

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

AQUARIUS CORFE CASTLE WOMEN IN TOUCH	TERESA NEAL	556041
BADMINTON	CHRISTINE KEMP	480007
BUSY BEES	SAM COLE	481631
CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES	STEFF ROBINSON	07584079401
CHURCH KNOWLE FRIENDS OF ST PETERS	DEBBIE EVANS	07879473693
CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH CLERK	ANDREW PARSONS	208215
CHURCH KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL	JONATHAN EVANS	07880780677
CHURCH KNOWLE READING ROOM BOOKINGS	ANGELA BOON	07890646455
EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	CELIA TAYLOR	07908807115
CORFE CASTLE CHARITY	MANDY MEAKER	480873
CORFE CASTLE CLUB	BAR STEWARD (CHUBBY)	480591
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST	SUE LOSEBY	07739873989
CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY		480760
CORFE CASTLE CE PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL	Mr R STONER (Headteacher)	480428
CORFE CASTLE FOOTBALL CLUB	STEVE NORMAN	07971986093
CORFE CASTLE GARDENING CLUB	CHRIS CLARKE	480095
CORFE CASTLE RINGERS	JOHN BEAUCHAMP	480915
CORFE CASTLE SURGERY	Dr MARK LEPPER	480441
CRAZY 4 CORFE	DENISE FULLER	07736858132
CORFE CASTLE LATIN AMERICAN & BALLROOM	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
CORFE CASTLE LINE DANCE	DONNA DEBELIUS	07518 056149
CORFE CASTLE PARISH CLERK	SARAH FORWOOD	07986880999
CORFE CASTLE TOWN TRUST	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
CORFE CASTLE TOWN HALL BOOKINGS	JOHN LINDSAY	481498
CORFE CASTLE YOUTH CLUB	DONNA BICKERSTAFF	07814013747
CORFE CASTLE TODDLER GROUP	CHERYL THAKE	07745242511
CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL	DAVID ATKIN	07590352219
CORFE CRAFTERS	CHERYL THAKE	07745242511
DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST KIMMERIDGE	JULIE HATCHER	481044
DOUBLE ACT drama group	DAVID WATSON	481265
DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION	LEAH CROSS	01202 712869
FRIENDS OF THE SURGERY	KATHY MORRIS	425890
FURZEBROOK HALL BOOKINGS	TINA BEST	07935068881
GOD'S ACRE CLERK	SARAH FORWOOD	07986880999
KIMMERIDGE VILLAGE HALL	OFFICE	270000
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	LOUISE HAYWOOD	481375
MARGARET GREEN ANIMAL RESCUE	HEAD OFFICE	480474
MILLENNIUM PAVILION BOOKINGS	PAUL JOBLING	07808793855
NATIONAL TRUST	PURBECK OFFICE	450002
PARISH CHURCHES		208578
POTTERY IN PURBECK	RACHEL FOOKS	480455
PROBUS CLUB	TONY NOTT	07541303941
PURBECK ASS'N of the NATIONAL TRUST	LES WRIGHT	552872
PURBECK CHESS CLUB	STEVE PEIRSON	552504
PURBECK GARDENING CLUB	CYRIL HARRISON	552105
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	GEOFF VARNEY	480591
SANDY HILL ARTS TRUST	ANGHARAD HOLLOWAY	07929771219
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# CORFE VALLEY NEWS



## MAY 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 529 May 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](mailto:corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk)  
*Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue*

## Editorial

It is probably fairly general knowledge that the Parish Council has a new parish clerk to replace Michelle. Our new clerk is Sarah Forwood and she has already taken over the function. She comes well qualified and it looks as though she will be a very suitable replacement. We wish her all the very best in this new role. She is contactable via her mobile number (07986 880999) which is also at the end of the Parish Council report and on the back page; she is also on the clerks email which will be the same as previously.

The weather has turned bright and sunny with a strong but cold, easterly wind, as an area of high pressure has settled over the UK. It is nice to be free of the rain, but I am sure that the farmers and growers now need some water. It all goes to show you just can't win!

Stephen

## Some useful Telephone Numbers

(There are more in the middle of the magazine)

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

## **Corfe Valley News**

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## **Contents**

6-7	Corfe Castle Parish Council
8	Who to Contact When
11	Double Act Drama Group
12-13	The Corfe Castle Community Land Trust
14	Corfe Castle Primary School and Pre-School
15	Corfe Castle Surgery and PPG
17	Corfe Community Kitchen
18-21	National Trust
22-23	Church Knowle Parish Council
27	Corfe Castle Club
28-29	Phelps and Goddins
31	News From The Library
33	Aquarius
35	Corfe Castle Village Hall
38-39	Centre Page Calendar
40	Useful Phone Numbers
41-43	Church of England
46-47	Chapel on the Green
48-52	Notices and Thanks
56	Furzebrook Village Hall
58-60	Purbeck Art Weeks
63	Kimmeridge News
64-65	New Mills and Scotland Farm
67	Harmans Cross Village Hall
73	Corfe Castle Charity
74	Advertising Information
75	Regular Events in Corfe Castle and environs

The cover picture is of an Uncrowded Kimmeridge Bay  
from Unknown Dorset dated 1927

## APRIL FOR CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

As I write this article, I would like to take a moment to share that this will be the last time I will be contributing to the Corfe Valley News, as I am leaving Corfe Castle parish Council to begin new adventures closer to home. I have truly enjoyed working with the Parish Council and the community over the past nearly seven years, and it has been a privilege to be part of village life. I will miss Corfe Castle residents very much and would like to thank everyone for their support, kindness, and engagement during my time here.

The new Clerk is Sarah Forwood. Sarah is currently a part-time Clerk at another Parish Council in Dorset and brings with her a wealth of knowledge of local government processes and procedures. We warmly welcome her to the parish and wish her every success in her new role.

The Parish Council met on Monday 13th April 2026 in the Village Hall, with a full agenda covering local finance, planning matters, community projects, and updates from partner organisations.

**Public Concerns Raised:** During the public session, a resident queried how funds from Perenco, following the recent oil leak, have been distributed. The Parish Council agreed to write formally to request clarification.

**Community Improvements:** Several practical improvements were agreed: Extension of the ramp into the playpark to improve accessibility  
Cultivation and reseeded of a wildflower area in the playing field to support biodiversity & finally planting in Parish Council car park planter, with contributions from councillors and a small additional budget if needed

**Planning and Local Issues:** Councillors raised no objection to plans for a new entrance canopy at Corfe Castle railway station, noting it would enhance the heritage appearance of the site.

**Environment and Transport:** The Parish Council supported the Dark Skies initiative led by Worth Matravers Parish Council and agreed to respond to a waterways consultation, objecting to proposed changes to speed marker buoys. In addition, concerns about local rail ticket pricing were discussed, with plans to invite Swanage Railway representatives to a future meeting.

**Community Projects and Groups:** The “Centenary Memorial Garden” was approved as the name for a new ashes scattering area, with plans for a commemorative plaque and opening ceremony.

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 11<sup>th</sup> May 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: Sarah Forwood  
**Telephone:** 07986 880999 **Email:** [clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk),  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC](https://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC),  
**Website:** [www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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# Stephen Silcock

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### Who to Contact When:

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

#### **My bin was not emptied:**

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

Telephone: 01305 221040

#### **A public litter bin is overflowing**

Self Service Portal - [https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP\\_Report\\_a\\_public\\_litter\\_bin\\_problem](https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/DWP_Report_a_public_litter_bin_problem)

Telephone: 01305 221040

#### **To report a pothole**

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

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

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

#### **To report a problem on a road or pavement**

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

Telephone 01305 221020

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

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

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

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

Telephone 01305 221020



# Corfe Castle May Fair

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ccmayfair24@gmail.com)**

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*Congratulations to Paulette and all the cast & crew for last Novembers  
"Alice In Cuckoo Land" - as it have been nominated for another SW NODA Award!*

Whilst we all have our fingers crossed for winning that award, we are not resting  
on our laurels and are starting our next main production

## THE CAT AND THE CANARY

*(Performances on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>)*

This kicks off in May with informal reading auditions on  
May 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Corfe Castle Village Hall, 67 East Street.

