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AQUARIUS CORFE CASTLE WOMEN IN TOUCH	PENELOPE SMITH	480109
BADMINTON	RUTH CARR	480868
BUSY BEES	CLAIRE HOLLARD	481631
CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES	CAROLE SPEED	480810
CHURCH KNOWLE FOOD FAYRE	ANN WAINWRIGHT	480567
CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH CLERK	ALISTAIR WALLACE	07731841093
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CHURCH KNOWLE READING ROOM BOOKINGS		480341
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PURBECK CHESS CLUB	STEVE PEIRSON	552504
PURBECK GARDENING CLUB	CYRIL HARRISON	552105
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CORFE VALLEY NEWS



JULY 2020

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 459 July 2020

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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 <u>corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk</u> Items received after the 15th may not be printed until the next issue

Editorial

As I write this there is no firm decision, but the hope is that the pubs will be able to reopen during the first week in July. To be able to go out and enjoy a drink and a meal again will be a great pleasure. During the time that we have all been in lockdown it is amazing how much help and support there has been throughout the village. Thank you to the pubs who have been doing takeaways and deliveries - they have been very welcome. Particularly we also need to thank Carole and Terry in the Village Stores for the wonderful way they have kept everything going with deliveries being made to the elderly and vulnerable, as well as to all their helpers and volunteers. Our thanks also go to the Surgery who have continued to manage our health during this difficult time.

Years ago Paul Randall wrote a number of interesting historical articles about local personalities and events. I have included the story of Benjamin Jesty in this edition of the CVN as it is germane to the present time when we are seeking a coronavirus vaccine. Jesty was a local farmer from Cerne Abbas who discovered inoculation against smallpox twenty years before Doctor Jenner, who was nevertheless credited with the discovery. Jesty subsequently lived at Downshay Farm and is remembered in Langton Matravers churchyard. There will be more interesting historical articles by Paul Randall over the coming months.

over the coming months.	Stephen
Some useful Telephone Number	
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The Samaritans	01202 551999
Street Light Defect - SEC Contracting	0800 068 4145
Childline	0800 1111
Dorset Councilor – Cherry Brooks	07512897908
5	

Corfe Valley News

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

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The cover picture is a view of Smedmore House. The sketch is from Unknown Dorset by Donald Maxwell dated 1927

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

JUNE AT THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council continue to hold their meetings via Zoom and the June meeting commenced virtually.

Lara Manningham Buller, Chair to the Governors of **Corfe Castle Primary School**, was invited to address the Council on the primary school. Lara said that Coronavirus had had an obvious impact on the school. Earlier in the year there had been a period of unsettled time when the head teacher had been off sick whilst at the same time there were conversations going on about the merger with the Coastal Learning Partnership, which has now taken place. The school has received excellent support from the newly merged trust throughout the Coronavirus crisis and she hopes that some initial concerns about the merger have been put to rest.

Whilst they are experiencing unprecedented challenges the staff have risen to the challenge and have been absolutely incredible. The school is currently open to reception, year one and year six (in line with government guidelines) and has an attendance of approximately 40% of those children eligible to attend.

The recent Ofsted inspection was not a good read and had been fairly critical. However Ofsted had also picked out many positive aspects and provided helpful and supportive advice on how to improve highlighted issues. Ofsted acknowledged the school was already working to remedy some of the areas which needed work.

The post Ofsted action plan was delayed due to Coronavirus, but should be ratified at the forthcoming Governors meeting. There will be challenges putting the plan into place due to Coronavirus however the circumstances have provided an opportunity for staff to look at policies and procedures and to get planned improvements in place ready for September.

Lara asked if any members of the public had second hand IT equipment (computers, laptops or tablets) which they could donate to children who are home-learning they would be really grateful to receive them.

Cllr Brooks reported that the **Council's Parking and Traffic Study** had been passed to Dorset Council and that they had met to discuss possible feasible options. Coronavirus had broken prior to a planned meeting to feedback to Cllr Brooks taking place so there was no further update.

On behalf of the National Trust James Gould reported that **the castle had reopened on the 3rd of June.** The average daily attendance to date is 250 people; all tickets must be booked and the visitors are predominantly members. The capacity they are expecting is 440 tickets per day and this figure may be

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

increased if they feel it is safe to do so. James advised the Trust are not taking responsibility for ensuring people socially distance and that they are leaving people to be responsible for their own actions. Following feedback they have made one adjustment to the access at the top of the castle and they are listening to feedback from the visitors and the local community.

Cllr Fooks said that residents are concerned about the numbers of visitors and that social distancing is sometimes impossible to do as shops are small as are the village pavements; 400 extra people each day in the village stores is concerning. It's becoming hard to even visit the bakery as the village Square is getting too congested. James said that whilst he understands this, they are getting positive feedback from local businesses. James will take feedback to the regional manager.

It was reported to the Council that the proposed works by the National Trust to install a tap at the allotment has been removed from the schedule of works. Due to Coronavirus, budgets have been dramatically reduced and there are no funds to carry out the works.

Interviews have taken place to select a planning consultant to help advise the Council on the forthcoming **Swanworth Quarry Extension** planning application, which the Council anticipate receiving in the coming month. The group tasked to do this have selected a consultant to examine the plan. As representatives of parishioners the Council would welcome any feedback on the proposals from parishioners. Suttles have made a huge amount of information available on their website if parishioners wish learn more about the proposals prior to publication of the forthcoming planning application.

As part of their External Audit the Council completed the Annual Governance Statement and adopted the end of year accounts for 1919/20. *It is your right to inspect the accounts should you wish.* Full details of the Councils finances are published on the website and the accounts can be inspected in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

The Council's **Speed Indicator Device** is on order and the post will soon be installed on East Street near the bottom of Kingston Hill. The SID will be moved between this post and the existing post at Castle View.

The Clerk is awaiting feedback from Cambian education regarding the feasibility of authorising a permissive footpath from Woodyhyde to the village.

Further to recently resuming administration of the **God's Acre Cemetery** the Council considered a revised paper on the Cemetery. There is a deficit in

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

income to expenditure as the maintenance of the Cemetery costs far more than the relatively small income from burials. This had to be addressed; either by raising the precept of looking at ways to increase revenue, suggestions of how this could be achieved are highlighted in the report, such as exploring natural burials.

Cllr Dru Drury proposed several recommendations were approved and adopted, these included a revised fee table and revised regulations both of which can be viewed on the Parish Council website on the God's Acre page. A separate article on God's Acre appears in CVN.

