

SHORELINE



Shoreline, winner of the Dorset People's Project Award 2014

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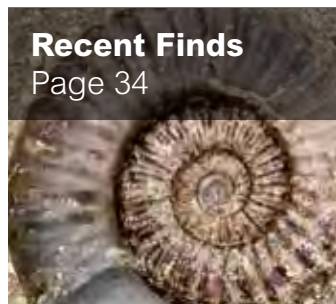
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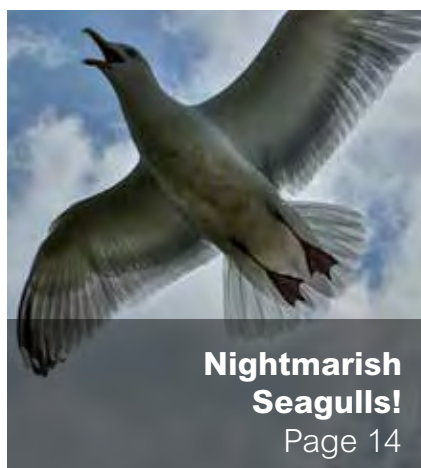


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Editorial

Flow with whatever may happen and let your mind be free. Stay centred by accepting whatever you are doing. This is the ultimate.

Chuang Tzu

Welcome to the autumn/winter issue of Shoreline, covering events for the next five months to February 2016. Please see the box below for the changes to the deadline and issue dates - no more tweaking, I promise!

This issue concludes our commemoration of the two wars, with articles and personal remembrances on pages 22 to 32. Huge thanks must go to the elders of this village and also Wootton Fitzpaine, who have so willingly shared their extraordinary stories (and with incredible recall, after 70 years!) about their lives during those very, very challenging times.

The Traders have several events planned for the village over the next few months; see Phil Tritton's article below for details. The committee work very hard to provide us with fun and entertainment and we must reciprocate, with the bleak winter months approaching, by supporting them all as much as we

can. By doing this we can help to keep our village vibrant and alive.

Lots of things in Charmouth are run by volunteers who, by and large, seem to get a lot of fun from their efforts. Both our wonderful library and the CHCC are looking for help right now, so why not get involved? Volunteering is a great way to meet people if you are new to the village, and it feels good to be doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.

Neil Harvey has stepped down after five years as Charmouth's community reporter on the Lyme News. He did an admirable job keeping us abreast of all the weekly events in the village and sadly no-one has come forward to take over this much-needed position. Maybe there's a teenager in the village who fancies the challenge! If so, please contact Neil at whatgoat@btinternet.com to discuss all that it entails.

Another very successful fund-raising event was held by the Changing Spaces Group of St Andrew's on 15th September. Over 120 people packed the church and fuelled by wine and canapés, enjoyed a fascinating talk by Neil Mattingly (ably assisted by Maralyn and Malcolm Hinxman) on '1000 Years of

the Church and Its People'. £675 was raised. A book by Neil of the same title will be published early next year and will be available at outlets throughout the village.

Live, love and be well.

Jane

THE SHORELINE TEAM

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE SHORELINE DELIVERED OR POSTED TO YOUR DOOR, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR. THE COST IS £6 PER YEAR.

Bonfire Night, Christmas Fayre and more...

Now that most of Charmouth's visitors have returned home, Charmouth Traders can once again return to planning events.

Bonfire At The Beach

The first one will be the Bonfire At The Beach. This will take place on **Saturday November 7th**. Details will be posted on www.charmouth.org and in shop windows nearer the time.

Charmouth Christmas Fayre

Next up will be the Charmouth Christmas Fayre. The Traders really want to revive this after we failed to generate enough interest last year. A date has not yet been set as we need to ensure that it does not clash with other local events so look out for announcements. **We need stallholders, volunteers and ideas** so contact Teresa at Fortnams or Maria at Charmouth Stores if you want to contribute to making this year's Christmas Fayre **THE BEST EVER!**

New Year's Eve

Then, on New Year's Eve, the annual get together will take place early in the evening. Drinks will precede the fireworks. Look in the usual places for more details nearer the time.

Charmouth Walking Festival

Next year the Traders are hoping to stage a Charmouth Walking Festival and we are also looking at **Sculpture and Art Trails**. We are hoping that the coast paths will be re-opened by next spring which we need for a walking festival. Watch this space!



Charmouth Calendar

Sales of next year's Charmouth Calendar have been a little slow this year. This is a shame as we think that the collection of photographs from local photographers is the best yet. *Please buy copies to give to your friends and relatives this Christmas to ensure that this tradition continues.* Calendars are on sale in several outlets around the village and are only £5.99.

Charmouth website

Finally, don't forget to advertise village events on the Charmouth website www.charmouth.org. Over the last 12 months over 100,000 visitors to the website have looked at nearly a quarter of a million pages! Send your event details via the 'Contact Us' tab. If you wish to advertise on the website use the same tab.

Let us hope that the weather is kinder this year than last year for our events!

Phil Tritton



Deadline and Issue Dates for Shoreline 2016

SPRING ISSUE – deadline 5th February, in the shops 1st March.

SUMMER ISSUE – deadline 5th June, in the shops 1st July.

AUTUMN / WINTER ISSUE – deadline 5th October, in the shops 1st November.

Parish Council News

Charmouth Parish Council is delighted to announce that a selection of outdoor fitness equipment has been installed in the Playing Fields and can be used by anybody over seven years old and under 100! Grants were gratefully received from West Dorset District Council's Leisure Development Fund as well as the Section 106 fund to help achieve this.

To add to the exercise facilities we have also installed a Basket Ball Hoop for the enjoyment of all.

Lisa Tuck, Clerk

Party in the Park Events

Last year the Fayre Committee made the decision not to have a traditional afternoon Fayre during 2015.

Instead, we decided to have two Party in the Park events, and we were very lucky as the weather was on our side, for once, with no rain on either days.

The bands we had this year were 'Coast' in May, and 'thesidekicks' in August. Both bands were very well received and included an additional 30 minute set each night; Elvis, who got the crowd singing and dancing, and an acoustic performance which was most enjoyable.

To complement the usual Fat Dads Barbecue we introduced a Curry Café in May, and a Chilli Café in August, which all sold out of food by the end of the evening.

We also served traditional summer Pimms at the bar, which was very popular with the ladies. Our bar staff worked tirelessly throughout the evening keeping the thirsty revellers happy, and who almost drank us dry!

We all enjoyed the firework finale which closed each night.

I would like to thank all of the people who helped make these nights such a success, you know who you are - well done.

I am pleased to report that both of the events made improved profits over past years. We will be making some donations to support youth organisations in the village.

Thanks to all of you who came along to support these fantastic evenings.

The Fayre AGM will be held at The Elms on Monday 19th October at 7.30pm. Hopefully we will have news of our plans for 2016. Please come along if you can. Tea and biscuits etc., will be served on the night.

David Clifford



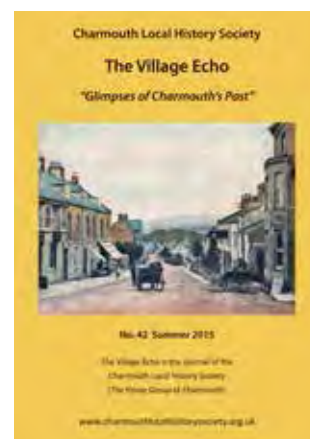
Charmouth Local History Society (The Pavey Group)

The Society has recently published the 42nd edition of its journal, *The Village Echo*. This issue was printed commercially and runs to 40 pages in full colour with many illustrations; the articles provide a series of glimpses of the village in days gone by: Neil Mattingly concludes his piece on Charmouth 100 years ago, looking at the lower part of The Street, with many illustrations and snippets of historical information; Keith Shaw gives a fascinating account of an early Charmouth resident, Monique Bellingham, and her journey to Charmouth from Canada in the 18th and 19th centuries; Russell Telfer looks at the Roman legacy of road building in the area; and Neil Mattingly presents a detailed study of Melbourne House and its links to one of our Lords of the Manor. All this and more for just £2 – available from the usual village outlets.

The Society has copies of all 41 previous issues of *The Village Echo* available for sale, either as sets or individual issues, at a price of £1 to £1.50 per copy, depending on the order. The previous issues contain a wide range of articles on different aspects of the history of the village; a list of the contents of each issue can be found at our website www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk Please contact me via the website or on the number below if you are interested in purchasing back issues.

The Society is currently undertaking a review of how we use the Pavey Room. We are hoping to develop an exhibition space that will illustrate the history of the village using our rich collection of photographs, documents and artefacts, and which we hope will be of interest to both residents and visitors. We are looking for help from people with a background in exhibition design or similar to help us make the best possible resource. If you are interested in helping, please contact me on 560646.

Richard Dunn, Secretary



Grant News for the Village Hall

We are pleased to announce that Charmouth Village Hall has been awarded a lottery grant in the sum of £10,000 to enable the refurbishment of the toilets in the Village Hall to incorporate an accessible toilet.

This work will commence as soon as possible and we hope that our regular users will not be too inconvenienced.

Jan Johnstone
Secretary, Charmouth Village Hall

Sponsor a seat on the Bopper Bus for £20

The Bopper Bus team is inviting local businesses and individuals to "sponsor a seat" on the bus for £20 as part of its latest fund raising drive.



The Bopper Bus is a community initiative operated by volunteers that takes children aged between eight and 16 from villages around Bridport and the Marshwood Vale to the Bridport Leisure centre on Friday evening in term time. The Leisure Centre organises a wide range of activities for Bopper Bus members in the sports hall, followed by a swimming session. The children also have the opportunity to share a snack and a chat before the bus returns them home.

The bus has been running for over 12 years with help from many organisations, including local parish councils, the district and town councils, The Chideock Trust, The Bridport Lions and local businesses and individuals. The Committee organise Sponsored Walks and regularly have stalls at Charmouth and Chideock Fayres but we now need more help to keep the wheels turning in 2015/16 and are appealing to local businesses, organisations and individuals for financial help.

If you are a local business, why not sponsor a seat on the bus for £20? We can't promise a brass plaque, but will send you a certificate to display in your premises. The Bopper Bus team asks supporters to send a cheque, made payable to The Bopper Bus Organisation, to Lyn Crisp, Bopper Bus treasurer, Farmers Arms, Mill Lane, Chideock, DT6 6JS.

Contact: Kate Geraghty (01297 489422) Lyn Crisp (01297 489098) Sarah Silcox (01297 489905) Melanie Harvey (01297 560393) or Mandy Harvey (01297 560167) for more details.

THE FUTURE OF CHARMOUTH YOUTH CLUB IN JEOPARDY

At a meeting on 18th September, the club's management committee learnt from James Ward – Rice (Area Youth Worker) that Dorset County Council is proposing to reduce the current £2.2 million spent on youth services by 45% to £1 million. It is very likely that the £3000 per annum that pays the two staff who run the club every Tuesday, will no longer be funded by them.

To have your say about the future of the club (which presently has 37 members aged 8 - 11) please complete an online survey: www.dorsetforyou.com/youth-services-survey. Or email James at J.Ward-Rice@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

Jane Morrow

CHARMOUTH WEATHER



There's something about living by the sea in Charmouth that seems to increase people's awareness of the weather; maybe it's because living here encourages a more outdoor lifestyle. Not everyone wants the same things though. Holiday makers and locals alike look forward to warm, sunny days on the beach while fossil hunters eagerly await storms to erode the cliffs. Gardeners pray for rain while campers stoically await the dry. Whatever the weather, it somehow seems to have more of an impact here.

My own curiosity was raised by watching the rain beating on the windows, listening to the wind shaking the house or sweltering on a hot summer's day and wondering just how wet/windy/hot it was.



To answer these questions, I was given a weather station which, when installed on a pole on the roof, sent information wirelessly to my computer and then out onto the internet. If you want a link to see the readings go to the village

website www.charmouth.org and click on the 'Weather and Surf Forecast' page. Over a thousand people a month view the site.

So to answer my own question about the hottest, wettest, windiest days, here are a few figures:

	2014		2015 (up to 31st August)	
Hottest Day	24th July	27.5°C	1st July	24.7°C
Coldest Day	29th December	-2.6°C	23rd January	-2.4°C
Wettest Day	4th January	30.5mm	14th August	53.1mm
Total Rainfall	978mm		430mm	
Windiest Day	4th Feb	46kph*	17th March	50kph*

*The wind gauge is a little sheltered by trees and buildings so there were probably stronger gusts in other parts of the village, especially the sea front.

It is worth mentioning that the 53mm of rain that fell on 14th August this year was the highest daily total I have recorded and I am told was the highest in Charmouth over the last 15 years.

The annual total rainfall for last year was nearly one metre. This equates to around a tonne of water for every square metre of land. No wonder the cliffs keep falling down.

Bill Burn

Charmouth Parking Refund Scheme

A reminder that you can park for two hours in Charmouth's Lower Sea Lane car park and get your parking cost refunded if you spend £10 or more in any Charmouth outlet displaying the 'P FREE' sign. Most outlets in Charmouth village centre are in the scheme.



All Shoreline issues can be seen online at www.charmouth.org

Charmouth Central garden



Would you like to contribute something to the Charmouth Central garden? This is what we seek - but we're also open to suggestions:

- *A native elderberry - hard to buy, as the garden centres only have fancy varieties - but you may have a seedling you consider a nuisance!*
- *Ground cover plants - bergenia, epimedium, muscari, pachysandra, ferns, lily of the valley, snowdrops, bluebells etc. As you thin out yours, please consider giving us your leftovers. If you can plant them where you see the gaps on the left side of the garden (from the front aspect), even better. That's how the informality of the Wild Garden was created last year - not crowd-funded so much as crowd-planted!*
- *The same applies to lavender - we need more at the front where there are gaps.*
- *We would love to have a thyme table in front of the blue bench in the Wild Garden. This needs a raised wooden trough. Do you have one you no longer want which we could adapt or would you like to do as Alan and I have with the turquoise bench and donate it while you're still around to enjoy it?*
- *As always, we need more help in keeping the garden looking good. The Garden Gang has lately reduced so there are too few of us and the odd half-hour or so of your assistance would make all the difference. Even a few weeds pulled up as you are passing would help.*

Since the garden was created, there have been more compliments about it than about anything else, so we're trying to keep it that way...and with your help, that should be possible.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or offers.

Hazel Robinson, hazelrosery@aol.com

Closure of Charmouth Women's Section of the British Legion

We are sorry to announce that the Charmouth Women's Section of the British Legion has found it necessary to close due to a lack of personnel. The standard will be laid up in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 22nd November, with a service at 3pm that day.

Pat Stapleton, on behalf of the officers and committee

Where Dolly goes, Charmouth follows!

Dolly Parton makes a point of championing craft makers at her 'Dollywood' amusement park in Tennessee. She employs blacksmiths, glassblowers and many other craftspeople who are masters in the skills needed in mountain towns.

At Herringbone, we are also dedicated to promoting quality and showcasing local makers. The shop is run by a partnership of Charmouth creatives including a photographer, silversmith, knitter and textiles specialist. Our wider membership includes a multitude of local, talented craftspeople including, painters, printers, glass artists, potters, felters, milliners, quilters, leather workers, jewellers, lampshade makers and more. We are also proud to be stocking the last of British designer, Hilary Highet's knitwear as she starts her well-earned retirement. We aim to provide an antidote to buying mass produced items by bringing skill, quality and personality to each piece. The majority of our makers only sell in a few local shows or are exclusive to Herringbone.

We have two spacious rooms at Herringbone and have a collection of hand sourced vintage items also, from glamorous jewellery and scarves to 20th century glass and collectables. At Herringbone you will always be able to find an original, quirky gift or greetings card to celebrate a special occasion or to remind you of your holiday.

We are so pleased to be working with so many fabulous designers and makers and by shopping with us, you will be supporting and promoting their incredible skills too. Like Dolly, we are always looking out for local makers of contemporary and traditional art and craft and if you are a blacksmith or glassblower we would really love to hear from y'all.

We support UK Handmade's Buy Handmade Campaign.

Do you?

Teresa Williams

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Summer – What Summer?

By the time this is being read, summer 2015 will be a fading memory and Charmouth will be settling down to early nights and dark mornings. So how was it this year? – the summer I mean. In Charmouth as in thousands of villages around Britain, summer is the big one, the prime season, the time for welcoming thousands of visitors who will, for a few months, transform their sleepy little village into a bustling, crowded place as all roads south become choked with traffic. Like some dormant plant that leaps back into life with the first touch of spring, Charmouth suddenly sparkles with colour and activity. The reappearance of the Monday market fires the starting pistol as multitudes of posters materialize all around the village advertising all sorts of activities designed to entertain our summer guests and encourage them to part with a bit more of their cash. Fossil walks, innumerable cream teas, table-top sales, duck races and vintage fairs to name but a few.

Of course, as in all matters relating to a great British summer, the elephant in the room remains the good old British weather, the subject of endless discussions in pubs and kitchens. We hardy Brits hope for the best and put a brave face on the worst. So, how was this summer? Well if memory serves me right, June began with considerable promise. Early June saw the Beer Festival at The George get off to a rip-roaring start as Mr. Herbert once again got lucky with a beautiful day. Rivers of beer flowed as the Twerzels twerzled and mountains of burgers were consumed under a clear blue sky. All in all it seemed a good omen. Fast forward to early July. Lyme Regis Life Boat Week and the first hint that all was not well as the Red Arrows display had to be cancelled due to mist and low cloud. Ironically the days either side of the planned display were fine and this was to set a pattern for the remainder of the summer. It was like

the old good cop, bad cop routine, one day good next day bad. Apparently the culprit was the pesky jet stream that remained firmly stuck in the wrong place allowing weather fronts and depressions to track further south than they normally would.

Charmouth soldiered on. In early August The Party in the Park got it right and was really well attended. Fat Dad's were on fire and sold out by nine o'clock and the bar practically ran dry. Great stuff. The village certainly seemed busy but only the traders' bank accounts will tell the true story. August did see some shocking rain but also a few stunning days – but they were very few. As I sit writing this the August Bank Holiday is looming large but the only sound I can hear is being made by heavy rain beating against the window. The village seems resigned to its fate now and the grim acceptance that this summer has generally been a washout. Soon it will be September – an Indian summer perhaps? Hope springs eternal, but for all the visitors who travelled many miles and endured hours of traffic queues it will be too late as they pack up their waterlogged belongings and begin the long drive home. As the thick, damp duvet of autumn settles over Charmouth and chimneys begin to smoke again, summer 2015 certainly won't be remembered for its long, languid days and scorching temperatures.

Apparently the BBC are changing their weather provider, prompting a debate about how inaccurate weather forecasts can still be. The fact that the weather can still defy the might of the met office computers and surprise us is something I find oddly comforting in this digital world, where so much is monotonously reliable. Perhaps next year the jet stream will decide to cooperate and we'll enjoy a hosepipe ban. Meanwhile light that fire, put those slippers on and settle down for a bit of Strictly as we see out the year dreaming of a summer to come. Or maybe just book that holiday! Happy Christmas.

Neil Charleton

Changing spaces

It's almost two and a half years now since I crossed the line and Archie, my dog and I became full-time residents of Charmouth, having visited on a regular basis for 15 years. It was a big decision to make but having hit the big 50 and with my son Samuel going off to university in Virginia to live the dream of playing tennis while hopefully getting a degree, I decided it was now or never!

Having lived and worked in London for 30 years it was hard leaving friends and fellow dog walkers. In fact I cried for the first two weeks and felt very homesick. The first weekend I visited a craft fair at St Andrew's Hall and burst into tears, thankfully I was scooped up by Jill Hunt and her lovely mum Jan and they became my first two new friends in Charmouth. Jill then introduced me to the book club which is a gathering of feisty women all of a similar age who enjoy socialising on a monthly basis.

The same weekend I went along to the URC church across the road from the George pub. There I met so many wonderful people who have now become family to me. One thing I learned very quickly is that you cannot hide in Charmouth! At the Harvest lunch last September, I met Revd Stephen Skinner who was sharing the plight of St Andrew's Church and the hope of making it more accessible to Charmouth people. I offered my help and support which led me to become part of the working party for the project which is now known as 'Changing Spaces'.

I have heard various comments about this project, not all positive. Changing Spaces is not about providing yet another community hall to the village, nor is it only to provide a Visitors centre for outsiders to learn more about Charmouth. For me it is about making the building fit for multipurpose for the enjoyment of the residents of Charmouth and those coming to enjoy this special place.

In order to achieve this a lot of money needs to be raised before we are in a position to apply for a lottery heritage grant. There is a lot of talent in this village of ours and we need your help. We intend to hold a DIY SOS weekend in November where we are hoping that people will come forward with offers of help to improve the state of the building. I'm sure Stephen could provide a list of all of the things that need to be done far better than I. There is a hole in the roof, new flooring will be required for when the pews are removed from the back of the church to free up more space and the trees need topping by someone qualified in forest and tree care to name but a few things that are desperately needed.

Please do try and support the various fundraising events that will be held over the next 12 months starting with Neil Mattingly's talk on '1000 Years of the Church and its People'.

Finally it is with thanks and appreciation to all of my new friends and neighbours for making me feel so welcome here. There is no going back for me!

Alison Taylor

Charmouth Bowls Club News



Following the start of season Open Day, the Club has seen a very welcome boost to its membership numbers. With ten new members in the current season it has meant well attended roll-ups, good support for the in-house competitions and regular matches with other local clubs. Through the season the Club has played home and away matches with nine local clubs. Proving that age is not a restriction to the game, the youngest recruit to the Club is 14-year-old Finn who is already making his mark in both matches and competitions. If you thought that you were too young, then don't believe it. Come along and throw out a challenge to Finn and perhaps some of the "oldies"!

The Club's mid-summer BBQ was once again a great success despite a threat of weather, and a "full house" of 40 members and guests sat down to a spread of bangers, burgers, chicken, and a wide salad selection followed by delicious helpings of strawberries and cream. Any excesses were easily dispatched by the afternoon bowling session, which rounded off a very enjoyable day.

If you have missed the opportunity to play this season then don't be disappointed; the Club will start its new season in April next year so keep an eye open for the spring announcement. If you would like to be kept up to date on events, then please give Hon. Sec. Jackie Rolls a call on 01297 560295.

Last, but by far not least, the Club's Short Mat bowling sessions will start at the Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane on Tuesday 29th September and will run every Tuesday throughout the winter. The sessions provide a great opportunity for a little light exercise and social contact. To join in, just come along on any play day at 2.00pm when you will be most welcome.

Jim Greenhalgh,
Chairman (01297 561336)

Charmouth's most connected home?

Saving time and money with superfast broadband

Paul Harvey works for one of the world's biggest technology companies – from his home in Charmouth. "I am reliant on fast broadband," said Paul, a worldwide sales trainer for IBM. "I work in multiple time zones with data and files flying about at all hours. Before I had superfast, I'd have to leave conference calls for 15 minutes to download big files. Now I can stay on a call and send and receive files almost instantly."

Paul said he is particularly pleased with his 19-20Mbps upload speed that allows him to push files to the web so quickly. "What used to take 25 minutes

now just happens. It's a delight!" The father of four says without his superfast broadband connection he would be forced to live somewhere else. "Superfast broadband allows me to live here with my family."