Just come along to join in the group reading.

This year, we are really in need of youngsters who can pass for teenagers (*for one  
short scene that will be rehearsed on Sundays*) and men  
who can be made to look as if they are in their 20 or 30's.

If you would like further details please ask Peter.

May 25<sup>th</sup> will see us once again at the village **May Fair** in the castle grounds.  
More details will emerge shortly – but expect something slightly different this year  
as Paulette is taking charge!

Looking ahead to future-proof our skill sets we will be running a few short

## Lighting Workshops

These will contain essential knowledge for any prospective Directors but if you  
have the vaguest interest in lighting or just want to broaden your horizons  
you are welcome to attend on

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & July 6<sup>th</sup> at Corfe Village Hall, 67 East Street.

Starting at 6.15pm sharp until 6.55pm with opportunities to get 'hands on'.

These will finish just before "The Cat & The Canary" rehearsals start.

If you are looking for a new hobby and would be interested in  
joining our friendly safe group, on or off stage, please contact  
Peter (*chairman – 07551 183465*) or email

[doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com](mailto:doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com) for more details.

New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome!



## The Corfe Castle Community Land Trust

We are delighted to advise that Corfe Castle Community Land Trust (CCCLT) has been working with the Corfe Castle Charity (landowner) and Aster Group (registered provider) to bring forward a piece of land off Tabbitt's Hill Lane, Harmans Cross, for affordable rented homes for those with local connection. This land sits within the Corfe Castle Parish boundary.

As this land is adjacent to Worth Matravers Parish Council and on the edge of Harmans Cross we are keen to involve both Corfe Castle and Worth Matravers Parish Councils in the development of this project.

Aster, in collaboration with CCCLT, are preparing to submit a planning application for the site later in the year and will engage with both Corfe Castle and Harmans Cross villages to discuss plans when they are drawn up.

### **Our Commitment to the Community:**

CCCLT and Aster are keen that this project is community-led with a strong focus on meeting the needs of the community.

Our commitment to the Community:

- We will communicate with you at all key times in the project so you are made aware of what is happening and why
- We will engage with you so your views are heard and understood
- We will build a shared understanding of the benefits and endeavour to deliver those benefits with and to the community.

How to get involved:

In the short term there are 4 keyways of getting involved in this project:

1. CCCLT will be convening a Community Reference Group particularly for those who might need to return or be helped to stay in the community through access to affordable homes. Dates for these group meetings will be advertised on local Facebook pages
2. CCCLT will be attending the Worth Matravers Annual Parish Council meeting at Harman's Cross Village Hall on 28th April, so do pop in and chat with us

3. CCCLT will also be attending the Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting on 11th May (public session) so do come along and contribute to the discussion

4. In June, Dorset Council will collect views via a Housing Needs Survey. This aims to find out whether the community supports the idea of more affordable housing and also to find out the scale of housing need.

If you wish to ask any further questions or contribute to the conversation please do get in touch via the CLT email: [corfeastlecommunitylandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:corfeastlecommunitylandtrust@gmail.com)

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- 🌐 [www.animalunderstanding.co.uk](http://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



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Corfe Castle CE Primary School & Pre-School



*"You take care of the land and water it. You make it very fertile. The rivers of God are full of water. Grain grows because you make it grow." Psalm 65:9 – ICB.*

As we enter May, change is afoot. Flowers and trees continue to blossom, and there is a real sense of growth all around us. It is a time to truly appreciate the awe and wonder of the world we live in.

As we think about growth and change, this can also be a challenging time at school, particularly for our oldest children. They are preparing for and sitting their end of Key Stage 2 assessments in English grammar, spelling, reading, and mathematics. At the same time, they are beginning to recognise their own growth as they prepare for the transition to secondary school, which is just around the corner.

With three months of the academic year remaining, we look ahead with excitement to the many events still to come, including:

- The Summer Fair: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June on the school field and at the village hall
- Year 6 Residential, Transition Day, Leaver Assemblies, Sports Days and the KS2 Summer Show



I would also like to say a thank you to the Greyhound Pub for their continued support and recent donation to our PTFA.

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 01929 480 428



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

## Corfe Castle Surgery and Patient Participation Group

At our recent PPG meeting we were delighted to hear that the exercise classes organised by the PPG and held at Corfe Village hall on Thursday mornings are going well with new 'classmates' joining but there are a few vacancies so if you are a patient of Corfe Surgery and would like to come along to a free taster session between 1030 - 1130 please come to the village hall where Sally will be pleased to welcome you. The camaraderie and the exercise are highlights of the sessions.

During the month of May PPG members will be in the surgery, at variable times, to meet patients to talk about the role of the PPG and to complete a survey form. They will be easily recognisable so please do have a quick chat if you have the time and would like to do so - no pressure- but it will be helpful to know if the surgery is meeting your health access needs particularly if you are of work age.

With so many worldwide challenges at present it makes us even more appreciative of the service we receive as patients from the Corfe Surgery. The surgery is getting busier with increasing pressures so please let us help the surgery team as best we can so that they can help us. We are indeed fortunate to have an excellent Reception and Dispensary team who do their best for us often at challenging times for both patient and staff member.

We are seeking a new PPG representative from Studland Tony Higgins having retired from his role. Please contact us if you would like to join us. [corfecastleppg@gmail.com](mailto:corfecastleppg@gmail.com) or through the surgery. Thank you Tony for your past support .

Best wishes

Maggie , PPG Chair

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**Burnt Blossom** – One of our new local suppliers, supplying us with various candles, wax melts, hand creams and more!

### Garden Barn / Mini Garden Centre

- Various plants arriving each week from our trusted suppliers
- Our well stocked Garden Barn is full of impressive garden ornaments, plant pots and more.

### Shop

- As always, we have fantastic giftware, local spirits, wines & groceries galore!
- We are heavily focused on the best locally sourced produce.
- 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!
- We have stock from local small businesses such as Bella&Evie (Jewellery), Tradpots Pottery, and Burnt Blossom (Home fragrances).

### 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.



## CORFE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

### Soup 'n' Pud

Our April lunch, being on Easter Saturday, featured some nods to that festival. Several people came with Easter hats and trimmings and flowers were also in evidence. Our two puddings offered Easter flavours with hot cross bun bread and butter pudding and an Easter egg cheese cake with crushed mini eggs in the creamy filling and eggs and nests to decorate. We provided an additional sweet treat of chocolate crispy nests with eggs to accompany tea and coffee. We were very happy to receive butter nut squashes from a kind villager to go in the squash and pepper soup and we also had a more traditional leek and potato one with the usual bread rolls donated by the Village Bakery. Thanks once again to them.

**Unfortunately we will not be holding Soup 'n' Pud in May for the excellent reason that the Village Hall kitchen refurbishment will be in full swing so will be out of bounds. We expect to return on June 6<sup>th</sup> to a swanky new and enlarged kitchen with an all singing all dancing dishwasher! What luxury!!**

We will let you know next month what will be expected for June and look forward to seeing you all again then.

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.

