

# SHORELINE



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

## News and Views from Charmouth



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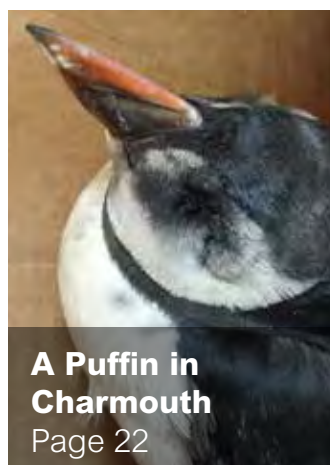
'Best Walks With a View' is Charmouthian Eric Harwood's latest television series featuring Julia Bradbury. Episode three, featuring Golden Cap and Charmouth beach, is on ITV at 8pm on Friday 4th March. Look out for it!



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**Ruth relaxing with Shoreline after climbing Table Mountain, S Africa**





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*Jillian Hunt*



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# Editorial

***Kindness is more than deeds. It is an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that lifts another person.***

**Clement Stone**

Welcome to the eighth anniversary issue of the magazine, which continues to flourish, thanks not only to the hard work and dedication of the Shoreline team, but also to our ever-increasing and always enthusiastic contributors for their informative, entertaining and thought-provoking articles.

We greatly appreciate all the advertisers who continue to support us despite the necessary rate increase (the first in four years) and we welcome aboard the several new, local businesses which are featured within.

How fitting that the Napoleonic era lookout adjacent to the CHCC is to become a sub-station for the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) in May. As Senior Watchkeeper, Mike Seaman, says in his article on page 23 'Having a trained observation and reporting asset in Charmouth will provide an extra

layer of safety and public reassurance as we can also liaise with the Coastguard and RNLI and provide support during emergencies'

Hats off to Acting Scout Group Leader Kevin Payne for the huge success of the group which has quadrupled in the last five years. As of January it now includes ten Explorer Scouts (ages 14-17) and a new Beaver Colony (ages 6-7) with 18 children already signed up! Read all about their exploits on pages 24 and 25.

On page 15, Dr Sue Beckers continues her fascinating research into Mediterranean foods and their ability to afford us protection from cardiovascular diseases and cancers, diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases. She has invited patients of the Charmouth Practice to help her draw up a Charmouth Food Chart to enable people to choose a healthier diet. See the last paragraph of her article for details.

Happy Easter

*Jane*

## THE SHORELINE TEAM

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POSTED TO YOUR DOOR, PLEASE CONTACT THE  
EDITOR. THE COST IS £6 PER YEAR.



## A mixed report on the Traders' three Autumn/Winter events

**The Bonfire at The Beach** was firstly postponed for a week due to strong winds and a bad weather forecast, then on the following week the bonfire went ahead but it was too windy to let off the fireworks safely. Thank you to all who helped build the bonfire, which was much appreciated by those that braved the windy conditions, and a big thank you also to Tim Holmes who ensured that the bonfire was well cordoned off.



**The Christmas Fayre** was, yet again, affected by a heavy shower just as Father Christmas arrived, and very squally winds gave several stall holders on The Street quite a few problems. Luckily, the church took part in the Fayre this time and a swift relocation of the school choir resulted in a very successful rendition of several popular carols there to a packed audience. The church also accommodated several stall holders at the last moment and thanks are due to Stephen for his hospitality.

The refurbished Christmas lights on the lamp posts up The Street looked really good. Thank you to all who bought the 2016 Charmouth Calendar, profits from which helped to pay for these. Gerry Bearpark once again gave his time to erect and remove these.



**The New Year's Eve event at the beach** unfortunately had to be cancelled due to a combination of circumstances which meant that not enough helpers were available.

2016 brings a new year and, undaunted, the Traders will try again with these events and hope for better weather. In addition to these, we are hoping to help put on a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Details are still being finalised but 12th June looks the likely date – look out for announcements on the website. The coast paths are unlikely to open until the Autumn at the earliest so our plans for a Charmouth Walking Festival have been put back to 2017.

Finally, the 2017 Charmouth Calendar is currently in production and is expected to go on sale from Easter. Any profits will go to the local community.

Let us all hope for better weather this year!

**Phil Tritton**

## Deadline and Issue Dates for Shoreline 2016

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

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



## Parish Council News

**A** busy year for the Council, which lost two of its Councillors early in the year through resignations. Two new members have since been co-opted (Deborah Gildersleeves and Chris Shirley-Smith, who has returned having not initially re-stood in May) and it is now running with a full team.

With the ceasing of the Charmouth branch of the British Legion due to falling membership, the Parish Council undertook the planning of arrangements for the Remembrance Day parade and service. Working in conjunction with the Clergy of the two churches in Charmouth, as well as St. Andrew's Parish Church and local groups including Charmouth Scouts and other youth groups, the Council prepared a united Order of Service for the churches together in Charmouth and accompanied parishioners and other local people in the War Memorial Prayers, the parade to the Parish Church and the Service of Remembrance. The parade was ably led as usual by the Parade Commander, Lt Cdr Michael Whatmore RN (Rtrd).

The Council pressed ahead with its move to promote the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village which is now progressing under the auspices of the Council but with an independent steering committee chaired by Ms Carol Girling.

At the Foreshore, the safety railing to be installed along the top of the badly eroded deflection steps by WDDC (who are responsible for sea defences) will be complete by the time you read this.

Separate committees within the Council continue in their roles covering Foreshore, Planning, Playing Field and Cemetery, Finance and General Purposes, Tourism, HR and Works. Parishioners are encouraged and welcome to be in contact with the Council through the Parish Clerk, Lisa Tuck, at The Elms Council Office.

The next 'public' event is the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held on the 28th April at 7.30pm at St. Andrews Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane. We would like to encourage all parishioners to come along on that day.

**Cllr Jim Greenhalgh**

### Charmouth Village Hall News

Work has commenced on the refurbishment of the toilets plus the installation of an accessible toilet in the Village Hall. This work has been made possible by means of a generous grant received from the Lottery Fund.

It is hoped to complete the work as soon as possible with minimal disruption to the regular users of the hall.

**Jan Johnstone**

### 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.



## The Royal British Legion Women's Action Charmouth Branch

**O**n 24th November 2015, a service was held at St Andrew's Church, Charmouth, at which the Standard of the Charmouth Branch of the RBL Women's Section was 'laid up', signifying the closure of the Branch after nearly 80 years' service. The Standard will now stand in the corner of the church alongside that of the Men's Branch, which closed approximately 30 years ago. This is a sad occasion, as the Legion depends on its branches to find the time, energy and money to enable it to support needy Service and ex-Service folk and their families.

Our Branch was founded in February 1926 with no fewer than 79 members. They went ahead with fund-raising by various means, helping with fetes, holding dances and concerts, sales and tea parties. On 4th July 1930, a rally of Dorset Legion Branches was held on the occasion of the visit by the Duke of York, later George VI, to open the new bridge in Weymouth.

He presented Standards to a number of branches, including our own – the very one we have just laid up. The Branch did well pre-war, even rising to over 100 members. They concentrated on the well-being of Service families and organised holidays here for some poor children from London. On the outbreak of War in 1939, they organised a canteen in the village which served hot suppers at 10d (old pence) a time and cups of tea or coffee at 1d. The recreation area alongside was fitted with darts, bagatelle and cards, also books, magazines and newspapers. Meanwhile the members kept busy – fund-raising, of course, but also making camouflage nets (a Bridport speciality) and knitting 'comforts' for the troops (i.e. gloves, scarves, socks and jumpers).



Laying up of their standard at St. Andrew's church took place this afternoon 29-11-2015

After the War the Branch continued with their monthly meetings, often with speakers, went on outings and continued fund-raising. We now appointed a Welfare Officer, whose duty it was to visit members who became sick and to offer help. This was a friendly group, but maybe less purposeful than it had been – anyway, by 1976 no one wished to stand for officerdom. Only after two representatives from the County Committee had called a special meeting and 'browbeaten' two relatively new members, did we get a response – so we carried on.

Since then our numbers have gradually reduced until it is now no longer practical to continue – hence our closure last year.

**NB The Poppy Appeal will continue, courtesy of Tricia Forsey.**

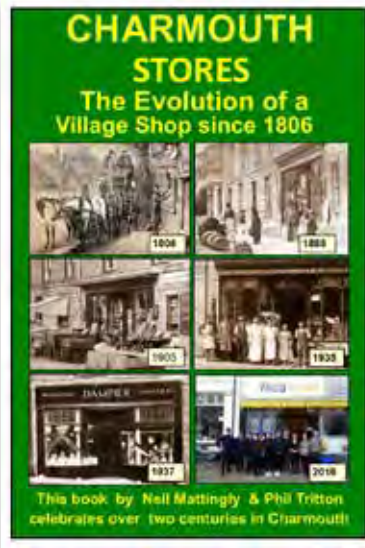
The Remembrance Parade will be organised by the Parish Council – please support both in November.

**Tricia Forsey & Pat Stapleton**

# Charmouth Stores, the Evolution of a Village Shop since 1806

**'Charmouth Stores, the Evolution of a Village Shop since 1806' is the title of Neil Mattingly's brand new book, which will be launched on Friday 11 March at the Charmouth Local History Society's meeting at the Village Hall (7pm, members free; non members £3). Neil and present Charmouth Stores owner Phil Tritton will be there to document the long and interesting history of the shop. Don't miss it! Here's a short historic summary from Neil, as a taster:**

"There was an earlier building on the same spot which would have gone back to the creation of the Borough of Charmouth in 1298 by the Abbot of Forde. The boundary walls of the site leading back to the ancient Monks' wall can still be seen in places. Even at that time it would have been central to the village as there was a market in front of the Church for many centuries. The booklet covers briefly the history of the original building and its families. The earliest owners so far found were the Cornelius family who owned it in the 17th Century. It then passed to the Edwards and then the Crouts and finally through marriage to the Bradbeers. It was Joseph Bradbeer who, as landlord of the Three Kings (Coach and Horses) opposite, realised the potential of the site on the coach route linking London with Exeter and, in 1806, opened a Post Office where the Royal Mail Coach could deliver and receive mail. In the same year he married his third wife Lydia, who was 25 years younger than himself and it was no doubt her who ran the grocery shop. On his death in 1821, Lydia continued the business until 1832 when she remarried local teacher, William Watts and shared the shop with village



carpenter, John Carter. Their marriage was a disaster and William left her penniless and all her property was auctioned in 1841 to pay off his debts. John Carter bought the eastern part of the building and Giles Pryer, a builder, the other part. In 1864, there was a devastating fire in the Pryers part, beginning in the thatched roof that soon spread across. It was rebuilt in brick, but shortly afterwards the Carters gave up and the son, John William, moved to Rugby where he opened a grocers. It was then briefly in the hands of James Hawkins. But it was George Mortimer who was to be the owner for the next 20 years and extend the business into

Drapery, Shoes, Hardware as well as Grocery and the Post Office. He was very successful and opened a similar business in Fulham Road in London. His successor Edward Vince from 1888 until 1898, before he retired to Exeter. Sadly, the shop went into decline with the arrival of John Baker, who lost the Post Office licence to William Holly, with its move to 'Wistaria'. Robert Morgan, who was initially in partnership with John, fared even worse with the increased competition from other shops in the village. He married the widow of the landlord of the Coach and Horses and ran both that business, the shop and also a bus service.

It was William Dampier who was to be the saviour of Charmouth Stores, when he took it over in 1919 with his move from Dorchester, where he worked in Boons Grocery Store. His son Donald carried on after his death in 1955. His own son,

Ronald was to assist and in time took over and it was not until the year 2000, that he and his wife Jean retired. The business has been run for the last decade by the Trittons, who have expanded it under the Nisa banner. The booklet tells the story of the many families who have run the shop over two centuries and has numerous illustrations to bring it to life. The talk will be at 7pm on March 11th at the Village Hall, where the booklet will be available for sale.

**Neil Mattingly**

## Joseph Weld Hospice Collection of Used Stamps

**Please hand your used stamps into Charmouth Post Office.**

Over the years Charmouth Post Office has been the conduit for used postage stamps on behalf of the Joseph Weld Hospice.

Stamps are either inspected locally by a stamp collector and purchased by him, or they are deposited at the Joseph Weld shop in Dorchester in bulk. We have recently deposited three large mail sacks of used stamps (about 50kg) with the Joseph Weld outlet shop.

Any cash received for stamps sold locally is handed into any Joseph Weld shop. Used stamps are packaged and sold on, by the hospice, to collectors for inspection and potential purchase. This produces a ready income stream for Joseph Weld.

In the past I was taught not to be repetitious, so I ignore it completely, and say: *Please hand your used stamps into Charmouth Post Office.*

**Steve Pile**

## Abode

**Recently opened in Charmouth, Abode offers carpets, vinyl flooring, made-to-measure curtains and blinds, fabrics and beautiful home accessories for both modern and traditional homes.**

Choose from hundreds of carpet and vinyl flooring samples from leading manufacturers, for all areas of your home, fitted by our expert fitters. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are at hand to offer practical advice and can draw on many years of experience in the flooring trade. We even encourage you to borrow samples, free of charge, to help you to decide at home. We always offer free advice, free measures and free quotations.

Thinking of updating your windows, too? Ask us about made to measure curtains and blinds. As well as hundreds of fabrics and colours to choose from, we also carry ready-made blinds, poles, tracks and accessories. We sell fabric too, by the metre, for those who prefer the DIY option.

Looking for a gift or special treat? Browse through our range of beautiful home accessories that start from just a few pounds.

**Andy Morel, 01297 560505**

## Letters to the editor

### Alarm

On Monday 25th January, Don and I returned home from a ten day trip visiting relatives and friends in Kent to find the dining room patio door smashed and open with a huge rock on the floor and glass everywhere. Two drawers in the chest were partially open and also drawers were open in our bedroom with a few items of clothes scattered everywhere. On the bed were the contents of my box of costume jewellery and a small wooden box had been forced open and the contents strewn beside it on the floor. The spare bedroom window was damaged where attempts had been made to enter, but unsuccessfully.

We called the Police, who were quick to respond. A male and female officer attended and requested a visit by a Special Officer to glean any traces of evidence that may have been left by the intruders. He arrived a couple of hours later and was able to take away evidence of two footprints. No fingerprints or DNA were found. After a full search we were relieved to find nothing had been taken. I had taken the small amount of valuable jewellery I possess with me on our visit.

We are very sad that this has occurred only nine months after we moved into our property. We love it here in Charmouth and have found the people we have met extremely nice and friendly and we felt very safe and secure! I do hope no one else will experience this intrusion into their home. It is unsettling, but we feel very fortunate that nothing was taken and only the patio door, the bedroom window and a few tiles on the dining room floor were damaged. The emergency glazier arrived at 7.15pm that evening to board up the door and window to make it safe and secure, but these cannot be replaced until the 12th February!

We are now going to look into the possibility of having an alarm fitted! Something we did not think we would need here in 'Charming Charmouth'!

Pam French  
The Tallet, Higher Sea Lane

### Twinning Memories

Dear Editor,

I am very pleased to still be able to read about Charmouth in your magazine and I still keep in touch with the Heritage Coast Centre activities, all online. I am also glad that the Twinning Association is still going strong. I still have souvenirs from the first visit to Asnelles.