The Harvey household has 17 devices running at any given moment, including tablets, PCs, smart TVs and games consoles, all streaming heavy data and entertainment. Now, thanks to his 58Mbps download speed, everyone can be online at the same time. "Even when the kids come home from school and jump on the wifi, there is no degradation in performance."

Paul's connected home runs on fibre broadband installed in Charmouth by the Superfast Dorset programme. And by switching to fibre and bundling his other services, he's lowered his monthly bill.

More than 1,000 households and businesses in the village have gained access to fibre broadband since May 2014 thanks to the Superfast Dorset. Find out how you can switch to fibre and benefit. www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast

Abby Gordon-Farleigh
*Communications & Marketing Officer
Superfast Dorset (Broadband)
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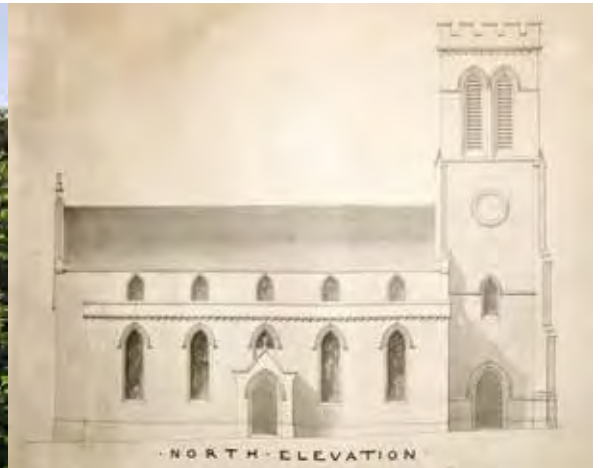
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News from St. Andrew's Church



We have had a fairly busy summer at St Andrew's. Apart from our regular Sunday morning Services we have this year hosted the Sunday evening Holidaymakers' Songs of Praise Services. We have run these in previous years with our friends at the United Reformed Church, but this year they invited us to organise them. The highlight of these was a wonderful Service on 2nd August, featuring the Uplyme Gospel Choir. There were about 20 of them (all adults), along with at least as many again of their friends. So that night we had roughly 60 – 70 people who really filled the church with a mighty sound of God's praise!

The following evening, 3rd August, we hosted another wonderful evening of music. This consisted of a brilliantly inspirational piano recital by Edward Jacobs. Edward will be well known to some of you because he leads and conducts three local community choirs. He also helps teach music at our local Primary School. It was at the school's Christmas Carol Service in our church last December that Edward pointed out that our piano needed some serious rebuilding – he kindly offered to give a recital to help pay for it. We gladly accepted, and around 90 people packed into the Church for a concert of favourite songs from the 'Shows', light classical and popular songs from the '60s and '70s. The audience seemed to become one huge choir as we sang along with whatever words we could remember!! It went so well that we have suggested to Edward that we have more such 'Sing Ins' where we all become a choir, in future! The evening raised around £450, and this has pretty well paid for the very fine rebuilding of the piano – for use over the next 15/20 years.

St Andrew's is in urgent need of more fundraising to pay our many expenses. We held a successful Cake Stall at Anne Follett's on 18th July, and a Summer Bazaar on 1st August at the Community

Hall to help do this. A few more hundred pounds for the coffers – and many thanks to those who took part in any way. Our next full scale Bazaar/Table Top Sale is on SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 10am – 1.30pm again at the Community Hall. If you'd like to have a 'Table', then please contact Pauline Berridge. Our next FreeExchange Cafes will be: SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER, starting at 10am and finishing 11.30am (please note earlier finishing times).

SOME ADVANCE DIARY DATES:

Harvest Festival Service

9.30am on Sunday 11th OCTOBER. We invite uniformed groups to join us in decorating the church and taking part in a Family Service. This is then followed by our Harvest Lunch at the Village Hall, at around 12.30pm.

Remembrance Sunday Service

10.40am on Sunday 8th NOVEMBER at Charmouth War Memorial, with a Parade to St Andrew's, and the Service starting at 11am. All Uniformed Organisations are invited to participate as usual.

Christmas Carol Service

6.30pm on Sunday 20th DECEMBER, followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

Christmas Eve

Crib Service at 3pm. Midnight Communion Service at 11pm.

CHANGING SPACES

Our dynamic project group continues to help with our developing plans to re-order and redecorate the interior of St Andrew's, as well as undertake major structural work on the tower and west end of the nave. You'll remember that the cost of around £250,000 requires a Heritage Lottery Grant in order to be successful. Our Project Manager is exploring partnerships with various organisations (most notably the National Trust) who, if 'signed up', will

have a major say in how the building is developed for various multiple uses in our community. The pews would all be removed, and a new floor laid, to enable fully flexible use during the week, with new chairs available for Services on Sundays or other special occasional Services such as weddings or funerals.

Current plans for our share of the fund raising include: talks by Neil Mattingly on the fascinating history of the church, and launch of a new multicolour book on the church that he has nearly completed, the hosting of a "Charmouth's Got Talent" night, a 'Community Day' for all village organisations to have stalls to promote their activities, various concerts and even Pop Up Cafes in the church or its grounds! We will publicise all these events nearer the time!

We acknowledge with grateful thanks two grants totalling £6000 from Dorset Historic Churches Trust. We received these cheques on 12th September at 11am at a special Coffee Morning in St Andrew's – the same day as their 'Ride & Stride' sponsored bike/walking rides around Dorset.

Revd Stephen Skinner



Neil Mattingly at his recent successful talk on '1000 Years of the Church and Its People' at St Andrew's.

Charmouth – Its Church and its People



Many of us walk past the church in Charmouth and do not give it a second glance. I was one of these until I volunteered to present a talk on its history. I have for a long time now been supplying articles on the various historic buildings in the village to *Shoreline* and *The Echo*. The families who built and lived in them are always fascinating and were more often than not buried at St. Andrew's. I knew that the building was recent in terms of most village churches and discounted that it had much to offer. How wrong I was, for this is one building that encapsulates completely Charmouth's Heritage.

What we see today is in fact the third structure. The first was a small chapel which would have stood further out to sea than where the Heritage Centre is today. For the original village was very small and according to the Domesday Book of 1086 had a working population of 30, of whom 16 were Salt Boilers. They would have cut down timber from the surrounding forest and lit fires under lead basins filled with sea water and drained off the salt, which was mainly used as a preservative. This practice went back to Roman times and there is reference to a salt house at neighbouring Lyme Regis owned by Sherborne Abbey in a document in 774 A.D. There is also a grant in 1172 AD by William Heron (Hayrun) to the Abbot of Forde "*all that part of his tenement in Charmouth (Cernemue) which lies to the west of the land of Henry de Tilli between the top of the brow of the cliff and the sea as far as the stream of Cerne and to the south of the curtilage formerly of Elfric up to the sea, for making salt, keeping a boat or other purposes*".

Charmouth was one of a number of villages that formed the "Hundred of

Whitchurch Canonorum" which was created by King Alfred in the 9th century. Each village had its 'Chapel of Ease' that served the mother church and came under the Diocese of Salisbury. Some of these chapels have survived, often incorporated into a later larger building as at Wootton Fitzpaine and Pilsdon. But to get an idea of how it would have looked in its day, one only has to walk along the cliffs to the remains of the chapel at nearby Stanton St. Gabriel's, which has survived virtually intact, apart from its roof.



The earliest document so far found is 'A Charter at Salisbury Cathedral' dated 1240, which mentions the 'Capella de Cernemue,' i.e., the Chapel of Charmouth, when there is a dispute between William Heiron, Lord of Charmouth and the Parson of the Church of St. Wite and Holy Cross (now Whitchurch Canonorum). The settlement was in a precarious state with its position so near the sea and this can clearly be seen by an entry in the ancient cartulary kept at Forde Abbey today which has a record from the year 1281, which relates to this as follows: "*Notification by Robert [Wickhampton], Bishop of Salisbury, that he has been informed by many trustworthy men that the secular chapel of Charmouth*

(Cernemue), built a long time ago near the sea, has been ruined by the battering of the sea and storms. He gives his authority and assent to the Abbot and monks of Forde, the postulant patrons of the chapel, to move it to a more suitable site than the shore and build a chapel on their own land to the honour of the blessed apostle Matthew and All Saints, in which they may provide clerics and secular priests to minister divine service with due devotion".

It would seem that from at least 1170, when Richard del Estre gave land to the monks, that they were to build a grange and other buildings. In 1297, William, the Abbot decided to improve the manor and create a Free Borough. This was based along The Street, which even today has the vestiges of this, with its stone boundary wall to the north and long burgage plots stretching towards it. The document confirms the position of the former chapel when it describes a boundary as "*from there along the course of the river to the sea and to the chapel of the vii*". There is also a document of the same year witnessed by Dom Stephen, parson of Charmouth and Seaborough.

The creation of the borough must have coincided with the need for a new church and this was to be built near the centre where The Street was bisected with the tracks that lead inland to Wootton and to the beach. The borough, whose boundaries are so well described in the cartulary, was never very successful, with its competition from nearby Lyme Regis and Bridport. In time the original plots were amalgamated into large, more viable holdings. A survey of 1564 shows most families renting an acre behind their property on The Street and a further acre of common land in the fields between it and the coast.

The new church served an increased population and, according to Hutchins, was improved at the beginning of the 16th century after a bequest was given for this. This would coincide with the time when Thomas Chard was Abbot of Forde and seemed intent on spending its wealth, before being seized by King Henry VIII. He is known to have rebuilt what is today known as 'The Abbots House' for his brother who was steward. His initials, T.C., can still be seen today above a blocked-up doorway. He also initiated the construction of the building that is now 'The Manor House' opposite the church, whose roof timbers are dated to the 16th century. We are fortunate that a memorial to his work on the village church, has survived in a statue of an abbot, no doubt representing Thomas Chard. This was originally on the apex of the rear of the old church and was later found in two parts built into the walls of Little Hurst and The Rectory.

A number of rectors are recorded as serving the village from Stephen in 1315 up to Stephen Skinner to date, many of whom have interesting biographies. The most startling fact looking at the dates is how just three fathers and their sons were in office for so many years. These were the Norringtons (1596-1646), Braggess (1673-1747), Coombes (1747-1818). The latter was William Coombe who was rector of both this village and adjoining Catherston. His son, Brian, succeeded him as Rector of Catherston. Although he was only Curate of Charmouth, he deputised for the Rector, John Audain, who spent most of his time as a Privateer in the West Indies.



After the reformation in 1539, when Charmouth became a member of the Diocese of Bristol, it was to have a series of 'Lords of the Manor', who were also patrons of the church. The most famous of these was William Ellesdon who lived in the Manor House opposite and was instrumental in the attempt to assist King Charles II and escape to France from Charmouth. A boat was to meet him on the beach at night. But the owner, Stephen Limbry, was prevented by his wife who, getting wind of it, locked him in their house and the attempt had to be abandoned. There is a link to this event with a 17th century stone tomb near the entrance to the church for John Limbry and his daughter Margaret, who were related. Another connection with this event was that the parson at the time was Bartholomew Wesley, great grandfather of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church. He was so busy with his prayers that evening, that he was too late to report the incident and assist the King's capture. William Ellesdon's son Anthony was to live in Charmouth at the Manor for almost 80 years and his life is commemorated in a magnificent marble memorial by the altar.

As the population of the village expanded, more seating was required and a gallery was built to accommodate them. When this still was not enough, by 1835 it was proposed to enlarge the building with an aisle on the northern side. Mr. Charles Wallis of Dorchester, an architect, was instructed to carry out a survey of the ancient structure and reported that "he had never seen so dilapidated or unsafe a building and that it was necessary to build a new church". The whole village worked with enormous energy to raise the money. The number of residents who subscribed was 334,

whose subscriptions came to £1221. The number of friends outside the parish was 375, whose donations came to £1130, making a total of £2351. The final cost came to £3098, the balance coming from grants and the sale of material from the demolition.

But what did the old church look like? It was too early for photographs. I have not been able to find any illustrations, apart from a curious watercolour from 1828, painted by Diana Sperling, taken from her bedroom window at the rectory behind the church. It shows a section of the rear of the building covered with a thick layer of ivy. But most interesting is that the roof is surmounted by the stone cross of the abbot that has survived today. Another engraving from 1820 shows the village from Old Lyme Hill and the church dominating the village. After standing for over 500 years it would be tragic to think that there is no reasonable representation. But thanks to the foresight of William Hoare, a village carpenter, we know exactly all we wish about it. He constructed the most amazingly accurate model, which by a miracle has survived and is now housed in the Pavey Room at The Elms. You can even take the roof off it and see all the Church furniture, memorials and boxed pews. Although it covered approximately the same ground area as the present church, its roof height was much lower and its tower taller.

The architect chosen to design the new church was Charles Fowler, whose mother Jane had lived with her sister Lucy, wife of Samuel Coade Culverwell at Little Hurst, which is now the Doctors' Surgery. We can still see her marble memorial high above the Vestry door. The earlier architect, Charles Wallis, who had surveyed the church originally was far from happy about the choice and made his feelings very clear in an objectionable letter to the church wardens. But we were very lucky to have had such a famous architect. Today his main claim to fame is the Covent Garden Piazza, but it only one of many famous buildings he designed. You just have to go to Honiton to see the church he designed in the town centre and to Exeter to see its market.

There is a wonderful record of St. Andrew's, as it was renamed, by Thomas Galpin Carter, soon after construction. It is a coloured engraving that hangs in the north aisle that depicts a group of villagers standing by James Warden's tomb.

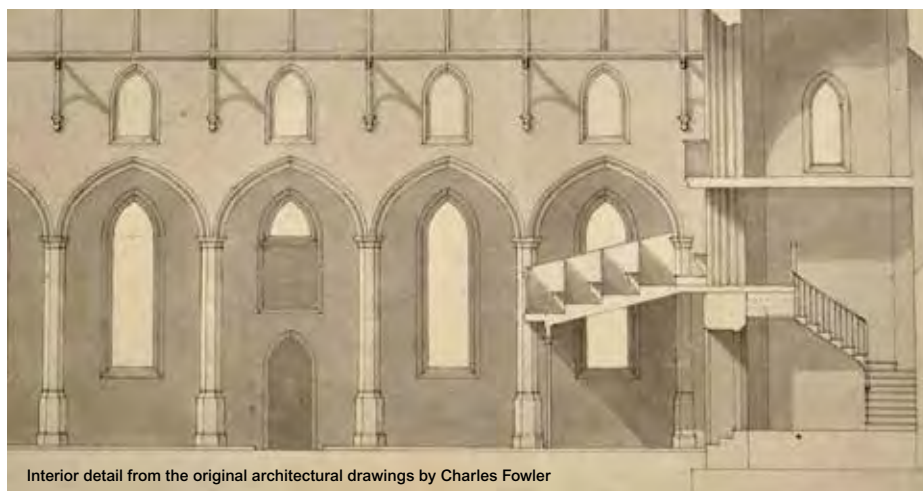
Again, miraculously, the original plans and correspondence for the construction has survived and it is almost a 'do it yourself' of how to build a church. They are all beautifully drawn and the letters give an insight into Fowler's approach, with its emphasis on preservation of many features from the earlier building which were to be incorporated into the new one. It would seem that all the earlier memorials were included and the grave yard remained undisturbed. Although the builders were from Bridport, Samuel Dunn from Charmouth was chosen as Officer of Works and it was his son-in-law, William Hoare, who was to produce the lasting memorial to the former building with his magnificent model.



It is a sad reflection on life today that such a fine building is not appreciated more, for within its walls is much of Charmouth's rich heritage. But there is a movement in the form of a group called Changing Spaces to improve villagers' awareness of it and improve its facilities.

I do hope this brief article has whetted your appetite to learn more about this iconic building. If you wish to find out more, please go to my website, www.freshford.com and click on St. Andrew's to find out about all the families and their houses commemorated in the church.

Neil Mattingly



Interior detail from the original architectural drawings by Charles Fowler

Charmouth Central Library



Our Rhymetime Group – for pre school children

What happens next? A question I am sure a number of community groups will ask themselves after they take on the responsibility for the day-to-day management of a library once the County Council leave. As you are aware, libraries are closing down across the country and a number of like-minded people are getting together to try and keep them open. Charmouth library was once in that position. It would have been closed by Dorset County Council in 2012, but for the people of Charmouth who got together to keep their precious library open. They formed the Friends of Charmouth Library in 2013, a registered charity. 'So what does happen next?' I hear you asking. Well, to answer that question Charmouth obtained a grant (£50,000) from the Big Lottery Fund to enable the building of The Servery. The Servery is an extension to the main building and has become the hub for the community. It houses a meeting/seating area, with a disabled-access loo and a servery which enables us to sell/serve hot & cold drinks and pre-packaged food with the remit to promote activities to combat social isolation and to encourage inter-generational communication.



The Servery – a good venue for meetings

However, in the last few years The Servery has become more than that; it is a magnet for local groups to meet and socialise on a regular basis. The Servery has a capacity for 35 people and the Library space itself has a capacity for 65 people.

When the Library is open, The Servery is open to the public for the sale of teas/coffees, pre-used DVDs, books and local crafts. This facility is second to none in the village; it has a bright and airy feel, under floor heating and up to date technology facilities (ability to run computer displays and films through a large display screen). Friends of Charmouth Library are keen to seek more users of these facilities. The Servery is available at a modest charge of £6 per session. If more space is required, then the use of the Library area (when the Library is closed) can also be made available at an extra cost. It is an ideal space for any private event, celebration or gathering and has a total capacity of 100 people when using both rooms. If

you are interested in using our facilities, or even at this stage just checking us out for any future event, please contact Kim Oatway, Servery Manager, by phone 01297 561675 or via email Oatwaykim@gmail.com

Charmouth Central Library looks forward to seeing you.

Charmouth Central in the Autumn

When a glorious summer turns into magnificent autumn I hear you asking what's happening in Charmouth Central. Well I am here to tell you.

After the fun packed summer activities held in the servery i.e. the Mosaic and Sewing workshops we are now moving into our winter programme. A number of our long-standing groups are starting again after their summer recess, groups such as Memorable Memoirs and Tea & Chat, for our more mature clientele, to Story Time Rhymetime for the young ones. However, we look forward to welcoming a new activity in our facility this autumn - Art Classes with a local artist Aviva Halter-Hurn, who will be running her group from September in the servery. Check out the details on our notice board.

For those who find Sundays a boring day, especially if it is a wet one, we are bringing back the Sunday Film Clubs both for juniors and adults. Don't forget to keep an eye open for the dates of film showings either on our website or our notice board outside.

So, if it's time to brush up on your skills or even learn a new hobby, have a look at what we can offer you, as we have a varied programme for all ages and interests. For information relating to any activity held within Charmouth Central each month please go to http://www.charmouth.org/charmouth_village/charmouth-central.php or see our notice board outside the Library.

So, as days get shorter and nights get longer, we look forward to welcoming back our existing groups and to also welcoming any new groups to our little community. If you would like become part of our Community Library either by renting our space for a private event or to run your own group please contact Kim Oatway either via email oatwaykim@gmail.com or phone 01297 561 675.

Kim Oatway

Your Library Needs YOU!

I was going to dress up as Kitchener and take a photograph but thought that was not very original and may well have put off any potential new volunteers and friends!

Anyway I have been privileged to be involved with the great team of people that volunteer for our community-run library and the team is still going strong after more than three years, which is pretty amazing. However they are quite a small percentage of the community and we could really do with a few more people to spread the load. Therefore we are appealing for more volunteers to work with us both in the library and the servery to ensure that this wonderful facility continues to flourish. This is your opportunity to be involved and be part of this great team of people.

Why don't you pop into the library and talk it through with whoever is on duty and see if it might be for you. You will be

surprised how quickly you will feel part of the team and it does give you a warm glow to think that you are doing your bit to keep Charmouth Central Library open and thriving. It is also a way of becoming more involved in village life and getting to know a wider circle of people.

As you can see from the other library articles the team at Charmouth Central are also focusing on increasing our income so that the library can both keep afloat financially and remain an attractive amenity for our village. One of the important streams of revenue is our Friends' Membership and thank you again to those who continue to support us; however we would like to grow this income. Do you know it is only £24.00 per annum to become a Friend or you can opt for a monthly direct debit of just £2.00 (I know it is difficult to believe, isn't it) plus Friends of Charmouth Library benefit from 50p off a pot of leaf tea or a cafetière of coffee, which includes a complimentary biscuit - it's a small thing I know but sometimes it's the small things that make the difference - so do please give it some thought and if you are interested please pop into the library and pick up a Friends' Membership form. Whilst you are there have a coffee and relax, read the paper or sit in our scented garden and listen to the water fountain. Sounds a bit Shangri La doesn't it - and it is in its own quiet way.

Our opening hours are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 2 - 5pm
Thursday and Friday 10:30 - 1pm
Saturday 10:30 - 12:30

Deborah Winstone. *We hope to see you soon!*

Books for Sale

CHARMOUTH CENTRAL, our own home-grown library, has been provided with a large number of books over recent months. These have been put on view for sale and indeed a large number have been sold.

My attention was drawn to this early this year when I discovered a number of books published in 2015 clearly in mint condition. I think they must have been reader's copies. We were offering all these books at a pound each. I wasn't surprised when many of them were quickly sold. I happened to ask in Serendip about one of the books, did they have a copy? It was new and they didn't have one yet. There are more books, not yet on display, most of very good quality. The subjects and range of these books, fiction and non-fiction are very diverse: in effect something for every taste.

Something of a digression: for years I had been looking for one book, *Death of a Train*, by Freeman Wills Crofts, which I happened on when very young. You would see me in any second hand bookshop enquiring about this one book. I am sure there are many like me searching for one particular book. *Death of a Train* was about a crash at Honiton when two trains were running parallel and one was derailed. Or so I thought. In fact a gap of 50 years had garbled my recollections of the book. It is actually about a wartime derailment at Sidmouth Junction (now Feniton) although in the book the station is given the ridiculous name of Pullover! Readers will know that it is the 4.50 from Paddington that participates in the parallel trains saga.

Well, I didn't get the book from Charmouth Central but I could have done. Some real gems have come in, lingered for a while, and then been snapped up. Local people have been extremely generous in allowing us to recycle their excellent choice of books many of which have local relevance. Please do come in and have a look at our splendid collection. Probably, in the next issue of *Shoreline*, we will be asking for a donation - our next tranche of books to sell! Happy reading!

Russell Telfer, russellgtelfer@netscape.net

Charmouth Library & Internet Cafe

For those who have not visited us recently, please note that we now have three morning (Mon - Wed) and three afternoon (Thurs - Sat) sessions per week. This change is proving popular with both visitors and volunteers.

After three hectic years of building work and refurbishment, 2015 is a year of consolidation. We are focused on increasing the use of our building as a library and a community venue. Any income we generate contributes towards our day-to-day expenses and with other fundraising efforts, notably our Friends subscriptions and charitable functions, gives us the reserves to consider further improvements, e.g. improved displays to provide a better choice of reading material. The Served and the library are available for hire via Kim Oatway e-mail: oatwaykim@gmail.com or call into the library.

