

# SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth

## JAWS

discovered in  
January 2013  
during a spring  
tide

Find out more on  
Page 20



Help Needed  
Page 7



Quackers  
Page 16



30th Anniversary Charmouth  
Challenge - Pages 16 & 31



Tierra Vegetarian Recipe  
Page 27



Barry Coleman with Shoreline in  
front of another famous bridge



Cubs & Scouts take Pole Position  
Page 13

# BreeZe



*Fun, funky and  
gorgeous gifts  
for everyone!*

Next to Charmouth Stores (Nisa)  
The Street, Charmouth Tel 01297 560304

## AXMINSTER PRINTING CO. LTD.

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

Email: keith or jane @axminsterprinting.co.uk

- **Printers of Private and Business Stationery:**  
including: Headings, Business Cards, Compliment Slips, Headed Cards, Postcards, Invoices, Wedding Stationery, single through to multi colour, etc.
- **Well Stocked Stationery Shop:**  
including: Recycled Range, Children's Activity Kits, Shredders, Laminators, Trimmers, etc.
- **Card Making and Craft Supplies**
- **Craft Demos**
- **Computer Consumables:**  
including: CD's, DVD's, Memory Sticks, Printer Cartridges, Extensive range of Printer Paper, Printer Cables, Printers, etc. all at competitive prices.
- **Full Colour Posters A4, A3, A2, A1**
- **Laminating** - from Business Card to A1 size

WEST STREET, AXMINSTER DEVON EX13 5NU **01297 32266**

## CHARMOUTH STORES

**Your Local Store for  
more than 175 years!**

**Open until 9pm every night**



# Nisa local

**The Street, Charmouth. Tel 01297 560304**



## Editorial

***What we think, or what we know,  
or what we believe, is, in the end,  
of little consequence. The only  
consequence is what we do.***

**John Ruskin**

Today is Father's Day and I have just been for tea with my beloved 90 year old father at Bymeard House, where he has resided, very happily, for the last four years. I cannot praise the home highly enough; the standard of care is excellent, the staff are always cheerful and the whole place is maintained extremely well, both inside and out. The cream teas and homemade cakes are absolutely delicious too! Bymeard is hosting several events this summer and always extends a warm welcome to villagers and visitors alike. See the What's On page for details.

In February we welcomed Neil Charleton onto the Shoreline team as Advertising Manager and Treasurer. Neil is originally from Northern Ireland and spent 38 years as a commercial pilot for British Airways before retiring 2 years ago. He and his lovely wife Lisa have lived in Dorset for 12 years, the last 6 in Charmouth. He can often be found at weekends behind the bar at the George.

Our spring feature on volunteering, where we highlighted throughout the magazine, those clubs and organisations that needed support, elicited a positive response, but much more help is still required by many of them. If you no longer have your paper copy then please go online at [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) for more details.

I have recently joined the Bridport and Charmouth Pop and Rock Choir, held at Charmouth Primary School every Monday evening. Edward Jacobs is a wonderful musical director and inspires us all. There are spaces for a few more people, especially tenors, so come and join us! See page 8 for more information.

Some upcoming events include the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run on Saturday 6th July, the Charmouth Fayre on Sunday 4th August and the Gardeners Show on Saturday 10th August.

Here's to a long, hot and glorious summer.

Jane

### THE SHORELINE TEAM

**Jane Morrow**  
Editor

**Lesley Dunlop**  
Assistant Editor, Features and Diary

**Neil Charleton**  
Advertising Manager and Treasurer

**John Kennedy**  
Design and Layout



[editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk)

**The Editor, Shoreline,  
The Moorings, Higher Sea Lane,  
Charmouth, DT6 6BD**

## News from The Elms

### Exciting Times Ahead for Charmouth Parish Council

**Charmouth Parish Council now has a full complement of councillors in place, following last week's election. There is a new chair, Jane Bremner, and the works manager has been in the post just short of three months.**

Jane Bremner said "I am very pleased to see a full council again – we can now get back to business. I believe we have a good mix of councillors from many different walks of life, some people who have been born and bred in the village, like myself, and others that have more recently discovered our lovely village. Between us we have an excellent range of experience and skills that we can bring to the council.

Paul Sayers started in the new post of works manager at the beginning of April and his contribution to the running of the council is now being appreciated. Paul has taken on many office tasks and is in the process of overhauling the health & safety, risk assessment and emergency procedure policies. His practical experience and ability has been put to good use around the village with many repairs and maintenance jobs now complete. Jane Bremner said "Paul and his team are now able to do many jobs in house without the need to employ outside contractors, in the long run this will save the council money"

Jane Bremner added "I am looking forward to the next two years working with my fellow councillors to implement more projects to further enhance the village. Good work has been done already this year, with the opening of the new cycle track in the playing fields, new beach huts on the green and the publication of the Charmouth Guide. There is a feeling of optimism for the future and I have no doubt that there is plenty of work to keep councillors and staff very busy"

## Charmouth Traders

We have been busy with one or two projects this year which have come to fruition.

### Charmouth Calendar

If you haven't heard yet Charmouth Traders have produced a stunning calendar for 2014 with all the images submitted by local photographers. The atmospheric photographs provide a wonderful record of the village as it is today reflecting the diverse activities in the community and the beauty of Charmouth and its surrounding landscape. For sale @ £5.99 in many local stores including Nisa and the Post Office, the calendar is hopefully just the first of many. The organisers were so impressed by the quality of photographs they would love to make it an annual event. Monies raised will go towards several projects in the village including new Christmas lights.

### Charmouth Puzzle Trail

A great thing to do for the whole family. Just follow the clues on the trail and at the same time have fun exploring the village. Complete the trail message and you could win a superb ammonite fossil which you can see on display in the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. It's just £1 for the trail (available in outlets throughout the village) and when you return the completed form to the Library, Post Office, Charmouth Stores or Morgans Newsagents you can collect a free Chupa Chups lolly for up to 2 children!

### Website

Please visit our website [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) if you would like to know more about the Charmouth area, have any event that you would like to promote or to learn more about shopping and holidaying in this friendly, traditional seaside village.

We are looking forward to a busy and prosperous summer for all our members.

**Ian Simpson**



## Charmouth Tae Kwon-Do



Students of the Charmouth tae kwon-do class are celebrating after every member of the class took part in the most recent colour belt grading and received a 100% pass rate. The grading took place in Honiton in front of grading examiner Master Michael Dew, 8th dan. Nathan Moorey and Maisie Bellworthy achieved superior standard "Plus" passes. Maisie is one of the longest serving members of the class. She and Carl Jordan, who both joined the class in 2011, now have only two more colour belt gradings ahead of them before they test for the coveted black belt.

The classes run on Wednesdays and Fridays at 4.30pm in the Community Hall on Lower Sea Lane under instructor Mr Waugh, who is a professional, full time, CRB checked and qualified black belt instructor with the Tae Kwon-Do Association of Great Britain (TAGB), which was formed in 1983 and now has over 600 schools across the UK. In addition to Charmouth, Mr Waugh also teaches at Axminster and Sidmouth and has a close working relationship with two other local instructors, Mr Sainsbury, who runs Colyton, and Miss Richards who, in addition to working as a teacher at Charmouth Primary School, also teaches tae kwon-do in Bridport. Collectively, their schools are marketed as Target TAGB Tae Kwon-Do and they have a joint website, [www.TargetTAGB.co.uk](http://www.TargetTAGB.co.uk).

The tae kwon-do classes had a significant increase in numbers in March 2012 when Mr Waugh, by arrangement with Miss Richards, put on a taster session in the Charmouth Primary School hall, spending the whole day putting on sessions for different groups. Several students enjoyed this so much that they joined the classes shortly afterwards and have continued working their way through the belts since. Mr Waugh hopes to repeat this exercise at some point in the future.

Full results for the Charmouth class:

*Promoted to 9th Kup (yellow stripe): Charlie Gee, Nathan Halkes-Wellstead*

*To 7th Kup (green stripe) – Nathan Moorey (Plus pass), Natasha Harvey and James Cormack*

*To 6th Kup (green belt) – Matthew Thomas, Jamie Thomas, Tilly Bellworthy, Luke Bearpark*

*To 3rd Kup (red stripe) – Maisie Bellworthy (Plus pass), Carl Jordan*

Anyone interested in taking up a free trial of tae kwon-do can call Mr Waugh on 01297 639830. Pictured: the Charmouth class with their new belts and certificates.

**Mr G Waugh**

## Kerbside Recycling Calendar 2013/14

The Parish Council is receiving a supply of the Dorset Waste Partnership's Kerbside Recycling Calendar. Please pick up your copy from the office at The Elms.



## Charmouth & Wootton Fitzpaine Conservatives

By the time you read this over 50 members and friends will have enjoyed a fabulous barbecue, under clear blue skies. That was the plan. The fallback was to go inside Helen and Bob Hughes' home and have just as much fun, whilst watching the rain fall down.

Our next event is also a gamble on the weather. We are having an afternoon of indulgence, cream teas followed by Pimms and music in the gardens of Neil Mattingly's home overlooking the sea. Detailed publicity and tickets will be available by the end of July. Rest assured it will be hugely enjoyable and microscopically political!

In October we will be holding a coffee morning in the Village Hall, with the addition of one or two stalls, to promote Charmouth Conservatives and allow smaller local charities to participate and fund raise for their own charities. The politics will remain very low key!

**Bob Hughes**

*Treasurer*

*email [roberthughes40@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthughes40@btinternet.com)*

## Friends of Charmouth Library

Grateful thanks to Charmouth Friendship Club who organised a coffee morning, plant, books and bric-a-brac sale which raised £351.70 towards our running costs. Not only was it a great effort in terms of the money raised, but it was a very sociable event too.

Our next event will be a Table Top Sale to be held in the Community Hall on August Bank Holiday Monday morning. We hope to have around 20 stalls selling craft, bric-a-brac, books, toys, etc. We have five stalls already, 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 give you the details. The cost per table will be £6. If there is a demand, we will have a children's section with youngsters selling off their unwanted goods. Their stalls will be half the adult price.

**Bob Hughes**

*Treasurer*

*email [roberthughes40@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthughes40@btinternet.com)*

# The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club, which meets in Charmouth Village Hall at 2.00 pm on most second Tuesdays of the month, started life many years ago as Wootton Fitzpaine & Monkton Wyld Women's Institute. It was founded by Olivia Pass and meetings were held at The Manor at Wootton Fitzpaine. Times changed and it was decided in 2001 to leave the WI and become the Friendship Club. Meetings were held in the Village Hall for many years, but members came from a wide area and found it increasingly difficult to get to Wootton. In 2009 we decided to meet in Charmouth.

We are a relaxed elderly group. We have a speaker most months and also an outing and a 'lunch out', a Christmas party and usually a meeting at a member's house. We don't meet in January when it's cold! A cup of tea and a chat are always of prime importance!

For more information please contact Mary Bull on 01297 560398.

## Charmouth Village People

We have a number of volunteers who provide a drop-in called the Village Breakfast, for food and company between September and Easter every Thursday morning in the Hollands Room, Bridge Road. It's a great atmosphere where you can chat over an espresso coffee and a freshly made waffle served with delicious toppings or, if you prefer, an English breakfast with meat supplied from the local butchers (no purchase is necessary so you can just drop in). We have interesting visitors and the local police call in to enjoy a coffee and chat with customers.

Once a month, on the first Tuesday all year round, also in the Hollands Room, we offer the Village Lunch, a two course cooked dinner with tea or coffee, followed by a film if you would like to stay. The cost is £6. We need to know if you are coming a week in advance please.

Following the success of the drop-in and lunch, we set up Memorable Memoirs as we found people enjoyed sharing memories at our groups. We are meeting twice a month currently at the Hollands Room and when the library extension is ready we're looking forward to meeting there.

It was suggested we might enjoy trips out, so we went to Cadbury Garden Centre, Congresbury, Somerset, and later to Ikea, Southampton. Having enjoyed these outings, we have been bold enough to organise a short four-night holiday in October to the Isle of Wight with 'Trip' of Honiton, the social transport provider. Some places are still available. All details are on the website, or call Jan or Wendy.

All this has been made possible by volunteers who want to add something to the community and we are always looking for more people to join our committee. A warm welcome awaits you whether you want to join one of our groups or if you feel able to help out in any way. All details are on our website: [www.charmouthvillagepeople.com](http://www.charmouthvillagepeople.com), or you can contact Jan Gale on 07897 511075 or Wendy Knee on 07968 846514.

email: [jan\\_gale@btinternet.com](mailto:jan_gale@btinternet.com) or [wendy@wendyknee.com](mailto:wendy@wendyknee.com).

