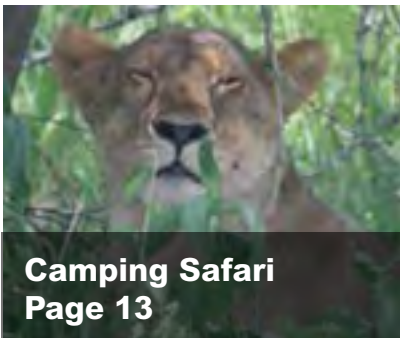


SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth

OPENING OF CHARMOUTH CENTRAL



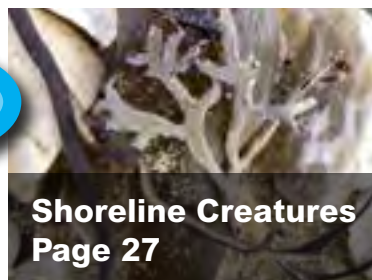
Camping Safari
Page 13

The library reopened as Charmouth Central on 28 February amidst noise and laughter and tea and delicious cakes provided by generous supporters. This is just what its new role as a community hub demands - no longer a place where voices are kept to a whisper and borrowers rush in to change books and leave in a hurry, but where there are comfortable tables and chairs and visitors are positively encouraged to chat and stay around.

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Shoreline Creatures
Page 27



Zippering Along! – Derrick Davis
Page 12



Melissa, jewellery maker, with Shoreline in Bequia, West Indies.

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Editorial

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do, than by the ones that you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails" Mark Twain

It is hard to believe that this is the 5th Anniversary Issue of Shoreline! From its inception in 2008 at a mere 12 pages, the magazine has gone from strength to strength and now regularly hits the newsstands at a hefty 40 pages or more. Huge thanks go to everyone who has made it all possible: to our ever-increasing number of contributors who continue to delight with their entertaining, thought-provoking, informative and well-written articles; to the many local businesses who generously support us by placing advertisements in the magazine (several now in glorious technicolour), which helps greatly to underwrite the printing costs; and to all the subscribers around the country, the thousands of people who read the magazine online (www.charmouth.org) and last but certainly not least, the villagers and visitors who have encouraged and inspired us with their overwhelmingly positive feedback, both verbally and by email and letter.

Our volunteering feature on pages 16 to 18 highlight just some of the many clubs, organisations and fund-raising groups in the village which are in dire need of more volunteers and/or members. So often, the same willing people raise their weary hands and offer their time and energy to make things happen. New blood and fresh enthusiasm are required. I exhort all those villagers standing on the sidelines, whether they be newcomers or have lived here for a while, to get involved. Be active, meet new people, make a positive impact in your community. No excuses now!

Sadly, Colin Pring, who has been our treasurer and advertising manager right from the outset, has had to step down for health reasons. Colin not only kept Shoreline running smoothly, but was also a governor of Charmouth Primary School and long time treasurer of Charmouth Youth Club, amongst other commitments. His knowledge, accounting skills, wit and charm will be greatly missed by us all. He is one of the best and a dear friend and I know you will all join us in wishing him robust health and much happiness in the future.

Jane

THE SHORELINE TEAM

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None of this could have happened without Mandy Harvey's organisation, the dedication of Peter Orchard and the painting team, the carpentry wizardry of Bud Morrow and the co-operation of library staff.

Phase 2 will be the construction of an extension to house a disabled-access loo and a kitchen-cum-servery. No hot food will be offered, just tea, excellent coffee and cold drinks, snacks and cakes. The new area will be perfect for clubs, groups and social activities. The work has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund and will begin in late March/early April for 12/14 weeks. Library services will still be available during construction.

New opening hours

Monday to Thursday 14.00 to 17.00,

Friday 14.00 to 18.00

Saturday 10.30 to 12.30.

Friday later opening is an experiment to see if working residents will use the library during this extra hour but, if it is not used, Fridays will revert to 5 pm closure.

Volunteers begin work

With some natural trepidation, volunteers took up the reins from library staff but have reported that they are really enjoying the experience. There is still some professional help from a Community Library Liaison Officer, Anne Hurrell, for three hours each Wednesday afternoon and all library services remain as they have always been. More volunteers will be needed and, even following appeals in Shoreline, no Volunteer Co-ordinator or Site Manager has yet come forward - and these posts do still need to be filled. More details can be obtained from Hazel Robinson on hazelrosery@aol.com.

Grant

Friends of Charmouth Library have been fortunate enough to secure a grant from Dorset Community Action's Social Inclusion Fund for £1,000 to buy sewing equipment and fabrics for a Sewing Club to be held in Charmouth Central. Anyone

interested in quilting, making goods for eventual sale for the funds or for other charities should contact Hazel (as above) or leave a note in Charmouth Central.

Auction of Promises

The mischievous wit of auctioneer Graham Barton of Clive Emson Auctioneers and BBC1's *Homes Under the Hammer*, kept the audience amused at the Auction of Promises in The George on 5th March, while raising an impressive £2,500. This sum will help a great deal towards anticipated costs of at least £5,000 a year to keep Charmouth Central running as there will be no funding whatever from Dorset County Council.

As always, Charmouth's local traders were extremely generous despite current hard times and really deserve all the support residents can give them in return for their generosity. Alternative health practitioners were equally generous alongside residents who have offered their time to deliver promises.

A huge amount of pre-event effort goes into organising lots for an auction and Jane and David Clifford really excelled this year by producing some magnificent lots. Jane and David are now heading the team of Friends of Charmouth Library in its role as the fund-raising arm of Charmouth Central Ltd and will welcome anyone who would like to join in to help at fund-raising events.

Events for the Future

Announcements will be made in the next edition of Shoreline of a date for a Table Top Sale following our successful sale last year. Now is the time to start collecting your bric-a-brac or making items to sell in readiness for the event.

There will be another event.... an event with a twist.... to be announced....soon.

Hazel Robinson

Charmouth Challenge & Fun Run



The 6th July is the date for this year's Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run to be held at Charmouth Primary School.

The Charmouth Challenge is organised by parents of children at the local school. It is the main fund raising event of the year and ALL the proceeds are donated to the school. The run has been organised for at least 25 years and in excess of £70,000 has been raised in that time. The funds have been invested in new school facilities, for example additional IT equipment, playground activities and, more recently, a new school library. Swimming lessons and school trips are subsidised to make them 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 provided at the School Fete which is situated just a few yards from the beach. As well as the entertainment, there will be stalls and a fantastic tea room selling delicious homemade cakes and scones. The local fire station crew attend the event, giving free fire safety advice as well as offering a "cooling shower" from the fire engine hoses to race finishers!

The Charmouth Challenge is renowned as the most southerly fell race in England and is attended by many, from near and far. The race is mapped out over 8 miles of the most spectacular Jurassic scenery, encompassing woodland, stone tracks and grasslands, with 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 back at the Primary School!

The Fun Run is equally daunting for those not accustomed to regular running. The steepness of this run has to be experienced to be believed. A two mile run up a shady lane to Stonebarrow Hill and down again! The exact route has yet to be confirmed due to the constant landslides. Each runner in this race receives a medal as a reward for all their hard work!

The Fun Run starts at 2.00pm and the Challenge starts at 2.30pm. It is advised that all runners register as early as possible but you can enter on the day. If you leave your decision to the morning of the event, the Registration Desk will be open from 12:30pm at the school. Drink stations and marshals will be present on both courses.

Think Volunteering

If you do not want to run, why not participate in the event by helping out. The organiser is always looking for volunteers to help make sure the day goes smoothly. If you are willing to help with any aspect of the organisation, contact Nick on 01297 578082 or if you would consider being a marshal, then contact Melanie on 01297 560393.

To enter the races, you will need to complete an entry form and pay a race fee. If you enter in advance, the race fee for the Fun Run will be £5.00 and for the Challenge £8.00. If you enter on the day, the fees will be £7.00 and £10.00 respectively.

Entry forms are available from Charmouth School or can be downloaded at www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk or from the School website www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk

Nick Bale, organiser@charmouthchallenge.co.uk

CHARMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL IN CRISIS

As Charmouth residents we were all proud to serve on the Parish Council for the benefit of the village as a whole. However, following the exclusion of the majority of councillors from the decision-making process to appoint a Works Manager and the lack of transparency in the way in which the decision was made, we felt unable to support the choice with which we had been presented. It quickly became apparent that there would be no further discussion on the matter and as there was a potential conflict of interest in the process, we had little option other than to tender our resignations from the council with immediate effect.

Mike Hendrick, Karen Aldworth, Richard Wyatt, Andy Peters, Jane Morrow, Mark Osborne

**View all issues of
Shoreline in colour
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www.charmouth.org**

The George, Charmouth

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Man V Food challenge on 9th March in aid of Cancer Research U.K. We managed to raise just short of £1,500. Thank you to all who gave very generously. We hope to do something on a smaller scale in the summer, so look on our boards.

Saturday 23rd March we held our Easter Bingo. The proceeds again went towards Cancer Research U.K. (our chosen charity this year), and half was given to The Charmouth Community Hall as a thank you for the loan of their bingo machine.

We are also looking forward very much to be holding The George's 1st ever Beer Festival – Saturday 8th June and running over to Sunday if we need to. We hope to have 6-8 real ales and a couple of local ciders.

We have Live Music:

Saturday 6th April – Shannon Turner

Saturday 20th April – One Night Stand

Saturday 4th May – Elijah Wolf

Saturday 25th May – Paul Smith

We hope this year we can make better use of our large beer garden as the weather put a dampener on a lot of days last year. We will also be needing ideas for our main charity event day, Saturday 13th July. So please let us know if you think of anything.

We would like to thank everyone who supports our events as they would not be so enjoyable without you.

Dean Herbert

Local Dental Services

A partnership involving Dr Forbes Watson and Mr Paul Bester, dentist, has been awarded a contract to provide NHS dental services for people living in and around Lyme Regis. This follows a procurement process which saw a large number of parties express an interest in providing services for local people. It is expected that the new contract will enable the current temporary NHS dental service operated by Mr Paul Bester at Kent House Medical Centre in Silver Street to take on additional patients for NHS dentistry from April 2013. The temporary service, which has been running since September 2012, will continue until the new contract formally commences on 1 April 2013.

NHS Dorset is not able to individually contact patients formerly provided with NHS dentistry at The Elms Dental Practice in Charmouth due to data protection law. Therefore local people who wish to be treated at the new practice are encouraged to contact the new practice direct on 01297 442020. There is no need to register with any dental practice offering NHS services; however some paperwork may be required in order to establish medical history prior to the first appointment.

A spokesperson for NHS Dorset said "Since learning of the decision of a provider of NHS dentistry in Lyme Regis to stop providing NHS services from March 2012, we have taken strategic decisions and actions to procure an NHS dental service that will be able to consistently meet the needs of local people now and in the future.

We were fortunate in being able to choose, from a strong field, a provider able to demonstrate commitment to high standards of dental care, a clear understanding of local healthcare needs and plans to realise the benefits of dental care integrated with other health services available to local residents. We would like to thank local people for their patience and assistance whilst we concluded the procurement process".

The provider of the dental practice within The Elms Medical Centre in Charmouth, who elected not to participate in the procurement process, will cease to offer NHS dentistry from 31 March 2013. Any patient of this practice seeking continuing NHS dental care may contact Mr Bester's dental practice in Silver Street on 01297 442020 or obtain details of other dental practices in Dorset offering NHS care via the Dorset Dental Helpline on 01202 854443.

Keith Williams
Dorset PCT/NHS

CHARMOUTH WEATHER



I have set up a weather station in my garden that gives live reports for temperature, pressure, wind strength and direction, and rainfall in Charmouth.

The data is published on the internet at www.wunderground.com.

For the location enter IDORSETC8 as it doesn't recognise Charmouth as a place! Failing that, the information will also appear in a slightly different format if you enter 'Lyme Regis' under location. This link will also reach it: <http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=IDORSETC8&day=17&year=2013&month=1>

Bill Burn

See the weather station at www.charmouth.org/charmouth_village/weather.php

Charmouth Bowls Club

Lots going on and we're seeking new members

Members of Charmouth Bowls Club are looking forward to the start of the new bowls season and lots of enjoyable afternoons on the green. In addition to regular roll-ups there is a full programme of events for the year. The Club is keen to attract new members and invites anyone who may be interested to come and spend an afternoon with us. It's friendly and it's fun, so come along and give it a try. The first day of play will be a 'roll-up' on Sunday 21st April when anyone is invited to come along or alternatively come to any Club day after that.

In addition to the regular 'roll-ups', 12 friendly matches with other local clubs are planned through the season and there will also be a series of in-club competitions.

For new members and those wishing to brush up on their skills, the Club has set up a series of bowls coaching sessions. These will give a great introduction to the sport and will be held at the Club ground, Barr's Lane on each of the four Monday afternoons in June, commencing the 3rd June. These sessions will be entirely free of charge, but it would be helpful if non-members could register their interest in advance by contacting the Club.

The Club's Annual BBQ and open day is planned for the 16th June, another great day for those wishing to give bowling a try.

The last day of play this year will be Sunday 29th September, with Winter Short Mat Bowls starting at the Community Hall on Tuesday 1st October.

Following on from the success of last year's Annual Presentation Dinner, it will again be at the Community Hall on Saturday 2nd November. Another opportunity to bring along your friends and family.

Think you could give it a try? – we'd love to see you! If you would like more information, please get in touch with our Hon Secretary, Jackie Rolls on 01297 560295. E-mail: jmlrolls@msn.com.

Jim Greenhalgh
Chairman

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CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Charmouth Traders are looking for ways to raise money for replacing the village Christmas lights as these are coming towards the end of their life.

One idea is to produce a Charmouth 2014 Calendar for sale to the public this year. There are lots of keen photographers in Charmouth so we thought that there should be some good shots around!

Do you have good quality photographs of Charmouth that you think would be suitable or know someone who has? If so, and you are willing to 'donate' these to this cause, please email them to me and we will select the best ones. We would be happy to put your name to your photo if you wish.

Thank you in advance,

Phil Tritton
phil.tritton@gmail.com



Sarah Cooke, Approved Driving Instructor

Some of you may remember me as the co-founder and assistant editor of Shoreline, and a Teaching Assistant at Charmouth School. Or you may just remember me as a local resident of Charmouth. Times change and I have recently taken a sideways step in the world of teaching and qualified as a driving instructor. I started to train as an instructor last June and after a very intense course and three very gruelling tests, I qualified on 25th February.



I wasn't sure if becoming a driving instructor was the right thing to do for some time but, as the course developed, I became more and more

excited about my new career. I have met some great people and have taught pupils of differing levels as part of the training. My first pupil passed her test first time and the feeling of achievement was as huge for me as it was for her. I have another pupil going to test next week and am sure that will also be a success. It's not just about passing the DSA learner test though. I am looking forward to refreshing drivers' skills as well. Some drivers may have a full licence, but may have lost their confidence through accident, medical issues or may have been living abroad and need some guidance on British roads. One thing is for certain, I will enjoy every challenge that I am faced with and ensure that I will do my utmost best to attain achievements with every pupil I have.

I will start teaching with RED driving school part-time on 8th April and finish my employment at Charmouth School in the May half-term. From then on, I will be working for RED on a full-time basis.

If you would be interested in having lessons with me, call RED driving school on 0800 021 4601 and mention my name. To find out more about RED and see what they offer, check out their website - <http://www.reddrivingschool.com>.

Charmouth & Wootton Fitzpaine Conservatives

Thirty-eight Shoreline readers enjoyed 'A Bit of a Do' hosted by Chairman Peter Noel and his wife Teresa. Cocktails and Canapes, on a bright but cool Sunday morning – delicious – and excellent company; the last to depart went around 1.30 pm. Many thanks to Jan, Helen and Teresa for catering so ably.

There will be no cocktails at our next event, which is our Annual General Meeting at The Elms, on Friday 5th April, at 10.30 a.m. Members, friends and those just wanting to come in out of the cold, are all welcome to attend. We would love to have some new faces on our committee and some new ideas too. Even if you are only vaguely interested, we would be pleased to see you here, or at one of our 'not too political' social events.

Our first 'Not at all political' event is a Bridge Party for players of any standard and political persuasion. You can come as individuals, pairs or tables of four. Where necessary, we will try to fit you together with players of similar ability. There will be Bridge, Bridge tea, and then a little more Bridge. It will be at the Village Hall, on Saturday 13th April. Please ring Helen & Bob (560487) or Jan (560730) for tickets.

Finally, blowing our own trumpet, we won the Ilchester cup for our outstanding performance in fundraising for the West Dorset constituency. Due credit should be given to Peter, our Chairman, for his part in this success. A brief look at the cup reveals that this is the third time it has been won by Charmouth. Lyme Regis has a single, solitary success!

Bob Hughes
Treasurer

Friends of Charmouth Library

A huge thank you to David and Jane Clifford for joining our fund-raising committee, and organising our second Charity Auction at 'The George.' Thanks to the great support of our local traders and the lots donated by Friends of the Library we managed to raise just over £2500. This money will go towards our running costs for the next six months or so. Further thanks are due to our witty Auctioneer Graham Barton, and Dean, landlord at The George for making it such a hugely enjoyable evening.

Our next event will be a Table Top Sale to be held in the Community Hall just before the end of the summer school holidays. We hope there will be visitors around with an eye for a bargain! We ran a similar event last year, so if you fancy running a stall for your favourite charity, your church, for yourself, or with friends, give me a ring and I will contact you when we have firmed up the details. The cost per table will be around £7. If there is a demand, we hope to have a children's section with youngsters selling off their unwanted goods. Their stalls will be half the adult price.

A final thought. Many of the Charities in the village ask local businesses for their support when they run events. If we want them to be there to help us again in the future, we should do our best to support them now.

Bob Hughes
Treasurer

Letters

Streets Ahead

The article on Pam Ladd (Shoreline, winter issue) somehow summed up what Charmouth is all about. Here is a woman who didn't know the village, but bought and moved, almost on impulse, from Surrey. It was a love-at-first-sight moment ten years ago and the love affair clearly burns brightly.

Pam is one of those youthful, energetic characters, with wide life experiences and upbeat attitude, the type of which this community has been fortunate to attract on a regular basis. She's well travelled - four trips to China, we note, since moving here - but declares that Charmouth "has everything anyone needs for a perfect life."

We are happy to say the same about Shoreline. Having travelled widely and worked from locations in 35 countries, always buying local newspapers and magazines for work references, Shoreline is streets ahead of any comparable publication anywhere. The UK, the United States and Canada, has some which are excellent, but nothing quite in this league.

It manages to capture the essence of Charmouth, in its opinions, interviews and reports, issue after issue. And we know, only too well, that it can be a time-consuming task interviewing and recording - accurately - the life and views of any subject, while keeping a high level of consistency.

A combination of intelligent editorial control, good writing, lay-out, picture quality and content makes it a go-to publication which is so quickly collected by readers at every distribution point.

Long may Shoreline continue to report so superbly on Charmouth and its people.

Garth & Davina Pearce,
Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth.

Keep up the Good Work

My name is Keith Woodbridge and along with my brother Alan and our cousin Colin Patey, we are known as the three musketeers. We have been coming down to Charmouth for 46 years; we like Shoreline a lot and try and get a copy every time we come down. A friend of ours has been writing "Memoirs of a Fossil Hunter" and we feature in the story "The one that could be very big". We are reliably informed that we are mentioned in the spring and summer issues too. We used to come down five or six times a year but we are now caring for our parents so have to limit our visits to a week in March and a couple of weeks in October. Due to family commitments we may not be able to come at all this year, so I thought what better way to keep up with what is going on in Charmouth than to take up a subscription for a year. Keep up the good work.

With thanks,

Keith Woodbridge

Distant Shorelines

The photos of Shoreline in distant places continues to grow, so far it's been seen in – Sydney, the Himalayas, China, the West Indies and Tanzania. If you're travelling abroad, why not take a copy of the magazine with you and capture your own distant Shoreline. We'll include it in the next available issue.

Inspirational Room

I have just read the article on Hazel Robinson and Charmouth Central, and would like to say what a great place the library is to hold meetings. I am a member of the Jurassic Coast Writers group that meets there every month. We are a group of amateurs who enjoy each other's company, make each other laugh, and don't take life too seriously. We set ourselves homework each time and the following month we take it in turns to read out what we have written in the form of a short story or poem. We pass comments and make suggestions, but nothing too harsh or critical as we don't want to spoil someone's hard work. New members join and say they have never written anything much; they are not as good as the rest of us, but within a couple of meetings, their stories are as good as anybody's. Since moving into the library a few months ago, our writing efforts have seemed to get better each time we meet. I am sure it is the inspirational room we find ourselves in. Surrounded by books, how could we fail to be inspired.

Well done to Hazel and everyone else in saving the Library. I thoroughly recommend it as a meeting place. I will just ask that you don't try booking it on the first Saturday in every month, from 2-4pm, or you will have a fight on your hands! We are in there!

Kind Regards

Shirley Stanford

Wonderful Charmouth

We stayed at Wood Farm with our caravan for a week in August 2012 and secured a copy of Shoreline from the beach shop in The Street.

We would like congratulate you and your staff on your informative contents and presentation. We are sure that your magazine contributes vastly to your community with so many interesting articles, i.e. the Olympics, the pubs, fossil finders and, most importantly, details of local folk. We feel that we have got to know you all so much better and look forward to the next time we can visit wonderful Charmouth. Your local bakery and other shops have such helpful assistants - much appreciated.

Arthur & Mavis Marrow
Clevedon, North Somerset

Great Publication

What a great publication; please expand and do one for Lyme!!!

David Sarson

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A Hidden Danger

On 27th December my dog Millie was carried out by a fluke rip tide on Charmouth beach. I tried to save her and was also dragged into the sea.