Dorset Council had asked the Council for suggestions of ways in which social distancing could be accommodated in the village by introducing temporary changes to parking and pavement arrangements.

The Council resolved to seek the views of parishioners and businesses prior to pursuing any suggestions. They felt there was some urgency as visitors will come and already the village square is feeling very congested.

On planning matters, the Parish Council had no objection to divide the existing dwelling into two separate dwellings at 24 West Street Corfe Castle Wareham. They recommended a development be screened/reviewed at Corfe Castle Water Recycling Centre. They had no objection to removing a rooflight and to form a dormer window in the east elevation at 5 Townsend Road, Corfe Castle, however as the new dormer window clearly overlooks the neighbour they recommend that the planning officer ensures that this does not create a problem.

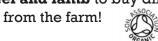
The Council resolved to defer a decision on revised plans for number 1 East Street Corfe Castle until they see further feedback on the revised plans from the National Trust.

The next meeting will be held on the 13th July 2020 at 7pm via Zoom. The Pubic are welcome to attend and participate in the public half hour at the start of the meeting. Details will be posted on the website by Tuesday the 7th of July. For further information please contact the Clerk.

(phone 01929 426125) (e-mail <u>CorfeCastlePC@aol.com</u>) – 41 Bell Street, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2RY. Full minutes of the meetings are available in Corfe Castle library or on the Website (<u>www.corfecastlepc.org.uk</u>).



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BENJAMIN JESTY, A PURBECK PIONEER by Paul Randall

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

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

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

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

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

He formed a poor opinion of London saying that its only advantage was that he could get a daily shave. In Dorset he made a weekly visit to the barber on Market day as was common with many Dorset farmers. Ben was presented with a pair of gold mounted lancets but nothing else. He was not particularly excited about his great contribution towards the health of the nation and lived happily at Downshay Farm two miles from Corfe until his death in 1816. Dorset folk should pay a visit to Langton Matravers churchyard to honour him. His memorial stone is inscribed "*He was an honest and upright man particularly noted for being the first person that introduced cowpox and from his great strength of mind made the experiment from the cow on his wife and two sons in 1774"*.

Editorial note:

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





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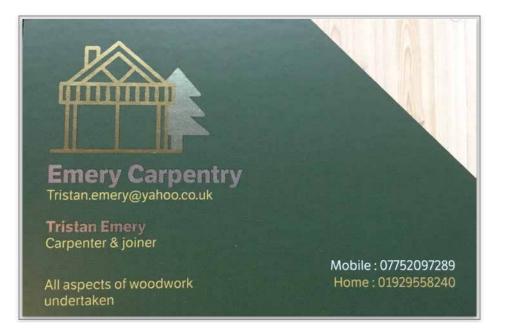
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Corfe Castle Surgery

Again this month we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the community for their efforts to observe social distancing measures at this very difficult time for the safety of the community.

Also a huge thank you to the large number of volunteers who are still offering their support to our most vulnerable.

We would also like to take this chance to politely remind people that the requirement for social distancing is vital and it is crucial that it continues irrespective of the finer weather. Refer to www.gov.uk/coronavirus for further guidance.

There has not been a great deal of changes at the Surgery in the last month, we continue to offer telephone triage as our first option and this will continue for the foreseeable future but we will keep you all updated with any changes at the earliest opportunity.

Dr Lepper would like to thank you all for your continued patience and understanding at this unusual time but please remember that if you have a medical problem or concerns call the Surgery as normal.

The Dispensary window has now changed to a window at the front of the building so please take care whilst waiting as the car park is still in use and please remember to give other patients adequate space as per Government guidelines.

Many Thanks

Kerry Norman

Patient Participation Group

This month's article will be shorter than some!

Thanks to the Lockdown our activities, like yours, have inevitably been limited but it hasn't stopped us from having a 'virtual' PPG meeting. Although it couldn't be the same as meeting in person in the usual way it was nevertheless good to 'see' each other and review how things are going locally. Dr Lepper and Kerry Norman reassured us that the necessary changes to the way the surgery delivers care to us are working well. We in turn thanked them for looking after us so well in these difficult circumstances not of their choosing. We know how hard it is for all the team.

Our local community has continued to support each other with the help of the terrific volunteers and the befriending of neighbours, especially those who are vulnerable. The volunteers have been delivering medication etc to more than 200 shielded patients. Lockdown is also a challenging time for some carers as many of the facilities and the help at home that normally support their loved ones are unavailable. If you know a carer who might welcome some contact please consider giving them a ring – don't initially call round as they themselves may be shielding.

As usual if you have any feedback or suggestions please phone Alan Clevett on 07801 653003.

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News from the Castle

Wow! What a weird few months. But firstly we hope you are all well and safe.

Our lovely pub does not like having no visitors, not to mention snowy the rabbit. You are all so missed, as we have made so many lovely friends throughout the years.

On that note, we are hoping the government is going to open us on the 4th July. (As time of writing still not confirmed).

What you can expect. Our upmost concern is keeping our customers and staff safe. We have been working hard behind the scenes, and have been developing our extensive outdoor space.

We will also be offering a "drive inn" starting in July, for takeaway food and drink.

Inside, the pub will be restricted, with screening allowing private dining in confidence.

However we are making it as safe as possible, but still maintaining the Castle Inn fun factor.

So on the 4th July, we are going to kick off in style with the amazing Jim Etherington in the garden at 4pm.

Remember the Castle Inn is the little pub with a big heart, and we cannot wait to open the doors to you all again.

Look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Covid-19:

In these unforeseen, uncertain and troubling times the safety and well being of everyone that uses our Village Hall is our priority At the time of writing the village hall is therefore currently out of action, and will remain so until government policy on lockdown changes.

general news:

During the first three months of this year we were delighted that our regular users continued their use of the upgraded and extended Village Hall. Over the last year we have seen several new groups using the facilities. Our regular users include dance, environmental awareness and health topics, and these will surely become even more relevant to us all, when the restrictions start to be lifted.

In the meantime we will preserve the usual booking slots for all our current regular users, and listen to any new ideas you might have about activities in the future, and how we can best work with you to ensure the facilities we offer are most suitable.

100 club:

The 100 Club draw usually takes place at the VH coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month. These events aren't happening at the moment, but the June draw has nevertheless still been made: first prize of £20 was won by member 86, with member 5 getting second prize £10 and member 32 (for the second month running) winning the third prize £4. We will retain these prizes until restrictions are lifted when they will be distributed to the recipients as normal. Similarly we are asking 100 Club members whose subscriptions are currently due to hang on to their money at the moment unless they wish to pay by BACS. Please do not send cash or cheques to Penny. If BACS payments are not possible, she will be asking for their renewal cheques or cash once restrictions are lifted.