## Charmouth Fayre News



### Party in the Park

We held our usual party on Whit Sunday and were blessed with beautiful weather, which I am sure the vicars who are in the band "Dogs Without Collars" organised to go with their musical talents! Round about 500 people plus children turned up to enjoy the barbeque, the bar facilities, the dance music and finally the fireworks. It was a fantastic evening, although I did hear that several people had delicate heads the next morning after drinking the delicious local scrumpy! The total receipts for the night were just over £3,600 and we have cleared just over £2,000 for Fayre funds.

### Church Floodlighting

The Fayre has recently paid for the cabling and installation to enable the church tower to be floodlit and have suggested ways in which the church could cover the costs of the electricity.

## Charmouth Fayre Sunday 4th August

Xtreme Falconry moved into the Marshwood area just over a year ago and we were delighted to book them for this year's Fayre. We will have our own local Town Crier who will lead the parade around the village. There will be all the usual stalls plus donkey rides and there is some talk at this time of having "chicken racing" – no jokes please. I'd better have a word with the falconer about his birds!! I think after the hectic day's events it will be nice to relax at the BBQ in the evening to a very appropriate band called "Stress"

Peter Noel

## 30th Anniversary Charmouth Challenge Fun Run and Summer Fair 2013 Saturday 6th July

SEE PAGE 31



### David Craner

- Town Crier • Toastmaster
- Tudor Bellman
- Balloon Twister

Tel 01297 560840 Mobile 07875 925965  
e-mail [davidcraner@btinternet.com](mailto:davidcraner@btinternet.com)  
[www.towncrier-davidcraner.co.uk](http://www.towncrier-davidcraner.co.uk)



## 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 Twinning Association

**O**n May 23rd Charmouth Twinners set off to Asnelles sur Mer for their annual get together. We were met and greeted at the village hall; this took some time as there was much hand shaking, back thumping and kissing (x3 per person!). After a formal welcome by the Mayor and President of Asnelles sur Mer Twinning Association, members joined up with their French hosts and settled in. There was an opportunity to catch up on news and start getting attuned to the lingo. By the evening when most members were involved in a group dinner of varying sizes, the vino started having effect on the lingo and much "franglais" was spoken! On the Friday diverse plans were followed. Some went on an historic tour of the neighbourhood, others were taken to Caen for sightseeing or an exhibition of the Impressionists. Everyone was treated to a splendid lunch.

That night was the "Grand Fete". A great evening with a sumptuous buffet and dancing to a live band. Our own Richard Ferreday bravely played his number "When the Saints Go Marching in" on the trumpet and conducted himself brilliantly in the expert company of sax and accordion player. The French always show us up when it comes to the dancing, but we all enjoyed a good shuffle, except the Bettes who can dance properly!

On the Saturday we had a group outing to Bayeux. We enjoyed a tour of the town and cathedral with a good English speaking guide, but some of us had to slip off for a warming coffee, the wind was certainly whipping round the streets. Lunch was another sumptuous affair in a chateau and afterwards we visited a farm. The concept of the cute little veal calves was slightly non-PC but the ice cream that was also made there was delicious! Finally, we were treated to an in-depth visit of an ancient Manoir being painstakingly restored by its enthusiastic owner who gave us an entertaining, if lengthy tour. The ending was magical as we sat in the courtyard; bathed in sunshine at last; and drank an aperitif Just when you think you've had it,

another evening is arranged, again in different groups. More food, more wine and more fun, but by this time we're feeling quite hardened to it all, and the "entente" is becoming very 'cordiale'.

Sunday morning gave us a final opportunity to explore the area further, whether in the markets or the D Day landing beaches, followed by a final meal.

It was with sadness that we bade our farewells, more hand shaking, back thumping and kissing(x3). Also the awareness of a great debt of gratitude to be paid next year. As we sank back in our seats on the coach with a contented glow we all thought "How can we match that?"

*Charmouth Twinning Association sends members to Asnelles Sur Mer every other year. In the intervening years we welcome their members here. The Association runs fund raising events through out the year to raise money to pay for the visit. The next major fundraising event is a BBQ on Bastille Day, 14th July. Anyone interested in coming to meet us or finding more out about the Twinning please contact Peter Bonner Secretary 01297 560251 or*

**Liz Scott, Chairman 01297 561662.**



## Notes from a Ferry

**I'm currently studying Classical Studies and French through the Open University. Some time ago my father (Geoff Poulton) asked me if I would like to go on the Charmouth/Asnelles Twinning weekend to practise my speaking skills. I thought "Why not?" Then it dawned on me a couple of weeks ago that actually I would probably be the youngest by far! I wasn't wrong. Did it bother me? At first yes, but by the end I was really sad to leave some lovely people and especially my host (who was twice my age!). What an amazing lady. She treated me like royalty.**

Getting on the coach in Charmouth at ten to six in the morning, I thought "What am I doing here" and the other 'twinners' may have thought "What's she doing here!" Sitting quietly on the coach, I thought "I'll try it once and won't come back". So, we docked in Cherbourg after a very calm crossing and drove to the French village of Asnelles-sur-Mer, Charmouth's 'twin' to meet our French friends. When we met them I realised I was most definitely the youngest person there – by far!" Very daunting when you can't really converse. But I needn't have worried. We were made to feel so welcome. Our host drove us to her house just by the sea. Her hospitality was second to none and her house spotless but very homely. I didn't know what to expect from the long weekend, but it was just packed out and so well organised. We visited Bayeux, had a guided tour by a Lord of his manor and ate glorious food. We visited museums and were welcomed with open arms into people's houses for more glorious food. A humbling experience but writing this on the return ferry, I feel exhausted! I'm now thinking

what was I worried about? Why don't more 'young' people want to do this? Can my generation keep this tradition of 'swapping countries' going? I would like to think so. J'espère.

So if you like culture, there is plenty. If you like good food and wine there is certainly plenty of that! And does it really matter what age you are? Absolutely not. I've come away feeling I haven't seen the last of Asnelles-sur-Mer and its lovely residents. I look forward to welcoming them to Charmouth next year. And maybe, just maybe I'll drop by Asnelles soon with my daughter and introduce her generation to my friends. Oh, and the purpose of the visit? To learn to speak French. Did I manage it? Oui!

**Catherine Lancaster**



**Geoff Poulton and daughter Catherine Lancaster with French host (centre)**

## Volunteering for the Pavey Group

In recent years the Pavey Group, the Charmouth Local Historical Society, has had an active committee who have enabled the society to carry out a busy programme. Due to a combination of circumstances, committee numbers have dwindled during the last year and we now find ourselves unable to guarantee that we will be able to function properly after this summer. We don't have enough committee members and "foot soldiers" - people to help set up meetings, make tea etc. We may also need to fill one or two important officer positions, publicity, planning and so on.

Many of you will have come to our talks, and members receive their copies of The Village Echo. The society though has another important purpose: to act as guardian of Charmouth's records, photographs and many unique artefacts.

We know that we have a vibrant, talented local population: we need help from some of you, drawing on your creative energy and enthusiasm to preserve and record Charmouth's history and provide a forum for talks from the best local speakers.

If you would like to know more, please come and visit us at The Pavey Room in The Elms on a Tuesday morning (9.30 to 10.30 am), leave a message on 01297 561270, or email the secretary@thepaveygroup.co.uk

If visiting the Pavey Room, it's a good idea to telephone first.

**Russell Telfer**, *Hon Secretary*

## Bowls Club Threatened by Falling Membership

Members relocating away from Charmouth, members with more demanding business and work commitments, together with the inevitable retirement from the club of some of its older members has resulted in overall membership being at its lowest level since the Club was formed over 30 years ago.

The Club Captain and last of the original founder members, Ivan Marks, says "We are making every effort to increase our membership numbers but are still losing more than we gain. Charmouth has a high level of retirees and Bowls can offer a great form of regular exercise and relaxation. In the last two years we have invested very considerably in our green and will be delighted if more local people will come and support our excellent local facility."

The Bowls Club is a non-league club whose activities are mainly in-club "roll-ups" together with occasional Friendly matches against other local clubs. For anyone wishing to give bowls a try the Club can provide the bowls and offer the first few days free of charge. The season runs from April through September with a fee for the season of £35. Anyone joining for the rest of this season will be offered a discounted membership.

If you are able to support this very worthwhile and enjoyable activity, then come along to any bowls day. We play every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 2.00pm at the Bowling Green, The Recreation Grounds, Barr's Lane. Any questions? Give our Hon. Sec. Jackie a call on 01297 560295.

**Jim Greenhalgh**, *Chairman*

## 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.

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.



## 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](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

**David Sarson**  
*Lifeline of Friendship*



## BRIDPORT & CHARMOUTH POP AND ROCK CHOIR

### ENJOY SINGING?

Would you like to be in an exciting new choir?

Please join us on Monday evenings at  
Charmouth School

from 6 - 8 pm

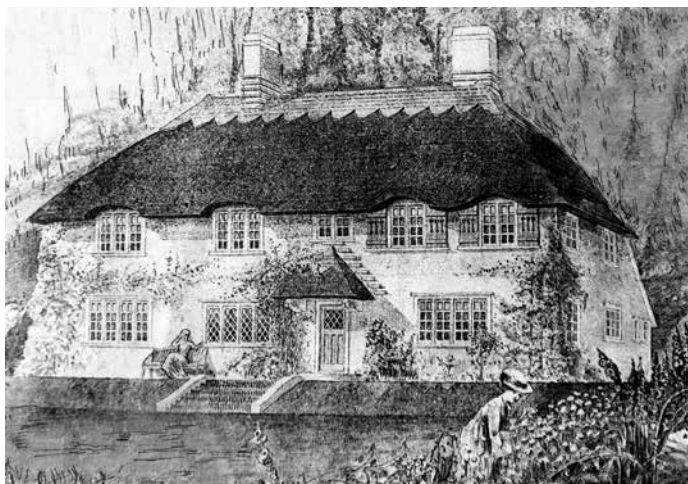
Musical director: Edward Jacobs

For more info

e-mail: [edjacobs143@gmail.com](mailto:edjacobs143@gmail.com)

Tel: 01297 552935 (leave a message)

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



Does anyone know where this house is in Charmouth or the surrounding area today?

The illustration appeared in the 16 March 1907 issue of The Builder and was accompanied by a short article on the house with floor plans of the rooms. It is interesting in that it allowed for servants' offices, garage and studio in the outbuildings. On the ground floor a large billiard room was shown with a parlour, sitting room and small kitchen. Whilst on the first floor there were four bedrooms sharing a small bathroom. Here is the article:

"A cottage is being erected at Charmouth. Old red bricks are being used for the outer walls and the exterior is lime rough cast. The main roof is thatched and the back covered with pantiles. Oak boards are used for various floors, the fireplaces back-covered with pantiles. Oak boards are used for various floors, the fireplaces have generally raised hearths in brick and surrounded by a simple wood treatment – in cases to be replaced by oak margins carved by the wife of the client. The site, consisting of some acres, is rather an ideal one, on which good drinking water was discovered by the aid of a diviner. The builder is Mr. William Caddy of Lyme Regis. The contract is £971, exclusive of outbuildings and road making. Mr. W.F. Harber is the architect.

Neil Mattingly (07961 4513790)

## Charmouth's Websites

**How well is Charmouth served by its websites? That was the question I recently asked myself. In the process of finding out, I learned which ones were really useful, and which ones were (as far as Charmouth were concerned) a waste of space.**



The Charmouth Portal

There was one simple way to start. Ask Google what hits we would get to the key: Charmouth

Out of 800,000 responses I chose the top 20. Google's criteria for giving results are based on links from other websites, use of the website and placement of keywords by the web writers. But I quickly saw that Google's

"relevance" did not match up with real world relevance. You might not agree, so try it for yourself perhaps.

So, the top twenty:

The leading, and 1st placed, website is the Charmouth Portal which hovers between a public service website and a commercial one. It is managed by Charmouth Traders. It is wide-ranging, attractive and useful. It accommodates the Shoreline website within.



Charmouth History

In 13th place on the day of the research was [charmouthhistory.com](http://charmouthhistory.com), a branch of Neil Mattingly's [freshford.com](http://freshford.com), a website with an astonishing repertoire of Charmouth history. (I need to disclose that I have partnered Neil on some recent projects.)

These two sites are by far the best websites as of now. Bear in mind that websites are frequently rewritten and have been known to disappear off the face of the earth.

Next I must mention Charmouth Council's website (4th place) which is also very professional, tightly tailored to its purpose but with few outside links – which might make it a more useful site.

A rising star is the website for Charmouth Central, the Charmouth Community Library. Currently there are many initiatives to improve the quality of life in the village. So watch this one.