Our first twinning visit was for a few days, from 19th October 1985. I know this as I have a souvenir vase from Asnelles with this date. Four of us travelled in my Robin Reliant three-wheeler via Cherbourg and stayed with a farmer who made Calvados; a very strong sort of cider. Someone from Charmouth\* who was a Lieutenant and promoted to Captain because his superior officer was killed during the Normandy invasion in June 1944 when he landed with his regiment at Asnelles, was presented with a medal by the Mayor and the local member of the French Parliament at a formal dinner. We were taken to Caen to see the tapestry and returned via Boulogne. I cannot remember much else after over 30 years.

I will continue to read your publication and hope to visit Charmouth sometime this year, to return the vase and presentation Limoges plates with designs of Asnelles to the village.

Rex H Vick (former Clerk to Parish Council)  
\*Major St John

### Twinning Response

Last year the Charmouth Twinning Association members celebrated 30 years of 'entente cordial' with friends from Asnelles and were delighted to be contacted recently by an early member of the Association, who wished to give us mementos/gifts given to him from Asnelles whilst he resided in Charmouth. The Chairman duly responded to this kind gesture via an email to Mr. Rex Vick, former Clerk to the Parish Council... "We currently have about 60 members, not all of whom travel to France, but we have a very good social and fund raising series of events. We do have a Twinning cabinet in the Parish Council offices and any mementos could be housed there. We still have some of the founder members: Mary Davis, Jill Matthews and David and Margaret Bettes, who still attend events and host our French friends. We would be delighted to see you when you are down this way.

Regards, Peter Bonner"

It would seem that early members of the Twinning Association still hold fond memories and the present group will always welcome new members (speaking French is not obligatory). A good time is had by all, whether 'at home' or away in France. If interested, please contact 01297 560251.

### The Herring Gull Menace

Ros Cole's recent article in Shoreline gave an excellent account of the herring gull, but now I would like to look at another side of its life history - its effect on us.

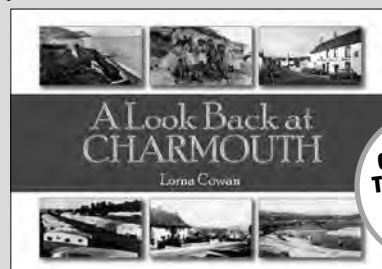
I won't go into all our problems with this bird - anyone living in this village and reading the papers will know all about it. The bird is gregarious and that's part of the problem. I am increasingly seeing flocks of them wheeling overhead, calling loudly. In translation they are saying 'here's a good place to colonise - safe nest sites and food laid on'. It is going to get worse if we do nothing. And the odd thing is that the species is protected, with all the other gulls, some of which need our protection.

The town of Devizes has obtained an official dispensation to remove herring gull's nests from their roofs, so it is possible to fight back. And no, we haven't moved in on their territory. Before man built houses, the area that is now Charmouth could not have provided nesting sites because of predation by foxes - the gulls would have nested on cliffs like most sea birds.

So what can we do? If most people agree we should discourage the birds, then perhaps we could get our roofs 'gull free'. Not too difficult. And of course feeding them is a no no. Those of our neighbours who have encouraged the birds could perhaps be gently persuaded that such behaviour is anti-social. Can we get together on this? I love the sight and sound of the gulls - at a distance.

Geoffrey Sell

### A great read and the perfect book for everyone who loves Charmouth!



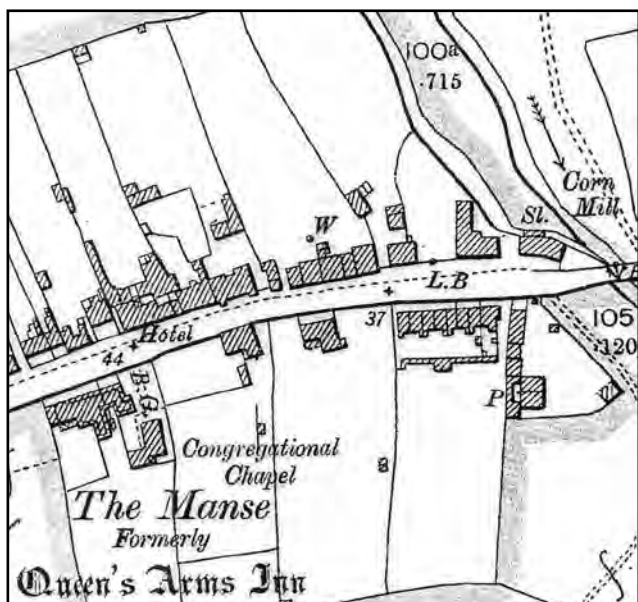
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[www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org)



## Charmouth Local History Society (The Pavey Group)



The east end of The Street in 1903

**We have just completed the first stage of a project to make available on our website a series of high-quality zoomable historic maps of Charmouth and the surrounding areas. The earliest really detailed map of the village (and of the whole parish) is the 1841 Tithe Map. As well as the Tithe Map itself, there are also a series of maps which show who owned and lived in all the properties in the parish in 1841 (information which was recorded in the Tithe Apportionment at the same time the Tithe Map was drawn). Then there are the 1903 and 1929 Ordnance Survey maps at 25-inches-to-the-mile. Looking at these three maps you can trace in detail how any particular area of the village changed from 1841 to 1929.**

We also have an aerial photograph of the whole parish in 1946, which was taken vertically and so is a "bird's-eye view" of the village at that time - for example you can see the allotments along Lower and Higher Sea Lanes. A slightly later but more detailed oblique aerial photo shows the centre of the village in 1955.

We have also included a series of maps which cover the County of Dorset, many of which are attractive examples of early cartography and show Charmouth in its wider setting and also how map-making developed over the centuries.

You can zoom in and out of all these maps and move around, and because the maps are digital you don't have to worry about map sheet edges. To access the maps visit [www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk) and go to the maps page. There is an instructions page to help you get the most out of viewing the maps, and each individual map also has a page giving some background to the map itself and how the digital image was created.

Our next talk, by Neil Mattingly and Phil Tritton, will take place on Friday 11th March at 7pm in the Village Hall titled "Charmouth Stores (Nisa) - The Evolution of a Village Shop since 1806"; members free, non-members £3.

Finally, volume 43 of the Village Echo is currently being produced and is due for publication at Easter.

**Richard Dunn, Secretary**

## Weldmar Hospice

The small Weldmar Hospice care committee arrange four fundraising functions a year, and have friends who help with catering and selling tickets. We have wonderful support from the generous people of Charmouth. If you think you might like to help us, please phone me on 560446.



**Kathy Fereday**

## The George, Charmouth.

**Over the past few years we have collectively raised in excess of £40,000 for various charities. Last year, without our usual charity walk and very popular auction, we still raised £2062 for CLIC Sargent.**

This year we have decided to stay local and help raise funds for our own Charmouth Football Club. We are still collecting 5p's which has been very popular with both the locals and visitors. We are planning Bingo and a Quiz, whilst Luke Bearpark will be holding his annual cake sale to help as well. Each week we'll have a meat and wine draw and in the Autumn there will be an auction. So please support your local club by coming along to these fun events.

**Linda Bearpark**



## The George Charmouth Sat 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Beer Festival

Outside bar with a selection of real ales and ciders

BBQ from 2pm

Children's face painting

Official opening by our town crier 3:45pm

Live music with The Twurzels 4 - 4:45pm

Morris Dancers 4:45 - 5:15pm

Live music with The Twurzels 5:15 - 6pm

Live music with Keith Leonard 6 - 7pm

Live music with Pete Wild and B Sharp

Talented young musician's 7 - 8pm

Delta Tango a local 4 piece band 8 - 10pm

80s Mania! nonstop 80s music 10-midnight

Bring your dancing shoes

**This is a fun day out for all the family  
in our large beer garden with play  
area and pets corner**

## News from St. Andrew's Church



**I** am writing this article just after another successful Free XChange Café. It was run in our church on 30th January, between 10am and 11.30am. I felt it was successful because:

- Lots of people from around the village attended, and stayed for a fair length of time.
- There was a warm 'buzz' as people sat down with their coffee and pastries and enjoyed their conversations.
- A friendly welcome extended to new people, visitors and younger people – made to feel 'at home'
- Plenty of items were brought and left for others to take: books, CDs and DVDs, household goods, children's clothes, toys and games, fresh produce from gardens and allotments, plus unusual items!
- People left with items of use – not leaving too much for us to take off for recycling elsewhere!

• *Although we never aim to make a profit, it is nice when our costs of free coffee, pastries and newspapers are covered with a little spare to help pay for the heating.*

We aim to run three more Free XChange Cafes in 2016: April 23rd, July 2nd, and October 15th. Our Team could do with some more support, so if you think you can then please contact me on 443763.

I know that many of you want to know about the progress regarding 'Changing Spaces' – our major project to undertake building repairs to the structure of the tower, west end of the nave and balcony and, at the same time to remove pews, re-lay a new floor, provide comfortable chairs, re-plaster and redecorate the building. Our Project Manager, Tom Roberts, has been in extensive negotiations with local and regional organisations, in order for us to obtain partners to work on this project together. We do have hopes that we will find such partners, who will invest in our

building in return for significant usage during those times when the church has not got a prior booking for a Sunday service, wedding, christening or funeral. But as I write this, we have no more news to report about a potential main partner – so we will all have to be patient for a while longer!

Meanwhile our dynamic 'Changing Spaces' team have been organising various events: a New Year's Eve Party, Choir Concert and a special opening of the church for the Christmas Late Night opening. The team are looking at various possibilities for 2016: a Charmouth's Got Talent" night (especially but not only for younger people), the launch of Neil Mattingly's new book on the history of the church and village, 'Art in the Attic', and a Puddings Project! We aim for some more concerts, too.

Numbers at our Sunday Services have picked up a little over the autumn, Christmas and through January – with a few new members joining us. This is encouraging – as is the fact that we have a new Treasurer – Carolyn Parsons. Donations to our Restoration Fund through her are very welcome!

Tell us if you have ideas about how we can continue as Christians to support and bless all that's good in Charmouth!

**Revd Stephen Skinner,**  
Team Rector



### St. Andrew's House News

We held a Christmas Tea at the Ritz in the communal room at Hanover Housing's St. Andrew's House on Tuesday 15th December, when 33 residents enjoyed entertainment by the resident music and movement class led by Janet and Mike Clarke. During the performance Mike encouraged audience participation in some of the light warm-up exercises, and a top hat and tails routine was followed by a glass of bubbly and the delicious spread. A good time was had by all and plans are already in place for an Easter event.



Thanks to all who made it such a success.

**Jan Gale**

### Church Floodlights St. Andrew's

**If you would like to sponsor the floodlights on the church tower to celebrate a special occasion, a birthday, an anniversary or to remember someone special, please contact Helen Hughes 01297 560487. The cost is £10 per day or £20 for a week.**

Our thanks go to Alan and Cynthia Buckingham who sponsored the lights to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on the 16th December. Also to Vi Hares who sponsored the lights for Christmas week in memory of Phillip whose birthday would have been on New Year's Eve. Your support is very much appreciated.

**Helen Hughes**



## Dictionaries for Life

**O**n Monday 16th November Rotarian John Bartlett, President of the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis, presented personalised copies of *Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries* to Year 6 pupils in Charmouth Primary School, continuing a project that has now been running for several years and which embraces four local schools.

"Promoting literacy is a major objective of Rotary," said Lyme Regis Rotarian Rikey Austin, who managed the project. "Literacy is so important to successful educational development, even in today's digital world. It is fundamental to effective communication and understanding. A strong command of our language, underpinned by a good dictionary, will open up new worlds for our children as they explore books and find the magic worlds within them and will also make them more competitive in today's jobs' market. We are really pleased at this opportunity to help the young of our community.

Teachers will work with the children throughout the year to ensure familiarity with the dictionaries so that they can use them to full advantage. Parents are encouraged to promote their use at home. This brings to around 450 the number of *Usborne Illustrated Dictionaries* we have presented to local schools over the past few years. These are beautiful books, and we urge children to treasure them, and use them as intended - *for life*.

**John McCallum**



## Charmouth Party in the Park 2016

**We are holding two Parties in the Park this year, the first on 29 May, which is the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, and the second on 7 August, our traditional first Sunday in August event.**

I have taken the liberty of asking back the Sidekicks, a very good covers band, who were well received at our event in August last year, and am awaiting an update from them. I am also looking for a musical band or act for August, and would welcome your suggestions.

In addition to the traditional BBQ, we successfully expanded last year to have a curry night and a chilli night and overall the food was a great success. Suggestions for different foods which would go well in a bowl with a fork and spoon are welcome. My early suggestion for 2016 would be a jambalaya, a creole dish with Spanish and French influences, so let us have your ideas and favourites. Of course let's not forget our great, friendly bar which will include the very popular Pimms.

This is a fun event to be enjoyed by all, with plenty of people up and dancing by the end of the evening. It's good for the village and very rewarding to be part of the Fayre team, pulling together for the village, enabling us to give money to help many community causes.

Let's hope we have the same luck with the weather in 2016, making this a bumper year.

**David Clifford**

## Charmouths RNLI Christmas Day Swim



Photos Bill Burn

**Wild conditions didn't deter the brave swimmers on Christmas Day. There was a fantastic turnout of swimmers and spectators alike with everyone determined to show their support for such a great cause.**

Luckily the tide was out, so the run into the waves under the command of Lyme Regis's town crier and the watchful eye of the lifeboat crew, was quite a spectacle. After a quick dip, many welcomed the offer of a hot toddy by The Royal Oak.

Enthusiastic volunteers mingled amongst the crowd with their collecting buckets, which were eventually brought up to the pub for the traditional counting by the crew.

With such a stormy day we were delighted to have raised £866 from the buckets alone. We only hope next year the weather will be a little kinder!

This year RNLI Flag Day is on Saturday 28th May. If anyone would like to help with our bucket collection we would welcome your support. Please do get in touch on 01297 561477

**Clare and Colin Evans**

*Charmouth Representatives for RNLI Guild*



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## Michael Norris - Chiropractor

**Chiropractic is the clinical discipline dedicated to the treatment and prevention of spinal and other joint injuries. Even healthy young people can have back or neck problems, due to poor posture, working habits or prolonged sitting. Many people live with symptoms, thinking they are due to increasing age and that nothing can be done. Chiropractic treatment restores normal movement the affected joints, relives pain and allows inflamed soft tissues to heal. Treatment involves gentle adjustment of the joints causing the problem. Most people experience no discomfort whatsoever. Every effort is made to make your treatment comfortable, effective and completely safe.**

It takes four years full-time academic study and clinical training and one year of supervised post-graduate practice to be eligible for membership of the British Chiropractic Association.

Michael is happy to offer a free initial consultation, so if you have a condition that is not resolving why not give him a call to see if chiropractic could be of benefit?

## Acupuncture Awareness Week

**Will run from 7th -13th March and is focusing on sport and how acupuncture can help recovery from injuries sustained during sport and exercise.**

How appropriate for Hilary Sharp, local acupuncturist practising at Stillwaters Therapy Centre, The Elms, Charmouth as Hilary is planning on jogging with a lot of walking in the London Marathon 2016. Hilary is fundraising for brain research, as in 1989 she suffered a brain haemorrhage. Neurosurgery saved her but she was left with major headaches which were resolved with acupuncture.

Hilary is offering treatment during this week at £25 per session and all income will be donated to BRAIN RESEARCH via virginmoneygiving/Hilary Sharp.

