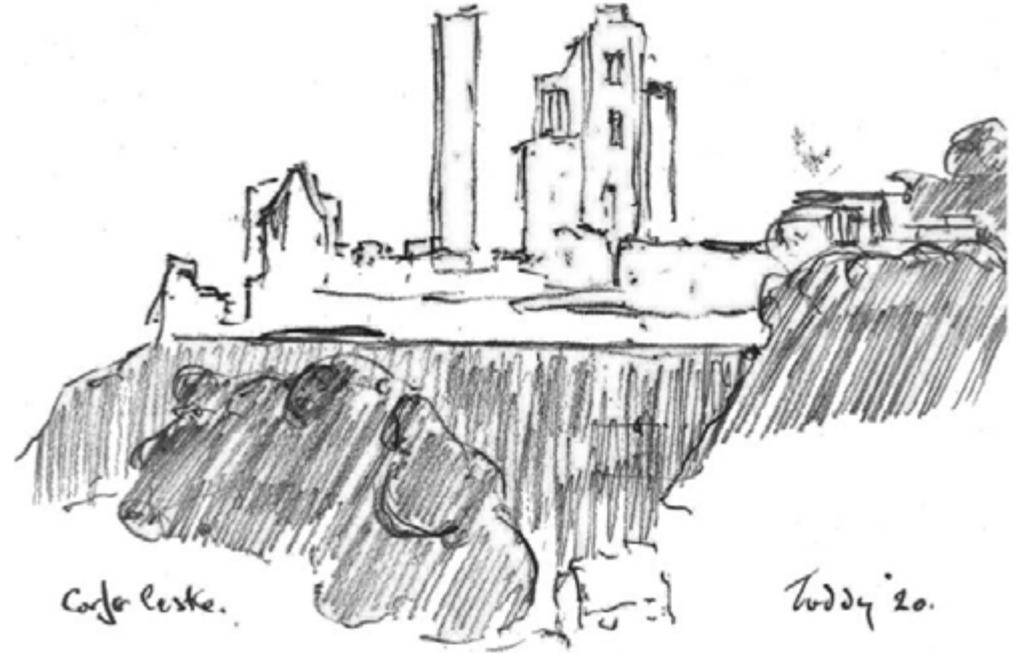


DIRECTORY OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

1st CORFE CASTLE BROWNIE PACK	CHRISTINE KEMP	480007
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CORFE CASTLE GARDENING	GERRY STOKER	481517
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CORFE CASTLE SURGERY	Dr MARK LEPPER	480441
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CORFE COMMON HAYWARD	MARCUS CHURCHILL	480856
CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL	CAROLE SPEED	480810
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PURBECK GARDENING CLUB	CYRIL HARRISON	552105
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



FEBRUARY 2021

*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 466 February 2021

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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

As I write this, I had my first Covid vaccination yesterday. It was done at Wareham hospital and I have to congratulate everybody there on their friendliness, efficiency and speed. I was in and out, all completed within 20 minutes, including a 15 minute wait to check I did not have any adverse reactions. What superb organization! Thank you to all involved

As the lockdown gets stronger and appears to be going on for longer it looks as though we're going to have to go back to not distributing through doors but by leaving pick up boxes around the villages. If this copy has not come through your door it's likely that it will be the same next month as well. At the moment it seems as though we're going to be on strong lockdown at least until Easter, which is the first weekend of April.

The village is now much more like the first lockdown, with very few visitors. People are beginning to follow the lockdown rules; hopefully it will reduce the effects of the pandemic and the horrific number of deaths this country has experienced – far more than nearly every other country.

Stephen

Some useful Telephone Numbers

(there are more just after 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
Dorset CAB Advice Line: Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm	0800 144 8848
The Samaritans	01202 551999
Street Light Defect - SEC Contracting	0800 068 4145
Childline	0800 1111
Dorset Councilor – Cherry Brooks	07512897908

Corfe Valley News

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The front cover is a sketch of the Castle by Toddy Hoare done while staying at Challow Farm House

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

January At The Parish Council

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone within the Parish, let's hope for a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Budget and Precept for 2021-2

After a lengthy discussion the draft budget as set out last month was agreed which means, we can continue to offer the regular services including the playground, grass cutting of the Sports Field, the youth club and keeping the pavements weed free, plus a possible major upgrade of the playground financed from our reserves, but also now include the upkeep of Gods Acre and the possible engagement of a Village Lengthsman / Caretaker. If you would like to know more or have any comments please see our website or talk to the Clerk.

Corfe Castle Parish Council Environmental Group

A first for Dorset Parish Councils! An empowering People's Assembly - hosted by Corfe Castle Parish Council Environmental Group on 5 Jan 2021. The People's Assembly approach is totally new to our village so we were thrilled and heartened with a turnout of 60+ (via Zoom, obviously!). The Assembly was held to discuss Dorset Council's proposed Strategy and Action Plan on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Corfe Castle Parish Councillor, Josey Parish, opened with "tackling these emergencies is the most important issue of our lifetime".

And boy-oh-boy did we get a response that reflected that. There was a real sense of 'a village hall feeling' throughout. The smaller groups (or 'tables') worked well, with great input from everyone.

As part of our submission to DC's proposed strategy, Dorset Council will receive every single comment that was raised on the night. That same input will also form solid foundations for the community of Corfe Castle as we continue moving forward in 2021.

Check out this comment by Jenny from Corfe "All these people who go to sports centres to wear off their energy and to get fit ought to be plugged into the national grid producing electricity!"

One overriding concern was the disconnect between the Council's plan of action of 20 years and the Council's acknowledgement of the need for urgent action in 8-10 years; but it was also pointed out that financial constraints on Dorset Council could limit the urgency of their action and one group fed back that the targets need to be realistic. The positive outcome was that the

community has bags of ideas and plenty of passion to back an accelerated target date. Many people were unsure of what they can do. With the help of their blossoming Environmental Group, we are now coming together to take ownership with the aim to make significant positive changes.

With regards to the virtual People's Assembly approach, Steve Clarke, the Chairman of Corfe Castle Parish Council, beamed with joy as he stated that "it's brilliant and has transformed my vision of how you can arrange meetings and involve people in small groups." The Chairman continued "this is an issue which affects everybody, and everyone has got to play their part."

We were really encouraged by the numbers of residents 'signing up' to get more involved. Our next Corfe Environment Group meeting is on 21st January, focusing on what actions we can all take as individuals. Find out more on our Corfe Castle Parish Council Environmental Group Page.

Dorset Councillor, Nocturin Lacey-Clark brilliantly noted at the beginning of the assembly "there's no vaccine for climate change". We'd like to counter that thought though, following the People's Assembly "by working together, we're stronger together, we need to own this, we together are the vaccine!"

For more details head to the Environment Group page @ www.corfecastlepc.org.uk

Update from the National Trust: The updated Quinquennial report has been finalised, a little later than planned as it was originally commissioned to be completed in early 2020. There will be a meeting next week to create a plan of action for works to the castle in 2021.

On planning matters, there were no planning applications for December within the Parish.

The next Council meeting will be on the 8th February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom. The Public is welcome to attend and participate in the public half hour at the start of the Council meeting. Details will be posted on the website & on Facebook. For further information please contact the Clerk Michelle Harrington, e-mail Corfecastlepc@aol.com – 34 Egmont Road, Poole Dorset BH16 5BZ, or telephone 01202 670105. Full minutes of the meetings are available on the Website www.corfecastlepc.org.uk or a postal copy can be requested through the Clerk

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, for all the latest updates at <https://www.facebook.com/CorfeCastlePC>

Summary: People's Assembly

A first for Dorset! With your help, to the best of our knowledge, our Parish Council

was the first to hold such an event.

The People's Assembly approach is totally new to our village so we were thrilled and heartened with a turnout of 60+ (via Zoom, obviously). The Assembly, an open public meeting, was held to discuss Dorset Council's (DC) proposed Strategy and Action Plan on the Climate & Ecological Emergency.