If you live or have friends in the Wareham area there is to be a similar lunch at the URC hall opposite the Sainsbury car park on Sat. May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm in aid of Friends of Wareham Hospital so if you feel you are missing out in Corfe they would love to welcome you.

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



National Trust

## Nature updates from the National Trust

### Cows on the commons

Please be aware that cows are now grazing on Corfe Commons. Cattle do an amazing job in maintaining our wildlife habitats:

- They use their long tongues to pull up coarse vegetation; this allows a wider variety of plants to grow.
- They create areas of bare soil which are important basking sites for insects and reptiles.
- They open up marshy areas, allowing wetland wildlife to thrive.
- Their dung provides food for beetles and flies, which in turn feed many birds and bats.
- They push through thick scrub and keep it open.

Our agreement with the grazier is that they don't have any cows with calves on Corfe Commons due to the proximity of the village (maternal instinct can make them more unpredictable).



*Cattle on Corfe Common:  
Photo: Emma Finlinson*

If you see cattle when out in the countryside, please:

- Don't feed them because it encourages them to follow people.
- Give them plenty of space, especially when there are calves.
- Keep dogs on leads where cattle are grazing (the exception is if the cattle approach you, then let your dog off the lead so you can both move to safety.)

### Adder appreciation

We've had lots of sightings of adders recently, especially on the heathland. Adders come in a range of colours, from silvery-grey to coppery brown – and some are even completely black! The zig-zag pattern along the back makes them easy to recognise.

Yes, adders are venomous – but they're also incredibly shy. They'll disappear as soon as they sense your footfall. Their venom is used to catch prey such as mice, voles, lizards, frogs, newts and small birds.



*Adder: Photo: Dave Hutton*

When you're out in the countryside, remember:

- Never try to handle adders.
- Keep to paths rather than walking in long vegetation.
- Keep dogs from rooting around in long grass, deep heather or gorse.
- If you are bitten, seek medical help immediately. Not all adder bites cause a serious reaction, but it's worth being cautious.

### Help ground-nesting birds

From March to August, some of our favourite birds are nesting – including skylarks, meadow pipits and corn buntings. But these birds nest on the ground which makes them very vulnerable. You can help by:

- Staying on the main paths
- Respecting seasonal restrictions, such as keeping your dog on a lead
- Not lighting fires or using disposable BBQs
- Spreading the word!



*Skylark: courtesy  
Pete Christie*

### Dam impressive!

One year after we released beavers into the wild at Little Sea, Studland, their activity has dramatically reshaped part of the nearby landscape – turning a previously dense area of woodland into a thriving wetland habitat.

One of the two pairs of beavers we introduced in March 2025 have built an impressive 35-metre-long dam, which has slowed the flow of a small stream, creating a deep and extensive pond. Their coppicing of trees has opened up the canopy, allowing light to flood in and creating ideal habitat for plants, insects, amphibians, birds and bats.



*Dam at new beaver wetland in Studland. ©Cathy Lewis*

Gen Crisford, Wetlands Project Officer, said: "The effect on the eco-system is astonishing. From dense tangled woodland, the beavers have created a light and airy wetland teeming with life above and below the water. We can't wait to see what wildlife appears this summer – from dragonflies, diving beetles and butterflies to frogs and newts – and of course, all the animals that feed off them.

“It's important to remember that the trees the beavers fell don't die – they quickly sprout new shoots. There are also indications that by slowing the flow of the stream, the beavers are helping prevent a section of Ferry Road from flooding in heavy rain.”

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

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust

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## News from the Castle



### Historic May celebrations

Early May has long marked the arrival of summer, with celebrations dating back to the Roman festival of Floralia honouring the goddess Flora. May traditions continued through the medieval period, when communities gathered for feasting, dancing and games. Corfe Castle likely hosted similar festivities, with May Day celebrations forming part of its long social history.

### May village fair – 25 May

We're looking forward to warmly welcoming you all to the castle for the village May Fair. There will be games, crafts, stalls, facepainting and a raffle. Organised for the village by the village. To support our local community, free entry to the castle will be available on the day to all residents of BH19 and BH20 postcodes. Proof of residence will be required on arrival.

### New archaeology exhibition – May – October

A new exhibition of fascinating finds from castle excavations will open at Castle View this month. Centred around our Home and Hearth theme, the exhibition explores artefacts and stories of ordinary castle life.

### Other dates to note in May:

#### May bank holiday – 2-4 May

Come and enjoy a LEGO SERIOUS PLAY tent, maypole disco and medieval dressing up.

#### May half term – 24 –31 May

Visitors can join the Castle Keeper for lively tales, hands-on fun, and playful challenges from medieval life and a New Famous Five family quest.



*Photo of bone whistle from the castle displayed at our exhibition at Castle View from May*

## Church Knowle Parish Council – April Meeting

The April meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council took place in the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6:30pm. It was attended by seven members of the Council (Cllr Gilbert in the chair), 3 members of the public and Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson.

### Public Discussion

Abbie King, the CEO of the Swanage Railway gave a presentation on the proposed temporary halt at the Blue Pool for the summer months. A halt at the Blue Pool had been an idea since 1977 but had never before been implemented. The scheme had been planned with ecologists and Natural England and made use of an existing footpath. A full planning application will be made.

### Planning

One application was considered: P/HABR/2026/01954, for camping at the Blu Pool between 7<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations. All of thre requirements of the regulation appeared to have been met and the Council made no comment.

### New Speed Limit

The 30mph speed limit with the proper signs and markings has now been implemented. No longer will people be able to travel at the national limit of 60mph through the village.

### Playing Field

The new flowering cherry (*prunus sargentii*) planted in the playing field is thriving. The annual professional safety inspection will take place next month.

### Cucknowle Ridge

It was reported that the signs erected to discourage irresponsible use of these tracks by off-roaders have been torn from their fixings and trashed.

### Vacancies on the Parish Council

Cllr Jayne Wilson, who has given many years of service to the Parish Council and provided a great deal of expertise, good sense and stability resigned from the Council. She had an unerring instinct for what was right and will be sorely missed. The Council expressed its regret at her leaving and thanked her for all the years of service and valuable contributions she has given,

There are now two vacancies on the council which has a full strength of nine and any interested parishioners can apply to [clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@churchknowle-pc.gov.uk).

The meeting finished at 7:50 pm. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be at the Church Knowle Village Hall at 6:30 on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

## **Ceilidh and Cake!**

**Sunday 10th May, 3 pm - 6 pm**

**at Harman's Cross Village Hall**

**with ceilidh band Maiden Oak and caller Malcolm Churchill**

**£5 entrance, children free**

**Bring cash for tea, cake and raffle**

**Doors open at 3.00, dancing starts at 3.30 pm**

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### The Castle Inn



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#### News from The Castle

May is here, and summer is right around the corner. Our garden is ready to welcome you all once again as we enjoy longer evenings and (hopefully) warmer weather. Let's take a look at what we have going on this month.

#### We are Hiring!

We are looking for new staff members to join our team! We are looking for chef's & bar staff (18+), runners & pot washers. We're offering a fun working environment, with shifts to suit your current commitments. Please give the pub a call or pop in to enquire.

#### Friday Night is Fish Night

Friday night's we offer delicious, fresh fish as local as we can get! We regularly offer mouth-watering mussels, oysters, crab & scallops along with other tasty options on this popular evening. Come & join us for a fabulous dining experience.

#### Thursday Night 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.

From everyone at the Castle Inn, we hope you have a great May.