In the top twenty hits are a number of websites specific to local activities: Charmouth School, Charmouth Cherubs, the Tennis Club, the Charmouth Challenge website. All of these are tailored to their interest group and provide relevant information about their services.

Some other useful Charmouth websites don't appear at the top of the list. Just as Neil's Charmouth History comes 13th because its parent name is [Freshford.com](http://Freshford.com), the Pavey Group (Charmouth Local History Society)'s website does not bear the name Charmouth in its title and so comes lower down the list. For historical research, use this as well as Neil's website.

Although many of the commercial websites are local, worthwhile and respectable, some aren't really about Charmouth at all and some haven't been updated in years. Let's leave the no-hopers for another time!

Summing up, if you want to know what is going on in Charmouth, the place to look is the Charmouth Portal. All of the websites mentioned above are worth exploring if your interests coincide with theirs.

**Russell Telfer**



## Letters

Dear Shoreline,

Many thanks for Julie Leah's article on Aloe Vera in the Winter 2013 issue. We are just back from Fuerteventura in the Canary Isles where it is found growing in abundance. The gel cured my badly sunburned nose in under 3 days. It is worth its weight in gold!

Arthur Marrow

Dear Shoreline,

Please find enclosed our cheque for the next 4 copies of the magazine. It is a fantastic asset to the village, so professionally done and we're always excited to see what's in each new edition. THANK YOU and many congratulations to all involved.

Best wishes,  
Simon and Olivia Eliot



You can read this  
but do you know  
someone who  
can't?

Just imagine if you couldn't learn to drive, shop, text your friends, read letters, look at a recipe, read a menu or choose your TV programmes, what would daily life be like?

### This is where Read Easy can help.

Read Easy is a community-based adult literacy scheme, launched in Dorset in 2010. It was set up to meet the needs of adults who can't read, or who have very low reading skills, by providing them with FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, ONE-TO-ONE tuition from trained volunteers. Our reading pairs meet twice a week at an approved venue around the town – somewhere convenient for both of them – where they have privacy to work without being overlooked, but where there is always someone else on the premises. Luckily we have a variety of such venues in Bridport, Beaminster and Axminster, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and organisations.

Our readers are amazed at how quickly they make progress – and their confidence soon grows!

Jamie describes his experience as "Brilliant! It has given me more confidence to go to a restaurant and choose my food or go into Facebook and reply to my friends. I would recommend it to anyone who needs help with reading"

25 local people have already benefited from Read Easy so if you know someone who needs help why not tell them about it, or....

if you would like to teach someone else (no experience needed).... we'd love to hear from you.

**Contact Vee on 0844 472 2980 or 07849 620113 for a friendly chat and information or email: [vee@readeasy.org.uk](mailto:vee@readeasy.org.uk)**

## Our Story



John and I have always thought our meeting and eventual marriage was akin to a fairy story. It all started in 1957 when we met at RAF Tangmere for the Battle of Britain commemoration. That summer I had come over to England as part of a European tour and decided to stay with my sister Margaret and her RAF husband Tony, a school friend of John's, who had met and married in Canada in 1956. John was home on leave from Malta. We spent a week together riding around Sussex on his Norton motorcycle. When we said goodbye John said maybe we shall meet again in Canada, or if you come back to England. At Christmas he returned home to Enfield, and Margaret, Tony and I met up with Tony's parents and John's parents for the festive season. Little did I know that I was meeting my future in-laws.

I returned to Canada in March 1958. John and I wrote back and forth, not too often, for four and half years. In the winter of 1962 he was stationed at RAF Upavon and was later successful in gaining a place on a Flight Engineer course. I came back over to England during the summer of 1962 to visit Margaret and Tony again, and to see John in order to find out if 'this was it' or was it a 'dear John' letter!

Well it wasn't!! We became engaged, and I returned to Canada to plan our wedding. With John's father not in good health, we chose to get married in England. It was sad that my wider family wouldn't be able to be with us, but my Mother and I had the most wonderful and memorable trip over on the old "Queen Mary", arriving in time for our banns to be read. My father was an Anglican minister who was able to marry us in a lovely little church in Cranborne, Berkshire on Saturday May 4th 1963.

The early days of our marriage saw us moving from place to place as John continued on his Flight Engineer's course (training in Hastings). Whilst in Bath, our first child Julie was born in 1964. John was then stationed in Colerne and we were there until September 1965, when he was posted to Singapore where our son Steven was born in Changi hospital in November of that year.

We returned to England in January 1967, and John was stationed at Lindholme, Yorkshire. While at Lindholme, John was accepted by BOAC as a Flight Engineer. He started on a conversion course on to VC10s in July 1968 and was checked out 'to be let loose on the general public' one year later. We had got on the property ladder in March of that year, but it took us nearly a year to sell the house and move south to Amptill in Bedfordshire, where we lived for 15 years.

In 1974 British Airways was formed and during the winter of '74/75 John converted on to Boeing 747's (on which he remained until his retirement in 1991). October 1983 found us taking Julie to Bath University to begin a 4 year course in Horticulture, and we decided at the same time to check out the West Country with a view of coming to live here. And so we found Charmouth!! We moved into "The Blevins" on April 6th 1984. John continued to fly on trips from here until February 1991.

We have loved Charmouth and the people. At the end of this April, we were given a chance to return to Malta for a RAF reunion with our close friends whom we had been stationed with in Singapore. It certainly was a trip down memory lane for John as he returned to his old RAF station and actually saw his old Nissan hut and the camp. We have come full circle to where it started; John coming from Malta in 1957 to May 4th this year when we celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary. 50 years together - we can hardly believe it! We have been happily married all these years, and we thank God for putting us together.

Pauline and John Berridge

# The White House

**B**ack in 1999 en route from Swanage to a holiday in Cornwall, Liz and I pulled off the A35 and made an unscheduled stop in Charmouth. We spent a short time down on the beach and looked around the village; I clearly remember thinking that this was the kind of village I would love to live in. Never having been here before, we were really taken by Charmouth, but had little inkling that very soon we would actually be living here.

Move forward a couple of years and we were looking to purchase a hotel business. We were a little excited when amongst many others, we received the details for The White House on our doormat from an estate agent. We had been living in Langton Matravers in the Purbecks and were very keen to stay in Dorset, so this looked just perfect. We came and viewed the hotel and within a couple of days had made an offer, which much to our surprise and delight was quickly accepted (those with longer memories may remember

that our predecessors needed to move on fairly quickly for a couple of burning reasons).

So in April 2001 we took over the reins and set about trying to modernise the business, which was then very much stuck in a 1980's timewarp: thick pile carpets, flowery wallpaper, avocado bath suites, dribbly handheld showers anyone? We knew that if we were to make a success of it, there had to be significant changes to the decor and facilities to bring the place up to scratch.



Within a couple of years we had managed to change all the bathrooms, carpets, furniture etc and had redecorated the whole place inside and out to bring it up to the standard that we felt the discerning traveller

was demanding at that time. We could not make some of our bedrooms as big as we would have liked, especially as bathrooms had been added into the corners of some rooms, but we made them as comfortable and as well - appointed

**BYMEAD HOUSE**  
NURSING & RESIDENTIAL HOME



Axminster Road, Charmouth. Dorset DT6 6BS  
Proprietor: Susan Blacklock RGN NDN RHV  
Manager: Elizabeth Wilson RGN

'Living in Harmony'

Family run dual registered Nursing & Residential Home providing:

- 24 hour Registered Nurse cover offering flexibility of care.
- Full time qualified Activities Organiser providing individually tailored programmes.
- All single rooms, most en-suite with telephone
- Home cooked nutritious food with locally sourced produce.

Recently awarded 5 Stars for Food Safety & Hygiene by West Dorset District Council

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

**THE WHITE HOUSE**



Award-Winning Hotel and Restaurant

Four Luxury Suites, family friendly

[www.whitehousehotel.com](http://www.whitehousehotel.com)

01297 560411

[@charmouthotel](https://twitter.com/charmouthotel)



**THE GEORGE - CHARMOUTH**

FREE HOUSE

A TRADITIONAL COUNTRY PUB

Food Served Daily

Sunday Carvery

Selection of Real Ales

Large Beer Garden With Play Area And

Pets Corner

Dogs On Leads Welcome

Skittle Alley Available For Private Hire

**TEL: 01297 560280**



**Please support  
Shoreline's Advertisers**

**FOR ALL YOUR  
CARAVAN & CAMPING NEEDS**

Caravan Spares @ Dorset Leisure Centre,  
Charmouth, DT6 6QZ.

Tel 01297560473

e-mail [sean@dorsetleisure.co.uk](mailto:sean@dorsetleisure.co.uk)



as we could. We seemed to have made the right decisions because in the next few years the business went from strength to strength and we settled happily into the community.

But times inexorably moved on and standards in the hotel trade as well as the demands of the modern traveller had changed enormously in the following years. Thirty years ago shared bathrooms were generally acceptable and most people were happy to wander down a corridor in a dressing gown, clutching a toothbrush and a bottle of shampoo. Nowadays it's almost impossible to let a room that is not fully ensuite. Not only that, minimum standards nowadays are more likely to include free Wi Fi connectivity, digital TVs, bigger rooms, bigger beds, power showers..... the list goes on.

So during the winter of 2012 Liz and I decided that we had to once again make a significant investment in the hotel and we completely refurbished our bedrooms. By removing the old ensuite bathrooms and re-opening the old interconnecting doors between the rooms we turned our six rooms into four large suites. This in a stroke solved the one less than positive issue that cropped up occasionally, which was that one or two of the rooms were not as big as our customers would have liked.

Since we reopened in March, it has all worked extremely well. We have had nothing but positive feedback from our customers, both new and returning, who have stayed with us since the refurbishment. One of our suites can also be converted to a family room, something that we could not previously offer, so we can now accommodate up to ten people very comfortably.

Maybe in ten years time, if I am still around, we will have to make a few more changes to reflect the demands of the day, such as teleport docks or somewhere to park a hovercar (hopefully not in next door's garden as happened to a somewhat unfortunate Korean couple this week) but maybe I will have retired and be living on the moon by then. Whatever happens we know that we are fortunate to be the custodians of one of the most beautiful buildings in Charmouth and that we are privileged to have lived here for a time. We are determined to hand it on to whoever takes it over from us, either as a business or a private house, in pristine condition, well looked after and well loved.

Ian and Liz

## Nick Shannon

### Custom Design Cabinet Making & Restorations

BEFFERLANDS FARM WORKSHOPS,  
BERNE LANE,  
CHARMOUTH  
Tel 01297 560121 njshan5@gmail.com



## Charmouth Property Management

*Covering West Dorset, East Devon and South Somerset*

For more information, visit our website  
**www.cpman.co.uk**

*From security check and maintenance to renovating-we organise everything.*

Tel: Catherine Marchbank 01297 561637 mob: 07775 666612

Email: contact@cpman.co.uk

## Shoreline Takes a Trip Across the USA

Being a regular visitor to Charmouth, I have always enjoyed reading all of the news, events and stories published in Shoreline. The feature that I always find to be intriguing is the one where readers send in photographs of their holiday guides and other people from around the world, taking a look at Shoreline. I could not resist contributing to this during my recent holiday across the USA.

Starting in San Francisco, Matthew Eng (US Park Ranger) posed for a photograph during my visit to Alcatraz, which was a fascinating insight into the once infamous island prison just off the shore in San Francisco bay. San Francisco is the most vibrant of cities and one of the best I visited during my holiday.



My journey then took me by the Amtrak train service via Chicago and then on to New Orleans (I have dubbed the French Quarter of New Orleans an all day and every day party) A super experience! Here I joined an escorted tour 'America's Music Cities' operated by Collette Worldwide Holidays. The tour taking and showing me N'awlins (local pronunciation), Memphis and Nashville. The coach tour turned out to be the top highlight of my holiday. Collette had put together an itinerary of one fascinating sight after another. All presented to us in the most professional of ways by tour manager Polly McDonald. She kept us not only informed, but amused with funny anecdotes and even a song or two. The tour coach was comfortably driven with great consideration by the driver, Kirk Bennett. Polly and Kirk also took a look at Shoreline and whilst in Memphis I just had to let Elvis have a look too!