Over two thirds of those in attendance were from Purbeck, with around half of all attendees living in the village itself. Some did not state a location and a few were our Dorset-wide helpers. Some from Parishes further afield had heard about the Assembly and wanted to see what we were doing.

Parish Cllr. Josey Parish, opened with "tackling these emergencies is the most important issue of our lifetime".

And boy-oh-boy did we get a response that reflected that. There was a real sense of 'a village hall feeling' throughout. The smaller groups or 'tables' worked well, with great input from everyone.

Here's just a few randomly selected comments from the Assembly:

- *"I want to see what we in Corfe Castle can actually do as individuals and as a village to make the difference I know we can."*
- *"We want DC to be ambitious – become carbon neutral by 2030."*
- *"I want my children and grandchildren to have a wonderful world to live in."*
- *"Is it better that we're realistic with 2050?"*
- *"We need to look at what our communities can do in a time of crisis."*
- *"There is a severe lack of speed because our hands are tied as a Councillors. As part of the public, you have freedom to make change faster."*
- *"Reduce cutting of roadside verges. Make replacement of trees a planning requirement."*
- *"I want to know how I can reduce my carbon footprint."*
- *"All these people who go to sports centres to wear off their energy and to get fit ought to be plugged into the national grid."*
- *"Promote the eco-school programme and create an eco-badge for local businesses."*
- *"Use wave and solar energy and revisit the Navitus Bay wind farm."*

By the time you read this, DC will have received every single comment made on the night in our consultation submission. That same input will also form solid foundations for the community of Corfe Castle as we continue moving forward in 2021.

One overriding concern was the disconnect between DC's plan of action of 20 years and their acknowledgement of the need for urgent action within 8-10 years. It was also pointed out that financial constraints on DC could limit their urgency and action. One group fed back that the targets need to be realistic.

The positive outcome was that as a community we clearly have bags of ideas and plenty of passion to back an accelerated target date of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Many of those in attendance were unsure of what they can do next. With the help of this blossoming Environmental Group, we're going to come together. Working together, we'll strive to take ownership as we make significant positive changes, individually and across the wider community.

Early on in the Assembly we held a 'word cloud' exercise to get a sense of feeling in the room: **concerned, frustrated, desperate, anxious.**

After the group work, we repeated the same exercise: **hopeful, positive, inspired, enthused, think big, community.** Just look at the effect an hour or so with friends and neighbours can have - so powerful, so positive!

With regards to the virtual People's Assembly approach, Steve Clarke, the Chairman of our Parish Council beamed with joy as he stated "it's brilliant and has transformed my vision of how you can arrange meetings and involve people". Steve continued "this is an issue which affects everybody, everyone has got to play their part."

Earlier in the Assembly, Dorset Councillor, Nocturin Lacey-Clark brilliantly noted "there's no vaccine for climate change". We'd like to support Cllr Lacey-Clark's engaging approach by saying **"by working together, we're stronger together, we need to own this, we're the vaccine!"**

What next?

We were really encouraged by how many of you joined us and also by all those that directly 'signed up' to get more involved in our Environmental Group.

As we write we're excited by the potential of our next monthly meeting on 21st January. We'll greet our new members and swiftly take action, focusing on what steps we can all take as individuals, whilst also discussing a few 'signature' projects.

What can you do right now?

Quick petition www.change.org/DC_CO2neutral_2030

Join us Email your details to corfecastlepc@aol.com

www.corfecastlepc.org.uk - News & Information section

Thanks for reading! *Core team* - Corfe Castle Parish Council Environmental Group

For more information, please visit the Parish Council website:

www.corfecastlepc.org.uk + Facebook (*Corfe Castle Environmental Group*)

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CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH COUNCIL

Regular readers of the Corfe Valley News will be aware that there has been no “News From Church Knowle Parish Council” since April 2020. What many readers may not realise is that Parish Councils are not required to meet during lockdown and whilst some councils are able to meet using Zoom, for those of us who live in the more remote or outlying areas the broadband connectivity is totally inadequate, inconsistent and unreliable. With download speeds of less than 5mb/s and upload speeds as low as 0.3 mb/s this makes it nearly impossible to hold a virtual meeting between councillors let alone trying to involve and engage our parishioners. In spite of exploring alternative means of holding our meetings we have been thwarted at every turn. The demographics of Church Knowle Parish impacts on the nature of its Councillors, many of whom are in the “Vulnerable” category thus exacerbating the difficulties of meeting during this pandemic. So, it may be a shame if you’ve missed the monthly “News From Church Knowle Parish Council” but as with so many communities the Covid19 pandemic and circumstances dictate what we are able to do.

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round.

We currently have spaces available. If you are considering a Pre School setting for your child, please call us for more information or to make an appointment to have a look around. We offer full day care for 2, 3- and 4-year olds from 8.50am - 5.15pm daily across our sessions.

We offer 15 funded hours for eligible 2-year olds, and 15 or 30 funded hours for eligible 3- and 4-year olds, these hours can be used in term time only or stretched over 50 weeks of the year.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our lovely Pre School. We enjoy a fantastic relationship with Corfe Castle Primary School, helping prepare children for school, and over the years we have extended our opening times, allowing working parents and those with caring responsibilities access to quality, cost effective, childcare.

For more details about any of the above, or any other queries, please give us a call on 01929 481631 or email to corfecastlepresch1@uwclub.net



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Corfe Castle Surgery

We hope that you are all safe and well in this third lockdown and would like to reiterate that unless you really need to leave the house, please stay home and follow all other government guidelines with hand washing, face coverings and social distancing.

With Covid cases continuing to rise we ask that all patients attending the outside window at the Surgery to please wear a face mask to protect all staff and other patients.

Following on from last month's announcement that you will be contacted as soon as you become eligible for the Covid Vaccine, by the time you read this we should be well under way with vaccinating the patients of Purbeck. Can I please request that you do not contact the surgery about appointments, we will contact you as soon as you are eligible.

If you wish to volunteer for future clinics, please contact purbeckpcn@dorsetgp.nhs.uk as the organisation of this is not being done from here or by us.

We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to order prescriptions via the Sytmonline website. This is to continue trying to reduce the amount of paper prescriptions that we see and to free up the phone lines as much possible. If you able to access a computer, tablet or smart phone and you would like to try this, please speak to reception to obtain a username and log-in and we can help you get started. It is a very safe and secure way to order prescriptions and instead of having to call the dispensary within the 2-hour window it can be ordered any time of day.

Many thanks, please stay safe.

Kerry Norman

Practice Manager

Patient Participation Group

We could choose to say two things of the New Year. One is that it has brought with it dark nights and cold, grey foggy days; a frightening rise, both nationally and locally, in the number of people seriously ill with the new Covid variant, putting huge pressure on hospitals and GP surgeries; heart-

breaking individual stories of lost loved ones bringing the reality close to us all; and the loneliness, hardship and loss of education due to the Lockdown. All this is true.

Alternatively we could say much more positively that 2021 is a year of hope and let's choose that. The days are getting noticeably longer, the first violets are flowering in the lane here and first and foremost the vaccine is on its way. The first doses have been delivered here in Purbeck: many more will follow in the next weeks and months. Please, please hold on. We have all borne with the restrictions for so long. We are certainly weary of them but we just have to try to stick with them to the letter a while longer until the roll-out of the vaccination programme gets the upper hand. Our PPG endorses the Government message whole-heartedly. We have everything to look forward to so it's worth this final push to stay safe.