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 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	Sat 23rd - 8pm - Quiz night
One Card Bingo:	Fri 8.30pm	Sun 24th - 2pm - Doubles Boules
Meat Draw:	Sat evening	Knockout
One Card Bingo:	Sun 1.00pm	Sat 18th July - Beer Festival

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

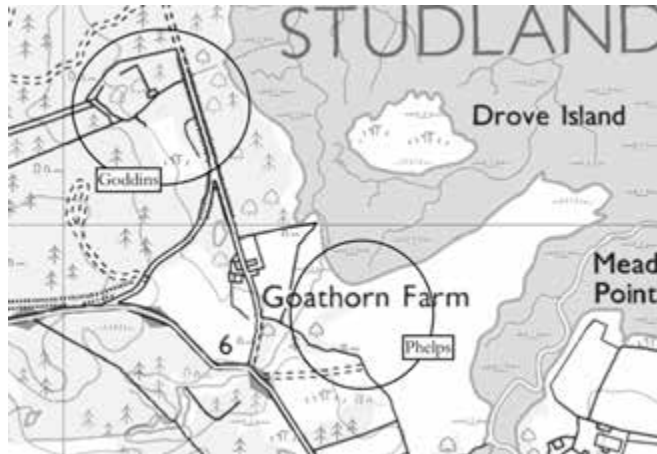
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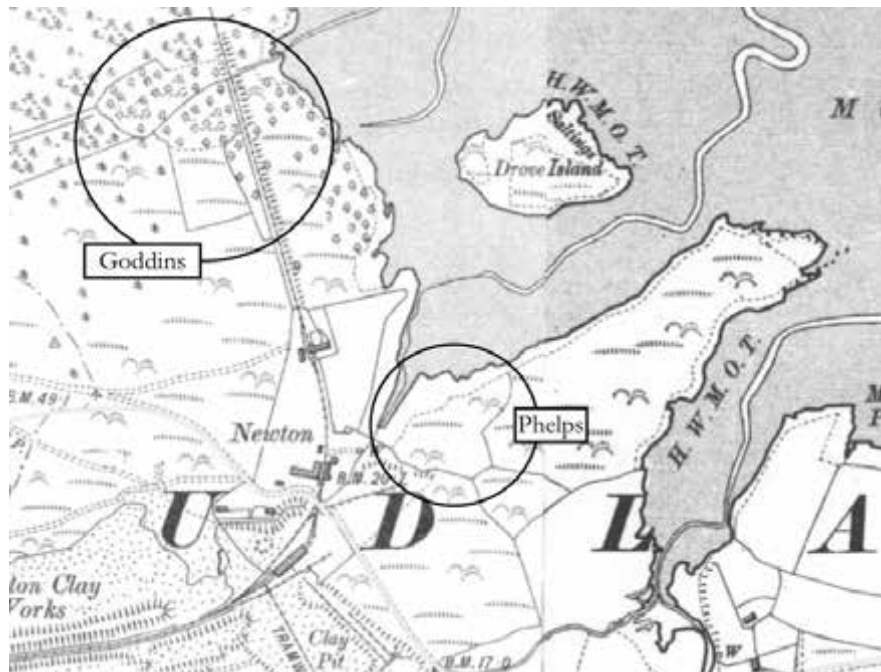
We are still home to the Corfe Castle branch of the Royal British Legion

## Phelps & Goddins part of the Manor of Rempstone

These place names are long gone but existed for centuries close to the Goathorn Peninsula by Poole Bay.



Today (above) and in 1888 (below).



Up until 1795, both tenements originally lay in the civil parish of Corfe Castle but now lie in Studland Parish. They had been the lands of John Roberts (as shown on the Treswell 1586 map – see below) and eventually passed to James Havelland before being purchased by John Calcraft in 1758.



A 1498 Rempstone court roll notes that Phelps was a small croft of 4 acres. It expanded to include over 32 acres by the 18<sup>th</sup> century when a cottage had been built. It paid two bushels of salt, worth 1s, to the castle and was able to cut 3,000 turves from the heath. Goddins (also called Godwins) adjoined Phelps and held over 14 acres. A cottage had stood here but had decayed by 1772. 270 acres of heath belonging to the tenements extended southwards to Kingswood Heath.

The Fayle brothers expanded the Nordon clay works in 1905 to Newton when the pits were linked by rail to the wharf at Goathorn. This altered the area. The railway was abandoned in 1937 and the land returned to nature.

Louise Haywood

“

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News from the Library  
May 2026



There's a lot going on at the library in May - do come and join us!

Thursday 21st May 2pm – a FREE talk in the library:

"From Beds to Burials" with Lynn Feagan  
Lynn and her husband ran a very successful hotel in Swanage for many years before she became a Family Celebrant. She will be sharing her uplifting experiences, talking funerals, weddings and more.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 10 am -12 noon  
Children's Half-Term Activities for 4-11 year olds.  
£2 per child with accompanying adult.

Our theme will be 'Summer, Sun and Sea'. There will be sunflower seeds to plant - one to take home and one to stay at the Library. Each will be labelled with the planter's name – and we'll see whose will grow tallest! There will be surprise crafts for you to have fun with as well.

Our volunteers love helping at the library – if you have a few hours to spare per month, do consider coming in and asking about how you can assist at this amazing community asset.

Normal Library Opening Hours

- Monday 3 - 5
- Wednesday 10-12 and 3-5
- Friday 3-5
- Saturday 10-12



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We all like to grow flowers in our gardens but our speaker for April has taken this to a whole other level. Black Shed Flowers from Sherbourne gave a fascinating talk on how they started the business and how it has grown. Paul then went through the calendar year with lovely photos of the types of flowers that are available and some of them were surprising. It was a thoroughly enjoyable talk. He also donated a lovely bunch of blooms for our monthly raffle draw.

### Future Programme of Speakers

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May: 'No Bad Hair Days' with Trisha Brown

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: 'The World of Glass' with Dr Burroughs

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: 'Life in Hatton Garden' with John Hatcher

Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>: Annual Summer BBQ

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

**Walkers Group:** 3rd Monday at various locations.

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

**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](mailto:2008aquariusladies@gmail.com) for more information.



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## Corfe Castle Village Hall

### general news:

The VH Coffee Morning in April raised £162.86 for VH funds. Thanks to all those who attended, especially our loyal team of helpers.

The April 100 club draw was made at the Coffee Morning. The first prize of £20 was won by member 52, with member 26 getting second prize £10 and member 54 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 not this
1st Saturday lunchtime	Soup 'n Pud May
1st Sunday all day	Cameo Antiques Fair
1st Tuesday afternoon	Aquarius
1st Thursday evening	Gardening Club
2nd Monday evening	Parish Council

### Kitchen re-development ... the culmination of a project

Trustees voted at their post-AGM meeting to accept the proposals from our chosen two contractors for the kitchen re-development work. The expanded and renovated kitchen is the final part of a project which began in earnest a dozen years ago. Since then the village hall has been re-roofed, we have solar panels, the foyer is enlarged, the drainage issues have been resolved, there are new larger cloakrooms, two new meeting/activity rooms, twelve storage units, improved storage for chairs, tables and stage units, wifi, smart TV and an improved PA system and digital projector and screen in the main hall. Thanks are due to all the Trustees and volunteers who have served over this time, and all those villagers who have made donations or helped raise the funds. Also to George Preston, who many years ago had the vision and drive to purchase the land on which the extension has been built.

The building work is scheduled to start on Monday April 27th and to take 3 or 4 weeks. During this time the kitchen will be closed, and activities in the main hall will be affected for the first few days, but we are very hopeful that use of the main hall (and of course of the BC room and GP room) can continue much as normal.

To book a room, preferably use the email address [david@davidjtkin.plus.com](mailto:david@davidjtkin.plus.com). Alternatively ring David on 07590 352219.