We work with the County Library service on a variety of initiatives to increase the number of books borrowed. The Children's 'Summer Reading Challenge' has proved quite popular and we hope it has helped children keep up their reading skills before returning to school. The autumn equivalent is for men, focusing on sports books. Hopefully this will increase the numbers of adult borrowers too.

Charmouth Library is a Tourist Information point for visitors. Our volunteers have a wealth of local knowledge that they are more than happy to share. For example, a visitor called in desperate for petrol. Not only could our volunteer tell him the nearest filling station, she was able to add that if he reached Lyme Road at Axminster, it was all downhill from there! We have a wonderful team of volunteers but, as the saying goes, the more the merrier and new volunteers will be made most welcome. We are planning an open day in October (date to be confirmed) when prospective volunteers can come along and see what is involved and meet some of the current volunteers.

If you are quick, you may just be in time to buy tickets for Jane & David Clifford's 'Quiz with a difference' which is on Saturday 3rd October. Tickets, if not sold out, are available from the library.

At the beginning of the year, Dr Sue Beckers drew attention to the state of the NHS and a U-Tube video which she thought well worth viewing. After a technological struggle, I have downloaded the video and will be showing it in the library on 8th October. Dr. Sue is hoping to be in the audience, but I am delighted that Michael Sheppard, a recent retiree to Charmouth, has agreed to comment on the film and state of the NHS from his perspective as Vice-Chair of a Midlands Hospital Trust. Tickets are available from the Library.

Thanks to Charmouth Parish Council, we have sold donated books, crafts and raffle tickets for two handmade cot quilts, on the foreshore this summer. Our final day is 6th September and we hope it stays fine. The draw for the quilts will be held in the Library on 16th October around 11.00 am. Why not join us for a coffee?

Bob Hughes, *Acting Chair (560487)*



Those Nightmarish Seagulls!

So what has knobbly knees, pink feet, claws, a body and wings that could have been constructed by an aircraft designer, beautiful sleek grey & white plumage and wing tips with black & white spots? It is, of course, the Herring Gull. Ornithologists will not use the term 'seagull' although in the popular media it refers to many types of gulls.

Recent summer headlines have used phrases such as: "public enemy number one", "psychopathic killer seagulls", "devilish, over-aggressive birds spoil my holiday". Gulls have apparently: cut a child's face, scratched someone's hand, dived at an ice-cream, stolen some chips and injured a dog. A loud yell from along the road and cries of "those disgusting birds – look what they've done to my car!" was evidence of yet another visitor finding her car thoroughly splattered. Interestingly, these birds seem to avoid cars with which they are familiar and save their worst 'bombing' activities for unfamiliar vehicles on 'their' territory.

These are creatures with attitude, capable of ruining people's lives, so vile that they attract letters to local press and councils along with demands to remove colonies of gulls from local areas or use birds of prey to scare them. Something must be done! Such letters grossly outnumber those in favour of gulls whose environments we (humans) have destroyed and whose habits regarding waste have encouraged large numbers in search of fast food for little effort. As one pro-gull writer put it: "Help gulls resume life they had before we made a mess of it".

Sitting quietly watching gulls foraging on the strand-line or demonstrating their aeronautical skills, I had a paper bag over my lunch so it wasn't obvious I was holding food. The gulls left me and my lunch alone. Some newly-arrived visitors on the next bench opened their fish and chips. One gull, its eyes firmly on the food, was treated to 'just one chip'. This was swallowed quickly and the Herring Gull, its head slightly tilted, waited for more. Another chip was launched and, predictably, others noticed what was happening. A second gull appeared then four, then about 15, then more than 20. Chips were thrown at the birds along with bits of fish batter. For the gulls this was a feeding bonanza but, understandably, the family began to get frightened – all those wings, sharp bills, the 'screams' of the birds. "Get them away from me!" shouted one small child, clearly upset.

Ignored were all the notices put up by the local council "Do not feed the seagulls" along with a picture of a gull just to make the message clearer. Gulls are opportunists – this is why they are generally successful and they go to places where food is plentiful. As omnivores, they eat almost anything from a rotting crab on the beach, to fish discarded by fishermen, any edible morsel from litter bins and chips thrown by well-meaning holiday-makers. Acrobatic gulls on the roof of my greenhouse deftly make short work of flying ants. At rubbish tips they have a field-day with plenty of bin-bags to investigate so, on many municipal sites, vast nets keep them away from the operatives and potential rich pickings.

People often imbue animals with human emotions (anthropomorphism) but birds are not psychopathic or devilish, out to spoil holidays, injure children or dogs. Gulls are doing what gulls do: they feed, preen themselves, choose a mate and

make a long-term pair bond. They build a nest and produce young which they fiercely protect; they also protect each other. Gulls are curious about new things mainly because they are looking for food. Starting to sort a bag of fossils I'd just collected, several gulls came to look; once aware that my 'packed lunch' was just a pile of fossils they flew off. Covered food will not be obvious to a gull standing on a promenade railing or flying over a beach, so keeping it hidden between bites is a way to stop unwanted attention. Using a substantial bin for weekly rubbish collections is a sensible way of stopping the gulls' bag-opening and litter dispersal tactics.

Just watch Herring Gulls circling above the cliffs or hanging on the breeze coming from the sea, almost stationary with just a few movements from the wings and the tail 'rudder'. They are aerodynamically spectacular and have evolved survival skills allowing them to make the most of their environment, viewing what is around them and learning quickly. Being able to fly, walk and swim makes them very versatile.

Seeing pairs of gulls preening each other accompanied by soft noises are some of the more attractive behaviours of these beautiful birds. They have a variety of calls meaning different things to their mates, their young or the wider gull population. They are keen parents, taking care of their young, feeding them using the attractive red spot on the lower bill and protecting them from predators until they become independent. So, while disliking some of the Herring Gulls' more unpleasant habits as far as humans are concerned, I have a soft spot for these handsome birds.

A seminal work on Herring Gulls was published in 1961 by Niko Tinbergen, an ethologist (one who studies animals in their natural environment), entitled: 'The Herring Gull's World: a Study of the Social Behaviour of Birds'. Although an old book, it is definitely worth reading to get an idea of the complexity of the biology and habits of these birds.

Rosalind Cole





Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter group is going from strength to strength, and with more than 20 members, some of whom are pictured above, the amount of charity knitting which we have been able to do has been amazing. Layettes for babies in South Africa, teddies for displaced and refugee children in Northern Iraq, teddies for Bridport Hospital and small blankets for the Cat's Protection League have occupied us for the last few months. The latest batch to be completed was a consignment of blankets and children's jumpers for the Women's Refuge in Dorchester, run on behalf of Dorset County Council by the organisation You First (Help line 0800 032 5204)

There are two refuges which, between them, can take a total of 19 women and their children, and there is also a safe house, to be used if there is a particular need, or for a man who has to escape a violent relationship. In addition to the residents of these properties, You First also supports about 150 vulnerable people in the community. The latest Knit and Natter coffee morning raised enough money for us not only to buy yarn to knit blankets etc. for them, but also to donate two DVD players, one for each house.

Our current priority, in addition to all of the above, is to provide as many children's long sleeved jumpers as possible to be sent to Northern Iraq before winter for the refugees from the conflict in the region. We meet every Thursday from 2pm until 4pm in the Club Room of St Andrew's Community Hall in Lower Sea Lane. If anyone would like to join us then please feel free to come along; yarn and needles will be provided. If you would prefer to knit at home for one of our good causes then please ring me on 560581 or Jan Coleman on 561625 and we will arrange to get some yarn and a pattern to you.

Our next fund raiser, a coffee morning and table top sale, will be in the Village Hall, Wesley Close, on Wednesday, 28th October 2015 (anyone interested in having a table should contact either Jan or me on the above numbers). There will be a raffle, tombola and, as usual, a delicious array of home-made cakes. All the proceeds will be used either to buy yarn for our projects or to make donations to our causes, so we very much look forward to seeing you there.

Lynne Butler

CHARMOUTH & WOOTTON FITZPAINE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

After the Election in May, our Branch is concentrating on what it does best: keeping its supporters well fed and ready for the next call to duty. We are one of the few political groups who know more about our members and friends' eating habits, than their politics!

On a damp day in June, we held a 'summer' barbecue for 77 friends, members and guests. A good time was had by all, judging by the time people eventually left to go home! We were going to follow this with an afternoon Tea Dance in September, but the Committee decided that this was a step too far, not because of any lack of dancing ability, but because it would have clashed with a Tea Dance in Bridport. Our next event will be a cookery demonstration, by Ian Simpson from The White House, followed by lunch on the 6th October. Numbers will be limited because it will be in a committee member's home, so if you are interested make sure you contact us quickly for the details.

Our Christmas Lunch will be at Lyme Regis Golf Club on Wednesday 2nd December. The final event of the year will see our Chairman, Peter Noel, slaving over a stove, as he hosts the Chairman's 'Bit of a Do' on the 28th February.

Although our events are biased towards our stomachs, in between mouthfuls we can do the odd bit of political debate.

Bob Hughes *Treasurer (560487)*

The Sewing Room

Having spent several years working within the fashion industry and in education, I have recently embarked on a new business adventure 'The Sewing Room'.

Over the summer holidays I ran workshops for anyone who wanted to do a little bit of sewing by the sea. The workshops included drift wood mobiles, personalized scatter cushions and decorated tote bags. Proving popular with both local children and holiday makers, I am now in the process of planning some workshops for October half term. These are set to include a simple skirt, natural weaving/dreamcatchers and Halloween themed accessories!

My aim is to make sure that everyone has access to sewing skills, so now the summer is drawing to an end, it's chance for the adults to go back to school too! I am now offering sewing skills workshops on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings at Charmouth Central Library. We have access to sewing machines and a beautiful space to teach small groups, making this the perfect place for beginners and improvers to brush up on sewing skills, learn to use sewing machines, read commercial patterns, master construction techniques, add zips, button holes and much, much more! Whilst we have a few machines, I am happy for people to bring their own if they would prefer.

To ensure quality tuition, numbers will be limited in the classes, if they prove popular then I will run additional classes in the future. Anyone interested should contact me on thesewingroom@outlook.com

Jessica Kielen *email: thesewingroom@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/thesewingroomdevonanddorset
Tel: 07581190508*

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Rebecca Loader MCSP
Chartered Physiotherapist
Registered with the Health Professions Council

Waddington House,
The Street, Charmouth,
Dorset DT6 6QE

Tel: 01297 561425
Email: rebeccaloaderphysio@outlook.com

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The Elms, St Andrews Drive, Charmouth, Dorset, DT6 6LN



Stillwaters Therapy Centre Rooms for hire

Join us and welcome your clients to our newly renovated therapy spaces within walking distance of the Dorset Jurassic Coast at Charmouth.

- *If you are an registered and qualified psychological or complementary therapist and*
- *are thinking of setting up in private practice but don't want to work from home*
- *are already working from home but would prefer to see clients from a dedicated therapy centre*
- *would value being part of a professional community*
- *would like to be based in a peaceful seaside town ...then we can help!*

Our Facilities – Stillwaters Therapy Centre: Situated on the ground floor of The Elms (Parish Council building) right in the heart of Charmouth town centre, next to the Library; our Centre is a haven of peace and tranquillity. All our rooms are comfortable and stylish, with artwork and furnishings carefully selected to create a therapeutic atmosphere. We have a lovely central area for workshops and group activities and a small kitchen for our therapists; the centre is fully accessible with disabled facilities. All our rooms are serviced regularly and stocked with fresh flowers, candles and tissues.

Our Rooms – Rooms are let for a morning (8am-12 noon), afternoon (12.30-17.30) or evening (17.30-21.30) and available 7 days per week. The main room is bookable for workshops and meetings subject to availability. A 10% discount is offered for Friday evenings.

Therapists are asked to commit to a minimum of one 4-hourly session per week, with the option of booking additional ad-hoc hours subject to availability. See our fee table below. Fees are payable 51 weeks per year; bank holidays as per Sunday rate.

Room 1: Our self-contained complementary therapy room, equipped with coordinated furnishings, treatment couch, chairs, basin with hot and cold water, storage cupboards and desk.

Room 2: Light and cosy room with coordinated furnishings, 2 small sofas, desk, candles and fire providing a relaxed counselling environment.

Waiting/workshop room: Open plan room with coordinated furnishings, stackable chairs, plants and small reception area: French doors leading to the rear of the building and small patio area.

Our Ethos – All our therapists work independently and generate their own client base. We are supportive to one another, meet occasionally socially and to share knowledge and experience, and welcome opportunities for cross-referrals. We hope to introduce periodic open evenings to provide opportunities to learn and network with like-minded colleagues.

In addition to a "team" mentality, we ask any new applicants to be registered with their applicable main UK professional regulatory bodies (eg BACP, UKCP, BPS), carry full insurance, and that counsellors and psychotherapists are in regular supervision.

Rental Costs

Monday – Saturday: 0800 to 1200 or 1330 to 1730 – £35.00

Evenings: 1730 to 2130 – £30.00

Sunday: 0800 to 1200 or 1330 to 1730 – £25.00

Full daily rate: 0900 to 1700 – £60.00 or £40.00 respectively

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Responding Instead of Reacting; Stress reactions.

22/10/15 6-8pm – £18.00 per person (£2.00 discount for Grow Again Facebook members)

Please contact Lucy at Grow Again 07554 451347 or Deborah at Stillwaters Therapy Centre 07585 173854 or 01297 561463 for more information or to book your place.

Assertiveness and Handling Aggression

October date to be confirmed:

For more information please contact Deborah at Stillwaters Therapy Centre 07585 13854 swtherapy@swtherapy.plus.com

Chiropractor now at Stillwaters Therapy Centre

Michael Norris, a chiropractor with over 20 years' experience, has begun holding clinics at Stillwaters Therapy Centre. "After seven years working in a group practice in Axminster, it was time for a change" says Michael. "Charmouth was an obvious choice for my existing patients and as soon as I saw the Centre, I could tell how much hard work Deborah had put into it and could see the enormous potential it had."

Chiropractic treatment resolves injuries to the spine and other joints. Even healthy, young people can have back or neck problems, which can be caused poor posture, working habits or prolonged sitting. Many people live with symptoms, thinking their problems are due to increasing age or wear and tear. Chiropractic treatment restores normal movement to the affected joints, relieves pain and allows inflamed soft tissues to recover. Most people see the sense in dental check-ups, yet few realise their back would benefit from similar attention.

It was often thought that back or other joint injuries need no treatment, or that rest and painkillers will do. That is why so

many people have on-going problems. Treatment involves gentle adjustment of the joints that are causing the problem and most people experience no discomfort whatsoever. Every effort is made to make your treatment comfortable, effective and completely safe.

Chiropractic is a small profession in the UK but there is a growing body of evidence for its effectiveness. In 2009, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published CG88, its guidance for the management of lower back pain lasting longer than six weeks. It made a clear recommendation that spinal manipulative therapy should be considered as part of early treatment. The Bronford Report 2010 was funded by the General Chiropractic Council. It found that spinal manipulation was effective for mechanical low back pain, migraine, neck-related headaches and a variety of other joint problems.

Michael has been a member of the British Chiropractic Association since 1995, a member of the Royal College of Chiropractors since 1999 and registered by the General Chiropractic Council since 2000.

If you are unsure whether chiropractic would be suitable for you, Michael is happy to offer a free initial consultation at no obligation. His number is 07802 693155

Charmouth Poetry Corner

BEYOND THE TOWER

by Peter Crowter

The bulk of the view from the window, that captures my gaze from my chair,
A landmark that's famous in Charmouth, because it has always been there.
Stonebarrow Hill someone called it, well it may have a heart made of stone,
But the side that I see from my window, is friendly and all overgrown.

A lane winds her way to the summit, her nakedness no longer seen,
Her curves are now hidden by nature, her leaves have provided a screen.
An assortment of houses adjoin her, but not in an orderly way,
They peep through the trees that seclude them, quite shyly I s'pose you might say.

The houses have fields up above them, where farmers make silage and hay.
The tractors like toys do the mowing, and then cart the fodder away.
Then cattle are turned in to graze them, all blacks and they're glad to be free,
They wander around where they fancy, like a team that has no referee.

Inland of the farmland is Newlands, a popular caravan park,
The vans and the tents are well hidden, one white building is rather stark.
I see to the left of the campsite, the curve of the A35,
Where Dinky toy cars, trucks and buses, seem to continuously drive.

The head of the hill 'bove the meadows, at one time was probably bare,
Some time it grew woods to protect it, a dark mop of unruly hair.
But when the low cloud rests upon it, it's like an old man going grey,
'Till it becomes rejuvenated, with the aid of the next sunny day.

Well Stonebarrow Hill is impressive, a product of natural power,
And here in my view through the window, she's makes a backdrop to the tower.
The hill you may call God's creation, the church and its tower are man-made,
But both seem to watch over Charmouth; we're happy to live in their shade.

Pastries and Books

The automatic glass doors slid open as we approached the tall, brick building. Immediately we were hit by a bustle of activity and the smell of freshly-baked pastries. Since the library's revamp, an average 2,000 people a day experience this wave of activity as it engulfs them during their commute to and from the library. Due to its large number of visitors each day, Exeter Library is one of the UK's Top 20 busiest libraries. Open seven days a week, it has lots to offer everyone in the community, not just a place to get books and sit and read. Its café can be found in the entrance hall along with a beautiful sculpture, commissioned by the library especially for the revamp. On the left when you enter, stairs lead up to the quiet area - a place for anyone to sit and read or work - meeting rooms for companies or classes to use for various purposes.

On the right the main library can be found. Over 41,000 books were issued last month alone and due to the growing popularity of the library, I'm sure this month's count will be even bigger. Thousands of fiction and non-fiction books sit on shelves and racks along with DVDs and CDs, all of which can be accessed by anyone who walks through the door. On the far left wall are a group of glass rooms called The Fab Lab. It's filled with the latest technology, such as 3D printers. The Fab Lab is volunteer run and can be accessed by any member of the public, but is mostly used by local artists and students for projects. It is the first Fab Lab in a library environment, which adds to Exeter Library's credibility and makes it much more accessible for the public. Next door is the Business and Information Hub, a place for people who are hoping to start up a new business or who need business advice to go to and meet people who can help or use the computers to get relevant data etc. Workshops and advice sessions are also run here to support local businesses and the like through 1-to-1 sessions and group discussion. Along the back wall and on the sides of bookcases are skill swap boards where people stick slips stating skills they have to

offer or need. This enables people to find help for things they are unable to do or help others who may require someone of their skill set.

Next my guide, Joanne Cousins, the senior supervisor of resources, took me to the kids' zone. It was bursting with colour and children, some running around with books and others sitting reading on the plentiful beanbags and chairs scattered around. In the corner was an Under 5s area, which was covered in cushions and had little cubbyholes in the bookcases for the younger children to hide in and read - something I loved as a child.

On the walls are murals, which were designed and painted by library staff. There is also a cork notice board where the many activities and competitions on offer by the library such as the Record Breakers competition, the summer reading competition and the Build A Robot Project (in connection with the Fab Lab).

Next Joanne took me to the first floor where the Quiet Area is found. I didn't dare venture inside for fear of disturbing the users of the area but through the glass door I could see that it was a popular part of the library. The second and third floors offer meeting rooms that can cope with 2 to 80 people - what an amazing resource for locals.

My brief tour of the library has given me a great insight into the workings of the library and has showed me that the £4 million investment and 18 months of hard work has paid off. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and I have every intention of visiting again in the near future - next time you are in Exeter, pop in, you might be surprised.

Caitlin Oldham
Aged 15

Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers

Take the Lead and Volunteer – with your Four-Legged Friend

Charmouth is full of happy dogs. Head down to East Beach or up Stonebarrow Hill early any morning and, whatever the weather, you'll see dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes having a ball of a time.

Their owners - if it's not absolutely pouring down – usually look happy too. Yes, it probably has a lot to do with the fact we're spoiled with stunning views on our daily dog walks in Charmouth, but it might also be because we just love our four-legged friends and value the unconditional love they give us back.

It's that companionship, devotion and the need to please that makes dogs perfect little helpers in the therapy world, something that Pets As Therapy, a UK charity, knows only too well.

I've been a Pets As Therapy volunteer for the past year, along with my Patterdale Terrier Archee, and when I moved to Charmouth in December I contacted the charity to see if any establishments in the area had applied for a visitor. I was sent a waiting list – of 15 residential nursing homes, day centres, hospitals, hospices and special needs schools, all within 10 miles of the village. I contacted the first on that list, Fairfield House, a residential care home in Lyme Regis who had been waiting for a Pets As Therapy dog to visit since 2009.

With Archee in her 'superdog' yellow cape, the pair of us popped along to Fairfield House on a regular basis, and Archee built up quite a fan club. The smiling faces that greeted us assured me our visits were worthwhile. The residents enjoyed a cuddle and the chance to reminisce about their much-loved and much-missed pets, and Archee was in her element receiving lots of attention (and the occasional dog treat).

Sadly, Archee passed away this summer, so is no longer around



Archee with Lorna and Gwladys Roberts, a resident at Fairfield House

to bring joy to others. But your dog may be the perfect pooch to take her place.

Can any dog be a Pets As Therapy dog?

Yes, your dog just needs to be at least nine months old and fit and healthy. It also needs to pass a Pets As Therapy assessment to check it has the right temperament.

What will the assessment involve?

You'll have to show an accredited assessor that your dog is friendly and well-behaved, responds to your commands, and walks on a relaxed lead. Dogs that bark continuously, get too excited or jump up and paw people may not be suitable.

How can dogs help others?

Sick and withdrawn patients often open up and let barriers down when a dog is around. And those in nursing homes and day care centres, perhaps pet lovers who are no longer able to own a dog, enjoy fussing over a friendly four-legged visitor. Pets As Therapy has also launched a READ 2 DOGS programme, helping children who are reluctant readers.

How much time do I need to commit?

Pets As Therapy do their best to match up volunteers with an establishment nearby, so it's convenient and easy to travel to. Agreeing to visit regularly, for a maximum of an hour, is about right. Remember young dogs may quickly get bored, and older ones sometimes just want to go home for a lie-down.

How do I find out more?

Go online to www.petsastherapy.org and complete the relevant application form. To help with charity costs, volunteers are asked to pay an annual subscription of £19.

Lorna Cowan

Twinning Charmouth/Asnelles in Normandy

2015 marked the 30th anniversary of the Charmouth/Asnelles Twinning Association and as such it was fitting that as the Charmouth Twinning group were visiting Asnelles on their biennial trip to France, the occasion should be marked in a special way. Not only were the dates of our visit (4th to 7th June) special for the Twinning but 6th June is also memorable in Asnelles as it marks the day of the D-Day Landing on the beaches there.

Twenty-six people travelled to France and the friendship was, as always, wonderful, right from the beginning of our visit. The Charmouth Twinning committee had decided upon the gift of a bench with a plaque commemorating the 30 years of Twinning, which was well received – a novel gift as (unlike Charmouth) the French do not seem to remember people or dates in this way!

Our weekend with the host families may have seemed to some a test of endurance, as we were as always winned, dined and feted every minute of the day and evening. We were invited to the commemorative services held on the beach and did so with due diligence but these remembrance times did not impact on the other days of celebration.