Profit from the 100 Club plays a significant part in supporting the everyday running costs of the Village Hall. With no 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.

<u>National Trust Corfe Castle</u>

Corfe Castle Re-opening Saturday 23rd May

National Trust Saturday 25 May 2020 – WhatsApp notification "You've been added to the

group 'reopening planning??" and so, it begins! On that day I was helping the team out at Studland on a bright and warm bank holiday Saturday. There was already a buzz of excitement in the air as we were



well underway with welcoming people back to Purbeck, and the potential to reopen Corfe at this point was equal parts exciting and with a seed of



apprehension. On the Wednesday, James (Operations Manager), Diane (Retail Manager) and myself met at Corfe and walked and talked through plans and began to draw together what a safe and socially distanced visit to Corfe Castle would look like.

On Monday 1st June staff started to be un-furloughed in preparation for the re-

opening. We spent two days hard at work weeding, getting signage into place and making sure our new one-way system worked well. Lots of bunting! Sophie Trenchard made it to the photograph of the day on the Telegraph website with a dramatic action shot of her weeding the bridge, with gate house as her backdrop.

On Wednesday 3rd June 2020 Corfe Castle re-opened its gates to members and supporters after 12 weeks of being closed. We welcomed our first family back with great gusto and excitement (I think we were more excited than them!). Since then our numbers have fluctuated and every day we are finding ways to adjust and best serve our new normal. We are





really pleased with how supportive everyone who has come has been. For many they are returning to a place they love, have missed and returning is part of the getting back to normal. It's been great, personally, to be part of the team that has been able to give people that

currently working on a half an hour rota made up of a team of four, ensuring that all touch points are disinfected every half an hour.

Over the past three weeks we've been



sense of hope and optimism that we will someday get back to normal.

Anna



"The finest burial ground in England"

Talking about burial grounds is not necessarily the first thing you want to read about but we all have to think about "our arrangements" at some time!

The God's Acre burial ground is now under the direct control of the Parish Council. It is one of the most prominent sites in the village.

We'd like to thank the committee, who, with their predecessors have looked after it since 1924 and kept it so neat and tidy. The burial ground has a stunning position with its panorama view of the Castle and one funeral director has said it is "one of the finest burial grounds in England".

In recent years the number of burials has fallen as more and more of us choose to be cremated. The immediate consequence is that it costs more to maintain God's Acre than the income received. We want to make sure the site is as well maintained for the next hundred years as it has been in the last hundred.

The Parish Council has therefore made some decisions for the future.

1-Does everyone in the village know that the burial ground is open to all regardless of faith and for those who have none.?

2-Does everyone know there are inexpensive cremation plots as well as burial plots?

3-To encourage more income a limited number of plots will be available for Purbeck residents.

4-We are exploring whether to provide for "natural burials" which are seen as the most environmentally sound option

5-Can we enhance the site in any way by natural planting and wildlife such as butterflies and bees? Should we have a memorial garden?

6- Could you become a Friend of God's Acre and help us out with projects?

7-Can you suggest a professional landscaper who would help us with a new layout for the burial ground?

There is a lot more about God's Acre on the Parish Council website (<u>https://www.corfecastlepc.org.uk/</u>)

Please ring the Clerk to God's Acre, Gill Sellen (07759 339480) if you would like to know more or can offer some help.



As we gradually come out of lock down and move towards a 'new normal' I hope you are enjoying being able to walk with a friend and sit in the garden chatting with a cup of tea. We are still ringing around our members but are gradually scaling this back to reflect where it is most needed.

Exciting news for our next meeting which is due to take place at 2.00pm on July 7th, to which all Aquarius members will be digitally invited.

We are going to trial a Zoom session where Sue Sedgley will talk on about Tibetan Buddhism. Sue has prepared a longer talk on this subject with a power point but due to the constraints of time (Zoom session, 40minutes) this is to be a taster on meditation. Hopefully many of you will be able to join us and benefit from this very interesting topic.

(Sorry about those of you that don't have the facility to access this but we hope that Sue will give her full talk in the not too distant future, to all.)



comfortable.

Susan Jessop, news editor

Our members continue to be busy with various activities such as making scrubs and knitting baby hats. A group of five of our ladies have created the amazing number of 90 hats between them. Here is a selection of the hats. We are also now starting to make button bands which make the wearing of surgical facemasks more





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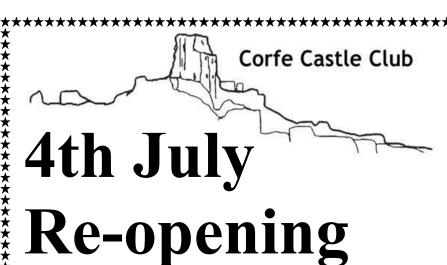




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We are awaiting Government guidance as to exactly how we can facilitate opening.

Don't forget we have a lovely garden, which has appropriate seating to social distance, with the marquee for inclement weather. Chubby will be ever present supplying the finest ales and drinks. Our opening will be reduced to lunch times and early evening sessions (times to be arranged). Sanitizer stations and safety guidelines will assist with your safety, please help by observing them.

We look forward to welcoming you back.



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CORFE VALLEY NEWS

CALENDAR for JULY 2020

13	July	Monday	7 pm	Corfe Castle Parish Council Meeting Online	
	It look	s as though we will	be back to <i>the new norma</i>	this month. However at the moment there are few definite events planned and	
it will take time for everything to pick up again. Nevertheless the CVN is being delivered again this month.					
	Although, the Parish Council meeting will definitely take place everything else is highly tentative				
If you know about any forthcoming events please let us know. Similarly please tell us if any of the regular dates are wrong or if there is a regular event which should be included					
3-6	September	Thu-Sat		Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival Various Locations. However ticket sales are currently delayed due to coronavirus.	
15	November	Sunday	10 am to 4 pm	Annual Craft and Gift Fair Corfe Castle Village Hall	

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



A sketch of the new West Street cottages by Sheila Doyle-Stevens. They were quite controversial when they were proposed, but have fitted in well over the past 15 years.



Some humour from Ken Williams – thank you Ken. We will all certainly be glad when we can get our hair cut. It now looks as though it may be possible this month, although I expect there will be a big rush.