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CHURCH KNOWLE

Sat 1st Aug

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Admission £3, children £1, under 2 free.

2pm start.

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

grand draw + ice cream + brass band + books

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

## CORFE VALLEY NEWS

## CALENDAR for MAY 2026

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

2	May	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning	Corfe Castle Village Hall
5	May	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius – No Bad Hair Days -	Corfe Castle Village Hall
7	May	Thursday	7.45 pm	Gardening Club talk by Simon Hansford – Head Gardener at the Encombe Estate	
10	May	Sunday	3pm – 6 pm	Ceilidh and Cake – Harmans Cross	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	3 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting St Nicholas	Kimmeridge
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
21	May	Thursday	2 pm	Library Talk “From beds to Burials” by Lyn Feagan –	Corfe Castle Library
23	May – 7 June			Purbeck Art Weeks around the Isle of Purbeck	
25	May	Monday	10 am to 4 pm	May Fair in the Castle	
28	May	Thursday	10 – 12 noon	Library Children’s Half Term activities for 4 – 11 year olds in the Library	
31	May	Sunday	12 noon – 6 pm	Deep Digs an Exposition of Recorded Music –	Square & Compass Worth Matravers

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

2	June	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius “The World of Glass” by Dr Burroughs –	Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	June	Saturday	10.15 am	Village Coffee Morning	Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	June	Saturday	12.30 – 1.45 pm	Soup n’ pud Community lunch -	Corfe Castle Village Hall
6	June	Saturday	6.30 pm	Purbeck Big Band –	St Peters Church Knowle
9	June	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Church Knowle Parish Council meeting –	Furzebrook Village Hall
10	June	Wednesday	2 pm	Harmony Rocks Summer songs and cream tea –	Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage
13	June	Saturday		School Summer Fair –	School Field and Corfe Castle Village Hall
13	June	Saturday	2.30 pm – 5 pm	Steeple Manor Gardens Open	
3	July	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius “Life in Hatton Garden” with John Hatcher -	Corfe Castle Village Hall
18	July	Saturday	12 noon	Corfe Castle Club Beer Festival	
1	August	Saturday	2 pm	3 Parishes Fete in Grounds of Old Rectory	Church Knowle
4	August	Tuesday	2 pm	Aquarius Annual Summer BBQ	
15	August	Saturday	10 am – 4 pm	Saint Edwards Fete –	St Edwards Church Lawns

## 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**

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**Anti-Social Behaviour** 01305 762439 email [ASB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ASB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

# Church of England

## St Aldhelm's Benefice

### Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

**Rector Richard and Louise White**    [revrichardwhite@outlook.com](mailto:revrichardwhite@outlook.com)  
[revlouisewhite@outlook.com](mailto:revlouisewhite@outlook.com)  
**01929 208578**

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

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

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

**For Kingston contact the Parish Administrator**

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

**For Corfe and the Valley Churches please contact Lynette McCallum**  
[lynetterees21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynetterees21@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.staldhempurbeck.wordpress.com](http://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 Richard writes,**

So many words. We seem to live in a world that never stops talking. News, opinions, arguments, adverts, emails, messages. Always something new to listen to, to react to, to carry around in our heads. Often, I'm one of the culprits! Yet in all that noise, it can be surprisingly hard to find a few words that bring us stillness.

John's Gospel begins: *"In the beginning was the Word."* Not a stream of words, just *the* Word — God speaking life, light, and meaning into the world. I've been thinking lately: how a few or even just one well-chosen word can change a whole day. A word of kindness. A word of hope or encouragement. A one word prayer.

There's something powerful and countercultural about slowing down enough to really listen. Not just to catch the gist, or scroll past, but to let a few words actually land. The ancient practice of sitting with a short passage — reading it slowly, returning to it, carrying it through the day — is one Christians have found life-giving for centuries.

Perhaps this spring we could all make room for a few words that give life — words that steady us, remind us of grace, and draw us back to the one ‘Word’ who began it all.

### A Few Words

A short daily audio reflection.  
A few words from the Bible,  
and a few words to carry into the day



### Services in May 2026

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> Corfe Castle – 10.30am	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May*</b> Steeple – 9.30am Corfe Castle – 10.30 am Kingston – 10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Informal worship
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> Corfe Castle – 10.30 am Harmans Cross 6 pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> Corfe Castle – 10.30 am, Kingston – 11.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b> Church Knowle – 10.30 am	Benefice Holy Communion

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

\*The Saint Edwards Annual Parochial meeting will take place after the service at 11.45 am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### Bible Readings – May 2026

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 7:55-60 John 14:1-14
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1:6-14 John 17:1-11
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Whitsunday Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Trinity Sunday 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20



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Its **Purbeck Art Weeks** - 23<sup>rd</sup> may - 7<sup>th</sup> June.  
Why not pick up a brochure & hit the local art trail?

We have plenty of work to see, including seascapes and local landscapes by resident painters Chris Chorley, Eleanor Spalding, John Dimech and Kim Day (recent winner of Sky TV's Landscape Artist of the Year Award).

There are also stylised acrylics of the area (Ed Marriott & Caz Scott), textile art by Lyn Hunt and pastels by Judy Tate.

Plus new ceramics by Corfe's very own Fingerprint Pottery, machine embroidery, wirework sculpture, seashell & driftwood art, cyanotype textiles and stunning art glass. Not to mention prints & cards!

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## CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

### THE QUIET STRENGTH OF PRAYER IN VILLAGE LIFE

In a village, life moves at a different pace. We notice the seasons change, greet familiar faces, and we share in each other's joys and struggles. In the middle of this simple, connected life, prayer can become a quiet but powerful part of our daily rhythm.

Prayer is often misunderstood as something formal or reserved for church services. In reality, it is much simpler. Prayer is just talking to God, honestly, openly, and in our own words. It can happen while walking down a country lane, tending a garden, or sitting quietly at the start or end of the day. The Bible reminds us, "***The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth***" (Psalm 145:18). This means prayer is not about impressive words, but about a sincere heart.

In village life, we see how much we depend on one another. Prayer reflects that same dependence, this time, on God. When we pray, we bring before Him the ordinary and the extraordinary: pray for a neighbour, gratitude for a kind gesture, pray for the future, or simply a moment of stillness in a busy day.

Prayer also has a way of shaping us. It slows us down, helping us to reflect rather than react. It reminds us to care, to forgive, and to remain hopeful. As we quietly place our concerns before God, we often find a sense of peace in return. Scripture encourages this: "***Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you***" (1 Peter 5:7).

In times of difficulty, illness, loss, or uncertainty, prayer becomes even more meaningful. It doesn't always provide immediate answers, but it offers comfort and strength. We are not left to carry everything alone. Jesus gave a simple invitation: "***Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find***" (Matthew 7:7). These words remind us that prayer is not distant or complicated; it is open to all.

In a close-knit community, prayer can also extend beyond the individual. Praying for one another, quietly, sincerely, builds a deeper sense of care and unity. It is a way of supporting each other, even when we don't have the right words or solutions.

Whether you are new to prayer or have practiced it for years, it can begin simply: a few honest words, spoken in faith or even in uncertainty. In the

quietness of village life, prayer is a gentle reminder that we are heard, we are cared for, and we are never truly alone.

