

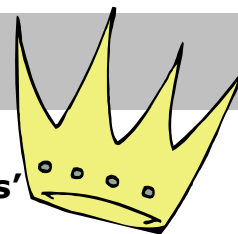
# SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth

Issue 17



## DIAMOND JUBILEE ISSUE



See 'The Charmouth Jubilee Shelter' on page 20  
 Mary Davis' 'Royal Celebrations - My Diary Memoirs'  
 on pages 2 and 39 and  
 'Charmouth Then and Now' on page 40

Enter the Shoreline Diamond Jubilee Photographic Competition - see page 20

## JAMBOREE, JOLLITY, JUBILEE!!

**O**nce again, the indefatigable Charmouth community has pulled out all the stops and has events planned throughout the village in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

On Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 to 2pm, Bymead House is inviting everyone to an old-fashioned Street Party in the garden, complete with flags and bunting, where a delicious buffet of locally sourced food will be served and many coronation reminiscences shared.

In the afternoon, from 2 to 5pm, you can indulge in a scrumptious cream tea with homemade cakes served in the newly refurbished St Andrew's Community Hall.

The Jubilee Street Party will be held on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2.30 to 5pm in Lower Sea Lane. Last year's trial run for the Royal Wedding was a brilliant success and this one promises to be even more amazing! Posters will be going up soon with details of the party and the names of people to contact if you would like to donate food or help with the setting up.



Photo from Mary Davis

Queen's Golden Jubilee in Charmouth 3rd June 2002

This wonderful day of celebration will culminate with the annual Party in the Park, to be held in the Playing Fields from 7 to 10.30pm. As always, the fabulous Fat Dads will be manning the barbeque and bar supremo

Jeff and his team will be serving drinks. A new band 'Crying Out Loud' promise to get everyone rocking and then fireworks at 10pm will bring the day to a close. A Diamond Jubilee theme for the evening is being considered, so if you have any ideas or need more information about either of these events, please contact Peter Noel on 560078 or email [peter@marshall-noel.co.uk](mailto:peter@marshall-noel.co.uk)

The annual PTA Duck Race is being held on Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm by the riverside, with tea being served on the green at Seadown from 2pm. See Marie Oldham's PTA article on page 21 for more information on what promises to be a really fun afternoon and the What's On pages for details of other upcoming events.

**Jane Morrow**

In association with



Shoreline 'Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters II'  
 St Andrew's Community Hall  
 Wednesday 16th May 7.00pm  
 (see pages 6 to 8)

Win Shoreline's 'The Fossil Hunters of Charmouth'  
**personally signed by SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH**

# Royal Celebrations - My Diary Memoirs



## Queen's Coronation – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1953

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1953 my diary entry was framed with red, white and blue. As a teenager, I remember the excitement of celebrating this occasion. I went next door with 10 of my friends to watch the Coronation on my neighbour's black-and-white TV set. The size of the screen was only nine inches and we all sat in a darkened room. Not many people owned a TV in 1953. We watched the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh come out of Buckingham Palace and at 10.30am saw the crowning at Westminster Abbey. We enjoyed our picnic lunch and tea, which was followed by fireworks.

The previous week, on 29th May 1953, we received our Queen Elizabeth Coronation mug and spoon at our school in South Wales.



## Queen's Silver Jubilee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1977

There was great excitement in Charmouth village. The shop windows were decorated in red, white and blue. Four urns stood majestically on our Pharmacy courtyard, each was full of red, white and blue flowers. A big Union Jack was carefully painted on an outside building at The Little Cottage Tea Gardens (then a garden café) along Lower Sea Lane. In Morgans we could buy all sorts of memorabilia with pictures of the Queen and 1977 on them. Rob, my then nine-year-old son, unfurled a very old British flag which he had found in the attic. He hung it out of the front bedroom window. This dusty flag was probably last displayed at the Queen's Coronation.

There was no village street party. However, at the weekend, in our family, we had our own private party with seven families. The dads took the children to the top of Stonebarrow hill for ball games, while we mums got the tea ready in the Community Hall club room. Finally we went to the playing fields for more fun and games.

## Queen's Silver Jubilee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1977

Mike (my husband) went to collect three Silver Jubilee mugs from the council office for my children, Geoff, Rob and Maria. The 1977 mugs are carefully stored away in the attic. We have not used them.



## Queen's Silver Jubilee – 10<sup>th</sup> December 1977

### Party & Christmas Party for the Village Children

The village tea and entertainment was held in the Community Hall. It was organised by Pat Hansford and Ann Peach (see photo). The hall was tastefully decorated and benches were placed over the chairs to accommodate

seating for 200 children. I took 60 iced cakes to the hall in the early afternoon. The tables groaned with food



provided by the mums. Crackers, Jubilee plates and beakers enhanced the rows of tables. There was plenty of



excitement throughout the party. Father Christmas welcomed the children. Parents were multi-tasking in helping wherever needed. My husband took the photographs. The younger ones watched a Punch and Judy show in the club room, while the older ones had an entertainer on the stage. Sally Peach was Jubilee Princess and Michaela Healy with Clare Matthews were her attendants (see photo).

The evening continued with games and a disco for two hours. My son Geoff, then 11 years, said it was the first disco he had ever been to. Then the net holding the

(continued on page 39)



# Editorial

**"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you anywhere" - Albert Einstein**

Welcome to the spring issue of Shoreline, a hefty 40 pages full to the brim with an abundance of literary delights for your delectation; local history, poetry, parish and church news, forthcoming events, updates on clubs and organisations, art news, interviews and much, much more.

We felt it only fitting, in view of the Diamond Jubilee in June, to make this edition a very special souvenir issue and we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Mary Davis's wonderful memories of past royal occasions and how Charmouthians celebrated them (with great gusto it seems!) are absolutely fascinating.

I would very much like to welcome Bob Dunlop as our new Design and Layout team member. For fifteen years, during the 1980s and 1990s, Bob worked for UK and

international companies in the printing and graphic arts industry. His incredible expertise and talent are more than evident on these pages and I want to thank him profusely for stepping into the breach so willingly.

This magazine comes to you courtesy of the support of all the advertisers. Without them Shoreline would have a very large printer's bill to pay indeed. So give them your support by using the shops and the restaurants. Use the other services advertised here. They all help to keep our wonderful village vibrant and alive.

Happy Easter everyone.

*Jane*

 **SHORELINE**   
**editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk**  
**The Moorings, Higher Sea Lane,**  
**Charmouth**  
**DT6 6BD**

<b><u>The Shoreline Team</u></b>	
<b>Jane Morrow</b>	Editor
<b>Lesley Dunlop</b>	Assistant Editor, Features and Diary
<b>Colin Pring</b>	Advertising Manager and Treasurer
<b>Bob Dunlop</b>	Design and Layout

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	<b>DT6 3LJ.</b>
	<b>01308 422511</b>

## Letters

### **CHARMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL TOILET FOR DOGS !!**

I am a responsible dog owner, who picks up after her dog. I always carry poop bags, they are in my bag, in my pockets, in fact every time I pull a tissue out of my pocket along comes the poop bag. I have also noticed some new signs around the beach area about picking up dog mess, as it is spread about everywhere, but the most important place of all to put the message should be outside of Charmouth school - preferably with a poo activated voice which shouts out 'PICK IT UP!!' for the irresponsible dog owners who apparently can't read. Perhaps this would embarrass them enough to clear up after their dog.

I am writing this because I can't believe the amount of dog mess spread all along the grassy area outside of the school, where children must end up stepping in it, then

spreading it over the car mats, or along the pavement and then into their homes. I don't think this problem is caused by holiday makers with their dogs either, I think it is lazy locals walking their dogs down to the beach early in the morning. Charmouth is a lovely village and attracts many visitors, if the visitors' lasting memory of Charmouth is not the beautiful surroundings, the Jurassic coast, the fossils, but the amount of dog mess they saw, then the people responsible should be ashamed, including the man I saw on the beach the other day watching his large dog squatting on the sand, then covering the dog's deposit up by pushing sand over the top with his foot. Some poor child is going to step in it or worse. 'PICK IT UP'

**Shirley**



### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for including the article on the Village Lunch and also the Village Breakfast news. It is much appreciated and I would like to congratulate you on the production of such an informative and community spirited magazine that is very readable. I am sure many people look forward to it coming out.

Thank you very much,

**Jan Gale**

VB and VL Organiser

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# Letters



## RE – "A PLEA FROM THE HEART, FROM NEIL" SHORELINE WINTER 2012

Clearly Neil's plea has fallen upon 'deaf ears' and/or stony ground'.

Friday 13th January - a beautiful, clear, sunny and calm day. Perfect for a walk to the beach . . . or so I thought . . . until I spotted smoke from a bonfire. I have allergic asthma, so any thoughts of a walk in fresh air quickly vanished.

At 9.26am, I took the first of several photographs of bonfire smoke over Charmouth that day. By 10.27am the smoke had increased considerably . . . . . and at 1.45pm, when I left to go to Bridport, the bonfire was still going strong . . .

As if one bonfire were not enough - before I left home - I

spotted yet another one, on the other side of The Street !

I stopped on the bypass to take a photo of the smoke hovering over our lovely village and to note the time, deciding that I would also check the situation on my return. On returning to the village at approximately 3.00pm, the photos show the scene that greeted me . . . looks like Armageddon !

Had I been a visitor planning a fossil hunting day, or just a nice quiet day by the sea . . . would you blame me for driving on, to Lyme Regis, Seaton or beyond ?

Which would you prefer to stop at if you were a visitor to Charmouth - the village with the smoke or the village with clean air ? (see photos)

Well done Neil for raising this issue.

To those who must burn rubbish, please, please, please, wait until around 5 or 6 pm and stop enveloping our beautiful village in noxious fumes for the whole day.

**Pamela**

**Nick Shannon**  
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at  
**www.charmouth.org**



# Letters

## ANOTHER DOG MESS LETTER!

I have found it necessary to send two emails to Councillor Bremner in the last two weeks regarding the increasing amount of dog excrement being left in paths and exercise areas around Charmouth.

Today I walked from the bridge by the beach car park to the road, along the pathway.

This pathway passes the pump house and the path has a grass verge each side.

I was amazed to see dog excrement every two or three metres, from the pump house to the road.

It is also very bad on the grassy area by the beach huts and seats on the west side.

This dog fouling has completely got out of hand and it needs to be dealt with immediately.

Within three weeks Easter will be here,

That means CHILDREN.

We already have quite a few children about now and today there was a school beach trip which I passed.

Should we advertise to all prospective visitors that they should be prepared to get themselves covered in dog excrement when they come to Charmouth.?

We have had a plague of this filthy behaviour since before November.

Yes Madame Editor!

## FILTHY BEHAVIOUR!

The dogs know no better, but the OWNERS do!

There is no other description available to describe such irresponsibility by the owners who know they are breaking the law and infringing every person's right, to be able to walk in a public area without having to worry where they, or their children, are putting their feet.

It is evident that the Council and the Dog Warden will have to take extreme steps to stop this continuing, and more time must be found to enable prosecutions.

I can only consider that having a Dog Warden is a total waste of expense, after seeing such a profusion of dog fouling.

If we can have a sign near the Chemist threatening £1000 fines, let us have more in other dog thoroughfares.

We definitely need more signs and placed in clearly the worst areas of defecation.

I trust you will enter my concern as you see fit this month in Shoreline.

**P.D Rogers**



## EAST CLIFF

Why are we destroying the beauty and wildness of East Cliff – the natural habitat of wild flowers and the butterflies and other animals this attracts? Why can't this time and effort be spent on something worthwhile like opening up the paths along the river to Stonebarrow and across the cliff to Lyme Regis? I'm told by residents of more than 25 years that they have never known East Cliff to have been abused in this way – but they do remember the path along the river being a lovely walk.

Please don't spend time and money destroying the natural beauty of Charmouth that we all know and love – do something constructive!

From dedicated walkers and lovers of Charmouth,

**Brenda and Bess**

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## HOLLANDS ROOM LUNCH CLUB

I would like to thank Jan and all at the Hollands Room Lunch Club. When I didn't turn up at the February lunch, Jan and Mike were concerned. They rang me and also came round. A lot of people say they don't see me about but never come and see if I want help. The club has given me a chance to enjoy lovely meals. I wish there were more clubs I could go to and have food with others sitting with me. I feel the people of Bridport are more concerned about how I cope on my own than the people in Charmouth but I don't want to move as I've known Charmouth since the day I was born.

**Christine Cook**

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## Press Release 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### 'Going for Gold' - 1st Charmouth Cubs and Scouts set themselves challenging fund raising targets

In order to raise much-needed funds to refurbish their Headquarters, Charmouth Cubs and Scouts have set themselves challenging fund raising targets.

Taking their inspiration from the 2012 London Olympics, the Scout Group has launched '**Going for Gold**'. This aims to focus the attention of the local community on their quest to secure a bronze, silver and, hopefully, gold fund raising medals.

As would be expected in an Olympic year, the bar for success has been set very high. To secure a Bronze Medal, the Cubs and Scouts will need to raise £2,500 by the end of 2012. To gain a Silver Medal, the target rises to £10,000; while the threshold for a Gold Medal is £25,000.

Tom Summers, Scout Group Chairman, said "We will be asking parents to help by displaying 'Going for Gold' posters prominently and taking collecting boxes. We will also be asking local businesses and organisations for donations and support – either financial or 'in kind'."

The public launch of 'Going for Gold' will take place on Easter Saturday with a cake and plant stall in The Street (anyone wishing to donate a cake or plants on the day, or in advance to The White House Hotel, will be most welcome).

For more information, contact Kevin Payne  
payne.kevin6@gmail.com 01308 459080

# Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters II

We are delighted that Professor Denys Brunsten, David Sole, Richard Edmonds and Tony Flux have agreed to speak at our fossil event in the Community Hall during the evening of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Come and listen to their perspectives on our fossil-rich cliffs and the fossils that lie within them.

**Lesley Dunlop**

## Professor Denys Brunsten, OBE, DSc, FKC

**Emeritus Professor at King's College London, Professor Denys Brunsten, is an influential and highly renowned environmental specialist and geomorphologist specialising in landslides and coastal erosion.** He has had a long and distinguished career in the UK and overseas and has published in excess of 100 academic papers, as well as numerous books, including *Landshapes*, *Natural Disasters* and *Slopes: Form and Process*. He co-authored *Classic Landforms of the East Dorset Coast*, *Classic Landforms of the West Dorset Coast*, *The Unquiet Landscape*, *Behaviour of Coastal Landslide Systems: An Inter-Disciplinary View*, *Slope Instability* and edited *The Official Guide to the Jurassic Coast* and *Exploring the Undercliffs*.



Professor Brunsten was the first Chairman of the Dorset Coast Forum and it was he who initially proposed the Dorset and East Devon coastline for World Heritage Site status, working with others – including Richard Edmonds – to prepare the scientific case. He has held the posts of Chairman of the British Geomorphological Research Group, Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society, Vice-President of the Institute of British Geographers, President of the Geographical Association and he was the first President of the International Association of Geomorphologists.

He is on the Board of Trustees of the Jurassic Coast Trust which works with partners to support a diverse range of education, conservation, arts, and science projects along the length of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

Professor Brunsten was awarded an OBE in 2004 for his Services to Geomorphology and Geoconservation.

## Richard Edmonds

**Earth Science Manager, Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Team**



*Richard Edmonds, cleaning fossils*

**Richard Edmonds is a graduate geologist from the University of Hull (1980-83), with a particular interest in palaeontology.** After a brief spell working in the oil industry, he decided to pursue a career in countryside work, initially with the National Trust for Scotland, before being lucky enough to become the first warden of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (1986-1997). The primary focus of the Centre is on the famous fossils found on the West Dorset coast and the job

entailed leading many public walks and schools onto the beaches to discover the wonders of palaeontology.

Following that, he moved to Dorset County Council in 1997, initially to develop the Jurassic Coast Project which was set up to explore the opportunities and challenges that World Heritage Site designation could bring to the

coast. After the status was granted, he moved to his current post as Earth Science Manager within the Jurassic Coast Team. The primary role is to monitor and protect the site from damaging operations and to manage the palaeontological interests. As a geologist within a wider team with an ambitious work programme, he is also involved in many other aspects of the team's work; education, tourism, marketing, communities and the arts.



*One of Richard's Ichthyosaur finds*

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# Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters II

## David Sole

**Local fossil hunter David Sole was born in Scotland in 1943.** He grew up in Hampshire and qualified as a solicitor in 1969. His long-term association with Dorset began in the same year, when he purchased an old stone cottage in Langton Matravers, which he later renovated. He took several short-term jobs to finance the renovation, including quarry worker and range warden on the Lulworth Gunneries Ranges. After selling his cottage in the late 1970s, David bought an old pub in Swanage, which he spent three years converting into a fossil shop and exhibition.

David moved to Uplyme, just over the border in East Devon, in 1988 to be "nearer the source of most of my fossils and to compete on more equal terms with the local collectors!" He found a fossilised sea urchin on the gravel drive at his home when he was just six years-of-age and has pursued fossil hunting as a hobby ever since. His first visit to Charmouth was in 1954, as guest of a school friend. He has been a regular collector here since 1972, turning professional soon afterwards.

### David's Main Finds:

- David discovered the so-called 'Charmouth Ichthyosaur' in November 1986 high up in the cliff, east of the Char. He recovered approximately eight metres of the ten metre-Ichthyosaur (much of the tail was missing). Described as a new species, 'Leptopterygius solei' was sold to Bristol Museum in 1988 and has been on display there ever since.