We have on past visits travelled to many towns and cities in the area but this year we were treated to a visit to Paris. Although

a long day (up at 4.00am – returned at 11.00pm) we did enjoy the wonderful day in Paris. A guided tour of the Opera Garnier (sheer magnificence) followed by a bateau mouche cruise down the Seine (superb lunch and wine) and finally another guided tour around Notre Dame Cathedral. Whew! What a day. Other days and evening dinners with hosts were equally as delightful and the weekend was voted another huge success.

Next year, it is our turn to host and we look forward to welcoming our French friends and hope to emulate their superb weekend's activities (not so sure about London though!).

We are very happy to welcome new members to our Association (speaking French is not obligatory, although even school French helps). Please contact Peter Bonner on 01297 560251.



Mingalabar from Burma!



Shwedagon Pagoda

In August I travelled to Burma, also known as Myanmar, on an assignment for the British Council. This organisation is the UK's principal agency for enhancing cultural relations with other countries. The British Council has had a country operation in Burma since the country's independence in 1948, with a vision for 'a vibrant, healthy and deep-rooted educational and cultural relationship between Burma and the UK, which builds trust and creates a better future for institutions, communities and individuals'. The British Council does this through teaching English and by providing a very popular library in Yangon (Rangoon); also by promoting the development of democratic institutions, and by building links between professionals and educationalists in Burma and in Britain.

Some of the challenges in Burma

Burma is a country undergoing dramatic political and economic changes in the run-up to important general elections in November this year. Burma is rapidly emerging from decades of isolation from participation on the global stage. Absolute military rule (1962 – 2011) followed a period of socialist rule (1948 to 1962) which in turn followed British colonial rule. Although the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), won a clear majority in multi-party elections in 1990, in fact the NLD leader, Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest by the military government. She endured this on and off since then and remains the popular face of the opposition. Cyclone Nargis hit Burma in 2008, killing almost 140,000 people and putting severe strain on the military's ability to provide basic services. Some say this catastrophe led to engagement with (and assistance from) other countries, as many had imposed sanctions against the military regime. Through this new engagement, the regime was required to democratise.

Although rich in natural resources such as teak, minerals, oil and natural gas, few institutions, such as the civil service, tax collection or the judiciary, work effectively. Burma is a very poor country. With a population of 54 million people of diverse ethnic groups, the 'gross domestic product' (GDP) per head per annum is only US \$1200, compared with neighbouring Thailand which has \$5400, or the highly developed Singapore at \$55k*.

(*World Bank) High level corruption, lack of accountability and mismanagement in ministries has left a bankrupt state.

As in many developing countries, the education and health sectors are particularly prone to corrupt practices. Many large 'donor' organisations have pledged substantial sums to reforming these and other state institutions assuming the elections in November run smoothly.

Education and professional development

The project I have been working on for a number of years is known as the 'Development Opportunities Programme' or DEVOPS for short. DEVOPS is developing project management and consulting skills for 22 bright young people whom we hope will go on to become influential managers and decision makers in Burma. Most of our trainees are already specialists in different fields, such as education or health reform, but they have not yet been able to learn or practice project management or other consulting skills. I ran a three day induction training course for the trainees and then over the next nine months each of them will be paired up with an experienced international or Burmese consultant who will mentor them. Our trainee consultants will be set a number of assignments by their mentors, which might be to design and deliver bespoke training packages, for example, or to undertake research analysis on new areas to inform public policy decision making. As there are so many economic and social challenges in Burma, our aim is that our trainees will go on to influence positive change in their country.

But it wasn't all work on this visit! I have visited Burma twice before, and on both occasions all I had done had been: at my hotel (eat/sleep), then to the office (work), then to another hotel (deliver training) and then back to my hotel (eat/sleep). I had not been able to see anything of the real Burma.

This time, however, my very kind colleague, Aye Aye Nyein, announced she would take me to the Shwedagon Pagoda after the training course ended.



This is a spectacularly beautiful Buddhist temple, known as 'the Crown of Burma'. It is some 99 metres high and, at apparently 2600 years old, is perhaps the oldest pagoda in the world. The glowing gold of the temple dome, and the golden statues of the Buddha in various poses, were striking against the inky blue of the evening sky – it really was uplifting!

Aye Aye explained we would need to be barefoot in the temple complex, and we juggled taking photographs with carrying our sandals as we walked clockwise around the impressive monuments. Aye Aye told me there were statues and shrines located at significant points of the compass at which people could give offerings of flowers, or light incense sticks or candles.

There were, for example, points for each of the days of the week – so if you were a 'Friday's child', you could make your offering at the Friday shrine. It turned out Aye Aye is a 'Sunday's child' – I told her about our 'Monday's child is fair of face' rhyme and that being a Sunday's child is very fortuitous.

At the entrance to the pagoda there were many objects for sale and I noticed there were pairs of little golden owls. Aye Aye said these were particularly auspicious, as owls are lucky in Myanmar. I told her owls are regarded as wise in Britain; I couldn't resist buying some lucky, wise owls!

Jo Seaman

Director Griffin Development Management Ltd
griffdev@gmail.com

Time Capsule in Charleston

A few months ago we were having a little routine maintenance carried out at Charleston House in Charmouth by local Craftsman Martyn Wheeler. While trying to drill through the two-foot thick flint wall, Martyn came across a jam-jar style glass bottle, buried in the wall. Upon carefully removing the sealing tape, the only contents appeared to be an old matchbox with a note enclosed.

You can imagine the scene, back in 1968 when the note was written. A group of builders, tea in one hand, fag in the other, having a moan about life in general and work in particular. Suddenly one bright spark decides it would be fun to put a 'time capsule' in the wall – but what to put in it?

We have a note about The USA taking a trip to the moon (Apollo 8 was the first manned craft to orbit the moon – the crew of Borman, Lovell and Anders were the first men to see the whole of the Earth from space and the “dark-side of the moon” - and took off on December 21st, returning on the 27th).

The second comment was just “Swindon v Arsenal” (on the

18th December 3rd Division Swindon beat Burnley in a League Cup Semi-final, to book a place in the Final against an Arsenal side featuring the likes of Bob Wilson, George Graham and Frank McLintock. Swindon went on to win 3 – 1 in front of 98,000 at Wembley).



Comment three was quite straightforward and suggests nothing ever changes – “The Country in dire economic straits”!

Finally, and possibly the most telling comment, was “Builders refused pay rise of 1d”. Although the average pay in 1968 was officially £1489, or around £28. 13s a week, builders and labourers received much less; in the region of £10 to £5 per week.

The note was written on ‘official’ note paper from The New Inn, and carries the legend “Oct to Dec 1968 roof repairs and alterations carried out by Bodgers United (W. J. Cooper) (T. R. Mitchell Proprietor) F. S. Rice, S Loveridge, R. Hallet, R. Cake, E. W. Loosemore”.

Does anyone know any more about these builders? I would love to know if they are still around, or if their families still live in the area – they sound my kind of builders!

Neil Harvey

Charmouth Gardeners

Hello everyone,

Did you go to the Flower Show this year? Wasn't it great? We all owe a big thank you to Pauline and her team of organisers. Everything looked perfect and everything went well throughout the day. Thanks also to the gardeners who exhibited and all those who entered non-gardening classes, without whom we would not have a show. Not forgetting those members who offered to help with refreshments and serving in the kitchen. It was a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On another note, the new recycling centre will be ready for us soon and we must all make sure we are composting all unwanted rubbish from our gardens and plots. Try to compost as much as you can in your own bin, remembering we can put it back next year to make our vegetables and flowers grow well; the rest can go to be recycled and will produce more compost which, I am guessing, will be sold on to help pay for the new plant. So do not compost weeds in seed, or you will get it back when you buy the compost. I always use the vegetable waste for my beans, digging a trench about two foot down and filling it with the kitchen vegetable waste, replacing the soil on top and planting beans there the next year, as most of the waste will have been sorted out by the worms. Adding old newspapers too helps to retain moisture and it breaks down well and makes the ground more open and easier to manage. Rotating crops three yearly can eventually get you back to the same place and all your garden soil will have improved immensely.

Work to be done in October – Sort out your containers and baskets, take cuttings for next season and keep in a frost-free place. Fill your basket up with winter bedding plants. Take a look to see if you will need any bulbs for next year and make a note of them. Now is the time to take hardwood cuttings for next year from ornamentals, such as roses and forsythia, when the leaves have fallen. You can increase your soft fruit the same way; keep cuttings in a greenhouse or under cover, keep moist but not wet and do not exclude the light. Prune out any unwanted canes of hybrid berries and tie up any new growth. Finish planting onions,

shallots and garlic. Lift any tubers you may want to keep and when dry overwinter in a box and cover with newspaper. If you have fruit trees in pots, keep them covered from frost with fleece. Evergreen shrubs should be moved while the soil is still warm. Don't forget to put grease bands or some type of barrier around your fruit tree trunks to protect them from winter moths, which cause the damage to your fruits in the spring. If you have a garden pond, give it a spring clean.

November can be a busy month –

If you grow grasses in your garden, leave the flower heads on to provide some protection for the wildlife. Remove debris from pond surfaces. Cut back any herbaceous perennials, leaving enough to protect crowns of less hardy subjects. Rake up the leaves and put in bags to make leaf mould. Prune your fruit trees, such as apples, pears and grapevines after the leaves have fallen. Plant fruit trees, cane fruit and soft fruit now before the frosts. Cover your pots with well-rotted compost or manure, protect salad plants. Clear away any rubbish and compost it. Scarify lawns and keep off in wet weather.

December – Make the most of this month to clear up and then sit back with next year's seed magazines and enjoy your Christmas. All for now, have a good holiday and a Happy New Year to you all.

Busy Lizzy



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES FROM WORLD WAR II

Our sincere appreciation is extended to those villagers who so willingly agreed to relate their personal experiences during the war, as children or as volunteers in the services some 70+ years ago. Their individual accounts are truly unique and we thank them profusely.

To those of us who have been fortunate not to have experienced life in a war-ravaged environment, their stories are all the more breath-taking and their early photographs all the more poignant. A big thank you to them all!

Lesley Dunlop

WAR MEMORIES OF STELLA BURRELL (NEÉ YOUNG)

I was born and brought up on Merseyside. Being near Cammell Laird's shipyard and an oil refinery, we were of course in a great place for enemy bombers and spent most evenings in air raid shelters. We had a land mine drop at the top of our road which killed many people. Seeing the parachute, some had run towards it. Whilst walking down Birkenhead's main street, an enemy plane came down and peppered us all with bullets. We sheltered in a shop doorway.

I went to Liverpool in 1942 when I was just 18. Having seen many convoys heading for the Mersey Tunnel, I just wanted to become a driver in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, which took over from the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANYs). I was sent to Newcastle Barracks where we trained for the Army, i.e. discipline, marching, etc. We were tested for intelligence and mechanical expertise. Much to my surprise I came out with very high marks, so much so that they wanted me to become a despatch rider. But that was not for me.

I was transferred to Southern Command, to the same unit where the Queen was trained to drive an ambulance: an out station off the Hog's Back. We had to learn the workings of vehicles and how to mend them, as well as map reading and medicine – and how to treat patients. We had our driver training on the Hog's Back. After tests on all the subjects, I was finally sent to Tunbridge Wells and then on to Tonbridge Camp Reception Station (CRS), a small hospital for soldiers. I wore khaki uniform with trousers, not a skirt, and long yellow driving gloves. The cap had a leather band which went over the crown.

There was no room for the ambulance drivers on the base, so a friend and I were interviewed to see if we were suitable to be billeted at the house of Mr & Mrs Yardley. Mr Yardley was a local artist and lived at Yardley Park Road, but I don't know if it was named after him. I was there for some time. When we were called out to soldiers' camps or road accidents, the medical orderlies would come up to the house and shine the torch up to our bedroom on the first floor. We saw the flying bombs which flew over us en route to London and then the V-2s. After Dunkirk we all thought it was a matter of time before we would be taken.

A Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse friend knew several officers, and we were invited to a dance at the officers' quarters in Sevenoaks. I loved ballroom dancing. It was there that I met Norman, who was a Captain and Weapons & Training Officer with the Queen's Regiment. (We were married in 1947.)

Then I was sent back to my headquarters and given a document to say that I was not to be taken prisoner as I was a trained ambulance driver and stretcher bearer and so was

protected by the Geneva Convention. I thought I was going out with our troops to France but instead I was sent to Romney Marsh, a restricted area where I was told we had the biggest gun sight the world had known. We were billeted in a large house and told we were not to go out without our helmets as shrapnel was raining down like water. There was firing at the V-2s to try to stop them getting to London. I remember the gun belt, fighter belt and balloon belt. All the civilians had been evacuated. At one time we drove to the coast to take survivors of a ship that had hit a mine.



After some time the gunners had run out of ammunition. As they were short of drivers and I could drive three tonne lorries, another girl and I had to go with the men. It turned out to be many miles away: an ammunition dump staffed by Italian prisoners of war. We returned the ammunition to the gun sight at Romney Marsh and drove while flying bombs went over. The doctor with us in the ambulance disappeared underneath the dashboard onto the floor and told us to stop as he thought we were being shot at. Later it became obvious. The centre sending V-2s had been destroyed and the enemy had set up a new centre and were passing bombs over different places. So our guns had to be transported to the other side of the country.

Once again, we were asked to tow the guns in convoy via London to an area near Brighton. I was told there was nothing to it as long as we remembered to take a wide berth when going around corners. We drove through the Blackwell Tunnel with police leading and protecting us. People were on the streets cheering, no doubt thinking we were going out to the fighting line.

Later, a flying bomb fell onto a marquee at a soldiers' camp several miles away and many soldiers were killed and injured. We had four stretcher cases and standing wounded and, together with the Medical Officer and medical orderlies, we drove the casualties to the local hospital.

When V-2s no longer came over I was transferred to Suffolk where I stayed until war was over.

I remember the VE Day parade in London. It was wonderful, with lots of soldiers marching. The Gurkhas made a great impression on me; they were so smart. After the military parade, there were dances in the evening, but we had duty to do. After that, I went to the coast and was a first aid standby for the bomb disposal people, in case a bomb went off. There were so many bombs in the sand along the coast. The Geiger counter people were there too.

Stella Burrell



I was born in June 1928. After the 11+ I was awarded a scholarship to go to a boys' public boarding school at Woodford Green, Essex, on the edge of Epping Forest, so I was at that school for the whole of the war. The school was not evacuated during the war years, as it was considered to be outside the danger zone. We still had school holidays, however. I used to travel home via a number of buses and through the Blackwall Tunnel. During the holidays I stayed with my mother at home in Lewisham, south east London. Once we had a near miss by a Doodle Bug (a V-1), which landed in a cemetery just 100 yards across the road in front of the house. When I was clearing up debris in the loft, I found a large piece of tombstone – inscribed with the words “in loving memory of”. During the war my mother was walking home with the shopping when a German aircraft flew over very low and fired a machine gun at her and others. She dived into someone's front garden and was saved.

Our boarding school also had several near misses, one of which landed squarely on an Emergency Water Supply (EWS) tank. Other smallish bombs were found around the school grounds – mainly the 2kg incendiary bombs – some unexploded! I reached the 1st XV in rugby at school and on some of the fixtures we used to play against an RAF Station XV. One fixture that I particularly remember was North Weald, a fighter 'drome. They had a couple of international players in their team and, needless to say, we were thoroughly beaten!

Another war memory concerns my father. He was called up and put in charge of a number of NAAFI camps. During the doodlebug campaign he was down on the south coast near Dymchurch. It was this part of the coast that the V-1s came over, so the AA guns were concentrated there. They included many German and

Italian guns which had been captured during the North Africa campaign. I was down there on holiday helping (?) my Dad. Some V-1s came over and the guns opened up. The noise was terrifying, but they were quite often successful. If they got away and headed towards London, the Spitfires went after them. One of their tricks was to fly alongside the V-1s and, with their wing, tilt the V-1 over so it dived to earth in the more rural areas.

Just prior to leaving school, I passed my 'Matriculation' exam. At age 16 I was offered a position in my uncle's firm in the City of London to take up 'Articles' and study to become a Chartered Accountant. I was given a grand salary of £2 per week – to cover my meals, return train fare to London, etc. For the next two years I was travelling in various parts of London and the country generally, auditing the books of small and large companies. At age 18, I could no longer obtain 'deferment' and was called up; I joined the RAF. Firstly, I was sent to a 'square-bashing' camp on the Wirral Peninsular near Liverpool. It was a very cold winter with lots of snow and ice on the roads, which meant that food and fuel could not get to the camp, so they marched us to the local station and sent us home. After a few weeks, we were called back to complete our 'square-bashing'. I needed to be trained in something useful, so I was sent on a 26-week course to Compton Bassett in Wiltshire to train as a Wireless/Teleprinter/

Direction Finding Operator (WOP/TOP/DFOP). After qualifying, the RAF did not have much need of young 'ERKs', as we were known. Since the end of the war, they had been trying to reduce the numbers of the massive outfit that the RAF had grown into. So we were sent to various stations to undertake such things as gardening, cleaning and recovering copper wire on derelict RAF airfields. I was eventually sent to an operational unit at Chicksands in Bedfordshire. This was an important signal centre for the RAF and we handled messages to and from the Air Ministry to stations all over the world using radio teleprinters. But this was shift work and I decided there and then that I did not like working at night and trying to sleep in the daytime!

In November 1949 I was due for release from the RAF, but Stalin had other ideas. He closed off the road and rail access to Berlin, leaving the entire city without food or fuel. So the RAF started the 'Berlin Airlift'. All food and fuel for a major capital city had to be transported in by air. This airlift lasted for three months, but afterwards I finally got my discharge. So it was back to work in the City, with study by correspondence course at night – after a day's work. No university places were then available. They were all reserved for people being discharged after wartime service."

Dudley and his wife Margaret came to Charmouth in 1998.

John Forsey kindly provided this photograph, taken on Stonebarrow Hill in 1946. It features a German prisoner-of-war (left), Walt Rendall (centre) and John's grandfather (right).



WAR EXTRACTS FROM CHARMOUTH'S BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION MINUTE BOOK



Photo from the Pavay Room archive. Believed to show the WWII-era British Legion Ladies' Section. If you can recognise any of the people, please let Shoreline know

During World War II the Women's Branch of the British Legion in Charmouth were a dedicated and industrious group of ladies, constantly rising to challenges, whatever they were... fund-raising, making camouflage nets, knitting and assisting in the canteen. Always conscious of the importance of their work, they were a sterling example of women's contributions during the war. Thank you to Trish Forsey for the loan of the Legion's Minute Book (Oct 1937-July 1944), from which I have extracted a number of fascinating facts, figures and quotes.

In 1937 the Charmouth Women's Institute had a large committee and 109 paid-up members. They held committee meetings at members' homes, including the Misses Pavay's drawing room, Grasmere and Fernhill House, and the well-attended AGMs were held in the WI Hut, as it was then called, in Wesley Close. At the 1937 AGM, it was noted that the pole of the branch's standard should be engraved as follows: "This Standard was presented to the Charmouth Branch by HM King George VI when Duke of York on 4th July 1930 at Weymouth." 1937 was also a record Poppy Day collection for Charmouth, when £77.6s.7d (equivalent to well in excess of £3,000 today) was raised.

Each spring, the War Memorial was discussed and names confirmed of those who would care for it and ensure it was covered in flowers during the summer. Around late 1941 a gardener was employed for an occasional four hour period to keep the grass and gravel tidy.

In January 1938 a letter was received from Haig House stating that Selfridges' Coronation Decorations had been given to the Legion and that a share had been sent to Charmouth. The large Coronation hanging was subsequently sold for five shillings.

Air Raid Precautions were the subject of a talk at the February 1938 meeting and it was "thrown open to any who liked to come." In October 1939, Lady Edward Spencer Churchill, Chairman of the Women's Section, sent a letter asking all branches to carry on and not close down during the war.

It is noted in the October 1939 AGM report that, "at a few hours' notice, a canteen and recreation room for the

troops billeted here was organised and run most successfully by Mrs Jolliffe and Mrs Mabson." A detailed account is as follows: "On 6 September a canteen and recreation room for the troops was opened in the Chapel Room (by kind permission of the Chapel Minister and his committee) under the auspices of the British Legion. In the canteen we started by serving the men with 1d cups of tea and coffee, also sausage rolls, biscuits, etc; but the demand was so great that in the end we were cooking hot suppers for them, such as eggs and mash, sausages, etc.; the favourite dish being a mixed grill consisting of two sausages, two rashers, two eggs and a generous helping of mashed potatoes, all for 10d!"

"The recreation room is well fitted up with games such as darts, a bagatelle table, cards and many other games, and there are also books, magazines and papers. We are well equipped in the musical line, our best effort being one piano, one harmonium, one gramophone and one wireless, all being played simultaneously! I should think the average number of men using the canteen in the evenings, which was open from just before 6pm till 10pm was between 80 and 90. Their appreciation was most encouraging. The helpers were all drawn from the Women's Branch of the British Legion. The canteen has more than paid its way. The money we have in hand is being spent on improvements for the canteen, such as buying knives, plates, forks, etc." The report was signed by Mrs Mabson.

From October 1939 the monthly meetings were held fortnightly and became working parties for "comforts for the troops"; a jumble sale had already been organised for this purpose, which raised £5.12s.6d.

Wreaths for war graves were made by

Mrs Taylor, Mrs Start, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Smith, Miss Childs, Mrs Frankland, Mrs Cogill, Mrs Church, Mrs Hutchings and Miss Hutchings and 24 were subsequently placed on graves in the cemetery and on memorials in church.

In November 1939 Mr Donald Cox attended the meeting and spoke about the making and need for camouflage nets for the Army, for which workers were urgently required. He brought two demonstrators with him and a class was arranged for the following week at The Well Head. Fifteen came and worked for the afternoon under the supervision of two Bridport teachers and Mrs Lock. The Secretary later reported that more than 25 nets had been made. In 1941, six people could add the camouflage pattern to a 24ft square net in one-and-a-half hours. Such a net would be pegged out on a lawn or hung up in a barn. Mrs Carter and Mrs Little both offered their lawns for this purpose. A net was later spread out on Fernhill lawn and inspected by the members, while Mrs Little explained how the camouflage was added. The volunteer workers were Mrs and Miss Taylor, Miss D Pavay, Mrs Haines, Miss Lang, Miss Doris Thomas, Miss Randle, Mrs Burr, Mrs John Childs, Miss Freda Childs, Mrs Carter, Mrs Gollop, Miss Cumine, Mrs Bush, Mrs Harris and Mrs Kennedy, who were advised to wear stout shoes and bring kneeling mats and rubber or leather gloves. This industry continued to thrive here throughout the war.

In February 1940 a whist drive was held at the George Hotel in aid of the Comforts Fund for the troops and a house-to-house collection was undertaken. Well over 100 garments were subsequently given to the local troops and several parcels were sent to the Legion Headquarters. Letters of thanks from headquarters and from Lance Bombadier Thomas were read at a committee meeting. In three months the Comforts Fund had provided 195 garments, 90 helmets, 22 scarves, 19 pairs of gloves, 12 pairs of mine sweepers' gloves, 9 pairs of cuffs, 24 pairs of mittens, 19 pairs of socks and one pullover.