I was out for a beach walk with my family, guests for Christmas, and my beloved dog, Millie. On our return I decided to not come over the bridge but cross over the embankment, where some children were playing and up the west side to then go up the steps, having done it 100s of times. That day, however, the river had strangely swung to the west and, I thought, dispersed across the shore. I had wellie boots on, was next to the shoreline and had only to cross about 3-4 feet of what seemed in depth maybe 3-4 inches. Suddenly I dropped in up to my waist and a fast flowing current knocked me over. It appeared funny and people up near the café laughed. Finding it difficult to stand I knew I had to get out and backtrack. Then Millie passed in front of me and was being swept around towards the breaker, the one to the side of the steps. Panic set in as I screamed for her and tried to save her, before she was swept out to sea. Within a couple of yards I was up to my neck in water!

There was a man on the breaker hoping to maybe get her. Underneath the surface I could feel the power and speed of the rip tide and struggled to stay upright. Millie was dragged under and then reappeared. Then she was gone as I also was pulled under. I was in an area of cross-currents underneath the main incoming tidal waves. I was caught in a washing machine of turmoil. Millie did not stand a chance. In less than 20 seconds she was gone. I so fought to save her... now I had to save myself.

Suddenly, further out, I was in my depth again and able to stand. In between hits, I screamed over and over 'help me, the current's dragging me over, I was tossed about, but those on shore could not hear, including my brother and sister-in-law and her brother. Did they still think I was trying to find Millie? No, she had gone, I was trying to get out. As my energy drained and my clothing weighed a ton I looked at the next wave coming in. I fought to stay standing and looked death straight in the face.

People seemed not to know I was in trouble. In despair I acknowledged to the sea that it was going to probably take

me.... then I thought of my daughter, Amba and screamed to the universe that I did not want to die. The words 'relax on the next wave, let it lift you' came into my thoughts. That wave lifted me to the west side of the breaker and away from the under-river rip. Followed by another. Those two waves? My strength was gone, gone and I felt myself wanting to collapse. I knew I was alone, I had to get closer in, so that someone could pull me in. There are strange moments of silence... in between waves and thoughts.... Then in the background it sounded like two men shouting "WALK" over and over. Facing the sea was how I could best stay standing.... And listening to "walk, walk" I took slow steps. The next wave hit and tossed me, I let a wellie boot go. I slowly stood and again shouts of "walk walk" filtered through as I took slow, difficult steps, eventually bringing me just enough closer in, for three other men to drag me out.

To a policeman whom I am trying to trace, my sister-in-law's brother and my own brother, "Thank you".

My companion and so much loved dog Millie drowned, but my daughter has her mother and I am very grateful to be alive.

Thank you to the man/men's voices; they shouted again and again "walk". If you know who you are, please call me on 07976 312541. And thank you to those who called the services and to the paramedics.

Many people were traumatized by the event. The Heritage Coast Centre commented that they had never seen the river swing to the west to be in front, so close in and so very fast flowing. It was also full moon the next day. I wonder, had there been a permanent lifebuoy on a rope, would that have helped me by enabling those watching, to assist. Sadly I will not be the last to need help.

Niclaire Skye

Note: Charmouth Parish Council advises that "West Dorset District Council is responsible for the life rings and have reported the loss of the one on the west side of the beach several times, dating back to well before Christmas the first time".

Please Help to Save the Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter

We are Mark and Debbi Cummins from Dorchester, Dorset, England and we think we are lucky to still be alive. We owe our lives to the Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter. Please read our story below and afterwards, if you haven't already done so, and you agree with it, please sign the e-petition to keep the Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter. We would not normally make approaches like this, but in this instance we hope you will forgive us as we feel this is such an important issue not just for people who live around Dorset but for all the visitors to this area.

On Sunday 10th February 2013 we parked in Charmouth car park in Dorset and went for a walk along the beach. There were lots of people around and we noted the signs that said to stay well away from the foot of the cliffs as these were crumbling away. We duly stayed well away and as there was plenty of beach we felt in no danger at all (as accountants running our own business, we would like to think we are both sensible people!). However, on returning to the car park, our only exit from the beach was cut off by an enormous mud slide and a rapidly incoming neap tide. By mud slide we do not mean the sort of mud you can climb over; we mean mud with the

consistency of porridge. The mud was oily and sticky and we could not climb over it because it was like quicksand - we could not wade through it because it was too deep (20 feet high or more). To begin with we had about 25 feet of beach between the crumbling cliffs behind us and the rough seas in front of us. It was at that moment we realised we were trapped and telephoned the Coastguard for assistance.

The Charmouth volunteer lifeboat crew were called in from their homes and we are indebted to them for launching the lifeboat to attempt to rescue us. Unfortunately the sea state was too rough and the lifeboat was unable to reach us. However, they stayed in sight of us all the time and this was extremely comforting for us. The rescue service kept us up to date on our mobile and told us that since the lifeboat could not reach us they would scramble Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter to attempt to rescue us. After a period of time that seemed to last forever, the helicopter came into sight flying head on into the strong gusty wind and eventually reached us. We were both airlifted to safety with just about 10 feet of shingle beach left before we would no doubt have been swept out to sea by the neap tide.

We have since learned that we had about 30 minutes of beach left and had the Portland helicopter not been available, we do not want to think about what our fates would have been. We are sure that the lifeboat service and the other emergency services would have attempted a rescue in some other way, but success would not have been guaranteed and the rescuers may well have been in severe danger themselves.

For those who don't know, the Government is trying to axe the Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter to save money. Had the Portland Helicopter been axed then we, two very real people with our own children and grandchildren, most likely would not be here today. This is because the other helicopter that would have been sent out to rescue us is over 60 miles away and could have taken an hour to get to us - we didn't have an hour. The Portland helicopter is already one of the busiest in the country and we and many others think it is absolute madness to even think of closing the base. We would therefore please ask you to help by signing the e-petition to save the Portland helicopter by clicking the link below (or re-typing this into your internet browser) and following the instructions at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/36619>.

100,000 signatures are required by 30th July 2013 for there to be a debate in Parliament and at the time of writing 14,699 signatures have been received.

We cannot make a difference on our own, but we cannot sit back and do nothing. If you agree, please contact everyone you know and ask them to sign the petition; it really doesn't take a minute. We are sure lives will be lost if this helicopter is



axed and these lives could be you, members of your family, or friends. In case you are wondering if we really are genuine people, please feel free to check us out by googling Mark Cummins Dorchester. You can check out the incident report itself at <http://lymeregiscoastguard.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.thisisdorset.co.uk/Couple-airlifted-safety-trapped-Charmouth/story-18116656-detail/story.html#axzz2Kg3RlpLW>.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and we hope you will support the e-petition.

We cannot thank the volunteers at Charmouth RNLI, the Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter team and everybody else who helped in our rescue enough, but we hope that this will raise awareness and go some way towards helping the cause to save the Portland Coastguard Rescue Helicopter.

Best wishes to all, Mark and Debbi Cummins

Kenya Update



Our last trip was in August last year. We were so excited to take with us Ellie Hatcher from Charmouth, Dave Bell Snr and Jack Bell Jr from Bridport. Ellie and Dave both sponsor children at the Gideon Orphanage so it was very special for them to meet up with their sponsored children. We also met with a team from America and together we had an amazing time with the children. We had a day of fun - face painting, football, water fights, balloons. Dave and Jack got to teach in the junior school. Earlier in the year we sent over on the container 20 computers, which Dave helped to set up with the intention of starting a computer school for the local community. They now have over 20 people enrolled in the school and internet has just been installed. All the children loved Ellie, and her sponsored child Jackline shadowed her wherever she went and on the last day there were many many tears.

It is important to try and make the orphanage more self sufficient so that they can raise money themselves to help feed the children. There are now 150 children at the Gideon Orphanage and 350 who go to the Primary School every day. Recently we had a generous donation towards buying tents that they can hire out for weddings and funerals and we are looking

for more ideas that can establish this place financially.

Towards the end of last year we had over 30 children at the orphanage who needed to start secondary school this year. As you probably know, education in Kenya is not free. To send a child to school costs roughly £70 a term so we decided it would be best to build our own secondary school and with that aim we set about fundraising. Fortunately we had quite a few events lined up in the run up to Christmas and in less than six months we raised £10,000. This has enabled us to build two classrooms which should be finished very soon. Teachers have been interviewed and the children are very excited. We now need to raise money to build another two classrooms plus a science lab and library. The children at the Gideon orphanage range from two years old up to 22 years old. We are looking for more people to sponsor children for just £15 a month. They will write you personal letters and send pictures to you. All money goes straight out to help the children and through this they realise that people love them and care for their needs. These children have become like family to us and we are honoured to share them with you.

We thank you all for your continued support. We are hoping to send another container later in the year but asking people to keep items as we have run out of space in the cottage and shed that we have put up specially for Kenyan donated goods. We are hoping that by the time you read this, Awaken Love will be a charity - at the time of writing we are awaiting news from the Charity Commission.

We want to thank the "Phone Man", Chris Elliott at Bridport Market for donating used mobiles for Kenya. If any of you have an old mobile that you don't use anymore, we would love to take it from you and give it some great use in Kenya for an old widow to use. Also if you are updating your computers and don't know what to do with your old one, we are looking to expand our computer school and take more computers to Kenya. Please contact us at 01297560352.

Nicky & Sophie, Awaken Love. www.awakenlove.org.uk

The Award-Winning Charmouth Footbridge!



The new Charmouth bridge under construction. April 2011

It is fair to say that I was probably more excited than the average person to hear back in 2010 that a replacement steel and timber beam bridge would be constructed over the River Char. I haven't lived in the village for 10 years, but I do closely monitor village news via Shoreline magazine. I am extremely proud of this superb village and the positive effect it has had on my development in life. However, the news did stir a mixture of emotions. Since leaving Charmouth, I have studied to become a civil engineer so the news naturally caught my attention. My fondness for the old bridge stemmed from the many nostalgic childhood memories I still retain for the bridge. From my earliest memories of feeding the local duck and swan population and playing pooh sticks with my mother, Janet, to gasping at the sight of the frozen River Char just a few winters ago; I know my affection for the bridge is shared with the majority of residents and visitors to Charmouth.

However, nostalgia has an amazing ability to blinker the mind and the fact remained that the rickety trestle bridge had a few negative attributes. The bridge was constructed and opened to the public in 1984, meaning that 2010 marked its 26th year of faithful service. The old trestle structure had simplistic engineering properties that were incompatible with the many coastal and riverine flooding events that have hit the village in recent years. Additionally, it is easy to forget that crossing the Char could be an uncomfortable experience, especially during the summer months. This owed largely to the original design of the bridge being far too narrow to accommodate the many tourists, dog walkers, cyclists and prams, all wishing to cross the Char simultaneously. In short, the bridge had undoubtedly reached the end of its design life and the village required a modern contemporary replacement.

With a heavy heart, I admit that the decision to erect a new footbridge across the Char was undoubtedly the right one. My initial impression of the new bridge was of a robust, modern and contemporary structure. It represents a successful fusion of subtle artistic design that blends into the natural environ of the Char with dynamic facilities for users of the bridge. It became clear that I wasn't the only one to hold this impression. I was delighted to find out that the professional body for civil engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers, recently awarded the new bridge a 'Project of the Year' award for 2012. The Charmouth footbridge project was the winner of the Minor Category prize which is awarded to projects with a contract value of under £1m. The accolade confirms the originality and beauty of the new crossing and underlies the unique nature of the structure.

Despite this, it is remarkable how similar the old and new bridge look when viewing the crossing in elevation. This is best demonstrated by standing at the mouth of the river

and viewing the bridge upstream and is a sure sign that the bridge designers accounted for the affection that the people of Charmouth felt for the old bridge. Anyone not convinced by this that has access to a picture of the old bridge should stand in this position and spot the difference! However, this is where the similarities end. As viewed from overhead, the asymmetric shape of the bridge deck reflects the dynamic and often unstable environment that dominates the Jurassic coastline and the bridge deck itself bows towards the sea, a feature that gives the bridge user a clue as to which vantage offers the best photo opportunities.

The two hollow steel monopoles that support the bridge deck ensure the structural stability of the asymmetric form. In fact, the design of the piles highlights the attention to detail of the design and the adaptation to the environment considered by the designers. The piles are designed with a sacrificial thickness of steel which means that the piles do not need painting, mitigating a potential hazard to the river flora and fauna. The natural weathering process means the piles are designed to age in an aesthetic manner. It is this level of detail that defines the new bridge as purely unique and fitting of a prestigious award in civil engineering. The truly inspirational attribute of the bridge is surely the central viewing area at the mid-span of the bridge. The introduction of corners and a chasm-like diagonal steel grid to enhance the sense of walking over water is truly novel and a fitting testament to the

village in which it sits. I love the idea of a bridge being much more than just a way of travelling from A to B and offering the user a chance to reflect on the spectacular views of the river. The ability to transform an ordinary structure into an attraction itself is testament to the power of civil engineering and is one of the reasons why I chose to forge a career in the discipline.

Ultimately, the construction of the new bridge was a profound success and will leave a positive legacy well into this century. The bridge sets a great example for sustainable development as all of the steel and timber from the old bridge was recycled and the timber used for the decking planks and parapets was locally sourced and sustainably grown. Notwithstanding my relatively limited experience within the industry, I believe that the final cost of £360,000 represents excellent value for money. I am proud that a much loved symbol of the Charmouth beach has been replaced with an improved structure that will provide many positive memories for residents and visitors to Charmouth, long into the future. The fact that the bridge is award-winning is the just the icing on the cake for a job well done.

Robbie Lock

The author would like to thank Simon Arscott from Dorset County Council in aiding the composition of this article.



The old Charmouth bridge holds many memories for Robbie Lock, pictured left in 1985. On the right, his older brother Tom; in the middle, Stephanie Hayter

Shoreline goes to Tenerife

Many Charmouth residents will still remember Marlene and John Owen who lived at Shetland House, now owned by Louise and Heath at The Salon.

In 1966, Marlene and John owned their Salon at Mill View at the bottom of the village, known as 'The Cabin'. In 1967, Gladys Owen (John's mother) took over 'The Cabin' to sell beachwear, so Marlene and John then moved their hairdressing salon up to the centre of the village, next door to us at The Pharmacy. They worked here for 15 years, also selling clothes for some of that time. In 1968 Gladys Owen had a clothes, wool and haberdashery shop (now FSB Estate Agents.) Dot Davies and Emily Hunter worked for her. She sold the shop to the Hibberds who ran it as a boutique. Then the Hibberds took over Morgans.

Marlene and John moved to Uplyme and Lyme for several years before they finally left the UK for Tenerife in the summer of 1996. They now have a house in Chard, and return there every summer.

Mary Davis

1. 1968 The front of Marlene and John's shop next to The Pharmacy
2. 1996 Marlene and John's last day in the UK before emigrating to Tenerife. Seen leaving with a packed car.
3. 2013 Marlene and John with Mary Davies, catching up with Charmouth news via Shoreline this January.



Where Are They Now?

We're hoping that Mary Davies' article featuring Marlene and John Owen, who are now living in Tenerife, will influence other Shoreline readers to send in a story of their friends or family who have left the village. If you have a Where Are They Now? Story, please send it to the editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk

CHARMOUTH BUSINESSMAN'S FACTORY WASHED AWAY

"Friday night, in consequence of the great swell of water, owing to the quantity of rain that had fallen within the week, the bridge at Charmouth was washed away. A house occupied by Mr. Burnard, in the manufacture of sail cloth, immediately below the bridge, was carried away by the flood, together with a quantity of cloth and dyeing utensils, of which a valuable copper boiler has been since found in the sea. In a field above the bridge stood a Hay Rick, which was carried by the flood through the field, out at the gate, and lodged in safety at the side of the turnpike road. A temporary bridge has since been erected; before it was finished the coaches were of necessity dragged through the river by men". 25th October 1823

Neil Mattingly



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Zippering Along! – Derrick Davis



Yeovil Festival of Transport, Derrick receives 'Best Car' cup, 1980s

Derrick Davis has always loved all things mechanical. After leaving school at 14 in the mid-1940s, his father found him a job in Slough with Great Western Railways. "They looked after all the cars, lorries and vans; in fact everything that moved on railway lines between Paddington and Wales other than trains. I had two years as a shop lad and five years as an apprentice, working with different 'gangs' on every part of a vehicle. It was my initiation into rebuilding cars that had gone wrong".

"By the age of 20 I was tasked with completely restoring or repairing vehicles. At the end of year one a man came down from Oxford and spent a day driving and checking a car I had restored. At the end of that day I achieved 1st grade; I was dead keen! After I had worked in the running sheds for the next 20 months, I moved on to very close tolerance engineering with Durnell Truepath Engineering and worked on pantographs for the tiny blades in aircraft engines. Each engine has 980 blades and we'd grind them using the 'fir tree' form. Then the company was sold to Trefus Diamond Industries which used polished and shaped diamonds to form grinding wheels."

"My life changed when the New Zipper Company bought one of our pantograph machines for forming wire into an extremely accurate shape by the rolling process. Around that time I was told I was going to be made redundant, but it turned out to be my lucky break! The manager of the New Zipper Company wanted to talk to me, because the person grinding for his company was leaving

and he needed someone who could grind accurately in specific shapes. Much to my surprise, I got the job and my wage was increased from 5/10½d (29p) an hour to 6/2½d (31p) an hour. In those days, if you got a penny rise you were doing well! The company was involved in development work on the zip fastener and in just over a year I was made foreman".



Starting line, Wiscombe Park c 1995

"Dr Doultter, the owner, had come to Britain from Germany in 1948 and he brought with him a sketch of a zip fastener from New Zealand. He was also a very good engineer and an expert on rocket fuel. He had developed rockets in

Germany in the early days when Russia and America had begun looking at launching rockets into space."

"In the mid-1950s we had an order from the United States for waterproof zip fasteners for astronauts' suits, which we made in Slough. But the subsequent American President decreed that everything for moon missions had to be made in the United States. As a consequence, in 1957/58 we received an order for several zip-making machines and had to supply a man to train the Americans. He was Rodney Axtel, who I have known since my youth; he found a wife and a life in America and I still phone him a couple of times a month. Our machines in the US made waterproof and airtight zip fasteners for astronauts on space missions from the late 1950s onwards, including Apollo 11 with astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins."



"In 1996 I learnt that the company which had bought the machines was going bankrupt, so I went across to the US to find out more. The Managing Director wanted me to work over there, but I said 'no'. Instead I went across 13 times, trying to persuade the company to sell me the waterproof division. I also brought back a machine head to Slough and we put it into a body that had been made in the UK. I refurbished it completely and it produced excellent quality fasteners."

"In the end, and with some help, I bought the American company and in five months I had moved it from an underground location into its own building near Charlotte, North Carolina. I completely changed the organisation and we produced 3,000 fasteners a month. The longest fastener we made was 144 feet, for the surveillance of the Mexican border from a dirigible. I spent five years in the United States and then YKK bought the company."



Restored BOP 103 crossing the line at Silverstone and winning the Mary Harris Rosebow

Camping Safari Adventures in Tanzania



Derrick's 1929 Bentley, complete with bride and groom

Derrick now occupies himself restoring vintage cars, several of which he used to race at Silverstone, Thruxton, Donnington and Cadwell Park. "I make most of the parts myself and when a car is finished, I drive it, sell it and start on another – I'm mad!" he laughs. Not long ago, Derrick sold an MG P-type 1936 car he had restored to an enthusiast in New Zealand. More locally, Derrick gives Father Christmas a welcome change from his sleigh when he chauffeurs the bearded gentleman to Charmouth's annual Christmas Fayre in his 1934 N-type MG.

And what, you may ask, brought Derrick to Charmouth from his long-time home in Iwer Heath, Buckinghamshire? He had spent time here when his children were young and had positive memories of the area. Daughter Deborah and her family now live in Ascot and son Stephen and his family are at nearby Netherbury, so Derrick considered Charmouth. "I went into Fortnam Smith and Banwell estate agency and was very pleased with the reception I received. The ladies in the office did a superb job. They are the instigators of my life here!" he grins.

Lesley Dunlop



Derrick's 1934 MG N-type Magnette, an 'ex-Crawford car'



As much as Mike and I love living in Dorset, we have been missing the sunshine lately. So we wanted to go on a short holiday somewhere warm, and as we both love a bit of an adventure and love animals, a safari was the perfect thing. We wanted the safari ('long journey' in Swahili) to be as eco-friendly as it could be, wishing to avoid mass-tourism which can do more harm than good to the flora and fauna and ecosystems that we all want to see and protect. A good friend in Tanzania recommended 'Authentic Tanzania'. This wonderful company put together an itinerary of three days of bush camping at Ruaha National Park in addition to a few days on the beach.

We had a two and a half hour flight to the park in a tiny Cessna Caravan 14-seater plane, landing on a dusty, dirt runway in the middle of the park. Even from the air we could see what was awaiting us; submerged hippos, herds of elephants, zebras, even a lioness!

Ruaha is the largest National Park in Africa, almost ten times bigger than Dorset and, as we had hoped, we rarely saw another vehicle in the three, very special, days we stayed there.



Our guide, Davis Albert, and three of his colleagues, had driven up the day before with all the camp and equipment. Davis met us at the airstrip and took us to our base camp with an introductory safari. Even on that short trip, driving through wide open plains dotted with acacia and baobab trees, we saw ostriches, elephants and giraffes; it was all getting very exciting.

Our campsite was on the banks of a river that had virtually dried up apart from a large pond-sized pool of water – a 'watering hole'. On our side of the river was a huge old baobab tree and many bushes and trees, while opposite was the Kilimatonge mountain, with spectacular granite boulders and scrubby vegetation.

Our tent had two proper wooden beds in a self-contained 'room' and Davis instructed us to zip ourselves in at night to keep out any curious fauna. Davis also advised that, while it was highly likely that animals would be roaming near our tent at night, they would treat it as a natural obstacle, such as a tree or a rock, and walk around, not into it. We should also keep our kerosene lamp outside the front of the tent as a gentle deterrent, and, just in case, we had a whistle to blow....

Attached to our sleeping room we also had a separate shower/loo room. Our bush-shower was a rubberised bag suspended above our tent attached to a hose and which one operated using a tap at the bottom; as it was entirely naturally heated, this meant it was rather chilly in the morning (as the air temperature was quite cool at night) and really hot during the day, in line with the roasting hot day-time weather.