*Cast taken from one side of David Sole's Scelidosaurus on display at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre*

- He found the first pieces of an 11-foot 195-million-year-old 'Horned' Scelidosaurus – an armoured herbivorous dinosaur often referred to as 'the Charmouth Dinosaur' since it is found nowhere else in the world – in December 2000 and his most recent piece in 2010. It is now about 85% complete and only the second nearly complete example to have been found here since about 1858. In that year, Charmouth resident (and retired medical practitioner) James Harrison organised the recovery of the first such specimen which he then sent to the Natural History Museum for study by the famous Richard Owen, who named it after him.

- David discovered approximately 50% of a smaller Scelidosaurus in 1995 and in 1987 he found a 3-D Ichthyosaur with a large, complete skull.

The two Scelidosaurus, together with the 3-D Ichthyosaur, are currently on loan to and displayed at Bristol Museum.

With regard to all four of these finds, David gratefully acknowledges the superb preparation work of Dave Costin (of Lyme Regis).

David has been closely involved in the 'politics' of fossil collecting, particularly in relation to collecting in Charmouth and Lyme Regis, since "crossing swords" with Dorset County Council in 1977. In 1982 he represented a number of fossil collectors at the public inquiry into fossil collecting at Charmouth, after West Dorset District Council made public its intention to introduce controls on collecting under the Coast Protection Act of 1949. "The Council lost!" says David, noting that the outcome probably helped towards the founding of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.




"I learned that this coast was on a 'tentative' list of future World Heritage Sites in 1993 and immediately recognised the possibly unwelcome consequences for fossil collectors," continues David. "I joined the Dorset Coast Forum shortly after it was formed, since it was the main body promoting and working towards World Heritage Status, so that the voice of the collecting community would be heard where and when it mattered."

David has been on the World Heritage Steering Group since World Heritage status was granted, and is also a member of the Science and Conservation Advisory Group, which reports to the Steering Group on matters that include the management of fossil collecting. "I remain utterly determined to do all I can to ensure that fossil collecting along this bit of coast continues to be managed in what I consider to be a sensible and realistic way. Astonishingly, the greatest threat to that aim comes from the EU!" The key matter currently being considered is a review of the fossil collecting code.

When plans for the Charmouth by-pass were underway in 1991, David was the organiser of the official group of fossil collectors. He recalls: "It was an experience that should have been very enjoyable, but for the difficulties caused by the official stratigrapher employed on the site!"

David has made several television appearances, including the half-hour Channel 4 programme *Dinosaur Detectives* in 2002 which featured the 'Horned' Scelidosaurus that he discovered. He also joined Professor Hugh Torrens several years ago in a Radio 4 broadcast.

David has written and co-authored a number of papers relating to ammonites and fossil collecting issues.



### Peter Bagley Paintings

*A small studio gallery, selling watercolour paintings by Peter Bagley.*

*Open most Sundays 10am-3pm*

*Visitors welcome at other times, but please telephone first - 01297 560063*

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# Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters II

## Tony Flux

**Dorset Coastal Zone Projects Manager for the National Trust**

**I joined the National Trust as a coastal manager in 2007 and am currently based with the West Dorset team at Filcombe Farm near Chideock.** My background has not always been focused on the coast. I started my career back in 1971 when I joined a large agrichemical company in Lincolnshire as a field biologist. I worked on developing new pesticides for a number of field crops as well as helping to develop a fungicide for control of Dutch Elm Disease in specimen Elms.

In the 1990s, living in Weymouth and having a keen interest in the idea that our coastline should be put forward for World Heritage Status, I decided I needed more qualifications if I wanted to become more involved with the management of this very special coastline and so a Master's degree in Coastal Management followed! Subsequently, there were periods when I worked for the Dorset Coast Forum team, for Bournemouth University and even the Dorset AONB team before joining the West Dorset NT team.

My National Trust work takes me to many of the beautiful coastal sites owned and managed by the Trust in Dorset and East Devon. So places such as Burton Beach, Ringstead Bay, Studland Peninsula and Brownsea Island are all on my patch!

Essentially the work revolves around helping and advising our teams about how best to manage their coastline responsibilities in order to maintain good status and to prepare (in the very long term) for the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. So this involves gathering data regarding erosion rates, proposed developments as well as keeping a close watch on new legislation both from our Government as well as from the EU. I also get quite involved in the consultation process when proposed new legislation is being developed.

The National Trust has been at the forefront of coastal management thinking in this country for some time. We have a number of advanced methods for assessing those 'hotspot' sites that are at risk from flooding and erosion and we are gradually assembling 'Coastal Adaptation Strategies' to lessen the more undesirable impacts of climate change. It may surprise people to know that the timescale we now use for coastal planning is 100 years!

We have a number of interesting projects underway at the moment, but possibly the one I have been mainly responsible for in the past year was the removal of 2.5km of failing sea defences on the south shore of Brownsea Island. We have now restored this shoreline to its former pristine condition and, in line with Trust aspirations; we will allow this foreshore to evolve naturally. Yes, erosion rates will accelerate, but that is preferable to planting new walls, groynes, etc. on a shoreline which does not require them.

I see my role primarily as advisory and endeavour to ensure that the advice given will stand the test of time.

*In association with*



### MEET THE

### CHARMOUTH FOSSIL HUNTERS II

**7.00pm, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**St Andrews Community Hall**

**Lower Sea Lane**

**Work is progressing well on our fossil event and a summary of what the evening holds in store is now on the Earth Festival website ([www.earthfestival2012.org/events](http://www.earthfestival2012.org/events)).** To update you, Professor Denys Brunsden will be speaking on 'Black Ven & Stonebarrow: Why the Fossils are there and how they got on the Beach'. David Sole will reflect on 'Forty Years of Fossil Collecting in Charmouth'. Richard Edmonds will talk about the 'Review of the West Dorset Fossil Collecting Code: the Results of the Consultation and how People's views affected the Review'. And Tony Flux will discuss 'Caring for the Coast....the Next 100 years'. The talks will be illustrated with slides.

Local fossil hunters Pete Langham, Andy Cowap, Chris Moore and Tony Gill, as well as David Sole, Richard Edmonds, Paddy Howe and Chris Andrew will be exhibiting their local fossil finds. Davina Hansford will bring some of her grandfather's (Barney Hansford) early fossil finds, related vintage items, stocks of *Around Charmouth and District* and mounted fossil photographs. Cherry Barlow, daughter of the late Ray Jennings, will bring some specimens from Ray's early local fossil collection. Coventry University student Charlotte James will provide a copy of her BSc dissertation on Evans Cliff. Exams

permitting, she is hoping to join us on the evening. Geologist/visual artist Geoff Townson will display his local seascapes which capture "the mobile erosional edge of the Dorset coastline" and will bring a series of photographs that he took over a decade which capture the dramatic erosion of Evans Cliff. And Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre will provide a display of recent local fossil finds. There will be screenings of several interesting early films that feature Barney Hansford and Ray Jennings fossil hunting on Charmouth beach, and Barney's Fossil & Country Life Exhibition. The final slot of the evening will be a Q&A panel session.

Shoreline's second publication - *Charmouth through the Generations* - which features five generations of the Hansford family, local vintage photographs in print for the first time and newly-available information about Barney's Fossil & Country Life Exhibition - will be launched on the evening. Shoreline's first publication - *The Fossil Hunters of Charmouth and Charmouth Fossil Guide* (2nd edition) - will also be available. 50% of the profits from the sale of the books will go to Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre; 50% will help Shoreline.

There will be a raffle and an opportunity to win two copies of *The Fossil Hunters of Charmouth and Charmouth Fossil Guide* booklets personally signed by Sir David Attenborough.

Advance tickets will be available from Fortnam Smith & Banwell in Charmouth for £4 from early April (free entry for children of 16 years and under). Tickets will cost £5 on the door. As before, 50% of the profits will go to Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and 50% to Shoreline. Please phone 01297 561644 if you have any queries.

**Lesley Dunlop**



# Charmouth Traders Association

**Press Release 13th March 2012**

## **Charmouth Traders Association to donate over £1500 to Charmouth village groups**

In 2011 the Charmouth Traders Association ran three successful fundraising events in the village.

- A Bonfire on the Beach
- The Charmouth Christmas Fayre
- New Years Eve Fireworks

Thanks to the generosity and support of those in and around the village, the CTA was able to raise a healthy sum of money.

A small portion of the money raised will be used by the CTA to fund their activities and purchases such as:

- The new Christmas lights which lit up The Street from the George up to the Court this Christmas
- Maintaining and improving [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) the village website
- Promoting the businesses that operate in and around Charmouth
- Running similar events in 2012

The remaining money, a sum of £1500, has been shared between the following clubs, associations and organisations in Charmouth.

- Friends of Charmouth Library to purchase equipment for the village library
- Charmouth Scouts for continuing refurbishment of the Scout hut
- Charmouth Guides towards a handheld GPS for outdoor activities
- Charmouth Youth Club towards replacement lighting
- Charmouth Bowls Club for new indoor jacks

- Charmouth Community Hall towards materials for building new cupboards
- Charmouth Brownies to hold a Jubilee Tea Party for older and disabled members of the community
- Charmouth Posh Choir towards hall hire and ongoing costs of running the choir
- The Bopper Bus towards the cost of first aid and child protection training
- Shoreline Magazine towards their ongoing running costs
- The Village Breakfast Club to help with the cost of running their breakfast service
- Charmouth PTA towards purchasing and siting a tree and bench to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee
- Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre towards the cost of the Junior Wardens litter free day
- Charmouth Village Breakfast towards the cost of new equipment

Ian Simpson, CTA Committee member and owner of The White House Hotel in Charmouth says:

"We hope that the money donated will go some way to helping these various community groups thrive and cement Charmouth not only as a superb destination for holidaymakers and as a great place to live but also as a place to shop, work and do business.

The CTA committee would like to offer their sincere thanks to all those who gave up their time and energy in helping us to set up and run these fundraising events. Without the help and support of these volunteers the events would not have been as successful as they were and we are very grateful. Charmouth Parish Council, Charmouth Fayre Committee and Lyme Regis Rotary also gave generous support."

Anyone who would like to join the CTA, help with events, advertise on [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) or for any further information, ring Ian on 01297 560 411 [ian@whitehousehotel.com](mailto:ian@whitehousehotel.com) or email [phil.tritton@lycos.com](mailto:phil.tritton@lycos.com)

## News from 'The Elms'

**Footpath** - I am sure that those of you who use the footpath from Wesley Close to Riverway will be pleased to know that the Parish Council has been working in partnership with DCC Footpath Grant Scheme – and hopefully by the time you read this you will have noticed a great improvement in the condition of the footpath.

**New Dogs on Beaches Policy** - The Parish Council has a new Dogs on Beaches Policy. The West Beach has a 24-hour dog restriction between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. However, now, access to and from Lyme Regis with dogs on short leads is permitted. The East Beach does not allow dogs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 10:00am and 6:00pm but now, access towards St Gabriel's with dogs on short leads is permissible. Signs are clearly displayed during the restriction period.

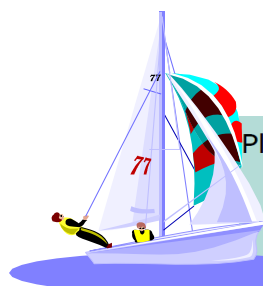
It is important to remember that dogs on beaches must be supervised and kept under control at all times, regardless of what restrictions are in place. We would politely ask that all fouling be cleared immediately. A copy of the Dogs on Beaches Policy can be obtained from The Elms.

**New Beach Huts** - As reported in the winter edition of Shoreline – new beach huts are on the way. Six blue and

the replacement of nine brown with the colour green. Watch this space!

**Diamond Jubilee Coin** - Have you put your child's name down to receive a Coin to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee? There is still time. If you live within the Parish of Charmouth and have a child under the age of 11 before 6th June 2012 and you would like them to receive this keepsake, then call Lisa or Sally-Ann **as soon as possible** at The Elms on 560826. If you have older children or live outside the Parish boundary, coins can be ordered at a cost of £5 each.

**Councillor Linda Crawford**



Please send us your stories and poems to be included in the Summer Olympics issue of Shoreline by 15th June

# Oh Yes it is... it's Mike Whatmore

**C**harmouth's very own larger-than-life script-writing thespian, Mike Whatmore, had a dramatic start in life. He was born in the middle of the Blitz at St Thomas's when part of the hospital was on fire. Then King George VI visited the maternity wing and put his hand on Mike's head, declaring 'here is our future'. There was no hope after that!

A few months later, Mike was evacuated to the Gower Peninsula and stayed with a Welsh family until 1947. "It felt very strange going back to my parents when I was nearly seven and finding I had a brother and sister I'd never met. The only person I knew was my grandmother as she'd made the horrendous journey from London to Wales to visit me. As soon as I could, I moved in with her in Clapham; I could do no wrong in her eyes!"

Mike attended Davenant Foundation Grammar School in Whitechapel and particularly enjoyed writing. "I had a good English master who gave us lessons on written dialogue and I discovered I had a knack for it."

"I had always wanted to be in the Navy and at 18 I went in on the lower deck. A year later I was recommended for the Upper Yardsman Scheme and then Commissioned." Mike spent much of his time in The North Sea, The Baltic and The North Atlantic, but was eventually invalided out as the sight in his left eye was deteriorating. He was offered a job with the Diplomatic service in central London. Work with the Serious and Organised Fraud squads in association with the Police followed.



Mike Davies as Bosun Biscuit and Mike Whatmore as Capt. Weevil

Barbara to have a look around the village and we decided to settle here."

It didn't take much time for Mike to enter into the life of the village. He joined the Parish Council in 1998 and was chairman of planning for four years, a member of the foreshore committee for four years, and a member of the playing fields and cemeteries committee for eight years. Mike has been tree officer throughout – and still is, although he stepped down from the council in May 2010. He considers and advises on applications to cut down trees and always tries to persuade applicants to plant one or two trees to replace each one felled. Mike is also



Mike Whatmore as Cap'n Billy Sawbones and Emma Williams as Jim Hawkins

Charmouth's floods officer and keeps a watchful eye on the rivers.

A few months after arriving in the village, Mike joined the Charmouth Fayre committee and remembers Richard Stirk, the then-chairman, wanting to organise a village panto. "We sent off for scripts and they were either awful or unaffordable" says Mike, who decided to try his hand at writing one. He secured a loan of £600 from the Charmouth Fayre fund and, as they say, the rest is history. *Cinderella* was directed by Mike and staged at the Community Hall in January 2001 with twins Daisy and Holly Mildenhall as alternating Cinderellas, Mike Davies and Graham Hopper as the Ugly Sisters, Vic Hunter as a courtier, Celia Young as Prince Percival and local Fire Chief John Stamp as the baron. John was so well known in the Dorset Fire Brigade that firemen poured in from the surrounding areas to watch him. The £600 loan was promptly repaid and a profit of nearly £500 was achieved. The panto was runner-up in the Dorset Panto Competition, with prizes for the best costumes and best dames.

Driven by success, Mike's *Sleeping Beauty* was next, with Blondel the Minstrel (aka Greg Gibbs) relating the story in song. It was so popular that an extra performance had to be arranged. After a year's break, Mike returned with *Snow White*, from which we remember the velvety voice of the late John Debenham as the magical 'Daly Mirror', into which the evil queen peered. Then came *The Chronicles of Jim Lad*, an eclectic mix of *Treasure Island*, *Moby Dick*, *The Water Babies* and *The Little Mermaid* "all thrown together," grins Mike. *Dick Whittington* was hot on Jim Lad's heels, with Mike and Mike Davies as a pair of rascally Pirates.

Mike grasped the opportunity to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King Charles II's stay at the Queen's Arms (now the Abbots House) with a street play on the hotel's forecourt. The headlights of four cars provided the stage lighting. Trafalgar 2005 was another brilliantly presented historical evening and supper. More recently, Mike presented *Two Dramas and a Supper*, a 1920s Murder Mystery Evening, then *Pebbles on the Beach*. He has taken a part in each panto and play. "I've had a tremendous team of set painters – Lyn Hooper, now sadly no longer with us, Cherry Davies, Vicky Jones, a very accomplished local artist, and Chris Marston" says Mike, who also designs the sets. Mike's wife Barbara is a skilled dressmaker and made or designed nearly all the costumes for Mike's pantos and plays. Mike recalls one Christmas Day. "Barbara was still stitching costumes and we had our lunch with two tailor's dummies in full costume at the end of the table!"

In 2004 Mike was approached by Lyme Regis Dramatic Society and asked to take a small part in a Miss Marple play. He ended up taking two parts and joining the society. The following year he co-directed a play in Lyme and has since acted in a number of plays at the Marine Theatre and The Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth and has been involved in stage design. You will remember Mike as



# Help Wanted - Do You Remember this Car ?

**My name is Anthony Hines. I'm an English writer living in the USA, where I recently acquired a historically important car with links to Charmouth in the 1960s.** The vehicle is a MiniSprint – a custom version of the classic Mini Cooper (5" lower than standard) and was owned by a former publican of The Queens Armes Hotel – a Mr. Derek Besley. He sold the car in 1969 to a visiting English ex-pat, who took it back to the States with him and promptly dismantled it. I found



*The car in 1966. It can clearly be seen that it's lower than the standard Mini next to it*

the car in his garage 41 years later, bought it from him, and am in the process of restoring it. I'm desperate to fully trace the car's history and to this end, wonder, does anybody in Charmouth

remember it and perhaps know who Mr. Besley bought it from? Maybe someone even has a few old photos of it!?

If anyone can help me in any way with information or memories regarding this special little car - no matter how seemingly small - I would be extremely grateful.



*The car as found in 2011*

I can be reached at anthines@me.com or by phone on 001 310 309 0275 (I will call you straight back!)

Many, many thanks!