[www.hilarysharp.co.uk](http://www.hilarysharp.co.uk) Tel 07738 630186

## GROW AGAIN Cultivating Mindfulness

**Over the last decade there has been an explosion of interest in the use of mindfulness in all walks of life from school children to MPs. Mindfulness is cultivated by systematically exercising one's own capacity to pay attention. There is a great deal of evidence showing how mindfulness can make areas of the brain stronger, hence improving concentration, building mental resilience and strategies to deal with difficulties.**

Lucy is a mental health nurse and trained mindfulness teacher. She is now working with a number of schools in the area to deliver specialised mindfulness training for children. Lucy is passionate about encouraging the flourishing and wellbeing of both children and adults and is finding mindfulness to be very effective in this. Grow Again delivers a diverse range of workshops and training opportunities for individuals, businesses and schools.

If you would like to bring mindfulness into your life or are curious, a good place to start is the Introduction to Mindfulness Workshop being held at Frogmore Farm in Chideock on Thursday 21st April 2016 from 6-9pm. There is also a Mindfulness Retreat Day taking place at the same venue on 18th June 2016 from 11-5pm. More information and prices can be found at [www.growagain.co.uk](http://www.growagain.co.uk) or ring Lucy on 07554 451347



## Charmouth Poetry Corner



### AN AUDIENCE WITH ROY

by Peter Crowter

Folk visit the Heritage Centre, from Bridport, Berlin and Bangkok.

Some come to see what is on offer and others bring strange lumps of rock.

They say "Can you tell us what this is?" I study the lump and say, "Well,

It could be beef rock or a crinoid, or maybe some weird kind of shell"

I tell them, "I'm really no expert, I'm just a mature volunteer,

I'll go and fetch Philip or Ali, and all will become crystal clear."

But some volunteers have more knowledge, and one is a fellow called Roy,

And working with him in the centre, is something I really enjoy.

He tells all the kids about fossils, you could say it's his special skill,

And while he delivers his lectures, then I can look after the till.

He opens up one of the fossils, to show a young lad what's inside,

"Do you know what that is?" he asks him; the boy stares in wonder wide-eyed.

"An ammonite", Roy says quite slowly. "Do you think you can say that as well?"

"An ammonite", says the boy slowly. "Well done, now your dad you can tell."

"Have you heard of a boat that is special, because it goes under the sea?"

The boy nods his head and Roy asks him, "Its name, could you tell that to me?"

He says "submarine" very quietly. "Good lad, do you know how it sinks?"

The boy shakes his head and says nothing, and stares into space as he thinks.

"It fills ballast tanks up with water, the weight sends it under the sea,

To make it come up to the surface, it blows out the water you see.

Now man may have thought he was clever, but millions of years long ago,

The ammonite used the same method, to sink and to surface like so,

Those cavities there in his body, were its ballast tanks so you see,

The idea was nature's invention, I think you must surely agree."

Roy has other tasks when on duty, when he's not involved with his talks,

Show folks how to part with their money for rock pooling film shows and walks.

But Roy's at his best in the centre, when telling his stories to kids,

About ancient fossilised creatures, how some are related to squids.

How some like sea urchins and crinoids, still live in the oceans today,

They stand and they listen with interest, to all the things Roy has to say.

*If you haven't already guessed, the "Roy" to whom Peter refers  
is Roy Churchman!*

## Charmouth Central Library and Internet Cafe



### Happy Birthday

**U**nbelievably it was three years ago that, with some trepidation, the community took responsibility for running the library service, with some ongoing support from Dorset County Council who maintain our stock of books and the computing equipment.

So far so good! Our volunteers are fantastic. Confident, competent and, best of all, a smile and a welcome for all our customers. The smiles must be the magic ingredient, because our book issues are regularly better than the County run libraries. It is also great to see that the use of the library as a quiet space for homework, office or catching up on emails is also growing.

As we had hoped, and promised the Big Lottery Fund, the new room behind the library has provided an inexpensive space for a growing number of meetings, social events and the sale of refreshments.

The Friends of Charmouth Library have been very loyal and support us with their subscriptions, attendance at fundraising events and as volunteers. Individual donors have been very generous when we needed support. Times are hard for the Parish Council, so they have been unable to provide grants for the last two years, but they have allowed us to sell donated books on the Foreshore, which has given us good publicity and raised a useful amount of money too. My only regret on the finances is that I was totally unaware that our Member of Parliament could authorise millions of pounds' worth of grants. We never thought to ask for some small change!

Can we use more volunteers? Of course we can. Is the work complicated? No, and anyway we always have two volunteers working together, so what one doesn't know the other usually

does. If all else fails, you can blow the dust off the instruction manual and look in there. Do you get training? Yes, one of our Team leaders will make sure that you know what you are doing. If you would like to spend time in the sunshine, that can be accommodated too. Help in the garden is always welcome, so give me a ring.

We are also looking for volunteers to understudy our committee members, so that when vacancies arise there are people around to take over. In particular, we could do with a decent chairperson.

**Bob Hughes, Acting Chair 01297 560487**



### What can I join? Call for information...

**People new to the area, recently retired or with time on their hands often want something to do to keep active and/or to meet new people. What is available?**

I am collecting information about local clubs, societies and organisations to compile a list kept in Charmouth Central Library. If you run such a group in Charmouth, Monkton Wyld, Whitchurch or Wootton, please check with Charmouth Central to see if we have your information; I already have over 65 groups listed. Any groups listed in Shoreline or The Diary will have been included, but if your group is not there please leave contact details in the library for the attention of Ros.

**Ros Cole**

## West Dorset Conservatives Charmouth Branch

**I**t's always tricky writing about political topics when the article will not be published for another three or four weeks so, following the tradition of Charmouth Conservatives, I'll ignore politics. Except that, at the time of writing it looks like Oliver Letwin will still be our MP, despite the press examination of comments he made 30 years ago. As he was advising on the Poll tax around that time too, we can be sure that his thoughts on that subject will be hitting the headlines soon.

More importantly, we would like to welcome you to our Annual General Meeting on Friday 18th March at The Elms at 10.30. It is fairly safe to attend! No one on the committee has resigned, the officers are staying for another year, so no one will be forced to volunteer for anything, but if anyone wants to go on committee, we can fit you in.

You will hear that we have had a very successful year in terms of social activity and in financial support for the west

Dorset office. We started our year with a post-election celebration. We were always going to have a party; only the title was likely to change. This was followed by a 'summer' barbecue which was most enjoyable, but we wished the sun had come out to play too.

In October we had a magnificent cookery and wine tasting, followed by lunch, with food prepared by Ian Simpson of The White House and wine from Furleigh Estates near Bridport. We knew the food would be excellent and were delighted to find that English 'Champagne style' wines tasted better than the French originals. In fact the wine was so good that some members thought we should write to our MP suggesting that we have a referendum about membership of the EU, as the main reason for staying in had just disappeared!

Our Christmas lunch was at Lyme Regis Golf Club, with around 50 members and friends. Our final event of the year, the Chairman's 'Bit of a Do', is in late February so we are still planning as I write but, we are sure, like all our other functions, that all who come will get a warm welcome, good food and good company whatever their political persuasion.

**Bob Hughes Treasurer**



## A Community Message from Dorset Police

**All sorts of people volunteer, across a wide age range, with a variety of different backgrounds, skills and life experiences. Basically, a volunteer is a non-uniformed member of staff who assists at police stations or administrative centres, conducting a variety of roles..**

The role of a volunteer is designed to enhance the work of the police and provide additional support in the area where the Volunteer lives or works. This is even more crucial now with the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT). NPTs are about local policing; police and partners working with the community, to identify and tackle issues of concern within your neighbourhood. All volunteers assist police and staff who are then able to concentrate on core policing duties. As a result there are more officers on the streets and improved community support.

Although you will not be paid a salary, your volunteering role should not leave you out of pocket. You can claim expenses for travelling to and from your place of duty, and a meal allowance if you work more than four hours together.

There are a wide variety of volunteering roles available within Dorset Police, ranging from Community Messaging Volunteer, CCTV Volunteer, Horse Watch Volunteer, and on the roles available and how to apply are available on our website, [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk).

Special Constables are also an important type of volunteer within Dorset Police. They wear the same uniform as regular Police Officers and have the same powers, spending four hours a week policing their local community. There are currently just under 300 Special Constables in Dorset Police and more information about future recruitment can be obtained by emailing [specials-recruitment@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:specials-recruitment@dorset.pnn.police.uk).

Since November, five crimes have been reported in Charmouth. In November cash was taken from a shed along

Barrs Lane, after a pane of glass was smashed. At the start of January, a fossil hunter on Charmouth beach had equipment stolen after leaving it unattended on the beach. Sometime between 20th and 25th January a burglary occurred at a property on Higher Sea Lane. Rear patio doors were smashed but it is not believed that anything was taken from the property. Domestic burglaries are a rare occurrence in our area. But please consider installing an alarm at your property to add protection when unattended. Consider asking a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property if you are going on holiday. Also think carefully about the information you place on social media accounts. You may be inadvertently advertising your property as empty.

**Don't forget that a member of Lyme Regis Neighbourhood Policing Team will be at Charmouth Central from 1430 to 1500 on the first Wednesday of every month.** Come along and talk about any issues or questions you may have. You can also contact us at any time by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency. We also regularly update our Facebook and Twitter sites with information and advice on crimes and issues that are affecting the community.

**PCSO5474 Luke White**

**Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team  
Lyme Regis Police Station  
Hill Road  
Lyme Regis DT7 3PG**



PCSO5474 Luke White



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## CHARMOUTH GARDENERS' GROUP

**Members or Non-members ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US**

**WEDNESDAY 13th April** at 2.30pm in Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close

*Mr Neil Lovesey (Picket Lane Nursery, Nr. Broadwindsor) will speak on 'Herbs? Not just stuffing balls!'*

*Mr. Lovesey will also be bringing Plants 'for sale' from the Nursery.*

**SATURDAY 14th May** - 10am held in Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close

**BRING AND BUY PLANT AND HOME PRODUCE COFFEE MORNING**

Please support your local Gardening Club by joining us at this

very popular morning event. Bring a little something if you can but there are always lots of lovely bargains to be had – 'early birds catch the worms'.

We arrange two coach outings to National Trust properties and gardens (one in June and one in September), with priority given to members but non-members may join us if there are spaces. Please ask any gardening member for details. Look out for information in the next Shoreline edition OR please do join the group and receive your own programme with full annual details.

If you would like to join the Group (annual fee £5), we welcome new members! Contact 01297 561625.

This fee also allows 10% discount on garden purchases at Morgans of Charmouth, Groves at Bridport and Felicity's Farm Shop at Morecombelake (on production of your membership card).

## Charmouth and area – Royal Voluntary Service Home Library Service

**Do you like to read? But find it difficult to get to the library to get new books? We might be able to help.**

Charmouth Central Library has a team of dedicated Royal Voluntary Service volunteers who are able to visit on a regular basis, delivering the books you want from the Library to your home, free of charge. Large print books and talking books can also be delivered.

This service is funded by Dorset Library Service, and delivered by the Royal Voluntary Service. It is available across Dorset to anyone who cannot easily get to their local library, and can be provided on a temporary basis as well as long-term.

All Royal Voluntary Service volunteers are DBS checked and receive ongoing training and support. As well as the Home Library Service, the Royal Voluntary Service can provide Befriending, help with shopping, and other things you might need – just get in touch with us and find out how we might be able to help.

If you are interested in receiving the Home Library Service, please contact Maria Jacobson, Royal Voluntary Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, on 07786 635154 or 01305 236666, or e-mail Maria.Jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk



Royal Voluntary Service Local Volunteer Coordinator, Melodie Watts, delivering books to Mrs Doreen Nash



Left to right: Finn Gordon-Christopher, Mark Gordon-Christopher, Elena Dixon, Alan Rolls, Jackie Rolls, Phil Winstone, Tony Sparks, Mike Jackson-Bass, Jim Greenhalgh, David Cruickshank.

## News from Charmouth Bowls Club

**Back in November, Charmouth Bowls Club members gathered at the St Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane, for their annual presentation evening. Cups and trophies were presented for a range of competitions for both the summer lawn green bowls and also for the winter short mat sessions. Following an excellent buffet supper, the presentation was made by the Club's Competitions Secretary and Vice-Captain, David Cruickshank.**

An extra round of applause was given to the Club's youngest member, 15-year-old Finn Gordon-Christopher (first left in photograph) who in his first season on the green was able, against stiff competition from much more mature and practiced players, to win the coveted Men's Handicap Singles cup.

The Club has seen a resurgence of membership over the last season and looks forward to a much stronger 2016 season. Summer bowling at the Club's green in the recreation grounds, Barr's Lane, restarts on Sunday 17th April at 2.00pm. Anyone considering bowls and would like to give it a try would be welcome to come along on that day, or for more information give the Club Secretary, Jackie Rolls, a call on 01297 560295

Short Mat bowls continues through until the start of the summer season and anyone is welcome to get along to the Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane, any Tuesday afternoon at 2.00pm. to try their hand.

**Jim Greenhalgh, Chairman**



## From the Charmouth Practice



### Fresh Fruit and Veg and Gut Bugs – The Unglamorous Guardians of Our Health

**What is it about fruit and veg? Is it their fibre? We know that fibre is great for gut health and keeps us regular. It carries toxins through the gut so they don't linger and do damage and fibre slows the release of glucose from food so we avoid those damaging post-meal spikes of blood sugar. But now, in addition, we are beginning to understand the important relationship of our food to our gut bacteria. When plant fibre is digested in the colon by our friendly bacteria, they make Short Chain Fatty Acids like acetate, propionate and the butyrate which feeds the cells in our colon, calms inflammation and even protects against cancer. This we know.**

We also already know that a so-called Mediterranean Diet rich in fruit, veg, olive oil, nuts, beans and fish is proven to reduce risks for heart disease in as little as three months and the last article in Shoreline described some astonishing studies illustrating these claims. But what exactly do foods from Mediterranean countries have, that traditional Anglo Saxon foods such as meat and dairy do not have? Why are foods such as olive oil, and red wine, coffee, dark chocolate, green tea, turmeric and berries, shown time and time again to be health giving in mysterious ways?

Could it be that these plants have developed to cope with sunny climes and this in turn confers some coping protection on us? We know that brighter colours have more protective powers and that this is due to polyphenols. These protective compounds made by plants which often give them their bright colours, astringent taste and strong smells are made to protect plants against UV radiation and predators, but in us they act to soak up free radicals and calm inflammation, so helping to stave off cardiovascular disease and cancers, diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases.

Now we learn there is another, astonishing, additional layer to their protection. These polyphenol compounds in plants apparently can also act to switch on our own stress response genes or sirtuins in order to mobilise us to "protect and repair" as if we were being stressed for example by famine or exercise.

Remember the article on the fast diet or 5:2? This diet works by switching on sirtuins or SIRT genes. Fasting can feel very cleansing and invigorating, but, although many people found it a great way to get back their shape and vitality, others, like me, found it impossible to fast regularly to order. Now there is new a way to turn on those same SIRT genes, but this time by eating your way to health and I'm delighted to report that it has been developed by two fellow graduates from my Masters in Nutritional Medicine degree at Surrey. Aidan Goggins and Glen Matten have identified 20 top foods which turn on these SIRT genes or sirtuins and developed them into a diet called "the SIRT food diet" out now in paperback. They list the top 20 foods as, in no particular order; extra virgin olive oil; red onions; kale; parsley; walnuts; medjool dates; coffee; cocoa; lovage; red chicory; buckwheat; celery; green tea; red wine; soy; capers; birds eye chillies; strawberries and turmeric.