Corfe surgery's patients will, together with those of the other Purbeck practices, be given their jabs at the Wareham Hospital Hub. Dr Lepper and his team are working incredibly hard, including at weekends, to identify patients in accordance with the national priority guidelines and notify them when they are given an appointment time. The PPG has been contacted separately by our surgery, NHS Dorset and NHS England to ask you not to contact them to ask for an appointment. When your turn comes you will be contacted and invited to attend. Don't worry that you may have been forgotten! We're conscious that transport may be an issue for some. Patients should arrange their own with family, friends or a taxi if possible. If you need help travelling, especially if you are older or disabled, there are several options available but you will be charged for the service. These include for example the Wareham Lions Club (01929 552110). Swanage Taxis (421122) are offering a special rate for vaccine trips. Swanageneighbours@gmail.com can give you more information and will do their best to help you if need be.

A word of caution. Sickeningly there are some cruel scams going on, both on the internet and with scammers knocking on doors offering the vaccine. If anyone asks you to pay for a jab or for your bank details they are fraudsters. The genuine NHS jab is free. No-one from the NHS would come to your house to vaccinate you without contacting you beforehand. If you are any doubt phone up to check.

As ever we are indebted to each and every one of the surgery team over the past year. Although the year has been hard for us the extra pressure on them

has been relentless and will increase further in the short term during the vaccine roll-out. The evidence of how highly we continue to value them is plain to see in the results of the 2020 National GP Patient Satisfaction Survey (you can find it online). A staggering 98% describe their 'overall experience of this GP practice' as good, 10% above the Dorset average and 16 above the national one. Many of the questions had 99 or 100% approval ratings. This is no surprise and our ongoing thanks go to Dr Lepper and all the staff.

The PPG looks forward to better times and wishes you well.



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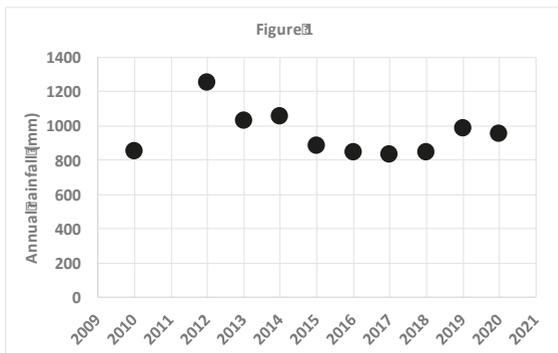
Phone 01929 550714 or mobile 07969 695338 and leave a message

Come rain or shine

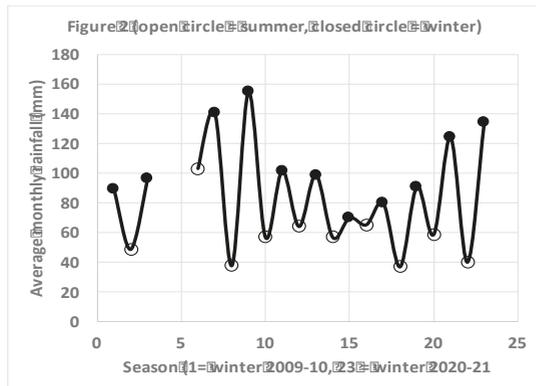


My first two summers in Purbeck were 1989 and 1990 and I can recall thinking that I had made a smart move in coming from the wet west of Scotland to the sunny south of England where obviously the summers were always long, hot and dry. This proved of course to be unfounded, youthful optimism, but all the same it was still a smart move.

Some years after arriving in Corfe I discovered a well underneath the lawn and became intrigued by the way the water level rose and fell, wondering if this was related to the recent rainfall. So, to find out, I bought a rain gauge. Although record keeping was patchy to begin with I can now report on 11 years of rainfall records.

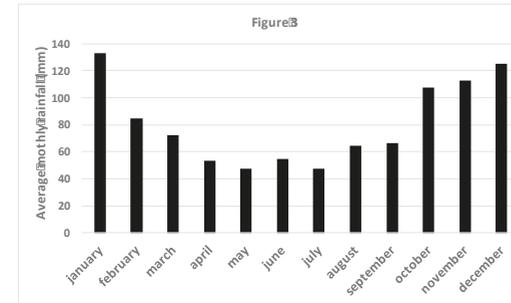


Our annual rainfall over those years has been 955mm (just over 3 feet in old money) but has varied between 834mm in 2017 and 1,251 in 2012 (Figure 1). 2012, 2013 and 2014 were three wet years in succession. Things have been drier since. Now we have had 5 of 10 years with annual rainfall over 900mm and 5 with annual rainfall under 900mm.



Our winters are of course wetter than our summers but the difference between successive winters and summers can be very large or very small (Figure 2). The average monthly rainfall in summer of 2012 (103mm) was

more than the average monthly rainfall in seven of the eleven winters. Our average monthly rainfall has been 80mm (3 inches), but only in February and March is the average rainfall close to that overall figure. From April to September average rainfall is well under 80mm and from October to January we get much more than that (Figure 3). There is in fact a remarkably smooth month-to-month change in the average monthly rainfall.



When you read this we will thankfully have just got through what on average is the wettest month of the year for us. Having said that, we have had just 5.5mm up to the 14th – making it likely to be one of the driest Januarys in the last 12 years! Even as we continue to be locked down we can look forward to ever drier

weather (on average of course).

Richard Caldow




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Chicken or Vegetable Curry served with rice, poppadoms & mango
chutney - £9.00

Beef or Vegetarian Chilli Con Carne served with rice, tortilla crisps &
cheese - £8.50

Tagliatelle Pasta tossed in a creamy garlic & mushroom sauce & garlic
bread' - £6.50

Jacket potato with Cheese & Baked Beans served with salad garnish £6.50

10-inch Home-made Pizza: Pepperoni £9.50 Ham & Pineapple £8.50
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Sunday Roast: Beef or Chicken £10.00 served with roast potatoes,
roast parsnips, Yorkshire pudding, vegetables & real gravy from the stock
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Corfe Castle Village Hall

100 club:

The January draw first prize of £20 was won by member 82, with member 62 getting second prize £10 and member 26 winning the third prize £4.50.

Profit from the 100 Club plays a significant part in supporting the everyday running costs of the Village Hall. With limited income from bookings currently, this support is even more valuable. If you would like to discuss becoming a 100 Club subscriber, please contact Penny Barker on 01929 481477.

general news:

The hall is currently closed as we are in the third COVID lockdown. The only permitted exception to this is to allow Alcoholics Anonymous to continue to offer support in their weekly meeting in the Bill Carter room on Thursday evenings.

When we are allowed to re-open and when Trustees vote to do so, regular users and also occasional users will be welcome to return, but it will be necessary to have submitted a satisfactory Risk Assessment. The Village Hall is a COVID-19 Secure building, so on re-opening it is likely that we can host more than 6 people so long as users can limit their social interactions with anyone they do not live with, do not visit or socialise in a group of more than 6 and continue to wear their face coverings at all times (except when eating or drinking). More than 6 people can take part in activities together – so long as social distancing is possible between households – 2m or 1m+ with extra precautions (face coverings & good hand hygiene). Full details of all the extra conditions that have been necessary (including a Risk Assessment template) are published on our website www.corfecastlevillagehall.co.uk

When we re-open, bookings can be made by contacting Carole Speed on 01929 480810, or by email to carolepspeed@gmail.com.

CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Telephone 480760

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY2.30 - 4.30 pm
TUESDAYClosed
WEDNESDAY.....11 – 12 am and 3 – 5 pm
THURSDAY.....Closed
FRIDAY.....Closed
SATURDAY.....10.00 - 12.00 am

For more details: Contact 01929 480760 - During opening hours

Renewals 01202 224311

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Happy New Year

Huge Success of the St Edwards Way Sponsored Walk!

One of our members, David Kemp, accompanied by several other members (where Covid rules permitted) has successfully walked the whole of the St Edward's Way.