A discreet distance away was an open mess tent for meals, and another for cooking. Davis and his colleagues had their sleeping tents just beyond. We were ►

fascinated by the cooking arrangements; our chef, Alam, cooked wonderful, three course, meals in a Dutch oven, a metal box, over a pit of charcoal; home baked bread, home-made soup, spaghetti bolognese, fresh tropical fruit. All enjoyed with a glass of Kilimanjaro beer or South African wine while listening to the sounds of the bush after sunset; fabulous.

We rose early the next morning to have the best chance of seeing the animals – they, like we, feel the considerable heat of the sun, and many do their business at daybreak and sunset. Our vehicle – a Toyota Landcruiser - had been adapted and 'ruggedized' (Mike's word) for the rigours of safari driving.

We set off on a slow drive around numerous dirt tracks on very varied terrains; from open savannah and sweeping plains or through dense bushes and grasses or across dried up rivers and rocky outcrops. Our guide, Davis had nine years' experience and evidently knew the huge park like the back of his hand. And, in addition to being astoundingly good at spotting animals and telling us about them, while driving, he was great company!

Over the course of our stay we were introduced to a wonderful variety of wildlife.

Elephants are particularly prolific in Ruaha, in fact it has the greatest number in all of East Africa. We saw a number of solitary bull elephants, including some younger males who attempted an adolescent charge on our vehicle as a warning not to get too close. When they trumpeted they sounded quite high-pitched like a teenage boy whose voice is breaking... We also saw many nursery herds with females and babies and younger elephants and, as long as we didn't get too close, they seemed happy to walk around or by our car. That night, when I thought I heard something just outside our tent, of course I woke up my slumbering husband (was this whistle time, I wondered?) and when we peered out, we were delighted to see a group of ten or so elephants; they shone like silver in the moonlight from the caked mud on their hides, and were slowly walking to the watering hole in the river near our tent.

We were enchanted, too, by the giraffes. Like the elephants, we saw adult male giraffes on their own, staring out at the bush or indeed with mild curiosity and, with no sense that they were threatened, at us. Females and babies would 'glide' elegantly across the plains, as if in slow motion, in groups of three or four, up to ten. I always felt it was an extra treat to see a baby animal, and baby giraffes are particularly cute.

Speaking of cute and appealing, we saw small herds of very beautiful zebras. We learnt that babies start with brown stripes which go darker as they grow older, and that each zebra has unique stripes.

One particular group attracted Davis's attention as one zebra had a fresh wound, a bad gash on one of its front legs. 'That's one lucky zebra' he said. He could tell it had recently been attacked by a lion and that the chances were the lion was still nearby. Davis looked very carefully (a real skill, while still driving on such rough roads) and found not one but two bowers in bushes off the road, where lions would sleep out of the glare of the sun. Davis then spotted two sets of tracks in the long grasses and then found two young male lions!

They were exhausted and very scruffy looking brothers and, although they were quite big animals, both had short tufty hair where their full mane would later grow. Davis told us that males are not as efficient at hunting as lionesses and that perhaps they lack the patience the females have.... We also saw an old, old male lion loafing in a river bed and later heard him roaring deep into the night as he stirred from his sleep.

Later Davis spotted two lionesses, who looked sleek, well-fed and very content. We were delighted to discover that it was a family group – mother, a cub of about one month and an auntie. They all woke up to have a look at us and the cub in particular was very curious.

Over the course of our various trips out, Davis also pointed out warthogs, bat-eared foxes, a family of kudu (an antelope), waterbuck, hippos, crocs, lizards and turtles; also fish eagles, rollers, kingfishers, vultures and many other birds and let us





Davis reading Shoreline

know a leopard had been near our tent on our last night! By the end of our stay Mike and I got better ourselves at spotting things at a distance and also saw a hyena, a pair of surprisingly cute jackals, rock hyrax, baboons, monkeys and a family of mongooses.

Poaching of elephants is a challenge for Ruaha, and one effort we saw to mitigate this includes showing villagers who lived outside the park the importance of wildlife preservation on ecological and economic grounds. Another major problem was the gradual drying-up of the Great Ruaha River which feeds the park, and perhaps this is a greater issue in the long term for the wildlife.

It was an unforgettable experience so we said a big 'asante sana' (thank you very much in Swahili) to Davis, Alam, Ali, Emily and other colleagues at Authentic Tanzania before we moved on to loaf about on the beach.

Jo Seaman

Fairfield House

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Fairfield House is a 34 bedroom Residential Care Home where each bedroom is individually designed and decorated, many are available with en-suite facilities and views over Lyme Bay. Fairfield House also benefits from elegant lounges and conservatories which overlook our newly landscaped gardens.

Having appointed a new Manager, Karen Stephens, who works very closely with dedicated care and support teams we are pleased to be able to say that having recently been inspected by Care Quality Commission and Dorset County Council we are fully compliant in all standards, and also have a 5 star food hygiene rating.

Karen has been in care for 29 years having achieved many qualifications including NVQ 4 and Registered Managers Award. Karen and the team at Fairfield House strongly believe that delivering person centred care with empathy and dignity will ensure the provision of excellent care for all our clients.

Karen and the team are also interested in hearing from local volunteers, and we also have a room available for various activities, shows and demonstrations, which residents may like to participate in or watch. One resident is booked in with local schools this month to talk about his wartime experiences during "The Great Escape". If you are considering using a Residential Home for day care, respite or on a permanent basis, Karen has an open door policy and welcomes you to visit Fairfield at any time.

Shoreline Spring 2013

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A Legacy for Volunteering

During the Olympics and Paralympics, Dorset's volunteers set a shining example to the rest of the country and to the world. They welcomed visitors with open arms and showed an enormous pride in Dorset, their home county. I hope that the incredible summer of 2012 has left a legacy for volunteering.



The potential for an Olympic legacy in volunteering in Dorset rests on several factors, including the ease which people can find new volunteering roles. Through the expansion of our Special Constabulary more opportunities have arisen

for the public to add value to their community. In my term of office, another 250 Specials will be recruited. That process is already underway.

It is important for us all to work together to prevent crime, support vulnerable people and to help the police fight crime. I want to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and communities.

I am also in the process of establishing a Force Volunteers Board which will oversee all volunteer engagement and make better use of volunteers including mentors and street pastors.

Every Police and Crime Commissioner also has a responsibility to oversee an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are local volunteers drawn from all walks of life whose main role is to provide an independent check on the welfare of people who are detained at police stations. They do this by making random visits in pairs to police stations throughout the County and reporting their findings.

There are currently more than 20 Independent Custody Visitors who make regular visits to all the Dorset Police custody centres and also meet quarterly to discuss their findings on a Panel attended by me and the Assistant Chief Constable.

There are many reasons why people volunteer but the bigger picture is always to help others and that should be commended. It is inspirational to see so many people giving up their free time, to make Dorset a better and safer place to live, work and visit.

Martyn Underhill

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Contact the Elderly

I am the local co-ordinator for the national charity Contact the Elderly and I'm looking to form a group in Charmouth and the surrounding area. Contact the Elderly has over 450 groups throughout the UK and was formed to give a Lifeline of Friendship to those elderly people who live lonely and isolated lives, are without close family and who seldom leave their homes. Our elderly guests are collected from their homes and taken to a host's house for a tea party once a month for 2½ hours on a Sunday afternoon. These outings put our elderly guests back in touch with society and give them something to look forward to every month, enabling them to meet new friends and mix with people of all ages.

If you know of anyone who may need our help or would like to know more, please phone me on 01297 442544 or email me at sarson3ab@btinternet.com We also need more hosts who would be willing to open up their homes once or twice a year. For further information, please go to www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

David Sarson

Lifeline of Friendship

Local Branch of Save the Children are looking for Volunteers

The Committee of the Lyme Regis branch of Save the Children will greatly miss the support of Barbara Austin, who was their President for several years. Most of the current Committee members and supporters are of retirement age and we would welcome the support of some new, younger volunteers and would like to hear from anyone living in Charmouth or the local area who may be interested in joining the Committee.

We have a fund raising event on Friday 26th April at 7.00pm, at The Woodmead Halls in Lyme Regis when Peter Gostelow will give an illustrated talk about his BIG Africa Cycle, a journey he recently made, cycling from the UK to South Africa. This would be an ideal time to come along to meet the Committee, learn about the work of Save the Children and at the same time enjoy hearing about the highs and lows of Peter's fascinating and sometimes hazardous journey.

Tickets are £7.50, available from Lock's Pharmacy, Charmouth and Martin Diplock, Lyme Regis. Enquiries to 01297 560 402 or 01297 445 363.

Charmouth Fayre Sunday 4 August 2013



This is a gentle reminder to residents around on the above date, I hope you will come along and help on the day, either in the morning or assisting with stalls in the afternoon.

What is very frustrating is after the event people saying to me as they frequently do "if you had only contacted me, I would have given a hand!"- Unfortunately I and my small committee don't know you are available unless you let us know before the event! All you need to do now is either email or phone me with your details and we will contact you nearer the time. The work will not be onerous and can be a great deal of fun so don't be worried or shy; just let me know your details please!!! Contact me on 560078 or peter@marshall-noel.co.uk

Would you like to do something interesting, valuable, local, social and fun?

If so, then the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (CHCC) will welcome you to its band of 'working Friends'. We are so lucky to have this excellent centre as part of our village and it has a lot of support - but it needs more.

The Centre, acting as a focus for those fascinated by our local fossils and marine life, is world-renowned and offers educational and fun facilities for adults and children, whether absolute beginners or professionals, providing activities, information and advice about our part of the 'Jurassic Coast' and further afield.

With close on 90,000 visitors a year, it would be impossible for the wardens to cope on their own. Volunteers therefore play crucial roles in the operation of the CHCC and are essential to its smooth running. With the newly refurbished facilities available this year, the Centre is a bright, spacious, pleasant and interesting place to work, providing opportunities for learning more about our marine and fossil environment. Boredom is not a possibility if you volunteer!

Many hundreds of hours of work each year are provided by the volunteers, most of whom are from the immediate area and therefore have the benefit of local knowledge to help visitors as necessary. Training sessions and support are provided by the Wardens and materials are available so that volunteers can be fully up-to-date with information to pass on as required.

Volunteers participate in a variety of activities depending on their skills and interests. Some possibilities are: working on the desk greeting visitors and providing information and advice; being a member of the work party maintaining the fabric of the building's interior and assisting with displays; helping with school activities and Junior Rangers; assisting with fossil walks, rock pooling, plankton trawling and (new this year) snorkelling sessions... and more.

The Friends of the CHCC Committee provide lectures, social events, activities, friendship and support and is run by a dedicated band of enthusiastic local people. If you are interested in getting involved and really making a difference, please contact the CHCC in person, by telephoning 01297 560772 or via the website (www.charmouth.org/chcc)

Rosalind Cole

Chairman of Friends of CHCC



West Dorset Befriending Scheme

Could You be a Friend?

West Dorset Befriending Scheme is a voluntary service, available to anyone in the Charmouth, Lyme Regis, Bridport and surrounding area.

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 per week.

Services that will be provided by volunteers include:

- Home visits, sharing a cup of tea and a good conversation
- Accompanying clients on shopping trips or shopping on their behalf
- Reading to those who are visually impaired
- Assisting with correspondence
- Taking clients on short wheelchair excursions
- Accompanying people on short walks
- Sitting to relieve a carer

There is no age limit for volunteers. You just need to:

- possess a willingness and desire to help
- be committed to providing reliable, consistent support
- identify how much time you are able to comfortably give
- identify the kind of service you would like to offer
- enjoy sharing your time with others and meeting new people

The benefits to both volunteers and patients are numerous and rewarding:

- you meet new people
- you learn new things about others and the area in which you live
- clients retain their independence and self-esteem
- volunteers experience a feeling of contributing to an invaluable service and of making a real difference to the life of someone else

Could you be a member of this fantastic team and help to improve someone's quality of life?

Could you spare some time each week/fortnight to make a real difference?

Could you help to keep someone smiling?

For more information or to volunteer please call Felicity Horton Charmouth WRVS on 07736825283 or Ellen Austin WRVS Lyme Regis on 07435974824 or Sarah Saintjames, Bridport on 07435974823.





Have you heard 'the buzz' about your local U3A branch in Lyme Regis?

The spirit of volunteering underpins the whole concept of The University of the Third Age and we are very fortunate in the Heritage Coast, Lyme Regis branch, in that our 500+ members can tap into 46 different groups all offering something engaging, entertaining, stimulating or simply good fun, and all run by people who give their time and expertise for nothing. Inasmuch as we would welcome still more volunteers it would be either to encourage people to offer to run a group that we don't currently have, or to give time to augment the committee which oversees the organisation. More about the branch as a whole, and the list of current groups can be found on our website at: www.lymeregisu3a.org. Our Groups' Co-ordinator is Penny Rose at: pennyrose2009@gmail.com.

If anyone sees themselves as a treasurer, not a very onerous job in an organisation such as ours, we will have a vacancy at the end of the year and you could contact our Chair: vjdoney@gmail.com.

With more than 60 new members in the past few months, membership is vibrant and additional activities are on the increase. The website will advertise our monthly talks and we have recently added a 'Theatre-Goers' group with five trips currently planned to venues in the south west, all within a two hour journey time. If you want to talk about membership, our contact is: marybohane@yahoo.co.uk



Geoff Townson's geology group explores the Jurassic Coast.

Willing Helpers

The Bopper Bus is now in its 10th year, having been first introduced in 2003 as part of the Chideock Parish Plan. The Parish Councils of Charmouth, Char Valley, Symondsburys and Chideock have helped finance this service since that time. The Bopper Bus has been supported by many local groups, local businesses, local authority grants and public donations over these years. Fundraising has also been via Sponsored Walks, Fetes and Fairs.



We are seeking adult helpers to accompany the children to Bridport Leisure Centre on Friday evenings during term time (subject to CRB check). Volunteers accompany children on the bus and monitor them at the Leisure Centre where the children participate in a range of sporting activities and swimming. A rota system of volunteers requires a commitment of four sessions per term.

Come and join us on the Bopper Bus - the Friday night leisure bus to Bridport Leisure Centre - which is available to children eight years and over. Pick up from Charmouth School car park at 4.45 pm and return by 8.00 pm. The bus picks up at some of the surrounding villages and hamlets before arriving at the Leisure Centre. Whilst there, the children have a session in the sports hall doing a range of activities which include: unihoc, crash mat racing, martial arts, dance, badminton, table tennis, dodge ball, etc. This is followed by a 45-minute free play session in the pool.

For membership or volunteer enquires, please contact Melanie Harvey on 01297 560393

Charmouth Youth Club Treasurer

Charmouth Youth Club started on its present site in 1956, due to the generous gift of land by a local resident.

The splendid modern building which dates from 1999, is owned freehold by the Youth Club and is also hired by several adult fitness classes throughout the year, providing valuable income towards running costs.



The present treasurer has served for over 6 years and had no experience of accountancy as such, beyond having a bank account! But he gained great satisfaction from working with the (very informal and relaxed) committee to ensure that the Club remained financially viable and lots of Charmouth's young people had somewhere safe to play games, learn new skills, or just chill out.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, he's had to give up earlier than planned and so if you'd like to be a part of a great team of volunteers and County Youth workers, please ring 01297 444656 or 07968 609 120 to learn more (without obligation).

1st Charmouth Scouts

Cub Poster receives national acclaim for advice on keeping warm

A poster created by one of 1st Charmouth's Cubs was runner-up in this year's National Grid-sponsored Home Safety Poster Competition. In total, 12 Cubs created posters to portray this year's theme of 'How to keep warm in winter'. One poster, created by Simon Sage, was awarded the runner-up slot in this prestigious competition. As a result, Simon wins £50 to spend with Scout Shops, while his Scout Group receives £300 – all courtesy of National Grid.

According to Ed Pemberton, Assistant Cub Leader, "We are indebted to the help provided by Alison Bowskill, a Scout parent and art teacher at Woodroffe School, who came along and gave the Cubs some ideas and advice on how to put

punch into their posters. However, I think our Cubs had an unfair advantage. Our HQ is so cold in winter that it can only have helped them get their thinking caps on!"

The Scout Group will now have to decide how to spend the £300. Some will certainly go on new heating for its dilapidated HQ, in which Simon's poster is now proudly displayed and its advice avidly followed - 'Carry On and Have a Hot Drink to Keep Warm'!

Stop Press: The 1st Charmouth Scout Group is one of the charities featured this month in Waitrose, Bridport, under their 'Community Matters' scheme. By placing your green tokens in the Scout Group's slot you will be helping them secure more funds to continue their quest to make their dilapidated HQ a fit place for its Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to meet in.

Kevin Payne
payne.kevin6@gmail.com
01308 459080



Charmouth Cub Pack with their certificate

Scout Group quadruples and hopes to restart Beaver Colony

1st Charmouth is now officially one of the fastest growing Scout Groups in Dorset. Its latest annual census figures show that its membership has quadrupled in the past two years. Its return for 31st January 2013 records 9 invested Cubs, 18 invested Scouts and 5 Leaders.



The Group puts its success down to running a really attractive weekly programme. "For example", says Kevin Payne, Scouter-in-Charge, "this week the Cubs were making tin-top pancakes while the Scouts were using LED 'Glowies' and prolonged exposure to create startling digital images." Despite this success, the Group hopes to grow by another 50% by January 2014. "When our new Cub Leader Team is fully in place," said Kevin, "we hope to raise the number in the Pack to 18. We also hope to re-start our Beaver Colony if we can find a Leader."

1st Charmouth has not had a Beaver Colony since 2002, but there is a growing local demand for this section of Scouting, which caters for boys and girls who are aged six and seven years old. "We would be keen to hear from anyone who is interested in helping to deliver exciting Scouting to all age groups, on a weekly or occasional basis, but particularly any adults keen to work with Beavers", said Kevin.

Work has already begun on refurbishing the Group's dilapidated HQ, so it should soon be a much better place for Beavers to meet in than was the case ten years ago.

Kevin Payne
payne.kevin6@gmail.com
01308 459080

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News from Charmouth Primary School



News from Charmouth School PTFA

How apt that this Shoreline is highlighting the importance of volunteering in our community. For those unfamiliar with the term PTFA, it stands for Parents, Teachers & Friends Association, which means that anyone in the community can support our school. As school budgets continue to be cut, the money raised by the PTFA is more important than ever in supplementing the School Budgets and enabling our children to experience things that the school would otherwise not be able to provide.

To help raise funds, we have several exciting events coming up, including Easter Bingo, the Duck Race and the Charmouth Challenge & Fun Run.

We will have held our Easter Bingo on Friday 27th March at the school. We always have great prizes and refreshments on offer at our bingo events, and again these are always open to everyone to come along and enjoy. If you have never attended our events, then make this your year to support your local school. Look out for our event posters around the village. Our favourite annual event, the Duck Race, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 27th May at 3.00pm. We plan to hold a tea party by the riverside, on the green at Seadown by the beach, so bring your picnic rug and join us. Great fun for little kids and big kids alike to cheer on 1,200 little yellow ducks downstream from the bridge to the sea! Fantastic cash prizes for the winners and of course a wooden spoon for the last duck home!

You can purchase a duck for just £1 (ALL proceeds to the school). They will be available from the school, the George Pub, Wood Farm and Seadown. PTFA members will also be sitting outside Morgans on Saturdays 18th and 25th May, so please look out for them. The event takes place on Monday 27th May; 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 on your duck!! (Duck Race 3pm)

Before the ducks have a chance to dry, we will already be organising the biggest event in the PTFA calendar, the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run. The annual event attracts runners from all over the country who either push their endurance on a 7.8 mile Challenge through the beautiful countryside surrounding Golden Cap, as well as attracting families who run the shorter Fun Run together. This is where the volunteering element comes in! I am sure you are aware of the appalling weather we have suffered over the last few months. (Even last year's event had to be cancelled for the first time ever due to severe flooding.) This has meant that the Challenge Course and the Fun Run will need to be re-routed this year as parts of the previous course are no longer safe due to continuing cliff erosion.

Every year we struggle to get enough volunteers to marshal this event. The role of a marshal is vital in ensuring runner safety as well as shouting encouragement to each runner to keep up morale! Many club runners comment on how friendly the marshals are and for this reason they come back year after year. This year we will need 40 – 50 marshals as the route of the Fun Run may differ from the Challenge Course and therefore both races will need separate marshals.

If you would like to support your local school, and could give up just a couple of hours on Saturday 6th July to marshal this event, we would be so grateful. We can't guarantee sunshine, but we can offer cups of tea afterwards and you would go home with a warm glow knowing that you have made real difference to your community and had fun on the way. If you

I cannot believe that seven months have passed since taking up my new role as headteacher at Charmouth Primary School. A lot has happened in that reasonably short time but there are still many new exciting challenges ahead of us.

One of our priorities this year is to promote the love of reading amongst children across the school. This initiative encourages parents to support the school in a home-school partnership and also by providing and enabling opportunities in the school day for children to read to individuals. This is a tricky bit for us to provide on a day to day basis as we need more volunteers to help the children to make progress. Children often need one to one time with an adult to practise the skills of reading. This concentrated time is invaluable. Our teachers work hard to teach the skills of reading each day but the children still need to consolidate their learning by practising reading and discussing the books, pages or chapters that they have read with an adult. Questioning and talking about the books that the children have read are crucial to the development of skills and understanding across the curriculum.

As part of my vision, I would like to increase community involvement in the school. If you think you would be able to devote a small but valuable amount of time in helping with our reading project, then please do contact me. As a part of the government agenda to protect children, a CRB check would probably need to be processed. However, the school would provide appropriate training for those who are interested and if people express an interest I suggest that one easy way to find out more would be for me to arrange a coffee morning at the school where we could all meet up. Over an informal chat and coffee, I would be delighted to help people find out how we approach reading in our school.