**Ant Hines**

*Please let us know if you remember this car - Editor*

## The Village Breakfast

**The Village Breakfast has now completed one year at The Hollands Room and we are very happy to report that it is a well-loved and extremely successful drop in for many regulars.** We have tweaked the menu slightly to add crumpets and our espresso coffee has proved a favourite. The last VB before the summer break was on Thursday morning 5th April and we will open again in September. If you haven't yet come along, please do and I promise you will feel the welcome. We are always looking for new helpers to join our friendly team. Also, we are keen to invite anyone who is an artist or musician, or has an interesting story to tell to give us a call. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the VB a success.

We also hold the Village Lunch on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Hollands Room. The food is supplied by Local Food Links. Two courses and coffee costs £5.50 and is served at 12.30pm. To book for the next lunch, please call Jan Gale, VB and VL Organiser (07897 511075).

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## Oh Yes it is... it's Mike Whatmore (continued)

Crabtree, the policeman, in 'Allo 'Allo; Rainbow in *Happiest Days*; Saul the station master in *Ghost Train*; and the spiv Walker in *Dad's Army*, to name just a few characters on which Mike left his indelible mark.

Our indefatigable scriptwriter has now written a comedy for the village, which will be staged at the Community Hall, hopefully in May or June this year. "*Armageddon*" is an interplay between Gabriel and Beelzebub, the duty officers when the world comes to an end, and the voice of God. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse are women who constantly squabble. Nicky Millen is Famine and Jane Morrow, editor of *Shoreline*, is War, complete with

breastplates. "I'm not sure, but I hope Linda Crawford will play Pestilence."

Watch out for Mike in *Tons of Money* at the Marine Theatre on 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April and at the Royal Oak on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April when, in association with others, he's arranging a playlet for St. George's Day to coincide with the serving of the Sunday roast.

Mike reads a lot, writes poems and is a "tremendous" fan of Terry Pratchett. "Like me, he looks at things from a rather different angle", concludes Mike.

**Lesley Dunlop**

# Property Auction Success

**Packed sale room and success for**

**Fortnam Smith & Banwell at**

**property auction**

**Auctions have long been seen as a way of securing a bargain property, traditionally dominated by developers and cash-rich investors looking to buy at knock-down prices.** However, a brand new style of property auction was launched in Devon and East Dorset in March, which aims to achieve a reasonable market price for sellers while making buying at auction more relaxed and accessible to 'normal' home buyers.

At the new auctions, hosted by Westcountry **team** in association with The Auction Agents Ltd, sellers have the option to enter their property by the traditional method or to embrace Auction + (plus) - the new property auction service.



With the traditional auction method, the fall of the gavel represents an exchange of contracts with an immediate 10% deposit due and completion of the transaction legally bound within 28 days. But with Auction +, on the fall of the gavel, contracts are deemed to be exchanged, the buyer must place a non refundable deposit of just £3,500 with The Auction Agents Limited and completion is set within 42 days. This allows the purchaser, after the auction, to finalise legal work, funding, etc, and goes a long way to taking the anxiety, fear factor and risk away

for buying at auction while also ensuring that both buyer and seller are committed to the deal.

With traditional auctions, buyers who change their minds or find they cannot raise the finance and withdraw their commitment to purchase, lose their 10% deposit and can be sued for breach of contract. However, under the Auction + system, the buyer is able to serve written notice - within 28 days - to withdraw from the sale but on doing so, forfeit their £3,500 deposit.

Fortnam Smith & Banwell, **team** estate agent in Charmouth, entered a three bedroom house in the village into the inaugural auction, which took place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, under the new Auction + rules. The property, an end-of-terrace, ex-local authority house in Ellesdon with double glazing and gas fired central heating as well as a south facing rear garden and residents parking, sold under the hammer.

Bidding for the property began at £150,000 and with the addition of a proxy bidder, increased by £5,000 increments to reach the final sale price - to local purchasers in the room - of £175,000, the top end of the £150,000 - £175,000 price guide range.

Teresa Noel, director of the Charmouth office of Fortnam Smith & Banwell, said: "The Auction + service brings the opportunity of bidding for property at auction to more buyers, with a fraction of the usual deposit required making it accessible to most people. It aims to achieve reasonable market prices and comes with a guarantee of completion within a set timeframe, avoiding the element of uncertainty for both parties. We're pleased to introduce Auction + to our range of services and both us and our clients are thrilled with the successful sale of their home at the inaugural event."

Auctions will be held throughout 2012 at Sandy Park Conference Centre, home to Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club in its convenient location just off Junction 30 of the M5, with the next event taking place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Bidding starts at 6:30pm, a time convenient for attending after work.

For further information or to discuss entering your property in the next auction, contact Fortnam Smith & Banwell at 2 The Arcade in Charmouth on 01297 560945.

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# Flaming June - short story

**Sir Frederick helped her to her seat, arranging the soft and luxurious dark brown and russet coloured rugs on which she was to sit, to help protect her from the cold marble beneath.**

She already felt a little weary, although the walk from the house had been short. These unaccustomed heavy midday meals always brought on a lethargy she found hard to shake off. The afternoon heat was intense, and she experienced a feeling of relief as she leant backwards, placing her head on the back of the seat, and tucking one hand behind it for support. With a lazy, twisting movement, she curled herself up, with one leg bent beneath her.

She closed her eyes, breathed deeply, and felt her muscles relax. Sir Frederick was fussing around her, covering her exposed calf with the soft, semi-diaphanous material of her dress. The toes of her right leg were resting on the white flagstones, and she accepted the welcome shade afforded by the cloth as it fell in folds around her.

Was there a hint of lust in the old man's hand as he arranged the material, or was it purely a fatherly gesture? Did he think of her as the daughter he had never had, or as a lover? Of this she was unsure.

After enquiring as to her comfort, she sensed him moving off, no doubt to the seat in the shade of the large oak tree. The bench on which she was reclining was in an elevated position to this, situated in front of the ornamental lake. She was slightly concerned by the probable view her companion would have of her, positioned this way. No doubt her body would appear foreshortened, making her right buttock and thigh appear out of proportion in relation to her head. But her lethargy prevented her from moving.

As she continued to recline thus, her mind alighted on the circumstances of their first meeting twelve years ago, and of their relationship since. Her looks were what had originally attracted him to her, of that she was in no doubt. He had fallen for her flawless white complexion and delicately chiselled features: for her long limbs, her large violet eyes, and her abundance of golden chestnut hair. But surely there was more to their relationship than just her physical attractiveness? Although originally laughing at her desire to become an actress, had he not introduced her to the most influential people in the profession? And more importantly, had he not paid for her much needed drama and elocution lessons with Mrs. Dallas Glyn and Mrs. Chippendale? Although she could now proclaim her lines on stage with the most clipped of upper class accents, she still felt awkward in "polite society". She blushed at the remembrance of some of her most inappropriate choices of subject matter. She could now speak like a lady, but she knew that she had not become one, neither had she become a very successful actress. Miss Dorothy Dene did however have a more satisfactory ring to it than plain little Ada Pullan.

She was roused from her reveries by the sensation of a slight but welcome puff of wind as it tried to lift the folds of her bright orange dress, and she became faintly aware of the momentary gentle ripple of the water behind her head. The sun was already beginning to burn the exposed skin of her neck and forearms. But still she did not move.

While she was positioning herself on her chosen seat, she had noticed that a branch from the nearby oleander tree had broken off and had landed in the water close to her head. As she lay there now in the humid air, she pictured this wondrous shrub, standing resplendent in its large ornamental Grecian urn. She remembered how Sir Frederick had ordered the gardeners to wheel it out from the orangery to a position beside the lake after the last frosts, and

she could imagine the whole process being reversed at the beginning of autumn - Sir Frederick fussing in his usual manner in case anything got damaged.

She was greeted with a fragrant, heady, soporific scent as the oleander branch moved ever nearer to her on the surface of the water. The droning of a bee as it drowsily drew nectar from the flower was having a narcotic effect on her, and she felt herself to be on the edge of a sensuous semi-consciousness. Had she not heard somewhere that the oleander plant was poisonous? If she lay here for any longer, would she find herself on the edge of sleep or of death? But still she did not move, even when the bee alighted on her for a moment, producing a prickling sensation through the gauzy material of her garment.

The heat of the afternoon sun was increasing, along with her dreamy languor. She could feel the sun's rays licking like flames through the semi-transparency of her brightly coloured dress, burning her skin beneath as it smouldered in the folds of gauze. Surely a white garment would have been more appropriate on a day such as this? But she was still prevented from changing her position. She felt herself to be drifting off to a place where the smallest sounds were both magnified and more distinct, and where the light produced bright circles of coloured light behind her closed eyelids. Was the urgent call of the blackbird for her alone, warning her to steer clear of the jaws of slumber?

'Dorothy! Come along now my dear. I think that we have both had enough for one day.'

She felt the dry, bony hand of her elderly companion as he grasped the fleshiness of her upper arm - an ice cold grip on her sunburned skin. As she was helped to her feet, she was aware that she had lost all feeling in the muscles of her inner thigh, and she fell against him as she tried to find her footing.

'You have been sitting out here for too long. Come and sit out of the sun, and enjoy some tea with me. The servants are on their way with it now.'

She turned her gaze towards the house, to see a well presented team of minions carrying out a table and an extra chair, together with a large silver tray laden with delicacies. Welcome as the sight was, it was not however what was of immediate importance to her. Neither were the comments made by Sir Frederick as he cast a critical eye over the painting resting on the easel before his chair. His immediate concern was the effect produced by his rendering of the folds in the drapery: whether he had managed to produce a combination of both motion and repose. She was not interested in this aspect of the material, but of what it revealed beneath. Surely their Queen would not be amused by the President of the Royal Academy's latest work!

(continued on page 14)

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# The Fate of Charmouth Library

**The good news is that Friends of Charmouth Library believe we can keep the library as long as we extend its use by transforming it into a community hub and internet café.**

At the Cabinet meeting of 7 March, DCC Councillors decided the fates of the nine Dorset libraries under threat of closure.

Portland Underhill and Corfe Castle could not raise sufficient support but the other seven libraries had submitted business plans and were told that buildings would be handed over in "reasonable" order.

In the case of Charmouth, it would have been impossible for us to have taken on the library unless the roof and heating system were put into good order before the September handover. Fortunately, after some discussion about where the money was to be found, this was agreed.

The bad news was that requests for set-up grants were turned down.

This means that the community will have to find its own funds to refurbish the damp-stained interior, to install the chairs, tables and other equipment necessary to set it up as an internet café and to finance all the costs involved while the "business" becomes established.

We have every intention of meeting the challenge as we can already see that the activities being introduced are going to be of real benefit to residents and visitors. For example, the first ever Rhymetime was held in the library on 9 March (and will be held regularly every Friday at 9.30). This session was a great success with eleven children attending with their parents, including two who were visiting Charmouth.



## CHARBOOKS

is looking for new members.

Our Book Group meets in Charmouth Library every month on Monday evenings.

For more information, ring  
Jane Bean on 01297 561317

This is only the beginning of the social and educational programme which will be introduced gradually even before the official handover in September.

There will also – of necessity – have to be a continuing programme of fund-raising activities. Our last event was an Auction of Promises. An exciting catalogue of promises ensured that The George was crammed with bidders and an entertaining Auctioneer kept everyone laughing. The result, with donations and the raffle, was a tremendous £2,638 – and more donations have come in since. This success was only possible thanks to the generosity of promise-givers, donors, bidders, food-providers, musicians Mary & the Nomad, Graham Barton, our celebrity Auctioneer, and of Dean and his team at The George. By popular demand, this Auction will now become an annual event.

We also hope to take a stall at Charmouth Monday Market to raise funds. If you can donate DVDs, up-to-date paperback novels or biographies or children's books for the stall, we'll come and collect them from you. Any that remain after the season is over will form the basis of a Book and DVD Exchange in the library after handover.

Our next major fund-raising event will be on 28 July – so start saving your pennies for a fun-filled night! More details in the next issue of Shoreline.

THE FUTURE – with a new name

Charmouth library must change from being a rather run down, seldom open municipal institution to being a self-funded bright, welcoming drop-in venue with the library service at its heart but also offering internet facilities, tourist information, hot and cold drinks and lots of activities both in and out of opening hours. This is the only way for the library to survive.

This new venture needs a new name to reflect its changed role. So far, "Focal Point" and "Charmouth Central" have been proposed. Bearing in mind that Lyme Regis already has "The Hub", do you have any suggestions for a new name or views on the two proposed? Our deadline is 6 May.

For book collections, suggestions of names or to volunteer your help, please contact Hazel Robinson 01297 561214 [hazelrosery@aol.com](mailto:hazelrosery@aol.com). NB This is not Hazel Vasey, our Library Manager!

**Hazel Robinson**

## Flaming June - short story (continued)

In spite of the best efforts of Sir Frederick Leighton – and of the two stalwart ladies of the stage Mrs. Dallas Glyn and Mrs. Chippendale – to rid her of what was considered her "singularly unpleasant Cockney twang", she forgot herself for an instant. As she approached the painting more closely, her worst fears were confirmed.

'Cor blimey! Would you Adam and Eve it!" she exclaimed, for all to hear. "Stop rabbiting on about all that malarkey. Look what you done to me bottle an' glass. You gone an' made it look massive!"



Frederick Leighton was knighted at Windsor in 1878. The painting "Flaming June" was finished in 1895, and the following year he became the first painter to be given a peerage. Unfortunately it came a little too late for him; he died the day after the patent came through, and as he was unmarried and childless, it also made his hereditary peerage the shortest on record.

George Bernard Shaw was a friend of Sir Frederick, and had met Dorothy Dene on several occasions. It is speculated that she was his inspiration for Pygmalion.

**Jane Bean**



## ‘La Vie en Rose’ in Charmouth

**Walking through the doors of Charmouth Community Hall , Charmouth on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, you would have been forgiven for thinking that you had suddenly been transported back in time to Paris with the ‘Little Sparrow’, Edith Piaf.** The venue of ‘La Vie en Rose’, presented and produced by the Charmouth French Twinning Association delivered all its promises for an authentic Parisian evening. The venue was a sell-out with tickets sold weeks before the night, and the Twinning Association are grateful for the support given by guests on the night, and their willingness to enter into the spirit of the affair.

It was a very Parisian affair full of elegance and flair. The ladies came dressed in sleek black and white evening



Madame and patron

dresses, sexy silk dressing gowns, corsets with frills, suspenders, black stockings, feathers head dresses and ‘froufrous’ well suited for the ‘Folies Bergères’. Men wore very French curly moustaches with top hat and evening suits, whilst others wore berets and black and white stripes sailor’s sweaters. Costumes that encompassed not only the era in

which Piaf lived , but also her background , brought up and discovered as she was in the red light district.

The tables were covered with white table cloths, adorned with candles in bottles with the compulsory wax running from the bottle neck. The menu offered three types of cassoulets, the meaty one would have made a French Chef envious, with its chunky pork sausages especially made for the night, there were also tasty vegetarian cassoulets, non-garlic, gluten free cassoulets and, as Monique, the star of the show, announced at the end of her first set of French songs, as a joke “*There is also cassoulets without the cassoulets.*” People were invited

for seconds and then came desserts. MasterChef would have been excited about the food that night and the mouth-watering array of puddings baked individually by the French Twinning Association female members. The volunteers gave the evening a truly professional delivery. A raffle

was also organised with many generous prizes. The bar was minded by Jeff Prosser and his wife Carol and Keith Waterson. Liz Scott, who is stepping down from the committee, acted as host for



Pauline Bonner and Monique Newby the evening introducing Monique, the entertainer for the night. The stage was of a Parisian boudoir in La Pigalle district of Paris with French underwear draped over the changing partition.

Monique encouraged the audience to use the song sheets provided on the table and everyone sang along to *Milord*, *No Regrets*, *La Vie en Rose* and *Sous le Ciel de Paris*. The audience was in top singing form. Monique’s own compositions, *A Girl from Pigalles* and *Who is she singing Sous le Ciel de Paris* captivated the audience. Her performance was passionate, her interaction witty and warm. She held the audience both in her first set of seven songs and the second set of eight songs. Tears of emotions were shed by some to the song *L’Hymne à l’Amour* and a soulful rendering of *Mon Amour* by the famous Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo.

People happily chatted amongst themselves before the entertainment began. Someone said that no-one sings like ‘Piaf’. He was soon answered by a quip by a fan “You haven’t heard ‘Monique’ yet!”. After the performance that person had to agree. You first have to hear Monique giving her dramatic performance of French songs before making any comments. Monique is a true professional entertainer. She held her audience the whole evening single-handed, one voice, one guitar.....

## West Dorset District Council

**Firstly some good news for Dorset** - Under the national £500 million Growing Places Fund, Dorset has been allocated a massive £6.5 million by the government to improve areas of the county in need of investment, to generate jobs and create affordable housing.

The money will be spent by the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership. Chairman of the LEP board Gordon Page expressed delight at the news: “We are enormously pleased to have this funding in place – it allows the LEP to start getting projects off the ground, bring development forward and resolve some of the current economic difficulties.

**Future changes to our rubbish collections** - During 2012 and 13 local authorities will start to work together across the whole of Dorset to collect our waste. It is hoped that the new scheme will save some £300,000 a year and that the recycling rates will rise from 35 to 65%. The new service will be introduced in stages across the county and we in West Dorset will be some of the last

householders to join the scheme. Hopefully this will mean that any initial teething problems will be ironed out by the time they get to us!

We will be given a 7 litre food waste caddy and a lockable food waste container, which will be collected weekly.

We will also be given a 140 litre wheeled bin for non-recyclable landfill rubbish, a 240 litre wheeled bin for recycling and a 55 litre recycling box for glass, which will be collected fortnightly. We will be able to recycle glass, card, paper, plastics, batteries, tins and cans under the new scheme.