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).

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

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111

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Church of England

St Aldhelm's Benefice

Contact Details for the Corfe Valley Churches

Rev Ian Jackson 480257 Associate Priest Rev Anne Bond 480249

Church Wardens

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:

I'm writing this in the middle of June. By the time you read it, if the TV and newspapers are to be believed there's a good chance Lockdown may be a thing of the past and we may be enjoying social life in shops, pubs, clubs, theatres, restaurants and cinemas once again. Families might be joyfully visiting each other and staying overnight in each other's houses, parents may be taking their children to football matches, swimming lessons and to have their hair cut, and holidays abroad will be being planned.

And all this whilst observing social distancing.

Does anyone agree with me that Covid-19 is likely to be with us for the foreseeable future, and we are going to have to learn to live with it rather than trying to avoid it? China, where it originated, thought they were free of it, but on the lunchtime news yesterday we were told of a new outbreak multiplying in Beijing. Valiant efforts are being made, most notably in Oxford, to fabricate a vaccine; but it will be many months if not years before it is available to the poor old general public. If this disease is like all the other diseases that have plagued mankind, vaccination is the only route to eradication.

In the meantime, each one of us is responsible for our own safety.

I don't know about you, but as Lockdown has continued, the emptier streets have spoken to me of peace, quiet, and lessened pressure. Looking very far ahead indeed, they have whispered to me of the need to reduce the human population of this planet – which, everywhere, is the elephant in the room. I'm not advocating the solution one of my sons cheerfully found to the problem: "Solve world hunger at the same time, Mum, munch on a mate, feed on a friend ..." No! But over the next several generations we absolutely must find a way to balance world population with world resources, resources that include employment and a realistic living wage as well as food, and the living wage to include enough for people to pay for enjoyments such as holidays and learning for pleasure, in order to ensure the mental health of our populace. I know that some uber-rich people are generous-minded philanthropists - and thank God for them; but for others to be rich is a sort of mental hiccup, a driving need that impels them ever onward trampling everything in their way underfoot. It is the chasm between this excessive wealth for its own sake, and the meagre wealth of the poor old general public, that is so offensive. Didn't Jesus say it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God? (Mt 19:23) His disciple, the young Timothy, wrote in the first of his letters: 'For the love of money is the root of all evil.' (1 Tim 6:10, KJV) Sir Francis Bacon wrote in the 16th century: 'Money is like muck, no good except it be spread,' meaning the point of money is only what it will buy for good and necessary purposes.

For many of us Lockdown has been hard in terms of the practical difficulties of life, and for most of us the end of it can't come soon enough. It will require the best efforts of every single one of us to try and find a simpler, slower, less frenetic way of life with time to enjoy the beauties of nature, to savour live communication with friends and family, and to live life with a relaxed generous outlook. Jesus summed it up thus: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, mind and spirit, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

With love, Anne

Getting Ready to reopen the churches of the Benefice

At the moment, although churches may reopen for individual private prayer, there is so much to be done to make sure that we can do so safely that, as yet, we cannot say when this will be. Before long we expect worship in church too may be permitted, but again we will have a lot to do to be ready to do this.

It is likely that reopening will be for a short period once or twice a week, and certainly not in all the 8 places of worship in the benefice.

When we have news about such things we will let you know through the various channels of communication that have proved so valuable and effective during these recent weeks. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with either myself or the churchwardens about this.

In the meantime let us continue worshipping and praying together in the ways that are possible, and so supporting one another.

Ian

Bible Readings - July 2020

Sunday 5 th July	Psalm 145: 8 – 15 Zechariah 9: 9 – 12	4 th Sunday after Trinity Romans 7: 15 – 25A Matthew 11: 16 – 19; 25 – end
Sunday 12 th July	Psalm 65 Isaiah 55: 10 – 13	5 th Sunday after Trinity Romans 8: 1 – 11 Matthew 13: 1 – 9; 18 – 23
Sunday 19 th July	D 1 07 11 1	6 th Sunday after Trinity
	Psalm 86: 11 - end Isaiah 44: 6 – 8	Romans 8: 12 – 25 Matthew 13: 24 – 30; 36 – 43
Sunday 26 th July		The 1 c T
	Psalm 119: 129 – 136	7 th Sunday after Trinity Romans 8: 26 – end
	1 Kings 3: 5 – 12	Matthew 13: $31 - 33$; $44 - 52$
Sunday 2 nd Augus		8 th Sunday after Trinity
	Psalm 145: 8 – 9; 15 – end Isaiah 55: 1 – 5	1 Romans 9: 1 – 15 Matthew 14: 13 – 21
	1501011 55.1 - 5	1111110 W 17.13 - 21

Again, we have included all the readings for each Sunday, and hope you find this helpful.

The Benefice of St Aldhelm

Corfe Castle, Langton Matravers, Worth Matravers, Kingston, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge and Steeple.

Pursuing life in all its fullness - John 10:10

Services July 2020

Rector : Ian Jackson Associate Minister : James Mercer Hon Assistant Priest: Anne Bond

Curate: Nick Webb	Wednesday 1 July	10am Morning Prayer (CW)
www.purbeckhillsbenefice.wordpress.com	Thursday 2 July3.30pr	n Prayer in the Day (Inspired by Celtic worship)
Image: Stand Standard Stan	Sunday 5 July 10am Benefice Service Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end	Trinity 4 Welcome to Nick Prayer in the Morning Nick Webb
All services are currently being live streamed via Zoom.	Wednesday 8 July	10am Morning Prayer (BCP)
Links to Zoom will be forwarded by email prior to each service. The order of service for Sunday morning worship will also be forwarded by email. The Sunday and Wednesday morning services can also be accessed live via Zoom by clicking on the appropriate service link on the homepage of the <u>Benefice</u> website. Please access the Zoom link 5 to 10 minutes prior to the start time.	Sunday 12 July 10am Benefice Service	n Evening Prayer (CW) Trinity 5 Parables Prayer in the Morning
The Sunday morning and Wednesday services can also be joined audibly by landline telephone.	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	Ian Jackson Anne Bond
To join our service at 10am on Sunday by phone you will need to do the following:	Psalm 60/ 2 Sam 7:18-end/Luk	
1. Dial 020 3481 5240	Wednesday 15 July	10am Prayer in the Day (Inspired by Celtic
2. You will be asked to enter the meeting id which is: 864 5296 9559.	worship)	
3. Follow this by typing # (hashtag)	Thursday 16 July	3.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
4. If you are asked for a password, type # again	Sunday 19 July	Trinity 6 Parables again
We will then know you are waiting to join the Zoom service and will admit you.	10am Benefice Service Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Prayer in the Morning James Mercer
To join the 10am Wednesday service, repeat the process above, but enter meeting id 836-9062-5169 and follow this by typing #.	Wednesday 22 July	10am Morning Prayer (CW)
Please phone in 5 minutes before the service start time.	Thursday 23 July	3.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP)
The 10am Sunday service will be recorded and an edited version can also be viewed on Youtube via the <u>Benefice website homepage</u> and on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> . Confidential Prayer Ministry is offered at the end of the monthly Benefice Service and at other times on request, (currently by phone to Ian or James)	Sunday 26 July 10am Benefice Service Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Trinity 7 Kingdom Prayer in the Morning Nick Webb
NB where a name is included within the service details, it indicates which Benefice team member will be giving the address. There will be a variety of service leaders.	5pm Celtic Evening Prayer Wednesday 29 July	Jane Hudson 10am Morning Prayer (CW)