**\*WE ARE HOPING TO HOLD A DAY OF PRAYER FOR CORFE CASTLE AT THE CHAPEL THIS MONTH\*  
ALL WILL BE WELCOME – MORE DETAILS TO COME LATER**

**Coffee Morning each Wednesday  
10.30am - 12.30pm.  
For Sunday Services please see our  
noticeboard**

**Celia Taylor (Church Secretary)**  
Fr\_ee2talk@yahoo.co.uk  
**/07908807115**



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## Notices and Thanks

### Corfe Castle Gardening Club

April has been another mixed month but the sunshine has been so welcome and our gardens are beginning to show such promise for the gardening year. There are always surprises when plants pop up in new positions and I often find a plant that I had forgotten. Sadly the mixed weather has meant that I have lost some plants but that, in itself, brings an opportunity for something new.

In April we welcomed Jim White, who worked in nature conservation for his entire career.

His fascinating talk and photographs of the wealth of incredibly diverse flora that grows in our small corner of the country, due to the varied geology of the Isle of Purbeck, made us appreciate just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful area. I recorded over 50 species of plants and will be circulating these so you can remind yourselves of what you saw.

At our **Next Meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.45 for 8pm** our speaker will be Simon Hansford who is the head gardener at the Encombe Estate. Simon will be telling us a little about his history in horticulture, the development of the garden at Encombe and the garden today. It will be a great preparation for our upcoming visit.

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> May the Gardening Club will have a plant stall at the Corfe Castle May Fair in the Outer Bailey of the Castle from 10am to 4 pm.** So do join us and see what great bargains we will have to brighten your garden and find out more about us.

*If you are interested in Gardens and Gardening and would like to join a friendly local group, please get in touch with Chris on 01929 480095 or 07815 058880, [cclarkecorfe@gmail.com](mailto:cclarkecorfe@gmail.com). We love to welcome new members. Meetings, with interesting talks and speakers, plant sales, seed swaps and social events usually take place in the Village Hall, Corfe Castle, 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.

### Nigel and Joan Dragon to retire

Just to say that we have now retired from the Bakery!

We opened on Thursday April 16th 1992, the day before Good Friday so Nigel made the first batch of hot cross buns, the first of many!!

Corfe is a wonderful village to live in and it was lovely to raise our 4 children here, the boys really enjoyed going to the Village school, Kerry was too old to go there when we moved in but she made lots of friends in the village.

People are asking us what we will do without working! We've got a big garden to sort out and we want to start growing our own fruit and vegetables.

Nigel has an old motor bike that has been outside (it was in The Square for ages) deteriorating badly so he's going to restore it to its former glory!! He's got a shed (Man's Cave) fully equipped with tools, a heater, armchair and television!) so he's all set!!

Our dog, Sammy will love the company and longer walks!!

We would both like to thank all our customers from over the last 35 years, it's been a pleasure to know you.

Also thank you for all our incredible, hard working staff, past and present, we couldn't have done this without you.

Thank you all for being part of our lives, we will miss you.

We are pleased to be handing the Bakery over to Jay and Beckie (Joan Marshallsay's granddaughter) and Stuart (our son) and his wife Dom. We wish them all the best and hope that they will be as happy as we were running the bakery and meeting all the customers.

Nigel and Joan. Xx

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### PurbeckParkys Support Group

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

**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.

**Sandy Hill Arts**

- 1-7 May 10-4pm Sandy Hill Arts Open Exhibition , Sandy Hill Arts
- 2 May 7.15-9.30pm Momoko Gill music gig, Sandy Hill Arts
- 10 May 10-1pm Glass fusion beach hut workshop, Sandy Hill Arts
- 13 May 7-9pm Bill Merrick music gig, Sandy Hill Arts
- 15 May 10-3.30pm Grief by the Castle art and writing workshop for the bereaved
- 16 May 10-1pm Mandala drawing workshop, Sandy Hill Arts
- 17-30 May 10-4pm Susan Cox exhibition, Sandy Hill Arts
- 17 May 7-9pm Will McNicol guitar concert, Sandy Hill Arts
- 23-30 May 10-4pm Sandy Hill Arts Group Exhibition, Sandy Hill Arts
- 29 May 7-9pm, PAW music concert ' CHALK: songs from the South West

**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/>

**Harmony Rocks Choir**

We are so looking forward to our Songs & Scones concert Wednesday Afternoon 10 June 2026 at 2pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Swanage.

Tickets are £12.00 each including a cream tea. These will be available from Swanage News, Station Road, Swanage from 6 May 2026. We hope this will be more convenient for many people. Tickets will also still be available from Sue Smith on 01929 477148 ([emailthequilter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emailthequilter@yahoo.co.uk)) and Anne Elford on 01929 288325 ([anne.elford10@icloud.com](mailto:anne.elford10@icloud.com)) and choir members.

This is always a very popular event so please make sure you have a note of the date - 10 June - for a lovely afternoon's entertainment.



**Corfe Crafters**

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



**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.



*Encombe House copyright Richard Brown*

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.

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](http://www.purbeckfilm.com).

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## Public consultation continues into proposed fire station closures

The ongoing public consultation into the potential closure of eight fire stations by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service will run until Friday 15 May.

The eight locations under consultation are all on-call fire stations: Bradford on Avon, Charmouth, Cranborne, Hamworthy, Maiden Newton, Mere, Ramsbury and Wilton.

Chief Fire Officer Andy Cole said: “Nobody wants to close fire stations but, despite saving over £15 million in the last ten years, our financial position remains very challenging due to a 19.5% cut in funding provided directly from Government. We still need to make sure our operational staff have the equipment and training they need to stay safe, and we’ve pared back our Corporate staff numbers as much as possible. This isn’t Plan A, we’ve worked through many difficult options before this point.”

He added: “The elected Members of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority are responsible for keeping the Service sustainable, and they recognise that tough decisions need to be considered.

“This consultation is therefore essential. We understand that people care about what this means for their community. That is why we want them to tell us what they think, and if there’s anything important that we might have missed. No decisions have been made. The final decision will be made by the Fire & Rescue Authority at their meeting on 30 June. We would urge our residents to have their say via our survey or the upcoming online meetings.”

In-person meetings have been held already in six of the eight locations, with further dates booked for Charmouth and Maiden Newton in April. There will also be an online meeting for each location during April.

Full details of these, FAQs, station-specific data, the consultation leaflet and the survey can be found at [www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures)

A paper copy of the survey can be requested by calling 01722 691000 during office hours, or by emailing [consultation@dwfire.org.uk](mailto:consultation@dwfire.org.uk)



The poster features the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority logo in the top left corner. The main title is "Fire Station Closure Consultation". A large white diagonal banner contains the text: "PUBLIC CONSULTATION IS OPEN FROM: Friday 13th February 2026 until Friday 15th May 2026". At the bottom, it says "This is your chance to have your say about our proposals". The background is dark blue with faint fire flame graphics.

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 W.W.W.FURZEBROOKVILLAGEHALL.ORG

**REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HALL**

**Monday**

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

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

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**EVENTS**

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**Aba Shanti-l**

Wednesday 13 May  
**Curry & Games Night**

Saturday 18 July  
**Richard Bertinet  
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BOOK A TABLE

## Purbeck Art Weeks Festival 2026 – Where Art and Music Come Alive

**23 May – 7 June 2026**

Get ready for a spectacular Purbeck Art Weeks Festival 2026 (May 23 to June 7) when Purbeck comes alive with creativity, music, and community spirit! This year's festival promises an exciting mix of exhibitions, open studios, live performances, talks, and hands-on activities, featuring both local talent and internationally acclaimed performers. Whether you love the arts, music, or cultural experiences, there's something for everyone.

