh (Barn Dance!) is on 24th March at 7:30pm in the Village Hall at The Etches Collection. Music from Arish Mel & caller Malcolm Churchill. Tickets on the door £7.50 adults, £2.50 under 16s. No Bar – bring your own drinks & nibbles! All profits from these dances are shared between the Etches Collection and the Village.

Steve & Helen Earwicker



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Mayday Singers

Musical Director: John Watkins

Spring Concert

Guest soloist: Rosie Kent (Violin)

Sunday 26th April 2026, 4pm

St George's Church,
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The Rambling Gardener

Spring is coming, it's beautiful and every day is different as the leaves on the deciduous trees and plants start their regrowth. They start red, yellow or green and change colour so every day different even if you are just looking out of the window. We hope for gentle April showers and not the floods and droughts of some previous years.

Easter egg hunts are such fun, as a child I remember loving them and then having them here at Knitson for children and then grandchildren. We would always lose a few nests, which I would enjoy finding later in the year. We preferred to hunt for nests of little eggs instead of having one big one that I would eat far too fast! I love rabbits, but I don't want to have an Easter bunny in my garden as they eat the plants that I am growing for the family to eat in summer and winter. Luckily rabbits are deterred by my excellent cats.

The RHS March magazine suggested making a wreath for Easter with violets and moss which would be fun to do. Also, they recommend Japanese quince for flowering in February and March because they are hardy and long lived. They come in a range of colours from white to bright red, some are small and others reach for the sky. As a bonus their fruit makes a good jelly which is great eaten with cheese so they would be good for any garden.

One lovely flower that comes back every year is the Forget-me-not, what a lovely name. They flower every spring, self-seed and are very easy to weed when you need the space. They are also good for putting with white tulips for purity in church decorations for Easter Sunday, and for our homes.

Many years ago, I knitted a thick sweater to keep me warm and it's so nice to have so I have just spun and knitted another one for a friend who needs to keep his back warm. It has taken a long time to make, and knitting without a pattern means that I have made mistakes but in one more day I will have finished it! The sweater that I made over 30 years ago is still as soft and warm as it was when I made it so I trust this one will last as long.

April is a good time to plant and sow, but do use plenty of compost and water well at the start of the season to get your plant roots established. Now is the time to sow broad, French and runner beans, early peas, leeks, some cabbages, and brussel sprouts in the seed bed and tomatoes and courgettes inside

to be hardened off when there is no chance of frost. I like the summer yellow courgettes best, but green ones often have heavier crops and keep better. Various squash, (that also need to be started inside in April), are a must for the winter as different ones ripen in every month so choose your favourite for each month. There are lots of varieties of lettuce to choose. I go for a small cos variety which, like radish, can grow quickly between slow growing plants like parsnips and winter cabbage. Do sow herbs, some are hardier than others and put near your kitchen door for frequent use in tasty meals.

Hopefully many of you are planting saved seeds and tubers from last year's best plants. The saved seed plants will be healthier, and crop better each year. For example, I had a blight resistant red skin potato growing under nasturtiums which produced 14lbs of potatoes off one plant last year. It has been producing more every year for 10 years now, familiarity to home soil. Nasturtiums are often very good companion plants, increasing their partners' yields, looking beautiful, edible, self-sowing and easy to clear when no longer needed.

If any of you would like to visit do call and arrange it, I love to talk about gardening and sharing ideas with other people

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Shopping In Corfe - 1791

As many know, the 1791 Census of Corfe and Kingston organised by Morton Pitt, the Squire of Encombe, was very detailed and was the precursor of the British National Census. A close examination shows the shopping habits of our predecessors two hundred years ago. Most of the shops were in the Square and West Street, although the latter was known as High Street. Correspondingly East Street was 'Back Street' as it ended as a bog. (Editor's note – It still does except that the A351 has been routed around the bog)

We find the following tradesmen listed:

4 Carpenters - 4 Shoemakers - 3 Publicans

And one each of the following:

Mason - Sadler - Tallow Chandler - Blacksmith - Baker - Butcher - Tailor - Woolcomber - Thatcher - Lime Burner.

The above list is just in Market Place and High Street. In Back Street there were Labourers, Molecatchers, Claycutters, Painters and one Shopkeeper - probably where Driscolls used to be. Thus we can deduce that West Street was the 'Shopping Precinct'. Four shoemakers seems excessive but the whole population walked. Horses were for the well-to-do. Of these we find the Rector, the Rev Bankes L'anson, Oliver Vye (Quarrier) and William Pike (Clay Merchant); all of these kept servants. Assuming the population to be about 1200, there were about 120 habitable cottages, so the norm appears to be a rather overcrowded 10 to a dwelling, although we read that one cottage on the heath housed 20.

Almost certainly some of the wives were in domestic service but there was also a cottage industry of knitting stockings. The children would earn a few pence at bird scaring and picking stone off fields. Amongst the Tradesmen listed is John Roe, Shoemaker who moved to West Lulworth. A friend has his Family Bible which is available to any descendant who claims it. He appears to have had a daughter who married a Mr. Loader.

Two hundred years ago we had far more shops, but it would be fair to say that the quality of life has much improved.

Paul Randall.

(As a footnote, I can confirm that there were 4 grocers, as well as 2 butchers, a paper shop and a haberdasher in Corfe during the war when I was a boy growing up in the village. Editor)



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

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For further information please contact:

The Clerk to the Trustees,
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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
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Quarter of a Page	£12.00	£32.00	£60.00	£105.00

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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