

# SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth

Issue 19

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**PLUS**

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**IT'S  
CHARMOUTH  
GARDENERS'  
SHOWTIME!**



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# The Charmouth Pictorial



## Grand Opening of St. Andrew's Community Hall new extension

See report on page 10



Photos: Lesley Dunlop




## St. Andrew's Community Hall Time Capsule and Foundation Stone put into position

See report on page 11



Photos: Jeff Prosser (l and r)  
Cherry Davies (above)





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**Now Available!**

Shoreline's second publication, 'CHARMOUTH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS', is now available at Charmouth Stores, Charmouth Post Office, Morgans, the Old Bank Café and Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. Only £3.



THE FOSSIL HUNTERS OF CHARMOUTH and Charmouth Fossil Guide



.....and don't forget, copies of 'THE FOSSIL HUNTERS OF CHARMOUTH and Charmouth Fossil Guide' are still available. Again, only £3.

# Editorial

**"Gratitude helps you to grow and expand. Gratitude brings joy and laughter into your lives and into the lives of all those around you."** Eileen Caddy

It has been a difficult summer for Charmouth with a combination of poor weather, a dire financial climate and the stay-at-home effect of the Olympic Games, resulting in the village having its worst season for many years. Phil Tritton's newsletters and Neil Harvey's weekly column in the Lyme News certainly helped to mitigate the situation by informing those visitors who did come of all the local events happening at venues throughout the village. The Charmouth Traders Association has been brainstorming ideas on how to further promote Charmouth and increase business, including introducing a parking refund scheme, development of the [charmouth.org](http://charmouth.org) website and plans for a major autumn advertising campaign. See Phil's article on page 12.

The first hand experiences of John Bryant, Nicky Millen, Nick Beardwood and Chris Knee at the Olympic Games on pages 22 to 26 are wonderfully evocative and they give

amazing insight into how it felt to be a part of such a golden and glorious time for Great Britain.

The long-awaited extension to St. Andrew's Community Hall was officially opened on the 18<sup>th</sup> August with over 80 people present. Mike Davies's history of the hall and his report on the delightful event is on page 10. *Shoreline* was thrilled to learn that the spring and summer 2012 issues of our magazine have been included in the time capsules concealed in the new front wall where the foundation stones are now embedded. Hopefully those who uncover them many years hence will be inspired by what they see recorded and portrayed about Charmouth's extraordinary community life.

Forthcoming events for your diaries include Bonfire Night on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the Charmouth Christmas Fayre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Jane

## The Shoreline Team

Jane Morrow	Editor
Lesley Dunlop	Assistant Editor, Features and Diary
Colin Pring	Advertising Manager and Treasurer
Bob Dunlop	Design and Layout

# Letters

## **SHORELINE SUMMER EDITION**

Many, many congratulations on your Summer edition of *Shoreline*. The Olympics issue was great, full of interesting reading, the Pubs of Charmouth was fascinating...in fact the whole issue was bright, easy to read, with a good layout and full of good stuff.

On Sunday afternoon I was able to curl up peacefully with *Shoreline*. Once again please convey my congratulations to all who contributed to what was a fine issue.

**John Bryant**

## **EXCELLENT PUBLICATION**

My wife & I were on holiday in Charmouth last week and picked up a copy of '*Shoreline*'.

I wish to congratulate the team on an excellent publication. I have seen a number of village magazines and yours is by far the best.

**Peter Terry**

## **WE ENJOY CHARMOUTH**

We have a seasonal caravan pitch at Newlands Holiday Park in Charmouth and visit every weekend and every school holiday, meaning we are in the area for the majority of the six-week summer holidays. We very much enjoy participating in the local activities. The community is wonderful; not something we experience in Bristol.

**Jenny Gait**

## **THANK YOU FROM CHCC**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank *Shoreline* for their kind contribution to the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. The donation from the Fossil Hunters evening and sales of the *Shoreline* publications each year is much appreciated, and we value your continued support.

**Meirel Whaites, Senior Warden**

# Caught on Camera



Why are all these Charmouthians gathered in a crowd near the beach and looking expectantly skywards? Find out on page 4.

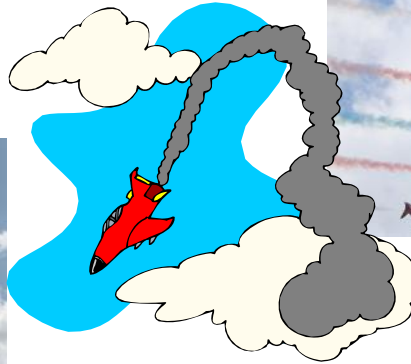


## Stunning Display by Red Arrows



Photos: Roger Trotman

Eyes were skywards to watch a stunning display by the Red Arrows over Lyme Bay on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July.



## Charmouth Midsummer Extravaganza



On 21<sup>st</sup> June, the sun returned to Charmouth, albeit only weakly and for a short time. However, it did smile on this ambitious fund raising event, which was attended by 90 people, in support of Weldmar Hospice and Exeter Leukaemia Fund.



array of wonderful desserts and drinks from the bar. Although there was a distinct chill in the air, this did not stop the fun. Dancing to Steve Allen continued well into the



Guests were greeted in the lovely garden of Thalatta, home of Neil Mattingly, with canapés and sparkling wine and were able to enjoy the music of 'Swing of the Axe'. A delicious supper of hog roast and salads was followed by the usual

night. A massive £1400 was raised for the two charities and I can only say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped throughout the day, attended on the night and gave generous donations to make this a fantastic event and a tremendous success.

**Jan Plummer**  
**Exeter Leukaemia Fund**



Photos:  
Roger Trotman

## Quintuplets for Norman

**Norman is a handsome ginger, black and white cat, who started off as Mick Farrell's pet.** Following Mick's tragic death earlier this year, Norman moved in with Mick's dad John. During the next few months, Norman helped John get through what were very difficult times and gave him a great deal of pleasure by helping to fill, what he must have felt to be, a very empty house.



John would often tell his friends of Norman's capers and adventures and I have personal experience of the problems involved in recapturing Norman whenever there was a dash for freedom through the front door, that had

to be only slightly ajar in order to cause pandemonium on the street and in neighbouring gardens.

However, John, who clearly knows about such things, had grave doubts over the suitability of Norman's name with respect to gender and these doubts were given much more weight during the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012, as the picture shows. Congratulations Norman, congratulations John, and I'm sure that there will be a smile on Mick's face too.

**Mike Davies**

## Superfast Dorset

**We are hoping to bring superfast broadband (at least 24 mbps) to premises across Dorset by 2015.** Faster broadband helps businesses to be more competitive and helps communities access services, information and learning opportunities and saves them money.

We need to attract an enthusiastic supplier to make this project successful. One of the ways that we can do this is to show how much the people of Dorset want and need this service. You can help by filling in a survey on the Dorsetforyou website - <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast-dorset/register-interest> - and getting all your friends and family to do the same. It won't take long to fill in and your individual responses will remain private.

For more information on what superfast broadband is and how the project will work, please see our pages on [www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast).

**Gabi McLean**  
**Programme Administrator Superfast Dorset**  
**Environment Directorate**  
**Dorset County Council**

*Read your news  
in Shoreline*

# 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scouts 'Go for Gold'



**£3,000 donated by anonymous local benefactor**

**1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group's 'Going for Gold' fund raising appeal received an unexpected**

**boost over the Jubilee period with an anonymous donation of £3,000 towards the refurbishment of its dilapidated HQ.**

This means the Scout Group has sailed past its Bronze medal target of raising £2,500 by March 2013, and is making giant strides towards its Silver medal target of £10,000.

Such a sum will allow the Cubs and Scouts to not only repair the roof and re-stain the outer walls of its HQ but also improve the toilets.

Group Chairman, Tom Summers, said, "We were absolutely flabbergasted to receive such an incredibly generous donation and have already written to thank the person concerned. I believe this shows how much the work done by our Cub and Scout Leaders is appreciated within the local community."

The Group's Scouter-in-Charge, Kevin Payne, added, "I'm not sure if the sight of 20 Cubs and Scouts parading so smartly up The Street towards the church for the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service had anything to do with it, but something certainly struck a chord with the donor."

Anyone wishing to find out more information about 'Going for Gold' or make a donation, should contact Tom on [summers\\_tom@hotmail.com](mailto:summers_tom@hotmail.com).

## **George regulars get their 'eyes down' to help local Scout Group**

### **Bingo night raises over £340 to refurbish Charmouth's HQ**



*Dean Herbert, Landlord of The George, presents the cheque to members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group on their way back from summer camp at St. Gabriel's*

**Regular drinkers and guests at The George public house got their 'eyes down' to raise much needed funds for the refurbishment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group's dilapidated HQ.**

Running a Bingo Night was the joint brainchild of The George Entertainment Girls Group and Dean Herbert, the Landlord – and what a success it proved to be. When all the takings were totted up, and some extra donations were included, it came to over £340! This will further boost the Scout Group's 'Going for Gold' fund raising appeal.

In addition to Dean, two of the key organisers were Linda Bearpark, who serves in The George and has a son in the Scout Troop, and Joan

## **Brit Valley Rotary helps Scouts strike 'Gold'**

**Two key members of the Brit Valley Rotary Club dropped in on the 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group recently to present them with a cheque for £300 towards the refurbishment of their HQ.** The money will help swell further the Scout Group's 'Going for Gold' fund-raising pot.



*Jon Winkle (centre), President of the Brit Valley Rotary Club, and Kym Spink (right of centre) President Elect, present a cheque for £300 to Cubs and Scouts from the 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Scout Group*

On presenting the cheque, the President of the Brit Valley Rotary Club, Jon Winkle, said, "We chose to support youth-related charities this year and are delighted to be able to contribute towards the refurbishment of 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth's HQ." Kym Spink, President Elect, added, "Having seen it first-hand, I can see that the money will be put to good use as there are lots of tasks to tackle."

Toni Green, Cub Leader added, "With more and more youngsters joining our Cub Pack and our Scout Troop, all the Leaders are keen to see the HQ transformed into a fit place in which they can meet. This donation will help us achieve our goal and improve the facilities we can offer to our members."

Aldworth, whose grandson is the Senior Patrol Leader in the Troop. In fact, Joan's association dates far further back since her late husband played a key role in collecting the present Scout Hut from Bovington Army Camp and erecting it on the recreation ground in 1965.

On handing over the cheque to members of the Scout Group, who had just returned from a three-day camp at the St Gabriel's National Trust site below Golden Cap, Dean said, "My staff and my regulars are always keen to support local organisations. This seemed an ideal way to have a bit of fun while raising much-needed funds for the Cubs and Scouts. However, even I was surprised at how well it was supported by the community."

On receiving the cheque, Carol Moorey, Assistant Scout Leader, said, "Although we were all a little damp after our hike back from St Gabriel's through the showers, we were delighted to be able to drop by, quench our thirsts and collect this excellent donation."

For more information, contact Kevin Payne [payne.kevin6@gmail.com](mailto:payne.kevin6@gmail.com) 01308 459080



# Peter Noel

**Peter Noel is one of Charmouth's multi taskers.** Accountant, Charmouth Fayre chairman and treasurer, Heritage Coast Centre trustee and treasurer, Charmouth and Wootton Fitzpaine Conservatives chairman, Traders Association treasurer and more .... Clad in a Union Jack suit at the Fayre, he knows the ropes only too well; he has been on the committee for ten years. "It's hard work on the day, but I thoroughly enjoy it," he says.

Peter started his career with NatWest in London. A decade later, through a contact in his local Rotary Club (which he has re-joined in Lyme Regis), he secured a job as ledger supervisor in an accountancy firm. Within two years he was undertaking group consolidations for a privately quoted company. "I worked mainly for Sime Darby, a large Far Eastern conglomerate, and ran the accountancy side of their tyre business for several years. Then I started my own practice and was headhunted into working in the City of London for a finance house, but I returned to Sime Darby," says Peter, who established his own accountancy business in Biggin Hill, Kent. "I still go to Biggin Hill each month, but I can't wait to get back to Charmouth; everyone is so friendly here and it's such a fabulous place to live."

"My wife Teresa was introduced to me by Barclays Bank; I became her accountant," he grins. "We were looking around for a house in this area in 1997 and had one lined up near Honiton, but a friend who knew Charmouth brought Teresa down here. They watched the sun set and the rest is history. When we saw the view from the house in Five Acres, we knew that this was where we wanted to live."



*Johnny Depp  
a.k.a. Peter Noel*

Peter initially joined the Charmouth Fayre committee as treasurer. "Thelma Lancaster stepped down from the chairman's position about seven years ago and I took over the job. We have a small committee and hold a dozen meetings a year, several of which are prior to the Fayre. Anthea Gillings does all the bookings and organises the people who run stalls and Aidan Hodgson runs the Fayre grounds. He is a stalwart who will hate this

as he is very shy, but this article does give me the chance to thank him publicly for his tremendous help and support. Without Aidan and Anthea, the Fayre simply wouldn't run. We're also grateful to committee members Keith Waterson and Alf Trott, and all those people who turn up at the Fayre every year to offer help. I'd like to thank them all. But we're not getting any younger and we'd like to encourage others with fresh ideas to join the committee."

"Fayre profits are distributed in as many directions as we can manage," continues Peter. "For example, we give the Hollands Room £50 a year to cover prizes for their weekly bingo sessions and we also donate money to the senior citizens' committee to cover some of the Christmas lunches. This is on top of the contributions we make each year to all the local youth groups (Scouts, Guides,



Brownies, Youth Club, Toddler Group, etc.) and the Community Hall and Village Hall. It's so nice to help these people out. A couple of years ago when the Yarlinton Housing Group were building Heritage Mews they paid for the first 250 burgers at our May Party in the Park, which brought many people in. It was a lovely day and we made a lot of money. That year we managed to pay for a coach trip for local senior citizens. We have also purchased a candy floss machine, which regularly brings in £200-£300 clear profit at every event." And speaking of making money, Peter indicates that any local charitable organisation that wishes to borrow the Fayre committee's gazebos, skittle alley or kick football are welcome to do so without charge, as long as they pick them up and return them intact.

Along with wife Teresa and Phil Tritton of Charmouth Stores, Peter was one of the instigators of the Charmouth Traders Association in 2009. "I spoke to the shops before we got the Association going and most of the traders were keen to be involved. We got a committee together and Phil has taken it up. He's done a superb job as chairman."

"Christmas lights are a passion of mine. The weather can be a bit depressing in December and it's great to increase people's enjoyment of the season. When we had that really good year at the Fayre, we agreed to go halves with the traders on the Christmas lights. We're looking at getting more this year. Hanging baskets are another passion. I've been trying to do something about them for a long time. On one of the Fayre days we talked about what we could do for the village that everyone would appreciate and Maggie Pratt came up with the idea of hanging baskets. When I first talked to the Highways Agency, the pavements weren't wide enough for stand-alone posts and baskets. But when the new lamp posts were installed we thought "now we can do it". We're trying to get permanent brackets made for them. There are several people who have committed to watering the hanging baskets, so I am hoping we can get it running next year."

"Charmouth Traders latest initiative is an annual Guy Fawkes Night, which will be held this year on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, complete with bonfire, burgers and drinks. We did it last year for the first time from 6pm until 9.30pm and it went down really well. The bonfire went up like a rocket with flames ten feet high the whole evening. We will collect wood, etc., for the bonfire and, nearer the time, if people could let us know we will fetch it on that Saturday. As we had some spare fireworks last year, we put on an early New Year's Eve celebration for the children from 5pm till 7pm, and had mulled wine and soft drinks to go with the fireworks – a very pleasant start to the New Year. I am sure we will, weather depending, try again this year. Then there's the Charmouth Christmas Fayre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December. People come from a long way to join in. The end of the year is certainly a hectic time!"

"People ask me when I'm going to retire, but I don't think I ever will! I have a busy life, but I wouldn't want it any other way. I enjoy life too much. We do 'escape' to Spain several times a year, but I absolutely love every minute in Charmouth; it's an honour and a privilege to live here."

**Lesley Dunlop**

# Charmouth Primary School



## **I would like to introduce myself as the new headteacher of Charmouth Primary School.**

Some of you may know me already as a few years ago I was the deputy head of the school. I arrive in Charmouth having been Headteacher of a small primary school near Sidmouth for the last few years. I am delighted to return to this beautiful part of Dorset and look forward to the school further developing its links with the local community. Over the next few months, I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone so please come and make yourselves known to me if we have not already met.



There are lots of exciting things planned for our school and many of the developments will be relayed to you in *Shoreline* in the future. One of my aims is for the children to be more involved in the local community through various events and activities and in turn to enable the community to know more about what goes on inside our school.

As I write, the children have almost completed their first week of the autumn term. We have welcomed 17 new children and their families in reception and we all hope that they will enjoy their time here. The children have settled well and I know that they are looking forward to their learning challenges ahead of them.

**Gillian Morris**  
**Headteacher**  
**Charmouth Primary School**

## News from Charmouth Primary School PTA

**It's been a strange few months for Charmouth School PTA.** Our biggest event of the year is the Charmouth Challenge & Fun Run which takes place alongside a great Summer Fair at the school. Games in the classrooms, stalls in the hall, bouncy castle and barbeque in the playground and more cake than you can eat. Children and adults participating in the runs and a great buzz in the school. But cast your mind back to 7<sup>th</sup> July; water was flowing down Stonebarrow Lane, every fireman and woman was busy, trees were rushing down the Char into the sea and overflowing drains were blowing holes in the road. Rainfall that filled us with both horror and wonder as we watched nature in action.

At 8.30am we had to make the decision to cancel the Charmouth Challenge as it was not safe to run to Golden Cap and at 11am Mr Vincent and Nick Bale had to make the call that even the much loved Fun Run would have to be called off. However, in typical Charmouth style we decided to "Keep Calm and Carry On" with the Fair inside the school (after all, there wasn't much else to do that day!). We put posters up in the village businesses, rang round friends and family, Andrew and Dario manned the barbeque in the rain, we set out the stalls, the raffle tickets, the games and the cream teas so that when lots of people came along we had yet another Charmouth Tea

Party. Thanks to all the people who turned out to support us on that day.

If that wasn't sad enough, we then had to say goodbye to Chris - the week of leaving speeches, wonderful assemblies, shared memories, tears and yet more cake. When we closed the doors for the holidays, we closed the doors on an era. Not only was Chris leaving, but the majority of the current PTA committee that had worked together for three years, some of us no longer having any children at the school. We felt it was time to pass on the baton to a new team with fresh ideas, energy and a passion to ensure that the children of Charmouth have a special school experience.

The great news is that Gillian is here now as the new head and with her fresh ideas, energy and passion I am sure that a new PTA will achieve great things. The old PTA won't disappear altogether; we are willing to help out, share our learning from the past three years and support any new team.

By the time you read this issue of *Shoreline*, the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run will have happened on the new date of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. The PTA will also have held the AGM planned for 27<sup>th</sup> September. (This is the platform where we talk about the role of the PTA in the school and hopefully recruit new members.)

So, this is my last piece as Chair of Charmouth Primary School PTA. It has been a great pleasure working with the staff and children of the school. I hope that the tradition of an active PTA carries on, working together not only to fund sports equipment, swimming, day trips and WOW moments such as the wonderful hot air balloon last year, but also running social events which bring parents and children together and give the school a strong place in our community.

**Marie Oldham**  
**Chair**  
**Charmouth Primary School PTA**



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# News from The Elms

**Alternative Torch Relay** - Many people were disappointed that the Olympic Torch did not pass through Charmouth village – however on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July, we had the opportunity of cheering on our very own Torch Bearer - Rob Fellingham, who took part in the 'Alternative Torch Relay'. The aim of this relay was to follow the entire route of the official Olympic Torch around the British Isles, running the whole 8000 miles. Rob was nominated to represent our village by carrying the torch through Charmouth before passing it on to another runner. Thank you Rob and to those who turned out to cheer him on.



**Floods** - Who could forget the awful floods in July – a number of residents suffered terrible flooding to their properties – but as always, the people of Charmouth rallied round to help – what would we do without this fantastic Charmouth community spirit?

**Cliff Falls** - The Jurassic Coast has once again been plagued with cliff falls – meaning that restrictions have had to be put in place on both beaches. What is unbelievable is the number of beachgoers who chose to ignore these restrictions, particularly after the tragedy which occurred in Burton Bradstock. Our wardens have had a difficult task in getting beach users to comply with these restrictions and to understand the danger of potential cliff falls.



**Flower Boxes** - The Flower Boxes situated at Braggs Corner have received lots of positive comments from both residents and visitors. The red, white and blue flowers, which include petunias, lobelias and daisies, were planted in time for the Jubilee weekend. We believe, like you, that this has been a successful venture and we would now like to work with other village groups with the view to providing more flower boxes before next season.

AND finally – why not get a team together and have a game of volleyball. The net can be found in the playing fields in Barrs Lane. Who knows, Olympics 2016!!