He completed the task just before Christmas, totalling an impressive 115 miles, essentially walking from Corfe Castle to Shaftesbury and back! The route connected the beautiful Dorset scenery to the dramatic story of St Edward, King and Martyr, who was killed in 978 AD. The murder took place at Corfe, and after initial modest burial at Wareham his body was moved to Shaftesbury Abbey for a more royal interment. We are so thankful to everyone who donated and the amazing total of over £1870 will be split between Children In Need and Corfe Castle Village Hall.

With all the excitement of the vaccine, there is still so much uncertainty, but rest assured, as soon we are given the green light we will be back! Providing entertainment and a safe, friendly atmosphere for anyone wanting to take up a new hobby to come and join us – on or off the stage!

Upcoming events will include our welcome back social quiz. Thereafter, we are hopeful for our usual summer murder walk in the castle grounds, our main production in November and possibly even our NODA skills workshop.

We will keep you updated with new dates and events as and when information becomes available. In the meantime, stay safe, follow the rules, and we hope to see you soon!



We are always open to new members so if you are interested in joining us please contact Mike (chairman - 01929 480323) or Cherry (secretary - 07972799300) or email info@double-act.org.uk



Dates of next meeting

- February 2nd - Will Sedgley-Bellows, *Home Computer Help for Members. This should be an informative talk covering the many problems we often encounter when using a computer.*
- March 3rd – *AGM followed by a fun activity. We are also going to introduce a 'spring watch' section where members are encouraged to share sightings from their garden.*

Lorraine Love, our local Medical Herbalist gave us an extremely interesting talk, including a section on how to get vaccine ready. Several members of the committee have already purchased some of her herbal teas and are enjoying them.

With regards to our satellite groups Tertius, one of our three book groups, is still meeting on zoom. Our sewing group had a zoom meeting on the 22nd January to show our individual efforts of making squares for the twiddle blankets. We are hoping a time might come in the not to distance future when we can get together and make up the squares into blankets.

Don't forget to keep collecting stamps for SANDS, which can be dropped into Chris Kemp's house.

Mike Harriott Ltd

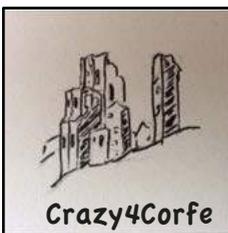
Plumber

Bathroom Suite>Showers etc.

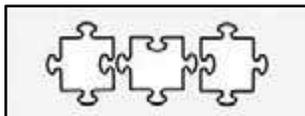
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Jigsaw Exchange/Library.



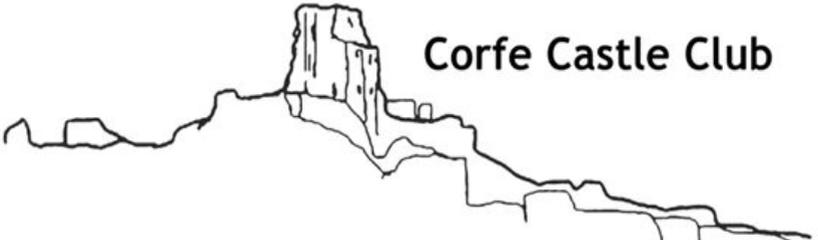
**DO YOU HAVE JIGSAWS YOU HAVE COMPLETED AND
COULD PASS ON TO SOMEONE ELSE?**

This is how the Jigsaw Exchange/Library will Work....

- **donated/returned jigsaws** to be placed into the plastic box in driveway of 146 East Street, (opposite phone kiosk). The boxes will be sanitised and quarantined for a minimum of 3 days. They will then be put in a sealed plastic bag in the telephone kiosk on the corner of East Street and Mead Road.
- **Jigsaws can then be taken from the telephone kiosk.**
- we have taken reasonable Covid-19 precautions but offer no guarantees. **Use of the Jigsaw Exchange is at your own risk.**
- please only donate or return complete puzzles so that everyone can enjoy them.
- please only donate a jigsaw you would be happy to give to a charity shop, we cannot arrange to return it to you
- **Please remember you pick up jigsaws from the telephone kiosk and return/donate them to 146 East Street.**

Happy Puzzling!

Corfe Castle Club



Here we go again. We are now locked down until the Government deem it safe to open. This new strain of covid is very worrying so it is important that safety guidelines are adhered too: We want our members safe and well for when we can re-open.

Annual General Meeting

Corfe Castle Club Limited hereby gives notice that due to covid restrictions they are unable to conduct their Annual General Meeting. This will be rescheduled and announced at a date to be arranged.

Membership, 18 years and over, is available subject to Committee approval, 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

Regional Club of The Year 2019 Wessex & Channel Islands Club of the Year 2018 & 2020 East Dorset

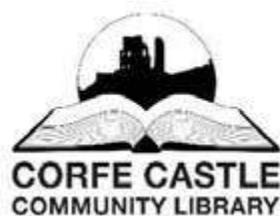


Address: 70 East Street. Telephone: 01929 480591

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

News from the Library

In the light of the new Covid regulations and the worsening local situation the library will be closed until further notice. We will let you know when we are able to reopen.



Dorset Library Service has extended the due dates on all items that are due for return after 21st December 2020 to 31st March 2021. However, if you wish to return them before then they can be returned through the letter box at the rear of the building and will ensure they are logged back into the system.

Alternatively, you can renew them online.

Sadly, we have had to suspend our 'Order and Collect' service but the service is still available from Swanage and Wareham libraries (this is at the time of writing in early January when things are changing very quickly, we recommend that you check with them that this is still the case before making a journey). We are still running the Order and Delivery for vulnerable people and processing returned books.

We are extending the deadline for submissions to the writing/art/photography competition to 28th February so you have more time to get your entries in. Details are repeated below.

Last year was unlike any other. We are all aware of the negative aspects of 2020 but there have been positives too. Acts of kindness between members of the village, the quiet of the Spring and early Summer had many effects not least our wildlife flourishing (for example the Peregrine falcons in the castle), discovering, or rediscovering, walks from our doorsteps, more time for gardening (and excellent growing conditions) made our gardens spectacular, the community adapted to support itself (even more than usual!).

We invite you to create a piece of prose, a poem, a photograph or art (the latter for ages 5 and under) that reflects your more positive experiences, thoughts, and memories. The word limit is 1500 words (no minimum!). The winners will have the chance to have theirs *published in the Corfe Valley News!*

The categories and prizes (in vouchers) are as follows

Adults:	Writing	£20 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Young Person 12-18:	Writing	£20 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Children 6-11:	Writing	£10 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Children 5 and under:	Art	£10 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)
Any Age	Photograph	£20 (winner)	£5 (runner-up)

We will hold an exhibition of all entries as soon as Covid regulations permit.

Closing date: 28th February.

Entries can be posted through the library letter box or handed in (in an envelope marked '**2020 Writing and Photography Competition**'). *Please include your name, the category you are submitting to, and your contact details.* Or submit via email to corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com

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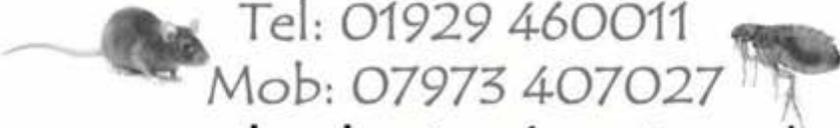
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HAPPY Valentine's DAY

Let's celebrate love and positivity this February 14th, and make sure everyone important to us knows just how much we care.

Our full card selection is now online, including some lovely new ranges - with a fun collection of 'positive wishes', as well as love and friendship cards.

There are also lots of options for Valentine's Day gifts, and a gift wrapping option available if you need it too!

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CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for FEBRUARY 2021

Please note that these events are mostly still tentative so please check timing and that it is actually taking place with the organisers.

If you know about any forthcoming events please let us know.

2	February	Tuesday	Afternoon	Aquarius – Home Computer Help via Zoom
5	February	Friday	7 pm	Quiz for everyone organised by St Edwards
8	February	Monday	7 pm	Virtual Parish Council Meeting via Zoom
28	February	Sunday		Closing date for writing, art and photography competition.