Their diet centres around green veg smoothies which keep the valuable fibre (unlike juicing) and avoid the high sugar content of fruit based smoothies. The meals suggested are quick to prepare and delicious with stir fries, curries and stews. I can heartily recommend it as a good diet and am hoping to hear from people following it as a tone and trim, weight loss diet as to whether or not it is as effective as the authors claim.

Meanwhile back to those gut bacteria. In Israel a team of researchers led by Segal and Elinav have discovered that giving everyone the same dietary advice does not always work. The particular foods an individual needs to eat to minimise those damaging spikes of blood glucose after meals will vary person to person and will depend heavily on the gut bacteria predominating in their guts, their body type and activities. They promise that in the future, with some height and weight information, blood tests, an exercise diary and a stool sample we will all be able to receive highly personalised dietary advice to help us achieve maximum health and lowest risk of heart disease, diabetes and liver cirrhosis. This will be pertinent advice for those who can afford it but is still a long way off in practice and for the majority of us.

Does it make our fresh fruit and veg advice redundant? Not at all! What we eat day in day out determines the bacteria predominating in our guts. People eating a lot of plants have more Bacteroidetes bacteria while people eating more animal-based meats and dairy have more Firmicutes. You want a balance of these making up about 80%, but a fast food diet can contain emulsifying chemicals which kill off good bacteria and allow unhelpful ones like enterobacteria to flourish causing inflammation instead of reducing it. We all have some enterobacteria but if as much as a third of gut is filled with these members of the proteobacteria group then their LPS endotoxins on their outer coats can leak across the bowel and CAUSE obesity and diabetes through inflammation in the body. This is much worse with a high fat diet as it seems these harmful endotoxins actually hitch a ride through the gut cells themselves on the back of lipid chylomicrons in broad daylight. Possibly thought to be an evolutionary way to ensure we, as hunter gatherers put valuable weight on when we made a kill and had meat to eat, but certainly not suited to today when every day can be a meat day.

So back to those friendly bacteria in your gut – we need to have more respect for them and not just because they outnumber our own cells 10 to one! I have always said that we live in harmony with our gut bacteria and they need our help to help us. So whatever you eat, include a good variety of freshly prepared, brightly coloured, unprocessed fruit and veg, whole grains and pulses. They say knowledge is power but in this case we have the knowledge but fruit, veg and gut bugs they hold the power!

To help you include more fruit and veg in your meals, The Charmouth Practice will be teaming up with Tony Gibbons of the Friendly Food Club for some free cookery demonstrations in April through May to June on Tuesday mornings in the Community Hall kitchen. Look out for details – we would love to see you there.

If you are a patient of the Charmouth Practice and want to help me draw up a Charmouth Food Chart to help people choose a healthier diet, then you are invited to a free short talk on food followed by a discussion and an invitation to join our Patient Participation Group. There will be two opportunities to join myself and Joanne Scotton our PPG Chair for this exciting event: Thursday 10th March at 6pm to 7.30 and Wednesday the 16th March at 2pm to 3.30. Please let the Charmouth Practice reception know you will be coming and we will look forward to seeing you in the servery at Charmouth Central Library.

**Dr Sue Beckers**



Photo courtesy of the Bridport & Lyme Regis News

## The Vicars of Catherston Leweston, 1818 – 1886

**T**he Revd. Andrew Tucker was installed as Rector of Wootton Fitzpaine and Catherston Leweston on 9th May 1818 and lived in Wootton. He was involved with the building of the new St. Mary's Church in Catherston but was perhaps too ill in 1857/8 to progress a faculty for the building work; he died on 16th March 1858, shortly before the Church was finished. Revd. Thomas Law Montefiore was recruited to follow him and was installed as Rector on 16th June 1858, by then living in The Street, Charmouth. Both these Rectors must have had a busy time (in mid-Victorian terms), with Sunday services, baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as visiting the sick and placating the Diocese. The population of Catherston in that period never exceeded about 36 people; there were 27 when St Mary's was built. Families were larger in those days; in the 1850s there were 27 baptisms, 13 in the 1860s, 23 in the 1870s and the same in the 1880s. St. Mary's Church records show that this church was a favourite venue for these family ceremonies, drawing people from surrounding villages, as far afield as Whitchurch Canoncorum.

The fuller story of the Revd. Thomas has emerged from a study of marriages and funerals in his name listed in ancestry.co.uk and of Government official Census returns from 1841 to 1881. The following paragraphs detail what has emerged from them:

1825 – Thomas was born in Barbados, West Indies.

1841 – He was in Britain and listed in the Census with 42 others, all about his age and at the same address, probably a school in Catherston. In the column headed 'Independent Means', Thomas alone had the figure '200' entered. All the others had a dash in that column. This could be money from his parents still in Barbados, perhaps arising from profitable sugar plantations.

1851 – 30th March. Thomas was living alone in the parish of Elton Tything, near Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, where he was serving as curate. Elton is the next village to where he worked; perhaps the Tything was church accommodation for him. In the same year's Census Catherine Bryce, born 1832 in Wyke Regis, Dorset, was listed as the daughter of Edwin H Bryce and his wife Sarah. Edwin at that time had been incumbent of Wyke Regis but, by 1851, was in charge of the parish of Newnham, Gloucestershire in the Forest of Dean and about three miles south of Westbury-on-Severn.

1853 – Thomas and Catherine were married in Westbury-on-Severn.

1857 – Thomas and Catherine had moved to Wootton Fitzpaine, where their daughter Alice Mary was born.

1858 – On 16th June, Thomas became Rector of Catherston Leweston and his first job was to join the widow of the Lord of the Manor in arranging a faculty which was needed to seek permission to demolish the old church and build a new one, in the face of the new, completed St Mary's Church awaiting consecration. All was resolved and St Mary's was consecrated in September 1858. The family was now living in The Street, Charmouth, and was up and running.

1861 – Thomas was now 35 years old and his wife was 29. They had already had Amy, now aged 6, and Edward Brice, 5, both born in Westbury-on-Severn and were joined by the latest arrival, Durbin Brice, aged five months. At this time the household employed a cook, a nurse, an under-nurse and a servant. This sized household required Thomas to bring in a good income, which the worshippers of Catherston alone were probably not able to provide. Perhaps he had income from Barbados, or a legacy, or some money from the eight acres of glebe land in the Catherston Estate.

1871 – By now, Thomas was 45 years old and could boast an MA degree from Trinity College, Cambridge. His children, additional to those already mentioned, now included Mary Catherine (6), Thomas E(dwin?), Margaret M (4), Sarah Brice (3) and Annabel M G (1), all born in Charmouth. There was also a son aged seven weeks who was listed in the Census return but not named as not yet baptised. The household also contained William A Hurle aged 20 and listed both as a pupil and a civil engineer (an apprentice?). Probably he was a lodger, needed to help a head of household







increasingly in financial straits. With so many children, that would be inevitable. The subsequent reduction of staff to a monthly nurse, a cook and a housemaid must have been difficult for them, especially for Catherine.

1880 – This year saw Thomas as Rural Dean and also Diocesan Inspector of School. Maybe life became a little easier for them; it is likely that some of the children had left home by then.

1881 – Durbin Brice Montefiore, a 20-year-old undergraduate at Oxford, would probably come down for the Easter vacation. The young son, who was not named in the last Census, had been baptised Cecil, now aged 10. He now had two younger siblings, Beatrice H (8) and Octavia (7). Despite the domestic workload, the staff had been reduced to a single cook/domestic. There are all the signs here of financial weakness, with six children under 14 years of age to support. Poor Catherine. Poor Thomas.

1886 – Perhaps a stipendiary increase was offered to Thomas, as he was appointed curate of St Giles', Chideock, and then vicar. It can be speculated that, when the Bullen family became Lord of the Manor of Catherston on the death of Richard Hildyard, St Mary's Church at Catherston was unused for the ten years it took the Bullens to rebuild/restore the Manor itself. This could be the reason for Thomas moving on.

Thomas had had a busy life since leaving Westbury-on-Severn. He had fathered 13 children, run St. Mary's Church in Catherston through the Manor Lordship of the Hildyards and, for a short period, Sir Thomas G A Parkyn, until the Bullens took over in the late 1880s. Thomas died aged 64 in 1890 and was buried just in front of the entrance door to St. Giles' Church, Chideock. The words inscribed on the north side of his recumbent marker stone are heavily eroded, but the word 'Mary' and a date '67' can just be made out. Thomas had a daughter, Alice Mary, and another who was named

Mary Catherine. Was one or the other entombed with her father? The inscription on the south side is much easier to read. It says: 'In loving memory of Thomas Law Montefiore MA, Vicar of the parish and for many years Rector of Catherston and Rural Dean. Born Nov 24 1825 Died Jan 13 1890'.

How can one round off that life without saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

#### Eric Cornish

*Charmouth's local historian, Neil Mattingly, has kindly contributed the related early photo of Charmouth Lodge and the photo of the Tucker window, as well as the following additional details: The Reverend Thomas Law Montefiore lived in what is now Charmouth Lodge, but was formerly known as The Limes. He rented it initially, but bought it as adjoining properties in 1866 for £1000 and formed one house from them. Four years later, he paid £325 for the neighbouring building, Little Lodge, which had previously been a shop and school. Charmouth House was subsequently occupied by George, father of Reginald Pavey and the Whittingtons. The Revd. Andrew Tucker lived at Albury House, then called The Cottage. There is a fine stained glass window to him at St. Andrew's Church. The window depicts Jesus at Nain, stopping the funeral procession of a mother taking her son to be buried (ref. Nain, St. Luke Ch 7, v 13)... In Caram Memoriam ANDREW TUCKER OB. 24th Dec 1868, Aetat 49.*

## WARTIME MEMORIES OF CHARMOUTH

**We have Pam Shirley to thank for initiating the following article. At a recent party in Beaminster, she met Glenys Watt, whose mother moved to Charmouth in 1943. Glenys recalls those times:**

"We were not, strictly speaking, evacuated as my mother moved to Charmouth from Southampton on her own initiative. Our name was Finlay and we lived in 1 Higher Sea Lane, where my brothers were born. I am a contemporary of George Restorick and Heather Frampton. Keith Grinter's memories (see the autumn issue of Shoreline) are similar to my own.

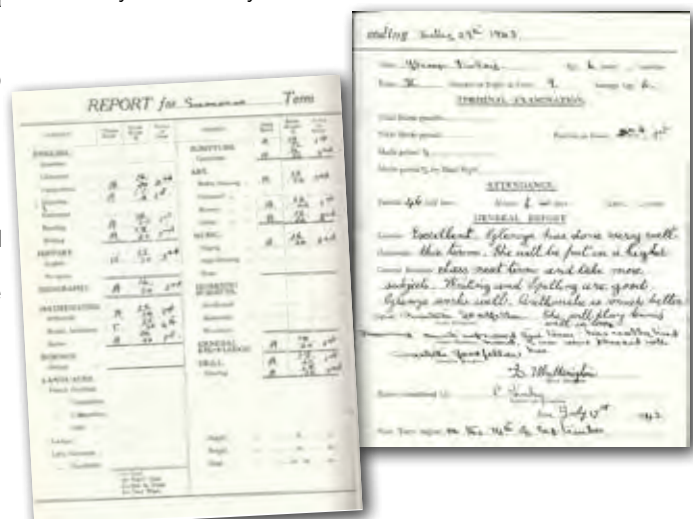
Everybody talked about the war endlessly. The river mouth was full of barbed wire and concrete blocks and you needed an ID card to get onto the beach. Soldiers lived in the Coach and Horses and the George pub. Lorries ground up the hill full of gravel and came down empty very quickly. I was told they were building an aircraft runway somewhere west of Charmouth.

When my mother took me to enrol at the Limes School in Charmouth, Miss Dolly insisted in showing her the air-raid shelter, which was the only one in the village. We had spent the previous year virtually living in one, which was the reason we moved to Charmouth. I was collected to go to school by Charlotte Goodfellow and started in her

class. Charlotte married an American, we learned later. The day began with a copybook to hopefully produce good handwriting (unsuccessful in my case), then it was sums and the afternoon was devoted to reading and writing. Being in a class of four or five, one had individual attention. After two years, I went up into Miss Dolly's class."

#### Glenys Watt (nee Finlay)

*Your memories of past times in the village are much appreciated, Glenys, and your school report is a delight. Thank you! – Lesley*



# Charmouth Primary School

**W**elcome to the spring term 2016! We have started with new topics to learn and this term, Years 1 and 2 are learning about 'Wonderful Weather!' Here is a little taster of what the children are learning in some of the curriculum areas. In literacy, they are learning about fiction texts and learning to sequence sentences to form short narratives. They are writing poems based on our weather topic and are also reading non-fiction texts and using these to retrieve information about weather. In Topic work (Geography), the children are learning to identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the locations of hot and cold areas of the world. They are using basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features, including seasons and weather. In Science, the children are observing changes across the seasons. They observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.

Some of this work is supported by our fantastic weather station. The children have been learning to understand standard weather terms and symbols and use them to report current conditions, predict weather based on current conditions and seasonal weather patterns and to use correct time and date notation.

Here are some examples of the children's work. They have enjoyed being weather reporters and developing their reporting skills!

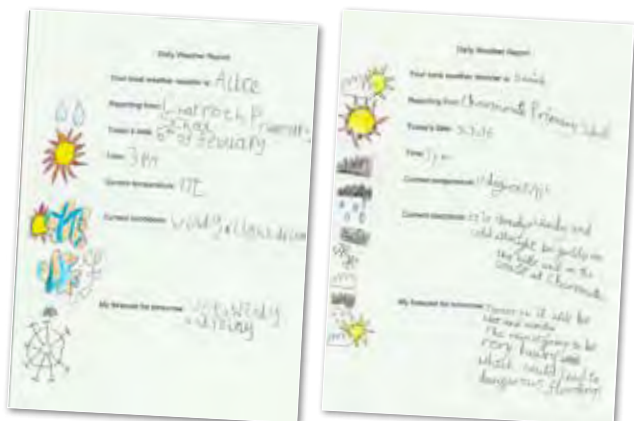
This term is very short but we are looking forward to preparing an art exhibition based on this term's learning. This will be open to the public and we look forward to welcoming the local community to our school to share and celebrate the work that the children have created. The exhibition will take place from 14th – 17th March in the school hall. Please look out for the opening times on the school website.

It won't be long before we will be planning our summer production. The local community also has an open invitation to our dress rehearsal in the summer months. More information will be published nearer the time, but you may wish to put the week beginning 20th March in your diaries.

Surprisingly, before long, we will also be preparing for the next academic year. If you know of any little children who would like to join our Barnacles Groups on a Monday afternoon, please make our facility known to parents. The group runs from 1.10pm – 3.10pm every Monday in term time. The purpose of the group is for pre-school children, who will join our school the following year, to make friends and become familiar with our setting before officially starting school the following year.

If you would like to come and have a look, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can give you a tour of our school.

**Gillian Morris, Headteacher**



## Charmouth Challenge Celebrates 33 Years of Racing

**Calling for local businesses to support this fantastic fun fundraiser!**

**2016 race to be held on Saturday 2nd July at 14.30**

Since its inception back in 1984, the Charmouth Challenge and fun run has become a much loved and well-attended event for the village, with over 9,600 participants running the equivalent of three times around the world.

Last year's race attracted over 250 runners with another 157 runners taking part in the family fun run. Entrants to the event have come from all over the UK and even as far afield as USA and Spain to run the picturesque challenge which follows a spectacular route up the cliff to Golden Cap.

The race organisers are now seeking additional sponsors to be involved in this exciting event. The Charmouth Challenge is organised by the Charmouth School PTFA volunteers and is sponsored by Lyme Bay Holidays.