All in all I think the new scheme will work well and the new bins should keep our roads and driveways cleaner, as the mess caused by seagulls and other animals will be greatly reduced.

**District Councillor Jane Bremner**

# The National Trust and Renewable Energy (RE)

**You may have walked down Muddyford Lane recently and past the National Trust local office at Filcombe Farm.** You may then have noticed that we have a set of photovoltaic panels (PV's) and also solar panels on the roof. These were expensive installations but our calculations indicated that it would be worthwhile. Many of our other properties throughout England are making similar investments in RE technologies...and utilising the wide range being developed, including 'wind'. This very considered approach demonstrates that the Trust is committed to switching away from fossil fuels in the long term *wherever this is deemed practicable*. Clearly there has to be caveats.

The Trust has produced clear policies (2009) that support the enhanced use of renewable energy sources. From the internal perspective, we have a national target to generate 50% of the energy we use from renewable sources by 2020 and with a commensurate reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels. Of course, the intention is to do this without compromising the beauty, tranquillity and ambience of both the built and natural environments for which we are custodians.

Perhaps the most contentious and challenging form of RE generation is the ubiquitous windfarm, whether on land or at sea and the Trust takes all such initiatives very seriously, looking at each proposal on individual merits.

You may be aware that there is a major plan to build an offshore windfarm off the coast near Swanage. The most recent technical details that we have indicate that the nearest points to shore would be Peveril Point (13.2km) and the Needles (13.5km) and the number of turbines would be 150-300 depending on their individual outputs.

The Trust has a duty to resist any form of development that is deemed to adversely affect our special land and

seascapes. Being positive though we take the view that a healthy mix of RE technologies should be pursued. However, it is clear that at the present time, the Government is mainly focused on developing wind energy. The Trust feels that if that is the case, then each proposed 'farm' should be positioned and designed to a scale that avoids compromising the special qualities of that location, whether it is on land or sea.

We have concerns nationally that the planning system lacks coherence and sharp focus at the moment. We are also in regular contact with colleagues working within the statutory consultee bodies such as Natural England and English Heritage so that we can keep 'up to date' with plans and progress.

If you want to know more about the plans for the Purbeck offshore development, then look at the following website: [www.Navitusbaywindpark.co.uk](http://www.Navitusbaywindpark.co.uk).

The Trust is understandably concerned about the potential impact of this proposal on our Dorset and I.o.W properties and will study the results of the required Environmental Impact Assessment (which is due to commence this summer) when completed. The current proposals can only be fully assessed through the step-wise planning and licensing process and we will give detailed consideration to both the proposals themselves and the veracity of the process at each of those steps before determining our final position. Rest assured that we will do all we can to protect the beauty and tranquillity of all our special places so that you can enjoy them to the full and well into the future.

**Tony Flux**

**Coastal Zones Projects Manager for the National Trust**

## The Greenloft Project

### FROM COUNTRY CRAFTS TO LAND ART AND BACK

**Since introducing the GREENLOFT Project to Shoreline readers in 2008, we have continued to restore areas of the local landscape for the benefit of wildlife – dormice especially, but every species that adopts our hedges and woodlands as their home.** Measured simply numerically, three thousand meters of hedge has been laid, and ten thousand square meters of mixed woodland has been coppiced. Both these activities involve extensive tree surgery to enable more light to get to the freshly-cut hazel (or blackthorn, or



hawthorn, etc) and an enormous pile of oak and ash logs has been generated in scattered locations, and then brought back to the farm to be turned into charcoal. Hundreds and hundreds of bags

of charcoal are sold locally each year to help fund the work. There will be a new charcoal adventure this Spring, in that an 'earth burn' is planned - using the pre-iron-age method where charcoal is made without recourse to the 'modern' efficiency of a metal kiln. It promises to be quite an experience – and quite a challenge. Perhaps some photos will be available in time for the next Shoreline issue – we'll see.

All this exposure to wood and the great outdoors has lured me into making land art. If Andy Goldsworthy and David Nash can do it why can't we all? My land art was first exposed to public scrutiny in 'Colour Line & Thread' at the Town Mill, Lyme Regis last summer. If you missed it then, the opportunity will arise again this year - it runs from July 7th until July 25th and again I will be sharing the exhibition space with local artists Peter Newby, Pat Campbell and Hilary Buckley and with textiles artist Pat Marler. Every time I get to restore an area of woodland or hedgerow, the land art creeps in and much of my work for this year's exhibition will reflect the joys of coppicing, hedge-laying and making charcoal. I hope you can make it there!

**John Calder**

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# Down on the Farm

**How things have changed down on the farm since 1931 when Richard Loosmore (Dick) with his wife Ella and son Clifford came with their horse and cart to Charmouth from Bettiscombe.** At that time Manor Farm, with over 300 acres, was considered to be a large farm and they rented it from Colonel Bullen, who was the Lord of Catherston Manor. In the thirties, farming was very labour intensive and more varied. The main income for the farm came from the dairy cows, but there were horses, beef cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens as well. The milking of the dairy cows would then have been by hand. Conversely, Manor Farm had modern farm buildings which had been constructed with cavity walls in 1905. These buildings were ahead of their time and were considered to be a model form of farm buildings.

Gradually, farming became more mechanized as the horses were replaced with tractors and the milking machine was introduced. In addition to the farm, Clifford bought the first combine harvester in the area and started a contract business; cutting the corn for the local farmers. However, the most dramatic changes occurred on the farm in the late 1950's and early 1960's. This was



because in 1959, the whole of the Catherston Estate, including the Manor, stables and all of the farms had to be sold. The estate farmers bought their farms; hence, the majority of Manor Farm was bought by the father and son partnership of Richard and Clifford Loosmore.

Catherston Manor was bought by a developer and the estate was radically changed as the Manor was converted into 7 houses, the stables and yard into 6 flats and bungalows, and houses were built in the grounds of the kitchen gardens.

Although camping had always been present at Manor Farm in some shape or form, it was in the early 60's, after the farm had been bought, that the diversion and expansion into the holiday business started to intensify. A planning permission for the first toilet block was placed in 1960. This was then extended in 1962, when extra showers were added. In addition, although the farming business still remained very much a mixed farm it was also expanding. Hence the main farm buildings needed to be replaced. Under this direction, a larger new dairy was built on a site away from the road, with a modern milking parlour and cubicles for the herd of 100 dairy Friesian cows. Mixed farming continued through the 1960's but in the 1970's the pigs and the dairy herd were sold and farming took on a less intensive role as the holiday business continued to expand. Yet, the decision to sell all

the sheep was made as a consequence of an accident to Clifford Loosmore in 1986, which meant that he could no longer lamb the sheep.

Today, after over 80 years, the farm is still continuing to develop and expand with the involvement of a fourth generation. Although the farm at present is not being intensively farmed, there is a suckler herd of black Aberdeen Angus cattle roaming on the land. The term 'suckler herd' means that a cow has a calf which stays with its mother until it is about 6 months old. It is then separated from its mother and fed silage and corn until it is ready to go for beef at around 30 months. Only a small percentage of the farm work is now done manually. The majority is mechanically performed using several tractors, material handler, straw chopper, silage cutter, corn crimper, hedge trimmer, etc. Consequently, fewer farm labourers are employed on the farm, as the main activities involved in the arable crops of silage and corn are carried out by contractors. At the same time, the holiday park is expanding. A new leisure complex consisting of a gym, indoor pool, sauna and steam room has been built and is nearing completion, alongside the enclosed outside pool and 16 new holiday cottages. The management hopes in the near future, to hold an open day of the new complex so that any interested individuals can come along to see what is now on offer at Manor Farm Holiday Centre.

**Robin Loosmore**

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# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

## Meirel Whaites – Senior Warden

**The 2012 season is upon us already with a full programme of events and activities planned for the summer months.** The full team is back on board with myself, Phil and Nikki and our seasonal warden, and it is great to announce that our "new" seasonal warden is again Lyndsey Bird...who is a very familiar face, as she has returned to the Centre for a second season. Must be something about our village water!

Easter will be busy with fossil hunting walks and our Easter Fossil Roadshow on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, followed closely by the Great Dorset Beach Clean on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April... your coastline needs you! Just enough time for the Warden team and volunteers to catch their breath before the annual Charmouth and Lyme Regis Fossil Festival held on the first bank holiday weekend in May. We will be meeting over 600 schoolchildren and teachers on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May as the team will be in the fossil marquee at Lyme Regis for the day, and over the weekend the team will be running fossil walks and activities from the Centre and will also be running rockpooling sessions at Broad Ledge and art and craft activities in the marquee on Marine Parade. The festival is the first event that will be running as part of the wider 2012 Earth Festival, so keep your eye out over the summer months for further events. We are also planning an event in celebration of the 2012 Olympics, but we will keep you posted as ideas develop.

The Centre is almost fully booked for schools for the summer of 2012 with very few slots left to fill, so all in all, a very busy but enjoyable summer ahead. But it's not all work, work, work... the Wardens and Friends will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May with a luncheon down at the Centre, and a good afternoon will be had by all.

There have been some changes in the Centre over the winter months ready for the summer influx of visitors to the Centre. This, as always, has been achieved with the help of the Winter Working Party, a small group of volunteers who prove invaluable with their DIY skills, with warden team keeping them well supplied with tea and cakes. If anyone would be interested in joining the Winter Working Party, all that is needed is some basic DIY skills, the ability to pick up a paintbrush and enthusiasm. The team meet every Tuesday from the end of November through to March. For more details please contact the Centre on 01297 560772 or email [info@charmouth.org](mailto:info@charmouth.org)

Hot on the heels of the success of the Junior Warden Scelidosaurus CSI sessions in the Autumn, the Centre will be running a "Litter Free Coast and Sea" project with the children over the summer term. I will leave Nikki to fill you in a little more on what the Junior wardens will be up to, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the

Charmouth Parish Council, Charmouth Traders Association and the Dorset Coast Forum for their funding contributions to the project. We are still waiting to hear of a further possible funding contribution from another organisation and if successful, it will mean we can run the full planned programme of sessions for the children.

The Centre will be going live on Facebook shortly, (Lyndsey is working hard and it is happening as we write for the Shoreline deadline) so you will be able to follow what is going on down at the Centre in a totally new way... but if you need any further information on our events programme and any other information please log onto the website [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org).

Well enough from me, I will pass you over to the rest of the team for more goings on down at the Centre.

## Phil Davidson - Geological Warden

**It hasn't been the greatest winter for fossils this year with all the dry weather and lack of rough seas.** We managed to find lots of ammonites and belemnites for the school groups which have visited. Dave Halmkin, a local fossil collector, found in his old collections an unusual brittlestar from Eype that he discovered some years ago. He contacted the Natural History Museum in London and they have identified it as a type of brittlestar that hasn't been found on this coast before.

It has been 10 years since the West Dorset Fossil Collecting Code was set up and we have recorded around 280 fossils which are important to science over the years. We have been developing a new website where the photos and information on these fossils can be browsed by the public. I'm sure Richard Edmonds will talk about these in more detail in his talk at Shoreline's 'Meet the Fossil Hunters II'.

## Nikki Hills – Marine Warden

**The Junior Wardens from Charmouth Primary School are back in action at the Centre with a brand new project.** As part of the Litter Free Coast and Sea campaign that is running all along the Jurassic Coast to reduce marine and beach litter, the Junior Wardens will be working on their own beach litter project. They will be learning about where the litter comes from, the different types and how long it takes to degrade and the economic, social and environmental impacts of marine litter. The project will also include several beach cleans and litter surveys and lots of games and activities and will result in a display in the Centre. We would not have been able to do all this without generous donations towards the project, so I would like to thank the Charmouth Parish Council, the Charmouth Traders Association and the Dorset Coast Forum for their contributions.



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# Charmouth Primary School

**In my penultimate submission to Shoreline, I am pleased to inform you all that my successor has now been appointed.** Mrs Gillian Morris becomes the fourth headteacher of our school during the past 50 years. If she stays as long as I have, she will be here in 2026 – now there is a scary thought. Some of you may know Gillian from her time as deputy head in the school. She left in April 2010 to become head of Tipton St John Primary and we 'loaned' her to Devon for two years before bringing her back to Charmouth. I am sure that she will be very happy working in our school.

Our children (and staff) continue to be very busy in school on their Learning Journeys. The younger children have been involved in a journey entitled Carnival of the Animals and this has had a significant music focus. Children have made music as well as listened to it and much of their learning has been linked to Saint-Saen's music and animals in general. The older children have been learning through their journey called Tardis Travels. It has given children the opportunity to travel to different moments in time and study a range of subjects. I never ceased to be amazed by the creative thinking of our school team – our children experience something very different to my primary school days.

An interesting development in school has been our work on the Rights Respecting Schools agenda. It is an interesting piece of work, supported by UNICEF, which looks at children's rights. So many people are very aware

of their rights but they sometimes tend to forget that with those rights come responsibilities. The work we are doing focusses strongly about the need for responsibility coupled with the rights aspect. We have a focus group of staff children and governors working together to move this agenda forward. It is an important one and one that I believe will have a significant, positive impact on our children and beyond.

Over the past few years, pupil numbers in our school have been up and down in a number of year groups. There is also a belief that Charmouth is always full and so it is not worth applying if you are not in the school's designated catchment area. This is not the case at the moment. We continue to gain children in year as families move into Charmouth and its environs but there is a distinct lack of 3, 4 and 5 year olds around. This is beginning to impact on the way in which our school is being organised. So if you know of any parents with young children who may not have registered with us for whatever reason please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. It makes forward planning that much easier.

Finally for those of you keen on running, entries are available for the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July. You can download them from [www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk](http://www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk)

**Chris Vincent, Headteacher**

## Charmouth Challenge Fun Run

**The 7th July is the date of the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run to be held at Charmouth Primary School this year.**

The Charmouth Challenge is organised by parents of children at the local primary school. It is the main fund raising event of the year and all the funds are donated to the school. The run has been organised for the last 20 years and in excess of £55,000 has been raised to help the children. All these funds have been invested in the school facilities, for example additional IT equipment, playground activities and more recently the school library. Swimming lessons and school trips are also subsidised to make these activities available to all

Runners of all ages and abilities attend the races, and the spectators are treated to a day by the sea and entertainment at the Charmouth School Fete, situated just a few yards from the beach. The Fete includes many different activities and stalls and, of course, there will be a fantastic tea room where many delicious, homemade delights can be sampled. Crews from the local fire station will be giving fire safety advice as well as offering a cooling 'fire engine' shower to the race finishers.

The Charmouth Challenge race is renowned as the most southerly fell race in England and is attended by many, near and far. The race is mapped over 8 miles of the most spectacular Jurassic coastal scenery encompassing woodland, stone tracks and grassland and many hurdles such as stiles and gates. It includes a gruelling 191m

climb to the top of Golden Cap and a final downhill spurt to the finishing line at the primary school.



The Fun Run is equally daunting for those not so accustomed to regular running. The steepness of this run has to be experienced to be believed. A 2.5 mile run up the shady lane to Stonebarrow Hill and down again! The exact route has yet to be determined due to winter landslides. Every runner in this race will receive a medal as a reward for all his or her hard work!

The Fun Run starts at 2.00pm and the Challenge at 2.30pm. It is advised that all runners register as early as possible but you can enter on the day, if you cannot decide whether or not to run! The

registration desk will open at 12.30pm. Drink stations and marshals will be available on both courses.

If you do want to run, why not participate in the event by helping out. The organiser is always looking for volunteers to help the day go smoothly, please contact Nick on 01297 578082 if you can help.

To enter the races, you will need to fill in an entry form and pay a race fee of £7 for the Fun Run or £10.00 for the Challenge on the day. (£2 less if you apply before.)

Entry forms are available from Charmouth School or can be downloaded at [www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk](http://www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk) or [www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk)

**Nick Bale**

mailto:nick.bale@shirwell.com +44 (0)7879 645

# The Charmouth Jubilee Shelter



**It is interesting looking back at an earlier Jubilee celebration in Charmouth – that in 1897 of Queen Victoria, which was commemorated by the construction of 'The Jubilee Shelter'.** Sadly there are no traces today of this structure, but photographs of the time show it in all its glory. It would have stood at the top of what is today the car park by the present bridge that crosses the river there. This area has changed dramatically as at the time of its construction the River Char formed an oxbow with an earlier wooden footbridge crossing the bend in the river near the Cement Works (Heritage Centre). This would have taken visitors over to a piece of land known as 'the Spit' to the East Cliff. It had been the site for one 64 and two 24 pounder guns that were fired periodically by the local Volunteers to a target consisting of a barrel with a flag on it out to sea. They stored their ammunition in a brick building nearby known as 'The Battery'. When the Volunteers were disbanded in 1895 their band was retained and the building became redundant. Rather than leaving it empty, it was decided to convert it into a shelter to mark the Jubilee.



Photographs show the original Battery covered with a pointed roof, which was supported by number of timber pillars protecting the benches below. In 1904 a passage was cut, to be known after the contractor as 'Hodder's Gap', which cut off the bow and gave the river a straight shorter passage to the sea. Unfortunately, the river rapidly enlarged its passage at the New Cut, by eating away the sward until it reached and undermined the Shelter, which totally disappeared.

Kelly's Directory for Charmouth in the year of the 1897 Jubilee shows a prosperous village with a number of shops and businesses. The village grocers would have

been the Charmouth Stores (Nisa) which had already been established 60 years. Edward Vince was then running it as a Post Office, grocers and draper. Francis Cole had just opened his new bakers in what is Devonedge after a fire had destroyed the earlier thatched property. His wife offered rooms for visitors in the rooms above. The Coach and Horses had also recently been rebuilt after another fire and was being run as a hotel by Alex Pagan.