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

2	March	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Peoples Assembly via Zoom to discuss the Dorset Local Plan
3	March	Wednesday	Afternoon	Aquarius AGM probably via Zoom
4	March	Thursday	8pm	Gardening Club AGM and quiz via Zoom
8	March	Monday	7 pm	Virtual Parish Council Meeting via Zoom
15	March	Monday		Closing date for comments on the Dorset Local Plan



A sketch of the Blue Pool which is currently closed due to the death of the owner



A sketch of old West Street by Ken Williams

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 EMERGENCY CARE SERVICE

If you become ill after your surgery has closed (between 6.30pm and 8 am Monday to Friday, over the weekend and Bank Holidays)

THE NEW NUMBER TO RING IS NOW

111

If you need IMMEDIATE MEDICAL HELP You should dial 999 and ask for an Ambulance

This applies to ALL patients, not just those registered with the Corfe Castle Practice

Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for St Aldhelm's Benefice

Rector Ian Jackson 01929 480257 rectorsabpurbeck@gmail.com

Associate Minister James Mercer 01929 422454

james_staldhelm@icloud.com

Hon Assistant Priest Anne Bond 01929 480249 rev.anne@outlook.com

Curate Nick Webb 07866 546162 fulloflifegardens@googlemail.com

Benefice Office: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Benefice Administrator: Katie Curtis St George's Church, Langton Matravers BH19 3HZ 01929 427822 office@purbeckbenefice.plus.com

(NB Katie is currently working from home, but is contactable by email above during office hours)

Enquiries for Baptisms / Weddings / Funerals / Banns - contact Benefice Office and for the Corfe Valley parishes contact Ian Jackson

www.purbeckhillsbenefice.wordpress.com

 [St Aldhelm Benefice](#)

 [@StAldhelm](#)

Church Wardens in the Valley Churches

Corfe Castle: Penelope Smith 480109 John Lindsay 481498

Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, & Steeple Contact Ian Jackson

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

The Reverend Anne Bond writes:

About half-way through 2019 I wrote in the CVN it seems humanity is the only species in the world to have the physiological equipment for verbal

communication. I had read somewhere that we lack a particular valve that prevents all other species from choking, and apparently it is this lack that has allowed the development of speech. Did the Almighty make us in the beginning with the ability to speak? Or did our brains decide that intelligible speech was preferable to grunts and squeaks, and evolution obliged? Could the ability to communicate using words be a unique God-given facility, presumably bestowed upon us to further God's purposes?

Listening to the opening words of John's Gospel as we have done so frequently over Christmas and during Epiphany: 'In the beginning was the Word ...' brought that question into sharp focus. What is 'In the beginning was the Word ...' *really* saying? Why use the word 'Word', and not a name? What – or who – *is* 'the Word'?

To answer the last question first, the phrase continues: '... and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.' The writer of John's Gospel clearly means us to understand that 'the Word' is Jesus, and that Jesus is as much God as God is God.

But why 'Word'? Why not 'Jesus' – or 'the rabbi from Galilee' – or 'the son of Mary' – or some other way of describing Jesus? Why 'Word'? And why does it have a capital W?

In his gospel John continues: 'Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made'.

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, it is written that God created everything that is and was and ever shall be. By means of a Big Bang? Or by *speaking* everything into existence as the writer of Genesis describes?

In whatever way it was done, and taking on trust that it was the Spirit, the pure Mind, the personal and communicating yet formless Influence that Judaism and Christianity know as God who did the creating, it is perfectly possible that every other living entity that was created also has its own way of communicating in ways we can barely guess at. It has been speculated that trees communicate via their root systems; we know that bats communicate by sonar and birds with song. Minerals may be static but are they necessarily without life? I suspect not - but how they could communicate is beyond my imagination!

We humans regard ourselves as the pinnacles of creation, God's top dogs. And *we* communicate through words.

The Bible tells us God made us 'in his own image'. If that is literal truth, it is beginning to look as if God did indeed endow us with the ability to communicate verbally, especially as God Himself apparently used words as tools with which to create everything that is or was or ever shall be.

What John is trying to tell us in the first few sentences of his gospel is that Jesus is not just a man who uses words to communicate. The words *he* uses are the very **Words of God**. He is 'The Word'. What comes from *his* mouth are **God's Own Words**. When he speaks, *it is Almighty God Himself who is talking*.

No wonder 'Word' in that context has a capital W! *That* is the significance of that word 'Word'!

However, it must surely be significant that only humanity has the ability to use verbal communication. Could it be Almighty God created mankind to be his aides when needed? If so, it is an awesome responsibility. Didn't St Theresa say: "God has no hands and feet on Earth but ours?" Well, that goes for *all* of us, the downright bad as well as the obvious good; it is not unknown for the best of the good to have started as the worst of the bad. We are each of us important to God's purposes. Nobody's life is not vital, however tiny our individual contribution may seem to ourselves to be. *All* lives matter. We are *all* loved and valued – by God, and by each other.

With love, Anne

Bible Readings - February 2021

Sunday 7th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

Psalm 104: 26 – end
Proverbs 8: 1; 22 – 31
Colossians 1: 1 – 14
John 1: 1 – 14

Sunday 14th February

Sunday next before Lent

Psalm 50: 1 – 6
2 Kings 2: 1 – 12
2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6
Mark 9: 2 – 9

Sunday 21st February

1st Sunday of Lent

Psalm 25: 1 -9
Genesis 9: 8 – 17
1 Peter 3: 18 – end
Mark 1: 9 – 15

Sunday 28th February

2nd Sunday of Lent

Psalm 22: 23 – end

Genesis 17: 1 – 7; 15 – 16
Romans 4; 13 – end
Mark 8: 31 – end

Sunday 7th March

3rd Sunday of Lent
Psalm 19
Exodus 20: 1 – 17
1 Corinthians 1: 18 – 25
John 2: 13 - 22

Services in the Valley Churches during February 2021

Sunday services will be on line (Zoom)

- 10am Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570811911>

Just a reminder – if you have a computer (PC or Apple) with internet access, you do not need to install any Zoom software to “attend” Zoom services. If you use a smartphone or tablet, you will need the Zoom application installed.

Some “in church” services are taking place locally

- Lady St Mary, Wareham – Sunday 10am – Holy Communion and lasts about 40 minutes. No booking required but if capacity is reached people would have to be turned away; this is unlikely, but not impossible.

St Edwards Quiz

The church is holding an online quiz on Friday 5th February at 7pm – see nearby page for details.

Online coffee mornings.

We are now holding a regular Thursday online Coffee Morning each week 11am – everyone is welcome. The link to join is below:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84655538059?pwd=dzJESHN2M3B1RzIrSVVpZmphaUxiUT09>

Regretfully, St Edward’s Church will remain closed for the time being until local trends and national lockdown proposals are clarified.

CORFE CASTLE VIRTUAL QUIZ (Zoom)

Date: February 5th

Time: 7:00pm START

Place: At home, but with national and international possibilities!



Teams of **four people** – located anywhere

ENTRY - £10 per team

If you would like to join in, please email jwlindsay2@gmail.com and we will send joining and payment details. Your team can come from anywhere in the locality, nationally or even internationally(!), and a team can be split between locations. You all just need to be contactable by email and have internet access*. We will be breaking into ‘rooms’ for each team to consult during each round.



Please provide your own drinks and nibbles!



Proceeds to the upkeep of St. Edward’s Church

* At each location, you will need to access email and have either a PC or a smartphone/tablet with Zoom installed. However, a PC without Zoom, but with a normal web browser will work.

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Pioneer view

Dear Friends,

It's noticeably clear that hope has begun to emerge with the development and introduction of several COVID 19 vaccines. There is always light at the end of the tunnel.