**Charmouth Parish Council**

## Shall I Put This Into The Recycle Bin? Or Not?

**In late October 2011, a letter came through the post saying that I had reached a certain age which triggered a test kit for Bowel/Colon Cancer.** The kit arrived and the instructions were duly followed and sent away for testing. Three days later a letter arrived stating that the test had revealed abnormal readings and an informal appointment had already been arranged to attend hospital for a chat. The co-ordinator treated me with the utmost dignity and explained the procedure if I elected to attend.

The day of the appointment arrived and again the same courteous manner prevailed and the procedure was carried out. It was at this time that the area that was the cause of concern was revealed to myself and the doctor. So it was of no real surprise being gently informed that it was 99% certain that colon cancer was present.

The next appointment was received to see the surgeon and a provisional surgery date was also scheduled. Being so near to Christmas, the only question in my mind was: do we purchase a whole turkey or, as my discharge from hospital would be either the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> December, would a turkey crown suffice as any meat may have to be minced to allow ease of digestion?

It was at this point that my world turned upside down, owing to the severity of the cancer; both chemotherapy and radiotherapy prior to surgery to shrink the cancer would have to be undergone as it had also invaded my lymph nodes. Six weeks of chemotherapy and radiotherapy followed and, after a short duration to allow the body to recover, surgery was scheduled.

As a very private person, my whole world had changed from September 2011 to April 2012, during which I had been diagnosed with what, in my opinion, is the most feared word in the English language: 'Cancer'. Due to the chemotherapy prescribed, I had lost my hair, which was a length that I was able to put it up with ease. My nails had also broken off, all due to the chemo/radiation and other drugs prescribed and, to cap it all, I was on a 'colostomy bag'. A stay in hospital followed, during which I was treated with care and dedicated treatment by all involved, and, on return home, all the kindness and professionalism continued to be administered by the community nurses, our local pharmacy and hospital outreach staff.

Now another long stint of chemotherapy is about to commence to seek out and destroy those rogue cells that may be hiding away before I am able, with luck, to be re-plumed.

The whole reason for this peep into my world is to say to all those who do receive a TEST PACK through the post is: send a sample off for testing. DON'T put it in the RECYCLE BIN. Give yourself another bite at life. I am there and I'm only a few months through. But life, I have come to realise, is more precious than I first thought, so ...Please ... Please ... don't put it off ... If you are concerned about anything in your nether region, make an appointment to see your GP or nurse practitioner. All, including the hospital team, are only concerned ... about ... you ... your well-being ... and getting you through it ... and they will be with you all the way ... PROMISE ...

**Name and address supplied**

## Royal British Legion

### Women's Section - Charmouth Branch

At the September meeting, members agreed to hold the Annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the Village Hall, Wesley Close, from 10am to 12 noon with Tombola, Cake and Gift Stalls. Admission £1 to include Tea or Coffee. All welcome.

For information regarding the Table Tops, contact Mrs Trish Forsey on 560561.

Meetings are now held in the Hollands Room, Bridge Road. Sadly, our numbers are going down so please help us to keep the Branch going by becoming a member; you will be very welcome.

For details please phone the President Mrs Cynthia Buckingham on 560709 if you are interested.

**Mrs Pat Richards**  
**Vice Chairman and Publicity**



# News from St. Andrew's Parish Church

**Within this copy of *Shoreline* you should find a copy of a survey that we are conducting at St. Andrew's.** It's entitled: 'Welcoming Children and Families to St.

Andrew's Church'. Please let the *Shoreline* editors and the churchwardens know if there isn't a copy for you. We will of course be happy to provide one for you! It can be completed by young people as well as adults. Please return the completed surveys as soon as possible to St. Andrew's Church, Charmouth Nisa Store or the Pharmacy. We will take careful note of all your responses and comments, and discuss at a Church Council Meeting later in the Autumn.



Why have we gone to the trouble and expense of producing this Survey? Essentially because we strongly wish to offer better options for younger people and families through our church. Currently we have a small group of mums who plan with me a monthly Service that has special activities for children. This has been running since the beginning of this year, but despite widespread publicity it has not been well attended. We want to know why this is so, and what else we could do that would tempt other children and families to get involved, and have a really enjoyable experience.

It might be that holding special children's events fairly early on a Sunday morning is not the best time to do it. So we are open to the possibility that they are better held at some other time on a Sunday, or even during the week. Some churches find success later on a Sunday, around tea time, or after school during the week. We know that the best children and families events organised through churches seem to include food and fun activities – would this attract you and your children? It's important to our planning group that you let us know your views, even if you feel that there is really nothing we can do that would be of interest to your children or yourselves. Thank you in advance for your help with this survey.

Turning to other matters, I'm sure many of you will have noticed that the scaffolding has been up around the church for a very long time! Poor weather has slowed progress on refurbishing the north and south aisle roofs, but by the time *Shoreline* appears the work should have been completed. The cost of this work has been in the region of £50,000. It has used up a high proportion of our Building Fund Reserves. Before embarking upon stonework repairs to the tower we will have to obtain further funding – which could take some while without generous donations.

Our Church Council have continued to make plans for redevelopment of the interior of the church, so that it can be better used to serve the village. We are now going to phase the work – aware that total anticipated costs of £300,000+ are well beyond our resources. So our current plan for Phase 1 is that we remove all the side pews in the church, and replace with some nice comfortable chairs. This would enable us to have special areas for: Children's Area, Bookstall & Publicity, Music/Piano, Chapel/Meditation Area. Also, this would enable us to mount exhibitions of local art or history. Again, please let us know your views – detailed plans are being drawn up by our architect.

Harvest time will be upon us soon, and as usual we will hold some special Services to celebrate God's goodness and the hard work of farmers and gardeners. Please do come! The date & times are:

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October:** 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Morning Service, with special Children's Activities

12.30pm for 1pm: Parish Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall (advance tickets from churchwardens).

**Rev. Stephen Skinner, Team Rector**

## Local Dental Services

**NHS Dorset has announced details of a temporary dental service for people living in and around Lyme Regis and Charmouth.** The standard range of NHS dental treatment will be available from the service which will be situated at Kent House Medical Practice, Silver Street, Lyme Regis. Services will ensure that local people are able to continue receiving dental care and will remain in place until a substantive contract is in place. Appointments can be made by calling 01297 442020. In addition, Symes Dental Practice in Silver Street, Lyme Regis is also currently accepting new patients for NHS dental treatment. This practice is contactable on 01297 442846.

A spokesperson for NHS Dorset said "We are committed to ensuring the continuation of dental services for people in

and around Lyme Regis and Charmouth and are delighted that we have been able to secure this temporary service for people who may not have otherwise been seen due to local staff changes. We would like to reassure people that this interim solution will continue to provide services until such time as we conclude the current procurement process and award a contract to a suitable provider of NHS dentistry."

Any patient in Dorset who has difficulty accessing dental treatment can call the Dorset Dental Helpline on 01202 854443 between the hours of 8am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

**Keith Williams, Dorset PCT/NHS Dorset**

## Cement Works Planned For Charmouth Beach - 1853

That part of Charmouth cliffs adjoining, belonging to M. Liddon, Esq., lying between the Sea Lane and Lyme, has lately been purchased by a company of Plymouth Gentlemen.

The cliffs abounds with large quantities of stone, which when burnt, produces an excellent cement of the Roman Kind. We understand that kilns will be immediately built for its calcination. (October 1853)

**Neil Mattingly**

# St. Andrew's Community Hall

## Community Hall Extension Officially Opened

**18<sup>th</sup> August 2012 was an important date in the story of the development of St Andrew's Community Hall.**

On an unusually bright day for 2012, more than 80 people were in attendance for the cutting of the blue ribbon and the unveiling of the two stones that mark the places where the two time capsules are concealed.

The proceedings started with a welcome to all from Mallory Hayter, Chairman of the Parish Council.



*Roy Churchman giving his address*

Roy Churchman, Chairman of Trustees then spoke of the opening of the extension being cause for celebration and pride in the achievement of a long term goal.

He described how, at the time of the millennium, the hall was in a sorry state and, if left, would have become derelict very quickly. For several decades, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) had neglected their duty of care for the building. Priority had to be given to maintenance of the church rather than to a hall that was little used.

Demolition of the hall followed by sale of the land was one of the options considered. If this had been done, any funds accruing would have gone to the owners, namely the diocese of Salisbury and not to the parish of Charmouth. Given that the hall came into being as a result of a generous gift of land by the Pass family in 1907, followed by public subscription by parishioners in order to fund the construction, many in the village felt this would not be a just outcome.

It was David Carter who suggested that the building should be handed over to the village to manage. At first, the plan was met with some scepticism. However, over the next 2 years David pursued the idea and started by winning over the PCC to the idea that the hall should become a village asset rather than a burden for the church. Next, David took the idea to the diocese and to the County Council, receiving a great deal of help from Lois Rose (Village Hall Advisor to WDDC). Finally, after much discussion, in May 2003, the building was formally handed over to the village on a 50 year lease. It was renamed the 'St Andrew's Community Hall' and has since been the responsibility of a committee of trustees and a management committee chaired by Keith Waterson. Keith has been both a motivator and a leader by example. Many local tradesmen gave their time and skills for free in order to make the fabric of the building safe and waterproof and Keith has been caretaker, handy man and one-man security force, spending a goodly part of his life at the hall.

In 2007/08, the first lottery application was prepared but was unsuccessful. Not to be put off, Trish Evans, the secretary in 2008, carried out extensive research into funding possibilities, once again with the help of Lois, and a second application was made in 2009. A grant of £50,000 was awarded by The Big Lottery Fund in May 2010. This was complemented with funding from the hall's own activities, the work was completed and the rest is history.

Roy then went on to thank the management committee, all the volunteers who assisted with the building work and the hirers, who by their support, doubled the turnover at the hall last year, whilst putting up with all the disruption that construction work entails.

Jeff Prosser, Parish Council representative on the Management Committee, then described how the time capsule cached behind the foundation stone in 1911 had been opened, revealing various contemporary documents, and had then been replaced in the new structure at the front of the hall. Part of the original stone was re-engraved and then used to conceal a new 2012 time capsule. After this stone was embedded in the new front wall, our current parish priest, the Rev. Skinner, blessed the stone as had his predecessor done in 1911.

The 2012 capsule contained copies of *Shoreline*, a copy of the Lyme Regis News, a copy of the Pavey Group magazine, photos of the members of the current PCC and of the Hall Management Committee, a short piece by Linda Crawford (hall committee secretary), a photo of the current pupils of Charmouth School and their names, Rev Skinner's blessing prayer and a mobile phone as an example of the technology of our era. As part of the opening ceremony, both stones were then unveiled by Gwen Oxenbury, one of the trustees.



*David Carter cutting the blue ribbon*

David Carter, the man who had set the whole project in motion, then came forward, declared the extension well and truly open and, fittingly it was he who cut the blue ribbon.

Everyone went into the hall and in true

Charmouth fashion were regaled with cakes and tea. A very good time was had by all.

**Mike Davies**

*Photos: Cherry Davies*



*Gwen Oxenbury and Keith Waterson unveiling the new stone*



# St. Andrew's Community Hall

## Time Capsule and Foundation Stone put into position

**On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, villagers assembled outside St. Andrew's Community Hall to witness the placing of the Time Capsules and Foundation Stones.** Included in the new capsule were:

1. Two copies of *Shoreline* Magazine - Spring and Summer 2012
2. The Village Echo - Winter 2011
3. Photo of the Management Committee 2012
4. Photo of the Hall - December 2010
5. Pavey Group Leaflet
6. Charmouth - History of the Manor booklet produced by the Pavey Group
7. St. Andrew's Community Hall Booklet - 1910-2010 (white cover)
8. St. Andrew's Community Hall Booklet - 1910-2010 (blue cover)
9. St. Andrew's Community Hall Leaflet
10. What's On newspaper - High Summer 2012
11. View from Lyme Regis - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012
12. Charmouth School Photo

The Revd. Stephen Skinner blessed the new capsule and foundation stone with the following prayer, which he wrote especially for the occasion:

*"Gracious God, we thank you for the vitality of our community life in Charmouth; for the huge variety of different organisations that contribute to the life of this village. Today, we give you thanks for the facilities provided through our community buildings: the Village Hall and Youth Annex, the Elms Council Offices and Chamber, this St. Andrew's Community Hall. We thank you for the Committee that runs this Hall and for the hard work by them that has gone into improving the facilities here, and their preparing for this occasion.*

*We now pray for your Blessing to be upon this Time Capsule.*

*We celebrate all the different items that are included within it – representing aspects and peoples of our community life.*

*We also give thanks and pray for the workmen who are installing these in their place! We pray that the contents will remain well-preserved and safe in this environment.*

## Work From Home?

**Like to meet other people in Charmouth also working from home?**

**Charmouth has many people working from home – through organisations supporting home-working, those working freelance or people with their own businesses.** It has many advantages but bantering with colleagues, shared coffee breaks and office parties aren't on the list. If you work from home and fancy meeting up with others who do too then this is for you.

Drop in for tea or coffee, maybe bring a packed lunch if you'd like to. Exchange ideas, conversation or just read the paper in company.

**We meet at the Charmouth Library every Thursday from 20<sup>th</sup> September 12.30pm – 1.30pm.**

**Caroline Linney**



*We pray that when in future years this capsule is re-opened, those who see what is contained here will be inspired by what they see recorded and portrayed, and thankful for the endeavours of their forebears, upon whom they literally or metaphorically will have built.*

*So we pray God's Blessing in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

*(Prayed by the Revd Stephen Skinner, Team Rector of the Golden Cap Benefice of 13 Churches, including St. Andrew's Charmouth.)*

**Linda Crawford**

**Secretary – St. Andrew's Community Hall**

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# Bymead House

**Bymead House has enjoyed a lovely summer despite the weather!** Our Memories Service with Cream Teas held recently, helped to raise £50 for the Weldmar Hospice and our barbeque raised £235 for the Residents Activity Fund and Pets as Therapy. The live music from The Silhouettes was enjoyed by the residents and staff alike.



Our gardens are looking lovely and with the help of Peter, our gardener, have produced a wide array of flowers that have been used to decorate the Home.

We are lucky to have a number of volunteers who help with activities; they include Margaret and Sylvia, Chris who helps to run the Computer Club and Shawn who drives the minibus. If you

would like to offer any help please contact me on 01297 560620 (an enhanced CRB will be required and processed by us free of charge).

Our residents have been busy cooking and over the past few months have made some lovely jams and chutneys and as Christmas approaches I'm sure more goodies will be ready for sale in our foyer! On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will be celebrating Sue Blacklock's 20 year ownership of Bymead House. The event will include music and an evening buffet to which you are all very welcome.

During the Christmas celebrations we are expecting visits from the local Brownies and Mountjoy Bells and will be taking our usual trips out to see the lights. It is such a busy time in the Nursing Home but so worthwhile to ensure that our residents enjoy themselves.

**Elizabeth Wilson, Manager**

## West Dorset Conservatives

### Charmouth and Wootton-Fitzpaine Branch

**SUMMERTIME - If you followed our events programme, you were 'guaranteed' good weather.**

We held three events during the last three months in the period formally known as summer, but now known as the 'monsoon season'!

Our Barbecue was attended by over 65 friends, neighbours and members. The weather was bright and dry, with most people sitting outside enjoying the sunshine. Some went home with ruddy complexions, almost certainly due to an excess of sun.

Our musical evening featured a very good band 'Dryftwood' and Steve Allen a singer/guitarist, who was a great entertainer. It was well attended, enjoyable and profitable. The surplus, £400, was divided between the

Conservatives and the Community Hall. It must have been a fine night, since the smokers were able to go outside to light up.

Our 'Puddings evening' held in September, at Malcolm and Maralyn Hinxman's home, was literally a full house... people obviously knew that the puddings would be excellent. The weather was so good that many spent the whole evening outside.

Our next planned event will be our Christmas lunch in December at Lyme Regis Golf Club, to which Oliver Letwin M.P. has been invited. We welcome friends, neighbours and new members to all our functions, so if you would like more information give our wonderful Social Secretary, Helen Hughes, a ring on 560487, for more information.

**R Hughes, Treasurer** (560487)

## Charmouth Traders



**Now that the summer is over (what summer there was, anyway), Charmouth Traders is turning its attention to the winter events that went so well last year.**

Peter Noel has written on page 34 of *Shoreline* about our next event, the bonfire and fireworks which will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the beach. Next, will be the Christmas Fayre on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The theme and format are yet to be decided, so if you have any ideas or wish to help with the Fayre then contact Teresa Noel at Fortnam, Smith & Banwell. Last year the firework display at the beach early on New Year's Eve was very popular and we are aiming to repeat it this year. It is hoped that a BBQ and bar will also take place if we can find enough volunteers.

The village website [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) has been further developed over the summer and all village businesses are now included as are events in the village. Let Tim Heap know of any events that you are planning by emailing him through the website.

Starting in October will be the Charmouth Parking Refund Scheme. This will operate from the Lower Sea Lane car park and is jointly funded by Charmouth Traders and West Dorset District Council. Pay for two hours parking and this

will be refunded when you spend £10 or more in any businesses displaying the 'P FREE' sign. All businesses in Charmouth village centre will be taking part. Look out for the starting date in the local papers.

Other initiatives that the traders are working on include a Charmouth Treasure Trail, hanging baskets and/or flower troughs in The Street and press releases to travel writers to encourage more visitors to come to Charmouth in the spring and autumn. This Christmas will also see the Christmas lights on the lamp posts in The Street extended further up the street.

If you are involved in any business in Charmouth, however small, you are very welcome to join Charmouth Traders. Even if you don't join we would appreciate help in setting up our events. Contact Peter Noel on 560078 or me on 07887 781348 if you are interested.

**Phil Tritton, Charmouth Traders**





## Shoreline Charmouth

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# Charmouth Stores

# Nisa

# Gordon Cooper

**G**ordon Cooper was born 95 years ago in West Wellow, Hampshire, one of five children. "My parents wanted to ensure that we all had a good start in life, so after we left the village school they paid for us to attend 'term school'," he says. Gordon spent six years in the Army during World War II and recalls the gliders coming down at Arnhem, just after D-Day. He was one of the soldiers who provided a pocket of resistance at Dunkirk. "We held out for some time," he notes.



At Thalatta in the 1970s:  
Sir Sydney Barratt (left),  
Gordon Cooper (back left),  
Lady Isabel Barratt  
(back right)

Wilson, and often came down at weekends in his old Morris Traveller. His wife, Lady Isabel, rarely joined him, preferring to remain at Crowe Hall, their grand residence that overlooked Bath.

Gordon's arrival in Charmouth was unplanned. His brother, Doug, was one of several gardeners at Crowe Hall. After considerable work enhancing the 30 acres of garden, Sir Sydney opened them on summer days in aid of the RNIB and other charities. At such times, Doug invited Gordon to help him. Sir Sydney subsequently noticed Gordon's gardening skills and offered him a job at Thalatta. "I arrived here on the bus, having changed at Salisbury and Bridport, and initially found lodgings at the Charmouth House Hotel. Ray Pearce was gardener there and he asked the staff to give me my breakfast early each day as I had so much work to do. The staff at Thalatta provided me with snacks and other meals each day. Soon afterwards, Mrs Cook offered me accommodation in her lovely house in Higher Sea Lane."

"I always wanted to make friends and went to whist drives, bingo and anything else that was going on in the village. At one time I probably knew everyone here," says Gordon, who also worked at Morgans for a few hours a week. "I well remember Mr Morgan sitting in the shop window smoking his pipe. He was a good character. He used the lower end of the shop as a garden showroom and we'd pick up plants from a nursery to sell there. I also fossil hunted every day. I'd go out in my old clothes and in no time I'd fill my pockets with nice ammonites."

Gordon remembers Sir Sydney's penchant for antiques. "En route to Charmouth, he'd call into an antique dealer friend in Shepton Mallett and would want to know if he had made any new purchases. When he saw something he liked, he'd say 'take that down to Gordon at Thalatta and he'll find a home for it'. But Lady Isabel took many of the antiques back to Crowe Hall. Sir Sydney was very informal and at work he didn't like being called chairman. He could have afforded a new car, but kept his old banger. And he wouldn't change for dinner; he'd declare: 'What's good enough in the garden is good enough in the house'. He kept a boat at Lyme Regis and liked fishing for mackerel. Stewart Matthews and I prepared the fish for him in the little room that housed the electric motor."

Gordon first came to Charmouth as gardener to Sir Sydney Barratt at Thalatta in Higher Sea Lane. Sir Sydney, a distinguished scientist, had been seconded to Sir Winston Churchill's War Cabinet during World War II to advise on air warfare technology, including the bouncing bomb developed by Barnes Wallis. Sir Sidney had purchased Thalatta as a retreat from his busy life as chairman of the international chemical group, Albright &

From time to time, Doug joined Gordon to help at Thalatta and take orders from Sir Sydney, who later let Gordon live at The Red Bungalow, a property he had purchased as a gift for Lady Isabel. "I was there for nearly four years and kept up its kitchen garden. There was no television, so I listened to the radio. For the first couple of years Mr Pewter, a pigeon, kept me company. Then Sir Sydney let me have one of his dogs, but he was a tartar. He tried to nip my ankles, so I had to keep my wellies on after gardening. The flat above the kitchen at Thalatta later became my home for years," says Gordon.