Thursday 30 July 3.30pm Prayer in the Day (Inspired by Celtic worship)

BCP indicates that the liturgy and readings are from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer

CW indicates that the liturgy and readings are from Common Worship Prayer in the Morning is *CW* based. The service includes prayers, readings from scripture, film clips (where appropriate), hymns, prayer and an address.

Getting in touch with us:

Rector Ian Jackson 01929 480257 <u>rectorsabpurbeck@gmail.com</u>

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

Wednesday: House Group 7.30pm Pauline and Michael Humphrey 01929 424312/ mandphumphrey 339@btinternet.com (Meeting via Zoom)



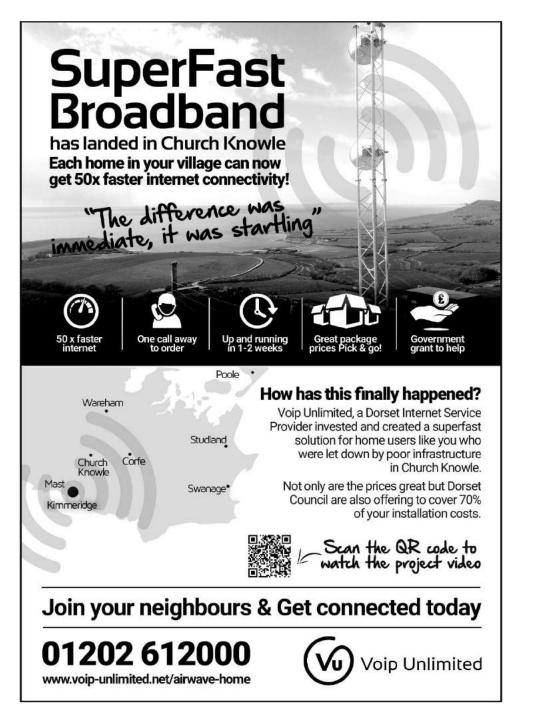
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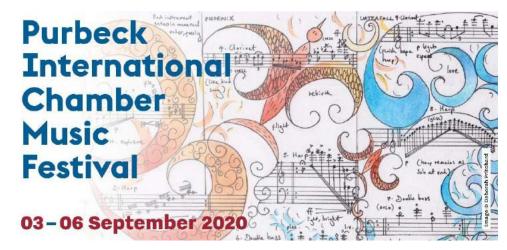
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The Pioneer View July 2020

Dear Friends,

Having just watched 99-year-old Captain Tom More complete 100 laps of his garden to raise money for the NHS, it reminded me that when we commit to making a positive difference all things are possible.

We are living in strange, difficult, and challenging times. It is times such as these that community has never been so key to overcome what is ahead of us. When we pull together and decide to walk on the journey to make a difference, we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel and hope begins to rise in our hearts.

We find ourselves struggling with our own humanity, its weaknesses, and frailties. We can often find ourselves feeling a sense of despair at these times. Where there is despair, there is always hope. It is that hope that motivates us to pursue the journey and not give up. It is at this time that we all will suffer losses such as our loss of freedom, a sense of feeling powerless. However, let me encourage you that this is normal in these difficult and challenging times. I am reminded of the C.S. Lewis quote: 'No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear'. How apt that is in these frightening times. As some of you may know, I am an ardent Liverpool football supporter. Their anthem is 'You'll never walk alone" and the lyrics to this song are very pertinent currently:

> When you walk through a storm Hold your head up high And don't be afraid of the dark At the end of a storm There's a golden sky And the sweet silver song of a lark Walk on through the wind Walk on through the rain Though your dreams be tossed and blown Walk on, walk on With hope in your heart And you'll never walk alone You'll never walk alone

Walk on, walk on With hope in your heart And you'll never walk alone You'll never walk alone

Hope is always there if we search for it. So, let us, together, walk through these uncertain times. I would like to reassure you that my team and I are committed to travelling with you and look forward to seeing you once we can restart our activities.

Peter Jones

Chair Growing Compassionate Communities



Notices and Thanks

Corfe Castle Gardening Club

Even if your name is Mary, I'm sure you're not Contrary – and I'll ask anyway – How *does* your garden grow?

Not sure about the cockle shells but it seems to be a good year for flowers and particularly roses. We have one bush with 13 simultaneous blooms, had about 4 last year!

I know some have veg ready that is good and early too. Ours is slow and grumpy because we were away when it should have been planted, but the strawberries and Tayberries are looking good.

We enjoyed the virtual Garden Tour and Virtual meeting to discuss it last month and look forward to this month's (virtual) gathering on the 7th. Look out for your invitation to join the Zoom meeting in the days immediately preceding the big day. Gerry, our Secretary will also be sending out some handy hints for anyone not yet familiar with the very simple process of downloading Zoom (free) and joining our meeting.

This information and the invitations will, of course, only be going to Members who have given Deborah their email address. If you are a member and haven't, or not a member but would like to join, contact Deborah on deborahstoker@hotmail.com

In the meantime, stay safe, especially if you are returning to your work place or going shopping. Don't relax your guard – as the Tough Guy in the film always says – "This ain't over yet bud".

"Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes."

Davíd

Harman's Cross Movie Night

Owing to the coronavirus outbreak no films are being shown until further notice. Our website will be updated as and when we plan to resume. (https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights). Langton Arthouse Cinema

Owing to the coronavirus outbreak no films will be shown until further notice. Our website will be updated as and when we plan to resume. (www.LangtonArthouseCinema.co.uk).