Regular rides by omnibus to Axminster and Lyme Regis ran from it. Harry Pryer had his monumental masons yard at the corner of The Street and Lower Sea Lane where shops are today. As well as The Royal Oak and The George, the village had The Star and New Commercial Inn and other smaller establishments to enjoy a drink. The top end of The Street had a number of shops and businesses, all sadly gone now. The larger houses that line The Street were then occupied by wealthy families. Thomas Hunter could be found on the beach where he

operated a fishing boat and also a number of bathing machines. The chief landowner was the Lord of the Manor – John James Houlton who was a solicitor from King's Lynn. John Hawkshaw, the son of the famous railway engineer, owned Lilly Farm. Mrs Schalch, living at The Court, also owned a number of properties in the village. The wealthy Bristol businessman, Alfred Gapper Pass, had recently bought the nearby village of Wootton Fitzpaine and was acquiring many buildings and farms in the area.

Children would go to the Church school in Lower Sea Lane (now converted into houses) where the Master was Henry Jones. They no doubt would have celebrated the Jubilee with a procession down the village street culminating in a large field off The Street in Pear Close.

**Neil Mattingly**

## Photographic Competition - The Essence of Charmouth



**To mark the Diamond Jubilee, we're running a photographic competition with a theme that captures the joy of living in Charmouth.** Perhaps an aspect of village life, the beach, the sea, or the friendly people who greet us whenever we set foot out of our houses. The option is yours.

There will be two classes: adults and children 16 years and under. We will print the photographs placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in both categories in the summer issue and there will be a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £15 for the winning adult's and the

winning child's photographs. The deadline for entries is 15 June.

Please submit a maximum of three photos per person. The entries can either be digital images or photographic prints.

Please email digital images to [editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk) or send photos (with your name/ phone number on the reverse) to the Editor at the address on page two and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (for return of prints) if you live outside Charmouth.

## Another Royal Occasion

**Around Charmouth and District (2nd ed.) is now available from Charmouth Post Office, Felicity's Farm Shop, Washingpool Farm Shop, Bridport Old Books, South Street, Bridport and directly from Davina Hansford ([davinamj@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davinamj@tiscali.co.uk)/560014).** It features photographs of another Royal occasion - the Coronation celebrations of summer 1911 for which several grand coronation arches were erected across The Street. This new edition also includes a photograph of the procession led by the band, with a Union Jack flagbearer at its head and Devonedge in the background.

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# Diamond Jubilee News and Events from P.T.A.



## Time to Party

**Charmouth loves a party. We don't need much of an excuse to don our glad rags and get together for fun, food and frolic.** Now that darkest winter is finally departing, our thoughts are turning to outdoor food, fun and games and meeting friends who have been hibernating. The Diamond Jubilee bank holiday weekend (June 2,3,4 & 5) will be exciting for many reasons, with lots of great activities such as the Party in the Park and the Street Party in the village and plenty of visitors around to enjoy the beach and the festivities. The double bank holiday also seemed the perfect time to host our annual favourite, the Duck Race !!, and we have decided to make it bigger and better with our very own tea party by the riverside, on the green at Seadown.

This year we will have an amazing 1,200 ducks racing down the river Char between the bridge and the beach with cash prizes for the winners and a special prize for the "Diamond Duck". Make sure you get your duck by keeping an eye out for ticket sales at school, at The George, Wood Farm and Seadown. PTA members will also be sitting outside Morgans on Saturdays 19th and 26th May, so please look out for them. The event itself will take place on Monday 4th June; the tea party will begin at 2pm with lots of lovely food, activities for all the family and face painting for the kids, so make sure you come along to cheer for your duck !! (Duck Race 3pm) Feel free to dress up in traditional tea party style and bring along a blanket or picnic. If you can help out on the day, please call Becky Loader on 01297 560759.

As soon as the Duck Race is over our attention will turn to the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run. The annual run up Stonebarrow raises significant funds for the school and

is also great to compete in (whether you go for the full Challenge to Golden Cap or just the Fun Run up and over Stonebarrow). Many families run the course together and we are also proud that the event attracts runners from all over the country. Full details for registration are elsewhere in Shoreline so, put Saturday 7th July in your diary to take part in your own personal Olympics 2012 event. Come along to the school afterwards for great cream teas, activities for the children and lots of stalls/games in the yard and on the field. As ever, we couldn't make it happen without the support of parents, staff and pupils so we will be asking for your unwanted gifts, cakes and Jolly Jars nearer to the event. If you want to help on the day, please contact me on 01297 560099.

With Bingo events on April 27th and an end of year school disco on June 29th the next few months look busy for the PTA. We know that money is tight so we have tried not to put too much pressure on the families and businesses of Charmouth this year. We have chosen to focus on running fewer events which not only raise money but also offer fun activities for all the family and the many friends of Charmouth School in the village. The funds raised so far this year have contributed to creating WOW events for the children as they embark on new learning journeys, we have also invested in new cooking and sports equipment, supplemented regular swimming and work with Chris and the staff to keep costs as low as possible on school trips. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at forthcoming events where we can put on our party gear, eat cake, drink tea and be merry.

**Marie Oldham, Parents and Teachers Association**

## Diamond Jubilee Bench and Tree

**In 1953, at the far end of the football pitch in the playing fields, five youth groups from the village planted five evergreen trees to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.** As part of this year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Charmouth School P.T.A. discussed the idea of planting an oak tree with a surround bench to provide an area where locals of all ages could sit and reflect on life.

As this was a more community-wide idea we met with the key people who work to make Charmouth a great place to live in and discussed the idea with them. Following a very generous donation from the Charmouth Traders and financial support from the Parish Council we were able to purchase the tree from Groves and the bench from Otter Nurseries (who gave us a significant discount).

I personally would like to thank the council for allowing us to carry out our idea and also our two money donors. Thanks also to Tim Holmes for his time in installing the bench and tree and Sean Clements for the engraving of the plaque. Your time and efforts are invaluable.

**Linda Bearpark, Parents and Teachers Association**

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## Charmouth Stores



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# Dennis - true story

**This tale happened well over twenty years ago now, certainly before the year BP (Before Bypass).** It's a true story that was acted out on a fine, early summer's day, prior to the great rush that used to occur in those distant times. The scene was set in the forecourt of the Coach and Horses Hotel, the time, just after midday.

The proprietors of the hotel, Kevin and Graham, had barely opened the bar and were standing at the front door idling away the minutes in anticipation of a most improbable rush for that time of day. Things were quiet; at the foot of Barr's Lane, two policemen were setting a trap for speeding traffic. Quiet though it was at that moment, the day would be long remembered as the day on which one of the most elaborate 'wind-ups' in the history of the village was about to occur.

Around the corner from Lower Sea Lane came Dennis Bearpark; he was bent forward with the effort of pushing a large, four wheeled, petrol-driven Flymo lawnmower. The machine was not the type that could be driven from a seat on the mower; it was controlled by hand, by the manipulation of hefty handlebars. Dennis was sweating with the effort. However, his morning's work as a gardener was done, the pub was open, his thirst had to be served and there were still many yards to go.

Dennis was not tall, but broad shouldered, deep-chested and obviously powerful. His manner was invariably stern. This gave the impression of surliness – of a man not to be crossed. The truth was that he was a most amiable soul, one of the village's best-known and well-liked characters. It was unfortunate that he was to become the butt of what was to transpire.

Dennis liked his cider. It was his unfailing custom and pleasure to take a pint at lunchtime. One always knew where Dennis was around midday, the lawnmower or his wheelbarrow marked his progress. In fact, it was the presence of the lawnmower outside the Coach on that particular day that provided Kevin the landlord, with the germ of an idea for a 'leg-pull' of great originality.

While Dennis was dealing with his thirst, Kevin, who happened to know the policeman opposite quite well, suggested that the lawnmower, parked where it was outside the front of the hotel, might provide a laugh at Dennis' expense. The constable entered into the conspiracy readily. He agreed to wait until Dennis had finished his pint.

Dennis emptied his glass and left by the front door. The landlords and all the customers rushed to the front



Dennis Bearpark

window to witness the action that was about to unfold. The scene was set. On a signal from within the pub, Andy, the policeman, strolled across the road in a manner that only officers of the law can assume. He was standing by the lawnmower with his left hand resting on his chin as Dennis emerged from the pub.

"Is this your lawnmower Sir?"

"Yes, Officer," answered Dennis, nodding with a smile. He had parked the mower at that place so many times, the thought of a possible infraction never entered his head.

"Are you aware that this vehicle is parked with two wheels on a public footpath?"

Dennis, not quite knowing what to say, muttered that he was aware of the fact, but at the same time, not being a driver, wondered what on earth the problem was.

"How long have you had this machine – I assume you are the registered owner? I can't see your tax disc, would you mind showing me where it is?"

The officer circled the machine, examining it very carefully. He was an extremely tall man so the exaggeration of his movements in his visual search were quite perceptible to the gape-mouthed crowd inside the bar, whose faces were by this time pressed hard against window - **behind** Dennis.

Of course there was no tax disc, but by this time, the directness of the policeman's questioning and the physical menace of him towering over Dennis had caused genuine confusion. His attempted responses to the officer's questions made no sense whatsoever. The smile had long left his face - it was now ashen.

The constable continued; "You know Sir, that under the law, four-wheeled, petrol driven vehicles such as yours are liable to exactly the same regulations to those of goods and passenger vehicles on the highways. What was the date of your last M.O.T.?"

Dennis simply could not answer.

"Well Sir, this matter is fast becoming more serious than I thought. You can provide no evidence of having the vehicle taxed. I can also see that your tyres are well worn, there are no lights on the vehicle and yet you cannot produce an MOT certificate."

It should be explained at this point that Dennis had no vehicle of his own and was therefore completely unfamiliar with the conditions of ownership. In attempting to reply, Dennis issued strange croaking noises that were just as incomprehensible to him as they were to the policeman.

The policeman was by now feigning real concern. His voice dropped an octave and said menacingly, "Please show me your driving licence". Of course he could not. "I don't suppose there is any point in asking for your vehicle insurance either?" Dennis mumbled something about not knowing such requirements applied to mowers, but as he did so, the officer cut him off sharply - "Did you drive to the Hotel?" Dennis nodded. "And you've been drinking?"



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# News from St Andrew's Church

**This has been a relatively quiet period of the year, with few special Services or events to report.** Many people say they need a 'breather' between Christmas and Easter, which in a sense is what Lent is all about! We have however tried to improve our Family Service with a brand new and simpler Order of Service. The Service is designed to appeal to younger people and their parents, but not in any sense to exclude those who are a bit older. We have achieved this balance by inviting children and their parents to be involved 'up front' at the beginning of the Service. They have a special Song, light a special Candle, join in a story of the day, and share in a few simple prayers. Then the children go to the rear area of the church for their activity period, whilst the rest of the congregation have their own Service with hymns, prayers, readings and a Sermon. Then the children return with their teachers for the final part of the Service. This consists of a brief presentation by them on what they have been doing, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer and a final song. This Family / All Age Service is held at 9.30am on the third Sunday of each month – do come along for a 'lighter touch' Service!

Whilst on the subject of events of younger people and families, we are planning to hold an Easter Egg Hunt, after the 9.30am Service on Easter Day! Please look out for the advertisements! On Easter Day we will also hold a special Easter Songs of Praise, 6.30pm at St.Andrews. This will be held jointly with the United Reformed Church, and will kick off our Summer Season of first Sunday evenings of the month informal Songs of Praise.

On the subject of our church building, there is some news to report. After extensive applications for permission, we are now definitely going to proceed with the reroofing of the north and south aisle roofs. They need serious attention, because they are beyond their 'sell by' date and are leaking. The works will cost £50,000 + fees, and should begin in May. If you wish to contribute towards the considerable cost, then please contact our churchwardens or Treasurer.

Our plans for the redevelopment of the interior of St.Andrews are also slowly proceeding. The Diocesan authorities have given their general approval to our outline plans. These are:

- ~ To remove all the pews, relay the floor, and purchase new upholstered chairs
- ~ To extend the rear enclosed area of the building so as to improve the kitchen and provide more space for meetings
- ~ To set up a special children's area, and make a special Chapel area for aiding personal prayer
- ~ To extend the gallery so that the seating capacity of the church is not reduced
- ~ To have a new entrance area at the north west of the building, with entrance via the tower door
- ~ To build a disabled toilet and office for meeting clergy to book Services or for small meetings

We wish to continue our consultations with the village about these ambitious and costly plans, which we hope will provide an assured place for our church within our community life. So aim to have our latest plans exhibited in the church over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April. See publicity for more information. The plans will be discussed at our "Annual Parochial Church Meeting" which follows our 9.30am Service on 15<sup>th</sup> April. We would like to undertake these developments, which can benefit the whole community, by working in partnership with other organisations. So for example, we are looking to meet the Parish Council and Pavey Society to talk this through with them.

I end with a special Invitation to our special Holy Week & Easter Services in the Golden Cap Team:

5<sup>th</sup> April: Maundy Thursday Last Supper: 7.30pm at Marshwood

6<sup>th</sup> April: Good Friday "Hour at the Cross": 2pm at Chideock

7<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Eve Service of Light: 7.30pm at Morecombelake

8<sup>th</sup> April: Easter Holy Communion: 9.30am at Charmouth, AND at Catherston; Easter Songs of Praise: 6.30pm at St.Andrews Charmouth (with U.R.C.)

**Rev'd Stephen Skinner, Team Rector**

## Dennis - true story (continued)

And you actually intend driving this thing home?" Dennis nodded again, his chin now on his chest, hung in abject misery.

"This really won't do Mr Bearpark! Not only have you failed to produce the necessary documentation, you have totally disregarded elements of the Highway Code - and now you admit to drinking whilst in charge of a vehicle and of your intention to drive it home. I am certainly going to breathalyse you!" Upon which the constable called to the other officer on the opposite side of the road, asking him to bring the breathalyser kit. "I am going to ask you to blow into this tube." He did so.

After Dennis had completed the test, Constable Andy rather over-dramatized the act of reading the breathalyser - all with great effect for the onlookers. The critical moment had arrived: he then said slowly with rising stress " Well - it's a shame it's not a positive reading; anyway it's just as well **Mr. Bearpark, it is obvious that I would be much better employed if I**

**were to arrest those two idiots behind you and the rest of them before they succeed in their attempts to kill themselves with laughter!"** He then put his hand on Dennis' shoulder and gently turned him about to face Kevin and Graham and all those faces pressed against the pub window almost crying with laughter. Dennis, in turning around, realised the enormity of the joke that had been played upon him. "You \_\_\_\_\_" he said - with considerable stress!

Being the man he was, Dennis never bore any resentment over the events of that day. He was soon able to laugh or at least, to grin ruefully when the events of that day were re-told - as they frequently were - of a wonderfully spontaneous bit of pure theatre of which he had been butt.

Good old Dennis: he's gone now but his place within the village annals is assured.

**Peter M. Press**

# Charmouth House

**Charmouth House presents itself as a large imposing thatched building on the corner of The Street and Higher Sea Lane.** As with many of the larger properties, it possesses a long and interesting history stretching back to the years when the village was under the ownership of the Monks of Forde Abbey. The existing building is thought to have consisted of two houses and stabling. A description of the construction of which can be read in Peter Press's excellent article in *The Village Echo* for



*Charmouth House is shown on the right of this painting by Lucy Rossetti. Painted in 1878, it shows the iron railings which were later removed and replaced with the stone wall that still stands*

Summer 2005 when he was able to see the inside whilst it was being converted from a hotel into four dwellings. It revealed the building to be over 500 years old, with a magnificent moulded beam ceiling and fireplace in the former reception area and a plank and munting wall in the west facing part. This screen is composed of large vertical timbers with planks in between and is dated c.1500. It would confirm the belief that Charmouth, prior to the dissolution of 1539 under the auspices of Abbott Thomas Charde, was prospering with The Manor, The Queens Armes (Abbots House) and the Church, containing fine features from this time. An earlier Abbot, simply known as William, had created a borough in the manor of Charmouth between 1290 and 1297. A detailed description of the boundaries can still be seen in the ancient 'Cartulary kept at Forde Abbey'...**thence along the road ascending to le pillory and then to the cross which stands on the road to Lyme above Radehorne, on the west side of the vill as far as le Shoete by the corner along the ditch to the bank adjoining Sevenaker on the north side.**

The Shoete refers to a small conduit by the road, which would have sent its water on to a stream. Even today the remains of a stream can be located in places along higher sea land leading to the sea. It was this 'Shoete' which was to give the building its original name of 'The Fountain' from which it was known for centuries. As with all buildings in the village, the famous local historian Reginald Pavey was able to see the original deeds, and it is his notes that have helped with this history. He records that the earliest document refers to it being owned by Edward Limbry in 1575. This family were very important and their name appears a number of times in the detailed Rent book produced in 1539 for Sir William Petre on his purchase of the village, which is now held in Devon Record Office in Exeter. Sir William and his son John Petre are shown to have given 1000 year leases to a number of properties in the village, including the Elms, whose original deeds still exist. Charmouth House must have been under the ownership of the Manor, for in 1764 there is a reference to 'the remainder of a 1000 year lease' when the property was sold. There is also a deed relating to an adjoining property that was let by Edward Limbry from Sir John Petre. Almost all the lands south of The Street remained with the Lords of the Manor for centuries. But the deeds show that as well as the 3½ acres adjoining Charmouth

House, it possessed over 60 acres of lands between Higher Sea Lane and Old Lyme Road which were eventually sold off in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Hearth Tax returns for 1663 show the ownership of all the dwellings in the village that had fireplaces. It reveals the largest being the Manor House (6) where William Ellesden resided, but after him was William Lymbry (4) who would have owned Charmouth House. It was his relation Stephen Lymbry, with just 1 hearth, who was to make his name in

history by attempting to sail the future King Charles II across to France in 1651, but was prevented carrying it out by his wife who locked him in a cupboard after finding out about the plan. The Lymbrys were the leading family in Charmouth during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and there are many mentions of the family in lawsuits, wills and title deeds of the times.