After Sir Sydney's extensive business travel prevented him from making regular visits to Charmouth, Stewart Matthews was brought in to mow the lawns at Thalatta and The Red Bungalow and Thalatta was subsequently let to holidaymakers. Sir Sydney spent his last days in Charmouth before he died in 1975. After Thalatta was sold, Gordon moved to Five Acres.

Gordon was a seasonal beach attendant for the Parish Council; in fact, he enjoyed it so much that one summer he worked an additional 83 unpaid hours. "Bert Smith of the foreshore committee, Vice-Chairman Tony Grinter and all the councillors awarded me an honorarium; a token of appreciation of £25. I've carried the newspaper report and Bert Smith's signed note with me ever since."

"After losing my partner Pat, her daughters asked me if I'd like company and I said 'yes'. They found a Labrador cross for me at a rescue centre. Lana was seven years of age and just skin and bone. I took her out every day and she grew strong and started pulling me up the hills. She is 15½ years-of-age now and, sadly, after years of pushing her head into spiky bushes, she's become blind. But she still asks to be taken out every day."

Gordon enjoys the senior citizens' lunches at the Community Hall and also the Hollands Room, where he is one of 15 local people who regularly dine together.

"I have enjoyed life and have no complaints. I made it what it was," he concludes.

Note: After Sir Sydney's son's death in 2010, Crowe Hall was sold and over 300 lots from Sir Sydney's antique collection were sent to auction. They raised £3.2 million.

**Lesley Dunlop**



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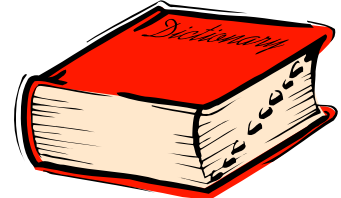
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## The New England Fall



**Nowhere in the world is more beautiful than the New England fall, or autumn as it is called in England.** The land is awash with brilliant and vibrant colours and appears like a piece of Indian madras cloth spread over the five states of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and finally Rhode Island.

After flying into Boston, the first stop has to be the harbour where the famous Boston Tea Party took place in 1774. This was a protest by the settlers at the high taxes charged on tea imported from England. They felt cheated that they had no representation in parliament after paying these taxes, culminating in the expression 'no taxation without representation'.

A visit to the Skywalk is a must. It is located on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor of the Prudential building. The view from the top is heavenly. Across the Charles River you can see Cambridge, home to Harvard University, the oldest college in America, and close by is the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Walking through the streets of Boston imbues you with the history of this fascinating place. It is full of wonderful hotels and restaurants, where you will be served the best lobster you have ever eaten!

Driving north you come to the Cider Mills. Huge warehouses containing giant presses which crush all the apples and where you will have a glass of the most delicious juice you have ever tasted.

On the way to Provincetown visit Cape Cod. Take the ferry to Nantucket Island where an adorably quaint little town awaits you.



Vermont and New Hampshire are the two states which represent all the colours of the fall foliage map as printed in the Yankee magazine. The crisp autumn temperatures along with heavenly scenery make a trip to the great states of New England an absolute must. Enjoy!

**Linda Lewis**



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## Old Bank Café Under New Ownership

**The Old Bank Café in Charmouth is under the new management of Vic and Clair Coulson.** The couple took over the café on The Street in April, having both had careers in the catering industry. Clair trained in Rousdon and worked as second chef at By the Bay in Lyme Regis, while Vic has a background in waitering. They live in Chard and unexpectedly decided to take on the café when looking for a house in the village, where Clair – granddaughter of late Charmouth resident Audrey Huxford (nee Pearce) – still has family.

The Old Bank Café is now open six days a week (closed Tuesdays) for breakfasts, light lunches, specials, hot drinks, cream teas and cakes. Vic and Clair are also trying to open as many evenings as possible with a separate dinner menu. They offer a children's menu and Sunday roasts with a new loyalty scheme, in which the first roast dinner is free. The couple would like to encourage more

local residents to come and try their menus. They hope to be open throughout the winter when they also plan to refurbish the café.

### The Old Bank Cafe

**Vic & Clair  
Owners**

**The Street Charmouth  
DT6 6PU  
Tel: 01297 561600**

[vcoulson51@googlemail.com](mailto:vcoulson51@googlemail.com)



# The Pubs of Charmouth - Part 2

**Neil Mattingly, Charmouth's local historian, has been researching the village's pubs, past and present.** The first part of Neil's article in the Summer 2012 issue of *Shoreline* attracted numerous appreciative comments from readers, all of whom were amazed that such a small village was once home to 13 pubs. 'The Pubs of Charmouth - Part 2' includes the Rose and Crown, the Star, The Fountain (Charmouth House), The Fountain (The Forge Fossil Shop), Beer House (St. Gabriel's) on Old Lyme Hill and the Thatched Cottage on Axminster Road. We hope you enjoy the second and final part of Neil's impressive local research.

## (8) The Rose and Crown, The Street

Until I started researching the village pubs, I was completely unaware of this inn as there is no reference in any documents or lists for Charmouth. But it definitely did exist, at least until 1760 when Walter Oke bought it from James Burrow. I came across it in the Somerset Record Office where I was presented with a pile of documents stretching back to 1561. It stood on the North side of The Street, but was not The George, as its history can be traced back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and the deeds record Samuel Burrows owning both inns.

From the documentary evidence it would have been rented from the Abbots of Forde Abbey until their demise in 1539. It may well have been called the Rose and Crown then, as the name dates from the end of the War of the Roses in 1485. William Stodder of Wootton Fitzpaine is shown as the owner in 1561, when it was described as standing between the tenement of Honor Stodder on the east and John Wadham on the west. The Wadhams were the wealthy family who owned Catherstone and built the earlier Tudor manor. In due course, the inn was bought by Edward Lymbry Senior, a mariner from the important Charmouth family, in 1629. He sold it to Richard Talbot and then Joseph Hassard, who in turn sold them in the year 1649 to Judith, the widow of Thomas Miller. It is this lady who appears in the hearth tax records for the village in 1664, which show the building having just two hearths. She conveys it to Francis Hodder of Wootton Fitzpaine on marrying her daughter. Amongst the documents there is the administration of the estate of James Parsons of Charmouth, 1737, who appears in the alehouse register for the period. His principal creditors were William Hutchins alias Chappel (died 1742) and Samuel Burrow. It is interesting that the following year Agnes, the wife of William, sells to Jacob Kitt the property known as Yendovers with 16 acres of land. It too had a 2000 year lease going back to 1575.

By 1753 the premises were held by Samuel Burrow of Charmouth, who conveyed them to Walter Oke of Pinney, Axmouth, Devon, as further security for a mortgage. The Poor Rates for that year show him paying for *Parsones Estate, Watterless, Hodders, The George and for his house, burgage and Langmoor*. It would imply that the Hodders still had ownership until he bought it. In 1760 Walter purchased the Rose and Crown, The George and other properties in the village from Samuel, but he only lived for another four years. You can trace the descent of the building for a time through the land tax lists for the village as Walter's Widow, Frances, did not dispose of any of their property until 1795. When she died in 1806 her property went to her son-in-law Thomas Shute, who lived in the village until his death in 1814.

As to where the building stood, my own feelings are that it is indeed what became the New Inn (see *Shoreline* Summer 2012, Part 1, number 2). My reasoning is that

the Poor Rates of 1753 list Burrow's property, which includes the name Hodder. Often a building would continue to be named after an earlier owner in the lists, as would be the case here. This would match John Hodder who is referred to in the deeds for the New Inn. But I may be wrong!

## (9) The Star, The Street

I found this building very difficult to trace back prior to 1841. The deeds to the neighbouring property, Charmouth Lodge (The Limes), refer to it having a boundary with William Stephens, inn holder in 1812. He appears also as the landlord for a number of years of the Three Crowns (Coach and Horses) opposite. He went on to buy the building and some outbuildings. But it is not until 1844 that the Star appears in a directory describing the owner, Edward Smith as a beer retailer. The earlier census and tithe map show that he owned this building at the rear of The Street. He continued in business until 1871, by which time he was aged 84. In the garden is a house called Star Cottage, where, during his time, Samuel Biles, an ostler was living and is shown as taking over when Edward eventually retired.



There was a large fire in 1862 that destroyed the line of buildings at the front and may have caused damage to the Star, as the newspaper at the time describes Samuel Biles being homeless after it. The 1882 census reveals that Samuel, then aged 60, is living with his wife Elizabeth and is described as a beer house keeper. The next landlord in 1891 is John Lockyer, followed soon after by James Ingram. Seven years later, John Lane is landlord and remained at the Star for the next 20 years.

The 1922 electoral roll shows that Frank and Kate Bailey were the tenants of the pub. This they continued until the war, after which Frederick Taylor is shown running it until 1962, when Trudie Yarker became the licensee until 1978. She writes that when she took over "*there was only a small public bar with a separate lounge, in effect an adjoining room with no bar counter. This was opened up in about 1963 to produce one large L-shaped bar, but there was no lounge at all from then. The pub was tied to J.C. and R.H. Palmer brewers, Bridport. The Star was a good old regulars pub serving Palmers IPA and Best Bitter on draught with two Whiteways ciders in barrels too. These were supplemented by the usual range of bottled Palmers beers and soft drinks and all the top brands of spirits.*" No meals were provided, but Trudie would make fresh sandwiches to order, ploughman's lunches and pies, the usual pub fare of the day.



## The Pubs of Charmouth - Part 2

The next tenant described in a booklet at the time of how it was renamed Drum and Monkey, which makes fascinating reading:

*"Many of the older customers occasionally referred to it as the Drum and Monkey. When he queried this strange name, they said that this was what they had often heard their fathers calling it. With his interest now aroused, the landlord researched the whole background to the inn. He found that the premises had first been used as an inn around 1640, and that it had originally been run by a retired naval officer. Later records also revealed that the inn was much frequented by seamen during Nelson's time. Whereas the Navy's ships used to be sailed by a crew of seamen, most of the fighting was done by marines. The marines were smartly uniformed, and used to beat their drums, both when on board ship and when marching ashore. The biggest of all the drums was known as the Ship's Drum, and this was an important item of the ship's equipment. When a naval engagement took place, the heavy, muzzle-loading iron cannon were brought into play. The cast-iron cannon balls were always neatly stacked alongside each gun but, for obvious safety reasons, the gunpowder was stored in a central magazine.*

*It was the job of so-called 'Powder Monkeys', often young lads, to keep each gun supplied with gunpowder charges from this magazine. Very pleased with the results of his researches, and gratified to have found the explanation for a most unusual inn name, the landlord changed the name back to the original Drum and Monkey in May 1988. The old inn sign depicting the Star was replaced by a new sign specially painted by a Yeovil artist, and bearing the revived name. Standing by a cannon on the deck of a naval vessel was portrayed one of the gun team with a ramrod, and more importantly a splendidly uniformed marine with his drum, and a young powder monkey standing by for action."*

Sadly its days were numbered and the pub finally closed its doors and is now a house to be found at the rear of Charmouth Stores (Nisa).

### (10) The Fountain (Charmouth House), The Street

I covered the history of this building in depth in the spring 2012 issue of *Shoreline* and will provide a shorter version, as until 1810 it was Charmouth's principal hostelry for many centuries. Its history is very similar to the Rose and Crown in that both were owned by Edward Lymbry in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and in due course were purchased by Robert Burridge, a wealthy merchant from Lyme Regis. The earliest deed from 1708 shows it with 3½ acres of land on the east of what is today's Higher Sea Lane, but it also had a further 40 acres of land on the other side of the lane stretching as far as Old Lyme Road, known as Foxley Farm, centred on a farmhouse (now called Waterhead).

When Robert Burridge died in 1742 it was his granddaughter Elizabeth who inherited much of his large estate. She is shown as marrying Francis Folaquier a merchant from Taunton at Lyme Regis in 1734. They continued renting The Fountain and other



properties in Charmouth to various tenants. In 1741 Elizabeth died and was buried at Taunton and, in due course, her husband disposed of their properties. Benjamin Bradford, a clothier from Wootton Fitzpaine purchased Foxley Farm in 1753. In the same year the Poor Rates for Charmouth show that Mr John Goring paid 2s 5d for the property, secondly only to John Henvill, who was the Lord of the Manor. There is believed to have been an extensive fire about this time, traces of which could still be seen during the recent alterations.

Francis Folaquier in 1764 gave the remainder of a lease of 1000 years to John Goring, who is described as an inn holder. John Goring then sublet to Walter Oke of Axmouth, who at this time owned The George and the Rose and Crown in the village. Finally in 1770 the Burridges' long 80-year ownership of the freehold of The Fountain came to an end when Francis Folaquier sold the inn with 3½ acres of land to George Kennedy of Lyme Regis. He in turn sold it to Obadiah Bidwell from Crewkerne who, with his son Thomas, were the owners until it was bought by Thomas Gordon in 1811 and closed down to become a home for the wealthy gentleman who went on to live there with his wife until he died in 1855, aged 95. His nieces inherited the property and they put it up for auction in 1873, when it was bought by George Holly, the landlord of the Coach and Horses who returned

**Quiz Nights start again on 1<sup>st</sup> November**

Phil and Angela welcome you to

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**Matt Black Pianist 1<sup>st</sup> December**

## The Pubs of Charmouth - Part 2

it back to a hotel until he died in 1886. It then again reverted back to a residence, though in more recent times it was to become a hotel until 2005 when it finally closed and was in due course subdivided into four parts.

The photograph is from a postcard dated 1906 that shows a time when you could stand in the street or cycle down the middle and not be run over.

### (11) The Fountain (The Forge Fossil Shop), The Street

Whilst compiling this list, I was totally confused to read an obituary for a Benjamin Diment, who, when he died in 1858, was described as "the respected landlord of The Fountain Inn for many years". This did not make sense, as when Thomas Gordon bought The Fountain Inn in 1811 it became a residence. I assumed that he was subletting part of the substantial property, but have now clarified this point. The 1844 directory shows Benjamin Diment as a retailer of beer. The 1841 census describes him as aged 57 living with his wife, Margaret, and children in The Street. The tithe map for the same year shows the building to be what is today The Forge Fossil Shop. In 1848 the list of voters for the village shows him living at this address but calling it The Fountain Inn.



A directory for 1855 describes Mrs Caroline Diment, the 24-year-old wife of his son John, as a beer retailer. It would seem that, as with other beer houses in the village, it was the wives that ran the pubs whilst the husbands were tradesmen. Benjamin and his son were both blacksmiths, working from a building that is still known as The Forge. The accompanying photograph shows Henry Childs standing in the doorway of The Forge, with his small shop to the side, in about 1900. Henry was related by marriage to Benjamin Diment, and both were blacksmiths.

### (12) Beer House (St. Gabriel's), Old Lyme Hill



This appears to be another of the short-lived beer houses that sprung up after the 1830 Act, which allowed almost anyone to open one. In this case, it was John Bragg who appears in the 1844 Directory as a beer retailer. This must have helped quenched his thirst, as his main profession

was that of a stone mason. The

1851 Census shows him aged 37 living with his wife, Jane and his 75-year-old mother, Elizabeth. The neighbouring building was at one time the village Poor House.

### (13) The Thatched Cottage, Axminster Road



The 1841 tithe map shows that Charles Wild, who was also a tailor, owning the interesting thatched building on the corner of old Lyme Hill. The building was briefly a beer house run by John Wild from 1850 until he

took on the Royal Oak further along The Street in 1867. The earlier 1851 census describes John, aged 31, as a beer house keeper and tailor. It is interesting to see that it was directly opposite the New Commercial Inn opened by Edward Hodges. It was obviously a side line as both had other jobs; no doubt their respective wives ran their beer houses. The lessee of the New Commercial Inn for many years was Harry Wild, whose sister Susan married Jimmy Hodges; Jimmy lived in this cottage. When he left, the cottage remained empty and was finally pulled down and became a car park for the pub and is now a lay-by for the bus stop.

The photograph shows the thatched building on the corner opposite the ivy-clad New Commercial Inn. There is a sign on the post warning people that the road to Lyme Regis had recently fallen, due to land slippage in 1926.

### Neil Mattingly

*If you want to find out more about the pubs of Charmouth or any other aspects of Village History, click on [www.charmouthhistory.com](http://www.charmouthhistory.com) or [www.freshford.com](http://www.freshford.com).*

## Wyld Morris

**Wyld Morris, a mixed morris dancing side which was formed about 2 years ago, now has enough confidence and repertoire to dance out at local pubs, shows and other events - you may have seen us dancing at the Charmouth Fayre in August.**

During the autumn, winter and spring when we don't usually dance out, we practise on Wednesday evenings at Monkton Wyld Court from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. We are learning as we go so you don't need any experience - just an enthusiasm to keep alive our traditional music and dance.



*Charmouth Fayre procession 2012*

We still have room for more dancers and musicians so if you would like to experience the morris at first hand, we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

Briony Blair 01297 489546 [brionyblair@hotmail.com](mailto:brionyblair@hotmail.com)  
Vince O'Farrell 01308 427851 [vinceofarrell@gmail.com](mailto:vinceofarrell@gmail.com)

**Vince O'Farrell**



# Charmouth Literary Festival 2012

## Charmouth Literary Festival was back this year, with a packed day aimed at people who write.

Around 40 people collected in St. Andrew's Community Hall to spend the day in creative endeavours.

The programme opened with the launch of Anne Orchard's new book *Be An Author*. Anne read from the book and shared insights from other authors to inspire those present to take the next step of sharing their writing. Next came a workshop on Flash Fiction where participants learned more about this writing format, which has been around since the days of Aesop's Fables. We then wrote short pieces based on the photo prompt for the Festival's writing competition.

Wendy Knee gave a talk about writing a Memorable Memoir, based on what she has learned whilst working on her forthcoming book *Travels With Granny*. We learned about concentrating on one particular aspect of our life, bringing in the senses, and focusing on how the people are feeling.



*Write, Walk, Wild with Juliette Adair*

Lunch brought an opportunity to go out and enjoy the sunshine with *Write, Walk, Wild*, leader Juliette Adair. Those who went on the walk explored how the landscape can inspire creativity and move your writing along. After lunch, Linda Parkinson-Hardman explained

about the benefits of Blogging for Authors, how to tailor your blog to the audience's needs, and getting more readers by using strong titles.

Finally, there was a poetry workshop where, as well as hearing two of Jaq Mitchell's excellent poems, we also

learned from Rosemary Wells about the main components to consider in writing a poem. Everyone had the opportunity to write and share a short poem. Two favourite entries, written in five minutes, were chosen (see poems), and the authors each received a pocket Thesaurus to help with poetry on the move.

We had some feedback that information shared at a previous Literary Festival had been used by someone to

self publish and they had now had their book taken up by a traditional publisher, so we are looking forward to hearing more success stories like this from this year's participants.

The Literary Festival organisers would like to thank all the volunteers who made the day possible, including the Charmouth Central representatives and the Jurassic Writers. Entries for the flash fiction competition are now closed, and the winners will be announced in the next *Shoreline* as well as on our website [www.charmouthliteraryfestival.org.uk](http://www.charmouthliteraryfestival.org.uk).

The next Charmouth Literary Festival will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013. If you would like more information please keep an eye on the website, telephone Wendy Knee on 01297 561493 or contact the organisers on [info@charmouthliteraryfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@charmouthliteraryfestival.org.uk).

**Anne Orchard**

*Photo: Steve Graham*

## The George - A Thank You

**With times being hard at the moment, it has been lovely to look back on the amount people have given to charities this year.** We have covered a variety of local and well known charities that have been well supported by our locals.

In February, we held a bush tucker trial in aid of Help For Heroes - £720; and in May we held a 24-hour spinning event - £1020, split between Breast Cancer Awareness and Cancer Research UK. In June, we held a mini garden fete which was rained off, but we still managed to raise £220 for the local senior citizens. We also raised £340 for the Charmouth Scouts.

We have coming up on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, a thank you night to all our league teams who play from The George. On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October, we will be holding the Harvest Festival in aid of the local senior citizens Christmas lunch. On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, we have our first Christmas bingo and on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December we will hold our Christmas raffle night with live music (tickets available from November). So again we would like to thank you and we look forward to your ongoing support.

**Dean Herbert**

### Picnic On The Beach

In the sun four went to the beach  
Full of fun with enough food for each  
End of the day three return home to sleep  
One small pal must now rest in the deep  
- **Steve Graham**

### In The Teashop

Three ladies twittered over tea  
Of romance and Lady Chatterley  
Romance, love and hysterectomies  
Shades of grey and other reverie  
- **Wendy Knee**

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# The End And The Beginning Now In Sight...