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As a school, we are fortunate to have a modern, well-resourced library. Classes are timetabled to use the library each week and some children are in the process of being trained to be librarians and look after the library and advise children on their favourite authors. Although the children are enthusiastic and often very sensible and competent, it would be a great support to them if there were some local adults who could spare some time to help them with their library duties. Therefore, if you don't feel able to help with reading one to one with children, perhaps you can devote some time to help run our school library in an afternoon. Any offers of help would be gratefully received and I would welcome your involvement.

If you think you could help to support the children in their reading skills, please get in touch by telephone, email or call into the school and speak to one of our office staff. Please see our school contact details below:

Tel: 01297 560591

Email: office@charmouth.dorset.sch.uk

Gillian Morris, Headteacher

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would consider giving up just two hours to help marshal, then please contact Melanie on 560393 by the end of May. Full details for registration are elsewhere in Shoreline so, put Saturday 6th July in your diary. Please come along to the school afterwards for great cream teas, activities for the children and lots of stalls/games will be on the playground and the field. As ever, we couldn't make it happen without the support of parents, staff and pupils so we will be asking for donations of gifts, cakes and Jolly Jars nearer to the event. If you can help us on the day, please contact me on 01297 489191

With School discos and a "Bags-2-schools" event also planned, the next few months look busy for the PTFA. We know that money is tight for everyone, so we have tried not to put pressure on the families and businesses of Charmouth again this year. We continue to focus on running fewer events that offer fun activities for families, holiday makers and the many friends of Charmouth School in the village.

Giving up your time and getting involved means we can concentrate on making the events more successful and therefore raising the much needed funds for the school. The

funds raised so far this year have contributed to creating WOW events for the children as they embark on new learning journeys. We supplement regular swimming lessons and worked with Gillian and her staff to keep costs as low as possible to enable children to go on school trips. We have also been asked to part-fund the new and exciting school website which will showcase all the fantastic work the school is doing to give our children the best opportunities for learning it can provide. I am sure you will agree the location of our school can only inspire learning in our children.

In case you miss our posters and advertisements in the village, this year we have launched a Charmouth Primary school PTFA Facebook page where everyone can easily follow our progress and find out about future events. Please find us there and "like" our page!

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible at forthcoming events, where you will all be made very welcome.

Karen Southcott
PTFA Chair

News from St. Andrew's Church



In keeping with the very poor weather this Winter, congregation numbers at St. Andrew's have been on the low side – but we have welcomed quite a few visitors to our Sunday Services. They are always a great encouragement to us, as we realise there are lots of wonderful Christians around the country! One of the nicest features in this period, when there are no significant Christian Festivals (other than Lent) have been the Family Services. We hold these on the third Sunday of each month, at the usual time of 9.30am. We feature a simplified Service, which involves the children. They particularly get involved at the beginning and the end! At the beginning, when they make suggestions for special Prayers, and we sing a special Children's Hymn which they accompany with assorted percussion instruments. They also get involved at the end, when they show us what they have been making during their own session in the back area of the church, and often give us something too! Another new and interesting feature of this Service is a dramatised Bible Reading or Poem read by some young lads – often with some good humour in it!

We do invite you to come to this lighter Service on these third Sundays! They are ideal for families and any who would prefer a Service with a greater degree of informality than in our normal Eucharists / Holy Communion.

One idea that is also emerging from the Family Services Planning Team is the possibility of holding an informal, simple Cafe following on from the 9.30am Family Service. We would invite absolutely anyone to come and join us from 10.45am onwards for a free cup of high quality coffee, pastries &

croissants! We would have copies of the Papers available, and a chance to sit on comfy chairs and chat in a totally informal atmosphere! We could also erect a few tables to run a Freecycle Stall – the idea being that people can bring along anything surplus to requirements (bric a brac, books, garden produce etc), and also take for free anything on the tables that might prove useful! This idea of a Church Cafe has proved to be very successful at Whitchurch Canonichorum on the first Sunday of each month (10.30am – Noon) – with often as many as 60 or 70 people attending, and building lots of new friendships! The PCC will discuss the idea further, but in the meantime please let us know what you think! We think this could make a good contribution to community life!

We have now submitted our proposed redevelopment Plans for the reordering of the interior of St. Andrew's to the Church authorities, and will await their response in due course. If our partial removal of pews, new seating, improved kitchen and new disabled toilet do get accepted then this would greatly assist our possible Sunday Morning "Free Exchange" Cafe! By the way, if you want to help support our plans through donations, we would be delighted to receive them!

Whilst on the subject of money, I need to report that the Accounts for 2012 make very worrying reading for us! Our Reserves have declined substantially because of the renovations to the Aisle roofs in 2012. Audrey Worth, our Treasurer calculates that the costs of running this church are approximately £350 per week, but our normal income is less than £200 per week! If we continue to lose around £150 per week through 2013 then our financial situation will begin to look serious! If you feel like contributing to the costs of St. Andrew's then please get in touch, through our Wardens Ted Whatmore or Pauline Berridge.

Our Annual Church Meeting is on April 14th, after the 9.30am Morning Service. Everyone is of course welcome to attend, and learn more about our future plans. You will be welcome to ask questions about St. Andrew's Church. If you are on our Electoral Roll then you will be most welcome to stand for election to our Parochial Church Council. We are still looking for a Church Secretary, and our Treasurer would be delighted to stand down if someone else would offer to serve our parish church and village in this way!

Revd Stephen Skinner, Team Rector

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Acting Up! – David Newson



David and Jean at Charmouth's 2002 Golden Jubilee Street Party

David Newson, our former Parish Councillor, was born in South London. He and his family moved to Barnet in 1937 and, although very young, David distinctly remembers when war broke out. "I was a choirboy and the announcement came when I was singing in church", he says. "We had to go home carrying our gas masks, convinced there would be an attack on the first day. We had an Anderson shelter in our garden and we'd stand on top of it to watch the dog fights over London during the blitz.

Then we followed my father, a First World War veteran, to Manchester for six months, just as the attacks started there and my school was taken over as a casualty post. He was subsequently transferred to Southport, only a short distance away, but a world away as far as the war was concerned. With the black market you could buy anything. Then we moved to Bradford for the rest of the war.

My father was a great walker and most weekends we'd go off to Ilkley Moor and the Bronte country; I saw a lot of Yorkshire in those days and a lot of cricket. The schools in Yorkshire were all involved with seeking out young cricketers and those who were really good were picked to go for trials with the professionals for three days. Most of the Yorkshire county cricketers such as Len Hutton were in the RAF then. I was average and was sent to the Saltaire Club junior section. It was good fun.

After the war and my father's demob, we returned to Barnet and I went to Watford Central School until 1949. I joined the Navy at Chatham on Trafalgar Day that year and after basic training was put in the supply branch. Next

came a posting to the Royal Naval Air Station in Lossiemouth, where the winter was freezing, followed by RNAS Ford, near Arundel – now a prison – where I learnt hockey. After a time on HMS Shackleton, I flew to Malta and became a ships' equipment auditor. Then I joined HMS Chameleon, an ocean-going minesweeper that located unplotted mines laid by the Italians, but I couldn't do any auditing because everything below the sweeping deck was battened down. In essence, it became a three month cruise. Time in Tunisia, Cyprus, Lebanon and Damascus followed, then a return to Malta. The night we were due to sail home for the Spithead Review for the Coronation, two colleagues and I were unceremoniously dumped ashore to make space for three passengers. The Navy had no idea what to do with us and, with no job for nine months, we ran tennis tournaments, water polo matches and had a wonderful time. That was when I met Jean, who was a Wren.

Jean and I were married in 1954 and initially had a flat in Ipswich. Each morning I left home at 5.30am to travel to Shotley and take a boat to the ship. The habit has stayed with me; I'm still an early riser. In 1956 I was posted to Germany, where our eldest son was born, and spent time alongside the original Cockleshell Heroes; part of my job was looking after their equipment. I enjoyed it immensely, but when I returned to the UK in 1957 I left the service.

After two years working for Jean's family business, I joined the civil service; initially in the Lord Chancellor's department and, from 1960 until 1972, in the office of the official solicitor to the Supreme Court. Around that time I joined the Cloister Players in Guildford, which was run by one man who got a company together once or twice a year. We produced some

serious stuff, including Romeo and Juliet at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall, in which the young Ben Elton had a small part. Latterly, I was transferred to the Crown Court and moved from its offices in Knightsbridge to Reading, where we settled.



David is third from left in line up at presentation to Lord Mountbatten, Malta, 1953

In 1976 I bought a house in Reading next door to the Progress Theatre and it took over my life! We did Chekov, Edward Bond and more Shakespeare, including a performance of Henry VIII for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. We performed at the old abbey ruins in Reading and were the first players to go to Cliveden for summer open air theatre performances. A shy young 16-year-old called Kenneth Branagh joined the theatre and performed with me. Jean meanwhile became match and fixtures secretary for Reading Rugby Club, a position she held for 25 years.

Our arrival in Charmouth was a complete and utter accident. When I retired I'd always fancied living by the sea. First we looked for a property in Wales and Devon, and then decided to stay a night in Beer at the pub by the harbour and view properties there. We thought we'd go into the pub first for a drink, but it was deserted; the landlord was



David is first left in middle row, Mediterranean Polo Team

nowhere to be found, even later on when we returned, there was no one around. We eventually discovered that he was out fishing! So in the morning we drove towards Charmouth, where dear old Arthur Banwell was the estate agent. He drove us around and we settled on a house in the village. That was in 1994.

In no time at all I found myself behind the desk at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. I was subsequently approached by David Burgess and David Carter, who had noticed my involvement in village activities, about a vacancy on Charmouth Parish Council. I joined in 1996 and that's when I first became a trustee of the Heritage Centre. I'm still a trustee and chairman of the Youth Club Management committee and church warden at St Mary's, Catherston Leweston. In 1999, when Jean Cockrell retired as West Dorset District Councillor, I was asked to stand for election. In the end I stood as an Independent candidate, then the largest group on the council and, much to my amazement, I was elected. After the count I was handed a one foot thick bundle of documents with the message 'good luck!' There was no training then; you learnt as you went along, but it was a friendly atmosphere and the officers were extremely helpful. I loved the work and only decided to give it up in May 2011 after 12 years, because technology was becoming dominant and overtaking me.

Jean became very involved in life here and was president of the Women's Institute, secretary of the Village Hall, secretary of the Charmouth Society and treasurer of the Wrens' Association, but her greatest joy was Charmouth School, where she helped as a volunteer. Jean spent virtually every day of the week there and has the distinction of having a plaque dedicated to her memory in the school library, as well as in a bar in Reading Rugby Club. It was a huge loss when she died in 2008. We had five children and seven grandchildren. I see my son Toby a lot as he lives close by.

There are so many people in Charmouth who put an immense amount of their time and knowledge into improving life in our small village and who engage in a huge amount of activity and goodwill. It's a fantastic place to live; we have the sea, the countryside and the people, but it's the people who are the most important".

Lesley Dunlop

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**Please contact: neil@
shoreline-charmouth.co.uk**

Tides

Most people know that tides occur because of the moon, and that the tide comes in and goes out. However, the time the tide is in or out changes every day, as does the distance by which the tide comes up or goes down.

When the sun is in line with the moon (a full moon or no moon), then the gravitational pull of the moon is increased and, as the moon goes around the earth in approximately 28 days, this bigger pull happens about fortnightly. This results in spring tides (nothing to do with the season) when the tide comes in farther and goes out farther and happens about two days after the full or new (no) moon. Half-way between spring tides there are neap tides, when the rise and fall of the sea is much less. The distance between high and low water is known as the tidal range, and this gradually changes between springs and neaps. There are other things which affect tides: the sun, the tilt of the earth, even the planets and astromomers can predict tide times and heights very accurately.

We get two high and two low tides daily, with successive highs at an average interval of 12 hours 24 minutes. This means that times of high water move on a bit every day, leading to a pattern whereby high water springs occur at the same time in the day each fortnight (give or take an hour). Here in Charmouth, high water springs occur about breakfast-time and again in the evening, and low water springs just after lunch and after midnight.

Tides do not rise and fall at a standard rate, and near Charmouth the tide at springs can rise quite fast for about an hour after low water, then slow for the next 1½ hours, then rise fast again. This year the greatest tidal range will be in June at 4.48 metres; the least in March at 0.77m. This change in depth has to happen in the six hours between low and high water, and so at springs the water must come in much faster to rise several metres in just six hours.

Two main weather effects must be considered: the wind and barometric pressure. Strong winds can affect the time of high or low tide, even by as much as an hour. In 1987, storm surges increased high tide by up to 1 metre. In the 1824 Great Storm along the south coast Lyme Regis recorded 23 feet of tide, way over the height of the Cobb! Extremely high barometric pressure will lessen tidal heights while low pressure will raise them: a foot difference is not unusual, with more possible. So despite the apparent predictability of tides, tide tables can only provide the likely tides, not necessarily the actual.

For the best or safest time of day to go on the beach, always look at the tide tables, or ask in the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. It is not always possible to walk to Lyme at low tide; and as the steps at St Gabriels are no longer usable, there is no escape off the beach when walking east. Please remember how fast the tide can come in; think about the weather; and don't forget that at most high tides, the sea reaches the base of the cliffs.

And one last thought: what would Charmouth be like for fossil hunting or just enjoying the beach if the lowest spring tides did not always occur around the middle of the day! Every fortnight!

Eden Thomson



*High tide morning of 10th March 2012. Tidal height = 4.71m
Low tide less than six hours later. Tidal height = 0.24m
Tidal range 4.47*

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



Meirel Whaites
Senior Warden

There have been many changes down at the Coast Centre over the winter period in the first year of our new interpretation plan. As always, we like to keep the Centre new and fresh with changing displays and activities every year, but our Working Party this year have been installing a new shop area as well as changing the displays around the Centre. So our thanks must go to Barry Coleman and the team for all their hard work, especially on those bitter cold days. The Centre desk has now moved to a much warmer location out of the draughts of the front and back door and the shop area has also relocated. With these changes, the large marine tank will not be in situ this year but will be reinstated next winter. In the meantime we will still have the small rockpool tank for exhibiting our marine creatures so the children (both young and old) will be able to see what can be found in our local rockpools.

With all these changes in the Centre over the winter, the warden team held two training day sessions for desk volunteers to ensure that they felt up to speed with the new layout for the coming season. The Centre also held a training day for our walks and schools volunteers, who braved the bitter weather in February out on the beach. But it hasn't been all hard work and no play for the volunteers (we hope!), with the AGM held on 28th February and a lovely luncheon in the Centre afterwards. A lovely spread was laid on with contributions from various volunteers and wardens.

Looking to the months ahead, the Centre is already fully booked with schools on many days with very few slots left to fill for the summer term. We just hope that we have some warmer weather for the schoolchildren for these visits. The summer events programme is about to start with the early Easter period this year, and we have a wide range of events including our fossil walks, rockpool rambles, fossil roadshows and also some new additions to the programme with a Rocking Rockpools Day and snorkelling sessions once the sea has warmed up a bit. The new events programme is available at the Centre and there is a full list of events available on our website -www.charmouth.org/chcc.

The Centre also has a new Friends membership package, with a new e-newsletter format being available online, which has enabled us to cut down on paper and therefore become a more environmentally friendly organisation. Although the warden team will compile the content of the newsletter for each issue, we would welcome any articles and contributions from the Friends and other interested parties in the village. Each issue will have Centre news and reports from the warden team, a centre spread feature article, information about fossil and marine finds and status of the beach, and a volunteer news and Junior Rangers section. In addition to the general newsletter

there will be a children's version for our younger members. Members will be offered a variety of benefits and their fee will contribute to an annual display in the Centre.

Membership forms will be available from the Centre shortly. We need your support to keep the Centre running, so if you have any spare time which you could offer as a volunteer or alternatively support us by becoming a member, please let us know.

Well I will pass you over to the rest of the team for more news from the Centre....

Phil Davidson
Geological Warden

We have had some interesting finds that have turned up over the last few months. James Carroll has found over 60 fossil insects in the last 6 months. These rare fossils are often overlooked and there is a good chance that some of James' fossils could be new species. Ben Hutchins, one of the local collectors, found a fossil plant cone last month. There has only been one other specimen ever found here, that we know of. We are hoping to get the specimen CT scanned at the Natural History Museum in London. In the past, the only way to identify these fossils was to slice them in half, but now they can scan fossils like this so the specimen isn't harmed in the process.

We have some new specimens on display here at the Centre. Chris East is loaning us a partial plesiosaur that he found in 2010 on Monmouth beach. Tony Gill from Charmouth Fossils has lent us a large *Asteroceras ammonite* that has been polished so you can see the internal chambers of the shell. I have also produced some temporary display panels to go up in our Education Room.

The beaches and cliffs are still very unstable due to the weather. There have been some large landslides on Monmouth beach, which has totally transformed the profile of the beach. Please do take extra care when out on all the beaches and do give the cliffs a wide berth as they are very unstable. Also many of the mudslides will cut off the beach on incoming tides so always check the tide times before heading out.

Lyndsey Bird
Marine Warden

With the launch of the new Junior Rangers Club last year I have been kept very busy running sessions and coming up with new ideas. They have been learning about winter wildlife found in Charmouth and took part in the RSPB's Big Bird Watch, made bug boxes and we held the first Charmouth worm charming championships last week, with a staggering 52 worms collected in 20 minutes! The new summer schedule is out with all things marine

**Think
Volunteering**

including a snorkel safari, with the equipment kindly being funded by the Parish Council. We are delighted to welcome new members this term from both the village and Bridport. As spaces are filling up fast to enable the Junior Ranger club to expand, I would like to put out a call for adult volunteers to help run the monthly sessions. If you are interested please contact me at the Centre; full training will be provided.

On another note, I have just completed my Beach Schools Training, enabling the Centre to provide beach schools sessions to participating school groups and the public. We have just launched our Beach Schools Inset Training Days to be held on 4th October 2013 and 22nd March 2014. The course is aimed at those who have a background in working with children and is designed to introduce staff to the amazing world of outdoor learning. We aim to inspire educators and give them the practical skills, knowledge and confidence to safely make the most of our beaches as we feel they are a vital outdoor learning resource. If you are interested in attending one of these days, more information can be found on our website.

We have an exciting summer programme with new events including Rock'n Rockpools Day, Snorkel Safaris and Marine Week Madness, so come and join in the fun!

All change at the Friends of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre Committee

At the AGM of the Friends of CHCC on Thurs 28th February, there was a big change of officers. Chris Horton retired as Chairman after a marathon 12 year stint. Chris has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Friends; always involved and always willing to help at a moment's notice. He has the Centre very much at heart and has been responsible for the growth in the number of volunteers, currently in excess of 100, who help at the Centre in many roles. The Centre could not operate without them. Chris in his former life was a schoolmaster, being head of physics and brought his enthusiasm of the sciences to Charmouth for the benefit of everyone. He is going to continue on the Committee and his wise counsel will still be wanted.

Think Volunteering

Richard Salisbury, *Chairman of the Trustees*

U3A Geology

U3A is short for University of the Third Age which sounds a bit grand! This is a national organisation with nearly 300,000 members and 870 branches, 15 of which are in Dorset. Our nearest are based in Bridport and Lyme Regis. The aim is to provide opportunities for members to share learning experiences in a wide range of groups - not for qualifications, but for fun. To find out more, see the websites at the end of this article.

The "Heritage Coast Lyme Regis" U3A has a Geology Group led by Geoff Townson (a Chartered Geologist) since February 2012 and is run as a course comprising nine half-day indoor meetings in Charmouth and eight all-day field trips spread between Budleigh Salterton and Lulworth Cove. The aim of the course is "To become better informed on the geology of our Heritage Coast". The first course ran from Feb-July 2012 with 20 participants. The current one started in Nov 2012 and runs to July 2013 with 11 participants (full).

If you are interested in joining the third course due to run Sept 2013 to June 2014 please contact Geoff (see below) by end-June. There is a £25 charge to cover venue hire and other expenses. You must be a U3A member.

The Indoor Meetings (2 hours) are a mix of

- Global Geology (Earth structure, composition, surface features, volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics)
- Practical Geology (minerals, formation of rocks, fossils, stratigraphy, geological maps)
- Briefing on Field Trips (logistics, safety, content)
- Show & Tell - discuss members' specimens, questions

The Field Trips (5-6 hours) aims are

- To study rocks and fossils in outcrop and to discuss their local environments of deposition
- To show the changing geographies through geological time (plate tectonics backdrop)
- To summarise the geological history (burial, uplift, folding, faulting, erosion, unconformities)
- To gain an understanding of the Heritage Coast landscape (its geological and more recent history)
- To review the economic role of these strata (building stones, minerals, water, oil & gas, landslips)

No prior formal knowledge of Geology is required – participants who do have some background readily share their experience, which is nice. The field trips require own or shared transport and sometimes we have to walk on pebbly and boulder-strewn beaches and up and down grassy slopes and steps. Hard hats must be worn at some locations and a packed lunch is eaten at others.

Essential Pre-Reading is The Official Guide to the Jurassic Coast – A Walk through Time, 2nd Edition 2005 (with geology pull-out). You can get this in local shops, Tourist Information Centres, Museums and Heritage Centres for £4.95. Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre has this edition and many more very useful publications on Dorset and East Devon geology, fossils and other natural history, as well as videos and displays of magnificent specimens!