Corfe Castle Youth Club

Youth club sessions are not running at present.



Purbeck Citizens Advice is still open.

We continue to provide free, independent and confidential advice and information whatever your

question.

We have advisers working 5 days a week providing advice on the phone or by email.

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- Referrals for charitable support or to food banks

Purbeck residents can contact us on <u>01929 551913</u>, leave a name and contact phone number and an adviser will call back as soon as possible. Alternatively send an email to <u>adviser@purbeck.cabnet.org.uk</u> or use our webform at <u>http://www.purbeckadvice.org.uk/contact-us.html</u>

Corfe Castle Common Management Committee

The Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 2 July 2020, is postponed until further notice.

One of the tasks at the AGM, is to elect/re-elect the Hayward (there will be an application process prior to the AGM), Village and Graziers' Representatives. Until this meeting can be held, these duties will continue to be carried out by the current roleholders.

The Principal Duties of the above positions are:

The Hayward:

To check regularly on the animals grazing on the Common, to ensure the health and welfare of the stock.

- 2. To direct Graziers as to which part of the Common (West, Brickyard or Middle and East Common) they may keep their animals and to request the stock is moved when necessary.
- 3. To ensure that all Graziers have a Licence and that they adhere to the Terms of the Licence.
- 4. To ensure that animals are fed in areas designated by the National Trust and Natural England.
- 5. To keep a record of all stock on the Common for NVZ (Nitrate Vulnerable Zone) records.
- 6. To attend meetings of the Corfe Castle Common Management Committee and report on stock and any other relevant issues.
- 7. In remuneration for his/her duties, the Hayward receives an honorarium annual sum agreed by the Common Management Committee.
- 8. Report any issues back to the Chair of the Common Committee.

Graziers' Representative: Applies to Representatives of Cattle and Horses

To be the key contact for Graziers of animals on the Common. The role of the representative is to report back to the Committee Meetings or direct to the Hayward or Chair of the Common Committee.

Village Representatives:

To be the key contact for people using the Common. The role of the representative is to report back to the Committee Meetings or direct to the Chair of the Common Committee.

Juliet Glover, Secretary



Our advisers are here to provide you with advice by phone or email on a full range of advice, for example:

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Debt management and budgeting

Advice for the self employed

Employment advice including Statutory Sick Pay and rights when laid off work

Help to reduce essential expenditure, like applying for support to pay water bills or grants to help with your energy costs

Referrals for charitable support and food banks

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Are you scam aware?

The coronavirus crisis means more people are facing issues - from employment and debt, to housing and health - resulting in some being in vulnerable situations.

Added to this, the overall heightened uncertainty and anxiety caused by the pandemic is making some people more vulnerable and more likely to fall victim to a scam.

If you think you've been scammed Citizens Advice is here to help. If you receive emails or texts about coronavirus from someone you don't know, or from an unusual email address, you are advised not to click on any links or buy anything.

Don't give money or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust - for example someone who knocks on the door and offers to help.

As the Covid-19 pandemic has developed, scammers are finding new ways to scam people.

Here are four examples of recent coronavirus scams that you should be aware of:

1. **Spoof texts and emails -** Scammers are using spoof emails and text messages pretending to be government agencies, like HMRC. This might include offering payments if you click on a link or a request for bank details.

2. **Voucher scams -** Scammers have pretended to be supermarkets offering money-off vouchers. The aim is to steal credit card details when you click on the link.

3. **Fake medical kits** - Scammers are preying on health worries around coronavirus to sell fake or substandard medical products, and home testing kits.

4. **Online shopping scams -** As we're all at home more than normal, scammers are using increases in online shopping to scam victims, including asking for payment of goods by bank transfer.

You can find lots of help with spotting and reporting scams on the Citizens Advice website at <u>https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk</u>

If you suspect you have been scammed and need help with what to do next, contact Purbeck Citizens Advice on 01929 551913 or contact us via our webform on <u>www.purbeckadvice.org.uk</u>. During weekends you can speak to an adviser on Dorset Adviceline on 03444 111 444 between 10am and 1pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Regretfully cancelled

STEEPLE MANOR open GARDEN

SATURDAY 18th July 2020 Cancelled

Due to Covid 19

We look forward to 2021

KEEP SAFE



Knitting a Teddy Bears' Picnic

Stuck at home and need something to keep you busy during these weeks of isolation? Why not join in and help us to create a big Teddy Bears' Picnic! You can knit, crochet or sew bears in any

way, shape, form or colour you like; or make some food for them to eat; or a blanket to sit on – no limits to your imagination! Think of a sunny summer's day when we will hopefully all be outside again celebrating better times, and let your imagination take over.

We are hoping to display our creations later this year, and then sell the items to raise money for Royal Voluntary Service.



So get started now and let me know what you are making; once we are able to we will either pick your creations up or you can post them to our office in Dorchester.

Any questions please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, tel. 07786

635154 or e-mail maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Corfe Castle Village Stores charity sales of sausage rolls in May 2020

Carole, Terry and their team from the CCVS and Kate from Challow Farm (charity baker!)

have managed to raise **£279** by selling freshly made gourmet sausage rolls in the shop this May.

We would like to thank all those who helped raise this money by buying these products and supporting a Charity which we hope will help people who have suffered during this pandemic.

Well done and thank you



Thanks from Carole and Terry – and everyone else

Thanks to Nick & Russ Carr (Littlebirds) Steph & Ian Cole, Liz & Rupert and Everyone else who volunteered to help. All the staff who worked so hard - Deb, Sharon, Natalie, Jade and Chloe and Josephine who has just joined us.

> Plus all the customers that had a delivery Glad everyone stayed safe. You all helped us get through!

And Thanks to Carole and Terry

Also thanks from everyone to Carole and Terry who kept everything working during the last 3 months. The village will be eternally grateful for your amazing help and support over this difficult period.

The shop kept deliveries going, never seemed to run out of anything and always provide the friendly efficient service we have all become used to.

The CVN says a heartfelt thank you on behalf of everyone.

Halves Cottages

Angelica has reminded us that Halves Cottages has a memorable past that ought not to be forgotten.

Frederik Walsh, FRIBA, designed the Halves Cottages Scheme in the 1940's after the war. He was the architect for Purbeck District Council and he built a number of houses in the district after this scheme.

His design was submitted to RIBA and won an award. Perhaps people will remember more about this and possibly a plaque or similar might be put up. It would be a shame to forget such positive things.