I have combed the archives, documents and books trying to get early references to the house, especially its role as an inn. I struck gold reading through the many pages of a court case from 1682 when the Limbrys were fighting the Edwardes over property ownership. Within it was the description of a meeting at '...**Mr. Robert Shute's House being the signe of the Fountaine in Charmouth**'. It revealed that though the Limbrys still owned it, they were leasing it to Robert Shute, which confirmed its role probably right back to the days of the monks as being an inn. The case also refers to William Limbry being the son of Edward Limbry whose own father was also named Edward Limbry, who appears on the earliest deeds to the house.

The next important family to own The Fountain were the Burridges, who were mariners and featured prominently in the history of neighbouring Lyme Regis. They were to become Mayors and Members of Parliament for the town. A lasting memorial is the large black slab recording various members in the entrance to the Church, including Robert and his sons John and Robert. In 1654 John Lush married Joan Lymbry at Charmouth, whose descendant Arthur Lush, a shoemaker, is shown as the owner in 1689. The following year he in turn sells it to Robert Burridge of Lyme Regis. The family were Dissenting Merchants and though Robert was removed as Mayor in 1684, they held the office seven times between and his brother John was M.P. for Lyme Regis in 1689. The Burridges traded with Virginia and Barbados during this time and their large accounts book for their many trips can still be seen in the Dorset Record Office. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century the family were involved with the slave trade. They were to live in a large house on Broad Street in Lyme Regis and let the Fountain Inn to various tenants. The deeds to Charmouth House show Robert leaving the inn to his sons Robert and John.

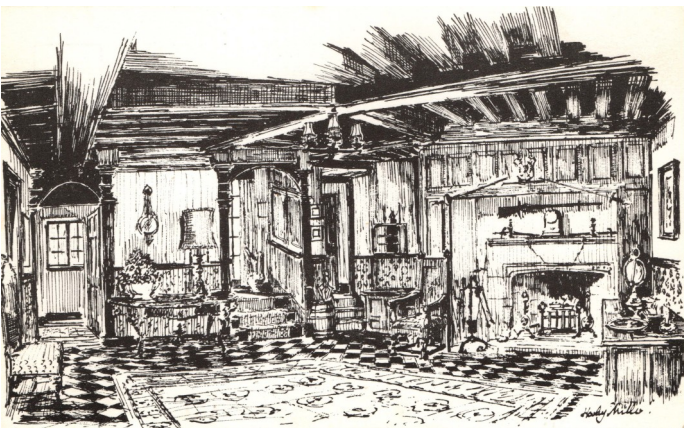
When Robert Burridge died in 1742 it is his granddaughter Elizabeth who inherited much of his large estate. She is



# Charmouth House

shown as marrying Francis Folaquier, a merchant from Taunton, at Lyme Regis in 1734. They continued renting The Fountain and other properties in Charmouth to various tenants. In 1741 Elizabeth died and was buried at Taunton. In due course her husband disposed of the Charmouth properties. Benjamin Bradford purchased some buildings and 60 acres of lands that were formerly part of the Charmouth House Estate in 1753. In the same year the Poor Rates for Charmouth show that Mr John Goring paid 2s. 5d for the property, second only to John Henvill, who was Lord of the Manor. There is believed to have been an extensive fire about this time, traces of which could still be seen during the recent alterations. Francis Folaquier in 1764 sells the remainder of the lease of 1000 years to John Goring who is described as an Innholder. John Goring then sublet to Walter Oke of Axmouth. Finally in 1770 the Burridges' long 80-year ownership of the freehold of The Fountain came to an end when Francis Folaquier sold the Inn with 3½ acres of land to George Kennedy of Lyme Regis. The following year Francis died and was buried with his wife at Taunton.

Three years later George Kennedy sold it on to Obadiah Bidwell, the original document of which now hangs in the Pavey Room at The Elms. It details that *George Kennedy of Lyme Regis, Charlotte Anne, his wife and Obadiah*



*The interior c.1930*

*Bidwell of Crewkerne paid £400 in the Tenure of Edward Roberts, afterwards William Rednor, afterwards of John Goring since of Melissa Wall, widow now of Robert Halson as tenant to George Kennedy and that Meadow, formerly 2 in the tenure of Robert Halson. The original advertisement from the Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury for 1774 can still be seen in the Dorset Record Office.*

The Land Tax records then show him letting to a number of tenants including Thomas Aldridge, Jacob Rogers and James Bradbeer. By 1793 his son Thomas Bidwell has inherited The Fountain, but is in financial trouble and a number of references to mortgages are detailed on the deeds, including Thomas Collins of Chard. In the year 1805, the property was shown as empty in the Poor Rates. But the following year George Harvey took over the tenancy until it was sold in 1811.

The fortunes of the inn were to change dramatically in that year when Thomas Gordon bought the property and its grounds. He was also the owner of Middleton Court at Huish Chamflower in Somerset. The 1851 Census shows him aged 91 living with his wife, Jane and three servants at the property. Though for a while, part of it continued to be run as an inn by George Diment who, when he died in 1858, is described in his obituary as *"the respected landlord of the Fountain Inn for many years"*. In St.

Andrew's Church, as with many of the important families that feature in the village history, can be seen a memorial to Thomas Gordon and his wife. He lived to the magnificent age of 95 and died in 1855, the same year as his wife. They were to leave the house and lands to their nieces, Marianne and Louise Power Short, who lived in Exmouth. It was during their ownership that a slice of the Fountain Mead, the field alongside the house, was sold to Mrs Stuart who lived opposite at The Court so she could keep her view out to sea. In 1873 Marianne died and her sister decided to place the house up for sale. We are fortunate that a copy of the detailed Auction Catalogue has survived in Dorset Record Office thanks to Reg Pavey. The successful purchaser was George Holly, the landlord of the Coach and Horses, situated next to the Church in The Street. When the latter was partially destroyed in 1882 after the thatched roof ignited, he decided to give up the tenancy whilst it was rebuilt and continued to run Charmouth House as a hotel again. On his death in 1886, the property reverted back to private ownership. It is only through censuses and Electoral Rolls that I am able to build up a picture of ownership at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No doubt in time more will come to light about these families. For in 1901 Agnes Leith, then aged 70, was living there with her daughter Matilda, aged 28. But by the time of the next census, 10 years later, John, aged 65 and Isabel Reid, 56 were residing in the house with his children Mildred and John. By 1922 Frederick and Maria Marter were briefly living in the house. Four years later John and Katherine Cresswell are shown as occupying it. But in 1929 Katherine was the sole occupant and she in turn sold it to George and Eliza Lillie who were to live there until 1940. Robert and Gwendoline Ransford and their family then purchased it. This was during the war and Robert is shown in the Electoral Roll as serving abroad during that time. The family's time at the house and the transformation into a hotel is detailed by their son, Neil, in the Spring 2004 issue of *The Village Echo*.

In 1965, Geoffrey and Joyce Earl appeared as the new owners of the hotel. They ran the business for almost a decade before selling it to Arthur Davy in 1971. With his wife Jean, Jeff Prosser (Jean's brother), wife Carol and respective families, they obtained a full license and ran it as a hotel, bar and restaurant for a further 12 years. It was then sold to John and Brenda Murray and close associate Jack Perry who ran it for a couple of years. They in turn sold it to Tony and Lila Batson who ran it for 10 years, before being sold to Malcolm Wilson. The hotel was purchased a few years later by a developer from Weymouth who converted it to four separate dwellings in 2005. Today these are the Pump Room, Fountains Mead, Nos 3 and 4 Charmouth House. The hotel's former swimming pool is now back to gardens and at the rear of this, another property was built and more recently a further house was constructed in part of that garden.

How times have changed, when the ancient Fountain Inn was set in over four acres of its own grounds. But we are fortunate today that the building we see is little changed from those great days in the history of the village when Charmouth was the focus for coaches travelling across country from London to Exeter.

**Neil Mattingly**, Pavey Group

I wish to thank Jeff Prosser, Liz and Andrew Scott and the staff at the Dorset History Centre for their help with this article. If you wish to find out more about this building and others in Charmouth, please go to the website: [www.charmouthhistory.com](http://www.charmouthhistory.com)

# National Coastwatch Institution

## 'EYES ALONG THE COAST'

**I have to admit that some 9 months ago I had never heard of the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) and its vital role in maritime and inshore safety.** Yet now I have been a member Of Lyme Bay NCI for 6 months, am now a qualified Watchkeeper and thought it worth sharing what the NCI is, who we are and what we do.



### So what exactly is the NCI?



*Clive Edwards, NCI Lyme Bay Station Manager, at Burton Bradstock*

The NCI was formed in 1994 after a fatal accident off the coast of Cornwall and was set up 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 take appropriate action in the event of an emergency. The NCI uses appropriate technology such as VHF radios and radar but we often have to rely on the good old-fashioned eyeball !

In the event of an emergency NCI action will normally consist of reporting an incident to a local Maritime and Coastguard Agency co-ordination centre who will then co-ordinate Search and Rescue activity with the Coastguard Mobile units, RNLI, police, ambulance and others as appropriate. After that the NCI station involvement with the incident will usually be to monitor the situation which may include relaying radio messages from a stricken vessel or providing visual reports. NCI volunteers are not expected to take a physical part in rescues or give medical attention as this is dealt with by other experts.

There are a number of NCI lookout stations in the Dorset/Devon area. Lyme Bay is served by a lookout based on

the cliffs at Burton Bradstock. It has been operational since September 2010 and currently only operates at weekends and bank holidays. We are gradually increasing the number of volunteers so that we can gradually expand coverage throughout the week. The lookout is a temporary one and we hope to move to more permanent, larger accommodation later in the year. Our nearest Maritime and Coastguard Agency co-ordination centre is at Portland although this will be moving to Fareham in due course.

The next nearest Dorset NCI is based at Portland and there are others St Albans Head and Peveril Point near Swanage. The closest Devon based lookouts are at Exmouth, Torbay and Teignmouth.

### Who are we?

The NCI is made up entirely of volunteers. Lyme Bay NCI has some 50 volunteers of which some 24 are trainees. Many are retired or semi retired and although some have maritime experiences i.e. ex Navy, Coastguard, RNLI or just keen sailors. The rest of us come from a variety of backgrounds and have no knowledge of the sea. However, it is important to stress that no formal qualifications are required - the main requirement is a willingness to learn new skills, have common sense and be committed. There is no upper age limit and we have some members well into their 70s. For youngsters it is also possible to join as an NCI cadet and the minimum age for this is 16 years.

### What do we do?

On joining you start off as a trainee Watchkeeper. Structured evening classroom training is provided (on average once every two weeks) but much is about learning on the job, helping a qualified Watchkeeper at the lookout. Subjects covered include: spotting and recognising vessels (recording range, bearing and other identifying details); chartwork (ie plotting vessels on charts); distress signal recognition; radio procedures; lookout station opening/closing; weather conditions; incident reporting and the all important log keeping. Once we move to a larger lookout we hope to be able to use radar and other technical aids which will require additional training for us all.



*Lookout Station at Burton Bradstock*

After a number of watches and training sessions and once a trainee feels confident enough, his or her skills are assessed over two, 4 hour watches by a Senior Watchkeeper. If the pass-mark is reached then the



# HM Coastguard

**HM Coastguard is the Government's 4th emergency service.** The men & women of this service belong to the oldest '999' service in the UK. It was formally named on 15th January 1822 after integration with the Preventative Water Guard which was formed in 1809. The work of HM Coastguard continues to be far ranging, but in essence we are responsible for all incidents in the waters around the UK and also all Civil Search & Rescue (SAR) across the whole UK coastline.

Last month in Lyme Regis, we celebrated the voluntary contribution made to the community and to HM Coastguard by two exceptional individuals. This month we will see another long serving team member reach 20 years of service. Between them they have dedicated over 56 years of their lives to helping conduct over 500 search and rescue missions, day and night and in all weathers. This degree of dedication is admirable - you really do need to commit 100 per cent when volunteering for the coastal rescue service. Being a coastguard is not just a job or a hobby but a way of life. Wearing a 'pager' 24 hours a day brings with it unintentional consequences that you would not normally think twice about.

When on call, the requirement for a 12 hour shift is to always be close to the coastguard station. Not being able to run those simple errands normally taken for granted creates its own pressures and strains. It does not matter what a coastguard is doing at the point when the call

comes in, it must be stopped to attend the 'shout' in a 'fast and safe' manner. This often requires a sympathetic employer and work colleagues and even more sympathetic family member and loved ones. Any incident we are called to, even those that take place in seemingly perfect conditions, has the potential to take a turn for the worse, and often does! To ensure that the best & effective care is given to the casualty, be they human or animal, every coastguard dedicates a lot of personal time & energy to training and making sure they are familiar with the latest equipment and techniques. In and around Lyme Regis and Charmouth, the coastguard is responsible for mud rescues, cliff rescues and searches, and this means many hours of extra training. Some 'shouts' last for several hours and can occur in the most difficult coastal and nautical environments. This is all part and parcel of the role and members of the coastguard fully understand and accept the risk in helping with safety in our coastal communities.

The reward for all this dedication by the coastguards is simply a sense of pride and knowing that when that 'bleeper' goes off, we can help and are capable of delivering an effective local rescue service. So if you are in distress or see someone you believe is in trouble around the coast or out to sea, do not hesitate to dial '999' and ask for the Coastguard.

**Nick Bale**



**JIM ALLEN**

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## National Coastwatch Institution (continued)

person becomes a Watchkeeper with the opportunity of learning more skills and possibly taking on more senior roles. Not everyone wants to go as far as becoming a Watchkeeper and the responsibilities this entails and some trainees prefer to become an Assistant Watchkeeper. Assistants can only be on shift with a qualified Watchkeeper who takes responsibility for the Watch. Nevertheless, Assistant Watchkeepers provide a vital role in our work.

Shifts are four hours each with usually two persons per shift. Volunteers are expected to do two four hour shifts per month and this is where the commitment comes in. If someone signs up for a shift they must turn up or find a substitute if something comes up. We use an efficient electronic booking system so one can plan shifts several weeks ahead. Time on shift is spent monitoring the Maritime VHF radio broadcast, weather conditions and coastal activity with a variety of high powered binoculars. Any relevant activity is noted in an official log book.

Although a uniformed organisation, the NCI is not rank conscious and we are all on first name terms. It is not all work and we get together for social occasions and talks by other organisations. The formal part is to become as professional as possible and being able to follow procedures which are standardised throughout the NCI and are recognisable by our key partners such as the Coastguard. Ultimately the NCI is there to assist with the preservation of life.

### We need you...

As someone who knew nothing about the sea I welcomed the opportunity to learn new skills and feel part of something worthwhile. The training is not as daunting as it sounds and is very enjoyable. We still want to increase our ranks to enable broader lookout cover. Do you feel up to it? If you want to learn more or want an application form, please contact:

Clare Reeves (Recruitment and Marketing) :-

Email: [clarereeves1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clarereeves1@hotmail.co.uk)

Phone: 01308 898108

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

### Donations

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

John Ashley (Fund Raising Co-ordinator) :-

Email: [jra2711@aol.com](mailto:jra2711@aol.com)

Phone: 01297 444801

**Mike Seaman, Watchkeeper**



# A Charmouth Musical Journey

**It's always fascinated me to watch the progress and development of musicians.** I was pleased that when I watched the NME Awards last week on the television that I was familiar with most of the winners and nominees. It was great to see Pulp still at the top of their game - giving a live performance that the younger artists were clearly impressed with. NME is the long serving New Musical Express - a publication that has brought review and opinion on bands and solo artists, upcoming acts and



the cooler end of the musical marketplace. This month (March) it reaches its 60th birthday. I religiously bought my copy every week from Morgans back in the '80s. On one occasion I was in the queue behind the great political interviewer Sir Robin Day who had moved to Morcombelake and was buying 20 copies of the Radio Times. Rather embarrassed, he turned round and told me he was only buying

so many as his family wanted them because he was on the front cover. I told him not to worry as I clutched my NME - I said I would do the same when I made the cover of my favourite read. Well, I never made the front cover but I have made it inside a couple of times over the years. Sir Robin quit Question Time not long after, I moved to the city to play in bands and our Wednesday morning meetings at Morgans ceased to happen.

It's great for me to see young people from Charmouth starting out on their musical journeys. I was at the Woodroffe School Cabaret not long ago and it was wonderful to see Charmouth's younger contingent well represented in various music and dance acts. Ella Harwood's individual talent shone through in her beautifully atmospheric delivery of Lana Del Rey's 'Video Games' which she sang and played on the piano. Harry Eastwood is a very talented and energetic pianist and his medleys are becoming well known. This time we were treated to 'Songs from the Shows' - a collection that he put together himself to honour musical theatre. Kristian Beckers (bass guitar) and Oscar Gordon-Christopher (sax) took their places in the Jazz Band. The groove was tight and their musicianship was sensitive - it's great to see



young people so obviously enjoying Jazz ensemble. Gemma Davis, Georgina Harvey and Matilda Lloyd (yes Lloyds, you are still Charmouthians really!) were part of a lively and well choreographed dance piece while Millie Pearce was centre stage and fantastic with her skilled diabolo work

accompanied by a samba band. Apologies if I've overlooked any locals that were in the show - it was a great evening!