The last days of my holiday were spent on the Florida coast. There I took a day trip to the Kennedy Space Centre. I opted for the 'Lunch with an astronaut experience' hosted by Astronaut Bruce Melnick - 1st mission STS-41,1990. Shuttle Discovery, placing in orbit the ESA-built Ulysses spacecraft to explore polar regions of the sun. The mission also carried out experiments of plant growth for future long-term space flights. His 2nd mission STS-49, 1992, was the maiden flight of Space Shuttle Endeavour. The main task of its nine-day flight was to retrieve a satellite (Intelsat VI F-3 satellite, which had failed to leave low earth orbit two years before.) He gave us first-hand descriptions of the launch, life aboard the shuttles and their re-entry. He also told us about how food for space flights had evolved over the decades and interestingly, how some foods tasted differently in space compared to their taste on earth. As soon as I had explained about Shoreline and the Charmouth Jurassic Coast, there was no hesitation on his part to pose for the magazine.

My thanks to you all and a special thank you to Sharon Bourgucci for helping me to compile this.

**Michael Johnson.**

## News from St. Andrew's Church



I wrote in the last issue of *Shoreline* that we have been considering beginning an occasional **EXCHANGE Café** in St. Andrew's Church, freely open to the whole community. The little working party has now agreed with our Church Council to hold these on Saturday mornings, 10am until noon.

**The date for our first Café is Saturday 7th September.** So please come along and join us for as long or short a period as you like! If the weather is nice then we'll hold it outside in the churchyard!

What are we offering? Freshly brewed coffee, tea, squash and pastries. We will not be charging for these good quality refreshments, but of course you would be most welcome to make a donation towards costs! We do not see this as a fund raising venture for the church – indeed if we do make a profit then we will be giving it to a local charity!

There will be other things to do – for all ages!

1st: A **'freecycle stall'** where you can bring along any items that you no longer have a use for, or maybe products from your garden! You will receive a voucher in exchange that you can then use to get something that you would like from the stall. It should be a 'win win' situation for everyone!

2nd: We will also provide some **large scale games** that you could play. We hope these will include Draughts, Ludo, Chess! And in the back area of Church we will have a Children's Corner, with activities appropriate for younger ones.

3rd: We will provide areas to sit and talk with existing friends, or maybe make some new ones! There will be a few **Saturday Papers** for you to quietly read with your coffee, if that is your preference. We promise that no one will 'hassle' you if you simply want a quiet space to relax!

This new Exchange Café will need quite a few people to help us. So if you feel like lending us a hand, please get in touch with me, the Rector, in the first instance, on 01297 443763.

You will remember that St. Andrew's is undertaking a partial reordering of its interior, to make it more usable during the week. Our plans for removing all the side pews, new areas for publicity, exhibitions, children's activities and music, a new disabled toilet and improved kitchen server, have passed the first stage of approval by the Diocese of Salisbury. Everyone seems to be in favour, so our next step will be to obtain final Faculty approval, obtain tenders for the work, and all being well, get contractors working by the mid to late summer.

This work, when completed, will greatly facilitate projects such as our Exchange Café, by giving us a much more adaptable space, and upgraded facilities. It will cost us around £50,000 in total, so we will of course be delighted to receive contributions towards the cost! Our Treasurer, Audrey Worth, can be contacted on 01297 560194.

We will be holding our annual series of **Summer Songs of Praise**, in collaboration with the United Reformed Church. An opportunity to suggest and sing your favourite Christian hymns and songs, hear nice poetry, and pray for our world and village. The dates are as follows:

21st July: 6.30pm at United Reformed Church

28th July: 6.30pm at St. Andrew's Church

**4th August: 5.15pm at the Village Fete in the Barrs Lane Field, with "Brass Tacks" Band**

11th August: 6.30pm at United Reformed Church

18th August: 6.30pm at St. Andrew's Church

25th August: 6.30pm with a hot Supper at United Reformed Church.

Finally, please come and enjoy our other special events:

**Saturday 20th July: 7.30pm "Wessex Swing Band" in the Church. Tickets: David & Julie Renfrew (see What's On column).**

24th August : 10am Cake, Produce & Bric a Brac Stalls outside Anne Follett's house, Lower Sea Lane.

14th September: 10am 'Ride & Stride' Coffee Morning in St. Andrew's Church.

**Revd Stephen Skinner**, Team Rector of the Golden Cap.

### The Court - Charmouth

SMALL BUSINESS OFFICES  
TO LET

Tel: 01297 560033  
[www.thecourtcharmouth.co.uk](http://www.thecourtcharmouth.co.uk)



**Marshall Noel**  
your local Accountants for:

Tax Returns, Accounts, Vat Returns,  
Book-keeping, Wages

And general practical help on all  
accountancy matters

Contact Peter Noel on 01297 560078  
e-mail: [peter@marshall-noel.co.uk](mailto:peter@marshall-noel.co.uk)

or call in at the Court, The Street, Charmouth, DT6 6PE



# 1st Charmouth Scouts

## Felicity's gets Scout Group's allotment off to a flying start

**Felicity's Farm Shop has helped 1st Charmouth Cubs and Scouts get their newly acquired allotment off to a flying start by donating a variety of vegetables, fruit bushes and seed potatoes.**

Space at the allotment off the A35 in Charmouth was kindly provided by a neighbour of the Scout Troop's Assistant Leaders, David and Carol Moorey. Tony Horton said, "Looking after all my allocated space was getting too much, so I was happy to let the Scout Group take over half of it."

On a rainy Tuesday in half term, Cubs and Scouts turned over the soil and prepared it for planting. Two days later, armed with

their donations from Felicity's, they set about planting. Things are already starting to flourish.

On handing over the plants, Felicity Summers, owner of the Farm Shop in Morecombelake, said, "We were delighted to be able to support this project as we are keen for young people to become interested in the food they eat."



According to Carol Moorey, "This project will allow the Cubs and Scouts to gain their Smallholder Badge, and we hope to be able to present the fruits of their labours to the local church for their Harvest Festival. If we get a bumper crop, we may even sell some of the produce back to Felicity's and raise more money towards the on-going refurbishment of our HQ".

**Kevin Payne**  
*payne.kevin6@gmail.com*  
01308 459080

## Cubs & Scouts take Pole Position in The Street

**Visitors to Charmouth had a surprise in store for them on Easter Saturday. Standing outside the Post Office were six brightly decorated totem poles. Three had been made by 1st Charmouth Cubs and three by the Scouts.**

Passers-by were asked to vote for the best pole – ably assisted and cajoled in their selection by some of the makers themselves. The competition was very tight, but when the votes were counted it was the pole made by Red Six that came first for the Cubs and the one created by Cobra Patrol for the Scouts.

Commenting on the blaze of colour, Ed Pemberton, Assistant Scout Leader, said, "I was amazed how the Cubs and Scouts turned carpet roll centres, coke bottles, egg cartons and toilet roll inners into such stunning designs in the space of just two weekly meetings".

The Scout Group also ran a cake stall and made over £235 for the ongoing refurbishment of its dilapidated HQ.

**Kevin Payne**  
*payne.kevin6@gmail.com*  
01308 459080



## Vote now and help Charmouth Cubs and Scouts

**Bridport Tyre Specialists has nominated the 1st Charmouth Scout Group as one of the local charities to benefit from the Kumho Tyres 'Cash for Causes' initiative.**

This represents a great opportunity for the Scout Group to secure funds for the ongoing refurbishment of its dilapidated HQ and the provision of challenging outdoor activities for its Cubs and Scouts.

All readers have to do to help the Scout Group win funds is to vote for them. This can be done simply by searching online for 'Kumho Cash for Causes' and typing in the postcode of the Scout Hut (DT66PS) then selecting Bridport Tyre Specialists and voting for Charmouth Cubs & Scouts.

According to Kevin Payne, Scouter-in-Charge at 1st Charmouth,

"We are delighted that David Hawkins, the Manager at Bridport Tyre Specialists, agreed to make us one of his two nominees for the Kumho fund. When I showed him some pictures of our HQ he could immediately see that why we needed his support. However, he was also impressed by the fact that the Scout Group had trebled its membership over the past two years by offering its Cubs and Scouts a really exciting programme of activities."

In terms of how much the Scout Group might receive, Kevin added, "Basically, the more votes we get, the more money we stand to gain from the Kumho fund. So I ask everyone to vote for us and to get their family and friends to do the same."

"Finally, if anyone needs new tyres, please give David a call on (01308 421737) and mention that the 1st Charmouth Scout Group recommended him!"



# The Memoirs of a Fossil Hunter

## Part 4 - Gold Rush

**The whole of Stonebarrow is 'off'; all sand and shingle has disappeared and all we can see is black wet shining marl from the top of the beach to the water's edge. In the gathering dusk we look along and the beach seems bare as far as we can see. As complete beginners new to the area we assume this is the norm, so we plan to go fossil hunting the next day as the tide begins to go out. Little do we know that the beach being 'off' is a rare event so, when we arrive we cross the bridge and look around the corner by the Portacabin and are surprised to find a small queue has formed.**

It's a windy day and waves are swooping up the beach smacking into the porridge and cliffs and dragging back down again showing the revealed beach marls. No one is talking; just watching the waves roaring up and down the beach area. A couple whisper together and, with an encouraging word, they nudge each other and begin to move forward only to be driven back by another wave surge. We realise that this is a tense moment, as it is clear that everyone is eager to get out there but timing is essential - too soon before the tide falls and a wetting or a slip and bruising might be the result and so we mill around, impatiently waiting but sensibly not taking risks.

Who and what are these people?

They are clearly not fossil kings as they don't have the right gear or that seriously 'distant' appearance. These are the 'pyrite pickers' who know, that with the marls being exposed, pyrite fossils abound. 'Fool's gold' ammonites are just waiting to be picked up. We notice an elderly gentleman, garbed in regulation pickers' clothing of light waterproof over-trousers and green plastic wellies. (It seems, that plastics are better than expensive rubber ones as they grip better on these surfaces) He seems to be anxious and jittery, ever edging forward and watching the sea intently. He is the 'nautilus man'; the regular 'pyrite picker' in those days. 'He's off', I exclaim and sure enough he has picked his moment, perhaps he has been counting the waves - approximately 7 big ones, followed by 7 small ones.

Whoa! I cry as this naughty 'nautilus man' gallops off, his goal being to get around the first wet porridge beach slide to the safe little bay beyond. 'Whoops' he's down, no not quite, he's up again scabbling on all fours like Bambi on ice and with green wellies flying in all directions he slips and slides into the safe bay. A murmur erupts amongst us: 'No way' 'Blow that,' 'Not worth it' etc... Almost patiently we await the tide's fall and start forward and there they are, dozens of 'bright pyrite gold ammonites' loose on the black beach marl. Soon we have at least 10 each; it's like picking up bright gold stars as they gleam wetly up at us. Most are perfect. Promis (Promicroceras), some having just a little patch of 'sticky' black marl trapped in their centres. These we will pop out later revealing golden centres during the fresh water washing and cleaning process.

It dawns upon us that these freshly knocked out ammonites have never been seen by human beings for they are nearly 200 million years old. On picking one up we are the first ever to handle it. What a strange and sobering thought. We busily move on gathering our little treasures and eventually, well up

the beach area, we pass the hazardous 'nautilus man' on his way back, fortunately unscathed. He has deliberately passed over the promise to get to the Oxy (Oxynoticeras) area, well up the beach to where the Black Marls enter the beach just before the tall ominous cliffs of pale grey Belemnite Marls begin. He is mistaken in thinking his precious prizes are nautilus family; in fact they are lovely flat ammonites in pyrite with crisp keels and pretty sutures. He craves them and apparently has a large collection of these little beauties. Of course it's irrational, but we are rather envious. We want what we have not! Yet we are adults and already we have by now at least 50 promises between us.

We have become bitten by gold fever! We know we are being silly but we feel the urge for more ammonites in 'fools gold, gold, GOLD!! It's no good, we are hooked on these lovely little fossils. Gripped now with this strange fever we search more intently than ever, backs bent to see better, stirring little piles of pyrite 'pebbles' to reveal more ammonites. 'Oh no' other hunters are nearing 'MY' patch I must find the wee beasties before they do. 'Ooh' I exclaim involuntarily as I espy an ammonite of a better class entirely, big and brassy and I grasp it as a wave retreats. It's spectacular; it's 2½ inches in diameter! It's an Echi (Echioceras); what a beauty! Suddenly my partner points and picks up an even bigger ammonite. She holds the heavy

creature in her hand; it's at least 3 inches across and fat with a lovely bronze colour and stubby spines surrounding its whorls. This is the stable pyrite, calcite filled EO (Eoderoceras). A fine specimen.

The tide is returning and so we reluctantly retreat. We find less on the way back as the 'pyrite pickers' have gleaned all the fossils. I suppose we are now 'pickers' too! Later we count up and have over a hundred small ammonites each plus the two big goldies.