**When Dorset County Council decided that some libraries, including Charmouth's, would be closed unless funded and staffed by volunteers, they set a date of 1<sup>st</sup> September for handover to communities.**

There have been complications and delays, but it now looks as though Charmouth Central – our new name for the library – will come into existence by December 2012. This will mean that the library will be open for longer hours and with much enhanced facilities such as Wi-Fi, free public computers, refreshments, book sales and space for clubs and classes.



Table Top Sale 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012



Friends of Charmouth Library (FoCL) have recently made a grant application to Village SOS (part of the Big Lottery Fund) for an extension to the building. Plans have been approved and can be seen in the library. Of course, the extension relies on our being given the grant, but it would give a lot more space for the internet café and for the ever-increasing number of small groups who want to meet in the library.

Some volunteer training has just begun and the Library Service has a tentative timetable which will ensure that 20 volunteers from each community library will be trained in the Library Management System by the end of November. If you have not yet volunteered, it is not too late – there are many skills that will be needed from washing-up to shelving books, from gardening to woodwork, from teaching to tea-making.

**AND THE FUND-RAISING CONTINUES...** Fund-raising during the past year has been relentless as Friends try to build up a fund to get the business side of the enterprise going. DCC's tiny £2,000 set-up grant will be eaten up in legal fees. A Table-Top Sale in August raised £600.49. In October, the library will be part of Waitrose's 'green token' scheme. Donations of books have been very generous, enabling us to raise several hundred pounds on their sales alone. There are just too many people to thank for all their kind contributions in time and money, but they are much appreciated.

In spring 2012, children were given a pot containing a seed with a competition to see who could grow the tallest sunflower. Ellie Reddaway managed to grow hers to 205cm and loved her gardening-set prize.

**CHRISTMAS...** Look out for Charmouth Central's own hand-made Christmas cards in aid of the funds. They will be on sale in the library and at the Charmouth Christmas Fayre.

**SAVE YOUR SHOE-LEATHER ...OR YOUR PETROL...** On the evening of the Charmouth Traders' Christmas Fayre, and for the subsequent week, the library will be open for you to deposit the Christmas cards which you usually have to hand-deliver throughout the village. Collection of the cards will follow the next week – so you can come and collect the cards others want to give to you. Look out for more details on the parish noticeboard and in the library in November.



Ellie and her sunflower

**AGM AND FUTURE PLANS...** It hardly seems possible that a year ago on 28<sup>th</sup> October FoCL officially came into existence – but this means that the **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **22<sup>nd</sup> October at The Elms** from 5.30pm to around 7.30pm. The business part of the meeting will be at 6.30pm, but the Committee (who will automatically resign but can be re-elected) hopes that everyone will be able to come to hear more about plans for the future and to enjoy refreshments before and after. Children are welcome – let's make it a party!

In future, Friends of Charmouth Library will continue to exist as the fund-raising arm of Charmouth Central and Charmouth Central Ltd. will run the business side of the enterprise. The two committees should have mostly different members. Nominations (for yourself or, with permission, for others) for the committees will be more than welcome. At the moment, one committee has been undertaking both roles but this will not be possible in the future. We need you!

Nominations, enquiries, suggestions: Hazel Robinson  
01297 561214 [hazelrosery@aol.com](mailto:hazelrosery@aol.com)

**Hazel Robinson**

## Widower Gets 7 Years - 1786

**Charmouth Widower is sentenced to 7 years transportation for stealing cloth**

Samuel Burrridge, a labourer aged 60, height 5 foot 7 inches with a crooked nose, wide nostrils, lusty looking, was given 7 years transportation for stealing cloth. He was placed on board the Dunkirk at Plymouth. (16<sup>th</sup> June 1786)

**Neil Mattingly**

## Charmouth Housechurch

**A group of Christians (non-denominational) meet together informally every Thursday evening at 7.30pm at the Elms, Charmouth, for teaching, fellowship and prayer.** We pray for the sick in these meetings and many of those attending have witnessed some wonderful miracles of healing in their lives. Please feel free to come and join us – tea and coffee is served. If you need a lift please call Jan Gale on 07897 511075.

**Jan Gale**



# Charmouth Fayre 2012

**Our 21<sup>st</sup> Fayre was held on a rare, warm and rain-free Sunday at the beginning of August with a parade round the village from the Royal Oak arriving in the playing fields at 2pm ready for the Fayre to begin.**

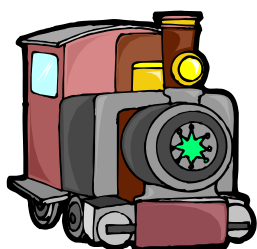
As anybody who bought a programme will know, we had a last minute change to our main event, whereby The Sealed Knot (a re-enactment Group) were replaced by Experience Falconry, who were here a few years ago, but luckily this year he did not have to go chasing his falcon on Stonebarrow! We also had a small demonstration for the first time by Honiton Gym Club. Brass Tacks, another first timer, entertained at the Tea Rooms. All-in-all, the

afternoon was well attended and everybody was looking forward to the evening event.

Our Evening BBQ and live music was tricky due to doom and gloom weather forecasts which thankfully did not materialise until right at the end. Freddie and The Framed entertained the audience with their superb cover collection, the BBQ did roaring trade especially as we had chips on sale for the first time! The Firework display was its usual wonderful end to our very English day and then the rain came down!!! Very English. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

**Peter Noel**

## Railway Coming To Charmouth - 1864



**Railway Accommodation, being very much needed at Charmouth and Lyme Regis, a company has been formed for the purpose of constructing a line from Chard Road to Lyme Regis, with a branch to Charmouth, from Penn Inn.**

A meeting for the purpose of discussing the matter was held at Lyme Regis, F. Hinton,

Esq, Mayor, in the chair, when a large number of gentlemen, tradesmen, &c., of Lyme and Charmouth were present, and on the following evening, another meeting

took place at Charmouth - Mr Morcombe, of Charmouth, occupying the chair.

Several gentlemen and tradesmen were present, and practical speeches were made, and there is a fair probability of the railway being constructed, as a portion of the intended line has been surveyed, and there is every reason to believe it is a bona fide affair, as the promoters, as well as the inhabitants of both Charmouth and Lyme, see the great necessity of a railway, and further, there is a prospect of paying the shareholders a fair, if not good, dividend. (1864)

**Neil Mattingly**

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## The Big Lunch

**The Eden Project is launching a nationwide appeal to hold the above event on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013.**

The basic idea is for a street party to enable the whole village to get together and say hello and enjoy themselves!

Are we interested? - Please let me know by email at peter@marshall-noel.co.uk or phone me on 01297 560078.

**Peter Noel**



**Heritage Coast Lyme Regis U3A...attracts**

members from across West Dorset and currently runs more than 40 interest groups and monthly gatherings. Upcoming events are:

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.** Woodmead Halls. Social Coffee Morning from 10am. Group Leaders talk about their groups

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October.** Science and Technology Group visit to The Norman Lockyer Observatory. pkshep99@aol.com

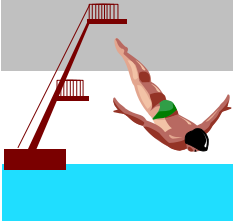
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November.** AGM at 10am followed by a talk from Richard La Trobe-Bateman, international designer

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.** Woodmead Halls. Coffee from 10am then Professor Jim Rose - 'The discovery of early man'

**Details:** marybohane@yahoo.co.uk or 01297 444566.

View *Shoreline* online at  
[www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org)

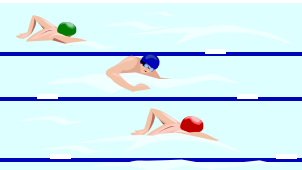
# My 2012 Olympics



**Some of you may have read my article in the summer edition of *Shoreline* which summarised my volunteer training, my hopes and expectations.** I do not want to

disappoint those of you who are waiting with bated breath for the second instalment, so here we go.

All the 70,000 odd volunteers were invited to attend the Opening Ceremony rehearsals which I did on the Wednesday, two days before the actual event. What an amazing spectacle that was. The visuals and sounds and the *smell* of the event was fantastic. The rehearsal did not, obviously, include the athletes' parade or Mr McCartney so it finished at a reasonable hour, unlike my shifts....



I was assigned to the media centre of the Aquatics Centre and my first shift, prior to the first day of competition, was fairly calm and peaceful. I was introduced to the team and they all seemed lovely. We had

a surprise visit from the Prime Minister and Lord Sebastian Coe and I was delighted to meet Sebastian Coe, break rank, shake his hand, admire his slick suit, and congratulate him. Whilst diminutive in stature he has a certain aura about him.

We were then asked to accompany Seb, Dave and their bodyguards on their walk to the stadium. This made the 6 o'clock news on both BBC and ITV so I did have to field many texts, calls and subsequent flak about my new chums.

The first day entering the Olympic Park with the general public was magical. People were jumping, taking photos with their tickets (yes and cameras) and smiling, great big happy smiles. This is going to be just great I thought. I walked into the media centre with a grin, pushed open the office door and:

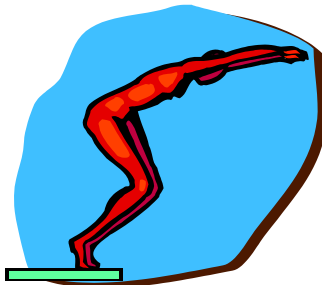
"Take 30 minutes, get a drink and come back!"

"I beg your pardon?"

"Look, the IT system has crashed, we are behind with everything and we have an hour to get it all done. Go away and come back in an hour."

I and my new confidante/buddy/workmate Alan returned an hour later to MAYHEM! There were upwards of 150 press and photographers demanding the start lists, timings, inside leg measurements, goggle sizes and any information on the swimmers that would be on the blocks in 45 minutes. This, all in an area the size of the Royal Oak (other pub is also available in Charmouth).

After each race, which went off every ten minutes, we had to ensure that these 150 plus people got all the results, the interview quotes etc. in paper form despite the fact that they could access the same information on a dedicated website. Alan Stalwart (not his real surname) and I survived the onslaught and somehow by about 11pm had survived. "It won't be like this every shift," we were promised. I got back to my sister's at 1am to catch some highlights of the day and find out who had been successful in the swimming pool.



It wasn't quite like that on every shift but during the first week it was full on and sadly I got to see very little sport. The shifts were often long, and together with the travelling time they made for very tiring days. I calculated that because I was involved with the initial interview period with the volunteers, then the training etc. and the subsequent work days, I was involved for about 21 days in total.

Once the racing was over and the pool was taken over by the divers and the synchronised swimmers, things went quiet again. I was able to go and watch some of the diving which, whilst impressive, I found a bit boring. I mean, once you have seen 180 consecutive dives over a period of 2 hours on a plastic seat your bum is really sore.

Breaks were few and far between and just for the Aquatic area alone, a makeshift café for the workers had been erected which could seat about 400 people at a time. This was busy from dawn until midnight and beyond.

One of the interesting, but strange, things was that as the majority of the volunteers were so eager to help and please, it became an 'odd' workforce; nobody really minded being asked to do anything and wanted to be busy. The upside of this volunteering was seeing so many happy people in and around London. Everywhere where I went (in my uniform) I was asked about what I was doing and everyone was genuinely interested, even the drunks on the last train at 2am. The downside, for me, is that I missed so much of the Olympic sport. I had grand ideas of banks of televisions showing me all that was occurring whilst I was working. Not the case, and I was too busy anyway. However, it was a once-in-a-lifetime thing and I met a lot of lovely people who were sharing similar experiences.

Not sure about the diet as I found that getting back many nights after 1am, that I was keeping the kebab shop going (great kebabs near Ealing Broadway station – others available).



So would I do it all again? No. Long way to Rio! Did I enjoy it? It was mixed but I was pleased to have completed the task, and now it is all over I feel very happy to have taken part in what will be looked upon as a fantastic achievement for us all.

My highlights were accidentally bumping into the happy Harvey family from Charmouth when I was on a break, seeing a lot more of my sister than usual, sitting in on some press conferences with Ryan Lochte and Michael Phelps, being greeted by Sharon Davies and generally being around the public in an upbeat and excitable mood.

So now let's set about leaving a 2012 legacy in Charmouth. How about a sand volleyball court near the beach and/or perhaps an all-weather table tennis table (concrete sort) somewhere as well.

It would be sad to let 2012 pass by without something here, locally, for the future. That's all folks.

**Nick Beardwood**





# My 2012 Olympics



**Well how can I sum up the most amazing, tingling, goosebump experience for me in a few words?**



*Nicky Millen  
at Greenwich Park*

**I was bowled over by the atmosphere, the colours, crowd and the sport.** Our uniform caused the medical team to be bombarded with questions regarding water fountains, toilets, baby changing, etc., as it was the same as all the other volunteers, apart from a green cross on our arm. We were asked all sorts of things

which did become a little tiresome, as there were plenty of people in event services to ask. We did carry radios and were able to get messages about housekeeping to the control centre and therefore get the hitches sorted. This is the only negative comment about the whole thing. The rest was brilliant. I met so many fabulous people from all sorts of backgrounds. Even some of the crowd wanted hugs to say thank you, including several lovely young men!! I enjoyed wearing my uniform and felt enormously proud to be British and to be part of the greatest show on earth. I stayed in the house of another Gamesmaker (on transport at Blackheath); she was great.

The medical team were busy at Greenwich Park from minor blisters, cuts, etc., to major illness and injury, fractured limbs, stroke, anaphylactic shock etc.; with huge crowds 50,000 plus. We had two medical rooms open all the time plus we covered whole site. Cross Country day was exceptionally long and busy; I did a 13 hour day, but it was brilliant, plenty of thrills and spills at my fences and we had more medical rooms open in the park. We were looking after everyone including Army, Navy and police, athletes, coaches, grooms, spectators, etc. People were dressed up in their national colours; it was as though we were all at a huge party. Wigs, face paint, flags, mascots - all types of patriotic behaviour.

The athletes and their horses were fantastic to watch and the medals kept on coming for the G.B Team. The Royal Family were in my stand on the show jumping day of the three day event. They were friendly and I found it difficult not to look at the way they all interacted, as it was lovely. Princess Anne gave out the medals. How amazing to present your own daughter with an Olympic silver medal.

I couldn't have picked a better venue to be at, absolutely stunning views over London; Greenwich Park is beautiful. I also had quite a lot of knowledge on these equestrian sports, which added to the buzz of watching the best in the world. I also had three days at the Olympic Park prior to my 12 shifts at Greenwich, so I feel very privileged.

When the flags were raised at the medal ceremony, that was very emotional; good job it was sunny most of the time as my sunglasses hid my tears well!

It became normal to be with so many VIPs and I soon dropped my goldfish face when they spoke to me! Difficult to single out my favourites, but William Fox Pitt and Carl Hester have to be top of my list for having lovely smiles and making an effort to talk to us volunteers. Clare Balding was very good with spectators and posed with them and signed their programmes, etc.

The Modern Penthalon was very interesting as I learnt so much about it; three parts of the five sports were held at Greenwich. So roll on RIO!! Here I come; apparently Brazil doesn't have the same volunteer culture. I am still on a high and must get back to reality!!

**Nicky Millen**



*Greenwich Park  
Photo: Courtesy of London 2012*

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# Olympics Gold and Glory



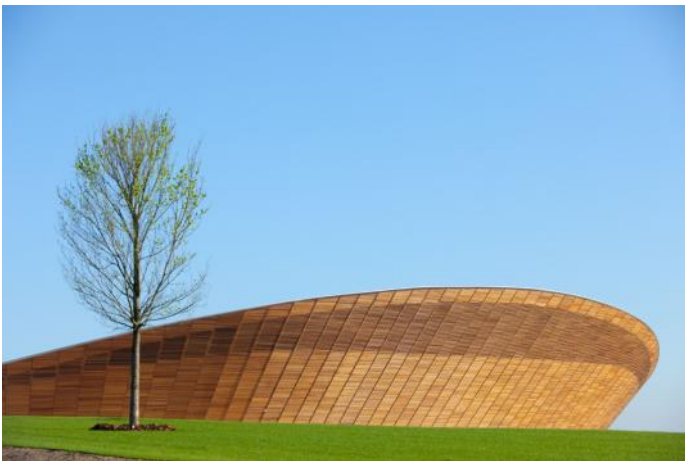
## Gold and glory – why British values were the real winners at the Olympics

**It took the ear-splitting roar of 100,000 at London's great home-grown Olympics to show that there's nothing wrong with patriotism and competition - qualities that are too often scorned in this politically-correct age.**



In the last issue of *Shoreline* I posed the question "Is it worth watching the Olympic Games?"

That question, for me, and I suspect for half the nation was answered by 17 days in the summer, when the sun eventually shone, and transfixed our perception of our standing as a sporting nation - and more importantly our perception of ourselves. There we were, glued to our televisions; some of us lucky enough to be present at the venues - agog that we have in Britain reawakened our sense of national pride.



In the stadium, in the Velodrome, in the Aquatics Centre, on the green grass of Wimbledon and Greenwich Park, or on the waters of Eton Dorney and Weymouth, Team GB's golden success seems to have changed anyone infected by the Olympic spirit and made us realise that as a people, we have the ability and the determination to be confident enough to tackle anything.

It was, according to the press, the commentators, and worldwide visitors, a great Games. Some even said the best ever.

The Opening Ceremony, watched worldwide by millions, was a bizarre and glorious mixture of punk and pop, history and humour. Who could not be enchanted by the sight of the skydiving monarch? It may have baffled foreign visitors, but it didn't diminish the affection and respect that we have for the Queen - who showed a sense of humour as eccentric as the rest of us.

I first went to the Olympics Games in Los Angeles in 1984 as coach to Zola Budd. I thought then that no Games could be better.



People have often asked me how to compare these London Games of 2012 with Olympics of the past. In a word, the answer is simple; don't bother. Each Games is different, each with its own magic moments. Beijing, the last Olympics in 2008 was so spectacular that it made members of the London organising committee despair - but it reeked of propaganda.

By contrast, the Olympics in London, on our own doorstep, was welcoming and friendly - very British and none the worse for that.

Of course, the sport was brilliant. We had Usain Bolt carving out his legendary status with giant strides on the track, Sir Chris Hoy spinning magic in the Velodrome. There was Jessica Ennis making her childhood dreams come true, Mo Farah lifted by the crowd and refusing to be passed in his quest for gold - and all that haul of medals in rowing, cycling, boxing, tennis, sailing and the full spectrum of Olympic sports.



We are a mere speck on the globe, a tiny island, but with the roar of the home crowd we came third in the medal table - ahead of Russia, Germany and France. This tells you much about the British passion for sport. The Chinese with their billions and the Americans with their millions were the only countries that were ahead of us. We punched above our weight, and we should be proud of that.

What about the venues? The Olympic Stadium and Park were simply stunning and the athletics played to capacity crowds and the noise was deafening. The volunteers were heroes, smiling and helpful, and the transport, that so often in London creaks, worked.

Security, which had long been a problem and was raised frequently in the press, operated like a dream. The soldiers checked and x-rayed the bags with a smile. It was both reassuring and a joy to see them there.

But what about the all-important legacy? And the future of the venues? Has a generation really been inspired?

I am lucky enough to be Chairman of the London Marathon Charitable Trust (when I'm in Charmouth I still run daily up Stonebarrow Hill and out towards Golden



# Olympics Gold and Glory



Cap) and as a marathon runner we have signed a cheque for £1 million to refurbish the Olympic Park as an Olympic adventure playground. Over the coming years we plan to spend many more millions ensuring that these great Olympic facilities in the Olympic Park are available for children everywhere and not just for the elite.

The London Marathon has also set up a partnership with the organisers of the Tour of Britain to lay on a festival of cycling including a 100 mile charity road race over the route that Bradley Wiggins cycled to win one of his Olympic gold medals in Surrey – but after many treks up Golden Cap this should hold no terrors for me. At the press conference following the announcement of this festival, which will take place in August 2013, Boris Johnson, the colourful Mayor of London, grabbed me and muttered: "You still look very fit, John. Will you come with me if I attempt to pedal for 100 miles?"

For me the Olympics were a whirlwind - too many late nights, too much cheering, too many celebration drinks; so much to see and so little time. I found myself giving a talk to an audience of 200 about great Olympians of the past in track and field. Unfortunately, that day I had been to see the finish of the Women's Olympic Marathon. Rain came down in torrents. In my rucksack were the notes I had assembled for the presentation. They were soaked and sodden. I found myself in the "Olympic" loo at the finish, still dripping from the medal ceremony, trying desperately to dry my notes under one of those hand blow-dryers.

But then I remembered. This was the Olympics. A few destroyed notes mattered not. I took a lesson from the British athletes. If they were beaten, and many were, they didn't make excuses, didn't blame others. They said simply that they'd tried their best and thanked the remarkable crowd. (Some professional footballers could learn a thing or two from this attitude.)

I had two trips to the athletics stadium, visits to the marathons, to the tennis, where I was fortunate enough to watch Roger Federer play, and my wife, Carol, went to Weymouth, where she was unbelievably impressed by the helpfulness of the volunteers and the buzz of the Dorset Olympic venue.