For more information on U3A Geology please contact Geoff on: geofftownson@btinternet.com or 01297 561337, mobile 07748 752927

Websites

U3A National: www.u3a.org.uk/

Lyme Regis: www.whatsoninlyme.co.uk/U3A.htm

Bridport: <http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=339>

Dr WG Townson: www.geofftownson.co.uk/a1-page.asp?ID=3284&page=7



Feb 2013 - U3A Geology Group at Monmouth Beach - Lyme Regis West

National Coastwatch Institution Lyme Bay – Activity Update



Eyes Along the Coast

By Mike Seaman, Watchkeeper

For those of you who have been following the articles in this series you will know that last year was a crucial one for

Lyme Bay's National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) Station. In particular, the station and volunteers have been successful in passing the various professional standards required to be formally recognised as part of the UK's national Search and Rescue services. But we cannot be complacent; the nature of what we do means that we face more challenges as we consolidate and develop our skills:

- We are still planning to move to a new lookout at West Bay from our current location just west of the Hive Cafe at Burton Bradstock. Planning permission was granted by West Dorset District Council in December; however, there are still a number of technical plus time- (and money!) consuming issues we need to iron out. The slightly larger, purpose-built lookout will enable us to do our jobs more effectively - as well as having excellent views of Lyme Bay, we will be more accessible to the harbour and also to the general public for advice. In this venture we have received considerable support from a number of organisations including HM Coastguard, with whom we work closely, the National Trust, the local RNLI, Bridport Tourism Association and harbourmasters.
- Cliff safety continues to be a concern with continued, unpredictable landslips along the Jurassic Coast. To the west of our lookout from Hive Beach to Freshwater, the beach and the cliff path remains officially closed and are marked with warning signs. Most people heed the warnings (including those given by our Watchkeepers) and take alternative routes. However, some choose to ignore the risks and are thus putting not only themselves but those who may have to come out and rescue them at risk. The warnings are there for a reason.

Last but not least I want to turn to volunteering. We currently cover daylight shifts, Fridays- Mondays and Bank Holidays, although we have managed to cover longer periods i.e. during the Olympics and we have supported HM Coastguard on specific incidents. From April we will also be working afternoon shifts Tuesdays-Thursdays. However, our aim is to operate a full 7 day shift system, but to do so we need more volunteers. We are looking for people who think they have what it takes, can spare a few hours a month and are keen to learn new skills. This is an observation and reporting role, no prior experience is needed and age is no barrier. Charmouth has already provided almost 10 volunteers but we want to take this well into double figures.

To provide a flavour on why we join, here are some comments from our local NCI Chairman and National Patron, Air Marshal Sir Christopher Coville, followed by those of two of our Charmouth volunteers:

"Having been involved in Aviation for 50 years, I know only too well the fickle nature of Mother Nature. When I was asked to become Chairman of Lyme Bay Station, I had no hesitation in accepting. The NCI was born out of a natural disaster in Cornwall, when men's lives were lost because there was no one there to alert the Search and Rescue



Organisation to their plight. This must not be allowed to happen again by default. Of course, we cannot prevent every incident and accident at sea, but our presence and vigilance reassures those who venture out from our shores, and saves lives when disaster strikes. Additionally, as a community based, uniformed service with strict standards and a training regime to match, it enriches the lives of its volunteers and strengthens national resilience. This is why I joined the NCI, and why I am proud to be Chairman of NCI Lyme Bay, and also a National NCI Patron."

Sir Chris Coville

"I first became aware of Lyme Bay NCI from an excellent article in the Dorset magazine. Since joining it has proved how worthwhile Coastwatch is as a service to the community. You would be surprised how many situations have needed the skills we have obtained since we started. I would say if you have shown any interest in joining our team to go for it. No previous experience is required as we are all learning from each other as we go along. My main task is to cover the watchbill – which is our very good online booking system. It shows you all you need to see when you feel like putting your name down for a watch in the forthcoming weeks. Even if you do not use a computer, watches can be arranged by phone instead. The other good thing is we do not have an age limit and many of us are retired, so come and join us and benefit from the social aspect too."

Bob Martin

"I became a Watchkeeper for NCI two and a half years ago. Having learned to swim in the sea at a very early age and then carrying on with various water sports ever since; kayaking, body boarding, sailing etc, I found it a wonderful opportunity to give something back. Here at NCI we provide a much needed public service, not only in the busy summer months, but in all weathers at all times of the year. All sea users can feel reassured that we are there to help, should any of them get into difficulties on the beach, cliffs or in the sea."

Clare Reeve

Think
Volunteering

NCI is staffed wholly by trained volunteers and is a registered charity, funded by public donation. It promotes safety at sea by observation and reporting incidents, primarily to HM Coastguard who co-ordinate appropriate rescue responses

If you want to learn more, are interested in joining and want an application form, please contact:

Clare Reeves (Recruitment):

Email: clarereeves1@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01297 560996

Lyme Bay NCI website: www.lymebaycoastwatch.co.uk

Shoreline Creatures - Polyzoa



At first glance the remains of these creatures might not seem particularly attractive; they are very small and the most exciting colour is beige. They may look like a crusty area on a piece of seaweed or perhaps a bit of faded fabric lying amongst other pieces of debris in a pool or on the strandline. However, these somewhat neglected creatures have a beauty of their own, particularly when seen with a hand-lens or microscope; they are structurally sophisticated colonial animals.

Commonly known as Polyzoa (= many animals), these creatures are very common on rocky shores and seabeds. All members of this Ectoproct phylum (formerly Bryozoa = moss animals) are small animals barely visible to the naked eye, living in colonies and said to have a lacy or moss-like appearance. Each colony comprises individual animals (zooids) living inside small, almost rectangular cases (zoecia) and the patterns made by many rows of these zoecia can be seen in the illustrations of *Membranipora*. These specimens are no longer living.

Two common forms found in the local area are the Sea Mat (*Membranipora membranacea*) and Hornwrack (*Flustra foliacea*). These two species are found in shallow water; some species exist in deeper water over 1000m, rooted in sediment.

The Sea Mat, as its rather unglamorous name suggests, is mat-like in its appearance and encrusts various relatively durable substrates such as *Laminaria* and other seaweeds (as shown), rocks, shells and abandoned Piddock borings; they can be found from the middle shore down to shallow water. Colonies, often rather irregular in shape, vary in size depending on their age and whether or not they have been grazed or damaged; they can grow several millimetres a day depending on food availability, temperature and other factors.

Hornwrack (not illustrated) may look superficially like wrack seaweed but is a colony of tiny cylindrical zooids, each with its own complex feeding system. It is a yellowish-greyish-brownish colour, has a flattened leaf-like shape and is a branching colony which can grow up to about 20cm; zooids can be found on both sides of the leaf-like fronds and this shape ensures a large surface area for feeding and oxygenation.

In both species and similar members of this group, each individual zooid lives in a rectangular pocket (zoecium), having a blunt bristle structure either side of a small opening.

This is the mouth, surrounded by a ring of small but quite complex ciliated tentacle-like structures (lophophore) allowing the zooid to filter-feed. This method of feeding is necessary as the colony is sessile (stationary) and dependant on the position of the seaweed, shell or rock it has attached to. Fast flowing water is preferred as it brings both oxygen and plentiful supplies of small particles of food.

At times of threat, the tentacles can be retracted to avoid damage. Each tough, protective zoecium is made of a flexible polysaccharide called chitin which, in some species, is calcified. These structural features provide good potential for fossilisation and various species are known from the Ordovician to Recent.

Sessile animals need methods of reproduction that do not involve roaming to seek out others of the same species. Reproduction can be either by budding (an asexual method) or sexually, each colony having zooids that are hermaphrodite; some zooids develop male and female parts. Larval forms develop and are dispersed in spring as part of the zooplankton. After a period of time depending on species, the planktonic forms change their shape into new individuals, settle in late summer and start to develop a new colony.

Polyzoa are fascinating creatures exhibiting a form of polymorphism, that is, although most zooids are filter feeders, some of them become specialised for other roles in their colony. In some species, a small proportion of zooids may develop into beak-like structures (avicularia), some on stalks, used for defence. Others may develop vibracula, little paddles which help to circulate the water around the colony, keeping it free from silt.

Although Polyzoa have no value commercially, they are of value in the food web as food for various marine animals, particularly those such as molluscs grazing hard surfaces. The colonies form part of a reef-building community, helping to bind sediment, providing a good habitat for other organisms and encouraging species diversity.

For further information about marine organisms, MarLIN (Plymouth Marine Biological Association of the UK) is a useful source: <http://www.marlin.ac.uk>

Rosalind Cole



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Do Sea Levels Really Change That Much

Where's the Evidence? Part 4

Perhaps the most significant development in environmental science over the last 150 years is our ability to measure accurately parameters such as atmospheric CO₂ concentrations, sea surface temperatures and pressures, wave patterns and sea levels consistently around the world. Of course it is always possible to be 'selective' about what data one uses in order to substantiate a particular viewpoint and in one sense it is entirely reasonable for people with differing views to look at scientific data and to query it.

Firstly, let's look at the infamous global mean surface temperature 'hockey stick' graph (named because of its shape):

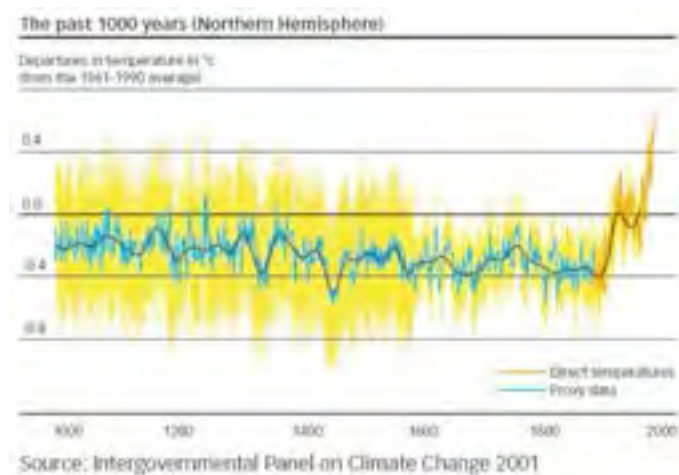


Figure 1. Source: IPCC

(The yellow areas indicate variation: the maximum and minimum possible changes (after statistical analysis))

In 1998, Professor Mike Mann of Pennsylvania State University used proxy data (such as tree ring growth, ice cores, sediments etc.) to give indications of surface temperature variation since 1000AD and he then subjected the data to a number of complex statistical analysis methods. Then other statisticians queried the validity of the methods used. The 'acid test' in science is whether results can be replicated using different data and methods. Numerous scientific debates and learned papers later; the consensus was that the methods (and therefore the findings) are essentially VALID. The main caveat is how flat the pre-20th century "shaft" should be.

Things are not the same everywhere

The next problem is to decide what we mean by the term: 'global mean temperatures'. Clearly the annual mean temperature at the equator is quite different from that at the North Pole! Until recently, we had to rely upon observed data from weather stations all around the world, and these stations were unevenly dispersed. So 'mean temperatures' can be a misleading and much abused term. With the introduction of sensitive satellites our ability to examine any part of the globe in detail has significantly improved. If surface temperatures can vary from place to place, it follows that the degree of sea level rise (SLR) might also vary from place to place.

Geologists suggest that global mean SLR had been relatively stable (approximately -0.1 mm/yr. to 0.6 mm/yr.) until the late 1800s or early 1900s (Kemp et al. 2011). During the 20th century rates appear to have accelerated, rising by approximately 1.7 mm/yr. (tide gauges) (Church and White 2011). Measurements (via satellites in the last 20 years)

indicate the rate has now increased to approximately 3.2 mm/yr. (Ablain et al. 2009, Church and White 2011). But these are still global means and it is insufficient to leave the subject there.

Things may be quite different at the local scale.

What is 'normal'?

Recently (November 2012) the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the image shown below in Figure 2. The waters of the Atlantic, the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean seem to be behaving as one would expect if simple thermal expansion was the only force at work but the west coast of the Americas and the Central Pacific seem to show a reverse trend.

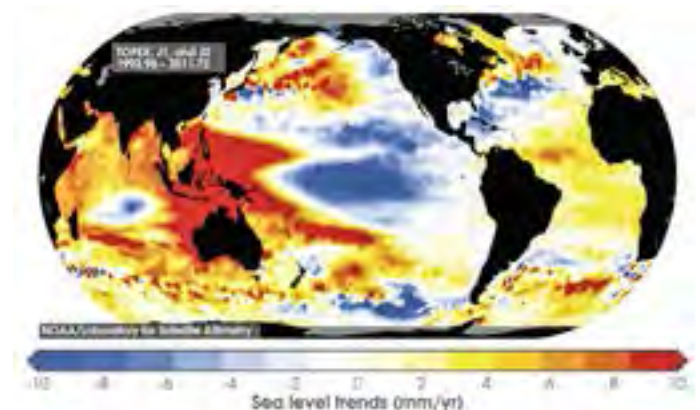


Figure 2. Source: NOAA

Although there is much more research to do, the indications are that the patterns of movement of large scale circulation of oceanic currents and surface winds will explain what are called sea level change 'anomalies'. These extensive currents include the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). The ENSO cycle produces very strong, year-on-year variations in sea-surface temperatures, rainfall, surface air pressure, etc and the effects oscillate backwards and forwards across the equatorial Pacific.

This part of the story is also made more complicated because of the effects of changing atmospheric pressures on sea levels. Air has weight. Air pressure is highest at sea level. Standard air pressure at sea level is 1013 mb. The highest air pressure ever recorded was 1084 mb in Siberia but the lowest recorded was 870 mb during a typhoon in the Pacific Ocean. Water cannot be compressed but it can be 'pushed'. Warming of the Earth's surface (land and sea) cause's air to move because warm air rises and cooler air sinks (it is denser). If the atmospheric pressure at the surface falls by just one mb, the still water rise can be as much as 10mm (Sherif, 1999).

Low pressure systems over the UK are associated with inclement and stormy weather and so water levels are naturally higher during low pressure events. With so much variability and with so many factors in play it has always been difficult to establish some common value for sea level from which valid comparisons (over both time and location) can be made....

The Newlyn Tide Gauge

In order to establish a National baseline for all height measurements (above sea level), the Newlyn Tidal laboratory in Cornwall was set up in 1915 at the end of the Newlyn Harbour South Pier.

Over the following 6 years, readings of water levels were taken every 15 minutes until a final mean level was agreed upon. This is known as the Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN). A large brass bolt was then installed (at that exact level) and has remained as the benchmark for measuring heights above and below sea level ever since. The ODN has another use; it permits sea-level measurements at different locations all around the UK to be compared to this one standard reference point.

Responsibility for the gauge continued to rest with Ordnance Survey who provided a full time observer until 1983 when the station was handed over to the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences. In 2008 a review of the data accumulated over the years was reviewed for errors and corrections made. The conclusions followed the actual observations very closely; that the mean sea level had risen at a mean rate of $1.77 \pm 0.12\text{mm/year}$. But as we have now seen, this may or may not be a figure repeated at other locations around our coast but we have the ability to compare them accurately.



Figure 3. The Newlyn Tide Gauge - Source: Ordnance Survey

There is now one more confusing factor that has to be discussed....

Relative sea levels

For the UK, we know that the thick layer of ice retreated northwards after the last Ice Age 13, 000 years ago. As the weight of ice was slowly removed from Central & Northern England and Scotland, a 'see-saw' effect took place. The 'unloading' of the ice caused Scotland to begin rising by more than 1mm/year whilst SW England began to sink by a similar amount. This process is continuing today. Using the tide gauges described, we have the ability to fix a datum level and measure changes against that fixed point...but clearly it is not that simple as we have to factor in these vertical land movements, both rise and fall.

This introduces the idea of Relative Sea Level (RSL). It means that whilst SLR may be due to an increase in absolute water volume, density, air pressure acting upon it and now subsidence or lifting of the land! So sea level fall may be due to a reduction in absolute water volume or a rise in the level of the land as well as the other factors listed. Change in RSL attributed to the rise or fall of the land are called ISOSTATIC changes whilst changes to RSL attributed to changes in absolute water volumes are known as EUSTASTIC changes.

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) produce a report card every five years, the most recent being in 2009 (UKCP09). Figure 4 from that report shows RSL projected changes (cm) around the UK over the next 80 years (i.e. sea level changes allowing for vertical land movements). For the SW the projection gives a relative rise of between 44 and 54cm. The map also indicates that the RSL for the west coast of Scotland is only a quarter of a metre.

Note the numbers around the edge of the map refer to degrees of latitude or longitude.

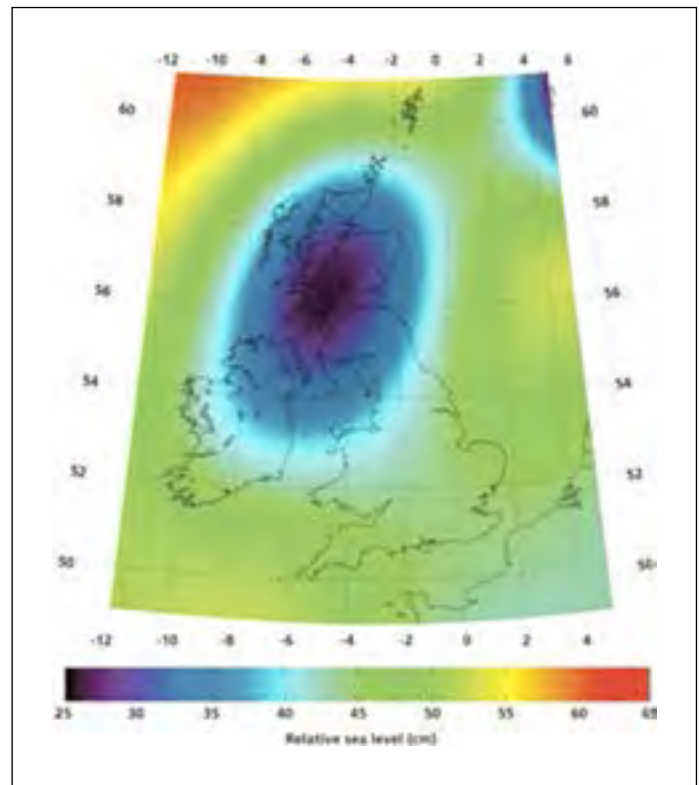


Figure 4. Source: UK Climate Projections 2009

For the most up-to-date research and information on this topic go to: <http://www.mccip.org.uk/>

But does this UKCP09 projection agree with existing data from around the SW region? The match is quite good. For example, the Government's own projections suggest that Poole Harbour will see a rise some 37cm between now and 2080 but that constitutes a rise of 5.3mm per year. That is a very different scenario to the 1.77mm that the Newlyn Gauge was recording! Now look back at the 'hockey stick' chart, it shows an ever steepening slope in recent years. In other words, the trend is not only upwards, it is also accelerating. It should also be noted that most projections use a medium CO₂ emissions scenario but 2009-2012 results show that we are emitting CO₂ at the higher emissions scenario rate...so an increase in sea levels approaching 1metre by the end of the century is becoming increasingly likely if the trend is not decelerated.

So what of the future?

In geological terms, the rates of climatic change we have discussed are unheard of...not their absolute values but in terms of the speed at which they are accelerating. The rate at which the temperature record is accelerating (since 1980) has never been recorded before.

In Dorset, hotter drier summers and wetter winters coupled to rising sea levels and an increased frequency of storms means that coastal erosion rates are likely to increase as well.

Rather than bemoaning the facts I have outlined in this last instalment, I would point out that this 'Island Race' has always been resourceful, innovative and above all; resilient. Adaptability will be the key feature we need for the future and a willingness to accept that our coast and seas are changing. Maybe these changes are too rapid for comfort but we have to come to terms with that and be prepared to modify our thinking and behaviours to deal with it.

Tony Flux

National Trust
Coast and Marine Adviser (SW)

The Memoirs of a Fossil Hunter

Episode 3 - Wild Charmouth

A True Scot

It's a quiet day and I'm all alone. I started early just as the tide began to go out. I find myself in a thick white low mist well up on Stonebarrow beach. Past St. Gabriel's steps, I wander searching up and down the beach between cliff and tide line. Now the tide is fully out and it is possible to reach the wild area below Golden Cap. The mist is moving gently around, but I'm safe because I can look up through it and see the mist free cliffs above and anyway I'm well away from them. Respectfully I keep well to seaward. All around are boulders and stones of many kinds and I happily and peacefully look them over but without much success and skill; you never know! After a while I perch myself upon a big stone and just enjoy the serenity and silence of the scene. It is a most quiet day with no wind and a calm sea just gently lapping away. The white mist settles all around and all sound is muffled, even the gull's calls seem distant and soft. Then... Then... THEN!!! I hear it! What on earth? No I'm mistaken, there is nothing, but wait, there it is again! Eerily out of the mist I hear it... the faint sound of bagpipes... Bagpipes! It fades away. I look back down the beach then peer to the right, out to sea. All is still, quiet and deserted. I'm imagining things. "Oh, oh, oh" there it is again - music from bagpipes distant then a little louder then fading again. "Aha, lah, lah? I'm becoming fossilised, added like an egg. I'm going doolally looking at stones all day! It begins again, the swirl of the pipes, a lilting Scottish theme fading, growing and fading again. "Hmmm" I ponder as the romantic tartan call of Scotland floats through the Golden Cap air! This be Dorset you!!! Finally I think to look up and there he is. A tiny figure in full national costume slowly marching, playing his fine Scottish notes as he approaches the edge of Golden Cap then turns and marches back inland again. Later, on enquiring, the mystery is solved. This proud Scot does this every now and then and is a familiar figure attending various festivals such as the occasional Kite meeting at Eggardon hill. You never know when you're fossiling, you just never know, the noo!



The Wild Men

I'm on Black Ven side. It's a bitterly cold winter's day, the fossil hunting is not easy, the hands stinging with salt spray and a keen biting wind is cutting in from the north nipping my nose and ears despite all my waterproofs and woollens. There is nobody about which is why I'm here. I have the place to myself so there is no competition, after all you have to be really dedicated or in need of fossils to brave this weather! Looking back to the distant Heritage Centre the beach is deserted - wait a minute, a group has just come down onto the beach. Are they fossilers? No, they haven't got the camel-shaped profile of a fossil king with the typical hunter's walk... head down zig - zagging along the beach every now and then stopping, hunching over, then, after a desultory tap with their hammer to some likely stone or other, they move slowly along. This group of what looks like a dozen men is plodding determinedly forward; they are a long way off and I cannot make out any details.

After a while I snuggle down amongst the bushes and grass

on the low bank at the top of the beach out of the wind for a rest. I look back. "Hello" that group is getting closer. These men are marching with purpose, grimly and silently. I'm quite well hidden, just a grey blob amongst cold grey surroundings. The mob stop about 50 yards from me. They are unaware of my presence and I'm rather pleased about that as they are fierce of expression, large and hairy. I quietly shuffle back deeper in the shadows.