Not only does the race put the spotlight on the bucolic village of Charmouth, but local businesses benefit from an increase in visitors who take part in or watch the race.

"Anything that puts the spotlight on the village and attracts visitors is hugely important to us traders and the Charmouth Challenge does just that - it's a brilliant event," said Maria Tritton, Manager of Nisa Charmouth.

The children of Charmouth Primary School also benefit as all monies raised from the race go towards many exciting learning opportunities that they would have missed out on had the funding not been available.

To date over £70,000 has been raised for the school to support and enhance the education of Charmouth's children. Money raised from last year's race went towards a travelling theatre company who entertained the children with a production of Aladdin as well as a visiting story teller and numerous creative arts programmes.

It also funds the schools unique Beach School programme, on shore learning sessions that enable children to enjoy learning activities away from a classroom environment such as identifying plants, rock pooling, shelter building, cooking and geography and of course palaeontology or the study of fossils.



"Being able to bring education alive through the arts or by taking the children out of the school and onto the beach to learn has a massively positive impact on the children. It can help them absorb and retain information more easily and demonstrates that learning is fun and rewarding," said Mrs Morris, Head Teacher at the school.

"We feel very blessed to be able give them these opportunities that would not be available if it were not for the monies generated by the Charmouth Challenge and we give our heartfelt thanks to all the people in our community who help make this race happen,".

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of this year's race please contact Charmouth school on 01297 560591 or email [organiser@charmouthchallenge.co.uk](mailto:organiser@charmouthchallenge.co.uk)

For more information about the race, or for details on how to enter please visit [www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk](http://www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk)

**Elaine Murray**



## The Mystery of the Horse Bells

**Have you seen one of these in Charmouth? This is a set of bells worn by horses in the 19th century to warn other road users that the horse team was approaching. Each set of bells was different to create a distinctive sound when all were ringing. The set of bells is around 50 cm across and deep.**

I have two of these, inherited from my father, John Owen Williams, who lived in Charmouth. He owned all four sets in the 1970s but lent a set to someone and it was never returned, bringing it down to three sets. Before he died in 2006, my dad tried to find a good home for the bells and I believe he loaned one of the remaining sets to somebody in Charmouth but unfortunately I don't know who. I seem to remember that he mentioned a woman who lived up Stonebarrow and was interested in horses but I may be incorrect.

Sadly it's very unlikely that I'll ever be able to track down the set lost in the 70s but I'm hoping that I can reunite the remaining bells so that I can donate them to a museum.

Any information or clues gratefully received!

**Alison Jackson-Bass, 01297 560484**

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# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



**It has been a busy winter at the Heritage Coast Centre with just two of us here at the moment. We are planning to build on the successes of last year when we welcomed over 97,000 visitors, a new record for us. We had great uptake on our fossil hunting walks and rockpool rambles throughout the season.**

We have been busy with the Winter Working Party putting together new displays for 2016. Our Kid's Zone is now complete, thanks to Bill Burn's new dinosaur buzzer game. We have changed and upgraded the Fossil Beach display too and hope that it will help our visitors to find fossils safely on the beach. There are also some new additions to our Recent Finds cabinet so come along and take a look.

Kristina, our Seasonal Warden from last year, will be joining us again this year. We are really lucky to have her back again as a Warden and she will be here developing our education programme. We have also appointed a new Seasonal Warden, Hannah, who will be starting with us in March, just before the Easter rush!

I would like to thank all the Friends of the Centre who made last year such a success. Without their help, support and guidance we would not have been able to keep the charity going. For more information about how to support the Centre and to get

involved, please contact us or have a look at our website [www.charmouth.org/chcc](http://www.charmouth.org/chcc)

The Friends have held a number of social events and we have had great lectures by Charlie Wheeler (Abbotsbury Swannery), Professor Denys Brunsden and Geoff Townson. The Centre also hosted our annual Art and Craft Fayre in November. This was a great weekend which helped support local artisans and raise funds for the Centre. Our Warden Ali also organised a beach clean in late January with the Litter Free Coast and Sea campaign. Around 70 people took part and we would like to thank the community for all their support.

The beaches are very changeable at the moment because of the wild weather that we have been having. The large landslide on Stonebarrow that happened before Christmas is still very dangerous and cuts off the beach as the tide comes in. There has been another landslide on the approach to Black Ven which is very active and will continue to move while the rain still pours.

We are all gearing up and sharpening our hammers for another season and hope that the weather improves soon. It is fantastic to welcome so many local visitors and for us to support the local community. So why not come along, see what's new and help us have another record year!

**Phil Davidson, Senior Warden**

## Full Circle

**It was 1996, I was 10 years old and on my first residential trip with my school. We were travelling from North Wiltshire to a town with which I was unfamiliar, Lyme Regis. We pulled up at our hotel, Fernhill, and bundled into our chalets where we would stay for the week.**

On the first morning our teachers led us down across a golf course and into Lyme where we explored. We then ventured out onto the beach and across to a smaller village called Charmouth. Upon our arrival at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, a man with big bushy hair came to greet us and show us around the centre. He showed us some fossils that you can find on the beach and immediately one stood out. The star shaped Crinoid. I had seen these many times before back home in Wiltshire. My dad used to take me and my brother to nearby natural springs Starwell and Holywell, where stars well up in the water. We would spend hours with sieves in the springs looking for stars to take home. Our house also adopted the name Holywell.



On Stonebarrow Hill with my school.



The man with the bushy hair, who I now know as Richard Edmunds, took our school out onto the beach to find our own fossils. My prize of the day was a large bumpy fool's gold ammonite. Our teachers then herded us off for a walk towards Golden Cap and I got my first good look out across Lyme Bay.

After this trip I was not to return to Charmouth for 12 years. I had just finished my bachelor's degree and was working at an agricultural college in Gloucestershire. At this time an advert popped up for a seasonal warden at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and I immediately applied, knowing



rocks and fossils were my true passion. I had a successful interview early in 2009 and started my new position as seasonal warden. It was a fantastic year living and working in Charmouth and I even appeared on the BBC 6 o'clock news when the big Pliosaur was found. The bushy haired man had moved on from the centre, but I still saw him from time to time and he gave me some good advice about pursuing a master's degree.

At the end of my post, I qualified as a first responder and retail supervisor to support myself through university studying for a Masters in Earth Science. When it came to the time I had to choose a subject for my thesis, the Jurassic Coast came calling again. I decided to study the erosion of the Jurassic Coast. In the summer of 2014 I found myself back on Charmouth, beach, equipment in hand, taking measurements and popping into the centre for a cuppa. In early 2015 I qualified for my Masters. And this time the Heritage



2015 photo of me fossil hunting with a school

Centre were looking for a full time warden. Once again, Charmouth called to me and after another interview I came back. I moved house and where did I find myself but Fernhill Heights and, what is even more astounding, I now live in a chalet on the same row as the one I stayed in when I was 10.

It has been a great journey from first visiting here when I was a little girl, to now, 20 years later working at the Heritage Centre. I often see Richard Edmunds and, as well as Richard, I have many people to thank for my opportunities in Charmouth: Meirel Whaites, Sam Scriven and Phil Davidson who I am now working alongside again after starting at the centre together in 2009. I may even put my first responder training to good use and join the local Coastguard as a volunteer. Funnily enough, I know a man who is part of the team....he has big bushy hair.

**Alison Ferris**

## Velella: By-the-Wind-Sailor

**In mid-December the strand-line on Charmouth's east beach appeared to have a bluish tinge. The cause of the unusual colour was found to be hundreds of small marine organisms washed up on the beach. Walking from St. Gabriel's to Charmouth, a volunteer from the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre counted over 200, about 140 of which were east of Westhay Water. Information on the Dorset Wildlife Trust website confirmed that these were small colonial animals called *Velella*, otherwise known as By-the-wind-sailor, Sea raft, St. John's Boat, or St. Peter's Boat, depending on where they are found. Occurring mainly around Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts, they are fairly common sometimes, occurring in shoals of more than 100 per square metre. Most of the time they are out at sea but, on the surface, they are vulnerable and storms may blow them inshore.**

*Velella* is a relative of another bluish-purple creature: the Portuguese Man-o-War. Both belong to the phylum Cnidaria, soft-bodied animals which generally float for some part of their life cycle. Their sac-like bodies have no circulatory system because oxygen is absorbed directly from the sea water. They have a simple but effective nervous system. One opening on the underside acts as a mouth as well as being an exit aperture. Reproduction is sexual alternating with an asexual phase.

Unlike the Portuguese-Man-o-War which can cause painful stings to humans, *Velella* is smaller and harmless. It does have stinging tentacles but these would only be harmful to small fish and planktonic organisms on which *Velella* feeds. Having no means of locomotion *Velella* just floats and is passively moved by the action of currents, waves and wind. On close inspection, one can see an oval disc about 6-8 cm diameter, having a small semi-circular sail set at an angle to the longer axis; this projects above the surface and catches the wind. Some sails are angled to the left while others are angled to the right ensuring that they will catch the wind in different ways, aiding dispersal.

The disc and sail are made of a durable substance called chitin (pronounced 'ky-tin') which, during life, is covered in a

thin layer of soft tissue. If stranded on the beach, the soft parts decompose so we are left with the discs and sails. As in the illustrations, a pattern of concentric rings can be seen on the disc; these are air-filled tubes which aid buoyancy. The harder parts of the animal have fossilisation potential and have been reported in rocks over 400 million years old.

While the discs and sails are interesting to find, we rarely see what is beneath. *Velella* is an example of a colonial organism consisting of different kinds of zooids (little polyps) adapted through evolutionary processes to work in different ways. However, the different forms act collectively as one organism – a sort-of cooperative for the purposes of feeding and reproduction. Some zooids feed while others defend the colony; some reproduce and others carry out cleaning work. The feeding zooids have many tentacles for catching prey from the plankton and bear stinging cells to paralyse a small fish or planktonic creature until it can be conveyed to the mouth. Some cells also contain algae which photosynthesise and contribute to the energy input; in return the algae have protection from the elements and travel with their hosts – a symbiotic relationship for mutual benefit.

Around the feeding zooids is a ring of reproductive zooids (gonozooids). These produce medusae which are like tiny, umbrella-shaped jelly-fish floating around in the plankton which includes many larvae and eggs of various marine organisms. Each mature medusa releases eggs and sperm so that fertilisation eventually takes place in the water (rather a hit and miss affair) and many new larvae are formed. These grow and differentiate to become colonial adult forms.

To report your findings of *Velella* (including the direction of the sail) and see some pictures of these creatures, see <jellywatch.org/velella> More locally the Dorset Wildlife Trust website is useful. A BBC report for December 2015 may be found at <[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-35049853](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-35049853)>

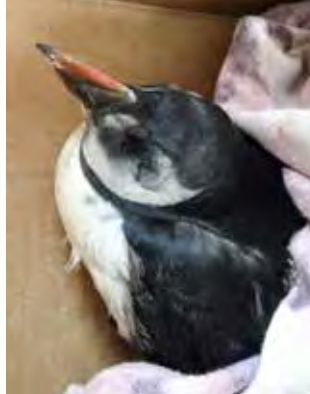
**Rosalind Cole**



Photo Geoff Townson

# Stephen: a Puffin in Charmouth

**W**hen you walk down Broad Street in Lyme Regis you come across the 'Pug and Puffin' shop and, while a pug sits happily behind the counter, you perhaps think "a puffin in Lyme Regis?" Most people would associate puffins with Scotland, Iceland and the Channel Islands, but if you look in the right places you may just find one in Dorset. On 20th December 2015 I was seated at my desk in the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre when the Spires family from Penzance handed to me a jumper with a ball of feathers and orange beak sticking out. Having dreamed of seeing a puffin in the wild for many years, I carefully picked up the puffin to look at it more closely. Immediately I could feel the oil on its feathers and knew he needed attention so rang the RSPCA who responded very quickly. The Spires family lovingly named the puffin Stephen, and as well as having oily feathers Stephen was underweight. Stephen went off to West Hatch in Taunton. I rang the coastguard to report the fact that oil had been found on a bird and we had other reports to say oil drums had been seen on the beach earlier that day. It took a couple of days, but sure enough four oil drums were found and a high number of petrol cans have been washing in with the rough seas. A guillemot had also been found with oil on its feathers. Oil can be lethal to sea birds, particularly diving birds. The oil causes feathers to mat and separate, which impairs waterproofing and exposes the skin. This can cause both hypothermia and hyperthermia. Birds can also ingest the oil by preening their feathers, damaging the internal organs, causing weight loss, anaemia, dehydration and losing their buoyancy, causing them to beach themselves. This is exactly what happened to Stephen on Charmouth Beach.



Now why was Stephen in Dorset? Well, many people may know that Portland is one of the UK's best bird watching areas for

migratory and passing seabirds. The list of rare bird species is impressive and the cliffs support breeding seabirds such as guillemots, razorbills and a few puffins. The most reliable site to see puffins in Dorset is at Dancing Ledge, a former limestone quarry on the Isle of Purbeck. A good time to see the puffins is on *Migration Weekend*. This year it is *Saturday 30th April-Monday 2nd May*. More information on this weekend and the birds can be found at [www.swallowbirding.co.uk](http://www.swallowbirding.co.uk)

Puffins are now on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species and are at risk of becoming extinct. We don't need more puffins washing ashore covered in oil. More recently too turtles have been washing ashore, at risk of getting caught up in fishing nets and ingesting plastic bags that they mistake for jelly fish (one of their favourite foods). Just before Christmas, the warden team at the Heritage Centre removed a huge net that had washed up from the beach, which could easily tangle itself around dolphins. As Lyme Bay is a conservation zone, the seas are monitored as best as they can be, but what can we do? *The next time you go for a walk on the beach why not take a couple of bin bags and gloves with you and fill them with plastic, fishing wire and nets and any other rubbish you find.* There are organised beach cleans you can join across the coast (see 'Litter Free Coast and Sea', a Dorset project). But if you fill just one bag of rubbish, then you've done that little bit more to help our marine and bird life.

The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre holds Marine Week every summer to promote marine awareness; there are lots of activities to get involved with. Keep an eye out on the Centre's website and social media for information about upcoming beach cleans and Marine Week events ([www.charmouth.org/chcc](http://www.charmouth.org/chcc)).

**Alison Ferris**

## A Glimpse of the Future

The recent winter storms have reminded us all how vulnerable and exposed the Centre is. Although this is a hypothetical picture, it is a real possibility and we are planning for the future.

Phil Davidson, *Senior Warden*



Photo crafted by Bill Burn.

## Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre – volunteering

**W**ith over 90,000 visitors each year, the CHCC is a popular educational attraction for people coming to our part of the Jurassic Coast. It takes many people to devise and work on all the activities and events which take place at the Centre, from up-to-date displays of fossils and marine life as well as guided fossil walks, rock-pool rambles and all the action behind the scenes.



Volunteers are always welcome - what better time to start than in the spring? At this time, when there are not too many visitors around, you can learn various procedures as well as familiarising yourself with all the interesting specimens found locally, ranging from the impressive *Scelidosaurus* skeleton to fragments of ammonites or microscopic molluscs. You do not need any prior qualifications as basic training is provided and you can learn a lot more, depending on your interests and skills.

If you are excited by the idea of working at the CHCC, meeting the public, making new friends and getting involved with social activities, do consider joining us. Please contact the Wardens on 01297 560772 or via the website [www.charmouth.org/chcc](http://www.charmouth.org/chcc) - you will receive a warm welcome.