In these Games we triumphed over other nations, but more importantly we triumphed over ourselves. Somehow, with great effort and considerable expense, we have reshaped a part of our capital that was derelict and run down. We have bolstered our reputation for superb organisation of great public occasions like the Jubilee.

Of course, the Olympics have their faults. But these failings – some drug cheating and the sometimes heavy-handed sponsorship are part of the problem for the International Olympic Committee. I was disturbed, too, to see the model, Kate Moss, and other so-called celebrities strutting their stuff at the closing ceremony. The celebrity-cult, with its show-biz face and instant fame, has little to do with genuine Olympic athletes who work hard over many years for their rewards. Their medals don't come cheap.



*John Bryant  
at  
The Charmouth Challenge  
2012*

What, then, will be the legacy from these London Games? What lessons can we learn?

We hope that we can improve sporting opportunities for all children. These Olympic athletes are teaching us, too, that there is nothing wrong with competition in schools. There are always going to be winners and losers.

Winners give us inspiration. How many children are wondering today: "If Mo Farah can do it, if Jessica Ennis can do it, if Bradley Wiggins can do it....then why not me?"

The Games above all were heart-warming and inspiring to watch. Optimism is not dead in these islands. The crowds, the volunteers and the athletes made sure of that.

Thanks to the crowd at the venues and those who followed every step on TV, patriotism, pride and inspiration for the future are the true legacy of London's 2012 Olympics.

Gold and glory for Britain; these are the true Games' winners.

**John Bryant**

*Olympics photos courtesy of London 2012*

# The Paralympics



## The Paralympics – some stories behind the headlines

**Miles of newsprint have been generated by the Olympics and the Paralympics 2012!** At the risk of overload, I want to highlight some of the human stories behind the Paralympics. We have all been touched by the drive and determination shown by Paralympian athletes, and by their refusal to let their condition define them. But the one quote which stays with me above all others is from Oscar Pistorius, the South African sprinter: "It's the pity that hurts."



Team Bath - St Loyes

I have been fortunate in meeting a few Paralympian athletes in the past year as my employer, St Loye's Foundation in Exeter, has been able to sponsor three athletes and to work with two others to help them generate their own funds – very few Paralympians have bursaries on which to depend! I assure you that there is nothing to pity in the stories which these five have to tell.

Kate Grey (23), David Hill (23) and Liz Johnson (27) are all swimmers at the Bath University centre of sports excellence. All three have competed at the highest levels in Paralympian sport and, at lower levels, have competed successfully with able-bodied athletes. Liz, who has cerebral palsy, is the pin-up girl (sorry, Kate!), after winning gold in the 100m breaststroke in Beijing, despite her mother dying of cancer whilst she was competing. She also laid the last tile to be fixed on the London Olympic swimming pool, took the Paralympic oath in London on behalf of all athletes and is a BT Ambassador, appearing in their TV ads. Liz took the bronze in London, behind her big mate Charlotte Henshaw and the Ukrainian gold medallist. Originating in Newport, Wales, Liz kept the audience spellbound when she spoke of her experiences of overcoming personal hurdles at the Welsh Assembly recently. In doing so, she attracted funds into our Foundation to work with other disabled people who have not yet been able to make the personal progress which she has made.

Kate is an upper-limb amputee due to a childhood accident, and beat the British 800m Freestyle record in 2005 at the age of just 16. She was 5<sup>th</sup> in the Beijing Paralympic Games 100m breaststroke and was this year voted Bath University Sports Personality of the Year.

Despite training three to five hours daily, she didn't make the London Games, but was hired by the BBC to commentate on Radio 5 Live and to be a presenter on the BBC TV World Service. She was brilliant! She had thought of becoming a teacher, but does a career as a media pundit now beckon? David also missed out narrowly on selection, despite reaching the necessary qualifying time and despite his track record of being the youngest competitor in the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games at just 14. He also took a bronze at the 2009 World Championships in Rio. After several years of almost full-time swimming, David is now hoping to add a practical trade at Bath College to his ambition of becoming a swimming coach.

Blind football is an amazing sport – depending as it does upon hearing, positional sense and close ball control in the absence of any sight. Colleagues have been working with Robin Williams (25) and Keryn Seal (30), both of whom appeared in Team GB at London, to raise funds to support their football training. Robin – alias 'the Rainman' for some reason – is from Taunton and has had a visual impairment since he was a young child. He now has no sight. This has not prevented him, however, from studying for a PhD in Statistics – and, no, I don't know how he does it either! Keryn hails from Bridgend and played football for Bridgend FC before his sight deteriorated. Both speak at business meetings in Exeter and elsewhere on overcoming personal challenges and prejudice, and are thinking of forming a company to promote themselves as motivational speakers.

Just meeting these people for a few hours over the past year has certainly made me think about why I complain about such trivial things as the train being late, or catching a late summer cold. Paralympians are daily overcoming huge personal challenges that would, and do, sink many others. I promise you all never, ever to moan again!

**Christopher Knee**

## Buy One Get One Free

### Village Breakfast & Lunch Clubs

**The Village Breakfast & Village Lunch clubs continue to be popular and well supported, see details in Shoreline's Village Diary.** We



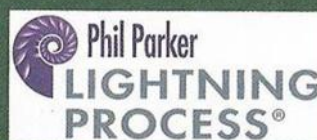
The Hollands Room

are delighted to offer you a chance to sample our amazing sweet waffles with toppings such as ice cream, chocolate bits, maple syrup & fruit, on **buy one get one free** through October. If you are looking for something interesting and rewarding to do through the winter then say hello to us any Thursday morning and see where you'll fit in.

**Jan Gale, VB and VL Organiser** 07897 511075

**Please send us your stories and poems for the Winter issue of Shoreline by 10th December 2012**

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# Autumn Gardening in Charmouth



**Gardening!**  
**What comes next?**  
**We may well ask!**

**I have never seen my garden looking so drab and washed out as it is at the moment.**



Having said this, I have primroses and polyanthus flowering profusely in my borders and the roses are attempting to bloom again, having been stripped of buds due to the incessant rain; most other plants are incognito!

The better we prepare in the next few months, the easier spring planting should be. So clear what is left of this year's crop and the weeds that mysteriously appear. Dig the soil over and think about what has been going on. All that rain has leached the minerals from the soil; in other words, all the goodness has washed away. No amount of manure will make it better, although it will improve your soil structure. But we do need to replace these trace elements, i.e. boron, iron, zinc, copper, selenium, molybdenum, iodine, magnesium, manganese and cobalt. A wise old man has told me that you can replace these. (If you would like to know how, pass your surname and phone number to *Shoreline* before the next issue.) The replacement is needed for the spring planting and requires a month to settle in before planting starts.

## OCTOBER

Pot plants that are not hardy should be brought indoors by mid-October. Dig up any non-hardy bulbs and store in a frost-free place. If your roses have finished flowering, cut them back one third of their height to prevent wind rock. Dig up and discard any dead annuals. Keep lawn and ponds free from litter. Plant bulbs in pots and containers and check depth of planting on labels. Plant roses, and non-evergreen shrubs and trees, making sure you water frequently and stake them if required. Protect perennials with mulch and shut off and drain any water pipes.

## NOVEMBER

Planting is still possible if the ground is frost free, so you can continue to plant your bulbs. Prune fruit trees if all leaves have fallen. Check all plant ties and make secure. Protect potted plants from frost and ensure there is good drainage. Don't clear up too much; leave some cover for the wildlife! Tulips can be planted if the ground is still friable and free from frost. Protect your pond and keep an ice free space for fish and other wildlife.

## DECEMBER

Do not get caught out this month, especially if the weather has been mild. Protect any tender plants from frost; check and water them sparingly. You can continue planting bulbs, but make sure you plant them deep enough so they are not dug up by wildlife or spoilt by frosts. Prune any grapevines before Christmas and check their condition. And, lastly, if you are lucky enough to have some holly or dried flowers in your garden, harvest them for the coming celebrations.

I have been asked to give ideas of the types of plants that will grow in Charmouth. Of course that depends on where your garden is.

For instance, those living along the cliffs and hillside can grow good alpine and most bulbs, whilst those lower down in the village can probably have a good show of delphiniums and high textural plants. It doesn't always happen this way, but growers can always find a way around these problems.

Another thing to take into consideration is your soil, acid, alkaline or neutral. This can be determined by measuring the pH scale. A neutral soil has a pH of 7.0; a reading below denotes an acid soil and above denotes an alkaline soil. A soil with a reading of between 6.5 and 7.0 is suitable for growing most plants. A small gadget for testing soil pH can be obtained from a good garden centre. Rhododendrons, azaleas, acers and blueberries like a soil pH below 6.0. At the other end of the scale, very few plants will grow in a soil with a pH reading of 8.0, due to its deficiency of vital minerals.

Soil testing will help to save money and stop you from buying the wrong plants for your garden. Having said that, you must not expect your garden to have the same reading overall, therefore check different parts of the soil in every bed.

I will talk more of this and give ideas of plants ready for the New Year in the next issue of *Shoreline*. Meanwhile I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

### Busy Lizzy, Charmouth Gardeners



Manor Farm Holiday Centre is pleased to announce the opening of the Char Valley Health Club. The new high-tech club offers a range of facilities including a gym, exercise pool, sauna and steam room.



In the gym, the Matrix cardio machines use virtual active technology to help keep you focused while you workout. These include a wide variety of courses such as running through the Alps, cycling through the Rockies or cross training in Chicago. The

Trixter bikes provide the ultimate immersive biking experience, with the opportunity to race against a friend or progress through the simulated tracks. There are also dedicated muscle machines and a functional trainer.

The sauna, steam room and exercise pool are situated on the ground floor along with the Char Valley Coffee House, a perfect place to unwind and relax after your swim or workout. Coffees made from the finest Italian Rocca beans, tea, smoothies, fruit juices and milkshakes are all available. Joining fee is £10. Membership is £35 p.m.

**tel enquiries** 07971 520897

**e-mail** [health@manorfarmholidaycentre.co.uk](mailto:health@manorfarmholidaycentre.co.uk)

# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



**From the Warden team**

**Meirel Whaites - Senior Warden**

**The Centre was (as always) very busy with schools over the summer months, with over 4,000 school children visiting on organised trips so far this year.** The summer holidays started off a little slow, as for many other visitor centres and businesses along the coast, which we think was partly due to everyone staying at home to watch the Olympics and partly due to the good old British summer weather. As soon as the Olympics closing ceremony had happened however, the flood gates opened at the beach. The Centre still played a part in the Olympic year with its very own Beach Olympics (which Lyndsey will tell you a little more about later) and on every public fossil walk during the summer months we had our very own ammonite medal award ceremony for outstanding fossil hunting, with a bronze, silver and gold ammonite medal for those lucky enough to receive this unique award. They are the only ammonite medals in existence in the world and many of the adults were very disappointed not to be included as competitors!

Looking ahead to the Autumn and Winter months, the Centre will still be busy with schools and we already have some schools booking in for the 2013 season. On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 1.30pm – 4.30pm we have our Volunteer Open Day, where Friends and Wardens at the Centre will be on hand to talk to anyone interested in joining the Centre as a volunteer. You can help in a wide variety of ways, from helping to man the desk, assisting on public events, DIY skills with the Winter Working Party or helping with school groups, to name just a few ways. As always though, we still have a full programme of events throughout the colder months and full listings and details can be found on our website [www.charmouth.org/chcc](http://www.charmouth.org/chcc).

In the run up to Christmas we have our half-term Fossil Roadshow on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October with a Halloween theme, Fossil Fantastic Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the Rocks and Fossil Weekend on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Also in the half-term week, Phil Davidson will be giving a talk on the Charmouth Dinosaur on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 4.30pm at the Centre. Tickets are £2 per person and are available at the Centre from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## **Jurassic Arts & Craft Fayre – 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November**

On this weekend we will be running our annual Jurassic Arts and Crafts Fayre, with a wide range of locally produced arts and crafts exhibited for sale. We will also have a table for the Centre, so if any people in the village would like to make donations of preserves or cakes for sale, it would be most appreciated. The money raised will go towards the free Junior Warden sessions that we will run every September/October for the children of Charmouth Primary School. We still have some availability for exhibitors, but spaces are limited and going fast!

Finally, our thanks go out to all the Friends and volunteers who assist us over the year, we couldn't do it without your support. But anyway enough from me...I will pass you over to the rest of the team.....

**Phil Davidson - Geological Warden**

**We have had some interesting finds brought to us over the summer holidays.** One of the more unusual was an Ice Age bison jaw which was found by Amy and

Kevin Hynam. Ice age fossils are very rare here, but I am putting together a temporary display about Ice Age Charmouth at the moment. I am also working on a display about one of my favourite fossil collectors, James Frederick Jackson, who moved to Charmouth in 1951 and lived here until his death in 1966. He was the first person to discover fossil insects here and also found a juvenile Scelidosaur, our village dinosaur. He donated over 5,000 local fossils to the National Museum of Wales and I went to view his specimens last year at the museum. These displays, and another about the history of the Centre, should be ready in the next month or so.



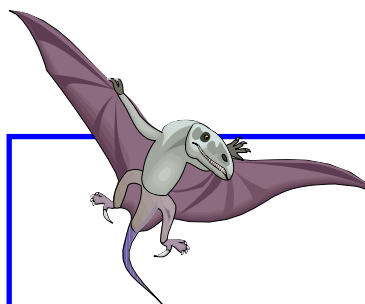
**Lyndsey Bird - Marine Warden**

**The summer got off to a brilliant start with our Beach Olympic event and sought-after ammonite medals.** There was a record breaking jump back in time, brilliant dinosaur dung rolling and precision ammonite discus throwing, with our special guest of honour Roy Churchman awarding the medals, who as you know, was at the Olympics in London in 1948. It has been a summer of the unusual, as we discovered a new anemone whilst rock pooling this year, which is believed to be a red and yellow striped dahlia anemone (*Urctina feline*). A photo can be seen at [www.facebook.com/CharmouthHeritageCoastCentre](http://www.facebook.com/CharmouthHeritageCoastCentre). We also found some unusual plankton, including a marine worm with eggs and microscopic seaweed that looked like a hairy gooseberry on our plankton trawling events.

We had exciting new arrivals at the Centre this summer with 3 baby cuttlefish hatching in our marine tank. The baby cuttlefish have now been released into the sea.

As the new term begins we are about to launch our new Junior Ranger club which will run on the second Saturday of every month, starting in October, for children aged 8 – 12 who have an interest in dinosaurs, nature or the environment and who love to be outside. If you're interested, then please contact me at the Centre for more information.

To contact the Warden Team at the Centre  
email: [info@charmouth.org](mailto:info@charmouth.org)  
Website: [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) Tel: 01297 560772



Dimorphodon

**Remember that our cliffs are unstable and very dangerous.**

**Plenty of fossils can be found on the beach.**



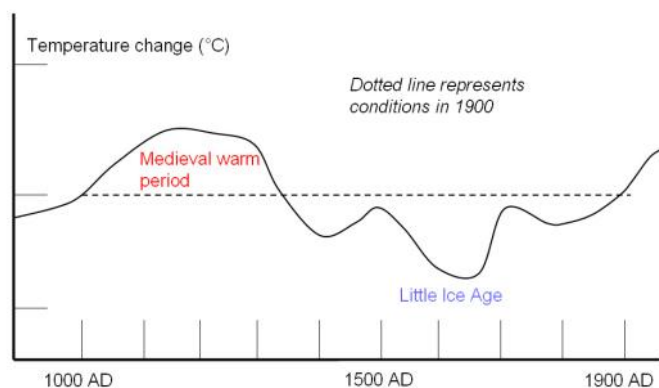
# Changing Sea Levels - Part 2

## Do sea levels really change that much... where's the evidence? Part 2

In Part 1, we looked at the changes in sea level that we can discern from the cliffs and beaches around our shores and to a lesser extent from early documents and the archaeological record. In this instalment, we will begin with events in the late Saxon and Norman periods.

According to Professor Lamb (1988), a leading expert in climate change, at least 286 towns, villages and parishes and many small islands in Western Europe were lost to the sea during the period 1099-1570 and over 1.5 million lives were lost. Mean global temperatures during the late Saxon period were rising and around 1000 AD they were very similar to today but by 1200 AD they were about half a degree warmer. This may not seem much but even that small rise had a profound effect on sea levels.

Ironically, by the mid-1300s, mean global temperatures began falling to below those of today:



Understandably, there is a lag between a rise or fall in global temperatures and their plus/minus effect upon sea levels. This lag could be a century or more and one would expect sea levels to be at their highest at the end of any given 'warm period' and so we find that sea flooding was a major problem between 1200 AD and 1500 AD. There is another factor that affects the impacts of the sea on the land that has nothing to do with expansion of water and its temperature. There is a long-term (1800 years) cyclical pattern in the extent of spring tides around Britain. The tidal maximum was reached in 250 BC and then again in 1433 AD and is actually diminishing at the moment. Coupled with the fact that warmer waters mean more storminess, it is perhaps unsurprising that the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries were characterised by violent storms and flooding events around the English coasts. It has been estimated that between 1200 AD and 1600 AD, approximately 1 million people were drowned around the coastlines of Northern Europe.

The 13<sup>th</sup> century witnessed devastating floods in the East Anglian fens in 1236, 1248, 1250 and 1251. The *Chronica Majora* states that in the 1236 event (in Wisbech) 'an infinity of people perished'. The area around Wisbech was also totally inundated again in 1439. In 1287/88, the whole town of Wincelsea (Sussex) was destroyed in a great storm.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century was no better with 'wilde storms' in 1305, 1328, 1334, 1341, 1343, 1347 and 1376. Not only were countless lives lost in these storms but many small villages and small ports were devastated. The town of Dunwich (East Anglia) was (in 1300 AD) as big as Bristol

but by 1587 half the town had been lost through coastal erosion and today, the whole town has gone.

The Channel coast fared little better; the famous Cinque Port of Reculver was gradually lost through coastal erosion. In 1530, the town walls had been some 450 yards from the shore but by 1685 this figure had been reduced to only 10 yards! Similarly, Shoreham, an important port in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, was (by 1432) described as having been 'destroyed by the sea' and the number of inhabitants had fallen from 2,500 souls to just 200. Interestingly, three mile eastwards, growth of the shingle bar to the south of the town deflected the river so from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the town was able to rise again.

For the South West, the most poignant area in terms of the impacts of changing sea levels must be the Severn Estuary and the Somerset Levels in particular. There are at least 25 well documented major flood events recorded for the Estuary between 1253 and 1606. In 1300 there was mention that the land at Huntspill was 'only occasionally arable on account of inundation' [sic] by the sea. In 1331 a Commission of Sewers was set up 'by reason of the outrageous flowing, surges and course of the sea in and upon the ground'. The great flood of January 1607 is well documented as it affected the whole of the Severn Estuary. The sea wall at Burnham failed and the hinterland was drowned to a depth of 12ft and many hundreds of people were drowned. The flood waters even reached Glastonbury Tor some 14 miles inland. Bristol and Cardiff were also badly affected. The village of Lavernock was completely destroyed by the sea in just one hour. It has been suggested that the cause was actually a tsunami but there can be little doubt that the higher-than- today sea levels made matters much worse.

So what have we learned so far? The link between mean global temperatures and sea levels is a complicated one but it would seem that highest mean sea levels (and therefore erosion) occur towards the end of a warm period. It would also seem to be the case that periods of increased storminess are associated with those times when global mean temperatures are in transition.

In the next instalment we will look at the 'Little Ice Age' (1600 - 1825).

**Tony Flux**

**National Trust Coast and Marine Adviser (SW)**

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# The Memoirs of a Fossil Hunter - Part 1

## The First Big Ammonite

**I am new to this game.** In the shops are superb fossils and big ammonites in stone, but all I can find are bits of body chambers or small pyrite (fool's gold) ammonites. The latter are great, but I want one in stone – a gleaming succulent calcite beauty! I search and search, read the books, look in the Heritage Centre, see the film show, but the beach seems curiously void of such delights.

One day I stroll past the old portacabin. About 50 yards on I notice a stone. Well, just the middle part is showing; the rest is buried. In the centre is a black, wet looking crater about six inches in diameter. Only about ten inches of the stone is above the sand. There are a couple of muddy foot prints of wellies plonked upon it. Two fossil 'kings' (fossilers of repute) draw near – they're just going out. They look at me and then check what I'm looking at. (It wouldn't do to have 'casuals' finding anything good.) They grin knowingly and go on their merry way, chuckling at this poor ignorant amateur. So I toil away and look for something more worthwhile.

At last I notice a half-buried large dark grey flattish stone. Could this be it? I dig it out of the beach. It is oblong and about four foot by three foot and four inches thick. I hit it! There is a dull thud as a bit breaks off. I continue for a while, but it dawns on me that this is known as a false flatstone. After a while I return to the buried stone with the damaged top. I lever it up. It is a large stone, four foot square and five inches thick. It is fairly light in colour with pale sandy orange shades on its surface. There is also some white calcite on one edge. I give it a tap with my amateurish tool box hammer. There is a sharp click and a piece comes off nice and cleanly. I tap off another piece and then give it a firm whack! A large piece breaks off and there, nestling in its stony matrix, is the edge of a large amber-coloured ammonite!