A month later, Miss Prior gave a demonstration on Hay Box Cookery and Kitchen Economies in Wartime, the members "being thrilled with seeing rice cooked in the hay box, which had been made from old Picture Posts." It was

suggested that recipes of economical cooking should be written out and sold for the benefit of the Branch. Miss N Stewart offered to type the recipes, to be sold at 1d each. The Charmouth branch also undertook to feed Air Raid Victims for 48 hours if the village was bombed.

In January 1941 the Chairman stated that "it had been impossible to hold the annual Children's Christmas Party because there was no water, no chairs and great difficulties over catering", so Mrs Gooch proposed that the deferred party should take the form of a visit to the Regent Cinema in Lyme Regis where 'Pinocchio' was being shown.

It was also agreed that the matter should be discussed of a stall, stocked by members able and willing to make gifts of vegetables, fruit, flowers and other goods. Such contributions would be sold at the British Legion meetings and the proceeds would go to the Comforts Fund. The stall raised 12s 11d to the fund.

Mrs Mabson consented to organise the Housewives' Service Scheme and organised her helpers. The scheme was welcomed by the ARP. Mrs Carter read her knitting report at the AGM in late 1941. A total of 215 articles had been sent to Essex Comforts, British Legion, Lady Beatrice's Fund and the Naval Comfort's Fund.

In February 1942 it was proposed and seconded that the Women's Section should run a gift shop for the forthcoming Warships Week. Members were invited to bring gifts, posters were planned for the shops and any goods left over were to be auctioned after the evening entertainment. Mrs Gooch offered to forward the Chairman a Board of Trade pamphlet defining the regulations in connection with the sale of rationed goods. The considerable sum of £101 was raised. Around the same time, Mrs Little suggested that a blood transfusion

service be set up in Charmouth for the following May.

Mrs Little proposed that the Women's Section could run a shop for a fortnight for which members might sell some of their superfluous possessions, excluding clothes, taking 75% of the purchase price, while the other 25% went to a branch fund.

At the request of the Head Air Warden, Mrs Blanchard remarked on the duties of the civil population in the event of invasion. She stated that the leader would be Mrs Blanchard and the food controller Mrs Lindon Bell. It would be the duty of all householders to notify, in the event of emergency, the number of people in the house and the position where they would seek refuge.

Plans were made to raise funds to replace HMS Dorsetshire, including the setting up of a gift shop at Portland House, by permission of Mr & Mrs Pincott. An American tea was held in September 1942, the entrance fee for which, including tea, was 6d. Each British Legion member was to "bring a parcel of eatables (well wrapped up)" and a "mystery parcel." Miss Pavey was Master of Ceremonies. The combined total raised from the two day gift shop and American Tea was £37.12s.0d.

In January 1943 a speaker from Dorchester addressed the committee meeting on the Women's Land Army, stating that there were 700 of them in Dorset alone. At the conclusion of the meeting, members asked many questions.

In March 1943 it was proposed by Miss Daisy Pavey that the subscriptions of absent members on war service should be paid for out of the general fund. At

that time the branch had 120 paid-up members.

For Wings for Victory week in June 1943, the Women's Section ran a gift shop with various side shows at Mr Dunn's shop. Members were asked to contribute one item to the shop and invited to bring to the following monthly meeting one dessertspoon of sugar towards the making of sweets. By July, £145.8s.10d had been raised by the gift shop.

In May 1943 six pullovers were completed, and two helmets and a scarf had been knitted for the Russian fund. It was advised that pullovers were the knitted garments most greatly needed by the Merchant Navy. By August, a consignment of 11 pullovers and six pairs of socks had been sent. The British Legion enquired to the Royal Navy Comforts fund as to whether coupon-free wool could be supplied for further knitting, but was told that there was no free wool... "it could be supplied at 2s 10d per lb." Mrs Carter ordered 12 lbs. It was also agreed that a dozen badges for knitters should be ordered and given to members." In October 1943 Mrs Carter's knitting report stated that 827 garments in all had been achieved by her workers thus far during the war period.

The desirability of allowing girls from 14 to 18 to join the Women's Section was discussed and it was agreed that the committee should recommend such girls be allowed to join as Junior Members.

In February 1944 Mrs Lovel Turner gave a talk with demonstrations on 'Clothes through the Ages. "Miss Charlotte Goodfellow made a most patient and attractive model for the delightful garments that were modelled on her. Her wardrobe ranged from the Grecian classic mode to the Hobble shirt and cloche hat, all of which were most cleverly evolved by Mrs Turner's skilful fingers from a one-piece foundation garment with the addition of extras." In June the branch sent Miss Goodfellow a telegram on the occasion of her marriage.

Lesley Dunlop

WAR RECOLLECTIONS

"I was born in 1939 in a little village in Warwickshire. In June 1942 I was living with my parents in a cottage, one of a row of five. There had been some bad bombing on Coventry that day. My father was upstairs, changing into his Auxiliary Fire Service uniform after a day down the pit at the nearby mine. Suddenly we could hear planes coming over, so my mother wrapped me in her arms and ran under a table. Then the bomb dropped and hit the row of cottages. My house was the only one from which the whole family survived. Others were killed.

They heard me crying, so I am told. When I was found, parts of the fire place were on top of me. I had burns and a piece

of slate, which was part of the grate, had gone through my leg and pinned me to the ground. It was 7½ hours before I was taken out. My rescuer instigated the recovery and received the MBE for finding me. The body of the young man from next door was discovered. He was in the fire service too and had been downstairs, waiting to go out on duty to Coventry with my father.

I spent six months in hospital. After my wounds were healing, I went red and it was thought that I had scarlet fever, so I was transferred to an isolation hospital for a further six weeks. I had to learn to walk again."

The author wishes to remain anonymous

PAM TEMPLER'S WAR



"I joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service for four years when aged 18 in 1939 and just prior to the start of World War II, not because of being patriotic but bored with life at home with my parents in London! I soon found out what a comfortable life I had previously! I didn't expect to be living with girls who didn't care for clean clothes and a regular washing routine. Quite an eye opener!"

After a few weeks of home sickness ("what have I done?"), I settled down to living a very different life to my sheltered existence at home. I had no clerical experience, so was given the job of cleaning and washing up in the officers' mess and living quarters nearby. Getting

up at 6am on winter mornings was very hard – there was no heating in our billets. I couldn't eat the wartime food and lived on snacks bought at a canteen run by volunteers for the forces; beans on toast and cheese on toast mostly and no vegetables or fruit. Consequently I soon got ill with bad colds and one year I had food poisoning which resulted in a hospital stop and being very ill with sickness and diarrhoea. My step-mother made sure I was adequately looked after, although she wasn't supposed to interfere. I told her "I am in the Army now!" After this my life changed for the better when the head of the ATS came to our headquarters (we were next to Fighter Command at Stanmore and the Anti-Aircraft Command). This lady asked us all if we were happy in our jobs and I told her I was not! She asked me if I would like to learn how to type and I jumped at the opportunity. I couldn't master shorthand so I became a lowly copy-typist and worked in a large office next to the REME headquarters. I enjoyed my time there for the rest of my time in the ATS.

On leaving I had to find a civvy job. An uncle pulled a few strings and got me a job in a typing pool in the Home Office in Whitehall in the probation and childrens' department. It was run by an 'old dragon'! I became quite proficient at deciphering the writing of various

senior men working in the background of the probation department. During my time there the V-2 rockets were launched and hit London badly, so our part of the Home Office was moved to Exhibition Road. It was considered safer, but proved not to be in fact. At this time I was living in a bed sitter in Marylebone, near Regents Park, right on the flight path of V-1 flying bombs (buzz bombs). As my bedroom was at the top of a three-storey building I had to run down to the ground floor every 15 minutes or so, until my kind landlady suggested I spent the nights under the dining room table for safety. Then I had a lift up and was sent to Carpenders Park to work in an office dealing with internees from the Isle of Man. There was not much work to do in my office except some sorting out of internees' belongings. I stayed there until 1945 and was married in 1946. The end of the war came and a very different life beckoned for me!"



Pamela Elizabeth Templer
(née Marzetti)

IAN TEMPLER – WORLD WAR II FLEET AIR ARM PILOT

Ian Templer was born in Ealing on 17 June 1918. Privileged to be listening to his breathtaking stories from World War II, I'm convinced that he was born under a lucky star. Read on and you'll understand why.

"I left Bradfield College in Berkshire at a time when jobs were not easy to come by. Soon afterwards, my family moved to Southport after my father's law firm transferred him there. Through a friend I was offered the opportunity to join the Dunlop Company as a commercial trainee and started in the tyre depot in Liverpool. In the autumn of 1938 I managed to move to London. A few months later the Militia Act was passed, whereby all young men of my age had to sign for military service. I had always been keen on boats and all things naval, so I expressed a preference for the Navy. After the medical I was called up to the Royal Naval Barracks at Devonport. It was 12th August 1939, just before war was declared."

"When four metrology assistant posts came up in the Orkneys, three of my friends and I applied. We went for interview and, in due course, arrived at the Naval Air Station at Hatson, Kirkwall. We were put onto weather maps and

prepared reports on the teleprinter. Some operations were carried out from there by the Fleet Air Arm Squadrons, including raids on Normandy. Then, when I heard that the Admiralty were recruiting for air crew for the Fleet Air Arm, I applied.

A few weeks later I found myself in Portsmouth Barracks waiting for a flying training course. Firstly, we were interviewed to ascertain whether we were fit to be pilots or observers; I wanted to be a pilot. Our course began at HMS St. Vincent, a barracks in Gosport. They took people like me who were already in the service and others from civvy street. We had to go through all the squad drill again; it was quite a hectic time, during which there were air raids. After two months we moved to Elmdon Airport in Birmingham, which was then a RAF flying school, and for three months we flew Tiger Moths. I remember my first time in a Tiger Moth; I was a bit frightened when



the pilot threw it about in the sky. My first solo was marvellous and I managed to get the plane down without bouncing. But my instructor said he didn't see it all and I had to fly another solo! It was a real moment of joy.

Apart from normal training, we had to do navigational exercises, aerobatics, learn how to spin and forced landings. Then we transferred to the Service Training flying school in Peterborough where we flew Hawker Harts and were trained in more advanced night exercise and flying. It was quite a challenge at

first. At the end of 1940 I got my wings and a commission as acting temporary Sub-Lieutenant. Two weeks at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich followed, where we learnt about naval customs and regulations. We had a good time there; dinner in the Painted Hall, where the full silver service was used. Before the war the Navy had wanted to repaint the hall, but no money was available at the Ministry of Works so the Navy invited King George VI to the opening and the money had to be found.

We went on to the Royal Naval Air Station in Crail, Scotland, for torpedo training and from there to Arbroath, where we learnt the basics of deck landings on an aircraft carrier and more night flying. At the end of the course we got posted. In May 1941 I was sent to Detling in Kent to join a detached flight of three Fairey Swordfish biplanes, known as 'String Bags', to support night-time bombardments of the Channel ports by an old cruiser from Chatham. I took part in three of them.

We were reformed as 821 Naval Air Squadron and moved to the Orkneys. Flying up, we ran into thick fog in the Solway Firth. Sadly, one of our planes hit a hill, killing the pilot and two passengers. We remained in the Orkneys until the end of the war, doing anti-submarine and shipping patrols and were on standby in case any German battleships came out from Norway into the area, such as the Bismarck. Once we were woken up in the middle of the night and told to load torpedoes and fly to the Shetlands in bad weather. When we got to the RAF station there, all flight plans had been abandoned as the weather was too fierce. It was so bad that the aircraft had to be lashed to the ground. Shortly after that, we suddenly got orders to go to Arbroath where we had to leave our aircraft. From there we travelled to Glasgow and embarked on HMS Royal Sovereign, a Revenge-class battleship. We could only take parachutes in a bag, shaving stuff, a clean shirt and two pairs of socks. Apart from our blue uniforms, we had to manage with makeshift clothing. After going around the Cape and calling in at Durban for five days, we embarked on a troop ship and went up the Suez Canal to Port Tewfik and Cairo. We subsequently got to the Royal Naval Air Station at Dekheila. The commander there didn't know we were coming and had no aeroplanes for us to fly; then someone had an idea to convert us to the Bristol Beaufort torpedo bomber staff. Fortunately it didn't come off, as none of us had flown twin-engined aircraft before. We were only three crew members to each aircraft and the Beaufort – also known as the Flying Coffin – required four.

We were then used in pairs to ferry aircraft from Alexandria to Malta, as quite a few aeroplanes there had been lost. There were six Swordfish and six Fairey Albacore biplanes, which had a more

powerful engine than the Swordfish. The Albacore was a modern version of the Swordfish, with closed cockpit, a slightly longer range and it carried an equivalent load. I was lucky because I was one of the last pairs to go, by which time two crews and our Commanding Officer had been lost. It transpired that the pilot of another Swordfish, who had joined the Squadron after me, was someone I'd known from school days. He had lived down the road from us and used to play in our garden. So we crewed up together.



The flight to Malta was in three stages, as it was about 1,000 miles and the expected flight time was 7 hours. We went from our base near Alexandria to Sidi Barrani, which took about 2 hours. There we refuelled and continued to an Advanced Landing Ground at El Adem. It was so advanced that the only accommodation was a cave under the ground. You had to climb down a ladder to get to the operations room, mess and everything else. We rested there and had bully beef sandwiches and highly chlorinated tea. At dusk we topped up our tanks again. The Swordfish had two long range tanks: one in the rear cockpit and one on the torpedo carrier. The two aeroplanes stayed together pretty well the whole way. We ran into cloud in the last half-hour, but we arrived within minutes of each other. We were lucky again because we had been warned that there were so many air raids in Malta that it might be up to an hour before we could land. But nothing was happening and we went straight in. It took just 7¼ hours and I had enough fuel for another hour-and-a-half.

While we waited for a lift back to Egypt, we stayed at the RAF seaplane base at Kalafrana Bay. A cargo ship had just run aground there. One of the men I had been flying with told me we should go for a walk as he thought the ship would be an imminent target. Sure enough, we were just out of range when a dozen or so Stuka dive bombers came over and dive-bombed the ship. But it must have been a training exercise as there were no

direct hits, despite no opposition.

Two weeks later we got back to Cairo in a Wellington. We had been flying for an hour or so and the African coast came into view. The pilot slowed down and began losing height. Two of the men who had been in Malta asked the pilot what he was doing as we were at least 100 miles behind the German lines, so the correct course was resumed.

Our squadron reformed with Albacores and we had a new Commanding Officer – a Royal Marine. After training we formed up and practised for torpedo attacks. Then we went to up to one of the desert landing grounds at Maaten Bagush, an airfield near the Mediterranean shore. We operated from there undertaking anti-submarine patrols, mine laying and bombing. When Tobruk fell, we mined the harbour. There was some apprehension amongst us.... the enemy had taken Tobruk and were expected to be strongly defending. But we got there two nights running and no shots were fired at us. We operated on alternate nights, in one hour turns at a time. We flew for about an hour over the target areas, dropping flares. Then the Wellingtons came over and bombed. There was one fatal collision and the only survivor was the pilot. He was taken prisoner and that was the build-up to the Battle of El Alamein.

One morning we woke up to find an Army scout car driving through our camp. We were told that the enemy were marching down the road just five miles away. So we packed up very quickly and flew down the coast quite a way and hung around all day until it was dark, when our Commanding Officer told us there was time to do our bombing raid, which we did. Then we returned to the Naval Air Station at Dekheila and began illuminating targets at night.

While we were based at Dekheila in Egypt we went off one night on a long shipping patrol. I had an observer who was new to the squadron; a Royal Navy Lieutenant. I had no doubt about his skills at navigation, but when we were about three hours out he told me he was lost. Unfortunately I knew if we turned around we would eventually hit the African coast so I set a course and eventually found where we were. Then I looked at the fuel gauge and it was getting a bit low. I worked out we would be very lucky to get back to the Royal Navy Air Station. As we approached it I realised there were two ways in. One was to land from the sea to the aerodrome – there was no flare path and that would be downwind. The other way was going over the salt lake and rocky escarpment, so I decided to go for the first option so that if I ran out of fuel I could ditch into the sea in shallow water. We were firing distress signals as we approached. There was no light from the moon; it was almost entirely obscured by cloud so I committed us to landing on the water. I was turning into the wind when there was an unexpected gap in the

cloud and for a moment the moon shone down. I could see the runway right in front of me, so I quickly changed course and made for it. We were downwind so it was a bit fast but we landed safely and were able to stop alright. Another bit of luck brought us back safely.

After El Alamein we returned to Malta where we operated against enemy convoys going from Italy to Africa. But then I developed appendicitis and had to be sent back to the UK for medical treatment. I was flown to Gibraltar and put on a Dutch passenger ship which went across the Bay of Biscay. It was highly dangerous from U-boats, but it was a fast ship and only took about a week to get to Liverpool. That was early March 1943.

When sick leave was ended I got a telegram telling me to join HMS Dasher, then the next day a telegram cancelled the order and ordered me to go to Arbroath. A long time later I discovered the reason. HMS Dasher had been blown up. The Squadron I would have joined suffered heavy losses in the Arctic convoys so, once again, I was lucky.

In Arbroath I flew Westland Lysanders, the old Army aeroplanes used by the FAA for training observers. When I joined the Squadron, the Commanding Officer said 'There's one thing to look out for with the Lysander. When you take off, throttle back as soon as you can because otherwise the carburettor will freeze and you'll have no engine'. At that time the observer I had been flying with in Egypt and Malta turned up and told me he was being posted to America to fly Grumman

Avengers, the torpedo bombers. He asked me to crew up with him again. So two weeks later I was on my way to the United States, but I never saw him again in the six months I was there.

We did our training in Maine, on the east coast, and when the time came we flew the whole squadron across America to Seattle, where we were to join an escort carrier to bring us home. We were the first squadron to fly directly across the United States... in three hops, the last one going over the Rockies. We were 10,000 feet when my observer in the back told me the hydraulic pressure gauge had burst and there was hydraulic fluid all over the cockpit. That could mean no flaps, no brakes and no undercarriage. We had to land at the first opportunity after the Rockies. On the west side I saw a runway and some kind of air station, with American bombers on the ground. I decided to land; the flaps came down and the landing gear was alright, so I thought 'I bet we haven't got any brakes'. It was quite a long runway, but it was downhill. I got as slow as I could and saw a hedge at the far side. I was doing 60mph. Finally I decided to try and turn the aeroplane around and got it facing the right way and taxied back to the control tower. The American sergeant came out and asked what the problem was. He said 'you guys have a coffee and we'll sort it out for you'. They fitted a new gauge. Another bit of luck.

We eventually embarked in the escort carrier HMS Trumpeter and sailed down the west coast and through the Panama Canal, loaded with American fighters for the D-Day invasion. I then returned to

the Orkneys for final training. While I was there, an earlier Commanding Officer told me there was a course I ought to go on and so I went to the Portsmouth Naval Gunnery School for the course. From there I went on another aircraft carrier as Air Gunnery Officer. I was in charge of all the ship's guns, aircraft guns, armaments, magazines and one or two funeral parties. The squadron I had been in embarked on a Fleet Aircraft carrier and after some delays joined the Pacific Fleet where they were engaged in the last year of the war in the vicious fighting against the Japs."

Ian's incredible war-time experiences and his vivid recollections from 70+ years ago make riveting reading. Thank you, Ian, for agreeing to share them with Shoreline readers. They are truly unique.



Ian and his wife Pamela came to Charmouth from Sussex in 2009. Their youngest daughter, Briony Blair, was already living in the village. Their eldest daughter, Sally, lives in Eastbourne and their son David in New Zealand. They have three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lesley Dunlop

A SHIPWRECKED SAILOR'S RETURN



When Bernard King staggered ashore at Saddle Bay, Jost Van Dyke Island, British Virgin Islands on 23 February 1943, after 20 days in a lifeboat, he little thought he would return more than 60 years later to bring to life part of Jost Van Dyke's history.

Bernard, a merchant seaman, had been shipwrecked during World War II while sailing aboard a British merchant navy vessel in the Atlantic. His ship, the SS Rhexenor, was carrying a cargo of cocoa beans from Africa to New Brunswick, Canada, when it was hit by a torpedo from a cruising German U-boat. It was 3 February, the morning of young Bernard's 17th birthday, when he felt the ship lurch and he heard a loud explosion. "There was no time to think about what was happening", he recalled.

"I didn't even have time to go back to my bunk for my ditty bag. We just went to the boats. You never think it's going to happen to you – until it does."

There were 70 people on board, including two male passengers. One of the lifeboats was blown to bits when the torpedo hit on the port side under the bridge. After all the men had abandoned ship and taken to the remaining lifeboats, the U-boat surfaced and began shelling the Rhexenor until she caught fire and sank. Then the German vessel approached the boats and demanded to see the first officer. They were told he went down with the ship and finally they took the fourth mate prisoner and sailed away. (The U-boat dropped the prisoner at Brest and returned to sea, where she was sunk with all hands.)

Bernard was on a lifeboat with the third officer and 16 men as they watched their ship go down. Although they were closer to the Azores than the West Indies, they decided to plot a course towards the Caribbean to take advantage of wind and weather. This was the beginning of an incredible 1,200 mile journey using oars and a sail during which, one by one, the other boats dropped from sight, leaving them alone on unending seas. Surviving on rain water and a mixture of chocolate powder and condensed milk, the men faced heaving seas and frequent squalls.

In his log, the third mate, S.A.G. Covell, recorded: "6 February. Hove to all day. Heavy sea running and high squally wind. The crew at this stage were very wet due to repeated rain squalls

and spray. We managed to collect a considerable amount of rain water. The water caught from the sail was tainted by the dye from the sail, but it was drinkable." At this stage one of the men became ill from exposure.

The next day dawned "fine and clear". A crewman caught a fish by scooping it on board with his hand. They managed to cook it with a make-shift fire. On 10 February the weather cleared, the N.E. trade wind returned and they set sail again. On 13 February the sick man died and was buried at sea after prayers. "It cast quite a gloom over our little band", wrote the third mate. "But we have to look ahead. Let there be no looking back." By 20 February he wrote: "We are very thin now and resemble a bag of bones, but we are still in good spirits." On 21 February there was a cry of "Land!" but the wind was against them and they could not make any progress towards shore. Three planes flew over them but the smoke flares they fired were weak and apparently not seen. The men rowed all night "and daylight found us quite close to land", said the mate, adding: "after 20 days in a boat, 11 hours of continuous pulling is a feat worthy of mention."

On the morning of 23 February, they headed the boat to the beach. Bernard King recalled: "There were a lot of rocks and we had to jump overboard before the boat hit the shore, which was frightening for me, since I couldn't swim." But somehow they all made it ashore and two of the men scaled the cliffs and made contact with some farmers. A band of locals came down to the shore and gave them hot coffee "which tasted very good indeed", recorded the mate. "We experienced some difficulty in walking due to the motion of the boat and the continuous sitting posture in the boat." In his last entry, the mate recorded: "I cannot say enough about the kindness of these simple people, who had not been spoiled by the invasion of so-called Western civilisation."

Shortly after they had made landfall, the men were taken by boat to Great Harbour and given coffee and hot porridge. They were later taken by sloop to Road Town and eventually repatriated to the U.K. Mr King did have one vivid memory. "We were taken to the Commissioner's house and the lady there took one look at me and handed me a scrubbing brush, ordering: 'go upstairs, draw a bath and have a good scrub'. When I looked at myself I saw that the blue dye from my shirt and pants had washed off and become embedded in my pores. I was blue all over", said Bernard.