Then one, the leader of the pack I assume, suddenly grunts loudly! They form a tight circle and begin to mutter guttural and unintelligible words. Odd, very odd. Then with a loud roar the circle splits up and one individual moves away from the herd and they begin to encourage him with: "Go, go, go, yeah, yeah, go, go!" The next thing I know is he starts to bounce up and down and grimace as he tries to pick up huge stones. What is he doing? "Yeah, go, yeah, go" they roar and suddenly he finds a boulder and just manages to lift it to his chest. "Go" they all bellow. He most certainly does that for dashing his prize to the beach he immediately starts tearing at his clothes and takes them off - all of them - not a pretty sight - grabs the big stone, snatches it to his broad chest and in a moment charges into the freezing sea! He hurls his stone as far as possible and then himself into the cold, cold water. A cheer erupts and... "Oh no"! They're all at it - starkers and rock lifting and rushing into the sea with their pet rocks shouting and crashing into the winter waves! After a frantic romp they scamper wetly back like a herd of screaming Wild Boar and throwing their garments on over their shivering mighty muscles they fall silent again and with just the odd satisfied "Yeah" they tramp back from whence they came. 'Fine, fine, yup fine, fine, fine, ooh er'. I sit pondering awhile. 'Different, very different'. After some rather dazed thinking I realise something - This habitat suited their purpose - no one about, a timeless lonely beach, no signs of civilization, just the beach, sea and vast sky. This is how it has looked for tens of thousands of years. 'Of course', now I know who and what they are - Neanderthals!



The Storm Meets The Fossil Kings

Every single day's fossil hunting is an adventure none more so than when facing the weather. It can change suddenly here. Stonebarrow can be clear and sunny above, shimmering in summer's heat but below at beach level there can be a thick fog many degrees colder. Sometimes winds can change and choppy seas can dramatically alter the very shape of the beach. Then we must be alert and observant because damp hollows in the sand may reveal previously hidden nodules! Also a beach can be dragged off revealing promising marls with fish or even Ichthyosaurs!

On this day there isn't much about yet. I continue searching leisurely, but my wits are dulled and I fail to notice that people have left the beach, - until a brilliant flash of lightning and an enormous crash of thunder startle me. I look up and see a huge deep plum-coloured thunderhead rapidly coming up behind Golden Cap. I'm off! A bolt of lightning joins sea and thundercloud. Wham! Thunder shakes the beach, I feel very exposed here half-way between Golden Cap and the Heritage Centre.

The mighty storm seems to swoop and follow me. My sixth

sense is tingling, I feel like a lightning conductor with my metal-framed haversack and geological hammer. 'Wham' This is getting too close for me I'm not going to make it but I'm not worried for I'm an outdoor man and know just what to do. Firstly I deposit my metal attachments well down the beach and calmly walk through the now torrential rain to a nice little niche in a stable part of the cliff where it enters the beach. There I snuggle in with my back to the marl and become a part of the cliff itself*.

The violent storm is now directly overhead and the electricity in the air and the din of thunder and lightning is really something! What was it my mother tried to tell me when I was but a small child? "There's nothing to worry about it's only the coalman bringing the coal". Buckets of rain are now harmlessly cascading down my waterproofs, no problem, but it is quite exciting, the beach, cliffs and sea flashing black and white like an old movie. Oh yes I'm enjoying the wild beauty of the scene. What a fantastic painting it would make, I muse, as I calmly await the storm's passing, but then I see 'it!' It must have been out of sight right up by Golden Cap - a figure horribly exposed walking slowly back right down the middle of the beach seemingly unaffected by the storm. The apparition is like a porcupine with metal spines - it's fossilising appendages sticking out all over it. A walking, living, lightning conductor. 'Oh no,' I've been seen. It approaches up the beach as the storm slams down. There is an amazing 'CRASH' and the figure is backlit looking for all the world like a perfect 'X-ray' ! Now just a few feet from me it glares at me face to face and the fossil king, for such it is, says, no screams 'It's 'ARD, really 'ARD, 'making a living 'ARD!' With that he turns and thrusts himself forward into the murk and mayhem and between rolls of thunder, crackling electricity and sheets and bolts of lightning, waterfalls of rain, I hear, floating back to me as the 'king' disappears - 'It's 'ARD andAAAARD!'

WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?

'The Mouse'

Phil Davidson, Geological Warden at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre says:
'The best fossils are found loose on the beach. Due to all the recent rain, the cliffs are very unstable and you should make sure you keep your distance from them. Also the excessive rain has created lots of sticky mudslides that should be avoided and can cut off the beach on an incoming tide. Always check the tides times before going out fossil hunting.'



Police

Since the last edition of Shoreline there have been five crimes reported in Charmouth. Oil has been taken from a property on Lower Sea Lane. This time of year is when a rise in oil thefts is typically seen, but due to more and more people protecting their tanks we have seen a drop in oil thefts over previous years. If your tank is insecure then please seriously think about adding an alarm. The cost of the alarm will prove cheaper than replacing any stolen oil. Please get in touch if you require any advice.

A car has been damaged on Lower Sea Lane and a second was burnt out on Axminster Road. There has also been a break-in to a house under renovation and a chalet up Old Lyme Hill.

In response to an increase in the number of non-dwelling burglaries, plus thefts of heating oil and vehicle diesel in the Charmouth and Marshwood Vale areas, Dorset Police carried out a search warrant at the start of March in Charmouth which resulted in the arrest of two males and a female. Various items were also recovered and our investigation is continuing. During the same week two males were arrested in the village, suspected of going equipped to commit theft. A later search of their property resulted in the seizure of suspected stolen items.

I would like to hear from members of the community who may see any unusual activity in the Charmouth area. I am interested in suspicious persons and/or vehicles and their movements. This could relate to any time of the night or day. If you see something, however insignificant you feel it is, please call the police. Every call is valuable and your information could be crucial.

If you suspect a crime is taking place then call Dorset Police straight away on 999. For non-emergency contact then please call 101 and pass your information onto Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous please call Crimestoppers. You will not be asked your name, your call will not be traced or recorded, you do not have to go to court but the information will still reach us and we can act upon it. You can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

PCSO 5474 Luke White

Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team

Lyme Regis Police Station



PCSO5474 Luke White



PC2204 Kirsti Ball



PCSO5386 John Burton

The Charmouth Poetry & Literary Corner

The Jurassic Coast Experience

Short story by Alan Stanford

At 6:30 in the morning the little girl sat alone watching CBBC on the family's brand new flat-screen, 40inch Plasma T.V.

At 7:35 precisely she heard a sound; a distinctive click as the garden gate opened followed by a scraping, shuffling noise at the front door. She jumped up, trotted through to the hallway and watched a dozen or so letters tumble to the floor. She bent down and collected them up in her tiny hands. There was a big brown envelope addressed to her dad; a magazine in a clear cellophane wrapper for her mom; three magazines similarly wrapped for her big ugly sister and several addressed to the householder, or no one in particular, of what she had heard her mother call 'Junk Mail', and there was one small envelope with Angela Gold written on the front.

"That's my name," she said to no one.

Angie, that's what she liked to be called, carried the mail through to the lounge and sat back down on the sofa. She made four neat piles of her parents', her sister's and the junk mail and sat back staring at the white envelope in her hand.

She closed her eyes and held the envelope tightly; her imagination soared. She tore it open without ceremony and looked inside, pulled out a piece of stiff paper.

"My ticket," she said excitedly. "My ticket – it's arrived!"

She looked at the small card in her hand: Entrance for one to The Jurassic Coast Experience.

She had saved up her meagre pocket money over the last year to buy one single ticket for the incredible new children's adventure park; adults were not allowed. The ticket was in her name, had one of those funny 'bar codes' on it and was not exchangeable. It was to be used – today!

Angie turned off the television and rushed up the stairs to the family bathroom.

"Thank heavens its empty," she said as she pushed open the door, although she could tell her dad had been in there already! Probably gone back to bed – well it was Saturday.

She quickly washed, got herself dressed and quietly left the house, ticket in hand. She had a little pocket money left and she used some of that to pay the bus fare. Twenty minutes later she was at the entrance to the Experience.

The doors parted automatically.

Angie was greeted by a small dinosaur that she didn't recognise. It was moving around stiffly; its movement clearly controlled by animatronics. She chuckled at the creature and ran excitedly to the reception desk. She showed her ticket to a young man behind the counter; he was real. He looked at her, then at his computer monitor, then back at the little girl.

"Can you confirm that you are Angela Gold?" he asked.

"Yes. I am Angie Gold; here is my school passport."

Angela reached into her small shoulder bag, pulled out a plastic card that featured the name of her school, her photograph and name. The man at the desk studied the card, typed something into his machine and appearing satisfied gave her a set of headphones attached to a small Mp3 player. He gave her a quick demonstration how to play, pause, fast

forward or reverse, and stop the commentary that had been pre-recorded on one of those clever, miniature chips. He really didn't need to; she was well versed in all that technology!

Five minutes later she entered the Jurassic Coast Experience.

Of course, none of the exhibits were really alive, she told herself, but the creatures, brought to life with complicated and sophisticated animatronics, were so lifelike you could easily believe they were.

She was escorted around the park by a baby dinosaur; she thought it might have been a diplodocus, but she wasn't sure. It spoke to her via the gadget the man in reception had given her, and explained what she was about to see and answered all her questions; this was in addition to the pre-recorded commentary.

The place seemed a little dangerous at times, but the little dinosaur steered her in the right direction, away from danger. There was one time when a T Rex approached and even the baby diplodocus looked a little scared, until the T Rex caught the scent of something else and lumbered off into the jungle, and the jungle looked and smelled so real too.

There were no old fossils, no glass cases, no cages, no fences even, and no footpaths; just moving creatures, mud and undergrowth, and some giant dragonflies hovering around huge tree ferns. Angie's dad had planted a tree fern in their back garden, but it wasn't anything like these; these were massive.

She noticed the sky was strange, too; a different colour than usual, crystal clear – unpolluted, and were those Pterodactyls gliding over the cliff? She looked beyond the cliff edge towards Lyme Bay; the sea also looked different to normal, there were no ships, no yachts and there were strange sea-creatures breaking the surface of the water; they weren't sharks, but they looked a bit like sharks.

There were sounds all around and when she clicked the pause button on the player, the growls and distant roars of animals invaded her ears.

Later, when Angie arrived home, her parents were watching The X Factor on ITV.

"Hello Angie," her mother called out. "We saw the envelope this morning. Your ticket came then?"

"Yes Mom. I've been there all day – it was fantastic."

"Good. You can tell us about it..."

"When The X Factor is over, Mum," interrupted her big ugly sister.

Her mother said, "When The X Factor is over, Angie. Is that okay?"

"Okay, Mom," and Angie wandered off to her bedroom to play with the tiny, wriggling baby dinosaur she had smuggled away in her shoulder bag.

Back at the Jurassic Coast Experience there was panic as they did the evening headcount and discovered a newly born T Rex had gone AWOL.

"I reckon it must have been Angela Gold who smuggled it out," said the site manager after checking the day's register. "She was carrying a shoulder bag. Jackson, did you search it before she left the park?"

"No, sir, she looked so innocent," replied Jackson, the

receptionist who had checked Angela's school passport.

"Well, it seems she wasn't so innocent after all. Let's go get it back."

Angie Gold had undressed, washed, cleaned her teeth and was just about to get into her bed when she heard a vehicle screech to a halt outside her home. She tip-toed to the window and took a peek between the slats of the Venetian blind.

"Oh, no!" she exclaimed. "It's the park-keeper!"

She turned to the tiny T Rex, who was trotting around the bedroom floor enthusiastically checking out her numerous toys, and said, "It looks like you're going to have to go back."

She picked up the little animal, which gave out a tiny squeak and seemed to smile at her, and placed it in a shoebox, put the lid in place. She trotted down the stairs and opened the front door before the bell rang. She could hear the TV on loud so knew neither her parents nor ugly sister had heard anything.

The park-keeper walked up the path with Jackson in tow.

"Sorry, mister," she said as she handed the box to Jackson.

Jackson kneeled down to be eye to eye with the little girl.

"It's okay, Angie. We have a lot of children visit the park and you're not the first to take away a live souvenir. But you know; these tiny little, loveable animals grow up to be huge meat-eaters and we can't have them running around Charmouth, gobbling up tourists, now can we?"

"I guess not," she conceded.

The park-keeper said nothing, just watched and listened as Jackson continued.

"Well now, you come back anytime you like, Angela Gold; no ticket required next time. Just ask for me: Jackson's the name; and work hard on that imagination. Okay?"

"Okay!" she said.

DON'T GO NEAR THE BIG BLACK VEN

'Don't go near the big Black Ven'
Said the wise fossil warden one day.
'Why not? Why not?' We all piped up.
'Now listen closely to what I shall say'.

'The cliffs around here
Are all crumbly and weird
Made of rocks and sticky black mud.
If you wander too near
The last thing you might hear
Is a rock hit your head with a thud.'

'And keep well in mind
That lurking behind
Is the sea just waiting to grab you.
Tides creep up the beach
'Til the path's out of reach.
And you'll need 999 Coastguard rescue.'

'And don't wonder if
You can climb that big cliff
'Cos you'll pretty soon run out of luck.
What looks like dry land
Is really quicksand
Into which you'll get very stuck.'

'Now from what I've just said
You might fear yourself dead
If you walk along Charmouth beach!
But we say to all strangers
Just be aware of the dangers,
Stay safe and out of harm's reach.'

*(Inspired by the first line of 'Sammy and the Whale' from
The Ladybird Red Book of Bedtime Stories.)*

Bill Burn

Fossiliferous Charmouth

by Peter Crowter

Charmouth's fairly famous and the simple reason's thus,
The cliffs along its beaches are fossiliferous.
Well I have to tell you all, that word was new to me,
However you will find it in the *Oxford Dictionr'y*

Phil down at our Centre is a palaeontologist,
But you can call him other names that also end in gist.
I'd say the most familiar one would be geologist,
But I have found another cause he's a fossilologist.

I 'spect he's done a lot of fossilism in his time,
That's studying dead creatures that have been preserved in slime.
His general subject I suppose would be geology,
I think what he loves best of all is his fossilogy.

Here's something that you may not know; I certainly did not,
A fossor is a grave digger, I haven't lost the plot,
Fossors bury dead things, fossilogists dig them up,
Oh, I've had enough of this, I'm off to brew a cup.



Shoreline Spring 2013

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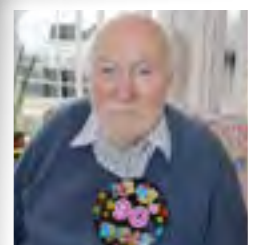
We raised over £170.00 for Red Nose Day and the photo shows staff and residents Joan and Christine enjoying the cake sale. Molly Raison celebrated her 102nd Birthday with friends and family including the youngest member of the Lyme Regis Life Boat crew, Molly has always been a long standing supporter of the RNLI.

On February 3rd we also celebrated the 90th birthday of Ronnie Beer who enjoyed a party at Bymead House with his family and friends. We recently had an enormous cake sale which raised over £260 for the Residents Activity Fund and they have decided to spend some of it on extra seating for the garden so that when the sun eventually comes out they can enjoy it!

Think
Volunteering

We are looking for a volunteer minibuss driver as our current one is still ill and not able to drive it at the moment. If you are able to spare one or two afternoons a month and have experience of driving a minibuss (and a clean driving licence!) we would love to hear from you. Please call 560620.

Liz Wilson, Manager



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CEMENT WORKS PLANNED FOR CHARMOUTH BEACH

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

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

Neil Mattingly

Tell our Advertisers "I saw your Ad in Shoreline"

The Charmouth Poetry & Literary Corner

A ROAD

We all travel down many roads. In the course of my life I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience millions of miles of roads all over the world.

A fact which few believe, but I swear is true, is that my very first memory in life is the clackety-clack, the vibrations and sounds of a train when I was only seven weeks old. My mother took me from San Francisco, California, where I was born, to Chicago where we were then picked up by my father, his brother Bill and my grandmother in a Nash car—we were a family of Nashes! They then drove a long way, some 500 miles or so, to our hometown of Butler near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was raining. The whole time, mum sat on my baby bottle to keep it warm; I remember this. So my first life experience memory is of a road trip.

Recently I looked up an old friend of mine with the nickname of Bucky. We had a lengthy conversation about how we chose different roads to travel through life and how our lives may have turned out differently depending on a simple decision of whether to turn right, left or go straight ahead. Now Bucky and I go back with a friendship that has lasted over more than fifty years, so we have had enough time to build up some comparisons. After finishing university where we were roommates for four years, Bucky opted to stay in our home town. He went on to have a successful, happy life, raise a wonderful family and in fact still lives there. I chose to pack up a Volkswagen van and as they say "hit the road". Actually it wasn't much of a decision but more like something that I just had to do. Some people can't leave and some people can't stay. I have come to admire those that stay.

Of all the roads that I have travelled in different parts of the world through the years, I have been trying to think of the most memorable one. The first one that came to mind was the road that I grew up on as a boy. I have always considered myself very lucky to have had the childhood that I did. I grew up on a gravel road out in the country some ten miles from town. It was mostly a farming area with a few coal mines scattered around. The area was called Carbon Center, named that because it was famous for making what they call "lampblack", I am still not sure what lampblack was used for, so how notable can that make Carbon Center, Pennsylvania?

Carbon Center was there because of a fork in the road at the bottom of a hill. We had a farm feed store, a grain mill, blacksmith shop, and a one room country school house that we all attended for eight years. There was also a small food store that my grandmother tried to keep open. It seemed like most people put their goods on a tab to be paid when they had the money. No doubt that is why she had a hard time keeping it going.



A small stream ran through the valley which we dammed up every spring with burlap bags to make a swimming hole. A makeshift baseball field out in a cow pasture was good enough for us to dream that we would someday become great stars. A rail road went up through the valley and when I was a boy some of the trains were still pulled with a steam engine. There was always something to do along our road.

The school, which sadly has been torn down, had a big, old pot bellied coal stove in the middle for heating. There was no running water, which meant no flush toilet either. We had one teacher who taught us everything, including respect. Corporal punishment was definitely in effect and it certainly got the desired results!

This part of Pennsylvania is hilly; Pennsylvania is known for its rolling hills which meant we had some really good roads to bicycle on and sleigh ride down in the winter. Traffic was something we didn't need to worry about. There is probably still some of my DNA on the gravel there.

Recently I was back visiting my last surviving uncle. He happens to live in the very same house that I grew up in, which is right across the road from my grandparents' home that he grew up in. It was a lovely Pennsylvania autumn day, so I went for a stroll down the road, reviewing and thinking about my boyhood. The hill seemed not to be as steep as it was back then. As I was walking down the road there happened to be some people out digging in their lawn looking for their water well. An elderly lady in a wheelchair looked up at me and asked "Buddy, where have you been?" Although she hadn't seen me in over fifty years she still remembered me and I remembered where her well was!

The area thankfully has not changed much at all except the road is paved now and my uncle actually has a road address. When I was a kid growing up I am not sure the road even had a name or, if it did I certainly could not tell you what it was. But then again it must not have needed a name at the time. Like everyone else on the road our mailing address was rural delivery #3(RD3) and our neighbor, Mr. Angert or one or another of his family members delivered the mail. He also had the first TV on the road and would sometimes let us peer through a window to watch something in very grainy black and white.

Well, we moved from that road fifty four years ago but I hope to be able to travel many more roads until I get to the proverbial end of my road.

Bud Morrow

Bud won the Triceratops Trophy of the Jurassic Coast Writers Group for this story



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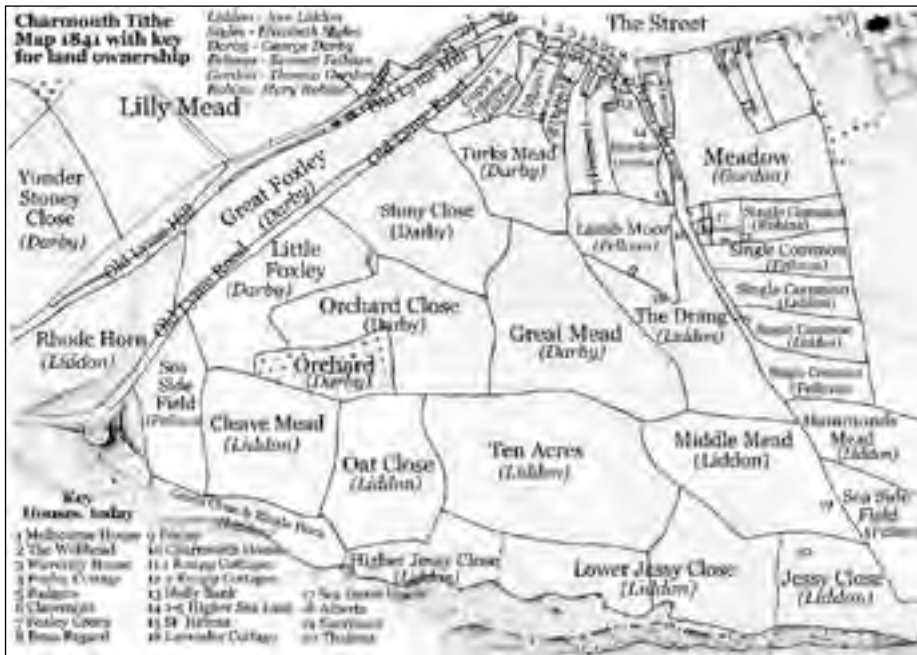
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A History of Higher Sea Lane and the Surrounding Area



This is the 1841 Tithe Map showing the area dealt with in the article and the owners of land in that year. The names of the properties built on it today are also shown.