If anyone knows any more, or has any ideas please let us know at corfevalleynews@tiscali.co.uk.

Yoga for beginners

Church Knowle village hall Tuesday evenings 6:30-8 pm

Everyone is welcome, drop in

£8 per class - pay as you go

For more information contact Frances Email <u>r19few@googlemail.com</u> Text 0797439349 Call 01929472927

Kimmeridge News

News from the Library

New Facebook creative writing group.



Dorset Libraries Writing Circle is a supportive community of people who love to write, who

come together to pursue the art and craft of writing as a hobby or for wellbeing. Each week they will post writing tips and inspiration and links to other writing resources and discussions on any writing-related topic are welcome.

They encourage members to help each other by offering advice, giving information, and providing positive feedback and constructive criticism to help each other enhance your writing skills. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, make friends and find a safe place to discuss any issues and air your fears about writing. Contact Dorset Library Service on 01305 225000 for more details.

When will the library open again?

We are working on plans to reopen the library, but we do not have a date yet. However, as the safety of our volunteers and customers is paramount, it may not be for a while. The nature and scale of the service offered is likely to be reduced at first so it can be operated safely for everyone.

If you took books out before the lockdown you can return them through the letterbox at the rear of the library. Also, overdue charges have been suspended so you can return them when this is all over.

The Corfe Castle Community library website is: https://sites.google.com/site/corfecastlecommunitylibrary/home

Email: corfecastlelibrary@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: Corfe-Castle-Community-Library

Kimmeridge says thank you!

On 4th June as part of our final Thursday evening thank you to the NHS & Care staff we had music from Steve, Helen, Janet & Jo, followed by thank you gifts for Emma Vearncombe and Rose Clarke who throughout the lockdown have kept us in touch via WhatsApp and have sorted out food & drink supplies for the village. We also raised £180.20 on the evening for Poole Hospital Heroes charity. Special thanks to Pat Ward for organising this.



Mexican Food down at the bay

With the Bay now being open again we had the treat of Mexican food served from this wonderful old Citroen van. Villagers who sampled it give it a definite thumbs up - the van will be at the bay every weekend over the summer along with Clavells' Ice Cream van!



Steve & Helen Earwicker



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REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY

- <u>Ballet</u> Miranda Hindson Tel 07919441836 or <u>Milballet@gmail.com</u>
- Short Mat Bowls@ 14.00

TUESDAY

- <u>Whist Drive</u> Eileen Cake 01929 552393 (alternate Tuesdays @ 7.30pm)
- <u>Short Mat Bowls</u> @ 14.00

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

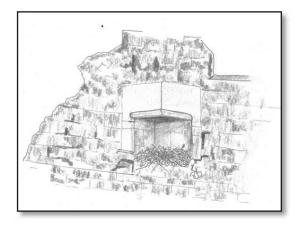
 <u>Health Qigong</u> – Penny Youssef - Tel 07969925502 or <u>pennyyoussef1@gmail.com</u>

FRIDAY

- <u>Short Mat Bowls</u> –@ 14.00
- <u>Zhineng Qigong-</u> Penny Youssef Tel 07969 925502 or <u>pennyyoussef1@gmail.com</u>

SUNDAY

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



The wrong nest

Legend has it that if the ravens leave the Tower of London – it is an ill omen for The Crown. Local legend has it that the ravens deserted Corfe Castle not long before it was destroyed during the Civil War – and that certainly ended badly for the King. In 2003 the ravens came back

to Corfe Castle and have nested in a window hole high on the keep since 2008, but it seems that they have deserted the castle again this year. Another ill omen?

At the end of March, while enjoying my daily Government permitted walk, I spotted a pair of ravens circling over the castle but to my surprise these were quickly seen off by a peregrine falcon. The falcon returned to the castle and landed on a large nest inside the fireplace high up on the walls of the keep. Peregrines now seem to be the king of this castle. This is a bit ironic perhaps as peregrines, which in days gone by were considered to be the falcon fit for royalty, have taken up residence in King John's onetime hunting lodge.

Peregrines and humanity have had a long and chequered relationship. In Mediaeval times peregrines were highly prized as a hunting aid. But once the aristocracy got hold of guns in the mid 18th C, peregrines' hunting prowess became their downfall - now being the most efficient competitor to the guntoting sportsman fond of bagging game birds. So began a period of persecution lasting nearly two centuries.

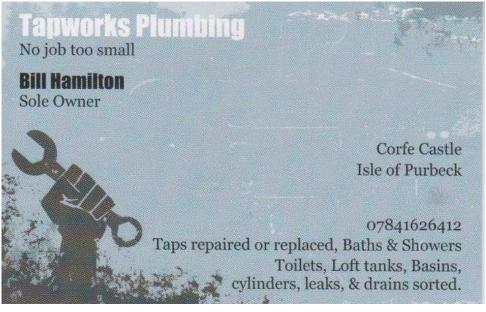
Hawks and doves famously don't get on, and pigeons are indeed one of peregrines' favourite snacks. So, peregrines fell victim to a Government sponsored eradication scheme during WWII to prevent them inadvertently intercepting messages being carried back to Blighty by homing pigeons released by those on active service. No sooner was WWII over than the great poisoning of our green and pleasant land began as the introduction of synthetic chemicals (like DDT) to modern agriculture saw game birds and pigeons eating contaminated food and peregrines eating them and in the process consuming doses of chemicals sufficient to cause them to lay thinshelled eggs that broke under the weight of the incubating birds. That problem

was not fully realized until the early 1960s when, following a petition lodged by pigeon fanciers requesting permission to kill yet more peregrines, the first ever national peregrine census was conducted and revealed a massive decline in their fortunes. The good news is - that was the turning point.

With many of the most toxic agri-chemicals phased out and protection of nesting birds in place, peregrine numbers have recovered hugely over the last sixty years and they have returned to breed in many places where they had long been absent. I feel a sense of déjà vu at this point (see March CVN). Even in London there are now about 30 pairs nesting on tall buildings which to the birds are just convenient inland cliffs, often surrounded by a surfeit of pigeons. I do not know if peregrines now nest on the Tower of London and if so how the ravens there are faring!

We have our own man-made cliff in Corfe Castle and for the first time in years we have our own resident pair of the world's fastest predator. I have watched them several times over the last three months. It turns out that the fireplace nest was not the peregrines' after all. They chose another spot, and finally in mid-June I saw what I was hoping for – an adult feeding two, maybe three chicks. When this article appears the chicks should be fledging soon if all is well. So, keep an eye out and an ear open next time you pass the castle and you may be treated to a noisy aerial display by the Grey Arrows team.