Bernard King returned to the British Virgin Islands in November 2006, at 80 years of age, after contacting the British Foreign Office. For many years he had thought about the people who rescued them and the kindness they had shown. But such was his condition then, he had no recollection of the exact island on which he had finally landed. When the Foreign Office heard

his story, they traced his voyage and got in touch with the Governor's office in Road Town.



When Bernard and his wife Frances arrived in November 2006, they were given the red carpet treatment. A boat took them to Jost Van Dyke, where a special reception had been arranged. The third mate's log, now recorded on the internet, was read aloud and Mr King's incredible story was related to residents and to the students of the Jost Van Dyke Primary School who had prepared a song for their special visitor. "Welcome back to Jost Van Dyke", sang the children, led by their teacher. "We heard your struggle, we heard your strife; we thank God he spared your life, to be back in the Virgin Isles." As the Kings heard this,

they moved among the children, singing with them. "Now Mr King, we telling you; none of us ever heard 'bout you; had it not been for your mate Covell, our history would have missed a cell." When Mr King was called upon to speak, he could only sob: "You people are so wonderful." The legendary Foxy Callwood, who was five when Bernard first landed, was under doctor's orders to rest his voice but delivered a short song which started: "Doctor say I should not sing, but I could not resist for Mr King."



After the ceremony, the Kings were taken to a home above Little Harbour where Francisco Chinnery lived. Mr Chinnery was 22 when he scrambled down the steep hillside with the other rescuers to greet the shipwrecked sailors. Bedridden, Mr Chinnery enjoyed a quiet moment of conversation with Mr King, the two men clasping hands as they remembered that day. Later lunch was served at Foxy's famous bar, a feast indeed, but never was a meal so gratefully received as that coffee and porridge in 1943.

Bernard and Frances King came to live in Wootton Fitzpaine in 1987, to a bungalow they named Tradewinds.

Frances King

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KEITH GRINTER'S BOYHOOD WAR MEMORIES

"I was an only child, born on 6 November 1933 at what was then the last house on the right at the top of Old Lyme Hill. During the war my father, Edwin Harry Grinter, was in the Royal Engineers, as were his brothers Fred and Tom. He was posted to North Africa, Italy and, latterly, Germany and was away for most of the war."

I remember a gun emplacement and a couple of ack ack guns at Lily Farm and British soldiers camped there. They had northern accents and I used to chat with them, although I found it difficult to understand them. My friends and I often walked to the cinema in Lyme. We used to go through the golf links and from there a guard escorted us through to Timber Hill where there were a lot of Yanks stationed by the fir trees towards the edge of the cliff. There were also a couple of concrete block houses with a tunnel underneath, which we'd walk through. I remember many British troops on Seadown car park and Nissen huts lining the side of Stonebarrow Hill. The remains of a wall high on the hill is what's left of one and a couple of hut bases are there in the grass. There was a pill box on the point of Black Ven, which was eventually washed away; one remains, near Westcliff Road.

One day I was walking from my home in Old Lyme Hill when I heard the roaring of a low-flying plane. I looked around and saw a German bomber. Shortly afterwards it was hit and came down in the sea off the Charmouth side of the Cobb. Planes went over all

the time on target practice exercises; I remember the Spitfires and Hurricanes.

During the war, The Elms was used as a guard house and the soldiers entered through a gate by the end of the church wall, near the bus stop. The cook house was to the left side of the Church Hall, behind the former Council Office. Food was in short supply in those days so Mum was pleased when I managed to get hold of a bit of butter from the Yanks.

The concrete anti-tank blocks on the beach, which were part of the coastal defences, went across the car park area and as far as the edge of the cliff on east beach. Scaffolding was erected across the river and there was a mine field beyond. The Yanks would drive their lorries across the flat sand on the beach, but sometimes hit the ledges and would get stuck in the incoming tide. I got quite friendly with some of them, in particular Frank Glunt of Pennsylvania. He was a genuine guy and we got on well. He gave

me a box with his address and various bits and pieces. Then they left in troop ships from Weymouth for France and I wondered how he got on. After the war I couldn't help thinking about him, so I wrote to his parents and they replied to say that he had been killed during the landings.

My mother helped an evacuee family, a Mrs Moss and her two daughters called Anita and Vicky. They stayed in what is now called St Gabriel's, a house a little further down Old Lyme Hill.

At the end of the war, when I was 13, my grandfather died and my father took on Foxley House on The Street where he had lived. My mother ran a bed and breakfast there and when she died, soon after Chris and I got married and were living in Wesley Close, we moved to Foxley House to look after father."

Lesley Dunlop



With Mrs Moss's daughters, Anita (left) and Vicky



Feeding chickens at Penn Farm, late 1930s



My father, Edwin Harry Grinter, in North Africa

CHARLES BURFORD'S WAR STORY



Charles went into the Royal Navy at the beginning of January 1943. He joined Coastal Forces, serving on M.T.B.s (motor torpedo boats) and at the end of the war served on the aircraft carrier HMS Ranee, bringing back troops from Australia and the Far East. Naturally, at the time, I never knew how Charles was; always out on some sortie or another. In fact during the war I seldom saw him in uniform, as any leave was usually 'survivors' leave' - having been blown up and lost everything. One occasion he was in sick bay, and the following morning

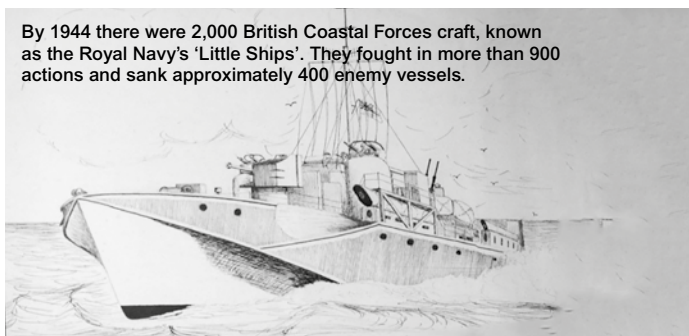
learned that his boat had been blown up during the night... there were no survivors! Some MTBs he was on operated as far as the Norwegian Fjords. He was involved with mine laying and the trafficking of secret agents, which included lying low off the Brittany coast.

In 1945 Charles drew the MTB 763 for me (see below).

Like most veterans, Charles Burford, born in 1924, had to be coaxed into giving us this little piece of history for Shoreline. He moved to Charmouth in 1993

By his wife Iris Burford

By 1944 there were 2,000 British Coastal Forces craft, known as the Royal Navy's 'Little Ships'. They fought in more than 900 actions and sank approximately 400 enemy vessels.



On the evening of 23rd February 1945 the free French destroyer 'LA COMBATTANTE', together with HM MTBs 763 and 770, was on manoeuvres in the North Sea, south-east from Grimsby. The night was bright with moonlight, large clumps of cloud occasionally plunging the scene into blackness.

At about 2330 hours, the exercise completed, 'LA COMBATTANTE' stood up-tide from the MTBs finalising signals. Suddenly, she erupted with an enormous explosion and was lifted high out of the sea breaking in two halves. The stern portion sank immediately, the boilers bursting like huge depth charges converting the sea into a seething cauldron. The fore part of the ship buoyed up by trapped air created a small island of steel upon which about 100 survivors clambered and stood arms linked, shoulder-to-shoulder supporting each other with great difficulty, as everything and everyone was slippery with diesel fuel.

Seeing the MTBs cruising up-tide, picking up survivors drifting downstream, caused the 'Island' of men to spontaneously burst into "La Marseillaise", switching quickly to "God Save the King."

Their jubilation was short lived as the last portion of the ship sank, spilling the remaining survivors into the sea. Both MTBs continued to rescue as many as possible; the final count being 85 picked-up by MTB 763 and 16 by MTB 770.

The time-scale of this event was barely five minutes from the initial explosion to the final sinking of 'La Combattante' and whether it was by mine or torpedo was never established.

Later, the survivors presented MTB 763 with a plaque commemorating the occasion and each member of the crew received a copy.

In broad terms, the translation is:

To HIS MAJESTY'S M.T.B.763

In recognition of and as a hearty token of remembrance for the 85 survivors of 'La Combattante'

23-24 February 1945

Charles Burford

MY LIFE IN THE 'WRENS' (WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE – WRNS)

Early in 1943, my last year at school, I was busy taking entrance exams for university (no UCCA then – one had to pass the entrance exam set by the establishment of one's choice), when it was announced that 'further education' would no longer postpone call-up for war work. Instead, direction into war work of some kind would happen as soon as the individual reached the age of 18, even if that happened in the middle of a term. Consequently, the education authorities announced that any place gained would be honoured after the war ended. This gave the advantage that until one actually reached 18 it was possible to volunteer for the service of one's choice, rather than be directed. Therefore I very happily applied to join the 'Wrens' – something I had been wishing I could do anyway. I attended an interview at Birmingham Naval Recruiting Office, passed a medical and was instructed to report to the WRNS 'new entry' centre at Mill Hill, London, on 18th August 1943. I joined with a school friend, Jeanne. It was good to have a companion, as I had never been to London before (home was the 'Royal Borough of Sutton Coldfield', as it was then known, in Warwickshire).

The Mill Hill building was brand new, having been commissioned by the Medical Research Council as its new HQ, but had been taken over by the Royal Navy on completion as its base for new female recruits. Here we were 'inducted' into the Navy, being instructed in its history and organisation and our place in it (small!). Also, we learned some naval terminology – e.g. all land bases were known as 'ships' and given appropriate names (so we were now in 'HMS Pembroke III' and if we left it we were said to be 'going ashore'), our rooms were called 'cabins', the floors were 'decks' and so on. We were broken into the four hourly 'watch' system by 'swabbing the decks' (i.e. the floors of the building) at 6am daily for the first week.

At that time the WRNS was legally a volunteer force (the recruiting posters said 'join the 'WRNS and free a man for the fleet'), not compulsive, so those who changed their minds about joining could just go home without being charged with desertion – though, of course, they would then be directed into whatever war work was needed at the time.

For the first fortnight we were known as 'Pro-Wrens' and issued with blue overalls only – not to waste uniform on possible leavers. We had daily sessions of squad drill until we could mostly keep together – amazing how many folk seem to have two left feet! Also we learned of the various categories we might be drafted into – there was always a great demand for 'Cooks and Stewards' (for both WRNS and RN quarters), but also a number of more interesting jobs, such as radio and radar mechanics, torpedo and gunnery mechanics, weather forecasters, photographers, etc. and the highest pinnacle – 'boats crew' (only for small boats ferrying people, post and goods to and from ship to shore.) Eventually uniform was issued – jacket and skirt, 'bell-bottoms' and navy shirts for 'workers', white shirts for office and 'dress-use', woollen black stockings and black shoes. The stockings were quickly replaced by lisle ones and later by nylons when they became available. We were also issued with seamen's jerseys, but there was only one size in stock and the personnel ranged from size 10 to 20!



Like others who had been taking science subjects in the VIth form, Jeanne and I were told we would be trained as Radar Mechanics – 'though one or two would be drafted to a mysterious' 'ship known as Pembroke V – usually referred to as P5 – this turned out to be at Bletchley Park! Our training would start with the autumn term at either Battersea or Chelsea Technical Colleges (I went to one, Jeanne to the other), learning the theory of the necessary circuitry (use of thermionic valves, resistors and capacitors, etc.) and also the practise of soldering, welding and filing metal to the nearest 1/1000inch. Our quarters were to be on the Thames Embankment, initially in an ex-luxury flat, which had large rooms with woodblock floors – one of which became our bathroom – fitted with six baths (quite a shock)! Later we moved a short distance to Crosby Hall, the site of Sir Thomas More's home. This was on the No 11 bus route into the centre of London, which we took with some trepidation at first, asking the conductor to tell us when we had reached Piccadilly – to which the reply was 'just look for hordes of Yanks'.

We were then given Christmas leave, after which we were to report to 'HMS Ariel', a Fleet Air Arm training camp near Warrington, where we would be for a three month course. Here we were 'introduced

to the actual radar equipment of the type used in small ships and aircraft' – this consisted of oscilloscopes and other similar 'metal boxes' containing the transmission and receiver circuits, together with suitable aerials. (Radar works by sending out a radio wave which may/may not bounce back from objects such as ships or aircraft).

As this was a FAA base, we also learned where to fit the equipment into various aircraft, including the very ancient Swordfish. Here we were housed in long Nissan huts, with

two rows of double-tiered bunks, each with a small chest of drawers alongside. Meals were served in canteen huts in two shifts of approx. 15 minutes – hasty, but the food was good. Some evenings there was entertainment including films, or one could take 'a run ashore' to the nearby village, where there was a forces canteen, known as 'the Hot Spot' (which always had a roaring fire – welcome on the cold winter nights). On Saturday mornings we always had to 'clean ship', divided into teams for various jobs and sometimes wearing gas masks – 'for practice'. On Sunday mornings we had to dress for inspection before Church Parade, then had a good lunch before being free to 'go ashore'.

At the end of the course most of us passed and were made 'Leading Wren Radar Mechanics'. We were asked for our preferences as to where to be posted – I asked for Scotland, so was naturally sent to Portsmouth!

At the end of the course most of us passed and were made 'Leading Wren Radar Mechanics'. We were asked for our preferences as to where to be posted – I asked for Scotland, so was naturally sent to Portsmouth! Also, I was to report to HMS Hornet – the Coastal Forces Base there (not FAA). My rail warrant was made out to Portsmouth Harbour station, with instructions to take the nearby ferry to Gosport and thence to Alverstoke – 'seaside' at last! Our quarters there were erstwhile private houses, taken over by the RN. The radar work ship was on the Gosport side of the harbour, from which a high footbridge (known as 'Pneumonia Bridge') went to the Coastal Forces moorings (for Motor Torpedo Boats and Motor Launches, both similar to air-sea rescue launches, but larger). Here I reported daily, working on faulty radar equipment brought in from any of said boats or sometimes on the boats

themselves. This suited me fine – more like ‘proper Navy’ than the FAA. Incidentally, Jeanne – also now Leading Wren Radar – was posted to HMS Collingwood, a training camp near Fareham (not to my taste). After a few weeks at ‘Hornet’ a flotilla of American MTBs – known as PT boats – arrived and I was detailed to check their equipment (to their surprise). I was surprised to find that they had fridges and coffee machines on board – these ‘soft Yanks’! I later heard that one of their officers was a young J.F. Kennedy, but I never met him.

Soon after this a brand new flotilla of nine MTBs, the 30th Flotilla arrived and I was told I was to be the Radar Mechanic on their base staff and I would move with them if/when they were moved elsewhere. There were two other Wrens – one on torpedoes and one on gunnery. The boats themselves had crews of about a dozen and two officers – a skipper (usually an RN Lieutenant) and a ‘No 1’ (usually a wartime Sub-Lt – known as ‘wavy-navy’). They all slept ashore – no room on board. The MTBs usually went out on patrol (down the Channel and over to the Dutch coast) at night, returning early each morning when the crews went ashore to sleep. Sometimes the patrols were uneventful, sometimes they met opposition. It was then my job to go aboard each boat in turn, check their radar sets and either report OK or take the set back to the workshop to repair.

Portsmouth Harbour is large, but it gradually began to fill up with a variety of vessels until it was said it was possible to walk ‘across the water’ from one side to the other (i.e. across the numerous decks). At some time in May or maybe early June 1944, Admiral Ramsey (CO Portsmouth) announced that all leave was cancelled until further notice and particular care should be taken about ‘careless talk’ – so we all knew what was coming, but not when. On 2nd June the 30th Flotilla and its Base Staff were told that we were to be moved to the east coast and that Lowestoft (most easterly point in G.B.) was to be our new base. The base staff travelled by rail, arriving at Lowestoft on the afternoon of 5th June. We were amazed to see huge numbers of Army vehicles parked along the streets and in every available spot in the town. Next morning (6th June) we woke to see not one! D Day had arrived!

Boats of our flotilla were amongst those patrolling the Channel before and after the landings and eventually arrived in Lowestoft harbour (now ‘HMS Mantis’,) formerly home of the herring fleet, which had been moved up north. Thereafter we all settled into our routine – the boats out at night and involved in a number of fracas off the Dutch coast (fortunately only one mortality) and the base staff keeping their equipment good (radio, radar, torpedos, guns, engines) during the day, while the crew were ashore. I acquired a bicycle to go down to the harbour each day, hoping not to hit the moment when the bridge over the river opened to let vessels upstream for repairs. While in Lowestoft I saw snow (and barbed wire) on the beach for the first time! We still attended Church Parade each Sunday, but were eventually free to visit Norwich for market and theatre on a Saturday. Later a group of us (male and female) went sailing on nearby Oulton Broad at weekends. At not infrequent parties I ‘discovered’ gin and lime and actually smoked one cigarette! We had a good Christmas dance where the Wrens were allowed to wear ‘civvies’ for the first time. One MT crew went ashore in France and brought back tiny bottles of French scent for each Wren (I kept the bottle for years!)

Our area gradually became more peaceful and there was talk of the flotilla going out east, possibly to Ceylon. Meanwhile, I was sent on a revision course for a fortnight at HMS Collingwood (where Jeanne was now on the permanent staff)

– a more ‘stropky’ establishment than our small friendly base. While I was there, VE Day suddenly came upon us, so I missed all the wild celebrations. Moreover, on my return to Lowestoft, the 30th MTB flotilla had disappeared – possibly to go E as half-planned – but no information as to my future. However, it was high summer and I enjoyed a more relaxed routine for a couple of months, including an enjoyable trip on sea trials with one of the remaining boats, recently refitted. Whilst there, VJ Day came upon us so I missed out on celebrations a second time. I was then sent back to Collingwood for a course on ‘big ship radar’ and was told I would be drafted to HMS Caroline, which I discovered to be in Belfast. I was given rail passes to London, then overnight to Stranraer, followed by ferry to Larne and so to Belfast. The crossing left at 7am and was the roughest I ever experienced. I was lucky to survive the very yellow smoked fish served on board for breakfast!

I was allocated quarters in a private house, with two other Wrens, with a very hospitable family, where we were over-fed! Full breakfast, of course, and ‘tea’ which usually

consisted of soup, main course and pudding – followed by tea and cake (no refusal allowed). I was sent to Harland & Wolff’s shipyard to assist in fitting the radar cabin with new equipment on HMS Warrior – then an aircraft carrier – so I had moved from the Navy’s smallest vessel to the largest! Being ‘down below’ we became very conscious of the thump when the aircraft catcher came down in the deck above after doing its job. I travelled to the yard by tram with a large number of workers each morning – so many that some always climbed on to the back of the tram, clinging on outside!

We were free at weekends and I managed one trip to Dublin, where I was shocked to see beggars at the station, with barefoot children – not at all common over here at that time.

Because Eire was producing plenty of unrationed dairy goods, some folk made a point of bringing butter back to N. Ireland – including one lady who tucked it into the top of her dress to hide it. It arrived in liquid form! The war now being over, we were allowed to wear ‘civvies’ at weekends and were nearly thrown out when one of the other Wrens wore a green costume. It seems that we were in an orange household! There were no obvious ‘troubles’ then, so Belfast seemed quite a nice city.

I was eventually demobbed in April 1946 and returned to normality and Cambridge University in the autumn.

Pat Stapleton (née Cruxton)



With apologies to Punch



Sweet and Sour Rainbow Peppers

This multi coloured, aromatic use of peppers is great to eat on its own as an appetiser or as part of a mezze. It can also be used as an accompaniment/added ingredient to tortillas, pasta, rice and couscous. The original Sweet and Sour Peppers recipe was made with red pointed Romano peppers, which have a much better, sweeter flavour than the bell peppers. Simply use 4 of these instead, and cook for a few minutes less, as they are slightly more delicate.

Serves 6 as a small dish/accompaniment.

50 ml olive oil

1 red onion, peeled and cut downwards into 4 quarters, separate the pieces (like petals).

3 cloves

2 cloves garlic, crushed

3 sprigs thyme, crushed

1 red bell pepper, 1 green bell pepper, 1 yellow bell pepper, all de-seeded and cut lengthways into strips 1.5cm thick.

75 gm sugar

50ml cider vinegar

50ml raspberry vinegar

1 teaspoon good sea salt flakes

Place a good medium sized pan on a moderate heat, add the olive oil, cloves, and the red onion petals, gently sauté for 3 minutes until just beginning to soften, then add the garlic and thyme and sauté for 2 more minutes.

Add all the pepper strips, sea salt flakes and the sugar, gently sauté and stir for 5 minutes to ensure all the sugar is dissolved and the peppers are beginning to soften.

Finally add the cider and raspberry vinegar, cook for a further 10 minutes, stirring regularly to ensure the peppers are cooked evenly in the liquor. The dish is ready when the peppers are cooked through, but must still retain their texture. Allow to cool down completely in the pan to ensure maximum flavour absorption.

The sweet and sour peppers will keep in the fridge for at least a week.

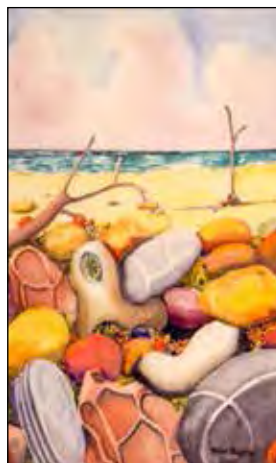
This recipe is included in the Tierra Kitchen cookbook, available at the restaurant or on the website www.tierrakitchen.co.uk

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Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



We've had another really busy summer season here at the Centre. Almost all of our guided walks have been fully booked and we have averaged around 1,000 visitors to the Centre a day. I would like to thank all of our volunteers who have welcomed all of our visitors and helped them get the most from their trips to Charmouth. We have had lots of great feedback from visitors about our events, our new Recent Finds cabinet and the new Charmouth Dinosaur displays. These displays were kindly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Geologist's Association – The Curry Fund.

This is one of the new fossils that are on display in our Recent Finds cabinet. I found this large *Asteroceras Confusum* at the end of last year and have only just finished preparing it.



The Wardens have been joined this summer by Anastasia Jeune, who has been volunteering here as part of her University degree in Geography. She has been a great help and we wouldn't have survived the holidays without her!

We want to try and develop a graduate placement scheme for the future, so that young people will get experience of working in a busy public-facing role and communicating science to a variety of ages and abilities.

We have lots of schools booked in for the autumn term already and are expecting lots of panicked phone calls from teachers when they get back to school in early September.

I, for one, am looking forward to the season winding down and getting my teeth stuck into making new displays and making some plans for the future. We are having a new fossil beach display cabinet built this winter. This is one of the most useful displays here for visitors, as it shows people how to actually find fossils on our beach.

We have a number of special events planned for the rest of the year, including our annual Art and Craft Fayre on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd November. We also have a Family Fossil Fantastic Day on Saturday 14th November that is filling up fast, so if you are interested, just let us know. Our annual Rocks and Fossils Weekend is on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th February 2016. This is a weekend aimed at adults who want to know more about geology and fossil hunting. You can check our website for more details about all these events www.charmouth.org/chcc

We are having a Volunteer Open Day on Monday 5th October from 10.30am – 4.30pm here at the Centre. As we are a small independent charity we rely on volunteers to help out on the front desk, help on our fossil walks and rockpool rambles and help us change displays in the winter. If you are interested in finding out more, please come along on 5th October.