I originally thought I would research the lane I live in, as I had previously looked into the history of the Lords of the Manor of Charmouth who at one time had owned the field my house stood on and much of the surrounding area. But what of the rest of the land up to the Street, with so many houses being built there in the last century along Higher Sea Lane, Westcliff Road, Five Acres, Double Common and Downside Close. I was sure the time spent would be worthwhile, as I am not aware of anyone at present, apart from the historian Reginald Pavey, putting pen to paper on the subject.

I have combed masses of deeds, documents, tax lists, censuses, directories, etc. in my quest to see who owned what. It would have been so much easier if I had been able to see the original deeds, and would be grateful if anyone who has these would contact me so that we can add to our knowledge of the area. The recent history from 1900 onwards is fairly easy as all one has to do is go to the Dorset Record Office, who have annual listings for the village in the form of the Electoral Rolls. As most houses have been built within this time span, I have avoided detailed listings of every property as that would soon fill Shoreline for many issues into the future and really only be of interest to those who live in the houses today. Instead, I am going to look at the subject broadly and go back as far as I can and give a short insight into the more historic properties.

The early history of Charmouth is fairly straightforward as it was a Manor, originally owned in 1086, the year of the Domesday, by Earl Mortain, brother of

William the Conqueror, with many others in England. By 1170 Richard del Estre had given the Manor of Charmouth to Forde Abbey, who were to own the village for the next four centuries. In 1297 they created a borough with a number of adjoining plots, roughly half-acre in size, stretching back on both sides of The Street. To the north the wall has survived to this day and the boundary of an earth bank on the south side is still to be seen in places. There were a number of houses strung out along The Street on both sides and many still date back to that era. Of special note is Charmouth House on the corner of Higher Sea Lane, which was known as the Fountain Inn and would have been a hostelry serving travellers on the road linking Dorchester and Exeter. Another vestige of the Middle Ages is in the open strip field system of farming which stretched to the east of Higher Sea Lane and was preserved with its names of Single and Double Common.

In 1539 Forde Abbey was surrendered to King Henry VIII and in 1564 Robert and William Caldwell purchased the village and Newlands from Queen Elizabeth I

for £25-5-1d. They in turn sold it on to Sir William Petre of Ingatestone in Essex, in the same year, who had been Secretary of State for four monarchs. He died in 1572 and left his estates to his son Sir John Petre of Writtle. Three years later in the pursuit of purchasing the adjoining West Thorndon Hall Estate with its 12,000 acres, he started selling off some of his other properties. These included properties in Charmouth on 2000-year leases for small rents. Amongst these were The Limes, The Elms, Rose & Crown and Charmouth House. William Pole of Shute, Near Axminster, purchased the remainder of the Manor. This family was very wealthy and owned many other estates in the area and one can still see their castle and home now run by the National Trust.

The grandson of William Pole sold the Manor of Charmouth to William Ellesdon from Lyme Regis in 1648. This family and a branch called Henvill owned much of the village until it was put up for sale in 1783 at auction and bought by Lieutenant James Warden whose claim to fame was being killed in a duel at Hunters Cross by a neighbour who he had fallen out with. On his death the Manor went to his wife and then daughter, Ann Liddon, who was always short of money and it was mortgaged for all the time she owned it. It was her son Mathew who sold it in 1853 to George Hender Frean, whose son was the founder of Peak Frean biscuits. He bought the estate to develop the beach and with his nephew, Michael Morcom, built the steam-operated cement works, now the Heritage Centre. But it did not succeed and he in turn sold it to Sir John Hawkshaw, the famous railway engineer, who offered him a good profit on his purchase.

In 1864 Hawkshaw attempted to develop a railway line through the village with its own station from Lyme Regis to connect with the recently opened branch in Bridport, but when the Act went to Parliament it was opposed by Great Western Railway and did not succeed. A number of attempts had been made to link Charmouth with Bridport. In 1846 Isambard Kingdom Brunel had plans drawn up to connect his main line with the village, but it came to nothing. The



A view taken in 1910 from the Look Out House with one of the Customs men looking out to sea with his telescope. The building on the right is the Storehouse for their ammunition. Above it is Sanctuary, Lavender Cottage and Sea Horse House. On the far left is The Bungalow (Cove Cottage)



An aerial photograph showing Charmouth House on the corner and further down on the same side is the imposing Sea Horse House. On the other side is a line of buildings including the Council Houses, built in 1921 and Foxley Farm.

most astonishing proposal was in 1874 by the Lyme Regis Railway who wanted to run a line along the coast from Lyme, then north of the cement works, where Thalatta is today, through the village and on to Bridport. With his inability to proceed with his line, Hawkshaw placed all he had bought which included a big chunk of Lyme Regis up for auction in 1867, but it did not all sell and his son was to still own Lilly Farm until the First World War. The map that went with the auction shows that Lot 31, which included the Cement Works with 64 acres, did not make its reserve of £4000. Lot 30, which was known as The Drang, went for £210 to James Cadbury, and George Darby bought Lot 29 - Double Common for £185.

Three years later, John James Coulton, a solicitor in Kings Lynn, bought Lot 30 for £3000 and for the next 30 years was to be the Lord of the Manor, even though he never lived here. By 1898 he had purchased the adjoining plot of the Drang from John Hodges and decided to divide it and the adjoining fields into 55 small plots, which he offered for sale. There is an interesting map showing in detail where these were to be and how Higher Sea Lane was to get a new road as, previously it only led to Double Common as the rest was fields known as Sea Lands. But it backfired on him and only a few were sold. Some of those built are the earliest houses in the Lane and include Roberts Cottage, Alberta, Lavender Cottage and Leslie Cottage. Again in 1904 he attempted to sell the balance of the plots, but no one turned up. Before he died in 1908 he was negotiating to sell the remainder of his estate to Alfred Pass of Wootton Fitzpaine. But both died in the same year and it was their sons who were to complete the sale and in that year Douglas was to buy the Manor for £1400. He in due course sold fields off piecemeal. My own house, Thalatta, was bought for £130 with an acre of land in 1922 by Miss Grace Icombe from Ealing who was to have a house built on

it shortly afterwards. In 1938 Douglas sold the Cement Works and most of the foreshore to the Charmouth parish Council for £2974. That very briefly is the history of the Manor lands and how over the centuries they were sold off.

But what of the other fields and buildings that make up the area – what is their history? This has been much more difficult as for most of their time they have been owned by less well known families and it is only by the use of the Dorset Family Centre and the Ancestry website that I have been able to piece it together. The person who I have most to thank is Reginald Pavey, who was able to see many of the deeds of properties in the village before they were swallowed up and lost by solicitors once Land Registration was established and they were not required. It is the deeds to Sea Horse House, The Well Head and Charmouth House in particular which he noted down that have provided me with a breakthrough in my understanding of the ownership. We have all no doubt noticed a couple of houses at the top end of the Street that include Foxley in their titles. An understanding of what they signified has opened up my vision of the past in this area. For the name is that of a farm that stood on to the street with 22 acres behind it. The original ancient building is what is now Foxley Cottage and Badgers. Foxley is fairly recent after the name of one of the fields behind it – Fox Leaze. It was formerly known after previous owners – Lushes and then Bradfords. They originally were part of an even larger estate that included Charmouth House and four acres of land on that side of Higher Sea Lane. They form part of the sales by John Petre in 1575 when he sold this block of land and buildings to Edward Lymbry. Amongst the Deeds to Charmouth House, which Reg Pavey listed, is the following:

All that messuage, cottage or tenement lying between a cottage then in the tenure of William Rockett on the west side of another cottage then in the tenure

of William Best on the East side and the queens highway on the north side. It consists of Barnes, Stables, edifices, lands, meadows, pastures, common ways, paths, woods, under woods, easements.

There were 40 acres of fields, including the Fountain Inn, and in time these were sold by Edward's grandson, also Edward, to Edward Lush of Chideock. He in turn sold them to Robert Burridge. Later in 1704 there is another reference to the farm as follows:

"The property consisted of Curtilages, gardens, orchards, yards, barnes, stables, outhouses, easements and Appurtenances also 2 little closes of Meades lying and adjoining the messuage of about 3 1/2 acres.

And all that field and close called Holemead about 6 acres. A close called Stony close about 4 acres

a close called Lower Foxey about 3 1/2 acres

a close called The Marle Pit Close 6 acres

a close called Foxlease or Foxley 3 1/2 acre

a close called Little Mead 2. 1/2 acre

a close called Boardhay 1 acre

2 closes at Harness Hill 3 1/2 acres

3 closed lying in Langmoor 6 1/2 acres

and Marlins or Marlingshay 3 roods

and a plot of land called hop yard 1 rood

Tenants Edward Roberts, William Rednor".

By 1753 Francis Folaquier and Elizabeth his wife, who was Robert Burridge's granddaughter, put the estate up for sale. They divided it into three separate lots. It would seem that Edward Burrow was to have Harners Hill and three closes at Langmoor and Benjamin Bradford the farm known as Lushes after a previous owner. Burrow sold his part on to Walter Oke of Pinney, near Axmouth in the same year. The third part – The Fountain Inn (Charmouth House) with four acres was purchased by John Goring. The 1754 Poor Rates for the village detail the landowners of the time and all of these are clearly shown with their respective properties. These fields were to make up most of the balance of the lands around Higher Sea lane that were not owned by the Lord of the Manor at that time, who was Benedicta Henvill. She was a descendant of William Ellesden and was married to the Reverend Joseph Durston, living in a vicarage in Compton Greenfield in Gloucester.

The many fields that lay between the coast and The Street focussed on several houses that had been built along it from the times when Forde Abbey owned it. The fields mentioned and their acreage ►



This photograph taken in 1912 is looking down towards The Sanctuary and Red Bungalow. The Gate on the left led to Double Common at that time.

are virtually unchanged to those shown later on the 1841 Tithe Map. Many of the names such as Hammetts Mead (Hammond's Mead), Double Common, Great Foxley, and The Drang are still recognisable today. A study of The Street is worthwhile, as it explains the field pattern behind it. It would seem that where Melbourne House is today was part of a field known as Guppys, which belonged to the Manor. In the 1841 census Ann Liddon (aged 70), who owned the Manor was living there with her two daughters Lucy and Sophia.

The next plot to the east, which is now known as The Well Head, but latterly Bruton House, has a set of deeds going back to 1683 when Mrs Balston sold it with an acre of land to George Mantle. The series of documents goes as far as 1800 and then Poor Rates and censuses show that it was later owned by a John Bull who left it to his daughter Elizabeth Shiles who is shown as owner on the 1841 Tithe Map.

The next property, which is now subdivided into Foxley Cottage and Badgers, was the original farmhouse that is referred to in the 1708 document and no doubt goes back much further. Benjamin Bradford, a wealthy clothier from Wootton Fitzpaine, bought it in 1754 and lived there whilst John Bowdridge farmed the 22 acres of land that made up the farm, which was then known as Lushes after the previous owner. In 1783 a map was drawn up for the village, but only the record book has survived. But it does show houses and fields in the village with their owners and acreage.

Benjamin Bradford's listings are as follows; the names of some of the fields have changed but it still compares favourably with the 1704 listing:

- 162. House & Orchard (£6-0-0d) 2r 8p**
- 163. Duck's Mead (£3-3-9d) 2a 20p**
- 164. Bottom Mead (£5-16-4d) 2a 3r 1p**
- 165. Orchard Close (£4-15-3d) 3a 17p**

166. Foxley Orchard (£3-16-6d) 1a 1r 4p

167. Stoney Close (£4-17-7d) 3a 3r 25p

168. Great Foxley (£3-6-4d) 3a 26p

169. Little Mead (£2-17-9d) 2a 1r 10p

170. Little Foxley (£1-14-10d) 1a 2r 26p

When he died in 1792 he left property in Axminster, Whitchurch and Monkton Wyld to his many relations and over £8000 in capital, shares and bonds. He appointed William Combe, the village's Rector as one of the trustees and for the next 40 years they distributed the annual income to his heirs and friends. Their original account book can still be seen in the Dorset Record Office and gives a detailed snapshot of the village at the time. Every year they would pay out for a party at the nearby Fountain Inn when the tenants paid their rents. In 1841 George Darby, a wealthy merchant living in Bridport, who had married the niece of Benjamin, was the major beneficiary. The farm at that time was rented by Joseph Cozens. But the original will made it difficult to sell the estate and a map in 1867 shows it being partly owned by a Miss Balson who was one of the original heirs. In time it would be sold to Reuben Durrant who is shown as farming the land in 1881. He lived in Bruton House rather

than the old farmhouse. Old photos of the rear show a number of farm buildings, including a piggery. In 1931 the farm and the adjacent fields were bought by Edward Washer, a speculative builder. He pulled down the barn by the entrance and built Waverley. The farm buildings in the yard were converted into a small bungalow without completely destroying the cowsheds.

Most of the fields that were not owned by the Manor were included in Foxley Farm, but there are two exceptions; those that went with the building now known as Claremont and those with Charmouth House that I hope to deal with. I have had to work back from the 1841 Tithe Map to track down their ownership. For those researching the history of their buildings in the village, we are fortunate in that there are detailed censuses that run from 1911 to 1841 and this is the same year as the tithe map which helps locate where people lived. Then there are Poor Rates and land Tax Lists which run from 1780 until 1832. Only one list for 1754 has survived prior to this, which is a shame.

It is in 1841 that Benjamin Fellows is listed as owning the group of three adjoining properties now named - Claremont, Beau Regard and Foxley Farm and the field known as Lamb Moor and a number of fields along Higher Sea Lane. Going back through the Tax Lists I was able to find that in 1780 it was owned by a Mary Aust and was called Nap House, and the 1783 Map Reference book gave me more information as follows:

99. Mrs Mary Aust, House & Orchard (£3-0-0d) 0a 1p 35r

100. Mrs Mary Aust, Late Grey's House & Orchard (£6-0-0d) 0a 1p 36r

101. Mrs Mary Aust, Lambs Mead (£2-14-2d) 1a 2p 31r

102. Mrs Mary Aust, House & Orchard by the Mill (£2-10-0d) 0a 2p 38r

103 Mrs Mary Aust, House & Orchard opposite the Fountain Inn Garden (£2-10-0d) 0a 2p 26r.



This photograph was taken in 1923 shortly after Thalatta was built on the left. The Moorings, Cove Cottage, Red Bungalow and Sanctuary can be seen behind it.

Looking back to the 1654 Poor Rates List showed that Mr William Grey owned the property in that year. The will for Mary Aust who died in 1821 revealed that she lived in Mile End in Essex and she was to leave her property to her nephew Harry Smith. Benjamin Fellows was a relation who in his Will of 1842 left it to a Mrs Smith. It would seem that as was so often the case in this village many of the owners were absentee landlords collecting their rents from afar.

The last major land holding went with Charmouth House in 1754 when it was bought by John Goring from Francis Folaquier and Elizabeth his wife. There was a meadow of about 4 acres with the inn and on the opposite side of the lane was a smaller field with a house on it, now known as Knapp Cottages. There was very little development on these fields, apart from a strip called Thomas's plot that was sold and a cottage was built on it. In 1783 it is shown in the map reference book as being owned by William Lock. He was a labourer who was to sell his house to his employer, Uriah Dare of Wootton Fitzpaine, for £42 in 1796. This was to be the first house to be built in the lane that was known then as Rockets lane. The Rocketts appear in the parish records in the 17th century and there is reference to a William Rocket owning a house next to Foxley Farm House in an old deed as well as on the 1641 protestant returns list. Uriah Dare was to build an impressive house with a number of outbuildings on the site that he sold to the Rev John Lucy for £1000 in 1801. It was then known as Sea House when he sold it to John Robins for the same figure. By 1883 it had been bought by the husband of Elizabeth Holly, whose father William, owned the adjacent Charmouth House. Walter Salisbury changed the name to Gresham House after where he used to work as a warehouse apprentice in London. For many years they ran a boarding house and later it was called the Sea Horse Hotel, which was demolished in 1990 and replaced with a block of apartments bearing the same name. The original house had three storeys and with no properties around it stood out in early photographic views of the village. A narrow drive led up to it and continued a short distance to Double Common where there was a gate leading into the Higher Sea Fields - a path through to the beach. Opposite Gresham House was another gate that led into the Allotment Field - known formerly as Lamb Moor, beyond and westward was Stony Close or Rough Close, south of which was Great Mead, later called Five Acres.

The next house to be built was Soldier's Cottage by Alfred Bowditch in 1898 after paying £7-10s for the plot, which is now called Lavender Cottage. Shortly afterwards Isaac Hunter, who had paid £5 to James Coulton, built a shed to house his fossils, an Ichthyosaurus being the chief specimen. An inverted boat formed the roof. Eventually he built a

cottage on the site in which he lived for many years. It is now known as "Victoria Cottage".

About the same time a cottage was built on lots 49, 50, 51 on fields then known as Middle Mead— opposite Hammonds Mead and was known as Robert's Cottage, after the owner. It was later bought by Harry Smith, a fisherman who built Bay View, using beach stones and part of a wreck washed up on the east beach. The stones weathered badly and the south wall of the house was tarred to keep the damp out. Later the wall was covered with sheets of asbestos. The front door should have faced west, leading to the right of way to the beach. Instead he made the front door to open onto the path facing east, which created a strip of ground at the rear leading nowhere. It was sold by Harry Smith's son Percy and is now called Sanctuary.

Only a few lots were sold in the auction of 1898 and another one took place in 1904. This time the remainder – 28 plots – were offered and no one turned up so they were withdrawn. It is interesting studying the history of the original plots which formed a block on what originally was the Ten Acre Field, as it wasn't until the 1960s that the ground was finally built on and Higher Sea Lane extended westwards. The following records for the first 20 years of the century show how little was built in Higher Sea Lane:

The 1901 Census for Higher Sea Lane:

Victoria Cottage - Isaac Hunter 66, fisherman,

Gresham House - Elizabeth Salisbury, Widow 48, Living on own means

Cottage - Helen Brenton. Widow 88, living on own means

Lavender Cottage - Alfred Bowditch 61, General Labourer

Roberts Cottage - Harry Smith 44, General Labourer

Charmouth House - Matilda Leathes 70, Widow living on own means

The 1911 Census - Higher Sea Lane

Victoria Cottage - Mary Ann Hunter 82, Old Age Pensioner

Gresham House - Elizabeth Salisbury, Widow 59, Living on own means

Lavender Cottage - Alfred Bowditch 71, Old Age Pensioner

Roberts Cottage - Harry Smith 54, General Labourer

Charmouth House - John Reid 65, Retired Barrister

Salisbury Cottage - Miss Eleanor Clarke 70, Private Means

Cove Cottage - George Alefounder 62, Widower. Private Means



This photograph c.1900 shows graphically the area of farm buildings behind Foxley Cottage and Badgers when it was run as a Farm. Waverley, which was to fill the gap between them and Well Head had not been built.

Leslie Cottage- Mark Mills 67. Retired Commercial Traveller

Alberta - William Symes 56, Widower Police Pensioner

1921 Electoral Roll shows the following were able to vote:

Roberts Cottage - Harry Smith

Gresham House - Elizabeth Salisbury

Alberta - William Symes

The Bungalow - Miss Gertrude Evans

The Moorings - William Etches

Red Bungalow - Miss Ellen Derrick

? - Elizabeth Hooper

Cove Cottage - George Alefounder

Hammonds Mead - Alfred Barrow

The council houses, which were built on the old allotments, were started in 1921 and the first house in Five Acres was named Shela and was not built until 1939. During the war a defending force of twelve men and a lieutenant occupied my own house - Thalatta. The armament consisted of one two-pounder, ex-Naval gun mounted on the back of an old lorry. The cliffs and the neighbouring fields had been mined and an anti-tank barrier of steel pipe scaffolding and barbed wire entanglements had been erected across the level stretch between the cliffs and the front of the factory.

After the war development was fast and most of the houses have been built since then.

I have tried to cover as best I can the history of the area around Higher Sea Lane. If you want to see some of the records referred to or more about the properties please use my websites: freshford.com or charmouthhistory.com where there are links to them. I do hope after reading this the reader knows just a little more about what went before the numerous houses we see today. If you can add to our knowledge, please contact me.

Neil Mattingly

Wild Garlic

White House Hotel

As I sit and write this on the afternoon 12th March, it is still bloody freezing out there. It's actually meant to be spring now for pities sake. Surely whatever past life transgressions we may have committed, we do not deserve this rotten weather; but still, great swathes of the country are buried deep in snow, roads are closed, cars are stranded overnight, abandoned by their passengers who are forced to walk the last few exhausted miles home buffeted by a cruel lazy wind directly from the Siberian tundra; the imminent collapse of western civilisation itself dangles over us like the Sword of Damocles and it feels like surely the end times are upon us!

And I've got manflu and that is serious!

Having said that, the weather forecast on the radio has just said it's going to be ten degrees at the weekend so cancel the image of a soon-to-arrive dystopian future I have just conjured up in your minds because it looks like we may be turning the corner! Mind you, it says heavy rain for Saturday but at least it will be (relatively) warm rain!

It does feel like it has been a long winter, especially as last summer felt like a long winter as well. Along with the economy in the doldrums and Man Utd on top of the Premiership it's no wonder we all need something to cheer us up. A few warm sunny days, that's all we ask! Just until October....?

One little sign I have recently noticed that spring may be just around the corner is a few areas of Wild Garlic sprouting in the woods. You usually can smell it before you see it but it always reminds me that winter is allegedly on the way out and we will soon be back on the beach! I love wild garlic. It has loads of culinary uses, it can be added to leafy salads, used flavouring oils, making pesto, adding to soups, risottos, mashed potato, stir fries..... and the best bit about it is it's free!

I gave some wild garlic recipes on Shoreline a couple of years ago but whilst it is seasonal, abundant and as I said at a very reasonable price at the moment, I think it is may be worth offering a couple more.



Wild Garlic Soup

Ingredients for four, quick, cheap, easy and a great flavour with a gorgeous bright, green colour!

Knob of butter

4 oz onion or shallot chopped

6 oz peeled chopped potatoes, Avoid the waxy ones. Desiree are good but King Edwards and Maris Piper work just as well

Pint of chicken or vegetable stock

6 oz wild garlic leaves, well washed

Quarter of a pint double cream or creme fraiche

Season to taste

Gently cook the onion in the butter until softened, add the potato and stock and bring to simmer.