The next day we keenly scamper across the footbridge turn the corner and ... 'Oh no!' The word is out; dozens of gold hunters are milling around, no doubt thinking the same desirous thoughts as us. Anxiously we look around. Is he here? There he is, right up the front - the 'nautilus man' is edging up ahead and before long he's away again. When safe we all follow along but somehow we begin to want, no, crave an Oxynoticeras. The next, next day Over the bridge we go and find even more 'pyrite pickers' have got the gold rush news - it's now a crowd! We look around 'Oh my' I exclaim "He's not here!" Quickly we whisper our cunning plans: 'Leave the small pyrites; we'll get up to the Oxy area first' (The pursuit of fossiling technique is to plan to defeat the competition). So we studiously avoid looking at the little gold stars twinkling, as we are determined to play the percentages and with great self-discipline we keep moving past everyone! At last we arrive at the Oxy area - we are first and begin to look amongst all the clay marl lumps, stones and beads of pyrite and ... there it is - a lovely fresh Oxynoticeras just lying there. It is crisp and perfect. A few minutes later we find another! 'Oh this is living' I cry, for we are a bit tipsy with our success. We just can't wait for the next day.

The next, next, next day Nothing, nought, all gone ... the beach has returned, covering those rich black marls under several feet





of shingle. Why, we will never know. A change of wind direction, an undersea current? We never see this again, perhaps it will never happen again to that extent, who knows, but if it ever does it will be the Charmouth 'gold rush' all over again. Out of all the hundreds of pyrites there were just 5 that seemed different. They were Promicroceras but had a strange keel around the outer rim and upon examination I realise that these are not keels but serpula tubes, fossil worm tubes. The little creatures had attached themselves to their 'host' ammonite in a specific manner. Logically, if a dead ammonite were laying on the seabed then the worm would have laid his home down in any old way, but it was on the rim and its mouthparts were close to where the ammonites head and tentacles were. Could this have been some kind of symbiotic relationship? These little ammonites were of interest and now repose for study in the collection of the Palaeontological/zoological department of Oxford University Museum. Any sort of clue to the behaviour of wildlife in Jurassic Times is useful. So once again, amateur interest can help the scientists.

#### **'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**

**There have been seven reported crimes in Charmouth since I wrote the last article. Two people have been dealt with for drug offences, one for possession of cannabis and another for cultivation of cannabis.**

**There has been one dwelling burglary and arson of a motor vehicle. There have also been two instances of theft and one of criminal damage.**

As I write this we are just entering National Home Watch Week and coincidentally we are trying to increase the coverage of Home Watch Schemes within our area. Currently there are no Home Watch Schemes operating within Charmouth, however if you are interested in starting one up, then further information can be found at [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk) and clicking on 'Home Watch' alternatively you can contact us on the details below.

There is a meeting for all Homewatch Schemes in the Bridport area on Tuesday July 16th at 11:30 in the Conservative Club in Bridport. This is an opportunity to talk about current issues and then speak with other Homewatch Schemes to share ideas. Representatives from Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be there as well as from the Association of Dorset Watches.

For those of you who are not aware, we have started a surgery in Charmouth Central at 2:30pm on the first Friday of each month. One of the team will be there until 3:30pm and you can stop by and have a chat about any issues you may have.

Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team can be contacted by calling 101 or emailing [lymeregisnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lymeregisnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

We are also on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/Lyme.SNT](http://www.facebook.com/Lyme.SNT) and Twitter, @LymeRegisSNT.

#### **PCSO 5474 Luke White**

*Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Team  
 Lyme Regis Police Station*



PCSO5474 Luke White



PC2204 Kirsti Ball



PCSO5386 John Burton

**Remember - The deadline for copy for the Shoreline Autumn issue is 15th September 2013.**

# News from Charmouth Primary School



## Charmouth School - Ofsted report

Recent weeks have seen a high level of activity at Charmouth School for the governors with the first Ofsted inspection for 6 years in the middle of May. The report was published and distributed to parents on 4th June and is available to view on the school website [www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk) or directly from Ofsted at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). Following the publication of the report, parents were invited to a meeting to discuss the outcome with Mark Loveys (Acting Head of Learning and School Improvement), Gillian Morris (Headteacher) and members of the governing body. All schools are inspected on a regular basis, although the frequency of the inspections depends on the findings of the previous inspection. The inspectors look at the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching, the behaviour and safety of pupils and the leadership and management of the school.

The inspection resulted in the school being graded as "requires improvement". The governors were disappointed with the findings of Ofsted but believe it to be a fair and considered judgement, reflecting the findings of the Local Authority Review conducted two weeks before. Furthermore, the governors are very pleased with their appointment of Gillian Morris at the start of the academic year. We have been impressed

as to how quickly she has been able to identify a need for change to improve the progress and attainment of the pupils of Charmouth School. Ofsted recognised this skill when they commented on 'The swift way the headteacher has acted in identifying areas of concern in all aspects of the work of the school and the detailed development plans have put the school in a much better position to move forward and provide improved learning opportunities for all pupils.'

Ofsted's recognition of the plans reflect the dedication and hard work of both the teaching and non-teaching staff who are working together as a team to ensure that the children under their care receive the best possible education. The school needs to have an improvement plan in place to address the points raised by Ofsted and this will be available in June and can be viewed on the school website.

Additionally, the school governing body is looking to recruit a community governor. Being a governor gives you the opportunity to express your views, to listen to the views of others representing the school and its community and to influence pupils' education for the better. As a school governor you would be part of a team – the governing body. The governing body has a range of important responsibilities. For example, governors work in partnership with school staff to shape the future of the school, to decide the key issues that will help staff to raise standards and to determine how the school will best spend its money to achieve these aims. They also help the school to respond to the needs of parents and the wider community, and they are a friend to the school, offering support and advice.

Governors don't need qualifications, just the desire to make a positive contribution, show interest, and time – probably a couple of evenings a month – and the opportunity to visit the school 'at work' during the school day from time to time.

For further details, please contact me or Rowanne Clapp, Clerk to the Governors at Charmouth Primary School. Tel: 01297 560491

**Melanie Harvey**  
*Chair of Governors*



## News from Charmouth School PTFA

**O**ur Duck Race on bank holiday Monday 27th May was a huge success and raised £1502. 1st prize of £50 went to Duck 564, the Duggan family from Hale, Cheshire, 2nd Duck 746 was the Simons family whose child attends the Pre-School Monday Club, 3rd went to Duck 554 (child in the school) and the last duck was 719 to which the Winters family received £10 and a decorated wooden spoon – the highlight of their holiday they said! Thanks to everyone who came down and supported us on the day. Many people commented on how much fun it was,

**and although the weather could have been kinder, lots of refreshments, cream teas, BBQ, games and face painting for the children kept spirits high.**

We are now busy organising the biggest event in the PTFA calendar, the Charmouth Fun Run, Mini Challenge, Challenge and Summer Fair which take place on Saturday 6th July.

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, or families and children who run the shorter Fun Run (2 miles) together. This year we are also introducing a Mini Challenge (3 miles), aimed at older kids who are keen to run a bit further but are not yet eligible for the Challenge.

Following an article in the Spring Shoreline, written by the Race Co-ordinator, we were contacted by John Broadhurst who was Headteacher at the time of the first ever Fun Run. He realised that this year the Fun Run will celebrate its 30th Anniversary and thought it would be a good idea to get in touch with Martin Young, whose idea it was to put on the first Fun Run.

I am sure many people in the village can remember that day too; perhaps some of you remember taking part in the race as school children yourselves! John and Martin were also able to provide some press cuttings of those early days, when the Fun Run would start in Wesley Close and the old School used to be



on the corner between the Close and Lower Sea Lane. We have invited them both to come down and start the races for us this year.

John and Martin have kindly provided me with their recollections of the day!

Hopefully, with the help of Nick Bale, the current Race Organiser, I can answer your questions. We couldn't find the name of the person who flew round in 19 minutes in 1983 but yes, the time has been beaten. In 2011 Ben Franklin from Southend on Sea Athletics Club ran the course in 16 minutes 18 seconds.

Other facts you may find interesting... the slowest ever recorded time for the Fun Run was 55 minutes. The fastest ever time for the Challenge was set in 2000 by a man called Alec Woods (City of Bath Athletics Club) with a time of 48 minutes 44 seconds. That was an average of 9.6 m.p.h over very extreme terrain! The fastest time for a woman over the same distance was in 2009 by a lady called Olivia Walwyn (Altringham Athletics Club), in a time of 56 mins, 55 secs. The slowest ever recorded for the Challenge was 3 hours, 19 minutes and 8 seconds.

Weather conditions have differed over the years, but the course has remained very similar, other than in Summer 2001 when the race had to be run on the beach due to the Foot & Mouth crisis.

We are of course, still looking for volunteers to marshal the events, if you would consider giving up just 2 hours to help marshal, it's not too late to contact Melanie on 560393.

The Registration Desk, if you wish to enter on the day, is open from 12.30pm at the school but you save money entering prior to the day itself. Entry for the Fun Run is £7 on the day and £5 in advance and entry to the Challenge is £10 on the day and £8 in advance.

Registration Forms are available to download from either [www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk](http://www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk) or [www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk) and entry forms, once completed, can be handed into the school office.

The Summer Fair starts at 1:00pm, with the Fun Run and Mini Challenge starting at 2:00pm and the Challenge at 2:30pm. The Fire Engine will be present to cool all the runners down at the finish. Prize giving takes place at 4.30pm.

Please come down to the school for great cream teas, BBQ, activities for the children and lots of stalls/games and a program of events/activities, which (weather permitting) 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 for our tombola and raffle and cakes for the cake stall.

This year we hope to introduce classes that the children can enter and that will be judged on the day. The classes will be: Art Work, A Decorated Vegetable and A Lego Model. There will be under 8s and over 8s categories. Entry forms will be available from school and entries must arrive by 12 noon on the day.

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 exciting but educational school trips which enhance their learning experience.

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.

A big thank you to everyone in the village and holiday makers alike who have supported our events this year and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible on the 6th July where you will all be made very welcome.

**Karen Southcott**  
PTFA Chair



"Soon after moving to the area Martin came to me with the idea of running a Fun Run in conjunction with the school Summer Fete, the idea being that people at the Fete could watch the participants as they came down the hill from Stonebarrow. I thought it was a brilliant idea, but I was initially concerned about the number of people required to organise the Run on top of the number already involved with the Fete. Martin assured me that he wouldn't involve anyone from the Fete. He was then working for Bradfords and, as far as I can remember he managed to persuade Bradfords to be the main sponsors and they also provided several people to help with the organisation. So, whilst it was a PTA event, which I chaired in those days, and part of the Fete, it was run separately by Martin and his sub-committee. Other local sponsors gave very generously which enabled us to provide medals and trophies".

**John Broadhurst**

"I remember that first run very well and the amazing time set by the winner on a really warm July day. I was a bit of a runner myself and ran the course on the Thursday night before and feeling quite proud to have completed it in about 28 minutes and thinking that 23 to 25 would be the eventual winning time (this was of course the fun run as the Challenge didn't start until two years later). A guy who was down on holiday literally flew round in 19 minutes and we were nearly all caught out. When I spoke to him afterwards he was a member of the British Mountain Racing Squad. His name must be on record somewhere and I wonder if that time has ever been beaten?"

**Martin Young**

# Peter Crowter on Farming, Plays and Poetry



**P**eter Crowter's name will be familiar to readers of *Shoreline*. Since the magazine was first published five-and-a-half years ago, he has penned no fewer than 12 delightful poems about Charmouth and its history for the magazine. In case you're counting, a Christmassy offering is already waiting in the wings for the next issue.

Peter was born in Brighton but four years later, with war on the horizon, his father enlisted in the Fleet Air Arm and his first posting was at Ford Naval Air Station in Sussex. He got his commission and soon after was moved to Yeovilton in Somerset. "My mother and sister and I were soon to follow him and we went to live in a small village called Kingsdon, about four miles from Yeovilton", says Peter. "Towards the end of the war and after a couple of years in Cheshire, we followed Dad back to West Sussex where he was demobbed. But we all loved Kingsdon so much that we returned to the village and I lived there until 1954".

"After leaving Yeovil Boys' School I went to work on a farm, much to my headmaster's dismay. He thought I should do something more academic, but I wanted to work outside and remained on that farm for 10 years. I met my future wife Anne at a Young Farmers' dance at Sparkford. Richard Salisbury and I were both in Yeovil Young Farmers and he met his future wife Pam about the same time. For our joint first date, we all went to the Young Farmers' Three Counties Ball at The Pump Rooms in Bath as a foursome. The girls thought they had hit the jackpot but I have been reminded many times since that we failed to maintain that high standard on future dates!