This development has allowed my team and I to plan some key events as well the opportunity to review our community activities and vision going forward

The Growing Compassionate Community's charity has an exciting vision and agenda for the new post pandemic landscape. The vision is ambitious, it really needs to be to meet the significant challenges that are before us all in a post pandemic world sometimes referred to as the new normal.

A quote about vision that helps me:

"Vision is the art of seeing the invisible." - *Jonathan Swift*

This what we seek to do within the Growing Compassionate Communities team. We provide a space for the vision to grow organically both challenging unjust structures and how best to respond to identified community need. Our key aim is to work towards inclusiveness for all diverse groups and people. So, some below is a summary of the 2021 GCC vision :

- The Growing compassionate communities' charity will plan and open a trauma centre to support rural communities and promote mental health wellbeing in local farming and the wider community.
- We will seek to purchase a minibus with a view to engage with rural communities to promote mental health awareness and well-being.
- We plan and deliver the 2nd GCC Conference. Provisionally this is planned to go ahead on 22nd May 2021 at St Nicholas Church Corfe Mullen.
- GCC will plan and deliver 3 workshops to inform and raise awareness of loneliness and isolation in our communities.
- Create a community allotment This is well under way in Corfe Mullen and will be open to all diverse groups and people around April time.

All these projects seek to grow hope in the communities in which seek to serve

Perhaps you could reflect on your vision for your journey in 2021

Go well.

Peter



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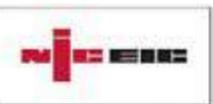
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Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

So, we soldier on! No in-person meetings of course but Zoom comes to the rescue.

Our next meeting will be our Zoom AGM on **March 4th** at 8pm.

Here is the link you need:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89457543177?pwd=TzdadUxIYWREaEhmWmtPcS trdW1ldz09>

Meeting ID: 894 5754 3177

Passcode: 917614

Members and non-members are invited.

After the AGM, which will be short, we shall have a fun quiz. The prizes will be £25.00 / £15.00 / £10.00 in good legal tender. We shall all be on our honour to not consult Mr Google, Mr Bing or any of the other Know-it-Alls. If there are two or more of you in the household you are welcome to work as a team, but you'll only get one prize!

Gerry, our esteemed Secretary, is working hard to line up speakers for Zoom meetings in April and May.

Who knows, we *MAY* be able to meet in person by June, if not we shall continue to stay in touch, laugh, and learn, via Zoom.

Once the ground has warmed up enough to get a fork in, I shall be grateful if you have half an hour to spare and can easily get your tools to the gardens by the Public Toilets, if you can do a bit of weeding and general tidying as we cannot, at present, organise our usual work parties.

Please stay safe, enjoy the fresh air and exercise in your gardens and look after yourself and others in the process.

With all good wishes,

David

Scam Warning

A warning to everyone in the area. Criminals have been attempting to obtain money from people by pretending to be police or bank officials. Remember the police and the banks will never ask you to transfer money to a new account or come to your door to collect a credit or debit card. Nor will they ever send you an email or text asking you to transfer money. If anyone does so they are a criminal and should be reported to the police.



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- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to food banks

Purbeck residents needing advice can phone Dorset Adviceline on freephone 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884), 10am-4pm weekdays to talk to an adviser. Alternatively, you can use our webform at www.purbeckadvice.org.uk for email or telephone call-back, and access a wealth of self-help advice online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

New drop-in has started at **Mill Lane, Wareham Office** - from **Tuesday October 20th, 12-2pm** on a first come, first served basis.

DORSET HOME LIBRARY SERVICE – DOORSTEP DELIVERIES

Although our much-loved Home Library Service had to be suspended due to the Coronavirus situation, we are now providing a temporary non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service to those that cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term. Our volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. Books are chosen by staff at each library, based on individual preferences, and made ready for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to our clients' front doors. The volunteers will not enter the house, and they will keep a safe distance at all times; they can also pick up books and return them to the library. This service is entirely free and is available across Dorset and BCP areas. We are keen to let more people know that it is available to them if they find themselves unable to get to the library. To find out more please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, on 01305 236666 or 07786 635154, or e-mail maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Corfe Castle Commons Management Committee

The function of the Commons Committee is to act as a forum for the Rights' Holders to agree a basis for the management of grazing rights on the Common. It also considers any other matters relating to the management of the Common.

Vacancies have arisen for the following roles on this Committee:

Secretary/Treasurer - The prime responsibilities of the Secretary are to support the Chairman, prepare and Minute the business of the regular meetings (currently 2 a year) and the AGM. Additional routine tasks involve keeping files and procedures up-to-date and dealing with correspondence.

The task of Treasurer (also the responsibility of the Secretary) is to deal with banking and to keep the accounts, ready for audit and presentation at the AGM. An annual honorarium is attached to this role.

Village Representative - the principal duties of this position are to be the key contact for people using the Common and report back to the Committee Meetings or direct to the Chair of the Commons Committee. This is a voluntary role.

For any additional information or to apply for these positions, please contact: Mark Singleton, Countryside Manager, Purbeck National Trust Land line 01929 452322, mobile 07811 651788, mark.singleton@nationaltrust.org.uk

THANK YOU!



Santa's elves have told us that the generous folk in Corfe Castle donated £542 when he visited the village in his sleigh!

This was a fantastic result in such a strange and difficult year.

The money will be divided between Corfe Castle Village Pre-School

Thank you again and keep safe.

The Crazy4Corfe Team.

The Splendour Fell on Castle Walls. Corfe* Castle 1066 - 1645.

They slighted my walls and tumbled my towers,
Who'd oft hosted kings, after my Lady Mary Bankes
Behind my local stone defied New Model ranks.
Plantagenets on my baileys spent galore,
Henry 1 had his appearance door.
Loyal to Matilda in 1139 Stephen's army cowers.
Eleanor of Brittany was confined in 1223.
400 years before the final siege you would see
The keep was painted white by royal decree.
The army of builders settled with royal charter
1247 for markets, fairs and friendly barter.
Villainy and betrayal sealed my end, martyr
When Col Bingham with Col Pitman allied
But not before 100 Roundheads to 2 had died.

*means cutting in the hills.

Sent in by Toddy & Liz together with the sketch on the front page after their stay at Challow Farm House. Thank you to them.

Dorset Council Local Plan consultation.

Following the successful People's Assembly about the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy consultation, a further People's Assembly is planned about the Dorset Council Local Plan consultation. Consultation on the Dorset Council Local Plan is due to start on Monday 18th January, and will run for 8 weeks until Monday 15th March. The date for this People's Assembly / Open Meeting is Tuesday 2nd March, and further details will be included in the March CVN, and publicised on the Corfe Castle Parish Council website <https://www.corfecastlepc.org.uk> and Facebook page.

Where, or Who is this?

A little competition – who can say where these pictures were taken and who are the people in them. No prizes, but we will publish correct answers.

Please send answers or any other information to the editor at corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk



Where is this picture and who are the two ladies standing in the field?



Where was this view of the castle taken?



Who is this lady and where is she? The double doorway should be identifiable.

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REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY

- **Ballet** – Miranda Hindson - Tel 07919441836
or Mjlballet@gmail.com
- **Short Mat Bowls@** 14.00

TUESDAY

- **Whist Drive** – Eileen Cake 01929 552393 (**alternate Tuesdays @ 7.30pm**)
- **Short Mat Bowls @** 14.00

WEDNESDAY

- **Say So Drama** – 10.30 – 12.00 with Emma for adults with learning disabilities – 07725 942609
- **Yoga** – Pam Steele - Tel 01929 556714
or pamsteeleyoga@googlemail.com
- **Ballet** – Miranda Hindson - Tel 07919441836
or Mjlballet@gmail.com

THURSDAY

- **Health Qigong**– Penny Youssef - Tel 07969925502
or pennyoussef1@gmail.com

FRIDAY

- **Short Mat Bowls** –@ 14.00
- **Zhineng Qigong**- Penny Youssef - Tel 07969 925502
or pennyoussef1@gmail.com

SUNDAY

- **Purbeck Antiques Collectors Fayre** – (Last Sunday of each month) phone Lesley 01929 425402

Kimmeridge News

After some brief excitement over Christmas including singing socially distanced carols *outside* Kimmeridge Church on Christmas Eve and *outside* Steeple Church on Christmas Day things have at last quietened down again. As part of the current lockdown, the road to the Bay is now closed again to try and reduce visitor numbers from outside the local area.