Having read enough and enquired from veteran collectors, I knew I should stop further investigation. It could be extracted and prepared carefully later. But, with my 'chiropractor's' back, there is no way I can carry it off the beach. What should I do? Thinking about it for a few moments, it occurs to me to reduce it and so lighten it. Tentatively I nibble away at the opposite end. But after a while I desist, afraid of breaking my precious ammonite.



The old adage is 'get it off the beach', but how? I ask my partner to guard it with her life and am just about to rush off to ask the Heritage Centre for help when one of the fossil 'kings' returns and comes over. Oh good, now for some expert advice and assistance. "Is it any good?", I ask the 'king'. He bends over, makes a strange facial expression of acute indigestion. He spits out his reply: "I expect so" and stomps away, clearly not happy. My find, to him, is not a thing of joy.

So I set off for the Heritage Centre where I'm received with a friendly welcome. A large and hairy warden accompanies me to my precious find. "Looks a good one – an Asti", he says. "An *Asteroceras Obtusum*. It's a Stonebarrow flatstone." How are we going to get it off the

beach?", I enquire. "No problem", he says unconcerned and promptly picks up the heavy beast and, placing it on his broad shoulders, marches off as we follow happily along. He puts it in the car for us and gives us the address of a 'king' who prepares fossils. A few days later we call to collect our prize. It is beautiful; an eight inch amber-coloured Asti, like a lightly hued new chestnut, but so translucent that the light shines through it. We were lucky because the centre of the ammonite was not really there on one side – because that was where the dark crater was and the one factor that stopped the experts recognising the stone. In all the years I fossiled, I never found such a beautifully coloured Asti. One of the veteran 'kings' told me that he'd only ever seen one that rich amber and it had been a much smaller specimen. A true case of beginner's luck.

**BE  
CAREFUL**  
**DON'T TRY TO  
LIFT MORE THAN  
YOU ARE ABLE**

## The One That Could Be Very Big

It continues to be wet weather; storms have melted the cliffs and considerable movement has occurred. Fossils abound and stones are appearing. Everyone is busy. A great pile of 'porridge' has floated down the slips, right through the Stonebarrow flatstone layer, and spreads down the beach for 30 feet. It must be ten feet deep. This is the thick clay on the move, a lumpy Scottish-type 'porridge', thin enough to move slowly but thick enough to have stones hidden inside (a 'delicious' mix!). There is no cliff overhang so, by throwing a few bits of stone upon this miniature Ben Nevis, I gain some foothold and climb up. There is a stone sitting here like a plum upon a cake, well only the top of it is showing. So I poke around with my trusty spade (an essential piece of equipment in these conditions) and reveal a big stone therein. I soon get to work but find the more I dig around the more it steadily sinks. This stone is fat and lens-shaped. It 'calls out' to anyone that it must have something inside of note or, as one fossil 'king' used to describe such a stone, "This is pregnant with promise."

Some amateur pals of mine from the friendly north of England are rushing around finding big pyrites such as *Eoderoceras* just lying on the beach and likely stones among the cliff debris around. They see me atop my 'porridge' pyramid and exclaim: "Aye, that's a good 'un and no mistake, great shape that." After another hour, I'm still only revealing half the big nodule as it keeps sinking deeper. By now my pals have found several stones, opening them with success. As they pass by carrying full haversacks, they call out: "Still at it then?" They cannot help because they need to check another landslip out before others do. It's war out here, with professionals battling against amateurs. Actually, in good times there is enough for everyone both sides of Charmouth, but usually there are more hunters than quality stones. I toil on and reveal nearly all the stone before it sinks still further. But this stone is a gem (if you can call a massive grey lump covered in wet clay a gem!). Being covered by now in clay myself, I'm hardly a gem either – more like a monster from the deep! Even my wellies are full of wet clay; worse still, I'm now looking deep down at my nodule in its clay nest. There is no way I can lever this monster from its lair. I'll have to break the beast down where it is... and, as the weight decreases, it should stop sinking. I gradually beat it down and use my



# The Memoirs of a Fossil Hunter - Part 1

small chisel on the fattest bit, but the stone is bare. I retreat, defeated, but I know for sure there will be another stone another day.

That is fossilling; frustrating one day, joyful the next. So I wearily trudge to the bus stop, removing my clay-stiff over-trousers as I wash my hands and face in the sea, knocking off pounds of 'porridge' from my hat and coat. I await the bus, knowing that I am not a pretty sight with my spade and grubby haversack and outrageously grey exterior. I struggle onto the packed bus and find a corner in which to lurk. People look at me with little interest; they've seen it all before. They know that strange 'specimens' come off the beach.

## The Giant

Well, it's stopped raining for a while and, heading up the beach towards the belemnite marl cliffs, my good lady and I espy a couple I know from along the coast. We greet and shuffle along the beach. As we stroll, we pretend indifference, but we look around us all the time for a nice golden ammonite. The competition to be first never stops. We near the beach below the belemnite marl cliffs. For some reason I don't notice something which should have been obvious. The whole beach has come off and I'm looking at an area I've never seen before. I notice a couple of 'footballs' (small *Stellare* nodules) and a curiously blank layer of marl with a thin covering of sand with lumps of rounded rock sticking out of it. Still, it does not register. Mrs X is sitting on a large boulder and, as I draw close, I see it is an exposed area of the body chamber of a monster ammonite peeking out of its nodule. Then I awake from my blank reverie. Strewth, the beach is off and we're standing on top of the *Stellare* beds cropping out at beach level! All around I notice several large nodules sitting like giant tortoises within the shale and Mrs X is sitting on top of a whopper. It's begun to rain hard, but what care we; we're on to something big. We gather around. The stone must be four feet round and the body chamber's breadth and circumference shows that it must be nearly filling the stone...if it's inside. This could be just a body chamber with a crushed *Astereoceras Stellare*. The *Stellare* is the biggest *Asti* of all, but perfect ones are rare. It is extremely heavy and will require a colossal effort to get it off the beach. They all look at me expectantly. Usually these big nodules do not show the ammonite and the technique is to beat them down to see the contents which are often crushed. Sometimes you can find wrecked stones on the beach with a crushed centre in

a fairly large lump – the fossiler has left in disgust. It is occasionally worth a little extra knocking about as a *Nautilus* can be tucked away in there.

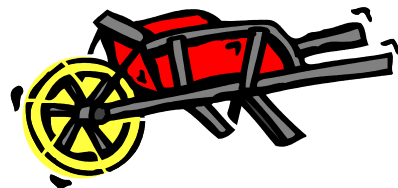
So what do we do? "Look", I say. "This is really difficult; we need

**THINK**  
**THE SAFE WAY**  
**IS THE**  
**BEST WAY**

to know if it's worth taking." Still they look at me for answers, but with less eager faces. I make a suggestion: "This is your fossil, so it's up to you, but I suggest we take a look at it first. If I knock a piece off the body chamber it might give us a clue." Trustingly, Mrs X says: "Do what you know best." I wish that were true but feel that my idea is a good one. We need more information and we cannot probe it or, worse still, damage it. "I can knock a piece off", I explain "and see if it's worth the effort to carry it off the beach." They agree. So, taking a deep breath, I hit across the middle part of the body

chamber. A nice piece breaks away. "Keep that and any 'crumbs' you can find", I instruct and then we all lean over and... Oh my, it's showing a completely hollow chamber full of superbly defined orange crystals. There is a strong chance it's a good ammonite. "We've got to get it off the beach." "How?" they ask, bewildered. I know enough to say: "We need a wheelbarrow and ropes." So Mr and Mrs X stay and we hasten back. The tide is beginning to turn and it would be best to get the stone because tomorrow it might be buried under several feet of sand.

Luckily we contact a pal at Lyme Regis and fetch his wheelbarrow. It's old and rusty but will have to suffice and he lets us have several lengths of rope. Off we set again and are soon trundling along the beach in the drenching rain. The rest is something of a blur of digging, levering, rolling and roping the nodule onto the barrow. It's far too big of course. Then we attach ropes to its single wheel axis. The rain is like a waterfall, the sea is rolling in and dusk is falling as we set off. One lifts the barrow handles, two of us pull on the ropes, jerking the wheel as it sinks in the sand or bumps over stones. Mrs X calls out "Mush Mush!" It's a mighty battle. At last, with aching arms, we reach the car park. The rest should be straightforward. Oh yeah? Mr & Mrs X's car has a high boot. We heave and struggle. I find some driftwood planks which we use as a ramp. In desperation, we bring our car round, but the boot is still too high. I suggest we try to roll it between the front and the back seats. Somehow, with bits of wood, a big push, enough impetus and basic kinetic energy (and a lot of expletives) it suddenly rolls up and over and, with a mighty thump, lands on the car floor. It's a wonder it doesn't go straight through the chassis. We set off in the dark and I shall never forget the sight of Mrs X, utterly soaked, legs and arms around her mighty *Asti* stone, grinning like a Cheshire cat as we travel to the expert fossil prepper. Luckily, he's at home. With baited breath we watch anxiously as the 'king' examines our stone. "Have you got the body chamber bits?" he enquires. "Oh yes", we reply and hand them over. "Well done", he congratulates us. "It could be a good one but on the other hand it might be crushed." "Do your best!" we say hopefully. Then we have the effort of getting the brute out of the car and into his workshop.



Our pals phone us a week later and tell us that although the expert probed the ammonite and found it was a bit 'wobbly' in shape and crushed in places, it was a great specimen! He advised them to take it to one of the quarrying businesses in Swanage to be cut and polished. Later we were invited over and, arriving in their home, stood in front of two covered objects. The covers were removed with a flourish and there stood two perfect halves cut neatly through the centre with the flat edges polished like glass. Every single chamber was perfectly hollow and crammed with honey-coloured calcite crystals. Was it all worth it? The smiles on their faces said it all. Then Mrs X asked if we wanted a half. She was so grateful, but I said: "You must keep the two halves together and never split them." My, what an experience. Phew!

## 'The Mouse'

Look out for episode 2 in the next issue of *Shoreline*.

# National Coastwatch Institution



**The Summer months have been keeping our Lyme Bay Coastwatch volunteers busy.** This is a short update on our recent activities.

As we mentioned in the Spring edition of *Shoreline*, Lyme Bay NCI is still

recruiting volunteers. Until we achieve full strength our normal watch coverage at the lookout based at Burton Bradstock will normally be Friday to Monday inclusive. However, despite this, we managed to maintain full watch coverage every day during the Olympic period.



The Princess Royal with the four Dorset NCI Station Managers. (Lyme Bay's Clive Edwards is second from the left.)

Coastguard requested assistance from the NCI to prevent public access to the fatal rock fall area. NCI volunteers were also deployed to various other beach areas, including Charmouth, in order to warn members of the public about the possibility of landslips while coast paths were temporarily closed so that assessments could be made by surveyors. This type of deployment was a first

This also came at a time when there have been concerns regarding the stability of the cliffs in the wake of the awful tragedy at Burton Bradstock when a landslip killed a young woman on 24<sup>th</sup> July. At that time, the HM



Clive receiving the Award on behalf of the Dorset NCI Stations. (Sir Tim Laurence is on the left.)

due to instability and we have also provided extra watches to continue to warn members of the public of the dangers. All of this, of course, is in addition to our prime function of keeping an eye on safety at sea.

In the Summer edition of *Shoreline*, Lyme Bay's Station Manager, Clive Edwards, wrote about how the four Dorset NCI Stations had received the prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). Following on from this, on 6<sup>th</sup> August, more than 100 NCI volunteers, family members and supporters gathered at the Portland NCI lookout to meet the Princess Royal, Princess Anne, accompanied by her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence. Both were wearing their Team GB Olympic kit as they had taken time out from the sailing events at Weymouth to present the formal QAVS certificate and commemorative crystal to the four Dorset NCI Stations. Clive was given the honour of receiving the crystal from



**The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**  
The MBE for volunteer groups

## National Coastwatch

EYES ALONG THE COAST

Princess Anne on behalf of all four Dorset Stations. It was a memorable occasion for us all and the Royal couple managed to speak to most of the NCI representatives present.

We have also been active in promoting the NCI, attracting volunteers and raising money. To this end, we have had representatives at the recent Charmouth Fayre and also the Melpash show.

Volunteering for the NCI is enjoyable and worthwhile and we now have several volunteers from Charmouth and the immediate surrounding area. If you want to learn more, are interested in joining, and want an application form, please contact:

Clare Reeves (Recruitment) : -  
Email: [clarereeves1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clarereeves1@hotmail.co.uk)  
Phone: 01297 560996

NCI website: [www.nci.org.uk](http://www.nci.org.uk) (There is a separate site within this about Lyme Bay NCI.)

### Donations

The NCI exists entirely on public donations, whether from collection days, event sponsorship or direct contributions. Even if you don't want to join us you can support us with a donation. If you wish to contribute please contact:

John Ashley (Fund Raising Co-ordinator) : -  
Email: [jra2711@aol.com](mailto:jra2711@aol.com)  
Phone: 01297 444801

**Mike Seaman**

Photos: TL— Pam Armitage  
BL and above — Jo Seaman



Mike Seaman talking to Princess Anne

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## Is This Jacket Yours?

This light blue ladies Arctic Storm jacket with a hood and dark blue lining was left behind at the Jubilee Street Party. It was found by the side of the pharmacy, behind the tea stall. A pair of dark-rimmed glasses is in one of the pockets. Despite efforts to trace its owner, it is still unclaimed. If the garment is yours, please contact Peter Noel on 01297 560078.





# What Is It About The Piddock?

**What is it about the name – Piddock – that always seems to evoke a smile from the most serious of adults?** Whatever their response to the name, many people are amazed at the activities of this common mollusc.

Piddocks are very common in Charmouth and the local coastal area; they can be found in large numbers on the lower part of the shore to a depth of about 35m. They inhabit beautifully-bored, smooth-sided burrows in various kinds of rock such as limestone, marl or mudstone. Piddocks can also bore into wood, firm sand, peat, sandstone, slate, shale and other substrates.



Photo: Michael C. Rygel  
via Wikimedia Commons

As members of the Mollusc phylum, piddocks are bivalves and their shells may sometimes be found on the beach. Unlike other bivalves such as cockles, pairs of shells don't fit together well as they have a large gap to accommodate a fleshy siphon. The shells are elongated (up to 15 cm) and highly ridged. Run your finger along the outside of the shell and the concentric rings and radiating ribs make it feel more like a coarse file or

rasp, while the inside is smooth and shiny. The ridges on the shell as well as the unusual recurved umbo (apex of the shell) are key to the success of the piddock and related species. Inside each shell, you can find a characteristic peg or tooth-like structure for attachment of the foot muscles.

What's special about piddocks? They are members of a larger group of boring bivalves, some of which ('ship-worms' of many kinds) are renowned for doing devastating and costly damage to wooden ships, piers and similar structures. Ship-worms, despite their name, are not worms, they are bivalve molluscs. Related bivalves, piddocks, can also do damage by hastening erosion low down on the beach. Sometimes there are so many piddock borings that the rock breaks apart. If piddocks lose their burrows, they are unable to make new ones and will therefore become food for a wading bird, or dry out and die.

The burrows made by piddocks are usually homes for life. As they grow, their strong muscular foot contracts and relaxes, producing rocking and turning movements causing the shells to rasp away at the rock or other substrate. A smooth cylindrical hole in which the piddock can live is formed. As the piddock grows the burrow is enlarged and accommodates the two shells, fleshy foot and a large muscular siphon which can be partially retracted. The siphon has two parts, one bringing in a current of water, while the other is for the outflow. In this way, a constant stream of water can pass over the animal's gills supplying oxygen, food and vital nutrients from the sea water.

Like many other bivalves, piddocks are suspension or filter-feeders. They are sessile - they remain in one place while a current of water is drawn in delivering food in the form of organic matter including plankton. Comprising microscopic plants, animal larvae (from crabs, jellyfish, sea urchins and so on), bacteria and detritus, this nutritious soup forms a filter-feeder's diet. By a surprisingly complex process, streams of mucus carry the food from the gills where it is filtered from the water and carried to the gut where it is digested. Waste products

and water pass out of the siphon which can also produce a sudden spurt of water to cleanse the area.

Thinking about the piddocks' lifestyle, they have a pretty good time; when covered by the tide they bore their own perfectly-fitting home which protects them from predators and is potentially theirs for life (up to 14 years). Food is delivered as a constant stream and waste is removed in an efficient way. The sea water also conveys sperm and eggs to produce new life, spawning occurring during the summer. Piddocks are sensitive to vibration so if you walk near them, they may partially retract the siphons, sending up a spurt of water. Another claim to fame for the piddock – they are said to be phosphorescent; the evolutionary advantage of this characteristic is debatable.



Photo: Rosalind Cole

Piddocks are a wide-ranging and successful marine group living around much of southern Britain, Ireland, the English Channel, Mediterranean and Atlantic to parts of North Africa and North America. Abandoned burrows can be very useful as temporary or permanent protective areas to other marine creatures such as worms, crabs, anemones and small fish as well as to many types of algae. Where there are many such burrows, the diversity of species in the area is enhanced.

If you want to find out more about these interesting bivalve molluscs, common piddocks are *Pholas dactylus*. This species and relatives in the Pholadidae can be found on the internet (e.g. Marine Life Information Network or MarLIN), in textbooks on marine biology or malacology (the study of molluscs).

**Rosalind Cole**

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# Police

**Since June this summer, there have been 5 thefts from shops in the village, one break-in to a garage, one attempted break-in to a house, one assault, three instances of domestic violence and one crime of criminal damage.** Usually there is an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported over the summer holidays as the population of the village swells, but ASB has remained very low over the past few months. We will continue our regular patrols to maintain the low levels of crime and ASB.



PC Kirsti Ball

In the past few weeks, we have said goodbye to PC Richard Winward who has left the Safer Neighbourhood Team to become a Response PC. He has been replaced by PC Kirsti Ball who has come across from Bridport Police Station. If you haven't already met her out-and-about then I'm sure you will see her over the coming weeks.

Don't worry; you may still see PC Winward around the area if you're lucky!

Exciting changes are coming within the Police; in November, the public go to the polls to vote for the first Police & Crime Commissioners who will replace the Police Authorities (they currently decide the priorities for the Police and how they go about their business). Keep your eyes on the media to see what plans the candidates have for Policing in Dorset!



PCSO Luke White

Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team can be contacted via telephone on either 101 or our mobile 07500816312 or via email [lymeregisnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lymeregisnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk).

**PCSO Luke White 5474**

*Photos courtesy of Dorset Police*

## Charmouth's Fireworks & Bonfire Night



**On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November on the beach  
6.15pm onwards**

**Anybody who came last year will remember the magnificent bonfire, I doubt if we will be able to match that one, but we will try!** So if you have any spare wood etc., you want to get rid of could you please contact us and we will pick it up on the day.

We will be holding another best dressed guy competition as it went so well last year and some of the guys helped to fuel the bonfire. There will be a BBQ and Bar available and maybe some music.

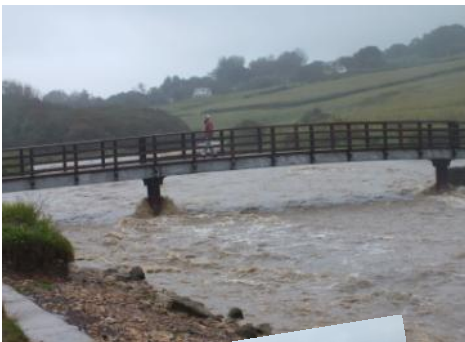
# NOVEMBER

If you come along at the beginning you will also have the pleasure of watching the Lyme Regis Fireworks at 6.45pm!!

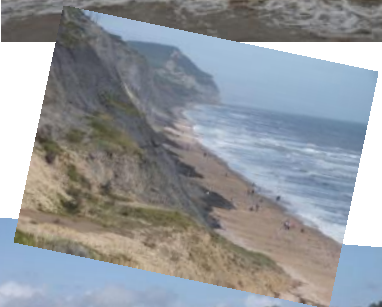
Please contact me by email at [peter@marshall-noel.co.uk](mailto:peter@marshall-noel.co.uk) or phone me on 01297 560078.

**Peter Noel**

## The Charmouth Pictorial



Charmouth hit the national TV and headlines on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July when the River Char was in flood. There were also new landslips on the beach. These photos show 'before' and 'after' at the beach.



Photos: Bob Dunlop



# Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run



The Challenge and the Fun Run running races were cancelled on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012 due to extreme weather conditions. The races then took place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012.



It's that man Peter Noel... again...!



After falling foul of the torrential rain in the middle of Summer, the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run took place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. We welcomed back a number of runners who entered the July race as well as a large number of new entrants. The Fun Run took the opportunity to run on the beach and make the most of a low 'spring' tide.

The Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run are organised by parents of the village primary school. It is the main fundraising event of the year and all the proceeds are donated to the school to help the children. Last year the school upgraded much of its IT equipment as well as extending its library facility. Swimming lessons and school trips are also subsidised. The runs have been organised

for the last 25 years and more than £55,000 has been raised in that time.

The organisers would like to thank all the competitors and parents who made the races so enjoyable. A special thanks to all the race marshals who made both events so successful. Thanks also to Rob Rhodes at the National Trust, Mark & Sally Osborne and to Robin Loosemore for enabling the runs to take place on their land.

**Nick Bale**



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Claude Muncaster's 'Village Post Office'  
Image courtesy of: Neil Mattingly

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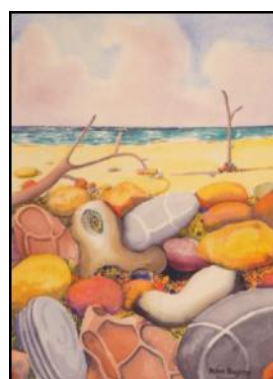
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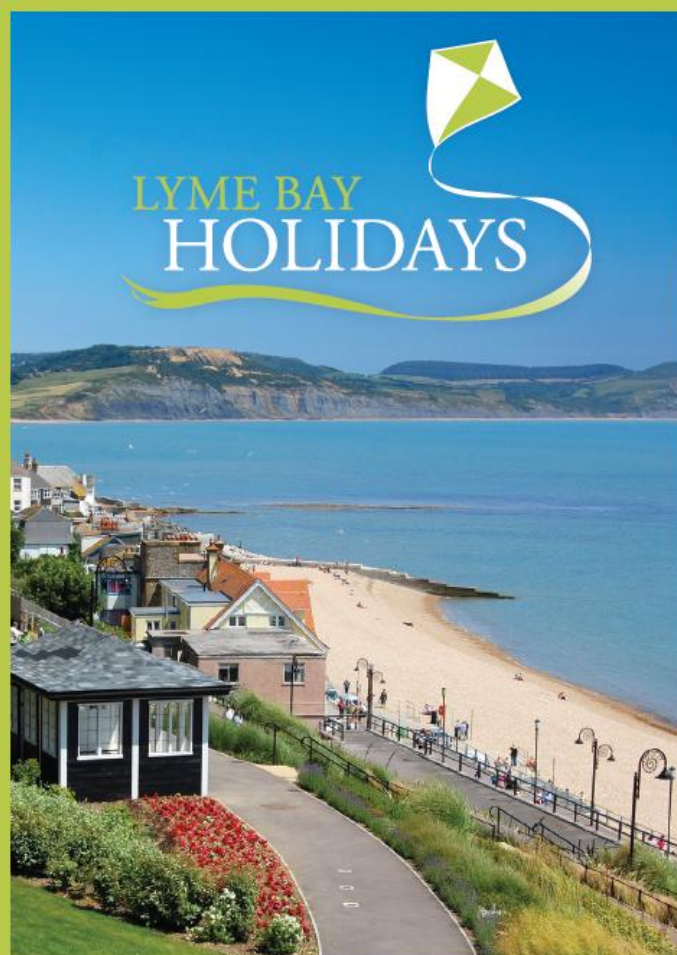
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# Claude Muncaster's 'Village Post Office'

**This wonderfully evocative painting (see left) of a Charmouth scene long since gone formed part of a poster distributed by the National Savings Bank to Post Offices around England.** Claude Muncaster depicted a number of attractive scenes of village post offices. Very few posters have survived and this may well be the only one in existence as no record of it appears in the Post Office archives. Judging from the shops and vehicles, it would have been painted in the early 1960s.

The view is at the top of The Street in Charmouth looking down towards Charmouth House, the large, thatched, ivy clad building in the distance. It was then run as a Hotel by Mr and Mrs Johnstone, though shortly afterwards Mr and Mrs Earl took over. Directly opposite at the time was a shop called Mediterraena which sold goods brought back by Mr and Mrs Asquith from their travels on the Continent. A little higher up, with its board above the doorway, was Hutchins, a long established shoe shop. Adjoining this property had been the village blacksmiths, but by then The Charmouth Pottery run by Mike Hendrick and his wife was established. It is difficult to identify the two black cars, but the one nearest could well be the Rover 90 owned by the Earls.

The shop with Charmouth Post Office emblazoned above it was Longs, a general store, which had long stood on the site. (It was one of two post offices in the village, the other being Charmouth Stores, run by the Dampiers.) Immediately up from the shop was the impressive Askew House, set back from the road, which for a long time was the Charmouth Surgery run by Dr Chamberlain. The building with the Sold sign was once a fish shop run by James Gear. As well as a number of businesses there was the New Inn (now sadly gone) a little further up if you felt like a drink.

On the opposite side was Melbourne House and next to it The Well Head, where the famous Charmouth historian, Reginald Pavey, lived. Badgers was then a bookshop run by David and Margaret Courage, who now live at Melbury Osmond in Dorset.

These were wonderful times before the curse of traffic killed off the trade that these small businesses depended upon to exist.

**Neil Mattingly**

## Charmouth Youth Club

### Events for Autumn Term

**Please see the full programme on the door at the Youth Club in Wesley Close**

Great Café  
Arts & Crafts  
Music & Drama  
Hair & Beauty  
Newsletter  
Scooters & Ramps  
Sports  
Girls Only Session  
Friends  
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X box  
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Call Louise on 07501081828  
Or pop in at 8.30pm on any Tuesday after club for a chat!

## Book an Event in Charmouth

<b>St. Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane</b>	<b>560572</b>
<b>Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close</b>	<b>560615</b>
<b>The Elms, The Street</b>	<b>560826</b>
<b>Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close</b>	<b>561004</b>

Please remember to use the 'Events Diary' in the Post Office when booking your event so that others can see when the halls are being used.



# The Charmouth Poetry Corner



*It can cause some confusion when they ask us where we live,  
I think it fair to say it was a lazy name to give,  
They could have called it something, instead of just The Street,  
Some look at our address and say, "I don't think that's complete".*

*It's much too late to change it now, it's been like that for yonks,  
If you inquire who is to blame I s'pect they'd say "The monks",  
But surely they had lots of time to sit and meditate,  
To call it just The Street I'd say, is hardly adequate.*



*I could be quite embarrassed if a stranger I did meet,  
And when he asked me where I lived I said, "Oh, on The Street".  
He might think "This chap's got no home" and give me 50p.  
"Take this my man and go and get yourself a cup of tea".*

*But for a girl the consequences could be even worse,  
If with some male stranger she did happen to converse.  
It wouldn't do to say to him that she was on The Street,  
He might say, "I've a caravan as long as you're discreet".*

*But let's hang on a minute, I may not have thought this through,  
Perhaps I should give credit, where credit may be due,  
'Cause method in their madness may have been the planner's scheme,  
Maybe to call it just 'THE Street' enhances its esteem.*

*It's Charmouth's most important street and please let me suggest,  
'THE' is quite enough to make it stand out from the rest.  
So next time someone says to me "The Street, but what's its name?"  
I'll say, "It doesn't need one, that is its claim to fame".*

**Peter Crowter**



## THE DOG

*When God made the earth and sky, the flowers and the trees,  
He made all the animals and all the birds and bees.  
And, when his work was finished, not one was quite the same.  
He said "I'll walk this earth of mine and give each one a name."  
And so he travelled land and sea and, everywhere he went,  
A little creature followed him until its strength was spent.  
When all were named upon the earth and in the sky and sea,  
The little creature said "Dear Lord, there's no name left for me."  
The Father smiled and softly said "I've left you to the end -  
I've turned my own name back to front and called you Dog, my friend."*



Submitted by **Gordon Cooper**  
for all the dog lovers in Charmouth



## How Are You?

*My hearing's going  
Almost gone  
My hairline's fast receding.  
I need my glasses every time  
I write or do some reading.  
And now I've trouble with my socks  
Where do I put my toes in?  
My brain is getting tired now,  
I think it's decomposing.*

**Peter Bagley**



# The Charmouth Poetry Corner

## MARY WATCHED

*A man is beaten, bloodied, pierced  
His human form absorbs the blows  
His flesh resembles pummelled meat  
His face grotesque the agony shows*

*His mother watches at his feet  
The pain she's bearing won't subside  
She doesn't understand this scene  
A son so gifted, special child*

*It isn't possible to know  
The depths of torture her heart knows  
Through all the years she kept her peace  
But not once dreamed it would end so*

*And now the darkness brings a flood  
Of tears and feelings of despair  
Her son, the one the world despised  
Is now their victim hanging there*

*But she had not yet seen the dawn  
The new day new way living way  
This first born of a whole new race  
Would wake eternal free the slaves*

*That joy that overshadows death  
And peace that simple souls confess  
The love that springs from thankful hearts  
That Jesus enters by request*

*Restoring and much more besides  
The aching losses of our lives  
And benefits too great to count  
The friend with whom our victory lies*

*Because he lived and died alone  
The payment that was ours to make  
Was paid in full but more than this  
His life is ours so we can wake*

*And free the slaves in His great name  
And heal the sick and honour friends  
The victory and the glory ours  
Not of ourselves but in His strength*

*For on that day when Jesus died  
That mother gave the greatest gift  
A mother could and paid her price  
So we could all receive and live*

*Truly live not like the world  
Bound by torments, evil, greed  
But Spirit life complete and free  
No-one but Jesus do we need*

*No other thing or person holds  
Our lives a ransom unto death  
Because we know without a doubt  
The Saviour Jesus is our breath*

*And life or death can hold no threat  
Because we walk with him so near  
And all will pass except the truth  
In part for now but then so clear*

**Jan Gale**

## The Gardeners' Cup Winners 2012

**RHS Banksian Medal** for most points and certificates - Ron Dampier  
**Grace Laker Cup** for highest points for fruit and vegetables - Ron Dampier  
**Poppleton Cup** for best floral exhibit - Dee Butler  
**Wyn Durbridge Bowl** for best vase garden flowers/shrubs - Chris Horton  
**Best Dahlia Founders Trophy** - Jean Barlow  
**Joe Tisshaw Trophy** for best in sweet pea class - Ron Dampier  
**Dick Wood Trophy** for best specimen rose - Julie Renfrew  
**Rose Cup** for best in rose class - Patsy Flather  
**Stan Durbridge Bowl** for best pot plant - Ron Dampier  
**Marcel Clouzy Cup** for best exhibit in floral arrangement - Jean Kesterton  
**Doris Robertson Salver** for best in handicrafts - Neil Mattingly  
**George Cup** for best exhibit in fruit and vegetables - Ron Dampier  
**Clouzy Cup** for best in home produce - Patsy Flather  
**Norah Kidd Trophy** for highest points in photographic - Mary Davis  
**Cup for best photograph** - Mary Davis  
**RHS Award of Merit** for young exhibitors - Emma Sage  
Winners' line-up on front page (left to right): Chris Horton, Jean Kesterton, Patsy Flather, Julie Renfrew, Mary Davis, Neil Mattingly, Jean Barlow, Dee Butler, Ron Dampier

**Support  
Charmouth  
Clubs**

## Visit to Overbecks

**The most memorable of the Charmouth Gardeners' monthly summer coach trips to gardens this season was when we visited Overbecks at Salcombe in July.**

A Mexican plant 'FURCRAEA', which looks like a dwarf yucca, spends its whole life of 25 years building enough energy to produce a flower. The flower spike took 6 weeks to reach 3.30m and we were present to view this dramatic, yellow vision before it dies after flowering in September.

**Jean Kesterton**

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# Charmouth Gardeners' Annual Show 2012

Despite the weather playing havoc with flowers, fruit and vegetables, the people of Charmouth and surrounding areas rallied round the gardening committee and 'came forth' with 413 entries for various classes in the Annual Gardening Show. As expected the number of entries was down on last year's show (503) but we had more visitor numbers and the show was generally felt to be a huge success.



The show secretary and committee heartily thank all helpers, committee members and friends (too many names to mention) for their support. Once again the handicraft section was popular (there will be new classes added to this section in 2013) and the home produce ladies AND gentlemen continue to amaze with their baking and preserve skills. The entrants for the children's sections were disappointing, but for those who did enter in handicrafts and baking a very BIG thank you; we hope you enjoyed the fun of the show.

The judges (Mr Cyril Whitlock, Mr Kevin Dean, Mr Bernard Spencer, Mrs J. Tunstall and Mrs J. Rudkin) did a sterling job on deciding the best in each class and the following list of winners deserve our congratulations with special commendation going to the star of the Show, Ron Dampier; closely followed by Chris Horton, Patsy Flather, Mary Davis, Tony Horton, Kathy Fereday, Dee Butler and David Renfrew who all received winner and place certificates in many classes in different areas.

Nevertheless, without all entrants there would not be a show, so THANK YOU to all and let us hope that next year's weather will be kinder, our produce will be fruitful and that we may welcome many entrants and visitors to next year's show

**Pauline Bonner (Mrs)**  
**Charmouth Gardeners Show Secretary**

## RESULTS CHARMOUTH GARDENERS' ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2012

### FLOWERS

1. Container Flowers (and / or) Shrubs – Chris Horton
2. Perennials (Vase of 5 stems) – Dee Butler
3. Annuals (Vase of 9 stems) different varieties, 3 – Ron Dampier
4. Marigolds (African or French, 5 stems) – Lesley Dunlop
5. Dahlias (Cactus or semi Cactus, 3) – Margaret Moores
6. Dahlias (decorative, 3) – -----
7. Dahlias (pom pom, 3) – -----
8. Dahlias (ball, 3) – Jean Barlow
9. Dahlia (specimen, 1) – -----
10. Sweet Peas – Ron Dampier
11. Annuals (5 stems, one type) – Kathy Fereday
12. Flowering Shrub (1 stem) – Patsy Flather
13. Pansies (6, suitably displayed) – Chris Horton
14. Carnations or Pinks (3 stems) – Ron Dampier
15. Specimen Rose (one stem, HT) – Julie Renfrew
16. Floribunda or Multiflora Rose (one stem) – Patsy Flather
17. Bowl or Vase of Roses (5 blooms, HT) – Margaret Moores
18. Gladiolus (one spike) – Ron Dampier
19. Pot plant, flowering (other than fuchsia) – Jane Morrow
20. Pot plant, foliage – Sue Brunner
21. Pot plant, cactus, succulent or unusual) – Kathy Fereday

22. Fuchsia (potted, standard or half standard) – -----
23. Fuchsia (potted, any bush or trailing type) – Ron Dampier
24. Artistic Floral arrangement (Olympics Theme) – Jean Kesterton

### HANDICRAFTS

25. Birthday card (children 8 yrs and under) – Emma Sage
26. A piece of Patchwork – Carol Stickler
27. A hand knitted garment – Frankie Dauncey
28. One piece of needlework or embroidery – Victoria Stickler
29. Hand crafted or Turned piece of Wood – Dudley Jarvis
30. A Painting (in any medium) subject 'Seascape' – Neil Mattingly
31. A painting (in any medium) subject 'Animal/s' – Frank Turner
32. Any handicraft work (children aged 9 – 15 yrs) – Vicky Harvey

### VEGETABLES & FRUIT

33. Potatoes (3, any one variety other than fir) – Rosie Crowle
34. Potatoes (3 white, any one variety other than fir) – Richard Fereday
35. Tomatoes (5, any colour, medium size) – Ron Dampier
36. Tomatoes (5, cherry or plum variety) – Ron Dampier
37. Onions (3, over 250g) – -----
38. Onions (3, not to exceed 250g) – Ron Dampier
39. Shallots, 5 – Ron Dampier
40. Lettuces, 2 – Ron Dampier
41. Marrows (2, not exceeding 380mm in length) – Ron Dampier

### VEGETABLES & FRUIT

42. Runner beans (5, with stalks) – Ron Dampier
43. Peas (5 pods, any variety, with stalks) – Win Maynard
44. Carrots (3, root intact, with 75mm top foliage) – Steve Hillier
45. Beetroot (3, root intact, with 75mm top foliage) – Jan Coleman
46. Cucumbers (2 long, matched) – Tony Horton
47. Courgettes (2, 100-200mm uniform size) – Ron Dampier
48. Any one kind vegetable (not in schedule) – Steve Hillier
49. Soft fruit (dish of suitable quantity) – Victoria Stickler
50. Any other fruit (dish of suitable quantity) – Peter Bonner
51. Collection of 3 flowers, 3 fruits, 3 vegetables – -----
52. Culinary Herbs (3, different kinds) – Dee Butler
53. Top Tray (a collection of 3) – Eric Poppitt

### HOME PRODUCE

54. Jar of lemon curd – Mary Davis
55. Jar of fruit jelly – Mary Davis
56. Jar of marmalade – Maralyn Hinxman
57. Jar of any fruit jam – Gill Savage
58. Jar of Chutney (sweet or savoury) – David Renfrew
59. Savoury Flan or Quiche – Julie Renfrew
60. 6 Fruit Scones – Jean Dampier
61. Brown/White Bread Loaf, not machine – Tony Horton
62. Savoury/Fruit Bread Loaf, Men, not machine – David Renfrew
63. A loaf of Brown/White bread, machine – Elaine Phillips
64. 6 Shortbread rectangles – Patsy Flather
65. 5 Rock cakes (children under 12 only) – Oswald Gardner
66. 4 decorated cup cakes (children under 12 only) – Freya Linney
67. 6 decorated cupcakes – Jill Matthews
68. New – Any size Dundee cake – Jean Dampier
69. Sticky gingerbread cake – Mary Davis
70. Classic Victoria Sponge – Jean Kesterton
71. 6 Chocolate Brownies – Gwen Oxenbury
72. New – Rhubarb crumble cake – Tony Horton

### PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION

73. On the Sea shore – Mary Davis
74. Elements – Neil Harvey
75. Hot – Chris Horton
76. Young Ones – Mary Davis
77. Jump – Chris Horton

### CHILDREN'S CLASSES

78. An animal made from fruit etc. (under 7 yrs) – -----
79. A Beach garden (7 - 11 yrs) – -----

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# Charmouth Bowls Club

**We are again coming to the end of a very enjoyable bowls season.** Some of our early matches were marred by the very unsettled weather in the earlier part of the summer but a rearrangement of our match and competition days soon had us back on track. Through the summer months we have played a number of friendly games against other local clubs in the South Somerset, East Devon and West Dorset area and each has been accompanied by a great afternoon tea provided by our ladies.



Our mid-summer BBQ and Bowls day was unfortunately postponed until early August when the weather improved. At that time, over 30 members and guests were able to

enjoy a full day of sunshine, good food, and a relaxing and fun afternoon on the green.

We would still love to see our membership grow and if you feel you would like to give it a try then watch out for the start of our next season in April 2013.



*So, who's won?*

In the meantime our Short Mat Bowls starts in the St. Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane. Play will be every Tuesday afternoon at 1.45pm for 2pm from the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Our first season was a great success and we would love you to come along and join us in a great afternoon's activity. It's friendly! It's fun! Just call in on the day. We will be pleased to welcome beginners.

**Jim Greenhalgh**

## The Bopper Bus

### The Bopper Bus - Willing Helpers

**Come and join us on the Bopper Bus - the Friday night leisure bus to Bridport Leisure Centre.** Available to children 8 years and over. Pick up from Charmouth

School car park at 4.45 pm and return by 8pm. The bus picks up at some of the surrounding villages and hamlets before arriving at the Leisure Centre. Whilst there, the children have a session in the Sports Hall doing a range of activities which include: uni-hoc, crash mat racing, martial arts, dance, badminton, table tennis, dodge ball etc. This is followed by a 45 minute free play session in the pool.



Bopper Bus seeks adult helpers to accompany the children to Bridport Leisure Centre on Friday evenings during term time. (Subject to CRB check.)



Volunteers accompany children on the bus and monitor them at the leisure centre where the children participate in a range of sporting activities and swimming.

A rota system of volunteers requires a commitment of 4 sessions per term.

Please contact Melanie Harvey on 01297 560393

## Charmouth Brownies

# Brownies

**Last term was great fun despite the rain!! The Olympics were our theme for several**

**meetings including beach volleyball and our mini Olympic games.** We were invited to Charmouth Tunnel

to see a real Olympic torch and had fun making our own versions to carry in the Charmouth Fayre parade (see photos below and on back cover).



*Our visit to Charmouth Tunnel*

old people in the village, amongst our usual fun and games!

Charmouth Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 10. We meet once a week in term time and have fun doing lots of great things – learning new skills and helping people in our community.

This term is looking to be just as much fun with making chocolate apples, forest walk, our annual Pantomime trip, Remembrance Day parade, Christmas activities and singing Christmas carols for



*Ready for the Fayre parade!*

We're desperately looking for adults to come along and help - just one meeting a term or as much as you like, you'd be very welcome – Brownies are great at making the adults tea and biscuits!! If you can help in any way please call Caroline on 07525 918796 – thank you!