When Anne and I married in 1960 there was no house available on the farm, so we started looking at caravans. Then my boss mentioned that his lorry driver was leaving and a cottage came with the driving job. So I learned to be a lorry driver, took the cottage and for a couple of years drove a cattle lorry which not only moved cattle but also furniture. My longest trip was moving a gamekeeper all the way to Canterbury. After 18 months our daughter came along and I

got a job managing an 80-acre farm in the Mendips. I was there during the very bad winter of 1962, which was quite an experience".

"I started playwriting in the Young Farmers in about 1956; a turning point in my life. Each year they put on a social which included humorous stage sketches, but the organisers found it increasingly difficult to get hold of sketches and plays. So I wrote them for years, in fact until 1970".

"We were still on the Mendips when I entered a radio play competition. I didn't win, but I received such encouraging criticism from the producer that I tried converting one of my Young Farmers plays, called *The Sweet Smell of Success*, into a radio play. It was about a farmer who ran his car on methane gas from pig manure. It didn't work, but he found that the sack of pig manure in the boot was so smelly that none of his kids wanted to borrow his car and he saved on petrol! I went on a three-term course for writing radio plays run by a BBC producer in Bristol and over a period of about five years I managed to get that play and two more (*Down the Bristol Channel* and *John Peel & the Old Devil*) on Radio 4's *Thirty Minute Theatre*. I went to Bristol when they were recorded and was fascinated to learn that much of the recording was done on location. For example, we went to a calf pen for one and for another, set on a country shoot, we went into a wood and I helped beat through the trees. I also went on a one-day course at the time when the BBC was looking for television plays about self-sufficiency; a year before *The Good Life* was first broadcast. During one of the lunch breaks, when we had to take a bus to a pub, I found myself sitting next to a lady who looked as if she'd come out of a whist drive. I began talking to her and asked her if she was a writer. She turned out to be Fay Weldon!"

"By that time we had moved to a much larger farm in Dorset, near Compton Valence. "Around 1982, after the plays had been broadcast, my boss was killed in a car accident and as a result I ended up managing the whole 3,000 acres, leaving me no time to write. We stayed there until I retired in 1995".

"Back in 1962 I had my first article published in the *Western Gazette*. I recalled an experience I'd had watching a large crowd of starlings weaving in the sky as a sparrow hawk dived from above, grabbing one of them and landing close

to where I was sitting on a tractor. For the next 10 years, I wrote 100 farming/countryside-related articles for the newspaper. In later years I also wrote articles for *The Countryman* magazine and poems for the *Kingsdon Chronicle* about my boyhood in the village".

"After I retired we bought a house in Florida and spent each winter over there, I didn't stop writing. For eight years I did a weekly series entitled 'The View From Here' for the *Dorset Echo*. The last two or three years of the series were monthly articles from Charmouth, because by then we'd sold our house in Florida. I had originally thought of getting back to play writing for the BBC, but by the time I retired in 1995 they were only accepting commissions from established writers. We moved to Charmouth the following year".

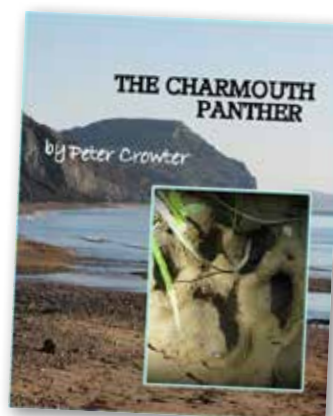
"My poetry writing started in 1991 after I came 2nd in a competition run by Dillington House near Ilminster. It was called *Mistress Cary* and was subsequently published in a collection of poems entitled *Scrumpy & Cream*. I suppose you might say my poems are pretty conventional. I find modern poetry difficult to understand, rather like modern art".

"I have written 17 books for Kindle (see Amazon). Several are short children's stories about Pog the pig. *Rooklife* is a year in the life of a rook, in which the birds are humanised and talk to each other. Everything about their behaviour and feeding habits is factual. I've also written adult humour books, which my sons say don't comply with my initials, as well as murder mysteries. My latest Kindle book is *The Charmouth Panther*, which is set in the village".

Peter and Anne recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. Their two sons and families live in Sweden and Abu Dhabi, and their daughter and family live in Bridport. They have five grandchildren. Peter enjoys long-haul

holidays with Anne, photography and golf and writes the Men's and Veteran's Sections column in the *Bridport News* for the Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club. And what is the prolific writer's ultimate aim? "One day it would be nice to get a book published" says Peter.

**Lesley Dunlop**





# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



**Meirel Whaites**  
*Senior Warden*

Well, the summer has arrived and the Centre has had a busy season so far. The madness started with the Easter holiday break, closely followed by the Charmouth and Lyme Regis Fossil Festival on the May Day bank holiday, the Jubilee weekend and the half term break. Nearly 30,000 people have

visited the Centre this year with good attendance on the fossil walks and other activities. We have been fully booked with schools for the summer term since before Easter and schools have already booked up for the 2014 season ahead.

The Centre has made quite a few changes over the winter period, the biggest being the relocation of the desk and shop area within the Centre. Many visitors have commented on the new layout very positively, and sales appear to be going well.

With the busiest months of the year looming fast, we have a great number of events planned, including the ever popular fossil hunting walks and art and craft activities. A new edition to the programme this year includes snorkel safaris which will run from the main beach at Lyme Regis. Our schedule for Marine Week 2013 (Monday 5th – Sunday 11th August) includes many marine-based events such as rockpool rambles, plankton trawling and boat trips. Leaflets are available from the Centre detailing the full programme.

As always the Centre would like to thank all the volunteers (Friends) for their time and support. If anyone would be interested in becoming a volunteer, then please let us know at the Centre on (01297) 560772.



**Phil Davidson**  
*Geological Warden*

**We have had a few interesting finds over the last few months. Someone on holiday found a small piece of one of our village dinosaurs, Scelidosaurus. It was one of the armoured plates that this plant eating dinosaur used for defence and display. This Jurassic dinosaur has only been found here at Charmouth and nowhere else in the world.**

We are also starting to think and plan for the next phase of our ongoing refurbishment of the Centre. We will be moving round some of the display cabinets and putting back the large marine tank in our education room. This year we have experimented with a few new ideas and hopefully we can build on the successes and make sure there is something 'new' and exciting for our visitors.

The beaches and cliffs are still very unstable due to the weather. Please do take extra care when out on the beaches and do give the cliffs a wide berth as our cliffs are constantly on the move. Many of the mudslides will cut off the beach on incoming tides so always check the tide times before heading out.

The ongoing sea defence work at Lyme Regis will mean that there will be no access to the beach to the East of the town at times. Please check here at the Centre or with Lyme Regis Tourist Information Centre for the latest news before setting out on your walks.

**Lyndsey Bird**  
*Marine Warden*

**The Junior Rangers have almost completed their first**

year, with the last session of the season next month. They have been investigating our marine environment and have been taking a closer look at seaweeds, rockpools and our shallow seas. There is great excitement amongst the group about our next session but let's hope the weather warms up as we will be snorkelling off the beach in Lyme Regis. I would like to thank the Parish Council again for making this possible. The Junior Rangers have also been busy designing their new logo, the brand new design has been voted for by the children, so you may see us out and about with the Rangers wearing their new t-shirts and hoodies.

I would also like to thank the volunteers for supporting the Junior Rangers club and because of this assistance we are able to offer more places as of September. If you or anyone you know would like to become a volunteer leader or Junior Ranger please let me know.

## HM Coastguard

It was announced in April by Her Majesty, The Queen that the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Service, which is part of Her Majesty's Coastguard, has been awarded The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award 2012. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award 2012 is a special, one-off category of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which was established in 2002 as part of the UK honours system and is considered to be the MBE for community voluntary groups. Whilst the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises the work of grassroots organisations at a local level, the Diamond Jubilee category seeks to recognise groups that operate nationwide.

The Coastguard Rescue Service provides the UK's coastal search and rescue capability including cliff, mud and shoreline rescue and, as part of Her Majesty's Coastguard, it can operate separately or jointly with other emergency services and volunteer rescue organisations. It consists of teams of volunteers (Coastguard Rescue Teams), drawn from the local community, which are fully trained and equipped to carry out a range of search and rescue operations around the coast of the UK.

Coastguard Rescue Teams are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The 3,500 in 352 Coastguard Rescue Teams men and women who make up the Coastguard Rescue Service are trained and equipped to respond to a wide-range of emergencies at a moment's notice. Last year, they were involved in 8,997 incidents. Teams are strategically located around the coast of the UK and play a vital role in helping the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, through Her Majesty's Coastguard, achieve its vision of being a world-class organisation that is committed to preventing loss of life, improving maritime safety, and protecting the marine environment. They are a valued rescue resource of Her Majesty's Coastguard and are called out to coastal emergencies by a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in response to 999 calls or other alerts.



Volunteers Week (1 – 7 June) has just finished, but if you would like to volunteer as a Coastguard Rescue Officer and make a valuable contribution to Her Majesty's Coastguard, UK Search and Rescue and your local community then get in touch with Lyme Regis Coastguard on Facebook or email [CRSenquiries@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:CRSenquiries@mcga.gov.uk)

**Nick Bale**

## What a Winter!

**I** spend most of my holiday out on the ledges during the low spring tides of the autumn, winter and spring and usually a find such as an ichthyosaur crops up perhaps once every two years since I really started in 2007. But this winter was very different indeed! The season started in September with a very scattered plesiosaur on Broad Ledge; vertebrae, a rib, the lower jaws and sections of the pelvis. However, enquiries concluded that it had been found twice before by two other collectors! Then, in October, on the last of five days of searching, a small block of shale with a string of tail vertebrae miraculously appeared sitting in a rock pool that we had walked through on each of those days; no one should have missed it! A foot must have broken the piece off the edge of the ledge and then the sea turned it over. The shale was identical to a nearby ledge but the tide flooded in moments later and that was it for that spring tide. Ten days of impatient waiting followed for the next good tides and on the first one we were out, only to find that a thick layer of sticky mud had settled over the ledges. Nonetheless, Sarah persevered, feeling the shale for the depression left by the vertebrae and then brushing the spot into a cloud of mud. We returned at the end of the tide, sceptical and depressed only to see that the mud had settled and the next vertebrae was sticking out of the ledge!

## Bubbles...



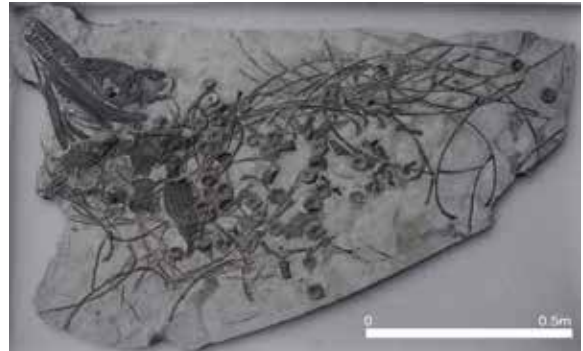
...as it has become known, is a perfect juvenile ichthyosaur just 85cm long (it would have been just under 1m if the tail had not already been washed away). Excavation was a nightmare as this was done under about 2cm of water in a rock pool the size of a tennis court. Fiann desperately bailed out the water with a spade while Chris and I undertook the excavation. As usual, it came out in pieces, thin, delicate pieces, and I decided that preparation was a job for someone who really knows what they are doing; Chris Moore and his son Alex.

Then, in November, out on Monmouth Beach, thinking 'I have had my find for the year', a trail of broken shale and bones led to a freshly broken ledge with the impression of those bones in the underlying bed and a line of bones running along the break. I did not recognise the loose pieces at first but in the light of the workshop it was obviously a skull, and a really nice one at that! I informed Tom Sunderland, the Natural England Undercliffs warden, and went for it the next day as this was quite low on the shore and the next two months tides would probably not uncover it again. That was proven correct; the spring tides over the solstice are not as large as the tides over the equinox and the site was inaccessible until February. This illustrates the need to act quickly when something is found that is at obvious risk from the sea. It also illustrates that despite the considerable collecting effort, specimens are rescued just in time. That skull would not have survived another rough sea.

## Justin...

...as he has been called, was a nightmare to excavate, contained within the same thin paper shale as Bubbles. It was

not possible to use plaster to support the bones as, when the overlying shale was lifted up, some bones came with it while others just fell apart or sat within the wafer thin flakes of shale; plastering the remaining bones would lead to a problem in setting the missing ones back in place. So everything went into bags carefully associated with the blocks of shale that they came from, to be reassembled later.