Steve & Helen Earwicker (earwicker@btinternet.com)

So, to take our mind off the pandemic; here is the latest update from Emily House on Clean Seas:

You are the solution to plastic pollution.

Figure one presents: the type, weight and percentage of debris collected, over a 3 week period of beach cleaning. These beach cleans were again carried out across Kimmeridge Bay. A huge 128kg of Plastic waste was collected. Equating to 91% of the overall debris. Whilst the other 9% included glass, fabric and metal. The overall total of 139.20 kg is the equivalent weight of 3 Spinner Dolphins!

■ Rope and fishing lines 73kg

■ Hard Plastic (Plastic bottles/containers etc) 29kg

■ Mixed materials (Vehicle Batteries/clothing) 9.20kg

■ Rubber 9kg collected

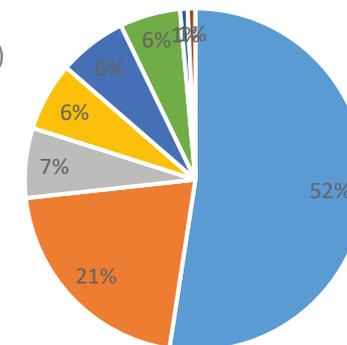
■ Non recyclable Plastic (Confectionary wrappers/Crisp packets etc) 9kg

■ Polystyrene 8kg Collected

■ Metal 1kg

■ Glass 1kg

Figure 1



I hope it is okay to ask for a small request; if anyone has any old gardening gloves, old heavy-duty bags or large black bags they wouldn't miss, they would be greatly appreciated and well used for beach cleans. Thank you very much for reading and all your support.

Keep safe,

Emily House. smilingseas@outlook.com

Isolation Hospital at Norden

If you go a little way down Soldier's Road – the one opposite the Halfway Inn at Norden – away to your right on the heath stands the old isolation hospital, along with its' caretakers' cottage. A pre-fabricated corrugated iron structure, erected in the early twentieth century. One of a range offered by Humphreys of



The Hospital and in the background the caretaker's house; there is also a red phone box.

Knightsbridge. It's believed to be one of the best-preserved examples still standing.

My grandfather's sister lived there with her family for many years, and were the last caretakers.

In the early 1900s, councils were trying to uphold their responsibilities for public

health, and discussions began regarding the need for an isolation hospital. Swanage Town Council, Wareham Town Council, and Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council initially held discussions with the intention of being jointly responsible, but the responsibility ultimately fell to Wareham and Purbeck to oversee the hospital. The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) had the responsibility for the day to day running of the hospital.

Right from the beginning the stumbling block was always the expense.

One of the sites suggested was at Puddletown Road, just outside of Wareham, but towards the end of 1902, the site on the heath, almost opposite the Halfway Inn was chosen, land was leased from the Bankes Estate and the hospital erected.

By 1905 it was decided that a caretaker's cottage should be built along with the purchase of an ambulance. Letters were circulated to the other two councils asking for a contribution towards the cost, but both passed on the offer, citing other pressing expenses.

In the autumn of 1905, caretakers - who were to be man and wife with no children – were appointed at a joint salary of 7s 6d per week, with the newly erected cottage and four tons of coal per annum provided. The salary was on a sliding scale depending on the number of beds occupied. Their duties were to clean and disinfect the hospital, bring patients in the ambulance and to cook for and assist in the nursing of the patients.

There were at least five sets of caretakers over the life of the hospital.

In October 1914, the MOH asked for the bottom panes of frosted glass to be replaced with clear, so that the patients had a view.

Because of the expense of running the hospital, it was closed unless there were sufficient patients at any one time to be deemed worthwhile opening, and at a meeting in September 1921 the MOH was pleased to say that the hospital had been closed for two years. He pointed out, however, that it was in need of maintenance. This included the cottage and the ambulance shed whose doors and roof needed to be repaired.

In 1925 the stoves were replaced, a private room was provided for the nurse, the cottage roof repaired and a porch added to the cottage. Despite this, the MOH reported in 1926 that the stoves were so smoky, the doors had to be kept open making the place untenable.

By January 1928 the MOH declared it not fit for a dog to live in. He said it should be equipped properly and repaired or scrapped. They could no longer light a fire and the roof leaked so that the nurse had to cover her bed with a mackintosh. The Council discussed whether it should be scrapped completely and patients sent to other hospitals. They approved temporary repairs, which included in July of that year fireplaces and chimneys in each of the two wards and one in the nurses' sitting room, along with new asbestos slates fitted to the roof in place of the corrugated iron. In November of the same year, improved facilities were provided for a water supply for the caretaker. All the while, various members of the Council were grumbling about what a perfect drain of money the hospital was.

Although the caretakers were permanent residents at the cottage, nurses were taken on as and when the hospital was opened to patients and lived in a room at the hospital. The MOH found himself defending the nurses' expenses at the end of 1926. He argued that it was reasonable for her to have purchased a cherry cake which lasted her 10 days, and a piece of ham which lasted for several meals. In addition to this perceived extravagance, she had purchased a cauliflower. The MOH pointed out that the nurse had been continuously on duty for two months, and had not left the hospital for even one hour a day, as there were so many bad cases. He thought the nurse was not herself having a sufficient and the right quality of food for the work she was doing. The nurse had also saved the hospital several pounds by the mending of blankets, quilts, mattresses, etc., and with the aid of the caretaker had re-varnished the place. The Clerk of the Council noted that he had calculated the cost of living at the hospital and found that there had been a drop of 6d per head per day.

The Council, however, took pity on one of the caretakers. New to the job he had expended £11 13s 7d, which he believed would be reimbursable, but for which the MOH refused to sign. Under the circumstances the Council paid the bill.

Patients from outside Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council's jurisdiction were admitted to the hospital – provided there was capacity - at a cost of £1 1s a week which did not include the cost of nursing or other incidentals. This charge was set in December 1902 and remained the same until January 1923, when the charge was raised from a guinea to £1 5s.

If patients were admitted from an employer's premises where they were resident, for example a school, the employer was asked for a contribution towards the cost.

The Council had agreed in 1922 to accept patients from Bovington Camp, provided the Military authorities entered into a satisfactory arrangement. However, they turned down a request from the Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority to take smallpox patients from ships.

The net cost of the hospital was reported at a Council meeting in 1928. Over the previous ten years, there had been thirty patients admitted to the hospital, the aggregate number of days in hospital being 793. The total expenses which included rents, repairs, MOH salary and the caretaker's wages amounted to £1275 3s 8d

Isolated were patients with diphtheria, scarlet fever and cero-spinal fever, but not those with smallpox. There were separate smallpox hospitals dedicated to nursing that disease. Local doctors were supposed firstly to try to achieve isolation at the patients' home, then to consider the isolation hospital at Norden with the involvement of the MOH. It often was closed, and for expediency patients were sent to Poole. Inevitably this set the Council comparing prices and questioning the MOH as to whether the course of action had really been necessary, and reminding him to tell all local doctors to isolate patients at home if possible.

It is unclear when the last patients were admitted to the hospital, but it appears the caretakers were still in place doing their job into the early 1960s

With acknowledgement to The British Newspaper Archive

Sue Noel - January 2021

Editor's note - I believe that my grandfather, who was the local doctor in Corfe for 50 years, was the MOH for the hospital from around 1935 till 1956. I remember him talking about people having to go there when they contracted one of the notifiable diseases. The hospital has now been renamed "Heathland Cottages".