Phil Davidson, Senior Warden



A Scorpion fish that was found on one of our rockpool rambles

Marine Week 2015

This year Marine Week ran from Thursday 30th July to Wednesday 5th August and, with a run of good low tides, there was plenty of opportunity to show the visitors the amazing marine life of the Dorset coast. On the rockpool rambles there were lots of crabs and prawns to be collected, the snakelock anemones were in fine form and we even came across a 'UST' (that's 'Unidentified Shrimp-like Thing' to you and me!). Our UST turned out to be a hooded shrimp, something that we haven't come across before, so a great addition to our species list.

Two Jurassic boat trips were also organised for the week and although the second one was cancelled due to rough seas, the first was a great success. The family I accompanied had fun on 'jellyfish watch' and managed to spot a few big barrel jellyfish floating around in Lyme Bay. Here's looking forward to Marine Week 2016!

Kristina Hixon, Seasonal Warden

Volunteers Needed

Having had a very busy season this summer, our volunteers have coped magnificently with huge numbers in the Centre and on fossil walks. We always need more local volunteers, so would love to hear from you if you think you could contribute as well as enjoying membership of an active and friendly group. Autumn and winter are good seasons to join us because learning the ropes is much easier during the quieter months. If you would like to get involved in something very worthwhile, there is a new volunteer session on Monday 5th October. For further information please contact the Centre 01297 560772 or via the website www.charmouth.org/chcc

Rosalind Cole
Chair of the Friends of the CHCC



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Readers of Yarn Magazine, the new free magazine for West Dorset, would have learnt in the July edition that after 17 years I have quit what should have been, and was for a time, the best job in the County Council: Earth Science Manager for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site team. In summary, it became an impossible position, seeing capital projects supported under 'World Heritage' that do not actually deliver for the Site. I have been saying for years that the key conservation and management issue for the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site, and the greatest educational and therefore economic opportunity, lies with the fossils, yet we find ourselves in a position where a project around those fossils is now last on the list for any sort of capital investment, or strategic support. One notable exception is the Etches Museum of Jurassic Life, currently being built around Steve Etches' astounding collection from Kimmeridge and which, I would say, and others would agree, has happened despite the World Heritage Site team.

Over the last 30 years or so, local collectors have been building up astounding collections of fossils, particularly from the Lower Jurassic rocks of West Dorset - one of the most famous fossil localities in the World. Post World Heritage designation, some of those collectors have expected to see at least some effort to explore the possibility of a World Class fossil exhibit or even museum to do justice to their collections. Not only do they hold some of the finest examples of local fossils, but they also have found, recovered and cleaned specimens new to science which cannot be described until they are secured in an accredited museum collection. That is an issue for the management of the Site but it is by no means a show stopper; the starting point is the effort made by those collectors to rescue the fossils before they are destroyed by the very process that uncovers them, erosion. Since the days of Mary Anning, collectors have demonstrated their essential role in rescuing the fossils and that is a key part in the management of the Site, simply because the collectors provide the best chance for the important fossils to be found and recovered. There is no better, or more appropriate way to manage a Site like this. Some collectors are commercial; they make a living out of finding, preparing and selling fossils, as did Mary Anning 200 years ago. The fossils have a value if, through nothing else, the time and skill that it takes to prepare them. The West Dorset fossil code simply requires collectors to offer specimens of key scientific importance to accredited museums first should they be sold or donated. But some collectors are not doing that; they are holding onto the fossils in the expectation that 'we' would want to see a world class exhibit.

It should have been a no brainer; the continuing success of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, the huge popularity in fossils in all media, and the impact that the massive plesiosaur skull has had on visitor numbers to the Dorset County Museum all point to the fact that people love fossils. If any capital project has a chance of success along this coast, it is a world class

fossil museum! The plans and ambitions of the local museums, notably Lyme and Dorchester, have complicated things. As their plans developed they stated that they wanted to be central in this purpose but now that the plans are on the table, it is very evident that they cannot fill the expectation. Lyme Museum's site is small and their budget is constrained. Their plans include a refreshed fossil display, disabled access, toilets and a teaching space but there is no room to accommodate even a fraction of the specimens that the collectors hold. The County Museum's plan is for an 'accessible store', a Collections Discovery Centre, and in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, their strategy for acquisition is that collectors could donate their finds to this new store. If the museum had made the effort to talk to the collectors, they would have swiftly realised that they are not going to donate their life-long work to a store, accessible or not! Don't get me wrong; I am not opposed to the museums' plans, they are deserved and will allow the museums to grow into the future but they cannot deliver what the World Heritage Site needs and deserves.

Seeing all this coming, in 2012 I scoped out what a museum might look like between the village of Charmouth and the bypass. It would be about 2,500m² and cost about £12 to £15 million; not a simple or easy thing to deliver, especially located outside the village plan and inside the AONB, but the number of suitable sites are very limited. The proposed Lyme Regis Study Centre failed, after many years of effort and work, for lack of a suitable site, an obvious starting point, and while that was supported by the World Heritage Site team, my work for a museum received no support whatsoever, and without that it is impossible to continue.

Jurassica, a massive £80 million project on Portland, has stepped up to do the job that the World Heritage Site team should have been doing from the start. Their ambition is spectacular; to enclose a disused quarry on Portland and recreate the Jurassic World. But they also aim to secure the fossils for both display and scientific study. It is a very ambitious project, involving very large numbers but they are also the only project with the ambition to do something around this core issue and opportunity for the Site, which is why I now support them. However, they are now last on the list for any kind of public funding and we will have to see how they progress.

An alternative might have been, and may still be, to relocate the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre; it is in a vulnerable position, as demonstrated by the storms of 2013/14, and the Shoreline Management Plan policy for the sea defences is set to change from Hold the Line to No Active Intervention by 2025 which means no more public money to maintain the sea defences. The Centre is the top visitor attraction for the World Heritage Site and a new built centre could be even better, incorporating a display space to hold the fossils, possibly in conjunction with the Dorset County Museum store, or Jurassica, but there has been no system in place within the 'management' of the World Heritage Site work to even discuss, let alone consider or test this type of idea while, in my view, we cannot do that now while also supporting Jurassica. We are where we are and the World Heritage Site Management Group should ask itself 'why'.

What else do I plan to do? What I am good at: talks, walks and geological interpretation. I may have to flog a few fossils myself through necessity; I gave up a well-paid job and a pension but if I had not done that, the frustration and stress would have killed me! I hope that decision will prolong my life by a considerable number of years, but I still need to make a living and will probably never be able to 'retire'; not that I want to. Is there a conflict of interest? I don't think so, we could have built that museum by now and my fossils could have been in it, but we missed that opportunity and I am where I am; a lot happier!

Richard Edmonds

Summer in Charmouth? Why not think again?



Thousands of people come to Charmouth every year to enjoy our relatively unspoilt beaches and village. Predictably, the consequence of such activity in busy weeks is that sometimes the beach and local places of interest become victims of their own success with crowds, traffic jams and full car-parks. Some people can only visit our beautiful area in the busy summer periods but if you are not in that category it is worth giving some thought to visiting at a different time of year. While camping may not be your thing when it's cold and/or wet, there are many places to welcome you for a warm and comfortable night with a good breakfast to start the day; local websites (such as www.charmouth.org) provide information.

It can be peaceful and still beautiful from mid-September to the end of November as well as early spring. Even the winter months have advantages if you are prepared to bring plenty of warm, weather-proof clothing and appropriate footwear. Types of weather that people generally dislike are torrential rain and really windy weather; given both together, many will prefer to stay indoors. However, technological advances in clothing and footwear have allowed us to stay warm and dry so we can now venture out in conditions that, in the past, would have been miserable.

So what are the advantages of visiting in the cooler months? Apart from fewer visitors and less chance of getting sunburnt, walking the hills in cool weather can be inviting; along with plenty of wildlife interest we can see clearly hundreds of millions of years of geological time for which this Jurassic Coast is so spectacularly well-known. And of course, exercise in the fresh air is healthy! On a frosty morning a brisk walk in the sun can be invigorating as well as beautiful.

Reaching the top of one of the hills such as Golden Cap or Stonebarrow Hill can be an exhilarating experience. On a clear afternoon you can make out the effects of stone quarrying on Portland when the sun is reflected off the Portland stone. The biscuit-coloured sandstone cliffs of Burton Bradstock

and West Bay reflecting a beautiful warm light can be clearly seen. From the beach we can see the pointed top of Golden Cap which really looks 'golden' in light reflected off the Cretaceous greensand (more golden than green) which can also be found at the top of Stonebarrow Hill. Looking down from Evans Cliff we may see beautiful colours of the layers of Jurassic limestones and muds of the land-slipped areas near Charmouth, or the darker more forbidding rocks of Black Ven on the Lyme Regis side of Charmouth. Local artists and crafts people capture these subtle shades with such skill; visit the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (CHCC) on 21st & 22nd November for the pre-Christmas Fayre when many local items will be on sale. You could browse in studios opened by local artists at times displayed en route to the beach or enjoy visiting one of our several shops selling good quality local items of interest and gifts. We now have 'Herringbone' - a collective arts and crafts group selling locally-produced goods; find them on the way up the hill just past the library where you could pop in for refreshments.

Should you wish to travel further along the coast to the west, contrasting with all the local rocks are the white Chalk of Beer Head and, in the distance, the red Triassic cliffs with their desert origins seen clearly at Sidmouth and Budleigh Salterton. In the cooler months when the light is quite different from the intensity of the summer sun, you will find plenty to do if you have an interest in geology, geography, art, crafts or photography. Even in low cloud or in the midst of a sea-fret, the landscape can be compelling.

Fossils such as ammonites, belemnites and pieces of bone on the beach are, of course, a draw for many people and the CHCC close to the beach is open at times during the low season (see website) to help people to find and identify fossils, rocks and minerals. Spectacular local fossils can be seen there. Many of the landslips and mudslides occur during the winter months, particularly after periods of heavy rain. Just at the time when many more fossils have been washed out of the fallen material, fewer people will be there to collect them so although most of our summer visitors will find fossils of many kinds in August, you are likely to find more in autumn and spring.

Even if a week away is not possible, weekend trips might work for you. Depending on the state of the tides, how about a visit to the beach and a pleasant lunch or evening meal out at one of our local pubs or other eating places? For other choices, local towns and small villages are within easy reach. On the subject of weather and tides, it is always best to check the weather forecast and tide times (available on-line) to find out the conditions and times of high and low tide. It would be disappointing if you came to collect fossils just as the tide was nearing its peak and to find no beach!

Rosalind Cole

Heritage Coast U3A

In common with many organisations, local and national, we are attracting good levels of membership but not finding it easy to identify people who are prepared to fulfil committee roles. We are just beginning to trawl the membership for people who, stopping short of a commitment to a committee, might however be able to give some specialist support in a particular area over a shorter period of time. In the immediate future, people with recent IT skills would be particularly helpful as we are subscribing to a new national system for handling information. Otherwise, if you were able to assist with publicity, arranging speakers for our monthly meetings or helping with book-keeping and finance, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Meanwhile it would be good to hear if members have notions about the way we might expand our trips. For next year we have two opera visits already booked and we are hoping to get enough people together to spend the better part of a week at The Edinburgh Festival in August.

It is also good to keep the groups vibrant and there will certainly be members who may benefit from a particular skill or expertise which they have, thus far, not thought of sharing with others. Do test out your ideas with us.

John Bartholomew, Acting Chair
jd bart45@gmail.com



Geomythology

People have collected fossils for hundreds of thousands of years and have assigned many different meanings to them. Here are some examples using fossils found on Charmouth Beach



Ammonites

These are extinct molluscs related to the extant Nautilus

In North America the Blackfeet Indians called them Buffalo Stones (they thought they looked like sleeping buffalos) and carried them on journeys and buffalo hunts. In Germany a remedy for a cow gone dry was to put an ammonite in the milk pail. In Scotland, washing a cow with water that had an ammonite in it would cure the cow of cramps (Cramp Stones). In England, St Hilda the Abbess of Whitby wanted to build a convent but the ground was infested with snakes. She caused the snakes to curl up and turn into stone (Snake Stones). In ancient Greece, an ammonite under your pillow would bring good dreams. The Romans believed that a Golden Ammonite (pyritised) under your pillow gave you prophetic dreams. Find one and try it!



Belemnites

These are extinct molluscs related to the extant Squid

In Europe generally these have been thought to be lightning strikes turned to stone: in Russia they are called Thunder Stones. In Germany they protect you from lightning and in The Netherlands these *Donderstenen* were kept in the attic. In Europe generally they have also been known as "Elf-bolts", the points of pixie-arrows. In Scandinavia they are known as Gnomes Candles but in Dorset "Colpexies' fingers" (local fairies). Elsewhere in England they are known as Devil's Fingers or St Peter's Fingers. In Lithuania snakebite can be treated by rubbing a belemnite over the wound and in Scotland "Bat Stones" were put in horses' water to cure distemper. In Southern England they cured rheumatism and sore eyes in both men and horses. Apparently you grind a belemnite to powder and blow it in the affected eyes. Don't try this!



Crinoids

These "Sea Lily" animals are extant relatives of starfish

In Malta they were considered to be antidotes for poisons. Special anti-poison cups were made from crushed limestone from the cave where St. Paul spent his 3-month stay on Malta. In England they have been known as Star Stones – stars turned to stone in thunderstorms. Near Chippenham, at Star Well, they are thought to be petrified elderflowers but near Scunthorpe, at Kell Well, their presence makes it a Holy Well.

On Lindisfarne (Holy Island) they were threaded together as necklaces and rosaries – St Cuthbert's Beads.



Echinoids

These Sea Urchins are extant relatives of starfish

Fossil Echinoids from the Chalk and Upper Greensand have long been regarded as "special" and have been found incorporated in Early Palaeolithic flint hand-axes and in many Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British & Saxon graves, as well as at least one Victorian Church. As good-luck charms they are known as "Thunderstones", "Fairy Crowns", "Fairy Loaves", "Shepherd's Crowns", "Shepherd's Hats", "Shepherd's Hearts", "Shepherd's Knees", "Bishop's Knees", "Bishop's Mitres" - they help to make bread rise, stop milk going sour (seen in old Dairies) and "to keep the Devil out" (5-point star pentagram symbol). The Pentagram was once the official seal of the city of Jerusalem and it is reputed to be a powerful symbol against evil and shields the wearer.

Text & photos by Geoff Townson
www.geofftownson.co.uk

Charmouth Primary School

The last academic year ended well. Our SATs results demonstrated yet more improvement compared with the previous year and we were delighted to celebrate results that were above the national average. The term ended with a Summer Production called Hoodwinked – a version of Robin Hood. We also held a successful Sports Day in which all children took part in team and competitive events. All the children enjoyed themselves and lots of parents came to watch their children competing. We were delighted to produce a school CD called Funky Fossils. This featured musical items from all the children in the school. It was produced to a professional standard and I know that many people have enjoyed listening to the children singing.

We are delighted to have welcomed 23 new children to our school since our successful Ofsted inspection and hope that they will experience many happy times at our school with their families. These children are in addition to our new reception class this September. Some of our classes are now at or near capacity, but it's always worth asking if you are looking for a place for your child whatever year group they are in. We do still have some places left in Reception and spaces for entry into the school in 2016.

During the forthcoming academic year, we are planning an art expedition as part of our curriculum learning. We are also continuing to develop Beach School where the children take their classroom learning into the local environment.

We are also looking forward to extending our community links in various ways and for the children to expand their learning by mixing and socialising with citizens in our local community.

The development of our preschool group, Barnacles Club, continues to be a priority. We look forward to involving the preschool children in Beach School and Wellie Walks in the local area. If you have a child or know a family with children of preschool age who are due to start school in September 2016, the children can join Barnacles this September. There is no charge for children attending this group. It is held on Monday afternoons from 1.10pm – 3.10pm. The purpose of this preschool group is to familiarise the children with our school setting and for the children involved to make positive relationships with peers and adults before starting school. Please contact the school office to make an appointment to come and have a chat if you are interested in joining us.

Gillian Morris, Head Teacher

Last year's Year 5 children were engaged in writing non chronological texts, with a focus on alteration, ing and ed starters, extended noun phrases, adverbials, powerful verbs linked to collective nouns and the use of a thesaurus to extend vocabulary.

A Pride of Peacocks by Rebekah Smith

Becoming and beautiful, peacocks live in forests and rainforests. By nature, these presumptuous birds are vain, conceited and supercilious. Many of these glamorous beings appear to haughtily rule parliament, displaying their massive tail feathers, hoping to attract some fans. The peahens, however, are scraggly compared to the stunning male peacocks as they sport colours of brown. They are 27.5 inches long and will eat almost anything edible.

A Rainbow of Unicorns by Ciaran Baldwin

Showing off its beauty, the elegant steed prefers to eat rainbows and clouds. At night, the amazing beast snores as loud as a lion's roar. With its amazing powers, the unicorn can tell when someone is lying. Due to being so rare and valuable, it can only be tamed by maidens.



Caption: Peter & Lily Bagley and Deputy Head Teacher Claire Kerr, with prize winners Maddy (right) and Bea.

Timothy Tamus Competition at Charmouth School

Shoreline's Timothy Tamus competition got off to a great start at Charmouth School. Artist and author of 'Timothy Tamus Goes Swimming', Peter Bagley, visited the school and read his new book to the children. A short while afterwards, he was faced with the difficult choice of selecting three prize winners from approximately 200 imaginative and colourful entries. In Peter's own words: "The creativity, skill and delightful artwork necessitated a system of points, so I used a score sheet for the upper school which took into account several key areas – pattern, scale, texture, contrast, colour, movement and quality."



After much thought and deliberation, Peter awarded prizes and badges to three children in Sharks (Year 6) as follows: 1st to Maddy, 2nd to Bea and a Special Artist's Commendation to Ben. They were presented to the children at a special end-of-year celebration assembly in July, at which Peter's wife Lily was present. Peter also provided certificates to each year group, which both he and Head Teacher Gillian Morris signed.

Peter was delighted with the positive response from the children at Charmouth School. "One of my favourite quotes is by the late artist Pablo Picasso", he says. "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up".

For the first time this year a new 'books' category was included in the 2015 Mervyn Peake Awards, run by Parkinson's UK, which inspires people with Parkinson's to share their creativity. A previous winner with his painting of autumn leaves, Peter decided to enter one of the paintings from the Timothy Tamus book. It was one of several selected entries and was displayed at an exhibition in London during the summer.

Lesley Dunlop

1st Charmouth Scouts



50th Anniversary Camp is Fun for All

To celebrate 50 years from its founding, the 1st Charmouth Scout Group held an anniversary camp at Woodlands Family Theme Park near Dartmouth in June. Attended by over 40 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders, the event was a fitting way to mark this key landmark in the Group's history.

The campers all arrived on Friday evening and immediately set about erecting their tents. Fortunately, it was the weekend of the longest day, so even the slowest managed to finish before it got dark.

Next morning they descended on the many exciting attractions in the theme park. Since these are designed to appeal to all ages, there was plenty for everyone to enjoy. One of the most popular attractions was the massive water slide complex. The first slide was a fairly gentle affair, while the second added an extra dimension – part of the descent was in the dark! The third was the fastest and most turbulent and no one could avoid getting wet by the end of it. Although, for some reason, the leaders always came off worst! The giant swing boat and the tractors also proved popular.

After lunch on the Saturday, the Group was treated to a fascinating falconry display. At the end, anyone who wanted to could hold a bird of prey on their arm. This proved to be very popular. It was then back to the rides.

On Sunday morning, the attendees caught up on all the attractions they had missed out on during Saturday's two sessions, before packing up their tents and heading home.

Beaver Leader needed - urgently

Unfortunately, our only uniformed leader has had to step down. This means we need to find one, ideally two, uniformed leaders as soon as possible. Can you help, or recommend someone who would be interested?

Two of the regular parent helpers are happy to stay on, meaning there will be plenty of experienced support, and other parents have offered to help on a rota basis. So we have the makings of a great team – just no uniformed leader to take the helm.

The Beaver leader does not need to be a parent. He or she could be a grandparent or friend. They just need to be someone who likes working with Beaver-aged children and seeing them have fun and progress. Alternatively, two uniformed leaders could job share to reduce the load.

It would be a great shame to have to close the Colony, but if no one comes forward by mid-September, this will have to happen as it cannot run without a uniformed Leader being present at meetings.

If you can help in any way, please contact Kevin Payne
on 01308 459080/07976 534517 or payne.kevin6@gmail.com.




Explorer Scouts on the horizon

Between now and the end of the year, we hope to open an Explorer Scout Unit in Charmouth. This will cater for boys and girls aged between 13½ and 18 – whether they have been Scouts or not.

Explorer Scouting will offer these young people the chance to undertake a raft of fun and challenging activities ranging from expeditions on Dartmoor to ten-pin bowling at Freshwater.

We have two adults who are ready to run the Unit and some seven older Scouts who are ready to move up. There are also two ex-Scouts who are keen to return, so it looks like it should be a great success but we hope to recruit a few more members from outside the Scout Group.

For more information, please contact Kevin Payne
on 01308 459080/07976 534517
or payne.kevin6@gmail.com



So we are changing the climate but how has the climate changed us?

PART I – Uncertainty stimulates adaptation

Articles surrounding climate change and the introduction of renewable energy (should we build wind farms and solar parks etc?) appear regularly in the press and on television. New research about melting ice caps, sea level rise and species migration continues to pour from research centres and universities around the globe on a daily basis, as if this was all new. Just recently, fresh figures for mean sea level rise (mSLR) (the Newlyn Tide Gauge) show that there has been a rise of 21.2 cm between 1915 and 2014 (=2.1mm/year average). However, it's not that simple, the increase since 1993 is 12.8cm now giving a mean of 6mm/year! So clearly mSLR rates are accelerating. But statistics like this are everywhere, and one can be forgiven for becoming confused and even sceptical.

Uncertainty is a fact of life... that's why we buy house insurance! It's not because we are certain that our house will be flooded but just in case it is...we are better prepared to deal effectively with the problem. And so it is with the changing climate... the evidence is out there that things are changing and so we need to prepare ourselves. That is the story of 'Adaptation' and I will say more about how we (as a species) have adapted to climate change in the past (or at least, since the last Ice Age). We also hear a lot about 'Mitigation' and the two ideas are often muddled. 'Mitigation' is all about taking measures to reduce the risk (and therefore the impacts) of accelerated change. The often cited example concerns the reduction of Carbon Dioxide emissions from fossil fuels so that our greenhouse blanket gets no thicker and excess heat can more readily escape to space.

During the last Ice Age (10-18 thousand years ago)

It seems that our brains are expertly 'wired' to cope with problem solving and it goes a long way to explaining how we (as a species) have climbed up the evolutionary tree and adapted our way of life as the elements continue to challenge us...just as they have always done.