Cleaning an ichthyosaur can be a very complex and painstaking job. We usually prepare the specimen from the underside as this is the best preserved side as it sank into the mud. The top side, in contrast, is usually more scattered and broken as it was exposed for longer before being buried. The first task is to thin the shale as much as possible while it is still wet (a large kitchen knife with a Norman Bates/Psycho stabbing action works well), and to extract all of the boring piddocks, rag worms and sea anemones before they start to rot and smell. Then the blocks need to be left to dry slowly and my damp garage offers the perfect climate for that. After about two weeks it is time to thin the backs of the shale even further using an angle grinder to get them as thin and as flat as possible. This allows the blocks to be pieced back together. In the mean time, the bags of bones are washed and reassembled and placed back on the blocks, like a jigsaw without the picture.

The next stage is to glue the smaller blocks together and glue the loose bones back in place on them. This is probably the hardest job as it can be very difficult to get the blocks exactly back in line and level. Mistakes tend to become compounded. The aim is to get the specimens into manageable sized blocks that can be moved easily and will fit into the 'Magic Machine'; more about that shortly. Then it is actually time to start cleaning the bones. We use a small but powerful pneumatic air pen with a stylus that vibrates rapidly and 'buzzes' the shale from the bone. After that a much finer air pen with a needle sized nib comes into play for the very detailed work. Once that is done the magic machine, the air abrasive, is used to blast an almost invisible stream of abrasive powder onto the bone to remove the last of the shale. We use sodium bicarbonate as it is hard enough to remove the shale without damaging the bone and it really does strip away the shale as if by magic.

Now it is time to start to put all of the pieces back together using both glue and plaster. The whole thing is turned over and the back is secured with plywood batons set in and glued across the blocks of the shale. A coat of fibreglass is laid up to make a strong backing support to the whole specimen. The final jobs are to fill any cracks or small sections of missing bone with palaeo putty, paint them and any plaster the correct colour and give the bones a light coating of varnish. And hey presto; finished! Two hundred and sixty hours later; and that is where the value of most of these specimens come from; the time, skill and effort required in cleaning them, excluding the finding and excavation.

## JAWS...

...was discovered in January 2013 during a spring tide while I was waiting and hoping that Justin would be uncovered as there was still some more of him in the ledge at the time. Only the tiniest scrap of indistinguishable bone was showing but the briefest of exploratory digs, the lifting of a flake of



shale, uncovered a jaw, complete with perfect, delicate teeth. Obviously the specimen had to be recovered there and then as one tide could lead to total loss, and that work uncovered the other jaw and a lump of shale just big enough to contain the skull. The find was retrospectively recorded with Natural England and the landowner the following week. Preparation took the same route as described above, but being that much smaller, only involved about sixty hours.

In parallel to the excavation and preparation, it is important to record as much information about the specimen as possible. The fabulous wall of marine reptiles in the Natural History Museum is almost completely lacking in such information; the geographic location, the stratigraphic position, the orientation and preparation notes; are all lost in a label that typically states 'Lower Jurassic, Lyme Regis'. In the early days people were, quite understandably, simply fascinated with the discovery of these extraordinary creatures; half crocodile and half fish. Today our understanding of the evolution of life is much more developed (the theory of evolution had not been formulated in Mary Anning's day). We now know that these are extinct marine reptiles, the like of which are not found today. We also know that they survived a great extinction at the end of the Triassic, about 200 million years ago. But what researchers want to know now is how did life recover from that event? The NHM's collection cannot tell us that as 'Lower Jurassic, Lyme Regis' spans from the point of that extinction through to about 10 million years later. That is why 'Bed 32e (Lang) Gumption Shale', for example, is important to the specimen as it records exactly which level it came from. The trouble is that it is going to take decades to build up a collection with that resolution of detail and the collecting itself is biased by the amount of exposed rock. The Gumption probably represents about 70% of the exposed shale on Broad Ledge and therefore there is a massive collecting bias; it is a very productive bed but how does it compare with others?



Our major issue is that there is very little capacity to acquire, display and look after these specimens which collectors will continue to find. Several local collectors are holding on to their best finds in the hope and expectation that a major new museum will be constructed to house them, but that is a very challenging undertaking that I am currently exploring. The Lyme Regis Museum wants to expand and considerably enlarge their gallery space to display local fossils and there can be no doubt that it is required, but will it be enough? The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre is in an increasingly vulnerable position and that is compounded by the Shoreline Management Plan which states that there will be no funding to maintain the sea wall after 2025, but a one in 200 year storm could seriously damage or destroy the building at any time. The Great Storm of 1824 was the last one; you do the maths! The Lyme Regis Field Studies Centre is the ambition of the Lyme Regis Development Trust; can we all work together to fulfil all of the ambitions? Are all achievable? If not, what are we going to do with regard to acquisition in the long term? These are issues that have to be addressed if we want to make the most of what our fabulous coast has to offer and do justice to the World Heritage Site designation granted to us by UNESCO.

**Richard Edmonds**  
Earth Science Manager, Jurassic Coast Team



**A few years ago, with my 50th birthday creeping over the horizon, I decided that it was about time I learnt to play an instrument –to be precise the guitar. The plan was to be able to play a couple of songs in time for the BIG birthday.**

Fast forward a couple of years to February this year, THAT birthday is long forgotten, and I am still trying to learn to play! Guitar tutors have been and gone, I can play plenty of chords, know several different strumming patterns, but that comfortable 'sitting-around-the- campfire' vibe still eludes me.

Enter, stage left, quite possibly on white chargers, Mark Hix and Geoff Baker. Mark had asked Geoff to devise an event to go with his food festival, planned for early September. The result is an event which has truly caught my imagination, re-invigorated my guitar playing and looks to be a major local event.

The plan is quite simple - to form Britain's biggest band for one song only on Lyme Beach on September 7th. The song chosen – for its simplicity and ease of playing – was the Buddy Holly classic, 'Rave On'. Quite by chance September 7th would have been Buddy's 77th birthday – for those that believe in such things, surely a sign of support from the Gods! So far there has been no attempt to set a British record, but the world record for "the most simultaneous renditions of a rock song" was set by the German town of Leinfelden-Echterdingen, at 1802 people in 2007.

The target then has been set at a nice round 2000, all playing plucked instruments – primarily guitars, but ukuleles, mandolins, sitars etc are all welcome. At the time of writing over 1000 people have signed up via the website or facebook page – pretty impressive 3months before the event.

The event has grown over the last few months as the amount of support becomes known. There are to be practice sessions organised to help struggling newcomers (I'll be there!) and two events at The Marine Theatre – one featuring Paul McCartney guitarist Robbie McIntosh, the other showcasing young local talent. The organising team are working incredibly hard to make the event a success, even going so far as to ensure the park and ride scheme is extended to ensure Lyme isn't grid locked! Even better, they are committed to keeping it a free event, although local and national charities will benefit from bucket collections around the town on the day.

If you want to get involved it is not too late to start. Have a look on the website – [www.guitarsonthebeach.co.uk](http://www.guitarsonthebeach.co.uk) - or if you are not on-line feel free to contact me on 01297 560167 and I will help as much as I can.

I don't know why this event has gripped me in the way it has, but I do know that it has spurred me on and made me fall in love with the guitar again. Why not let it do the same for you!

**Neil Harvey**

# Charmouth Central

## THREE MONTHS ON

**When the library was handed over to Friends of Charmouth Library on 28 February, it was with some nervous trepidation that volunteers took up their duties. Since then, they have shown that they need not have worried as, despite the difficulties while the builders have been at work, the library service has continued with only two days of closure when there was no electricity. Volunteers have coped brilliantly with any problems and it is only because of their support that there is still a library service in Charmouth.**



Painting the interior before the kitchen is installed



The exterior blends with the original building

### BUILDING PROGRESS

The new extension to the library will be finished by mid-July and fully open for refreshments and meetings. The stunning 2014 Charmouth Calendar was launched from Charmouth Central and several small groups have already booked space for their regular activities, including the local Police who have a surgery on the first Friday of every month. The charge is just £5 out of opening hours to cover extra utilities costs and there is no charge during opening hours – though it is hoped that participants will feel the definite need for a cup of freshly-brewed tea or coffee while they enjoy the warm, light-filled surroundings.

The extension has been funded largely by the Big Lottery Fund plus money from fund-raising events. Grants are very specific in what they will and will not cover but there is sufficient in the coffers for a kitchen-servey, furniture, floor-coverings and some paving to the front. Unfortunately, apart from some small grants for specified items (noticeboard, crockery), Friends of Charmouth Library will then once again have to be on the fund-raising trail.

Friends of Charmouth Library have recently signed up to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) enabling supporters to donate without spending any extra money. Over 2,000 retailers including M & S, Amazon, e-Bay and John Lewis will give a percentage of the cost of a purchase to FoCL if you buy through the Easyfundraising website. Contributions can also be triggered without any purchase by signing up to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/free-donations/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/free-donations/) or by using <http://friendsofcharmouthlibrary.easysearch.org.uk> as your search engine instead of Google. Using the search engine triggers only half-pence a search but the average annual contribution per supporter is £25 which multiplies quite quickly into a significant amount if everyone joins in. For once, getting "something for nothing" is true.

### COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Classes for absolute beginners will concentrate on the basics – how to e-mail, search the web and Skype. Students may bring their own laptops to Charmouth Central or use those supplied with a grant from POPP (Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme). Sign-up forms are available in the library. Days and times will be arranged to suit the students. And, yes, FoCL are using Easyfundraising to buy the computers.

### SEWING CIRCLE

Sign-up forms are also available for a weekly Sewing Circle – now that the extension can provide sufficient electric sockets for the equipment which has been supplied by a grant from Dorset Community Foundation's Leisure Fund. Both machine and hand-sewing skills will be deployed and items made will be sold for the funds or, if they prefer, sewers can bring their own work of any kind to the Circle. No day or time has yet been finalised so these can be arranged to suit those wishing to attend. The Circle has to be held outside afternoon opening hours for Health and Safety reasons.

### THANKS

The generous members of Charmouth Friendship Club held a very successful Coffee Morning, raising almost £350 for Charmouth Central. FoCL would like to thank all involved in this enjoyable occasion.

Thanks too to Charmouth Stores who arranged for a small grant from NISA to pay for Charmouth Central's inclusion in the updated and more comprehensive Charmouth Guide – a must for any visitor.

### WANTED ADS!

**Head of Catering wanted** – a very special volunteer to oversee The Servedy (no cooking): make sure volunteers abide by all the rules, keep an eye on supplies and ordering, liaise with the Committee.

**Local Producers wanted** – use the space in the new extension to display and sell your locally-produced goods, art and craft.

**Cake-makers wanted** – to supply cakes on a wholesale basis to Charmouth Central (must be registered).

**Sewing Circle Leader wanted** – experienced craftswoman to show the rest of us how it should be done. A free tutorial session about our new machines at Exeter Sewing Machines is the bonus.

**Gardeners wanted** – Phase 3 of the transformation of Charmouth Library will include the construction of a sensory garden. Ideas and muscle as well as rooted cuttings of flowering shrubs, herbs and scented perennials wanted.

**Bric-a-brac, tombola prizes, DVDs, jigsaw puzzles, fabric remnants, sewing supplies wanted** – but no more books, please, until autumn, by which time we shall have sold some of the massive amount already kindly donated.

**For all the above, please reply to Hazel on [hazelrosery@aol.com](mailto:hazelrosery@aol.com), leave a note in Charmouth Central or go to Contacts on the website [www.charmouthvillagelibrary.org.uk](http://www.charmouthvillagelibrary.org.uk)**

## NEXT FUND-RAISING EVENTS

### OPENING OF THE SERVERY IN CHARMOUTH CENTRAL

Friends of Charmouth Library invite all Charmouth and surrounding area residents and visitors to the

**18th July at 3.30 p.m.**

**- tea and cakes from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.**

**Everyone welcome, young or old, to celebrate this new community facility.**

.....



### TABLE TOP SALE

– 26 August from 10.00 to 12.30  
in St Andrew's Community Hall

Book your stall for £6 with Bob on [roberthughes40@btinternet.com](mailto:roberthughes40@btinternet.com)

Friends of Charmouth Library will have stalls for books, bric-a-brac and tombola

Last year's sale was buzzing and very successful – don't miss out!

### SUMMER QUIZ CHALLENGE

- 6 September from 7.30 pm  
in St Andrew's Community Hall

A quiz with a difference. Come and challenge all your senses. Vision, taste, smell and sounds and of course those brilliant brains!

£8.00 with light supper included.

Tables of maximum 6 people.

Prizes, Bar, Raffle.