*Brownies on parade*

If your daughter would like to join Brownies please give us a call – even if she's not seven yet, make sure her name's on the waiting list, call Caroline on 07525 918796.

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# We Remember



**Ray Smith**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 1921 -  
14<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

It was a great sadness to learn of the passing of Ray Smith in June this year. He was a most prominent member of the Heritage Coast Centre since its beginning and was responsible for Phase II of the development of the upper floor to its current dimensions in 1991 to 1995.

Ray and his wife Peggy came to Charmouth upon retirement in 1979 and Ray soon became involved with the creation of what was to become Charmouth's most prominent and internationally famous resource – the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.

There were many significant aspects to Ray's life but by far the most surprising and distinguished aspect was as the Clerk of Works in the creation of Churchill's War Room deep below the War Office during WWII. When questioned on his role, and especially of the distinguished people he must have met – the generals, admirals and presidents of so many nations, he said – almost dismissively: "Oh yes, we were virtually on a first name basis" – and that was all!

I attended Ray's funeral, representing the Heritage Coast Centre, to learn of Ray's past. The funeral service was naturally of family matters and it was a privilege to hear their memories of their father – of holidays in Kent and Pembrokeshire, of all manner of creative games, particularly archery, to which his young family was dedicated. He was, quite evidently, an outstanding father and very much loved.

I first met Ray at the Heritage Coast Centre in 1991. He was the leading light in a quite remarkable, elderly working party whose task was to take over the entire upper floor of the building, thereby doubling the display area, creating an office, a theatre and other facilities. This group had been the original working party in 1986 which had created the south half of the upper floor, as Phase I, in the creation of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. Significant among these were Ray of course, Ron Bailey, Brian Boston, John Moore and Dr. Hepplewright. Another most prominent character of that time was the newly appointed – and inspired – first ever Warden of the Centre, Richard Edmonds.

Phase II began in 1991 when the entire upper floor of the building was developed. There was, I believe, an overall plan for the extension, but many of the finer details required agreement prior to action. It should also be said that the working group was composed of a remarkable diversity of professional talents and, as a result, there were equally diverse opinions on how to proceed. Much discussion ensued. Inevitably discussion became discursive and even though these exchanges were most amiable, much time was wasted. 'Progress by Consensus' was not entirely satisfactory.

This matter was resolved, at least to some extent, by elevating Ray Smith to Clerk of Works, the inference being that Ray should have final say. That in itself was an enormous contradiction as he was the primary 'discourser' in the first place – he simply had to know everything about everything and everyone of us was bombarded with questions – constantly! He was fully aware of his role within the group and he played the part wonderfully – often we

thought, out of pure mischief! There was one incident worth recalling of those times; it was a moment when Ray was pestering Ron Bailey, who was an electrical engineer who'd worked at Aldermaston. Ron was obviously concentrating on a delicate task when this conversation was overheard: Ray said "What are you doing that for? Why? Wouldn't it have been better if ..." and so on. Ron, so intent on his task, could only respond in grunts and gasps to each of the questions, his frustration mounting with each question. Finally, matters became intolerable: Ron said as he stood up to his full height – he was a very tall man and Ray was less so: "Raymond! If I were to answer all your blessed questions I would have to compromise my professional integrity!" There was silence.

The working party of 1991 included the original group of Phase I, composed of Ray of course, Ron Bailey, John Moore, Dave Burgess, Brian Dawson and Alan Bingham. It was a time of much laughter and of fulfilment and it was Ray's presence that made it so.



**Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre**

Much was achieved in Phase II of the expansion of the Centre during that time, 1991 – 1995. Under the new chairman of the Centre, Brian Boston, the display area of the Centre was doubled to take over the entire top floor of the building. The walls were studded and plaster-boarded; Richard Edmonds built his armoured projection room in the new theatre; an office, a kitchen and all lighting were completed. Perhaps most conveniently – a convenience was installed.

In all, it really was an exceptional achievement and apart from the external and internal stairs into the Centre, it was done on a shoestring! The labour was free! It was Ray's leadership and his worthy – if contentious crew – that brought about success. It was a happy and fulfilling time.

When we'd finished our task, it allowed Richard Edmonds full rein to his near genius in conceiving and creating the brilliant displays and activities by which the Centre became famous.

Dear old Ray was seen less frequently at the Centre in recent times, being more concerned with Peggy's health. We can only offer Peggy and the family our deepest sympathy for their loss. He was a good man.

**Peter M Press, Chairman CHCC 1995 – 2000**



# We Remember

## Frank and Mollie McAuley

Many people were in attendance for the joint funeral and celebration of life which was held at St Andrew's Church on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012 for Frank and Mollie McAuley who died within a few weeks of each other.

They had a long and happy marriage which lasted over 70 years, during which they participated in numerous sporting activities. They had sailed together in Weymouth in earlier years and Mollie had played badminton for Dorset County. Together they played bowls and golf and were both captains at Lyme Regis Golf Club. Mollie was also a competitive Bridge player in the village.

Frank and Mollie lived in Exeter, Axmouth and Burton Bradstock before moving to Charmouth 40 years ago.

Frank was a surveyor with WDDC and Mollie was headmistress at Mountjoy School in Bridport. They were very well known in the village and had a large circle of friends. Mollie was Chairman of Governors at Charmouth Primary for a while after she retired. In later years, Frank became partially sighted, but despite this hindrance, he managed to cajole friends into playing golf and acting as spotters for him!

The family has been deeply touched by the kindness and consideration of many people in the village since their deaths.

## Mike and Valerie McAuley

# Calling all ex-Scouts



**Calling all ex-Scouts -  
can you be a  
'Programme-Maker'?**

**1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth Cubs and Scouts  
are appealing to any ex-Scouts  
who are now over the age of 18  
to come back and help liven up**

**their meetings.**

At one time, 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth was one of the largest Scout Groups in West Dorset so there should be plenty of ex-Scouts who would fit the bill. The Scout Group has a strong adult leader team but this would definitely be strengthened by the addition of some younger blood.

Anyone offering to help need not turn up every week (although that would be great!); helping out once or twice a month would be a real bonus.

Scouter-in-Charge, Kevin Payne said, "I hope people will remember the fun they had during their time as a Cub or Scout, and consider injecting a bit of their energy back into the Cub Pack or the Scout Troop. We all saw how much the volunteer 'Games-Makers' got out of helping with the Olympics. Working with Cubs and Scouts as a 'Programme-Maker' can be just as rewarding!"

Anyone interesting in finding out how they can help should call Kevin on 01308 459080 - or email: [payne.kevin6@gmail.com](mailto:payne.kevin6@gmail.com)

**Shoreline is published 4 times a year,  
Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.  
The copy deadline for the Winter issue is  
10th December 2012**

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**SHORELINE**

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To have your copy of *Shoreline* delivered to your door for **one year**, please fill in the form below and send it with a £6 cheque or P.O. payable to 'Shoreline Charmouth' to:

**SUBSCRIPTIONS, The Moorings,  
Higher Sea Lane, Charmouth, DT6 6BD**

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Tel.....

## Events at Bymead House

**McMillan Big Coffee afternoon** Cream teas and cakes  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2pm - 3.30pm

**Family Service & Harvest Festival**  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2.45pm - 4pm

**Christmas Carol Family service**  
9<sup>th</sup> December 2.45pm - 4pm

**Christmas Buffet with carols and music from Ian Thompson** 14<sup>th</sup> December 5pm - 7pm

## Royal British Legion, Women's Section, Charmouth Branch Annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the Village Hall, Wesley Close  
10am to 12 noon with Tombola, Cake and Gift Stalls  
Admission £1 to include Tea or Coffee  
For information regarding the Table Tops, contact Mrs Trish Forsey on 560561

## Events at Monkton Wyld Court

Full details at [www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk](http://www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk)

Contact: [monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com](mailto:monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com)

17 Nov Winter Willow Weaving

3 - 7 Dec Winter Garden Week

23 - 27 Dec Christmas at the Court

Most Wednesdays 7.30pm Wyld Morris Dancing Practice

# What's On In Charmouth ?

## Pie in the Sky

### Two Little Plays and a Two Course Hot Supper

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October &  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Both plays written and  
directed by

**Mike Whatmore**

and featuring well-known  
local faces including

*Shoreline* Editor

**Jane Morrow** and

**Mallory Hayter**

Chairman of the Parish Council in a cameo role

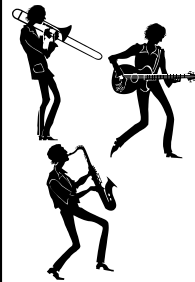
Doors open 7pm for 7.45pm supper with waitress service  
Plays from 9pm until 10.30pm with replenishment interval  
Licensed Bar until midnight

£10 per ticket purchased in advance from  
Fortnam, Smith & Banwell

All proceeds will go towards  
St. Andrew's Community Hall  
new windows project

## St. Andrew's Parish Church

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October: **Harvest Services**  
Also, 12.30pm for 1pm: **Parish Harvest Lunch** in the  
Village Hall (advance tickets from churchwardens)



Weldmar Hospicecare Trust  
Caring for Dorset

**Charmouth Fundraising Committee**  
invite you to an evening of

**'swing music'**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October at  
St. Andrew's Church, Charmouth  
commencing at 7.30pm

Come and listen to the lively and varied music of the  
**Wessex Big Band**

Tickets cost £8 - from Jan Johnstone - 560052

Wine is available in the interval for a small donation

## FUN QUIZ NIGHT – FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

Village Hall, Wesley Close

**TEAMS OF 4**

(Will make up tables of 4 if needed)

**EVERYONE VERY WELCOME**

**FRENCH BREAD & CHEESES SERVED MID-EVENING**

(bring your own liquid refreshment)

**TICKETS £5.00**

Available at The Salon from Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Or contact 01297 560251

(Prizes for winning team members)



Weldmar Hospicecare Trust  
Caring for Dorset

**Charmouth Fundraising Committee**  
invite you to their

**Carols, Cheese, Pate and Cheer Lunch**

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December  
in the Village Hall, Wesley Close  
commencing at 12 noon until 2pm

Come and listen to the music of

'The Beer SOS' (Seriously Occasional Singers)  
together with communal carol singing

Tickets £7 each

includes free glass of wine, lunch, coffee and mince pies

Tickets available from

Deborah Winstone - 561011 and Sandy Hinton - 561469

**LEUKAEMIA  
& LYMPHOMA  
RESEARCH**  
Beating Blood Cancers

**Coffee Morning**  
in aid of  
**Leukaemia Research/  
Exeter Leukaemia Fund**



**10 am Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Village Hall (Wesley Close)**

Coffee and mince pies, Christmas Bazaar, Bric-a-Brac,  
Cakes, Books, Raffle, Tombola

Please come along to this popular event  
in support of Leukaemia Research

Donations of bric-a-brac, cakes, tombola/raffle prizes, or  
help on the day would be welcome

Please contact Jan Plummer on 01297 560730

**CHRISTMAS  
PUDDING  
PARTY**

**Sunday 16th December. 7.00 pm**

Enjoy an evening of yummy festive  
puddings, mulled wine and music  
whilst supporting this local Charity.

At Thalatta, Higher Sea Lane, Charmouth.  
Tickets at £8 available from the Salon or  
Contact Jan( 560730) or Helen (560487)

**Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF)**

**REMEMBER!  
REMEMBER!**  
**Charmouth  
Traders:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Fireworks and  
Bonfire Night**  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November  
6.15pm onwards

**Charmouth  
Christmas Fayre**  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
December



**Christmas Card  
Deposit and Collection**  
(within Charmouth only)

Bring your Christmas greeting cards to  
Charmouth Central,  
community library, on the night of  
Charmouth Christmas Fayre,  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, and during the following week of  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December

During the week of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, come and  
collect the cards others have left for you!

(All cards must have full names and addresses)



# Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Badminton Club (experience required)	Mon 8-10pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Trish Evans 442136
Badminton (social)	Tues 7-10pm (starting 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Pauline Bonner 560251
Bingo (fund raising for Community Hall)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri each month 7.30pm (eyes down)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Linda Crawford 0781 351 3062
Bopper Bus	Fri 4.45-8pm	Bridport Leisure Centre Drop off/pick up Primary School	Kate Geraghty 489422 Melanie Harvey 560393
Bowls Club	Sun, Tues, Thurs 2-5.30pm	Recreation Ground, Barr's Lane	Bob Just 560557 June Rebbeck 560860
Brownies (ages 7-10)	Mon 4.30-6pm (term-time only)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Caroline Davis 560207
Bridge Club (partners can be provided)	Thurs 7-10.30pm	Wood Farm (opposite swimming pool)	Vincent Piesz 560738
Cherubs	Wed 9.30-11.30am (term-time only)	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kathryn Radley 442796
Cubs (ages 8-11)	Thurs 6.30-8pm (term-time only)	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Nicky Gibbs 01297 35470 or 07925 511261
Gardeners	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed each month 2.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kay Churchman 560980
Girl Guides (ages 10 onwards)	Wed 7-8.45pm (term-time only)	For information call Davina Pennells 560965	
Junior Youth Club (ages 8-12)	Tues 6.30-8.30pm	Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	Louise Gunnill 07501 081828
Library Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s)	Fri 9.30-10am	Library, The Street	Mandy Harvey 01297 560167
Parish Council Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues each month 7.30pm	The Elms, The Street	
Pavey Group (village history)	Tues 9.30-10.30am	The Elms, The Street	Pat Stapleton, 560255
POPPs Village Breakfast	Thurs 8.30am-1pm (Sep to Apr)	Hollands Room, Bridge Road	Jan Gale 07897 511075
POPPs Village Lunch	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues each month	Hollands Room, Bridge Road	Jan Gale 07897 511075
Scouts (ages 11-14)	Fri 7.15-9pm (term-time only)	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Kevin Payne 01308 459080
Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Mon to Thurs (term-time only) 9am-12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
The British Legion (Women's Section)	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed each month 2.30pm	The Elms, The Street	Pat Stapleton 560255
URC Coffee Morning	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues each month 10am-noon	United Reformed Church, The Street	Rev Ian Kirby 631117
Wyld Morris dancing practice	Wed 7.15pm	Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court	Briony Blair 489546

**To add or amend any details in the Village Diary or to promote your Charmouth event contact**  
**Lesley Dunlop lesley@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk 01297 561644**



**Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre**  
**Volunteer Open Day** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
 1.30pm – 4.30pm  
**Fossil Roadshow** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October with  
 a Halloween theme  
**The Charmouth Dinosaur** talk by Phil Davidson  
 Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 4.30pm. Tickets £2 per person  
 available at the Centre from 1<sup>st</sup> October.  
**Fossil Fantastic Day** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
**Jurassic Arts & Craft Fayre** 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November  
**Rocks and Fossil Weekend** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**SOCIAL BADMINTON – TUESDAY EVENINGS**  
**STARTING AGAIN Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**St. Andrew's Community Hall**  
**7.00pm – 10pm – £2.00 per SESSION**  
**Accompanied junior players welcome – £1.50**  
**We are a social group – All standards welcome**  
**(Spare racquets available – refreshments provided)**  
**Just turn up or contact Pauline on 01297 560251**

# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

<b><u>EMERGENCIES</u></b>	<b><u>Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard</u></b>	<b><u>999 or 112</u></b>
<b>POLICE</b>	PC Richard Winward, PCSO Luke White and PCSO John Burton (Community Police issues) Non urgent call number for reporting incidents / enquiries Bridport Police Station, Tannery Road	01305 226912 101 01308 422266
<b>FIRE and RESCUE</b>	West Dorset Fire and Rescue Service — Group Manager	01305 252600
<b>HM COASTGUARD</b>	Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis (Not 24 hours)	01297 442852
<b>DOCTORS</b>	The Charmouth Medical Practice, The Street, Charmouth The Lyme Practice, The Elms Medical Centre, The Street, Charmouth The Lyme Practice, Lyme Community Medical Centre, Lyme Regis NHS Direct — 24-hour Healthcare Advice and Information Line	01297 560872 01297 561068 01297 445777 0845 4647
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester Bridport Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Bridport	01305 251150 01308 422371
<b>DENTISTS</b>	The Lyme Practice, The Elms Medical Centre, The Street, Charmouth Dorset Dental Helpline	01297 561068 01202 854443
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>	National Rail Enquiries — Information on Timetables, Tickets and Train Running Times National Traveline — Information on Bus and Bus/Rail Timetables and Tickets	08457 484950 08712 002233
<b><u>EMERGENCY</u></b>	Gas Electricity (Western Power Distribution) Water (Wessex Water) Floodline Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 111999 0800 365900 08456 004600 08459 881188 0800 807060
<b>CHEMISTS</b>	F G Lock, The Street, Charmouth Boots the Chemist, 45 Broad Street, Lyme Regis Lloyds Pharmacy, Lyme Community Care Centre, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 560261 01297 442026 01297 442981
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	Charmouth County Primary, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth St Michael's C of E, V A Primary, Kingsway, Lyme Regis The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 560591 01297 442623 01297 442232
<b>CHURCHES</b>	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Stephen Skinner United Reformed Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Ian Kirby	01297 560409 01297 631117
<b><u>COUNCILS</u></b>		
<b>CHARMOUTH PARISH</b>	Chairman — Mr M Hayter Clerk — Mrs L Tuck, The Elms, St Andrew's Drive, Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth Beach Attendant, Charmouth Beach	01297 560896 01297 560826 01297 560772 01297 560626
<b>W. DORSET DISTRICT</b>	Councillor — Mrs J Bremner Mountfield House, Rax Lane, Bridport — All services	01297 560431 01305 251010
<b>DORSET COUNTY</b>	Councillor — Col G J Brierly OBE County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01297 560660 01305 221000
DORSET's PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com">www.dorsetforyou.com</a>		
<b>LOCAL M.P.</b>	Oliver Letwin, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail <a href="mailto:letwin@parliament.uk">letwin@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 3000
<b>CITIZENS' ADVICE</b>	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm) 45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01297 445325 01308 456594
<b>POST OFFICES</b>	1 The Arcade, Charmouth 37 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 560563 01297 442836
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	The Street, Charmouth Silver Street, Lyme Regis South Street, Bridport South Street, Axminster	01297 560640 01297 443151 01308 422778 01297 32693
<b>SWIM / LEISURE</b>	Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport Flamingo Pool, Lyme Road, Axminster Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth	01308 427464 01297 35800 01297 560259
<b>CINEMAS</b>	Regent, Broad Street, Lyme Regis Electric Palace, 35 South Street, Bridport	01297 442053 01308 424901
<b>THEATRES</b>	Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport Guildhall, West Street, Axminster	01297 442394 01308 424204 01297 33595
<b>TOURIST INFORMATION</b>	Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, Lyme Regis Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport	01297 442138 01308 424901



## A Lady of Many Talents



Pam Ladd was an 'air hostess' at the Jurassic Airlines boarding desk during the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival and, more recently, at Weymouth through the Paralympics and holiday period. The flight back through 250 million years to the supercontinent Pangea proved to be the most popular non-Olympic attraction; 1700 tickets were sold in the first week alone.

Pam's 'Tai Chi Welcomes the Olympics to the UK' was well attended. Nearly half her students and several visitors joined the Qigong and Tai Chi sessions on Charmouth



beach, then they toasted the Olympics with Bucks Fizz.



Pam also appeared as the Queen at the Charmouth Diamond Jubilee Street Party in June. Triple well done, Pam!



## Ask The Expert

**Q. Should I even be considering buying a period property in these eco-conscious times – and if so, what are the main issues I need to think about?**

**A.** First of all, relax. For all the practical advantages of living in a brand spanking new house, there are still plenty of people who value the sheer charm and character of period homes. And long may they do so. As for energy efficiency and general eco-friendliness...it almost goes without saying that you can expect energy consumption to be higher than in a hermetically-sealed new property. I say "almost" because not so long ago, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings published research revealing that standard industry energy evaluations considerably underestimate the energy efficiency of some traditional walls such as 'cob', which is naturally cool in summer and warm in winter.

Issues to be aware of? Well the most obvious one is probably the cost of maintenance. Despite the fact that many period properties have been well modernised, there's no denying that this is going to be substantially higher than for a modern home. However, for many people, renovating and caring for such places is very much part of the appeal. Nevertheless, buying a period property is not something to be undertaken lightly. You need to enter into it with your eyes open, and appreciate that there are invariably going to be unforeseen problems which need resolving. Always have a surveyor – preferably one that specialises in period properties – before committing yourself. Make sure whether or not a property is listed, since this will significantly affect what you can and can't do.

All this may sound a trifle daunting, *but* as long as you approach things carefully and gain expert advice, there's no reason whatsoever why you shouldn't buy a period home – and enjoy every minute of living there.

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# Charmouth Fayre 2012



See  
Charmouth  
Traders  
article on  
page 12



**Shoreline**  
in colour  
[www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org)

Photos:  
A. Vince O'Farrell  
B. Roger Trotman  
C. Lesley Dunlop  
D. Bob Dunlop

See  
Charmouth  
Fayre report  
on page 21