Cook until the potato is soft.

Add the washed wild garlic leaves at the very last minute, blend with a hand stick or in a jug blender until smooth.

Pass through a sieve and gently reheat (if you boil it for too long at this stage, the colour of the soup will go a rather unappetising grey green), season to taste, stir in cream or Creme Fraiche and serve straight away.

Wild Garlic Hoummus

Really quick and easy and a lot cheaper than the shop bought stuff.

400 g tin of chickpeas, rinsed and drained

generous handful of wild garlic leaves, well washed

4 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

2 Tbsp lemon juice

salt and freshly ground black pepper

Drain the chickpeas and place to the food processor with the wild garlic and lemon juice.

Blend and drizzle in the olive oil until you've got a smooth paste (or slightly coarse if you like it a bit rougher!). Season to taste.

Poached Egg on Toasted Sourdough with Wild Garlic

This is a great lunch snack and again is very quick and easy. There is of course nothing like fresh free range eggs and I would heartily recommend buying the freshest you can find from a local farm or farm shop. The supermarket eggs because of the way their supply chain works, are a disaster for poaching I have always found as they are very often just too damn old.... and they could be horse eggs, you just don't know nowadays!

You can of course use any type of bread you want but there is something quite special about a sourdough bread when is lightly toasted.

In a pan of gently simmering water, add the egg. If it is fresh it will hold together nicely not spread all over the pan and the yolk should glow like the sun on a summer morning. There is no need whatsoever for vinegar, salt, vortexes in the water, buttered poaching cups and all that nonsense, a perfectly fresh egg is all you need to give you a perfectly poached egg.

If there is a trick to getting this dish right it is in the timing and getting all three elements to be ready at the same time. So whilst this egg is very gently simmering, you have less than two minutes to toast the bread and cook the garlic. The garlic is merely cooked in a little butter until it just starts to wilt, then removed from the heat, place on the buttered toast and the egg which should be perfectly done by now is served on top. A twist of black pepper and away you go.

Ian Simpson

From the Charmouth Practice



Food: finally some sweet success!

Even more sinister than rising rates of obesity is a related, but more serious, epidemic of Metabolic Syndrome which, if left unchecked, is in fact the problem which can eventually lead to diabetes and heart disease. Current estimates are that by 2025, so many of us will have developed diabetes that both the American and British Health care systems will be bankrupt. How on earth did this happen? What is going so very wrong?

While confusion reigns, the health service groans and the press blames everything under the sun in turn, there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Finally parts of the jigsaw are falling into place and this is not another flash in the pan –this time it begins to make sense. The problem is, will we now do what we need to do to avert the monumental crisis of suffering and irreversible poor health which increasingly threatens our whole world?

Professor Rob Lustig from San Francisco has worked with children with endocrine problems for decades and through his work has recently been able to draw together the research and new evidence on the cause of metabolic syndrome which he presented to us at a very exciting conference in London in March. In a word the main problem is and always has been.... sugar.

UK's Professor John Yudkin wrote a book called "Pure White and Deadly" about sugar in 1972 to warn every one of the mounting evidence of its harm, not only affecting the cardiovascular system and causing diabetes but also damaging the gut, eyes and causing other inflammatory diseases. Unfortunately, Ancel Keys, an American epidemiologist, decided the problem of rising heart disease was due instead, to too much fat in our diets and he went about massaging the data to fit this pet theory. He publicly ridiculed Yudkin who was removed from the COMA food panel and published his own famous "Seven Countries" study to show that fat consumption correlated with heart disease. We now know that this actually started off as the 22 country study, but 15 countries irritatingly did not show the correlation he wanted and were dropped from the evidence. Nevertheless, food manufacturers on both sides of the Atlantic were exhorted to produce low fat food and in doing so they had to remove much of the taste. What did they do to food to make it taste of something? They filled it with sugar and salt. When it was discovered that corn could be refined into High Fructose Corn Syrup, there was suddenly a wonderful market for the struggling American maize industry and HFCS was added to every imaginable manufactured food and drink.

So what is wrong with sugar?

The problem is that sugar and HFCS contain both glucose and fructose monosaccharides. In large amounts the fructose bit

plays havoc with our body systems. Together with the glucose they deliver a double whammy. "But, isn't fructose healthy?" I hear you cry. "They made diabetic jam from it. It is fruit juice," and indeed they did and it is. Unfortunately, the body never expected to have to cope with the sudden overwhelming volume of fructose which we now literally pour down our throats in thirsty gulps every day. By separating out the juice from the fruit and the HFCS from the corn we have developed a shortcut straight to metabolic syndrome and onwards to diabetes and heart disease. Pure glucose (otherwise known as starch) is metabolised by the insulin system and in genetically susceptible people, too much quick release glucose will put a strain on this system and lead to high insulin levels and breakdown of the system. This we thought is how diabetes occurs. However, Sugar, HFCS and all non-artificial sweeteners are sweet BECAUSE of the fructose they also contain. In large amounts fructose will accelerate this breakdown process dramatically. Fructose and incidentally also alcohol, do not go through the insulin system, they are both metabolised instead in the liver. We thought fructose was safe for diabetics, but it turns out that the liver cannot cope with metabolising the huge load of fructose contained in cans of soft drink or today's large glasses of fruit juice and so the back-log of toxic products which are produced in the overworked mitochondria of the liver cause free radical build up and large deposits of pure fat within the liver itself. Sugar and fruit juices lead directly to fatty liver disease and where we see fatty livers, doctors have known for a long time that we also see fat metabolism gone wrong; fat laid down round people's middles and hidden inside around their liver, a worsening of blood pressure and a tendency towards diabetes. This picture happens when people drink too much alcohol but we also knew there were more and more people now suffering from "Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease" NAFLD. It is true that this happens to 80% of people with obesity, but beware all you slim people, it is also happening in 40% of you who are "Thin on the Outside but Fat on the Inside" the so-called "TOFI" population.

So how do you know if this applies to you and what can you do?

Your BP, liver tests, weight and waist measurements can be indicators. Your waist should be less than 35 inches for women and 40 inches for men and should measure less than your hips. A fasting lipid test will show you if your triglyceride level of "ready cash fat" round your liver is too high and you want the good HDL cholesterol fat to be high as this hoovers up cholesterol from the blood vessel walls, although typically, in metabolic syndrome the level is lower than normal because of the way your body mismanages its fats. Your GP can feed all this information into a calculator and tell you your risk of a cardiovascular event in the next 10 years.

How on earth did this happen?

Sugar is addictive in subtle ways. It makes you crave more sugar and makes you tempted to fill up on manufactured foods full of salt, wheat, pressed oils and more sugar. Worse than this, Rob Lustig's work has shown us that high insulin actually blocks the signals that tell us when we are full and so makes people feel continuously starving. In doing this it makes people feel tired and reluctant to move. Finally, finally we can understand WHY, when someone is very overweight, they seem to be unable to stop eating and motivate themselves to move. You have to stop eating the quick release starchy, sugary foods before your insulin will drop and before your brain realises that your fat cells are in fact FULL! Then and only then can people resist the temptation to eat those sugary toxic temptations. ►

What can you do?

Shun the processed starch and sugar. Instead of processed foods, try to eat food with its natural fibre that looks like food from the earth and the seas. Learn to cook from raw ingredients so you know what is going into your food. 50% of the sugar we eat in this country is hidden in processed foods under any one of 40 or so various names for sugar. If the label tells you what the starch content is, it will also give you a percentage called "of which sugars" and you should be concerned if this is often above 10%. Dramatically reduce your fruit juice and smoothies and instead eat whole fruit, preferably slow release English type fruits so that their fibre will slow down the absorption of sugar and allow the liver time to process the load without harm. Don't drink sugary drinks – try drinking water. Try water hot, cold, fizzy, with a squeeze of lemon, or with tea and coffee or herb teas. And exercise, because exercise increases the numbers of the mitochondria which process the fructose and will significantly protect your cardiovascular system.

The Good news is...if you do the above you will be likely to lose your sugary cravings and it will become easy to eat only when you are hungry and what you hungry for. You don't need to worry about fat if it comes IN the food naturally. Lovely, fresh, local, veg and lean meats, fish, nuts, seeds and dairy can be your friends, although milk and how it has been changed will be the subject of another article. If, however, you still have problems overeating, then try cutting down on bread and processed cereals as wheat releases its starch as quickly as sugar does and puts insulin up significantly. If you still have problems with sugar cravings and if you need to lose weight then the FAST diet or the 5:2 diet will bring your insulin levels down and mimics the way we were designed to have times of plenty and other times of fasting during which our body will carry out vital repair work. The Fast diet can be a very fast and safe way to lose excess weight. Buy the paperbacks or just choose 2 separate days a week and eat only 500 calories for women and 600 for men on those days.

Finally, we are beginning to understand the problem and understanding is always half the battle. The other half of this battle will be fighting to regain control of what we eat. We need our governments' help with that one and Rob Lustig is leading a legal challenge to Big Sugar in America on the lines of the challenge to Big Tobacco. Watch this space. You can read all the details in his book "Fat Chance, The Bitter Truth about Sugar" published by Harper Collins. And if you have metabolic syndrome, two of more of its risk factors and you want to find out more, please watch out for the free talks and workshops for patients of the Charmouth Practice coming to a hall in Charmouth soon.

Have a healthy 2013

Dr Sue Beckers

Charmouth Traders

2014 CHARMOUTH CALENDAR

Charmouth Traders are looking for ways to raise money for replacing the village Christmas lights as these are coming towards the end of their life.

One idea is to sell a 2014 Charmouth calendar with the photographs sourced from Charmouth residents. We have been delighted by the response from Charmouth photographers. The calendar should be on sale throughout Charmouth by the end of April – ideal for sending to friends and relatives!

CHARMOUTH PARKING REFUND SCHEME

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

CHARMOUTH GUIDE AND SIGNAGE

Charmouth Traders are currently working with Charmouth Parish Council on two projects:

- A new Charmouth Guide for visitors to Charmouth is in the process of being produced, including an informative map of Charmouth highlighting attractions, accommodation, shops and food & drink outlets.
- A review of signage in and around the village is also underway, with the aim of attracting visitors to Charmouth from the A35 and directing them around the village.

CHARMOUTH PUZZLE TRAIL

This trail is designed for families who will collect clues from around the village to make a sentence. Entry forms will be available at various village outlets from April. The prize will be an impressive fossil and the winner will be drawn in November at The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.

CHARMOUTH WEBSITE

All major Charmouth 2013 events are listed on www.charmouth.org including those at The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. Please let Phil Tritton know of future events (phil.tritton@gmail.com). Visitors to www.charmouth.org continue to grow – up 29% this year to over 120,000 per annum.

Phil Tritton
Chairman CTA



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www.cpman.co.uk

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Email: contact@cpman.co.uk

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DOG WALKING:

Half an Hour walk: £2.00

Hour walk: £3.50

BABY-SITTING:

Weekdays: Available till 10pm

Weekends: Available till midnight

Contact C Harvey 560393



What's on in Charmouth

Charmouth Bowls Club – Open Day

Sunday 16th June at 12.00pm

BBQ and Bowls

Want to give bowls a try?
Come along to our Open Day BBQ & Bowls.

A great day for friends and family.

£6.00/person – Advanced booking essential

Call Club Secretary Jackie on 01297 560295

THE NATIONAL TRUST - FUTURE AIMS

Tuesday 23rd April at 7.30 p.m.

In the Club Room, Community Hall
Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth

Tickets: £5 (to include coffee/tea)
will be available from the Pharmacy

In aid of St. Mary's Church, Catherston Leweston
(Tony Horton 01297 560051)

Call Jan Gale for more information
or to arrange a lift on 07897 511075.

Weldmar Hospicecare Trust Charmouth Branch

10 am onwards, 4th May

Souper lunch at St. Andrew's Hall
Coffee, lunch, table top sale, raffle.

Pop in and see what's on offer.

(Kathy Fereday 01297 560446)

Selection of Courses from Monkton Wyld Court

For more information contact
monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com

17 Apr

Local Lunch

5 May

Can't Sing. Want to Sing?

17-19 May

Introduction to Beekeeping

19 June

Local Lunch.

Party in the Park

Charmouth Fayre are delighted to announce that the Party in the Park will take place on Sunday 26th May from 7pm, with music being provided by 'Dogs Without Collars'.

As you may know, the vicars have performed with great success in the village before and we are delighted they are going to enhance our evening. Sadly, this is part of their farewell tour and I hope we can give them a really memorable evening and a true Charmouth "thank you".

The Party will work on our normal format with the usual BBQ run by 'The Fat Dads' and our Bar area will provide its usual range of beer, lager, cider and wine together with soft drinks for the drivers and youngsters, followed by fireworks at 10.30pm. If you need any further information, please contact Peter Noel on 01297 560078 or peter@marshall-noel.co.uk

CHARMOUTH TWINNING ASSOCIATION
INVITE ALL TO A FUN EVENING of

'CALL MY BLUFF'

FRIDAY APRIL 19th – 7.30pm
VILLAGE HALL, WESLEY CLOSE

Mid evening Quiche & Salad supper
Bring your own liquid refreshment

COST - £5

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION
CALL 01297 560251

Charmouth School PTFA

Forthcoming Summer Events

Duck Race: Bank Holiday Monday 27th May
2:00pm Tea Party & 3:00pm Duck Race

Challenge, Fun Run & Fete Saturday 6th July
Fete starts 1:00pm,
Fun Run 2:00pm
and Challenge 2:30pm

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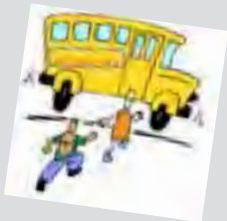
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Noticeboard

SPONSOR A SEAT ON THE BOPPER BUS FOR £20

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



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

The bus has been running for over ten years with help from many organisations, including local parish councils, the district and town councils, the Chideock Trust, the West Dorset Partnership and local businesses and individuals. But we now need more help to keep the wheels turning in 2013/14 and are appealing to local businesses, organisations and individuals for financial help.

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

Contact: Sarah Silcox (01297 489905) Melanie Harvey (01297 560393) or Lyn Crisp (01297 489098) for more details.

Big Lunch

The Eden Project are organising a big lunch aka a street party on 2nd June on an annual basis. If anyone is interested in holding one in Charmouth, please contact Peter Noel on 01297 560078 or email peter@marshall-noel.co.uk Further details are available on: www.thebiglunch.com



HARRY MATTHEW GEORGE TRITTON

Born on 30th December 2012 at 7.23 pm.

Length 56cm Weight 9lb 10 oz.

Brithier to Chloe and Amy Givans

Proud parents Alex Tritton and Maria Givans.

Almshouse Charity

The local Almshouse Charity is encouraging students and/or parents who might need a little financial help with books, uniforms or travel expenses to approach them. The Charity and the Trustees also have small resources to help anyone who lives within the Parish of Charmouth with travel costs for hospital appointments, etc. Please write to Andrea Gillings, Secretary, Charmouth Almshouse Charity, 'Swansmead', Riverway, Charmouth DT6 6LS or phone 01297 560465.

Well done everybody for another successful Christmas Day Swim. £1700 was raised for the RNLI



The Weldmar Hospice Committee Charmouth Branch

We wanted to say a big thank you to all our supporters who either came to the Quiz Evening on February 2nd or donated raffle prizes so generously. What wonderful people you are in Charmouth. Someone said the evening made them realise they weren't as clever as they had thought they were! We made a magnificent £766 profit, so I think you all deserve a pat on the back, whatever your involvement.

Kathy Fereday for the committee.

WOOTTON FITZPAINE VILLAGE FETE

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27TH MAY 2013 AT 130PM

TRADITIONAL VILLAGE FETE - FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

BRASS BAND

DOG AGILITY DISPLAY

CHARMOUTH FIRE BRIGADE

CHILDRENS RACES AND FANCY DRESS

STALLS - GAMES - GRAND RAFFLE

CREAM TEAS - BBQ - LICENSED BAR

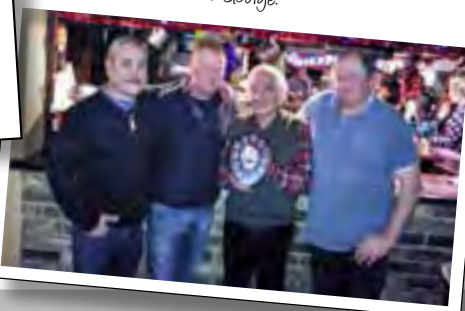
ENTRY FEE OF £150 FOR ADULTS WHICH INCLUDES ENTRY TO THE PRIZE DRAW!

FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN

COME WHATEVER THE WEATHER - IN HALL & MARQUEE IF WET!

IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL AND VILLAGE CHURCH

I to R: Tim Holmes, Captain of the Clueless skittles team; Dean Herbert, Landlord of The George; Ivan Marks, captain of Charmouth Bowls Club; and Mick Bowditch, Captain of the Shaker's skittles team at The George. Ivan started playing skittles at the age of 80 and is seen presenting The George with a 12 year shield, to which he hopes to add his name one day! Ivan is starting a Saturday afternoon skittles club for retired men and women at The George.



Re-introducing Beavers to Charmouth

Believe it or not, there was once a thriving Beaver Colony in Charmouth! However, it was not comprised of furry, water-loving rodents, but young people aged 6 and 7.

The 1st Charmouth Scout Group hopes to re-start its Beaver Colony as soon as possible. But, we need two things to work in our favour: young people - male or female - who want to join; and adults to help run it.

If you are interested in sending your son or daughter to Beavers please email me with their name and date of birth. If I receive enough interest, I will call a meeting to see how we can progress towards getting started.

Search online to find out what Beavers get up to. It's not all about gnawing on silver birch trees!!

It would be great to see Beavers back near the river in Charmouth!

Kevin Payne, Scouter-in-Charge, 1st Charmouth - payne.kevin6@gmail.com

Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Badminton Club (experience required) | Mon 8-10pm | Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane | Trish Evans 442136 |
| Badminton (social) | Tues 7-10pm | Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane | Pauline Bonner 560251 |
| Bingo (fund raising for Community Hall) | 3rd Fri each month 7.30pm (eyes down) | Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane | Linda Crawford 0781 351 3062 |
| Bopper Bus | Fri 4.45-8pm | Bridport Leisure Centre Drop off/pick up Primary School | Kate Geraghty 489422 Melanie Harvey 560393 |
| Bowls Club <i>Summer:</i> <i>Winter Short Mat Bowls:</i> | Sun, Tues, Thurs 2-5.30pm Tues 2-5.00pm | Playing Field, Barr's Lane Community Hall Lower Sea Lane | Jackie Rolls 01297 560295 Jim Greenhalgh 01295 561336 |
| Brownies (ages 7-10) | Mon 4.30-6pm (term-time only) | Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane | Caroline Davis 560207 |
| Bridge Club (partners can be provided) | Thurs 7-10.30pm | Wood Farm (opposite swimming pool) | Vincent Pielesz 560738 |
| Cherubs | Wed 9.30-11.30am (term-time only) | Village Hall, Wesley Close | Kathryn Radley 442796 |
| Cubs (ages 8-11) | Thurs 6.30-8pm (term-time only) | The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane | Nicky Gibbs 01297 35470 or 07925 511261 |
| Gardeners | 2nd Wed each month 2.30pm | Village Hall, Wesley Close | Kay Churchman 560980 |
| Girl Guides (ages 10 onwards) | Wed 7-8.45pm (term-time only) | For information call Davina Pennels 560965 | |
| Junior Youth Club (ages 8-12) | Tues 6.30-8.30pm | Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close | Louise Gunnill 07501 081828 |
| Library Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s) | Fri 9.30-10am | Library, The Street | Mandy Harvey 01297 560167 |
| Parish Council Meeting | 3rd Tues each month 7.30pm | The Elms, The Street | |
| Pavey Group (village history) | Tues 9.30-10.30am | The Elms, The Street | Russell Telfer, 560806 |
| POPPs Village Breakfast | Thurs 8.30am-1pm (Sep to Apr) | Hollands Room, Bridge Road | Jan Gale 07897 511075 |
| POPPs Village Lunch | 1st Tues each month | Hollands Room, Bridge Road | Jan Gale 07897 511075 |
| Scouts (ages 11-14) | Fri 7.15-9pm (term-time only) | The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane | Kevin Payne 01308 459080 |
| Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6) | Mon to Thurs (term-time only) 9am-12.30pm | Monkton Wyld Court | Charlotte Plummer 560342 |
| The British Legion (Women's Section) | 1st Wed each month 2.30pm | The Elms, The Street | Pat Stapleton 560255 |
| Wyld Morris dancing practice | Wed 7.15pm | Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court | Briony Blair 489546 |

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

Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

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

Shoreline Spring 2013



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**Remember - The deadline for
copy for the Shoreline Summer
issue is 15th June 2013.**

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ASK THE EXPERT

Q. The estate agent I am buying through wants to see proof of my financial position, but I don't want to disclose that until my offer is accepted. Do I need to give this information in advance?

A. The agent you are dealing with is absolutely right in asking to see proof of your financial position. The relevant section of The Property Ombudsman's Code of Conduct states that the agent must take all reasonable

steps to establish the source and availability of a prospective buyer's funds - and pass this information to the seller - so if he didn't, he would actually be in breach of the Code and if the sale subsequently fell through over money matters, his client would have legitimate grounds for complaint.

You are under no obligation to disclose this information if you don't want to. However, the agent would then have no choice but to tell his client that as a result of your unwillingness to co-operate, your financial position couldn't be confirmed. Ultimately, it is the seller's

decision whether or not to accept any offers but the agent would be doing less than his duty if he didn't recommend an appropriate course of action. If the seller wanted to accept your offer, the agent might well suggest for example, that he continues to actively market the property until appropriate reassurance was established.

Of course, your reluctance to reveal such details at such an early stage of negotiations is perfectly understandable. However, the sale is unlikely to go anywhere until you do - except on the kind of conditional basis above.

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