### Discover Purbeck's local talent



Set against Purbeck's beautiful landscape, this year's visual arts programme reflects the extraordinary breadth of creativity across the region - from intricate jewellery and ceramics to bold paintings and contemporary sculpture. You'll find a full range of exciting treasures at the much-loved **Rollington Barn Collective Exhibition, near Corfe Castle**. In the Byre you'll see our **Purbeck Young**

**Artists (PYA) Exhibition**, celebrating the imagination and ambition of young local schoolchildren - providing an important platform for the next generation.

Across the Festival, **Open Studios** invite audiences behind the scenes to meet artists, explore their processes and discover the stories behind the work. It's a rare chance to step into creative spaces and experience art not only as a finished product, but as a living, evolving practice!



Meanwhile, the **Castle View Exhibition** is back by popular demand, offering visitors another opportunity to experience high-quality art against one of the area's



most iconic backdrops at the National Trust Corfe Castle Visitor Centre.

**An Opening Night Full of Energy** Join us for an unforgettable opening evening on 23 May, where I Fagiolini return to PAW to bring their signature blend of creativity and imagination to the stage. They will be performing an anniversary programme for their 40th year: 'We're not dead yet'. A defining



thread running through the 2026 programme is the dialogue between art forms. The **Parnassus Ensemble** joins forces with visual artist Jérémie Queyras in a striking interdisciplinary performance where live painting unfolds alongside early vocal music.

Elsewhere, audiences are invited to look both backwards and forwards. A special talk on 26 May by **Dr Gill**

**Clarke, Guest Curator Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth** explores the artists who lived and worked in Purbeck during the early twentieth century, revealing the area's long-standing role as a place of inspiration. The late-May Festival Weekend offers a particularly rich sequence of events, spanning folk, medieval, Renaissance and contemporary music. Grace Newcombe's exploration of thirteenth-century repertoire offers an intimate glimpse into Britain's medieval sound world, while vibrant South-West folk traditions are reimagined for modern audiences. Lutenist Toby Carr's *Softest Thunder* reveals the quiet intensity of an instrument whose delicate voice carries remarkable emotional depth, while ensemble performances explore centuries of vocal music shaped by extraordinary female performers and composers.

A special **five-concert Festival Weekend package** is available, offering audiences the chance to experience this concentrated burst of musical creativity as a mini-festival - an opportunity to move through centuries of sound over the course of a single weekend.

Singing and children's workshops, talks and pop-up demonstrations also offer plenty of opportunities to get involved and explore new things. Visitors are invited not simply to observe, but to get stuck in, ask questions and become part of a creative exchange!

Find out more about PAW's 2026 programme at [purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk](http://purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk)

# PAW Festival Concert Programme 2026

**Sat 23rd May | 6pm | Lady St Mary, Wareham**  
**WE'RE NOT DEAD YET: 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**  
 I FAGIOLINI

**Sun 24th May | 6pm | Lady St Mary, Wareham**  
**3IN1: A TRIADIC REFLECTION**  
 PARNASSUS WITH ARTIST JÉRÉMIE QUEYRAS

**Fri 29th May | 7pm | Sandy Hill, Corfe Castle**  
**CHALK: SONGS FOR THE SOUTH WEST**  
 GRACE NEWCOMBE, LIANE SADLER, COLIN HELLER

**Sat 30th May | 2pm | United Reformed Church, Wareham**  
**A MUSICAL PORTRAIT OF COCO CHANEL  
 AND IGOR STRAVINSKY**  
 LIZZIE BALL (VIOLIN, VOCALS) AND  
 MILOŠ MILIVOJEVIĆ (ACCORDION)

**Sat 30th May | 6pm | Lady St Mary, Wareham**  
**FREED THE MUSE** FIERI CONSORT

**Sat 30th May | 8.30pm | Lady St Mary, Wareham**  
**SOFTEST THUNDER** TOBY CARR, LUTE

**Sun 31st May | 3pm | St Peter's Church, Church Knowle**  
**ALYSOUN: MEDIEVAL SONGS**  
 GRACE NEWCOMBE AND ELIZABETH SOMMERS

**Fri 5th June | 6pm | Mowlem Theatre, Swanage**  
**THE WHISPERING DOME**

**Sat 6th June | 6pm | St James's Church, Kingston**  
**WAPT HER, ANGELS, THROUGH THE SKIES**  
 HANDEL ARIAS WITH GUY CUTTING

For more information and event ticket sales visit  
[www.purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk](http://www.purbeckartweeksfestival.co.uk)



## DEEP DIGS

➤ An Exposition of Recorded Music ➤

Audio archaeologist, world-touring DJ and Corfe Castle CE First School graduate **JACK SELLEN** is to share with the general public – through a casual, long-form afternoon **DJ SET** – a lifetime's work of unearthing beautiful, tasteful music.

Discover hazy, dazy, late and lazy sounds in charming summer's day surroundings on a pristine system **ALL DAY** from the back garden stage of internationally celebrated Dorset pub the **SQUARE & COMPASS**.

Expect to hear smiles-for-miles, heartfelt beer garden goodness to satisfy the soul.

Free entry. Normal pub rules apply.  
 Donations sought for charity War Child on the day.



12-6PM  
 \* SUNDAY 31 MAY 2026 \*  
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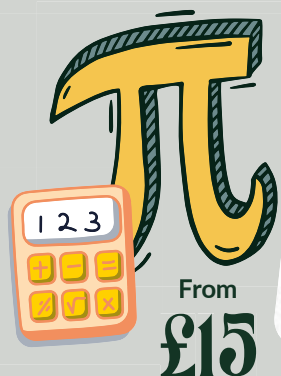
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## Kimmeridge News

### Smiling Seas – Community Help Wanted!

We hope you had a lovely Easter. Over the holidays, we held an Easter beach clean at Kimmeridge Bay with the Great Dorset Beach Clean, where an amazing 107kg of plastic was removed in just one hour. All materials were sorted and recorded by Smiling Seas, ready for recycling

### Eco Hut – We need you!

Our eco hut is still just a footprint, and after years of fundraising and gathering reclaimed materials, we now need help to bring it to life.

We're looking for local support, including:

- Carpenters
- Builders

Handy men and women

If you can help, or know someone who can, we'd love to hear from you. By supporting this project, you're helping protect our coastline — and we'll proudly support and promote your business within our local community.

To get involved, please contact Emily:  
[kimmeridgesmilingseas@gmail.com](mailto:kimmeridgesmilingseas@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued support ❤️

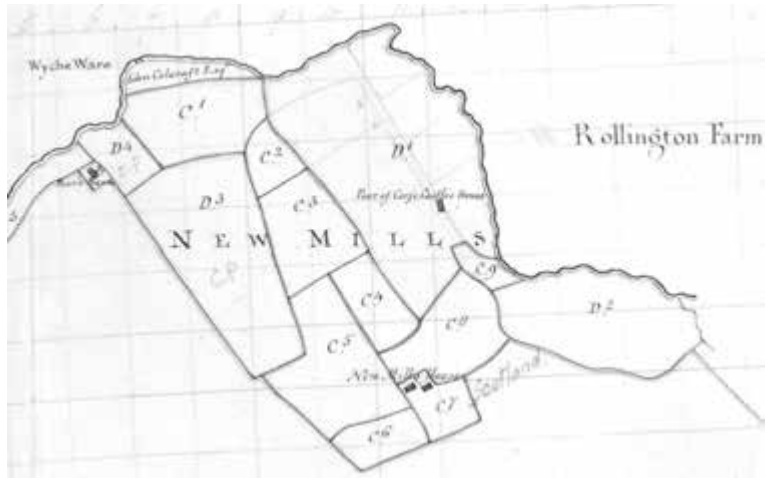
### Kimmeridge Church Annual Meeting

We have our "Annual Parochial Church Meeting" on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm in Church. All are welcome to attend and hear about the past year and plans for the future. In particular, we will be looking at replacing the heating in Church which no longer works!