**Rosalind Cole**, *Chair of the Friends of the CHCC*



# National Coastwatch - Lyme Bay

## EYES ALONG THE COAST



The NCI is coming to Charmouth in May – what we do and how you can help

**Some of you may already be aware that the Lyme Bay National Coastwatch Institution has been operating a lookout based at the Hive Beach to the east of West Bay for over five years. In May 2016 the NCI is going to open a sub-station in Charmouth initially on a part-time basis. (See box for more on the NCI.)**

While our volunteers at Hive Beach have been able to maintain a seven day-a-week watch pattern we could only cover a part of Lyme Bay from that location. We have been looking for better sites for some years but often the best coastal locations are on cliffs which are unstable and dangerous. Given that the Hive Beach lookout also provides a valuable service to local visitors and sea-users we were reluctant to move from there; so we have been looking at ways in which we could complement and enhance our current capabilities.

Establishing an NCI station in Charmouth seemed like a logical step, given its importance as a popular tourist attraction with both plenty of beach and inshore activities. Inevitably too there have been a number of incidents involving members of the public requiring the services of HM Coastguard and the RNLI. Having a trained observation and reporting asset such as the NCI in Charmouth would therefore provide that extra layer of safety and public reassurance. A station can liaise with HM Coastguard and the RNLI in reporting potential incidents and provide support as required during emergencies. At the same time, and as we do elsewhere, we advise members of the public on tides, sea conditions, beach safety and other local issues.

The NCI was formed in 1994 after a fatal accident off the coast of Cornwall and established to restore a visual watch along the coast after some Coastguard Stations had been closed in a round of cuts. Since then the NCI has established approaching 50 lookout stations with almost two thousand volunteers. This is a totally voluntary, uniformed organisation and gets its funding entirely from public donations.

The NCI maintains a visual watch along UK shores hence the motto 'Eyes Along the Coast' and the mission of each lookout station is to assist in the protection and preservation of life at sea and around the UK coastline. Each lookout does this by monitoring vessels, divers, surfers, hang-gliders, other inshore activity and takes appropriate action in the event of an emergency.

the Excise authorities. The Admiralty owned it until the end of World War II and it was eventually taken on by the Parish and leased on an annual basis as a beach facility. While it is too small to be a main NCI base, as a sub-station (reporting to our main lookout at the Hive) it should work well. It seems fitting to bring this small historic Charmouth building back into use as a lookout. Its visual range neatly covers the areas which cannot be seen from the Hive and this is its principle advantage.

The lookout lease starts in May and will begin limited watches as soon as possible thereafter. The lookout has no mains supply but we will use portable solar panels to charge batteries for our marine radios. Essentially, with good communications and binoculars plus trained watch-keepers we have enough to maintain effective watches. We will initially operate at weekends and bank holidays. We will have a probation period of a year to see whether the sub-station is sustainable both from financial and staffing perspectives. If things work out we would want to expand our watches, but for this we will need more recruits, hopefully from Charmouth and environs (we already have some locals, but are always on the look-out for more). We would expect trainees to work at the Hive lookout as well, at least for initial training until qualified.

This new venture, like all of NCI's activities, needs financing, and all our costs are funded from donations and sponsorships. We were lucky in December 2015 to have been awarded £1850 from the Department of Communities and Local Government's Coastal Communities Fund. This was one of a number of bids which had been won by the Lyme Regis Coastal Communities Team which supported our application. Apart from this we had a donation for a marine radio from Charmouth's Nisa store. This money goes a long way and is enabling us to equip and set-up the

lookout. However, we need to raise around £1000 per year for rent and other running costs.

Charmouth will be the first satellite station within the NCI countrywide and it will have to prove its worth to continue beyond May 2017. With all the support we have had so far we have an excellent start.

**Mike Seaman, Senior Watchkeeper.**

### Contacts:

Volunteering for the NCI is enjoyable and worthwhile and we now have several volunteers from Charmouth and the immediate surrounding area. The NCI exists entirely on public donations, whether from collection days, event sponsorship or direct contributions. Even if you don't want to join us you can support us with a donation. If you want to learn more just look at the websites below. If you are interested in joining and want an application form or to give a donation, please contact:

Judi Gifford (Fundraiser/Recruitment/Events Co-ordinator): –

Email: [judigifford2@gmail.com](mailto:judigifford2@gmail.com)

Phone: 01308 485695

Lyme Bay NCI website: <http://www.lymebaycoastwatch.co.uk/>

NCI (national) website: <http://www.nci.org.uk/>



While we knew that HM Coastguard, the RNLI and the Charmouth Parish Council thought it valuable to have the NCI represented in Charmouth we needed to find a suitable base. We have now done so. Many readers will know of the hexagonal hut on the slope adjacent to the Heritage Centre. It is a former Napoleonic era lookout which was then used by

# 1st Charmouth Scouts

## Explorers arrive in Charmouth via Golden Cap

**O**n the evening of Thursday 11 January, ten Explorers officially arrived in Charmouth via Golden Cap. However, rather than following in the steps of Scott and Shackleton, they were actually taking their lead from Robert Baden-Powell and becoming Explorer Scouts – the first to reach Charmouth.

Explorer Scouts are aged 14 to 17 and the 1st Charmouth Scout Group was keen to offer this as an extension to its Beaver, Cub and Scout age range (6-14). Fortunately, it managed to find two excellent Leaders – Melanie Harvey and Nigel Riddle, and have a pool of older Scouts who wanted to join in. The newly-formed 'Charmouth Seagulls Explorer Unit' had been meeting since September, but its members were all officially invested as Explorer Scouts by making the Scout Promise on top of a very cold, dark and windy Golden Cap.

In the months before Christmas, the Explorers have been very busy with activities such as hikes on Dartmoor, a camp at Trill Farm and cooking a mega paella for the Scout Groups Leaders and Executive Council.

The Unit now has two additional members and is keen to recruit a few more from the local area. Planned future activities include: volunteering and staying in a Viking Long Barn at the Ancient Technology Centre (between Blandford and Salisbury), learning advanced survival skills, shelter building and a mackerel fishing trip.

For more information, contact Melanie Harvey: [melanie@atthecoast.co.uk](mailto:melanie@atthecoast.co.uk).



## Scout Hut Extension begins to take shape

Members of the 1st Charmouth Scout Group will soon have extra space in their HQ, as work on their new Training Suite is now well underway. The four-metre long, full-width extension will allow the Group to provide its Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with a far better training experience, since it will avoid its Sections having to cram all its members into the main hall during meetings. The newly formed 'Charmouth Seagulls' Explorer Unit will also use the Training Suite as its base.

"Over the last five years the size of our Group has more than quadrupled," said Kevin Payne, Acting Group Scout Leader. "The regular attendance at Cubs and Scouts is now up to 24 a week, so we definitely needed more space. When we

re-open our Beaver Group after half term, it will mean that over 75 young people from Charmouth and the surrounding villages will be using this great new resource every week."

"We are grateful to all the charities and local supporters who have financed the extension, and hope they will be delighted to see the Training Suite taking shape," Kevin added.



## Cubs and Scouts make a splash at the Swimming Gala

Teams from both the 1st Charmouth Cubs and Scouts were pipped at the post in the annual District Swimming Gala. Despite brilliant performances all round, and securing a number of firsts and seconds in their races, both teams were beaten into second place by very close margins. Had the Scouts gained an extra two points, it would have meant they would have won the Gala for the third year in a row.

## Beavers return to Charmouth – again

After a break of some six months, Beavers will be returning to Charmouth! At a recent parents' meeting, three volunteers stepped forward run the Colony, which is great news.

All being well, the Colony will re-open on Monday, 29 February and be attended by 18 Beavers; such is the demand for Scouting in the 6-7 age range.

Meetings will be held on Monday between 5.30 and 6.45pm in the Scout Hut. For more information, contact: Kevin Payne [payne.kevin6@gmail.com](mailto:payne.kevin6@gmail.com)

## Cubs take to the water and go foraging

The Pack has never been so popular and busy, with a full complement of 24.

In the last term of 2015 we introduced the Cubs to paddle boarding and kayaking on the ocean; we spent several sessions on food and foraging, including making apple juice, honey (which they spun and bottled before going on to make lip balms and candles from the bees' wax they obtained); we spent time learning about wild food, with an amazing session on wild mushrooms from a local expert, cooking and eating a bewildering array of fungi, and bread making for the harvest festival. They also took part in the District swimming gala and came a very close and worthy second place.



We have started 2016 with an X-Factor Competition, showcasing an amazing range of talents and skills and we are embarking on our Animal Carer badge (learning about looking after pets as well as handling and feeding an armadillo, ferret and tarantula, among other scary animals!). This will be followed by the DIY badge (held at a dedicated carpenter's workshop at Trill Farm) and the Artist badge. This term we are also celebrating 100 years of Cub Scouting, which the Cubs will be marking with a special meeting when we are going to cook 100 pancakes while telling 100 jokes! The term ends with a PGL trip at Easter.

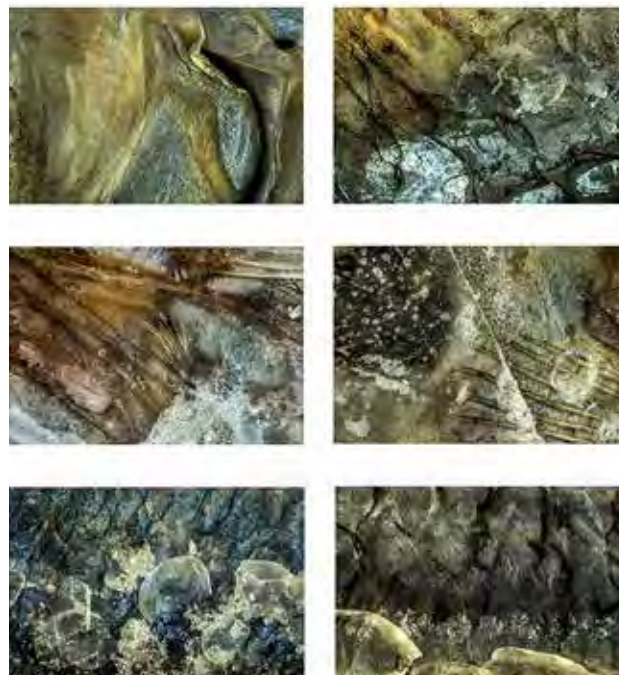
For more information, contact Ed Pemberton:  
edwardpem@gmail.com



## Guides sleepover at Charmouth Tunnel Pods.

At the weekend of Friday 13th November, we at 1st Charmouth Guides stayed in Charmouth Tunnel pod facilities. These are wooden pods equipped with heating, carpet, beds and toilets. We spent the Christmas themed weekend doing crafts, team building and shooting at the Tunnel Target Sports Centre. The guides describe the shooting as a fun, new challenge for them to try. The pods were very warm, cosy and surprisingly spacious. They form a nice community with great washing facilities and an area for cooking. We had a great weekend and received amazing hospitality from everyone at the Tunnel.

We are looking for an adult leader to help out at our weekly Wednesday meetings. If you would like to become a volunteer and have great fun doing it please contact Davina Pennells on 01297 560965.



## Congratulations to Susan

**I have been an amateur photographer for a number of years, mainly concentrating on macro photography. I was honoured to receive a Fellowship Distinction from The Royal Photographic Society in the Pictorial /Visual Art category in November 2015.**



I had to produce a panel of 21 images that worked together and complemented each other, in an imaginative style of my own. It also had to be accompanied by a statement of intent. My intention was to capture the different forms and colours of the eroding cliffs as they interact with the sea. I used ice to give a feeling of movement of the fish on the surface of the sea and shown the reflecting light and colours, with the drifting movement of the marine flora and organisms on the sea bed.

My panel conveyed elements of the coastal environment, using macro as my format. This gave me the opportunity to be creative with just the use of the camera. By using very small areas of the bodies of fish, I was able to explore different ways of seeing land/seascapes within our coastal area. It was quite challenging trying to create the illusion of reality looking through a view finder onto a 5cm composition.

For me, photography is not just a medium to produce beautiful images but an opportunity to be creative. First finding a subject then interpreting the subject into a visual concept. This of course does not always lend itself to mass appeal or a prize winning image.

Working towards a distinction gave me the impetus to move forward with the challenge to exhibit the possibilities of the use of macro to further visual art. My panel evolved over a period of two years.

Fellowship distinctions are awarded for excellence and a distinguished ability in photography, with only 840 acquiring Fellowships in the world.

**Susan Hendrick FRPS**

[www.rps/distinctions/susanhendrickfrps](http://www.rps/distinctions/susanhendrickfrps)  
[www.susanhendrickfrpsphotography](http://www.susanhendrickfrpsphotography)

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

## PART 2 – The development of cities

It seems logical that when populations (of any creature, not just humans) are placed under environmental stress and hardship, disease(s) will inevitably take hold and reduce the population down to a more sustainable level. It is to the credit of centuries of medical researchers that today we are able to counter many of these decimating diseases we are subject to and sustain what would otherwise be unsustainable populations. The key connection here is that it is adverse climatic conditions that have the ability to cause deep-seated social disruption whereas adverse weather conditions are comparatively short-lived and well-established communities can usually 'ride out the storm'. Take for example the issue of grain storage. A well governed Bronze Age city would have granaries where the co-operative harvest would be stored and surplus grain available should there be a subsequent poor harvest. However, such a strategy would only work for a short period depending upon the size of population to be fed. Clearly, with a period of severe drought lasting decades or even longer, this is not going to work and depravation, disease and starvation will ensue. Today, we would use technology to 'engineer' our way out of trouble (sometimes with success and sometimes not!) but in the ancient world, no such capability existed...populations waxed and waned at the whim of a capricious climate.

### Proto-farming

Farming requires dedicated effort and continuous husbandry...to find and clear suitable ground, to till that ground ready for planting, collect seed, sow it, irrigate the young plants, do battle against pests and weed and then finally to reap what had been sown. Then as now, this requires focus, consistency and purpose. Furthermore, a degree of domestic stability and individual skills (developed over generations adapted to the geographical and meteorological characteristics of that region) is needed. The first part of the process would have been to observe potentially useful wild plants and begin the long haul of domesticating them so that some enhanced value was obtained and that invariably meant 'yield'. This would have

taken many generations and with each generation benefiting incrementally from the efforts of the previous ones. It is noteworthy that genetic modification (GM crops) is therefore nothing new at all...it's just the methods that are changing!

By about 7000BC farmers in Mesopotamia (now southern Iraq) had begun to cultivate barley, wheat, lentils, chickpeas, onions, garlic, dates, and even lettuce. These farmers were not just domesticating plants but animals as well: sheep, goats, cows, donkey, oxen, and pigs. Animal husbandry requires even more unflinching attention than plant husbandry does. The domestication of animals probably took a similar path to that of plants but our understanding of how and when is less clear. We do know however that in (modern day Turkey) people were husbanding sheep and goats by 10,500 BP.

### The first cities

In terms of global climate, the period from 6000 BC to 3000BC is known as the Atlantic period and was characterised by temperatures slightly higher than today and a period of rapid sea level rise (note the connection between these two phenomena). It was a good time for farmers albeit it began with a 400 year drought! Then around 5800 BC, the Atlantic circulation switched back on and the moist westerly winds resumed and food production increased. So now towns and cities could evolve. These included Eridu, Uruk, Ur, and Lagash. Uruk was one of the largest and may have had a population of almost 80,000. There began a great human migration from the countryside into the city. Consequently, the countryside farmers grew food for themselves plus everyone in the city. The wheel was invented and so was writing and arithmetic...all presumptive upon people being resident in one place and leading relatively settled albeit industrious lives.