I'm looking forward to working with B Sharp again after Easter. The local music project for young people is near to completing its two big commissions 'Hear Here' and 'Coastal Voices' and will be performing at Weymouth and Poole as part of the Olympics. B Sharp is working with children and young people all over West Dorset with many participants coming from Charmouth and surrounding villages. I'm going to be running some music sessions down at The Hub in Lyme Regis for any young people that

would like to be part of group music making and we will be working towards a performance in Lyme Regis. I will work with any bands or groups who turn up and also help put individuals into groups. The style and content will be participant led. Anyone interested should email me at [petewild@bsharp.uk.com](mailto:petewild@bsharp.uk.com) or call B Sharp Director Fran Williams on 07968 177663. Sessions will be on Friday evenings starting after the Easter Holidays.

Tickets will go on sale soon for the second concert on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> organised by Kim Redford and featuring many local musicians. The last one was a real mixed bag of musical styles and the concert coming up promises to be another mix of great music and good times.

They (whoever 'they' are) say that variety is the spice of life and I do tend to agree.

Whether it be of the musical, artistic, social, spiritual or political variety - we all benefit from having plenty of choice!

On that note, and before my musical punnery goes off the scale - I'll wish you all peace and harmony.

**Pete Wild**



## Breeze



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# Dancing to a Different Beet

**Mention beetroot to many people and the reaction more often than not is one of two extreme possibilities; an involuntary shudder with accompanying grimace or a rapturous vociferation about the joys of this underused and much maligned vegetable.**

Beetroot is truly the Marmite of the vegetable world.

I admit for a long time I was with the former. Very rarely did you see beetroot presented as anything other than a side accompaniment to a rather unimaginative salad, either boiled on an industrial scale to within an inch of its life or doused in enough malt vinegar to dissolve your fillings. No thanks! The only discernible flavour was the acidic kick of the vinegar with nary a hint of the true epicurean delight that beetroot can deliver. It's no wonder that beetroot was consigned to orbit in the outer reaches of the vegetable galaxy.

My damascene conversion to the joy of this wondrous globe came when for some reason lost in the mists of time, I decided to grow some in the hotel garden. I do not remember why, maybe I accidentally bought a packet of seeds or somebody gave me some. Either way, in the ground they went and thereafter were pretty much left to their own devices, unloved, unwanted, untended. In spite of this wilful neglect and regular attacks by voracious chickens who had free ranged out of their coop into vegetable territory (an all too frequent happening), the plants grew, nay thrived in a forgotten, rarely visited corner of the garden. It is a sad indictment of my horticultural skills that they were so successful in spite of (because of ?) my lack of attention and at some point later that summer I discovered that I had inadvertently produced rather a lot of splendid looking beetroot.

So what to do now? Having survived against the odds I felt I needed to do justice to them. Boiling them seems to suck any flavour out of them and let's just stay away from the whole vinegar thing! A little reading and research of course produced many recipes and suggestions for utilising them in many interesting and unusual ways all of which eschewed the usual pickling and boiling. I have shared a couple of these recipes and ideas below but there are of course many more ways that you can utilise this wonderful earthy vegetable. Give them a go, you may surprise yourself!

The simplest way is to bake them just like a jacket potato. Leave an inch or so of the stalk and taking care not to break the skin, brush half a dozen ping pong ball sized beets with a little oil, place in a roasting tin with a pinch of salt and a sprig or two of thyme. Bake in an oven preheated to 400°F/200°C/Gas Mark 6 for 30/35 minutes or until the beets are soft but not shrunk. This way the flavour is kept inside the skin and indeed intensified, the natural sugars in the vegetable also concentrate and the rich earthy flavour just seems to be elevated to a new high.

You will need your marigolds to peel them if you want your hands to remain the same colour as the rest of you, but this is best achieved by gently squeezing them out of the skin and is quite satisfying to see this

beautiful shiny, intensely coloured globe emerge from the dull, wrinkled, papery coating.

Roasted like this the beetroot is excellent served with peppery salad leaves like rocket and watercress (or even with a few wild garlic leaves mixed in, it's all free this time of year), a few sweet cherry tomatoes, a handful of walnuts and a little goats cheese such as a soft creamy Capricorn or shavings of a firmer Woolsey. Drizzled (are we still allowed to say drizzled?) with a little olive oil and a light fruity vinegar - not repeat not malt!! - it is a perfect salad.

As an accompaniment to a main course try a Beetroot Dauphinoise.

This should produce six generous portions

8 medium potatoes

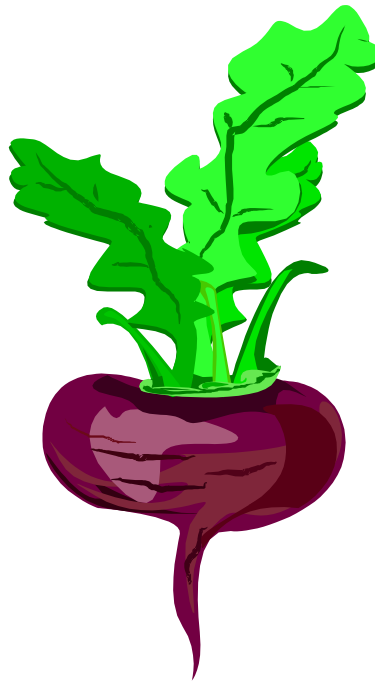
4 medium beetroot

Half pint double cream and a quarter pint of milk

2 cloves garlic

1 sprig of thyme and one bay leaf.

Salt and pepper



## Method

Chop the garlic and sweat in a little oil in a deep pan with the bay leaf and thyme. Add the milk and cream and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for five minutes.

Peel the beetroot and potatoes, slice thinly and in a deep baking tray, alternate layers of potato and beetroot, seasoning each layer in turn to almost fill the tray. Remove the herbs from the cream and milk mix and pour over. Place a sheet of greaseproof on the top of the tray not quite covering the top, maybe an inch or so in from the edge all round.

Bake at 190c (375f or Gas Mk 5) for an hour or so until cooked and the liquid has been absorbed.

Excellent with dark meats like beef and venison or even just on its own.

**Ian Simpson**

The Street,  
Charmouth.



01297 560411

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[ian@whitehousehotel.com](mailto:ian@whitehousehotel.com)

## The White House Hotel

Open to non-residents for dinner  
Tuesday -Saturday  
Booking Advisable

# News from Bymead House

**Bymead House has been very busy since you last heard from us !** The residents have enjoyed trips out in our new minibus with the help of our volunteer driver Barrie Wilson (yes I have roped my husband in to help!), to places such as Fern Animal Sanctuary near Chard, the solar panel fields at Hawkchurch, which the residents found quite amusing and out to the Bull at Swyre where a lovely pub lunch was provided. As a special request from two of our residents, trips were also arranged to Felicity's Farm Shop for David Hansford to see what had been done to the garage and to Poundbury for Ronnie Beer to give his opinions on the architecture of Prince Charles's village!

Dignity Day was celebrated recently with afternoon tea and cakes and a selection of old photographs for the residents to reminisce about. If you have any memorabilia you would be willing to loan or donate to Bymead House please contact Sue Bartlett-Hall, our activities coordinator who will put them to good use.

We have three residents who are over 100 years old including Mollie Raison who celebrated her 101st birthday in March, Eugenie and Norah will be 105 and 102 respectively, later in the year !

## Giant Hogweed Update

**Sarah Williams and Nick Gray from the Dorset Wildlife Trust spoke to a well attended meeting of landowners at the Village Hall to discuss help in planning the eradication of the giant hogweed which inhabits the banks of the River Char and its tributaries.** They have applied for a grant which everybody agreed should be spent employing 2 contractors over the next 3 years to visit landowners and start the process, which can take up to 8 years.

We were all shown quite graphically the effects on the skin caused by the sap which is in the hairs of the stem and leaves. The toxic chemicals sensitise the skin and will cause blistering when the affected area is exposed to sunlight and may keep recurring for many years.

Sarah and Nick would like other landowners or members of the public who see these plants, which are at the moment about a metre high, to contact them on 01305 816546 to help them build a plan for the contractors. To help identify the plant go to [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org).

**Councillor Andy Peters**

## SHORELINE

### Summer Olympics Issue

In the lead-up to the 2012 Summer Olympics, we'd like to highlight local sports groups and local athletes in our summer issue. We'd be especially delighted to hear from anyone with a connection to the Olympics, either past or present, and any sporting youngsters who are aspiring to such heights. Please contact the Editor if you can help.

**Advertise  
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Contact Colin 444656  
Prices from £10 only!

We were lucky, through Shoreline, to recruit a new gardener, Peter, who has already made a good start sorting out the gardens, and Chris, who has helped to start a computer club for the residents.

The Mother's Day Cream Tea and Cake Sale raised £160 for the Residents' Activity Fund.

This year Sue Blacklock will have owned Bymead House for 20 years so we are busy planning a celebration of her achievement. As one of the largest employers in the village the Home goes from strength to strength and Sue and I look forward to many more successful years.

Please join us for any of the events in the 'What's on' section, and a date to put in your diary is our Annual Summer Barbecue which this year is going to be on Sunday 2nd September. We have some great live music lined up from a local Shadows Tribute band called 'The Silhouettes' - it should be a fantastic afternoon so please come and join us!

**Liz Wilson, Manager**



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For further details or to arrange a visit  
please contact the Manager  
Elizabeth Wilson 01297 560620

## First Responder Scheme

**I would like to mention that this scheme is up and running locally and the aim is to save lives.** It has been offered nationwide for years and has been very successful. Run by trained volunteers, it is a joint venture between St John's Ambulance and South Western Ambulance Services Trust (SWAST) It is to do with the rapid response time that you can get first aiders to a scene and the chain of survival. Needless to say it may be very useful in high summer with all our extra visitors, especially with the volume of traffic on the A35. Contact Nicky Millen 01297 560898 for more information.

**Nicky Millen**



# The Charmouth Poetry Corner

## Sooty and Cheep

While walking alongside the river, below Seadown caravan park,  
A bird fluttered out from the bushes, that looked rather grubby and dark.  
And puzzled I thought I would chase it, to name it was my main concern,  
Oh what could it be, I was baffled, it can't be a stray sooty tern?

My camera was over my shoulder, with luck I will get me a shot,  
The bird seemed determined to dodge me, and all I could see was a dot.  
Soon it had vanished completely, and I was in not a good mood  
I slowed to a walk most disgruntled, and uttered a word, rather rude.

I carried on walking still hoping, I might see the bird once again,  
But I wasn't too optimistic, I thought I was searching in vain.  
And I couldn't follow much farther, 'cause I was approaching a wall  
It looked as if I had been thwarted, and I was to find b\*\*\*\*r-all.

Over the wall's where the council, store diggers and all sorts of things,  
Then all of a sudden from nowhere, nearby was a flutter of wings.  
My mystery bird flew right past me, with quite a few flies in her beak,  
She must have a nest full of youngsters, with luck I might just hear them squeak.

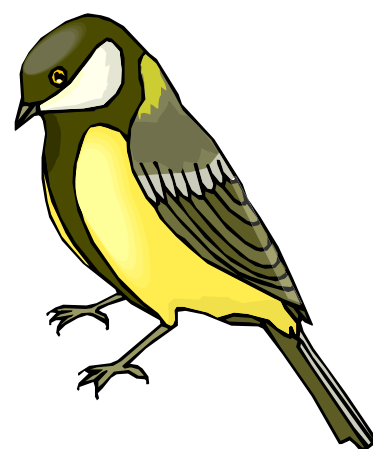
She flew to a big yellow digger, you'd call it a JCB type,  
It had an exhaust on an angle, she sat on the end of its pipe.  
And then like a rat down a drain pipe, she popped down the hole out of sight,  
It must have been dirty and gloomy, for nesting an unpleasant site.

She popped out again and departed, my mystery bird was not rare,  
The great tit that should have been yellow, was sooty but she didn't care.  
T'was lucky for her that the digger, was resting and not going out,  
I hoped when her babies were fledging, they managed to climb up the spout.

**Peter Crowter**



Photo by Peter Crowter



## The Dog Poo Fairy

There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy,  
Can't you culprits get it through your head?  
Don't turn your back when your dog performs,  
Bag it, and bin it instead!  
How would you owners who let your dogs poo  
In any convenient places,  
Like it if your own neat gardens,  
Were covered in other dogs' faeces?  
How would you feel if you spoilt your shoes  
By treading in smelly disgusting dog poos?  
How would you like it if your child falls and lands  
In something unpleasant, then shows you their hands?  
The fairy really doesn't exist.  
So please make it your No.1 task.  
Pick up your own dog's deposits.  
Is it really too much to ask?



**Anon**

Shoreline is published 4 times a year,  
Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.  
The copy deadline for the  
Summer Olympics issue is  
**15th June 2012**

## 50th Birthday Bash

On Saturday 3rd March the Community Hall rocked to the sound of music, laughter, curry munching and unbridled joy as four Charmouthians jointly celebrated their 50th birthday party. The four hosts were April and John Boyle, Lisa Derighetti and Alec Aldworth. The music was provided by the lively Stevenage band 'Mice with Glasses' and a selection of curries was provided by 'Spice and Rice'. Around 140 family and friends attended what we hope was a jolly good typically Charmouth bash. Sadly one non-local resident didn't appreciate our party and complained. Maybe we'll invite him next time.



**Alec Aldworth**

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

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

# Charmouth Gardeners

In February 2012, Margaret Moores, one of our committee members who is a keen orchid grower, entered the South West Orchid Society Show at W.Monkton near Taunton. She won the Orchid Society G.B. silver plate and rosette in the 'unusual specimen' class and the rosette for the members' selection for the 'orchid visitors would most like to take home'.

The beautiful orchid –Angraecum Sesquipedale – is also known as Comet Orchid or Darwin's Orchid in view of its long spear. Darwin said there must be an insect with an extraordinarily long proboscis and 50 years later it was discovered – the hawk moth.

If there are other orchid enthusiasts who would like further information, contact me for details of the Orchid Society.

## Why not Join Us?

For further information ring 01297 560980 or 560009.

*Jean Kesterton, Chairman*

## Charmouth Scouts

### Charmouth Scouts Serve Up a Treat for Chinese New Year

Fresh from completing the requirements of their Chef Badge, four Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Charmouth served up a real treat for the judges at the recent District Cooking Competition. Since this was held in early February, the menu had to be fit for a Chinese New Year celebration. As a result, the team of four came up with: spring rolls with plum sauce; dragon balls (pork) with vegetable stir fry, noodles and sweet & sour sauce; and fruit salad with ginger syrup – all made and cooked from scratch!



This menu secured them the highest marks among the six teams from the judges, as did the way they went about cooking the ingredients. They also scored well for their table decorations, made by the whole Scout Troop during their weekly meeting the day before the competition. However, their attention to hygiene let them down and their pork balls were slightly too big, meaning they had not quite been cooked all the way through when they were presented for tasting. As a result, the team had to be content with coming third overall – but still a marvellous effort in a very keenly contested event.

Thanks must go to Fraser Christian, the Troop Assistant, for running the Chef Badge course, which all 12 Scouts completed and passed with flying colours, and training the competition team.

## THE 2012 CHARMOUTH GARDENERS SHOW SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL 2011 SHOW, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE LOTS OF EXHIBITORS JOINING US FOR A FUN DAY IN 2012

**\*GARDEN PRODUCE: FRUIT, FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES WILL STILL MAKE A WONDERFUL MAIN DISPLAY IN THE COMMUNITY HALL AND...**

In the handicraft section – now two sections for painting

In order to give all artists fair notice the subjects are as follows:

**A PAINTING IN ANY MEDIUM - SUBJECT 'A SEASCAPE'**

**A PAINTING IN ANY MEDIUM - SUBJECT 'ANIMAL/S'**

(size not to exceed 61cm x 61cm including mount or frame)

**STILL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN IN THE HANDICRAFT SECTION, PLUS EXTRA COOKERY CLASSES FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THE HOME PRODUCE SECTIONS**

Entry for adult classes – the HUGE sum of 10p

Children/young adults' classes free entry!

**ALL WELCOME TO SHOW YOUR TALENTED HANDICRAFT, HOME PRODUCE SKILLS**

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(\*entrants\* within a 10 ml. radius of Charmouth)

**PICK UP A FREE SCHEDULE/ENTRY FORM DETAILING ALL CLASSES**

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**(To be completed by Thursday 9th August)**

**PLEASE JOIN IN THE FUN –**

**IT'S AN ENJOYABLE COMMUNITY DAY**

## Charmouth Cubs

### Charmouth Cubs shelter from the rain

To simulate what many families across the world call home, Charmouth Cubs were given six bamboo canes, three chairs and three black bin liners and asked to build themselves a shelter inside the Scout Hut. The two teams came up with very different designs, one of which did well keeping out the rain (spray from a watering can) while the other left a bit too much open to the elements. Still, the challenge taught the Cubs a bit about the kind hardship millions of children have to face on a daily basis.

## Rotary Club Charity Quiz

The Rotary Club held its annual Charity Quiz Night at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall and raised a total of £788. The funds will go towards Rotary's **Dictionaries 4 Life** project. Copies of the acclaimed *Usborne Illustrated Dictionary* will be presented to participating Primary Schools in the area. "Copies of these dictionaries were presented to year 6 pupils in July 2011" said Rotarian Bill Taylor, who organised the event. "The response from schools was extremely positive and we are delighted to be able, not just to continue but to expand the project this year."



## Pension Shock for 32 Club

**What is the 32 Club you may ask ?** It is a club which most people will not have heard of – and very few will be able to join. It is very exclusive, membership is strictly limited and no amount of money will give access to membership. The 32 refers to 1932 and to be a member you have to be born in that year. The mathematical readers will, by now, have calculated that this means that they all will celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday during 2012.