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THOMAS HARDY & CORFE CASTLE.

Although Thomas Hardy was living in Swanage in the winter of 1875/6, only in one of his books do we find a reference to Corfe Castle. This he calls Corvesgate and Swanage is Knollsea. The book is "The Hand of Ethelberta" which he describes as "A Comedy in Chapters" and not well known to the reading public. He devotes the whole of Chapter Thirty to Corfe.

He also gives a splendid description of Encombe, the home of the Earl of Eldon. He calls the mansion Enckworth Court, the home of the disreputable Viscount Mountclere, who was very different from Eldon. Hardy tells how when King George III visited the house he sneered at the brick construction, but this anecdote is lifted from the King's visit to Kingston Maurward. He grumbled "Brick, brick, brick, Mr Pitt" and it cost Morton Pitt a fortune to face his house with Portland stone.

Our heroine Ethelberta is a widow of twenty one years, who is described as being educated beyond her working class birth. She had been adopted and sent abroad for her education, but was now employed as a Governess. There is a similarity with Hardy's younger days here. He was given a good education in Dorchester by Mrs Julia Martin of Kingston Maurward who took a fancy to the young lad.

We first meet Ethelberta when she is living with her family in rented accommodation in Swanage. On a social occasion she encounters Lord Mountclere who is much struck by her beauty and determines to see more of her. An opportunity occurs when the Imperial Association arrange a visit to Corfe Castle. This Club is composed of members of the Landed gentry and the professional classes, who tour the County studying History and Archaeology. Plainly Hardy draws on his knowledge of the Dorset Natural History Society who in spite of a humbler title had the same role. William Barnes and Thomas Hardy were both members.

To get to Corfe Ethelberta hires an old donkey for three shillings and sets out a cross Nine Barrow Down. Obvious the author knew the route well and he waxes lyrical on the magnificent view which is easily the best in Purbeck, and so she rides to Corfe. well ahead of the Association members. In spite of the age of her donkey Ethelberta makes good time to Corfe and finds the Castle deserted. She tethers her steed and Hardy gives a good description of the Castle which He obviously knew well. The party led by Lord Mountclere arrive late but he is obviously delighted to see Ethelberta and introduces her to all the notabilities. Amongst them is Doctor Yore a distinguished Antiquarian who will expound on the history and archaeology of the Castle. The assembly are much

amused by the old donkey but Ethelberta says she has left her means of transport at a nearby Inn. After a day spent at Corfe the party disperse and Mountclere takes an affectionate farewell of Ethelberta saying they will meet shortly. She returns to Swanage feeling guilty that she had disclaimed her donkey. She thinks matters over. She is being importuned for marriage by two young men. What is the better choice; Love or Position? Some weeks later she is invited to Enckworth and is staggered by its magnificence. As she entered the Hallway she gasps at the beautiful main stairway saying to herself 'The staircase alone is worthy of my hand' (Hence the title of the book).

The remainder of the book recounts how she rejects her lovers and finally consents to a quiet wedding with Mountclere. The County were horrified and for some years there were many ups and downs. In the end Ethelberta prevails. She establishes complete dominance over the Viscount and his staff. She takes over the running of the Estate and restricts him to three glasses of wine a day.

In his 1922 preface Hardy admits that he had a bad press for Ethelberta since fifty years earlier, the imaginary circumstances, which on the first publication were deemed eccentric and almost impossible, are accepted as reasonable and interesting pictures of life. Emma Hardy disliked the novel saying "Much too much about servants". There is a final reference to Corfe, when we read that Ethelberta's sister meets her former lover, Christopher Julian, at the Castle Inn and although poor has a happy marriage. The book is a cross between a satire and a comedy and apart from the references to our village I find it has been misjudged over the years, and is worth reading.

I cannot help adding a footnote. The celebrated Doctor Yore is an exact prototype of the Editor's grandfather. Doctor Dru Drury was a member of the Dorset Field Club and an authority on History and Archaeology, especially Corfe Castle. However I calculate he was not doing this in 1876 but what a coincidence.

Paul Randal

Editor's note – Paul is quite right; my grandfather was born in 1880.



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CORFE CASTLE CHARITY

SICKNESS AND DISABILITY

The Trustees of the Corfe Castle Charity will consider applications for assistance from people living within the Corfe Castle Parish (which includes Kingston) in cases of hardship as a result of temporary or permanent disability from sickness or injury, for example:-

- Specialist medical equipment
- Special furniture
- Lifeline, including installation of a telephone line
- Convalescence

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

- Education and Training
- Domestic and Family expenses
- Grants to organisations

For further information please contact:

The Clerk to the Trustees,
Mrs. Mandy Meaker

2 Battlemead

Corfe Castle BH20 5ER Tel: 01929 480873

ADVERTISING IN THE CORFE VALLEY NEWS

Please supply your advert as a **PDF** at the correct size for printing if possible, please see available sizes below.

CREATING A PDF FILE OF YOUR ADVERT

When creating your advert in Microsoft Word you need to go to "Save as" and then under "Format" select PDF from the dropdown menu. In Apple Pages go to "Export to" and select PDF. Please remember to include the name of your company or organisation in the name of the document.

Then simply email your completed advert along with how long you would like to advertise for to **corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk** and send your payment as follows: Payment should go to John Courtney at Stonewood, Calcraft Road at the same time as you submit copy or via BACS to the account shown at the bottom of the page.

All Addresses and Phone Numbers are on page 3.

If you are not submitting by email please leave a copy in the Post Office (The Village Stores) or in the CVN box at 55 East Street.

Word documents can be submitted but it will be necessary to create a PDF file from these formats and they often **DO NOT reproduce as expected when printing.**

ADVERT SIZES

Full Page - 128mm x 190mm

Half Page - 128mm x 93mm

Third Page - 128mm x 61mm

Quarter Page - 63mm x 93mm

Advertising charges as from 1st December 2018

	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Full Page	£30.00	£77.00	£149.00	£286.00
Half Page	£18.00	£44.00	£83.00	£154.00
Third Page	£12.00	£33.00	£61.00	£105.00
Quarter Page	£10.00	£25.00	£45.00	£80.00

Payment by BACS: Sort Code 30-99-12 Account No. 00864273

Postal Address:

John Courtney, Corfe Valley News
Stonewood
Calcraft Road
Corfe Castle
Wareham BH20 5EL

Fees due on acceptance of the advert

Regular events in Corfe Castle & environs

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00-11.00am	Coffee Morning	Springwell Close
Each	2.30 - 4.30	Whist and tea	Springwell Close
Each	10am – 1pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Each	7 - 11pm	Chess Club (Sep - Apr)	Morton's House
1st	7pm	Double Act	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7pm	CC Parish Council	C C Town Hall
TUESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
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 Latin American/ Ballroom Dance	C C Village Hall Donna 01202 243803
Each	7.45 – 9.15pm	Badminton	C C Village Hall
1st	2 pm	Aquarius	C C Village Hall
2 nd	7.30pm	CK parish Council	Odd months Furzebrook VH; even CK
WEDNESDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	9.30am- noon	Intermediate yoga	Kimmeridge 477169
Each	9.45am-12.45	Wool Workshop	C.C. Village Hall
Each	7-9pm	Youth Club	C C Village Hall
Each	8.30	Poker	Corfe Castle Club
THURSDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
Each	10.00 - 11.30am	Busy Bees	CC Primary School
3rd	11.30am	Probus Club	Mortons House
Each	6.00 - 8.00 pm	Intermediate yoga	Swanage - 477169
Each	6.30 – 8.00 pm	Yoga (439041)	Harmans Cross VH
Each	10.00 – 1.0 pm	Pottery Class	Furzebrook Studios
Alternate	7.30pm	Bingo	C C Village Hall
FRIDAY			
Each	8.50am - 2.50pm	Community Pre school	The Pre School
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