By about 3800 BC, in Mesopotamia, people were able to produce more food than they needed, which allowed for the division of labour and other intellectual pursuits. Religions were evolving and government of the cities became a significant operational focus and methods of recording events and trade were increasingly necessary...Then a written language developed around 3300 BC.

Then another climate crisis: around 3200BC, a period of rapid drying and cooling arrived and cities began to bicker with each other over water and strips of land with high fertility. Wars broke out between rival cities and conflict became the norm. The change in climate had triggered a change in human behaviour from pastoral farmer and peaceful trader into bellicose soldiers and rulers.

And so the pattern continued; prolonged droughts (300 years plus) created

stressed populations and cities and even empires would falter and fall. Then interspersed with these were the good times, cooler but wetter periods when vegetation flourished and crops grew well and populations would swell and trade would flourish. At this point, it is worth drawing a distinction between 'climate' and 'weather'. The former changes over longer periods of time and by that we mean hundreds if not thousands of years. The triggers for such changes are various but massive earthquakes spewing ash high into the atmosphere and super-powerful El Nino events are two of the more well-known culprits. When we talk of 'weather' however, we are referring to meteorological events that can change by the hour or day...one moment sunny the next, wet etc. Humans are fairly adaptable creatures and we can cope with rainy weeks/seasons or hot dry seasons etc but in ancient times there was not the technological compensatory machinery to allow for the long term storage of life's essentials as there is today.

### ...And elsewhere in the world?

It is reasonable to assume that the early migration of humans out of Africa was stimulated on the basis of hunting and foraging but as locations were discovered that were equable and fertile, people would try to settle them. The so called 'Fertile Crescent' is not the only region in the world where the introduction of agriculture took place although the first. Archaeological research now suggests that the gradual domestication of potential food plants was independently begun at different times and in at least 11 locations (equatorial) places around the world and did not necessarily start with cereals but with indigenous species that grew wild and were therefore already adapted to the unique soil and climatic conditions of that given location.

### Here are some examples:

Location	Domestication date: years BP. (before present)	Plants
Middle East	12,000	wheat, lentils, peas
Eastern Asia	10,000	rice, soya
New Guinea	10,000	banana
Mexico	10,000	maize
South America	8000	peanut
South America	7000	potato
North America	6500	squash

The climate (and its oscillations) had dictated what could be grown and where and mankind, in order to survive, has had to follow suit. It is only since the 20th century that we have used technology to break free (or so we think!) of that global constraint. We are an adaptable species and the challenges of the 21st century will test that adaptability to the limit.

In part 3: Today and tomorrow.

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





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**I secured a place in a prestigious grammar school in Walthamstow, London in 1936. By 1938, war seemed inevitable and preparations were made in armaments, air raid shelters and protection of the public. In the summer of 1939 gas masks were issued to everybody. The question of evacuation of children from danger areas was addressed. People expected severe bombing to occur as soon as war was declared. This did not happen in the so-called 'Cold War' which lasted some nine months, until Hitler decided that Britain would not remain neutral whilst he mopped up European countries.**

I lived in Chingford, Essex, now on the very north east edge of Greater London. It was a small town immediately abutting Epping Forest, which covers 6,000 acres and was declared inalienable by Queen Victoria in 1887. The town was not a place worth bombing. Nevertheless, when the question of children's evacuation came up, my parents decided that my sister and I should go. I was 14½ years old and my sister was six. She went to Henham in North Essex and stayed there until summer 1940. Here is my story.

On 1st September 1939, early in the morning, I joined a crowd of other evacuee children on Chingford railway station. I knew hardly any of the others; we seemed to be from a whole range of schools in the area. We all looked very similar. We had thick winter overcoats, our gas mask in a cardboard box strung round our neck, some clothes in another bag and a carrier bag with some emergency food. We bore a name label on our chest. We boarded the train and left for destination unknown. Later we boarded another train which dropped off various groups of boys in villages in Bedfordshire. Some stopped in Ampthill, others in Stewartby, Millbrooke and Lidlington until we, the last group, descended onto the platform at Marston Moretaine station, the smallest village of all. I was lucky to be with my best friend, Bernard Crick. We all stood with backs to the train, facing a line of ladies who would give their chosen one/s bed and board during our stay. We were approached by a little old (to us) lady of about 60 years who pointed to us and said "I'll take them". Hooray! We were to be together to face the great unknown. We rode to her cottage in a horse and cart. We were about 80 miles North West of home.

I don't remember our new guardian's name; let's call her Mrs Brown; evidently a widow. She lived with two sons, one a coal delivery man, the other a flour miller. The first time my parents saw them, they were christened (only by them) the Black and White brothers; they were coloured



thus when they came home from work. The cottage was poorly furnished, but very clean and tidy and the Brown family were good, caring people. Much of their food was culled from the garden and from hedgerows in the lanes. Almost every day Bernard and I would go out after school to pick blackberries and apples. When it was bedtime, Mrs Brown would riddle the fire, collect hot ashes into a warming pan and carry it upstairs before swinging it between the sheets of our bed. Very effective, but the sulphur fumes were bad for my asthma.

For some reason we did not attend the village school. We took our lessons in the dairy room of a nearby farm, which worked reasonably well, except that Monday was cream-making day. Then we were banished to the village cricket pavilion. This was a ramshackle wooden hut, packed with practice nets, pads, stumps and a big scoring board. There were few chairs, little room for the blackboard and the whole affair disrupted our education. So, on 14th November 1940, we all upped sticks, leaving Bedfordshire, and were transported back into Essex to arrive at Colchester. This was a garrison town, swarming with soldiers and hence a good bombing target, but we didn't care.

At first we were billeted in a vacant primary school where we took meals in the kitchen, classes in the classrooms and lived and slept in the main hall. At one end there was a very large glazed window reminiscent of a church East window. There were no blackout curtains; by law, no lights were to be visible outside after dark, to avoid attracting bombers. It was early afternoon with not much natural light left. We were issued with tins of black gloss paint, brushes and stepladders and were told to paint the glass over the anti-shatter tape strips. We did this enthusiastically and well, unaware that the paint was very slow drying. After tea we socialised in the hall, got out our truckle beds and retired for our first night. We awoke to dim daylight in the morning, when it should really have been pitch black. Our breath had

condensed on the cold, still wet window and had washed much of the still undried paint onto the windowsill. What a mess! Only then were curtains produced.

In the middle of the hall ceiling hung several ropes and pulleys, supporting a large brass chandelier which could be adjusted for height above the floor. The big brass globe at the bottom was perhaps a counterweight. We decided to investigate. I grasped the globe, twisted the bottom half and released a vast flood of lead shot onto the floor. We had no means of clearing it up, but took the opportunity to enjoy the long slides that were now possible. Later the police came round and issued stern warnings to all, especially to me.

Shortly afterwards we left the school and were rehoused by people in a nearby housing estate. Bernard and I (together still) were taken in by a nice family living at 24 Trafalgar Road, with a teenage son, Peter, and his sister who was courting a soldier from the garrison. I can't remember any names, but do know that the soldier came to tea with us every Wednesday, bringing winkles and cream buns.

The big advantage for me there was that my parents had brought my bike, so I could cycle into town for bookshops and school. We had all been transferred to Colchester Grammar School, then, as now, one of the top three grammars in Britain. At least I could study hard for my chosen career as a chemist, in top rate academic surroundings. I came on by leaps and bounds, but good things never last, and it was so this time. Germany invaded Belgium on 6th May 1940, bringing their bombers in easy reach of Colchester. My parents reacted swiftly, and on my 15th birthday I was home again. But my evacuation story does not end here.

In May 1941 I first met Doris Cayley, who lived only 200 yards from me. She had just started work and I was attending yet another grammar school, this time a girls' school (none there) further away from home. After school, where I became the paid chemistry lab steward, I used to cycle the long way home via Doris' work place. I would wait outside in the street, much to the interest of her workmates, until she came out, and we cycled home together. That was just as well, as daytime air raids had started again. Sometimes we saw the bombers flying overhead, but the real danger was from our anti-aircraft fire. Their exploding shells high up broke into shrapnel; large chunks of ragged steel weighing several ounces. These rattled down on roads and house roofs; it could be fatal if hit by one. On our way home, when this happened, we sought shelter in any front doorway we could find.



By the time I left school, aged 17, I had a handful of good exam results. I got a job in the chemistry lab of a local plastics factory. At the same time I enrolled in an outpost of London University for a four year course for a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and pure maths. This involved leaving work from the factory, a bus to West Ham, tea and lectures, returning home about 9pm. This went on for three or four nights a week in term time. Despite all these hindrances, my relationship with Doris steadily matured. I attended the compulsory call-up interview but was rejected on three counts: 1. medically unfit; 2. I was recognised as a science course student; 3. in a reserved occupation. I cycled home joyfully.

Life went on through the war. By the beginning of 1945 we got used to the idea that we and our homes were fireproof, with no need for evacuation. The irony of it! On 6th February at 8am I was at home, facing the dresser in our kitchen, with my back to the door and the outside window. There was a heavy

blow on my back as the window frame and glass hit me, followed by the door. I heard not a sound. Turning round, I saw the outside air full of little feathers of blue flame. Our house had suffered quite badly from a V-2 rocket which landed about 120 yards away, killing two people and demolishing part of our row of houses. Doris' house had also suffered, though not as badly as ours. My head wound was soon treated, but Doris had a nervous reaction which made her head bend to one side.

My parents soon decided what to do. Dad would stay at home, camping out and continuing his reserved occupation as a wholesale newsagent. My Mum would take Doris and me right away from the war. So began my second evacuation.

We took clothes enough for a two week stay and travelled from Chingford to London, much of which had been damaged by enemy action. Then we set out northwards in an interminable train journey. The train was uncomfortable in our shocked state, was totally blacked out through the night, but we eventually arrived at Ballachullish, a little south of Ford William in Scotland. We felt it had been a train ride from hell, having travelled 512 miles from home. But at least there seemed to be no war here. It was pouring with rain as we boarded a horse-driven farm cart to reach the ferry. Between the coast at Ballachullish and Onich, our destination, lay the one mile width of Loch Linnhe; it was connected to the Irish Sea and the tide was running out quite strongly. We were not encouraged when we found that the ferry was a sturdy rowing boat, with two men as the motive power.

However, our sturdy crew took a zig-zag course across the water, and we arrived safely, though very wet. We were so glad to find the hotel, simple as it was. The next morning was sunny and the sight of it lifted our spirits. The village people were very concerned about our plight and we became known as "those poor people from London". We were invited to a concert in the village hall; they were pleased when we won a bottle of whisky in the raffle. We didn't tell them that we did not like it. A local man, Kenneth McKellar, sang with his beautiful voice; years later he was much sought after worldwide as an operatic tenor. A long term guest in the hotel was a lady who went out every day to the boggy margins of the loch seeking sphagnum moss. Sacksful were sent off for cleaning and processing to make dressings for wounded servicemen.

The next few days were delightful. Doris and I walked the loch shoreline, marvelling at the birds and the mountainous scenery. My relationship with Doris blossomed even faster. After a fortnight we went home, very much the better for the trip. When we got back to Chingford, Doris found her family living in their house, which was fast being repaired. My home was still too damaged to live in, so the Cornish family moved into a rented house for a few months. Doris and I became engaged shortly after we returned home and got married later in the following year.

So, summing up, I was evacuated twice; the first time for a false alarm and the second following an unexpected bombing. Second time was best!

**Eric H Cornish**



## HUGH LEIGH NORRIS

**In 2014, Vernon Rattenbury kindly assisted us with personal and military information regarding the fallen of World War I who are named on the Charmouth War Memorial. More recently he has been researching the men who died at the Battle of Jutland for the 100th anniversary in May this year and has sent us information on a notable Charmouth resident, Hugh Leigh Norris. Neil Mattingly's local history website includes a photo of the plaque mentioned below ([www.freshford.com/Norris.htm](http://www.freshford.com/Norris.htm)), which is in St Andrew's Church.**

### HUGH LEIGH NORRIS

*Fleet Surgeon, HMS Indefatigable, Royal Navy  
b. 1874 – Charmouth, d. 31 May 1916 - HMS Indefatigable*

Hugh Leigh Norris was a surgeon who followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both called Henry Norris. He was born in Charmouth in 1874 and was educated at Dulwich College and St Thomas's Hospital, where he qualified in 1898. His activities were not confined to his professional work. He was good at games and his sketches showed no small ability. He inherited considerable skill with the pen from his grandfather, the famous writer Captain Marryat, and was a contributor to many journals, including 'Punch', besides publishing two books, "Rice

Papers' and 'China Side'. (St Thomas's Hospital Gazette, September 1916.)

Hugh is on the Navy List as a surgeon from 1898. He married Nina Dyson and they had one child, Helen Lavender Norris, who was born in the Portsmouth area in 1905. Hugh Leigh Norris, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Fleet Surgeon was lost when HMS Indefatigable was blown up early in action at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916. He was 41 years old. Hugh was the husband of Nina Norris of Waterlooville, Hampshire and son of the late Dr Henry Edmonds and Julia Norris of Charmouth. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, panel 10, and there is also a brass plaque to his memory in St. Andrew's Church, Charmouth, erected by his wife.

### Vernon Rattenbury

#### **The Battle of Jutland**

**If you know of any Charmouth men who took part in the Battle of Jutland, please let me know. Vernon Rattenbury is planning to write a piece for the local newspaper at the time of the May centenary commemoration and would appreciate any details.**

**Lesley Dunlop**

# We Remember

## So Dear Old Jeff Has Gone!

There was a great sadness in hearing of Jeff Stork's passing. For all of us who knew him and indeed, all those of the village who were aware of his plight, could not fail to wonder at the man's fortitude and determination in coming to terms with the near-fatal motorbike accident of nearly 60 years ago.

Jeff was of an old Charmouth family and was born in the George Hotel. (His father was the landlord there in 1934). He attended the old village school until leaving at 14. His greatest desire was to join the Royal Navy and he did so as soon as he could. His first 'ship' was HMS Vanguard, the last of the British tradition of great ships. She was moored in Portsmouth harbour serving at that time as a training depot- waiting to be scrapped! Jeff gained his first qualification as a 'Sparks'—a Navalese' term for anyone involved in ship's electrics. Then after a short time at HMS Collingwood (another training 'ship' at Fareham), he was assigned to minesweepers. During this time he sailed around the British Isles and North Atlantic, he enjoyed the Outer Isles and the Shetlands particularly. His greatest experience was sailing all the way to South Africa.

When on leave In March 1957, he married Betty Farrant, from another old Charmouth family and then, in due course, two beautiful babes were born, Lynda and Sue. With the arrival of the young ones, there was every prospect of a normal happy life for the young family. But this was not to be: it was 1959, the time of Jeff's terrible accident.

Jeff was on his way home to Charmouth from Plymouth, where he had been stationed at that time; he was on his motorbike when he came into a collision with a very large lorry just over the Devon border. This brought about injuries that denied him any chance of a normal existence — he was crippled for the rest of his life — he was 24 years old.

Jeff was taken to the Royal Naval Hospital at Devonport and then transferred to the County hospital when Jeff was discharged from the Navy. During this time, Betty, with two babes in arms, had to travel back and forth to hospitals to see Jeff as often as she could. Jeff was to spend more than six months in hospitals until he was deemed fit to go home. Eventually he came home.