To mark the occasion they have all been notified, by an official letter, that to mark this event they will get a rise in their pension – it will be the magnificent sum of 25 pence per week !! They are now busy making plans to celebrate – not only how to spend this windfall, but what to do to celebrate their good fortune of still being alive and kicking.

The group got together in 2002 and celebrated by visiting London to ride on the London Eye and have a boat trip down the Thames, by having a skittles match and a number of lunches and dinners. Other events were organised in 2007 and now plans are being made for 2012.

Celebrations started in February with a buffet lunch to say farewell to one of the members – Bernard Mutter (with wife Pat, an honorary member) was, with considerable regret, leaving Charmouth to move nearer



to their family.

More celebrations will follow and with the healthy, friendly and relaxed way of life which Charmouth provides they are all looking forward to receiving the Royal congratulation in 2032.

**Chris Horton**

## Charmouth Bowls Club



**With spring just around the corner, it's time to start preparing for another season of bowls.**

The last 12 months has seen considerable activity within the club, with membership increasing through the summer and now it has extended into the winter season with the introduction of Short Mat Bowling at the recently refurbished Community Hall on Lower Sea Lane.

Since the setting up of the Short Mat bowls, the Club has enjoyed a great turn-out each week from both existing members and from new members who have come along to join in this very enjoyable activity. The Short Mat Bowling sessions are held at the hall every Tuesday afternoon commencing at 1.30pm. Anyone interested in joining in, whether beginner or experienced, can come along to the hall any Tuesday afternoon. Chairman Jim Greenhalgh said "This extension to our Club activities is already appealing to an even wider group of local people and all newcomers are welcome with open arms."

### BOWLS FOR ALL IN CHARMOUTH

**An "Open Day" at Charmouth Bowls Club heralds the start of their new summer season.** The "Open Day" is on the Club's first day of play, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and an invitation is out to anyone who would like to know a bit more about the game to come along.

The afternoon starts at 2.00pm with an opportunity to join in the bowling and is followed by afternoon tea in the pavilion. A similar event held at the start of last season brought a flurry of new members and has been a great boost to the Club's activity. Club Chairman Jim Greenhalgh said "It would be great to see a repeat of last year's membership growth, which together with the added membership of our short mat bowling section gives the Club a really exciting future".

The event is to be held at the Club's ground in the recreation fields, Barr's Lane, Charmouth (by the Post Office) so make a point of getting along there and enjoying an introduction to this very enjoyable game.

For more information call Jim Greenhalgh on 01297 561336 or June Rebbeck on 01297 560580

# Support Charmouth Clubs



Staying fit and remaining healthy in a group atmosphere with great music are top reasons to join the ride.

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# West Dorset Befriending Scheme

## Could You be a Friend?

### West Dorset Befriending Scheme (WDBS) - Could You be a Friend?

POPP, NHS Dorset and WRVS are working together to establish a community befriending service for Lyme, Charmouth and the surrounding villages. West Dorset Befriending Scheme is a voluntary service, available to anyone in the Lyme, Charmouth and local areas.

Volunteers are needed to provide a range of services to people who require additional support to remain independent. Anyone can become a volunteer and make

an incredible difference to someone else's life. By donating just one hour a week or what you feel you could spare - it could be every two weeks or even one hour a month - you can change the life of someone who is lonely or vulnerable.

Could you be a member of this fantastic team and help to improve someone's quality of life? Could you give just 1 hour per week/fortnight to make a real difference? Could you help to keep someone smiling? If you would like more information or are interested in being a coordinator or befriender, please call **Lisa Knight, NHS Dorset on 01305 368053; Sue Herman, POPP Community Leader on 07760 762278; or Felicity, Charmouth Coordinator on 07736 825283.**

## Friends of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

### Will you become a Friend?

For over 25 years Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre has been welcoming visitors and after another record breaking year last year preparations are being made for another busy summer. During last year over 88,000 people visited the Centre, each one with their own reason and interest, and to help them get the most out of their experience support and guidance is necessary. This is where 'The Friends' organisation becomes a vital factor.

Members of The Friends are at the desk to greet visitors, some help the Wardens with the fossil hunting walks while

others work during the winter maintaining the Centre. At this time of the year help is needed to fill the Desk Rota - times can be arranged in advance, it is not necessary to help every week or on the same day and it is not necessary to know anything about fossils! If you like meeting or chatting with people and have a few hours to spare then you will find it a very enjoyable experience. The Wardens are there to help and take responsibility so, if you could become a Friend by helping in some way please contact the Centre either by calling in to chat to a Warden or telephone them - 560772

**Chris Horton - Chairman of The Friends of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre 560134**

## Police Community Support in Charmouth

### Once again there have been only a small number of crimes in the Charmouth area over the past few months.

The fencing next to the bridge on the seafront was damaged at the start of February. At the same time, a large wheelie bin was thrown into the river and a number of signs were damaged. Thankfully this kind of mindless vandalism is very rare in Charmouth, but it means that it is all the more impactful on the local community when it does happen. I would ask people to be alert to things going on around them when they are out and about in the village and if something doesn't seem right, then contact us.

There has recently been a theft of oil from a house on the edge of the village. This is something which is a lot more rare today than it was a year or two ago, despite the rising price of heating oil. There can be no coincidence that more and more people are installing alarms to protect

their oil tanks. These alarms alert you to a sudden drop in oil level, caused either by a leak or an oil theft. If you would like more advice on protecting your oil tank, then contact us.

We reported in the last issue that we had just taken delivery of a noise monitoring kit which will allow us to target noisy exhausts on vehicles. So far this year we have issued six tickets for offending vehicles and we have noticed a distinct drop in the number of complaints which we have received regarding the problem. If you notice any vehicles with excessively noisy exhausts, then let us know the registration numbers and we will investigate. Vehicles which fail the test get a £30 fine and obviously have to change the exhaust to a legal one.

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

**PCSO Luke White 5474**



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# We Remember



**David Dall**

**1932 – 2012**

We featured David Dall (Charmouth's 'Pickle Man') in our winter 2012 issue. Sadly, David passed away peacefully at home on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Well known for his selfless fund-raising efforts on behalf of Help for Heroes, David was collecting outside Morgans on the day he died,

impressively raising £110. In the last four years he singlehandedly contributed in excess of £11,000 to the charity.

Beloved husband of Sylvia, David was father to Clive and Michelle, grandfather to Trudy, Jonathan, Harry, Michael and Louisa and great-grandfather to Jenna.

David was an outstanding example to us all. Remember him when you put your hands in your pocket for Help for Heroes.

## Can You Help ?

### HANGING BASKETS IN THE STREET

Our new lamp posts are capable of supporting baskets, which would look fantastic filled with red, white and blue flowers for the Jubilee celebrations. We are looking for villagers who are prepared to help by adopting one or more and watering them on a regular basis. I am sure we can get support from various sources to provide the brackets and watering equipment. However we cannot move on this until we can prove we have volunteers to carry out the daily watering. Can you help? Contact Peter Noel 560078 or email [peter@marshall-noel.co.uk](mailto:peter@marshall-noel.co.uk)

## Top Tip

Did you know that Ian Shilston at Morgans will replace your watch battery for just £1.50. He has a stock of different batteries and will get your watch working again. (Note that he does not repair watches.)

If you have a top tip that saves villagers time or money and supports a local trader, please let us know and we'll print it.

**Lesley Dunlop**

## The Old Bank Cafe

We would like to thank all our customers for their patronage during the five years we have been running the Old Bank Cafe. Charmouth has been a place that we have really enjoyed being a part of and we would also like to thank the owners of other businesses in the village who readily gave their help and support to us. We wish the new owners every success for the future.

**Frank and Beverley**

### DIARY DATE

#### Charity Midsummer Extravaganza

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7pm

In aid of Weldmar Hospicecare Trust and Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF)

Sparkling wine, canapes, hog roast

Fun and sophisticated - smart dress!

Disco and dancing to Swing of the Axe

At Thalata, Higher Sea Lane,  
by kind permission of Neil Mattingly

Further details from Jan Plummer 01297 560730

### Book an Event at one of our Community Halls

St Andrews Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	560572
Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close	560615
The Elms, The Street	560826
Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	561004

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

### ANNUAL DRAW FOR A YEAR'S FREE SUBSCRIPTION

to Shoreline has been held under tight security and it gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs Liz Stredder of Higher Sea Lane is the lucky winner.

**Colin Pring**

## Subscriptions

To have your copy of Shoreline delivered to your door for **one year**, please fill in the form below and send it with a £5 cheque or P.O. payable to 'Shoreline Charmouth' to:

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

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

**Send in your articles, letters, poems and news of events by  
15th June for the Summer Olympics issue of Shoreline**

**[editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk) or the address on page 3**

# What's On This Spring ?

## Charmouth Bowls Club

### Open Day

Sunday 22nd April  
2.00 pm  
Recreation Ground, Barr's Lane

Friendly matches, tuition  
and afternoon tea

Jim Greenhalgh 561336

June Rebbeck 560580

## Weldmar Hospicecare Trust

### SALE

Saturday 5th May 10.30am to 12 noon

Charmouth Village Hall

Plants, Books, Cakes/Savouries,

Craft/Bric-a-Brac plus Tombola

Entrance £1 to include tea/coffee

## Spring Concert

Saturday 5th May 7.30pm

St Andrews Community Hall sees the  
return of Charmouth's own **Posh Choir**

and also features local artists-  
Pete Wild, Alex Mc Callum,  
Kim Redford, Sally Gordon, Steve Jones,  
Holly Chapman, Sparkley Wilde and the  
Love Daddies

Fully licensed bar  
Tickets: Adults £10, under 16's £5  
Ticket Hotline 07425150563

## Piano Pieces

### Concert by Sarah's Pupils

Saturday 12th May 3.30pm to 5.30pm

St Andrews Community Hall

Tickets £4 (Children £2)

Pupils' Concert 3.30pm  
Cream Teas 4.30pm  
Music by 'Swing of the Axe'

Profits to Community Hall Fund

For tickets contact Sarah on  
01297 561550

## 'SHORELINE'

### Meet the

### Charmouth Fossil Hunters II

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May

7.00pm

St Andrews Community Hall

Lower Sea Lane

## St Andrew's Church

### Concert

with

### 'Dogs Without Collars'

### (Singing Vicars)

Friday 29th June  
7pm for 7.30pm  
St Andrew's Church

For tickets contact Pauline on  
01297 560957

## Events at Bymead House Nursing Home

### Family Sunday Services 2.45pm

All are most welcome to join our residents and The United  
Reformed Church on the following Sundays:

May 13<sup>th</sup> June 10<sup>th</sup> August 12<sup>th</sup>

### Jubilee Street Party

Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 12.00 to 2.00pm

Join us to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with our  
street party in the garden. (Indoors if wet)

### Songs of Praise in our 'Memories Garden'

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2.30pm

Join us for a celebration of Residents' lives both past and  
present

To include Cream Teas with donations to the Joseph Weld  
Hospice

If you would like a loved one to be remembered  
please contact: Liz Wilson on 01297 560620

## Events at St Andrews Community Hall

### Lower Sea Lane

### Cream Teas & Home made cakes

Easter Sunday 8th April 2.00pm to 5.00pm

### Celebrate the Jubilee with a scrumptious Cream

### Tea or delicious home made cakes or both!

Saturday 2nd June 2.00pm to 5.00pm

**Bingo** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month – lots of prizes  
Diary dates – 20<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Doors open 7.00pm and Eyes Down 7.30pm

More information – Linda on 07813 513062

## Dorset Art Weeks in Charmouth

### Sat 26th May to Sun 10th June

County-wide event but at least three participating artists'  
studios open in Charmouth and likely other local artists  
open too.

**Take the Charmouth Art Trail** – make a circular walk  
from St Andrew's Church to two studios in The Street,  
Cream Teas at The Hensleigh House Hotel in Lower Sea  
Lane, another studio opposite and two more in  
Hammonds Mead – then to The Heritage Centre and the  
coastal path to Higher Sea Lane and back to The Street  
with two pubs, two cafes and several shops. More info on  
07748 752927.

## Events at Monkton Wyld Court

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

20 - 22 April Marshwood Trails  
Early Spring Walking Weekend

4 - 6 May Introduction to Dowsing

25 - 27 May Marshwood Trails  
Late Spring Walking Weekend

29 - 31 May Introduction to Beekeeping

15 - 17 June Introduction to Beekeeping



# Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Sun 2-5.30pm	Charmouth Bowls Club	Recreation Ground, Barr's Lane	Bob Just 560557 June Rebbeck 560860
Mon 9am-12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
Mon 9.30-10.30am	Pavey Group (village history)	The Elms, The Street	Mike Whatmore 561018
Mon 4.30-6pm (term-time only)	Charmouth Brownies (ages 7-10)	Charmouth Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Caroline Davis 560207
Mon 8-10pm	Charmouth Badminton Club (experience required)	Charmouth Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Trish Evans 442136
Tues 9am-12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
Tues 9.30-10.30am	Pavey Group (village history)	The Elms, The Street	Mike Whatmore 561018
Tues 2-5.30pm	Charmouth Bowls Club	Recreation Ground, Barr's Lane	Bob Just 560557 June Rebbeck 560860
Tues 6.30-8.30pm	Junior Youth Club (ages 8-11)	Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	Louise Gunnill 07501 081828
Tues 7-10pm (early Sep to late Apr)	Charmouth Badminton	Charmouth Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Pauline Bonner 560251
2nd & 4th Tues each month 10am-noon	Coffee Morning	United Reformed Church, The Street	Rev Ian Kirby 631117
3rd Tues each month 7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	The Elms, The Street	Lisa Tuck 560826
3rd Tues each month	Charmouth Natural History Group	For information and venues call Kate Stapleton 560255	
Wed 9am-12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
Wed 9.30-11.30am (term-time only)	Charmouth Cherubs	Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kathryn Radley 442796
1st Wed each month 2.30pm	The British Legion (Women's Section)	The Elms, The Street	Pat Stapleton 560255
2nd Wed each month 2.30pm	Charmouth Gardeners	Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kay Churchman 560980
Wed 7-8.45pm (term-time only)	Girl Guides (ages 10 onwards)	For information call Davina Pennells 560965	
Wed 7.15pm	Wyld Morris dancing practice	Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court	Briony Blair 489546
Thurs 8.30am-1pm (Sep to Apr)	Food Links Village Breakfast	Hollands Room, Bridge Road	Jan Gale 01308 420269
Thurs 2-5.30pm	Charmouth Bowls Club	Recreation Ground, Barr's Lane	Bob Just 560557 June Rebbeck 560860
Thurs 6.30-8pm (term-time only)	Charmouth Cubs (ages 8-11)	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Nicky Gibbs 01297 35470 or 07925 511261
Thurs 7-10.30pm	Bridge Club (partners can be provided)	Wood Farm (opposite swimming pool)	Vincent Pielasz 560738
Fri 9.30-10am	Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s)	Charmouth Library, The Street	Mandy Harvey 01297 560167
Fri 4.45-8pm	Bopper Bus	Bridport Leisure Centre Drop off/pick up Primary School	Kate Geraghty 489422 Melanie Harvey 560393
Fri 7.15-9pm (term-time only)	Scouts (ages 11-14)	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Kevin Payne 01308 459080
3rd Fri each month 7.30pm (eyes down)	Bingo (fund raising for Community Hall)	Charmouth Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Linda Crawford 0781 351 3062

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

# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

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

# Royal Celebrations - My Diary Memoirs



George) (see photo) made the celebration Union Jack cake together with an edible crown. The fire engine and crew



balloons came down from the ceiling and everyone attacked them excitedly. After five hours of food, fun and frolics, it was time to go home. At 10pm each child was given a Jubilee crown and a piece of Ann Peach's delicious Jubilee cake. What a day to remember!

When I asked my now grown-up children what they could remember, Rob remembers some kind of ventriloquist's act involving a talking chicken. He also remembers Mike (his dad) giving a pantomime style speech. The only lines he could remember were "Oh no I didn't", to which everyone shouted "Oh yes you did!". Then "oompah, oompah" followed by everyone bellowing very loudly and enthusiastically "Stick it up your jumper!".

Maria, then seven years old, recalls the overall feeling of excitement, merriment, fun and plenty of sausage rolls!

## Queen's Golden Jubilee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002



Most readers will remember the Charmouth village celebrations. The Street was closed and the tables stretched from the Post Office to Barney's Close, beyond The George.

There was a good community spirit, with folk assembling tables and chairs down the main road and everyone contributing to the food. Athena Capewell (from The



were at the top of the road ensuring the traffic went around Lower Sea Lane and Wesley Close. The flags were flying across The Street, some people dressed in fancy dress and all had a good time. It was another day to remember!

**Mary Davis**

**All photos from Mary Davis**

*Please let us know if you can recognise yourself in any of the photos - Editor*





# Charmouth Then and Now



← Charmouth c1910 during the reign of Edward VII. Lower Sea Lane runs across photograph, with the newly built Community Hall in the centre.



⇒ Charmouth from the Devil's Bellows c1915 during the reign of George V, with a scattering of houses. Note the large Gresham House (centre left), which was on the site of Sea Horses.



← Lower Sea Lane c1938 during the reign of George VI. Note 'Tin Town' on the right.



⇒ Charmouth in the 1950s, early in the reign of Elizabeth II. The original Hammonds Mead Hotel is just visible beyond the beach car park.



← Spring 2012 during Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee year, showing the new bridge.

Jubilees are a time for looking back and we hope that you enjoy these early photographs of Charmouth over the years. Please let us know if you have any historic photos of Charmouth that you'd like to appear in a future issue of Shoreline. We would treat them with care, scan them and return them to you quickly.

**Lesley Dunlop**