Steve & Helen Earwicker

## New Mills & Scotland Farm

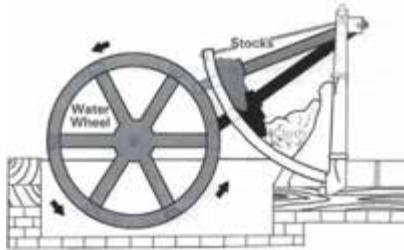
Up until the late 1700s, the area around Scotland Farm was called 'New Mills' according to a 1775 map (shown below).



C is Bankes land, D belongs to Corfe Castle Charities and John Calcraft owned a small plot by the river.

The map shows the 'Poor's Barn' and the little cottage that belonged to the Corfe Castle Charities. The land at D had been gifted by Sir Edmund Uvedale in 1621 to create a charity to fund the Almshouse. The whole area had been cultivated from the surrounding heath and parts were still being enclosed in 1586. Despite the area being called 'New Mills', no mills, old or new, are shown and, it is a mystery as to where they could have stood. Obviously close to the river, but where?

It was called '*Neumul*' in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was a fulling or tucking mill. This type of mill had been introduced into England in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and maybe the new mill here was built then.



The mill works by using a water wheel to power some wooden hammers which pummelled woollen cloth, cleaning it and making it thicker by shrinking it.

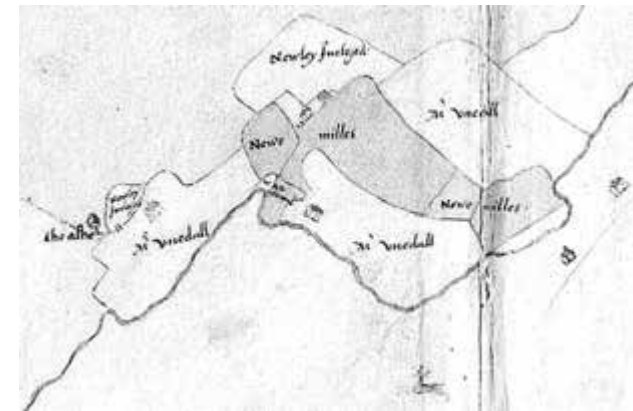
Previously, this type of cloth had been made by trampling it underfoot, but this invention meant that the process could

be run both night and day especially as the Corfe River was fast flowing. It would have been noisy!



Example of a fulling mill at Alresford, Hants. The wheel would have been placed over the river.

Wood does not last forever and by 1487, a new fulling mill had been built. But within a period of 50 years, the mill ceases to be mentioned and now, only the name remains. The mill had stood on land that was under the auspices of Langton Wallis manor court (Langton Wallis no longer exists and has merged with Langton Matravers). The lord of the manor, Sir Edward Willoughby, leased the land to Sir William Uvedale in 1539 (Uvedale already owned the adjoining land at Rollington). By the time of the 1586 Treswell map (shown below), Henry Uvedale, the son of William, held the land as his father had died in 1542.



The darker areas shown on the map above belonged to Sir Christopher Hatton as part of his manor of Langton Wallis which had been tenanted by John Trewe. Today the fields are still divided between the National Trust and the Corfe Castle Charities.

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## **Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck bid for UK Town of Culture 2028**

Swanage and the wider Purbeck area have come together to bid for UK Town of Culture 2028, coordinated by Cultural Purbeck and supported by local partners.

The bid aims to celebrate Purbeck's unique heritage, landscapes, and creative communities, while strengthening collaboration across the area and building long-term cultural opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

*“This bid is about celebrating what makes Swanage and Purbeck distinctive - our landscape, our heritage, and our creative communities. UK Town of Culture 2028 is an opportunity to bring that story together in a bold and collaborative way. Culture in Purbeck already thrives in so many ways - from grassroots groups to established organisations. This bid gives us a chance to connect those energies, strengthen partnerships, and ensure more people can take part.”*

– Laurel Hart, Engagement and Comms Lead - Cultural Purbeck

### **From Stone to Sea – a theme shaped by community**

Following a series of workshops and conversations with creatives, community organisations, local businesses, and residents, the bid has adopted the theme “From Stone to Sea”. This theme captures the distinctive geology, natural landscapes, heritage, and creativity of Purbeck, reflecting the ideas, energy, and inspiration shared by the community. It will provide a unifying narrative for events, creative activities, media, and educational programmes, ensuring the bid is authentic, inclusive, and grounded in local identity.

### **Bringing ideas together**



It was a full room for Cultural Purbeck's workshop on 27 February, where participants explored Purbeck's story - from landscape and heritage to creative practice and community identity. Feedback from these sessions has been central to shaping the bid's themes and direction.

*“This bid is truly a collaboration with the Purbeck community. Recent workshops showed just how much passion, creativity, and knowledge exists across the area, and we're excited to see those ideas at the heart of our plans for UK Town of Culture 2028.”*

– Debbie Evans, Chair - Cultural Purbeck

## **Celebrating Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck's unique story**

Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck is home to a vibrant and diverse cultural ecosystem. From annual festivals like Purbeck Art Weeks, Purbeck Valley Folk Festival, Swanage Jazz Festival and Swanage Fish & Food Festival, to thriving local organisations, galleries, theatres, and community projects, the area pulses with creativity all year round. This rich cultural landscape is complemented by Purbeck's remarkable heritage, dramatic coastline, and inspiring landscape. Together, these festivals, creative initiatives, and heritage sites make Swanage and Purbeck a hub where international talent and local voices intersect, nurturing creativity, celebrating community, and inspiring participation.



*Fiona Bruce and the BBC's Antiques Roadshow discovers hidden treasures in Swanage; courtesy Caroline Abbott*

### **Opening up opportunities for all**

While Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck is rich in creativity, culture, and heritage, not everyone in the community currently benefits. Many young people face barriers to accessing arts and cultural opportunities, while older or isolated residents can miss out due to ill health, mobility challenges, or the practical limits of rural life. The challenge is to break down these barriers and open up avenues to opportunity, especially for young people - we need a strong, cohesive cultural drive to create a more resilient community and deliver greater wellbeing to all. Culture

has the power to connect people, inspire creativity, and enrich lives across the whole of Purbeck.

By achieving UK Town of Culture status, the bid seeks to bring these opportunities to everyone, ensuring that the benefits of creativity, learning, and cultural participation reach across age, geography, and circumstance.

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always deeply grateful for private donations of money, land or property.

If you have drawn up a Will, or are thinking of doing so, please consider making a bequest to the Charity. Such bequests are free of inheritance tax. Your solicitor will be able to advise on tax efficient bequests when you discuss the terms of your Will.

The government's Gift Aid scheme will maximise the value of gifts to the Charity.



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MONDAY	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Village Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	9.15 – 10.45am	& 11am – 12	Yoga Langton Scout Hut
Each	9.30 - 11.30	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	10.30-noon	Parent & Child Group	C C Village Hall
Each	6.15-7.45pm	Brownies (term-time)	C C Village Hall
Each	6.30 – 7.30pm	Adult	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 <sup>nd</sup>	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	<a href="http://www.purbeckyoga.co.uk">www.purbeckyoga.co.uk</a>	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	9.30am	Pilates & Stretch	CC Village Hall £10
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Classes	Furzebrook Studios
Each	8.30pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club
SATURDAY			
1st	10.30am	Village Coffee Morning	C C Village Hall
SUNDAY			
Each	1.00pm	Bingo	Corfe Castle Club

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