Although Betty no longer needed to spend so much time travelling to the hospital, Jeff's return home required yet another massive effort on Betty's part. It is true that she was to have assistance from nurses and specialists at times, but Jeff's return put an enormous burden on Betty. No one was more conscious of this than Jeff. The problem was that his right side was totally paralysed - he could not stand, walk or sit - and was not the best of patients; it was to be a very long convalescence.

However a glimmer of hope arose for Jeff when a device called a calliper- a steel splint was fitted to his dead right leg from hip to foot. Then a lower arm 'crutch' was fitted below the elbow of his good arm that could allow a stick to be held in his good left hand. This meant that with initial help, by being held upright, and with his left-hand stick for support, he could stand upright and eventually make very small tentative steps forward. So, with very cautious steps - gradually his confidence grew. Jeff's great fear was falling - if he were to fall he would not be able to get himself up! Nevertheless, Jeff's world was coming back to him.

Jeff liked a pint. He developed a fixation for the Royal Oak; the problem was how was he going to get there? The Oak was 200 yards uphill - could he cope with the distance? So having achieved a degree of success with his initial efforts to walk, he attempted to put it on a larger scale, here was the means: Facing forward, take one small step of the good left foot supported by stick. Fix a mark with this stick. Swing the

dead right leg forward to the point at the end of the stick. (The end of the swing.) (It was then necessary to bring bodyweight to bear down on this point of the dead leg so that the good stick could mark second step). Repeat action (1. good leg forward, dead leg swung. (2. Good leg forward—dead leg swung, etc. It was of course, very slow going, but with considerable practice - progress was made and Jeff had done it! It could

not be described as an elegant progress, even with Jeff in charge there seemed to be a sequence involving stretching, bending, bowing and swinging for any progress — it was not at all 'gainly'. I saw his 'method' in the first week of arriving in the village and thought it quite remarkable. I went into the Oak to ask of the man and his method and there he was, totally ensconced with old friends, his pipe and pint. I first met Jeff at the Royal Oak in 1991 - he could still be seen flogging his way uphill on his way to the Royal Oak until 2008.

Jeff's presence at the Oak revealed something else of the man. There were certain characteristics that were distinctly his: upon arriving at the Oak, he always leaned at the same place at the bar - he had to because

he could not sit. He was consistently temperate — I never ever saw him 'the worst for wear'. I asked him once if he would have another. He thanked me, but declined saying 'If I had any more I would be unable to get home!' This was an indirect reference to his handicap and the hazard of his downhill journey home! He was quiet man but happy to listen to conversations or arguments but rarely to obtrude. — If he did, his response would be appropriately cryptic!

Another side of Jeff's character was his readiness to assume responsibilities for the Oak and the village. In Jeff and Carol Prosser's day at the Oak, he was chairman of the Royal Oak Social Club, the old folks Annual Dinner and for many years was involved with the Charmouth Charity organisation. There were more involvements within the village, but these were before my time. There is a very positive distinction that Jeff deserved. The story is of a time soon after his return to Charmouth and his ascent of The Street to the Oak. He was in the Oak one evening watching the pub's table skittle 1st team play — they had not put the table away. As no one was looking, Jeff tried his hand. He became quite engrossed in the skills involved in the game. The story is that some of the Oak skittlers, who were sipping their pints after their regular game, became aware of Jeff's evident skills and as a result, he was inducted instantly into the Royal Oak Skittles first team! No mean achievement.

Betty was not at all put out by Jeff's new-found pursuits; in fact it allowed her freedoms that had not been possible previously. The girls were now grown and Betty had lots of friends, so she was no longer confined totally to the house. For many years she came shopping to Bridport with my wife and I every Thursday, we always took coffee and biscuits at Groves cafe on those days — it was classy!

Time passed. Jeff and Betty were slowing down, but they were rich times for them nevertheless. Lyn and Sue had borne beautiful families and were an especial joy to mum and dad. They in turn, thoroughly enjoyed their grandparently roles. However, there were negative events -some seriously so. Betty had a fall and broken her arm. She was treated for a broken arm but her real problem was a fractured pelvis. She pulled through this condition in her characteristic manner —without fuss. But in December of 2008 Jeff had a heart attack and although it was not too debilitating it brought an end to his trips to the Oak. They 'drew in' as it were, and were seen less often, although Betty was seen frequently hurrying home from the shops

Then of all tragedies, Betty died suddenly! She went out one evening with friends to their Bingo night and collapsed and died. Needless to say it was a profound shock to Jeff and the family and all their friends. Immediately Lyn and Sue and daughter Abbie, went to their dad. They created a comprehensive schedule for tending him and all his needs, arranging all the necessary formalities, for the funeral, etc.





But Jeff was left by himself. The medical people came for short visits and Lynda came from work every day for Jeff's lunch and other needs; Sue was there at the weekends. I called on him very frequently for a chat, as there were long gaps in his day – I thought the George might have some merit in allaying his solitude. He agreed – it was only a 100 yards from his home and critically less from mine. Jeff was able to walk to the George for an hour a day, just for a pint. This proved to be successful; we talked of many things - of our childhoods, of the Navy, of Pompey in wartime and of a host of other places and things of mutual interest. It passed the time... eventually there were silences; it occurred to me later, that it might have been that some of the topics we talked of might have been too evocative for him at that time... I phoned him to ask if he would like to come over to the George, but he said he was not up to it, complaining of pain and could not make it.

Then suddenly, daughter Sue phoned to tell me that her Dad had been taken to a home in Lyme, where he had had a fall and had to be taken

to a hospital. Twenty four hours later, she called to tell me that Jeff had gone on.

So passed dear old Jeff...

I don't doubt Jeffrey, that you have spent some time wondering what you might have done were it not for your accident. I can understand that: but just think of what you have achieved! I'll make a list: Your devoted Betty, your first and foremost for all those years and her devotion; for Lyn and Sue and their beautiful families and their regard for their granddad and for your first ascent to the Royal Oak and all subsequent climbs, and of all those characters of all those years at the Oak and within the village, you will be held in the highest regard of so many people in Charmouth - you will be missed! Bye Jeff.

**Peter M Press**

## Noticeboard

**All Shoreline issues  
can be seen online at  
[www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org)**



*The National Coastwatch Lyme Bay, Charity Quiz Night, was an extremely successful event in raising funds for the new satellite sub-station in Charmouth. The generosity of local residents, The Royal Oak and Nisa Store is highly appreciated and our Charity was able to raise £957.00 to go towards the annual rent and necessary equipment. Judi Gifford, Sr Watchkeeper, Fundraiser/Events Coordinator/Recruiter*



*Super host Neil Mattingly with sidekick Pauline Bonner at his 'Heroes and villains' New Years Eve party. 65 people celebrated in style and over £600 was raised for future 'Changing Spaces' projects.*



Photo Bill Burn.

*Fossil hunters queuing at New Year to get to the new rock fall. The arrows show people risking their necks squeezing along between the cliffs and the big waves*

### Baby Wild

*Pete, Polly and Ruben Wild would like to announce the safe arrival of their baby boy Jude Jango Ziggy Wild born at 6.39pm on Christmas Day at home. Everything went just as they could have dreamt of apart from being unable to have their turkey dinner and the only Christmas swim they had was in the water pool! They would also like to thank everyone for their amazing support and gifts; this wonderful village really does feel like one big family.*



*The humongous Christmas draw at The George*

## What's On

### Dorset Art Weeks Sat 28th May to Sun 12th June

The Townson Studio will be open from 10am to 6pm on 12 days of this 14-day county-wide event

(closed Wed 1st & Mon 6th)

Visit The Townson Studio at 7 Hammonds Mead, Charmouth DT6 6QX

Details in free brochure widely available April/May

[www.geofftownson.co.uk](http://www.geofftownson.co.uk)



### CHANGING SPACES FUNDRAISER

AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

*NEW TO YOU ART, CERAMICS AND JEWELLERY SALE*

FRIDAY 27 MAY 6-8PM WITH WINE AND NIBBLES

SATURDAY 28 MAY 10 - 1PM WITH REFRESHMENTS

### THE WELDMAR HOSPICE CARE COMMITTEE PRESENT:

An evening of Wit and Wisdom on 4th March in The Village Hall, starting at 7.30 - Teams of 4

Tickets from Kathy Fereday on 560446

On June 11th A Royal Pudding Party is being planned by the committee at Neil Mattingly's house. Look out for notices around the village nearer the time

## CHARITY QUIZ

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Wootton Fitzpaine  
Village Hall

7.00 for 7.30pm

Tickets £8 - includes a hot supper

Bar available

Tickets from Bill Taylor Tel: 01297 560081,

Email: [bill.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.taylor@btinternet.com)

John Eaton Tel: 01297 444077

Or any Lyme Regis Rotarian

*Last year was a sell out so buy early*

A Rotary Club of Lyme Regis Event: Proceeds to  
Dementia UK

## WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE FETE

Bank Holiday Monday, 30th May, at 1.30pm.

There will be a good number of stalls providing fun and prizes around an entertainment ring which will also include a band, children's games and a dog agility event. It is also planned to use the skittle alley for competitive skittles. It is hoped that a vintage tractor and engine display will also be featured. There will be the usual high quality BBQ stand, top quality homemade cream teas and cakes in the Village Hall, and a bar in the Village Club. Everyone is welcome and, in case of inclement weather, there will be a big marquee.

Entrance fee: £1.50 for adults, children - free.

Ample free parking. Peter Sharp (01297 560780)

### CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNT - NATIONAL TRUST STONEBARROW HILL, CHARMOUTH, DT6 6RA

Sat 26 March, 11am - 3pm. £3 per entry.

More info : <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/golden-cap/whats-on> Or 01297 489481 West Dorset office or <http://easter.cadbury.co.uk/find-an-egg-hunt/>

Join us for a fun-packed hunt at Stonebarrow Hill on the Golden Cap Estate.

### ORCHID DISCOVERY WALK - NATIONAL TRUST STONEBARROW HILL, CHARMOUTH, DT6 6RA

Monday 2 May 10am-12noon, 2-4pm. Free event. Booking essential 01297 489481

More info : <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/golden-cap/whats-on> Or 01297 489481 West Dorset office.

Help volunteer ecologist John Newbould to survey orchids on this guided walk from Stonebarrow shop.

### JURASSIC COAST BOAT TRIP FROM LYME REGIS

Wed 1 June 11am-1.30pm or 2-4.30pm. £15 per ticket available from Stuart Line Cruises.

More info : <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/golden-cap/whats-on> Or 01297 489481 West Dorset office.

Choice of two trips - Lyme Regis going East to West Bay and return or Lyme Regis going West to Beer Head and return.

Commentary by Richard Edmunds and local National Trust staff.



## Charmouth and Bridport Rock 'n' Pop Choir

would like to say a huge 'Thank you' for the support at their Christmas Concert.

We are now joining with two other choirs to form

THE ELECTRIC CHORUS

under the leadership of Edward Jacobs to perform at the Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth on Saturday 9th April at 7.30pm.

The programme will include diverse musical variety from the enlarged choir and guest professional musicians.

Look out for posters in Charmouth.

Tickets available from the Theatre at £12 or £10 concessions.

## SOUP AND A PUD £5. KIDS EAT FOR FREE

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL AT CHARMOUTH VILLAGE HALL, 11.30 - 3.00 PM

Everyone welcome. All proceeds raised will go to Brain Research

[www.hilarysharp.co.uk](http://www.hilarysharp.co.uk) Tel: 0773 863 0186

## KNIT AND NATTER

2pm every Thursday at St Andrew's Community Hall

Many thanks to those of you who supported our coffee morning in October. It was a great success raising sufficient funds to buy plenty of wool and give £50 donations to each of the charities we knit for.

**Our next Coffee morning and Table Top Sale will be Saturday 30 April at 10.00 - 12.00 in the Village Hall.**

If you would like a table please ring 01297 561625

Recently we have been pleased to welcome several new members to the group. If you would like to join us - you don't need to be an expert knitter - please just come along one Thursday afternoon.

Jan Coleman



# 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](mailto:lesley@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk) | 01297 561644**

# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

<b>EMERGENCIES POLICE</b>	<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard</b>	<b>999 or 112</b>
	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
<b>FIRE and RESCUE</b>	West Dorset Fire and Rescue Service — Group Manager	01305 252600
<b>HM COASTGUARD</b>	Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis (Not 24 hours)	01297 442852
<b>DOCTORS</b>	The Charmouth Medical Practice, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560872
	The Lyme Practice, Lyme Community Medical Centre, Lyme Regis	01297 445777
	NHS Direct — 24-hour Healthcare Advice and Information Line	0845 4647
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester	01305 251150
	Bridport Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Bridport	01308 422371
<b>DENTISTS</b>	Dorset Dental Helpline	01202 854443
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>	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
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	Gas	0800 111999
	Electricity (Western Power Distribution)	0800 365900
	Water (Wessex Water)	08456 004600
	Floodline	08459 881188
	Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 807060
<b>CHEMISTS</b>	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
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	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
<b>CHURCHES</b>	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Stephen Skinner	01297 443763
	United Reformed Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Ian Kirby	01297 631117
<b>BEFRIENDING</b>	Charmouth	07736 825283
<b>COUNCILS</b>		
<b>CHARMOUTH PARISH</b>	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
<b>W. DORSET DISTRICT</b>	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
<b>DORSET COUNTY</b>	Councillor — Daryl Turner – d.w.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk	
	County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01305 221000
<b>DORSET'S PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com">www.dorsetforyou.com</a></b>		
<b>LOCAL M.P.</b>	Oliver Letwin, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail letwin@parliament.uk	0207 219 3000
<b>CITIZENS' ADVICE</b>	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm)	01297 445325
	45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01308 456594
<b>POST OFFICES</b>	1 The Arcade, Charmouth	01297 560563
	37 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442836
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	The Street, Charmouth	01297 560640
	Silver Street, Lyme Regis	01297 443151
	South Street, Bridport	01308 422778
	South Street, Axminster	01297 32693
<b>SWIM / LEISURE</b>	Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport	01308 427464
	Flamingo Pool, Lyme Road, Axminster	01297 35800
	Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth	01297 560259
<b>CINEMAS</b>	Regent, Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442053
	Electric Palace, 35 South Street, Bridport	01308 424901
<b>THEATRES</b>	Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442394
	Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport	01308 424204
	Guildhall, West Street, Axminster	01297 33595
<b>TOURIST INFORMATION</b>	Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442138
	Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport	01308 424901



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## ASK THE EXPERT

**Q.** *Now is a good time to put our house on the market, right?*

**A.** This is probably the most common question estate agents are asked – mostly in the lead up to Easter and the summer period. Yes – we are currently receiving an excellent number of enquiries and new instructions from both vendors and purchasers.

It is true that the property market is traditionally at its most active at these times of the year and unsurprisingly, sellers want to take advantage of these expected waves of buyer interest.

For many of us, the Spring is a time of new beginnings with Christmas behind us and new plans being made. By getting the ball rolling soon, a move in slightly warmer weather is probable and those with children will usually want to coordinate a home move with the summer holidays when, not only is there no school run to juggle with shifting belongings but any change of schools coincides with the end of one term and the beginning of another.

Similar, though different cases can equally be made for the Easter and autumn periods. But, does this necessarily make any of them a particularly 'good' time to put your home on the market?

Actually, timing is generally less important than you might think. The simple fact is that if your property is well-presented and well-priced, it stands just as much chance of selling during the summer holidays as it does in the New Year - or at Easter or in the autumn.

**So, my advice is always the same: forget about trying to predict the ever-changing market and just move when it suits you. If that's now then there's no time like the present!**

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