Our ancestors struggled through some nine Ice ages in the last million years but we will concentrate just on the last one. By the time that it ended (around 13,000BC) humans were beginning to develop agriculture and farming. This would have been impossible within the bounds of an earlier frozen world. As the climate continued to warm (around 12,000BC), it became possible to settle in fertile places and work out how to grow food in one place rather than wandering the earth in search of things to hunt and eat. Still at the vagaries of seasonal changes and the occasional catastrophic storm or harsher-than-usual winter, our Stone Age ancestors persevered and survived... they colonised fertile places and abandoned harsher ones. The period between 15,000BC and 11,000BC is sometimes referred to as 'the great warming' and sea levels were rapidly rising as the great northern ice sheets receded.

Four thousand years earlier, the world of 16000BC had been totally different. In Northern Europe, the landscape was a carpet of wild and windswept tundra. Winter lasted most of the year and humans would have had to follow the migrating herds of beasts such as reindeer and collect berries on the way.

Gradually, as the climate became milder (and farming became more regular and dependable) our diets began to change too... a growing reliance upon grasses (cereals) became the norm. An appreciation of the seasons, when to sow and when to reap would accompany this new, strange way of life. Gradual domestication of some species (especially herd and pack animals) also became a useful, safer and more convenient way of gathering meat and hides. Hunting of the Mega-fauna obviously continued and the nomadic way of life for some became less and less of a necessity. Survival of individuals and communities became a little less insecure...more permanent shelter could be constructed, the young and the sick could be better cared for and so whilst life would have been incredibly harsh (in comparison with our lives today) populations of humans began to slowly increase. Because families were no longer constantly 'on the move' there was a little more time to develop new skills, new tools and make decorative items.

Learning to live together!

Around 11,000BC, as populations grew, small family communities began to

coalesce and live in larger groupings (settlements) although by today's standards, we would still refer to them as villages. Nevertheless, there was a need to learn to live together, develop differential skills, and develop codes of conduct and social behaviour for the benefit of the whole. Periods of drought would mean communities dwindled and in good times, they would prosper and grow... but all at the vagaries of the longer-term changes to the climate.

Around 6200BC, the massive ice sheet covering eastern and central Canada began to collapse and sea levels began to rise at rates approaching half a centimetre a year. It was at this point that Britain became finally severed from the continent as the North Sea swelled. The waters continued to rise as the polar ice caps continued to shrink and around 5600BC the rising waters of the Mediterranean spilled over into lower ground to the east forming the Black Sea. Was this the Biblical flood?

Whole villages were submerged under metres of water and communities displaced and people had to move to safer ground or perish. It had never been necessary to clear forest lands for cultivation... but now it was. New communities sprang up in newly cleared forest clearings. The soils were rich (they had never been cultivated before) so yields would have been good... and the climate was warming again. The hunting way of life was still in existence in these densely forested regions of Northern Europe and no doubt the two groupings (hunters and farmers) gradually began to study each other, to barter, to intermarry and to learn each other's crafts (including tool-making) and the odd social norms unique to each community. Differentiation and a sense of 'belonging' to one group rather than another reached new levels and leaders of extended groups would emerge amongst the more powerful members. Today, we would refer to this type of behaviour as 'tribal'.

Within another 1000 years, our ancestors had changed the landscape of Northern Europe for ever... they were clearing more and more forest for agriculture and using the timber for all their rapidly evolving dwellings and communal buildings. Acquiring (and holding) good land meant prosperity and now there was a need to defend that property and valued possessions. So defended enclosures to protect against raiders became the norm as well as the evolution of beliefs that could invoke the support of gods and spirits. Our ancestors were adapting to life where valued resources were in limited supply and territorial conflicts became increasingly common.

Does this remind you of anything?

In part 2: The development of Cities

Tony Flux, National Trust, Coast and Marine Adviser (SW)

Charmouth Gardeners' Village Show



What a delightful day; the sun shone, the displays were wonderful and happy faces were all around! Once again the people from Charmouth and surrounding areas met to enjoy time together; marvel at the garden flowers and vegetables; home baking and preserves; handicraft excellence and photography skills.

As always, some flowers and vegetables in the garden had 'been and gone', but we still managed to put on a show of great merit. The number of entrants were fewer, but actual class entries were the same as last year: 500+. Despite great efforts from the committee, except for four valiant children (thank you to their parents), the youngsters of Charmouth did not participate and that was the only regret of the day. A huge thank you to all who participated. I say it every year but without you there would be no show and special thanks to all who helped to make it such a success. Despite the stressful part of submitting entries, I do hope that we are all looking forward to next year's show.



PRIZE WINNERS AND TROPHY LIST – 2015

RHS Banksian Medal – Highest Points/Prize Certificates
– Ron Dampier

RHS Award of Merit for Young Exhibitors – Rhona Hinton-Moralee and Keavey Talbot

Diplomas in Horticulture – Worthy Exhibit in Horticulture Sections - Richard Fereday and Ron Dampier

Grace Laker Cup – Highest Points for Fruit & Vegetables
– Ron Dampier

Poppleton Cup – Best Floral Exhibit – Chris Horton

Wyn Durbridge Bowl – Best Vase of Garden Flowers/Shrubs – Chris Horton

BD Founder's Trophy – Best Dahlia exhibit - Margaret Moores

Joe Tisshaw Trophy – Best in Sweet Pea class – Ron Dampier

Rose Vase – Best Rose stem/s showing 3 stages of flower
– Kathy Fereday

Rose Cup – Best in Rose classes – Margaret Moores

Stan Durbridge Bowl – Best Pot Plant – Mike Cox

Marcel Clouzy Cup – Best Exhibit in Floral Arrangement
– Jan Coleman

Thalatta Cup – Best in Handicrafts – Mike Cox

George Cup – Best Exhibit in Fruit & Vegetables
– Diana Burn

Clouzy Cup – Best in Home Produce – Peter Bonner

Mattingly Pudding Plate – Best French Fruit tart, Patisserie standard – Helen Hughes

Norah Kidd Trophy – Highest Points in Photographic
– Rob Davis

Moseley Cup for Best Photograph – Rob Davis.

CHARMOUTH GARDENERS – FORTHCOMING SPEAKER DATES

Wednesday 14th October – *7.00pm – Village Hall, Wesley Close - Presentation of engraved cups awarded at the August Village Show followed by Speaker Mr. Peter Read, who will speak on 'The Variety and beauty of Roses'.

Wednesday 11th November – *2.30pm – Village Hall, Wesley Close – Mr. Martin Young from 'Nectar Plants' will give us two short talks 'Gardening in Coastal Areas' and 'Plants which may be resistant to deer and rabbits'.

Wednesday 13th January 2016 – *2.30pm – Village Hall, Wesley Close – Speaker Mr. Edward Wells will speak on 'The Botany of Witchcraft' – a little different!

Wednesday 10th February 2016 – *2.30pm – Village Hall, Wesley Close – Annual General Meeting followed by speaker Mr. Rob Curtis who will speak on 'Inn signs and Dorset Pub stories'. Plus an opportunity to renew subscription £5 p.p. for 2016/2017.

Please do join us, free entrance (although new membership queries very welcome) and excellent, interesting subjects to inform gardeners and visitors alike. Refreshments available at minimal cost.

Pauline Bonner,
Show Secretary

From the Charmouth Practice



Eat Yourself Healthy

Yes!, there is an epidemic of obesity and yes! this is putting millions at risk of type 2 diabetes and associated heart disease which looks set to bankrupt the health service. Do people at risk have to lose weight to reduce their risk? No!

Some people can and do lose weight and feel better for it, but there is no need to miserably starve and deny yourself to see a significant difference in heart risk within months – just eat differently!

A summary of the science bit:

For years we have had a wealth of data which proves that the foods we choose to eat will directly affect HOW our bodies metabolise or “use” the food we eat. When we eat a lot of very processed food with quick release starch like white flour and white potato, we put an intense strain on the insulin system. Insulin is vital to keep the body safe from the floods of glucose entering the blood stream and damaging our blood vessels. If we eat quick release foods like toast and breakfast cereals, bread and pasta and potatoes, the body is forced to ramp up the insulin production until eventually the cells stop listening (insulin resistance) and the glucose levels rise out of control, at which point people become diabetic. Meanwhile if someone is also obese, the insulin resistance itself allows a flood of fat from fat stores into the liver and the liver which cannot process it all, dumps the excess with damaging inflammation. Now you have a fatty liver which changes the way the liver deals with food and the toxic outflow of altered fats from the liver leads to a laying down of fat in the blood vessels (atheroma) which remember, have been damaged by high glucose, and you have inflammation changes which set off the clots (thrombosis) and can lead to heart attacks. Unhelpful fats in our diets will hugely increase this inflammation and will increase the risk of cardiovascular problems.

Two Questions:

1. What are “helpful” and “unhelpful” fats?
2. If we are not going to eat highly processed starch then what can we eat? At the moment many people eat something like

bread, biscuits, crackers, pastry, pasta, potatoes or processed breakfast cereals at every meal.

Two answers:

1. “Helpful” fats are found in fatty fish, olive oil nuts and seeds. The most “unhelpful” fats are the trans-fat, hydrogenated vegetable oils in many bakery products, sweets, ice creams on the supermarket shelves.
2. Better sources of starch are slow release, whole vegetables and fruits, beans, nuts, seeds and whole grains which still look like grains e.g. brown rice, jumbo rolled oats, pearl barley and bulgur wheat.

Eating helpful fats and slow release starches is the basis of the so-called Mediterranean diet and the results of people switching to this way of eating are astounding.

Dr Aseem Malhotra is a cardiologist who believes we could be doing so much more to prevent heart problems at a grass roots level rather than rely on expensive medication with side effects when the damage has already occurred. He outlines the recent studies which show the immediate effects of dietary change WITHOUT CUTTING CALORIES.

In DART trial 2033 heart attack survivors ate more fatty fish in their diets and within months had a reduced risk of dying which ended up being 29% less than before.

In (GISSI)-Prevention trial 11,000 heart attack survivors reduced their risk of dying after just 3 months of eating 1g of omega-3 fatty acids, the predominant fat in fatty fish.

In the PREDIMED trial a calorie uncontrolled Mediterranean diet with extra olive oil or extra nuts reduced major heart events by 30% in 7500 high risk individuals – and all in the first 3 months.

Because these diets mirror the way our ancestors eat, they allow the body to use its food normally and reduce the laying down of fats in blood vessels, reduce the inflammation which makes those fats “go off” and the clots that form and block blood vessels causing heart attacks and strokes.

Using this information I am designing a CHARMOUTH FOOD CHART to show the helpful and unhelpful foods in a picture form. Would you like to join a focus group to discuss whether this chart is a helpful learning tool? If so contact me at the surgery on: Sue.Beckers@gp-J81628.nhs.uk and I will let you know when we are meeting later in the year.

With the next issue of Shoreline I hope to enclose a copy for everyone to see and use. *Keep well – Eat well!*

Dr Sue Beckers

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We Remember

Gordon Albert Cooper

15 June 1917 – 19 July 2015

Gordon was born at Shorts Farm, West Wellow in Hampshire, one of five children. Later the family moved to 'The Moorings' farm in Sherfield English where Gordon, working for his father, helped to run the farm, the mill and the watercress beds. He was a very keen sportsman, playing football and cricket for the village teams, goalkeeper and wicketkeeper respectively. He was also a very good darts player and played for various pubs around the area. At the outbreak of the World War II, Gordon joined the Royal Artillery where he spent six years seeing action at Dunkirk and later through France and Belgium. On his return, he continued working the farm until it was sold in the 1960s, and it was soon after this that his mother became gravely ill after suffering a series of stroke. Gordon took on the role of main carer, virtually until she passed away in 1972. After the death of both parents,

the farmhouse was sold and Gordon moved to Charmouth as gardener to Sir Sydney Barratt at 'Thalatta' in Higher Sea Lane. Here he lived in a flat above the kitchen and became caretaker/gardener to both of Sir Sydney's holiday homes: Thalatta and the Red Bungalow. It was whilst there that he met Pat, through their shared love of dogs. A friendship ensued, which resulted in them moving in together at 'Corners' in Five Acres; "the happiest days of my life", he would recall. It was after Pat's passing that Gordon struck up another partnership, with a

labrador cross called Lana. The pair were well known in the village and when out nobody was quite sure who was taking who for a walk! Gordon loved people, loved company, loved life, always liked to chat with his neighbours and very much enjoyed the senior citizens' lunches at Charmouth Village Hall. An article about his life appeared in Shoreline's Autumn 2012 issue (see it on www.charmouth.org) and it concluded in his own words, "I have enjoyed life and have no complaints. I made it what it was."



Gordon (right) enjoying his 98th birthday celebration with Peter Bonner, photo by Neil Mattingly

Howard Gay, Gordon's nephew

Noticeboard

**All Shoreline issues
can be seen online at
www.charmouth.org**



The Charmouth Coven celebrating Barbara Whatmore's 80th Birthday at the White House Hotel in May 2015



Tim and Terry Holmes leaving St Mary's Church, Catherston after their wedding on 26th June. The reception was held at Manor Farm and the happy couple honeymooned in Antigua.



Memorable Memoirs again... Our thespians at Wendy's Party



Bud Morrow getting hot celebrating his 70th Birthday on 6th September

What's On

Knit & Natter Coffee morning

Wednesday 28th October
10.00 - 12.00 in the Village Hall

Raising money to buy wool for our knitting projects and to support the charities we knit for.

Raffle, tombola, cakes and refreshments.

(Jan Coleman 561625)

ALIKE COOPER



Alike on stage in Charmouth 2008

The Alice Cooper Tribute Band

bring their spectacular show back to Charmouth in October.

They went down a storm when they played here last time and those who missed it wished they hadn't.

Ticket are £10 in advance and £12 on the door (might be a sell-out though).

Welcome to my Nightmare, Billion dollar babies, I'm Eighteen, Only Women Bleed, I Never Cry, Poison, Elected, Ballad of Dwight Fry and Schools Out to name just some of the great tracks.

They will be supported by local Band feat. Pineapple Dave of all fellas.

Saturday 24th October 2015

Doors 7.00 pm. Licensed Bar.

Charmouth Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth, Dorset

£10 TICKETS on sale now from Fortnam, Smith & Banwell, The Street, Charmouth. OR by SAE to Broadlands, Charmouth, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth, Dorset DT6 6LR. Cheque made payable to St Andrews Community Hall.

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE COMMUNITY HALL

THE WELDMAR HOSPICE COMMITTEE FUTURE EVENTS

14 November 10.30 -12.00 Coffee morning with stalls in Village Hall

5 December 11.30 - 2.00 Carols and Cheer in the Village Hall

4 March 2016 time tba Wit, Wisdom and Wine (aka quiz) in the Village Hall

We would also like to say a big thank you to our wonderful supporters for enabling us to raise the sum of £1164 at the Big Band event in the Community Hall in June.

Jurassic Art & Craft Fayre Charmouth

Sat 21st and Sun 22nd November
10.30 am - 4.30 pm

Heritage Centre & Gift Shop open as normal

Knitted & stitched gifts
Christmas decorations
Driftwood gifts
Paintings
Gift Cards
Beach Bags
Jewellery
Pottery
Wood Turning
Homemade Cakes & Preserves
Refreshments
Glass



FREE admission

A great opportunity to buy unique Christmas gifts by local artists and makers amid the fascinating displays of the family-friendly Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

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Monkton Wyld Court

12.30pm on 21 Oct, 18 Nov, 5 & 16 Dec

Local Lunch, £8 per person. Please prebook.

For more information contact monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com

HARBOUR VOICES

An uplifting performance of songs of the sea by Lyme Regis Shanty Singers

Join in with rousing shanties of old and enjoy original songs celebrating our local coastline



Image courtesy: Weymouth Museum

Saturday 17th October 7.30pm Tickets £8

Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall

Self Service Box Office at The Charmouth Practice beside the Royal Oak on the Street, Charmouth

(open 8am to 6.30pm Mon to Fri) and 01297 560948

Bar and Raffle

Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Badminton Club (experience required)	Mon 8-10pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Trish Evans 442136
Badminton (social)	Tues 7-10pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Pauline Bonner 560251
Beachcombers Café	Mon 10-12am	Hollands Room, Bridge Road	Alison McTrustery 07789 165570
Beavers (ages 6-7)	Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Amanda Clist 01297 560157
Bingo (fund raising for Community Hall)	3rd Fri each month 7.30pm (eyes down)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Jane Tait 560801
Bopper Bus	Fri 4.45-8pm	Bridport Leisure Centre Drop off/pick up Primary School	Kate Geraghty 489422 Melanie Harvey 560393
Bowls Club <i>Summer: Winter Short Mat Bowls:</i>	Sun, Tues, Thurs 2-5.30pm Tues 2-5.00pm	Playing Field, Barr's Lane Community Hall Lower Sea Lane	Jackie Rolls 01297 560295 Jim Greenhalgh 01297 561336
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 Pielesz 560738
Charmouth Local History Society	1st Tues of month 10-12 or by appointment.	The Elms, The Street	Richard Dunn, 560646
Cherubs (Mums & Toddler Group)	Wed 9.30-11.30am (term-time only)	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Vicki Whatmore 561315
Cubs (ages 8-10.5)	Thurs 5.00-6.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Ed Pemberton 01297 560241
Gardeners	2nd Wed each month 2.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kay Churchman 560980
Girl Guides (ages 10 onwards)	Wed 7-8.45pm (term-time only)	Wooton Fitzpaine	Davina Pennells 560965
Junior Rangers Club (ages 8-12)	2nd Saturday each month 10.30-12noon	Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre	Alison Ferris 560772
Junior Youth Club (ages 8-12)	Tues 6.30-8.30pm	Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	James Ward - Rice 01308 422500 or 07827 846891
Knit and Natter group	Thursday 2 – 4pm	St. Andrew's Community Hall	Jan Coleman 561625
Library Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s)	Monday 9.30 - 10am in term time	Library, The Street	Mandy Harvey 01297 560167
Memorable Memoirs	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm	Charmouth Central Library	Jan Gale 07897 511075
Parish Council Meeting	3rd Tues each month 7.30pm	The Elms, The Street	Lisa Tuck 01297 560826
Sewing Circle	Tuesdays 10.30-12.30pm	Charmouth Central	Hazel Robinson 561214 or HazelRosery@aol.com
Scouts (ages 10.5-14)	Thurs 6.45-8.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Carol Moorey 01297 560100
Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Mon to Thurs (term-time only) 9am-12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
Tea and Chat	1st & 3rd Monday each month 3pm - 4.15pm	Charmouth Central	Felicity Horton 07736 825283
Wyld Morris dancing practice	Wed 7.15pm	Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court	Briony Blair 489546
Whist Evening	2nd & 4th Mon each month 7.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Eileen Lugg 560675

**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**

Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

EMERGENCIES POLICE	Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard	999 or 112
	PC Kirsti Ball, PCSO Luke White & PCSO John Burton for Community Police issues (ask by name)	101
	Non urgent call number for reporting incidents / enquiries	101
	Bridport Police Station, Tannery Road	101
FIRE and RESCUE	West Dorset Fire and Rescue Service — Group Manager	01305 252600
HM COASTGUARD	Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis (Not 24 hours)	01297 442852
DOCTORS	The Charmouth Medical Practice, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560872
	The Lyme Practice, Lyme Community Medical Centre, Lyme Regis	01297 445777
	NHS Direct — 24-hour Healthcare Advice and Information Line	0845 4647
HOSPITALS	Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester	01305 251150
	Bridport Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Bridport	01308 422371
DENTISTS	Dorset Dental Helpline	01202 854443
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	National Rail Enquiries — Information on Timetables, Tickets and Train Running Times	08457 484950
	National Traveline — Information on Bus and Bus/Rail Timetables and Tickets	08712 002233
EMERGENCY	Gas	0800 111999
	Electricity (Western Power Distribution)	0800 365900
	Water (Wessex Water)	08456 004600
	Floodline	08459 881188
	Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 807060
CHEMISTS	Mr Wang, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560261
	Boots the Chemist, 45 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442026
	Lloyds Pharmacy, Lyme Community Care Centre, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442981
SCHOOLS	Charmouth County Primary, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560591
	St Michael's C of E, V A Primary, Kingsway, Lyme Regis	01297 442623
	The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442232
CHURCHES	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Stephen Skinner	01297 443763
	United Reformed Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Ian Kirby	01297 631117
BEFRIENDING	Charmouth	07736 825283
COUNCILS		
CHARMOUTH PARISH	Chairman — Peter Noel	01297 561017
	Clerk — Mrs L Tuck, The Elms, St Andrew's Drive, Charmouth	01297 560826
	Heritage Coast Centre, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560772
	Beach Attendant, Charmouth Beach	01297 560626
W. DORSET DISTRICT	Councillor — Daryl Turner – d.w.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk	01297 443591
	Councillor — Mr George Symonds – Cllrg-symonds@westdorset-dc-gov-net	
	Mountfield House, Rax Lane, Bridport — All services	01305 251010
DORSET COUNTY	Councillor — Daryl Turner – d.w.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk	
	County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01305 221000
DORSET'S PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES www.dorsetforyou.com		
LOCAL M.P.	Oliver Letwin, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail letwin@parliament.uk	0207 219 3000
CITIZENS' ADVICE	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm)	01297 445325
	45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01308 456594
POST OFFICES	1 The Arcade, Charmouth	01297 560563
	37 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442836
LIBRARIES	The Street, Charmouth	01297 560640
	Silver Street, Lyme Regis	01297 443151
	South Street, Bridport	01308 422778
	South Street, Axminster	01297 32693
SWIM / LEISURE	Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport	01308 427464
	Flamingo Pool, Lyme Road, Axminster	01297 35800
	Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth	01297 560259
CINEMAS	Regent, Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442053
	Electric Palace, 35 South Street, Bridport	01308 424901
THEATRES	Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442394
	Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport	01308 424204
	Guildhall, West Street, Axminster	01297 33595
TOURIST INFORMATION	Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442138
	Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport	01308 424901

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Q. We are in our 60s and considering equity release. Would you consider this a good option?

A. It is reported that more and more people are turning to equity release, which means they're effectively handing over a share in their property in return for a cash lump sum.

This can be viewed in two ways - either as an endorsement of an increasingly popular financial product that meets a particular need, or as a worrying reflection on the growing financial pressures being felt by predominantly older people, forced to borrow against their most valuable asset as a way to generate ready cash.

If you don't have any family to worry about, then equity release may look like an attractive proposition. Why struggle, or even deprive yourself of that holiday of a lifetime, when all the time you are sitting on a goldmine? After all, you can't take it with you!

However, like any 'cash now, pay later' proposition, equity release is an expensive way to borrow money. There are two main types: The lifetime mortgage is, as its name implies, a long term loan secured against your home - except that you don't have to make any repayments. Instead, the interest is simply added to the loan, which consequently mounts up very quickly. Home reversion, meanwhile, basically involves selling a share of your property, so you and the provider become co-owners. The catch in this case is that the

amount you receive up-front is based on your home's current value, while the cost is based on its value at the end of the deal...

But cost isn't the only issue. Effectively signing away a share in your home is not something to be done lightly. I would strongly urge anyone contemplating equity release to approach the subject very carefully, making sure they get professional and objective guidance from a suitably qualified financial advisor.

There are other options, which may better meet your needs, allow you to stay in control and work out much less costly in the long run. For example, downsizing - selling your house and buying somewhere smaller could release considerably more funds while leaving you with the security of being in full ownership of your new home.

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