Richard Caldow.





NEW FUND-RAISING VIDEOS SHOW COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE RAILWAY WHOSE SURVIVAL IS ON A KNIFE EDGE

Dedicated Swanage volunteers have produced two new fund-raising videos giving a revealing insight into the devastating effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the award-winning heritage railway – as well as showing the strong level of community support and the work required to keep the line maintained during its shutdown.

The popular preserved railway in Dorset's Isle of Purbeck carries more than 200,000 passengers a year the five and a half miles between Norden, Corfe Castle, Harman's Cross and Swanage and contributes more than £15 million a year to the local economy.



Swanage Railway Trust chairman Gavin Johns said: "Taking 40 years to rebuild and reconnect with the national railway network near Wareham, the Swanage Railway is facing financial jeopardy and is engaged in the most critical fight in its history – the survival of the heritage line is on a knife edge."

Swanage Railway chairman Gavin Johns at Swanage Station in June. Photo courtesy Andrew Wright

"Unlike never before, the public's help and support is absolutely crucial if the Swanage Railway's £360.000 'Save Our Service'

appeal target is to be achieved by the Autumn," added Mr Johns who is also a volunteer signalman on the heritage railway.

Filmed observing social distancing, and in two 15-minute parts – 'Survival on a Knife Edge' and 'Standing Together' – the new online video demonstrates the strong level of community support for the heritage line's vital battle for survival and is viewable on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

South Dorset MP Richard Drax said: "If this line went, I dread to imagine how many businesses would be affected, particularly in the hospitality area. It would be catastrophic."

Mayor of Swanage Mike Bonfield said: "The railway is a big organisation in Swanage but we have many others and we need to pull together to protect the things we have for our visitors and locals alike and this is not just for Swanage, it's for the whole Purbeck area." Gavin Johns explained: "Our staff and volunteers desperately need support and are imploring the public to donate to our 'Save Our Service' appeal and share the Swanage Railway's plea to spread the message. The Swanage Railway – and its place in the Purbeck community – needs saving now.

"In line with the Government's guidance, the Swanage Railway has been closed for since Thursday, 19 March, 2020, and that has left it without valuable income.

"Even when services can eventually restart, social distancing measures will keep its customers safe but restrict its earnings and increase the railway's financial challenges.

"Our new two behind the scenes videos help the public to understand some of the hidden costs behind mothballing a steam railway and illustrate just how much the Swanage Railway means to the Purbeck community – why it's so vital for people do as much as they



Maintenance work continues – Photo Courtesy Andrew Wright

can to help ensure its existence," added Mr Johns.

After being launched on Wednesday, 25 March, 2020, the Swanage Railway's 'Save Our Service' appeal had raised £188,078 by Wednesday, 10 June, 2020, and is half way towards the target of \pounds 360,000.

Gavin Johns explained: "To keep the railway in a care and maintenance state costs £46,000 a month, its overheads having been reduced as much as possible with nearly all the 46 paid full and part-time staff having been furloughed and a skeleton staff carrying out vital maintenance work.

"Normally, it costs £200,000 a month to run the Swanage Railway and by the end of June its train services would have brought in £1.1 million so the railway is at a significant loss without that passenger revenue.

"That's why donations offer such a vital lifeline to help its recovery for the benefit of the Isle of Purbeck economy," added Mr Johns.

To increase public awareness and boost the 'Save Our Service' appeal, two large banners with the message '*Purbeck's Railway needs your help to survive – go to saveourservice.co.uk'* are being put up at Swanage station and at Corfe Castle.

The Swanage Railway Trust 'Save Our Service' website, at saveourservice.co.uk, has also been re-designed.

'Survival on a Knife Edge' and 'Standing Together' can be viewed on the Swanage Railway's YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/MgXKPljQDGM and https://youtu.be/V878LIFk0dg, respectively, on social media at Facebook @swanagerailway, on Twitter @swanrail, on Instagram @swanagerailwayofficial and on YouTube at SwanageRailwayOfficial.

To make a donation, visit www.saveourservice.co.uk for PayPal or www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/giving for details about bank transfers and cheques along with Gift Aid that can further boost your donation by per cent.

You can also text SOS to 70470 to donate £10 which costs £10 plus a standard rate message. Any whole amount between £1 and £20 can be donated – for example, texting SOS 4 equates to a £4 donation plus the cost of a standard rate message.

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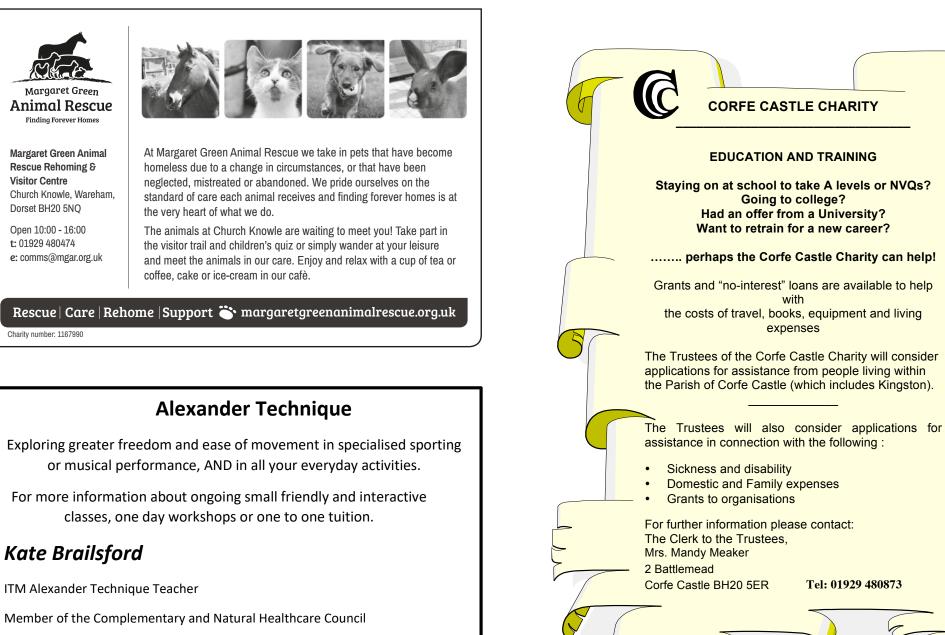
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