Details and tickets from Charmouth Central or [cliffordlot@aol.com](mailto:cliffordlot@aol.com)

### BOOK LAUNCH BY LOCAL AUTHOR

- 10 September from 3.00pm in Charmouth Central.

Jaen Hardy invites you to be her guest at a tea party and reading to celebrate the launch of her first novel *The Main Man*.

Sneaky preview - help yourself to a free excerpt from the book from the display in Charmouth Central then come along on 10 September to meet the author and hear all about it. Listen to readings over a cup of tea and a plate of 'Darren's Fancies' in the convivial atmosphere of his favourite haunt, 'Eric's Café'.

## CHARMOUTH GARDENERS ANNUAL VILLAGE SHOW



### DON'T FORGET THE DATE SATURDAY AUGUST 10th

Lots of wonderful displays, FLOWERS, FRUIT, VEGETABLES and HANDICRAFTS (Art work, woodwork, needlework).

HOME PRODUCE – classes for preserves, quiches, bread, and cakes (with certain classes for men only!) plus PHOTOGRAPHY as well as a growing children's section with cookery, handicrafts and animal shaping (from fruit and vegetables).

Sections are open to all (\*although vegetables, flowers and fruit must be grown within a ten mile radius of Charmouth).

EVERYONE is welcome to enter, with each class entry at the HUGE cost of 10p for adults and free for children/young adults, it's an easy and enjoyable way to participate in a community event.

**TO ENTER** please pick up a free schedule detailing all classes from Charmouth Post Office – AVAILABLE FROM 9TH JULY. All entry forms to be returned by AUGUST 8th (information for return on form).

**FOR VIEWING ON THE DAY** doors open at 2.30pm in both the Community and Village Halls (entrance £1.00 for adults to cover admittance for both halls – children free entry).

For any more information please contact 01297 560251

**PLEASE DO JOIN US IT'S AN EVENT  
NOT TO BE MISSED!**

### WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN CHARMOUTH GARDENERS' GROUP

We do have lots of good times as well as our own home gardening duties....

Five Summertime Day Coach Trips to Houses & Gardens – SADLY ONLY TWO NOW AVAILABLE

Wed 10th April – Bicton Gardens and A la Ronde

Wed 8th May - Cotehele nr. Saltash

Wed 12th June – The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum

Wed 12th July - Lift the Latch (Forton) and Forde Abbey

Wed 11th September – Killerton House and Gardens

PLUS – Four Winter gatherings with various interesting speakers- more details on local notice boards and in the next edition of Shoreline.

We have just enjoyed a social buffet supper with 'Ukulele' entertainment, scrumptious food and Two Quizzes – no ubiquitous raffle!

Should you wish for more information, or to book on the coach trips, please contact 01297 560615.

Please do join the Group (annual fee £3) we welcome new members! Contact 01297 560980.

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

# The Charmouth Poetry & Literary Corner

## Nature or Nurture

It's the end of class, and Old Grimthorpe's getting up from his seat at the front. I catch his eye; easy from where I'm sitting. I like to be close to the front. The teachers can spot me quickly when they ask a question, then I can get in first with the right answer. But today I catch his eye for a different reason. Today I glare at him. All that talk about the forces of nature - tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis - is bound to start my nightmares off again. If I don't get a good night's sleep I won't be able to concentrate in the Geography test tomorrow morning, and then whose fault will it be when I don't do as well as usual, when I don't come top? I see this sudden wall of water approaching, sweeping me up, swirling me round, dragging me down.

I must try to think of something else. I turn to look for Joel and see him struggling to push past the other losers from the back of the class. I try not to glance at the empty seat next to Joel's, the one that's been empty now for a few weeks.

'Do you want me to help out on your Dad's stall again on Saturday, Darren?' Joel has to bend his neck upwards as he asks me this. He's a good head and shoulders shorter than me, but I've got a lot of respect for him, in spite of him being a runt. The thing with Joel is that he knows the value of things. He'll do anything that I tell him to, of course, but he always expects to be paid, and at the going rate. Now Leroy was totally different. He'd agree to anything I suggested, but only to try and gain my respect and friendship, and for that reason he'd never got either. But Joel can read me; he knows where I'm at. He's OK is Joel.

We walk down the boringly long corridor together in silence, out of the wide double doors and into the car park. The light is hazy and fading behind the stark leafless trees. We walk right to the school gates that lead onto the top of East Street before I answer his question. It's a little game of mine. I like to keep people guessing.

'I'll let you know tomorrow, mate,' I tell him. Joel shrugs and turns away in the opposite direction to where I'm going. I've no idea where he lives. I didn't know anyone lived in that direction. But it's not important. I can tell by his scruffy appearance that it won't be anywhere worth knowing about.

I glance through the window of the electrical shop on the corner leading to Mortimer Road. The jaded looking stock that's displayed hasn't been touched for yonks; everything looks ancient and grimy. I'm reminded of those new computer games I've been saving up for. I've got enough money on me to buy one, but not from this dump of a shop. I cross the road and head for the Shopping Mall. The concourse in front of it is all bleak and windswept, and I kick at the scudding detritus made up of other peoples' waste: empty crisp packets, crushed and oozing takeaway boxes, dented drink cans. I'm outgrowing this place, this out-dated backwater, this dung heap. I feel my new blazer

pinching me under the armpits. I must be having another growth spurt. I'd better have a snack after I've bought that game. I need to keep my strength up. Which game shall I get? It needs to be one that'll take my mind off things, help to stop all these bad dreams.

Once in the café, I trace my fingers over my prized purchase and bite into my muffin. The bubbles in my glass of cola fizz and pop as they fight their way to the surface. They remind me of Leroy.

None of it had been my fault. I've got nothing to feel guilty about, so why all the nightmares? Leroy had been just as eager as ever to join me that day, and I'd shown him how to do it first, hadn't I? It wasn't as if I'd expected him to do anything I wasn't prepared to do.

I relax as the shot of double choc chip kicks in. I allow myself to recall that Saturday...

You're on the market stall with Joel and there's Leroy peering at something or other further up the row. There'd been torrential rain all week, but now it's all sunny and bright, and you feel a sudden surge of energy. You leave Joel to man the stall alone, and push through the crowd of punters, sweep Leroy up, and the next thing is that you're on the bus out of town.

The terrible weather over the last few days has made the river very high and fast flowing: essential for the game you have in mind. You manage it easily. You lie on your stomach on the small footbridge where the river narrows, and hook your toes over the far edge to brace yourself so that you don't slip into the water. You lean out head first and touch the surface easily with your hand. You manage to grab a number of interesting, but as yet unrecognizable, objects out of the water as it froths and swirls below, and it isn't a problem for you to lean back and put them onto the bridge. You'll inspect it all later, decide if anything's worth keeping.

It's Leroy's turn now. He's having to lean further and further out over the edge of the bridge. As he's so short he's finding it difficult to touch the water, and his legs aren't long enough to help secure himself with his toes. The sky suddenly darkens and you're aware of the rain slanting in towards you from the direction of the town like a grey, all enveloping veil. You hear a crash as part of the river bank collapses and then a great swooshing noise as a great rush of water approaches. It's bringing more debris in its wake. Everything goes the colour of slate, like in an old black and white movie.

It isn't your fault that Leroy's arm has become entangled in a piece of netting and that he's being pulled into the river. It's hardly your fault that Leroy is such a runt, or that the weather has changed so suddenly.

You stand on the bridge watching him struggling to get free, but only making it worse. You could jump in and try to save him, but why risk your own life? You're safe and dry, and it isn't as if Leroy's your brother, or even your cousin. That would be a different matter

altogether. You wait on the bridge until you can't see him anymore, until he has become part of the swirling mass of flotsam and jetsam careering towards the sharp bend in the river, and then you run back to the road to catch the bus, before the rain finally catches up with you.

I lick my finger, gather up the remaining cake crumbs, and pop them into my mouth. Actually, that heavy downfall had saved me. When I finally got back to the market place it was deserted. All the traders were huddled inside Eric's café trying to keep dry. The punters had long gone and nobody had taken much cash, so I'd never had to explain myself to Dad. If he'd found out that I'd left Joel alone on the stall he'd have gone ballistic. I know exactly what Dad thinks of Joel: a waste of space. He noticed straight off how Joel's always out of it - on another planet even - ignoring the punters, and only taking any money if it's thrust into his hand. Dad can't understand why I bother with him. I don't think he really likes me mixing with boys like him. But actually, the runt has proved invaluable for a number of reasons - helping me with my bit of business with Crunch for instance - but not least when people started asking questions, wanting to know about what had happened to Leroy. When we were asked, we knew nothing. We'd both been on the market all day. Joel's the only one who knows any different, and he's not going to say anything, is he? He's given me his word. Joel's good like that.

I'm feeling a lot better now, so I might as well go home. I won't look down as I cross the town bridge though. The palms of my hands are starting to go sweaty, and I feel a bit giddy and sick. I've developed a slight case of vertigo recently, but I'll be OK if I take a few deep breaths. I walk up the steep hill to our house on Western Heights, and look back over the town below. From here I can see the scruffy little independent shops lining the riverfront, with the shopping mall, school and industrial estate snaking off behind them. I glimpse the council estate where I used to live. The high-rise blocks loom up out of the shadows, trying to snatch the last rays of sun. Beyond them, right over to the east, I can just see the boarded-up terraced houses due for demolition in the summer. Dad reckons his firm will get the rebuilding job. The sun is quite low in the sky, and as it catches the surface of the water, the river appears red, like an open wound dividing west from east - the 'haves' from the 'have-nots'. I smile and turn in at my front gate. My nausea has completely gone.

Anyway, I know exactly what Dad would have said if I'd told him about what happened that day, and of how Leroy had drowned. He would have said what he always says:

'It's dog eat dog in this life, son. You have to look after number one. How do you think we managed to get off the estate and move here, eh? You have to be ruthless sometimes to survive - to get on in life - and if that means that others have to fall by the wayside, then that's just the way it is. Nature red in tooth and claw, and all that.'

I crunch along the gravel drive, past Dad's



gleaming white van, and down the side passage to the kitchen door. Mum's hideous plaster gnome's leering up at me from the clump of daffodils, so I give it a sharp kick; I hear it crashing onto the path as I go inside.

I'm greeted with familiar sounds floating in from the living room across the hall. Mum's watching that old 1960's film again, Breakfast at Tiffany's. She loves watching daytime TV, particularly the old films that Nan used to like, and especially this one. She's gone a bit soppy since Nan died. I'll go and watch it with her in a minute, although it's not really my kind of thing. Mum says that Nan used to fancy the leading actor, but I reckon it's her that does really, which is incredibly sad of her considering he died ages ago. Mum says that I look a lot like him, and she keeps saying how handsome I am, so she must fancy him, mustn't she? What does she see in Dad then? I can't think of anyone more unlike him. But I suppose I'm no better. That Audrey Hepburn chick is completely hot and she must be dead by now as well. All the same, if I had to go out with a girl, she'd have to look like her.

'Darren. Is that you? Put the kettle on, will you, my beautiful boy. And then come and give your

old Mum a big kiss.'

'In a minute, Mum.'

I reach into the cupboard for a bag of crisps, and remember the lesson Old Grimthorpe gave us last week, all about Charles Darwin and the survival of the fittest. I'm obviously one of life's survivors, and Leroy wasn't.

In the end that poor little runt just couldn't hack it, could he?

## The Main Man

*The story above forms part of a longer short story 'Nature or Nurture': a tale of three teenagers, Joel, Darren and Grace, whose lives are irrevocably linked by the fate of one of their classmates, Leroy. For the full story in pdf form, please email [jaenhardy@rocketmail.com](mailto:jaenhardy@rocketmail.com).*

*In turn, 'Nature or Nurture' now forms the opening chapter of 'Jaen Hardy's' first novel. The Main Man is a gripping tale of teenage sexuality, love, arrogance and deceit. Darren O'Donnell is a rich, handsome and amoral*

*narcissist, completely devoid of empathy or feelings of guilt. He breaks the law and girls' hearts in equal measure, leaving behind him a trail of misery and destruction. But his self-centred hedonism brings to light a host of secrets from the past that alter the lives of all those around him, especially his best friend Joel. Is Darren blameworthy, or is he just a product of his genes and upbringing?*

*The novel emerged from a series of short stories written for one of the U3A Heritage Coast creative writing groups that Jaen joined two years ago. It can be obtained as a paperback or eBook through Amazon, Waterstones and WHSmith online stores, or can be ordered through book shops.*



# KING CHARLES VISITS CHARMOUTH

By Peter Crowter

King Charles lost to Cromwell at Worcester, and there was a price on his head,  
Along with Lord Wilmot and Derby, and some other royalists he fled.  
They tried to cross over the Severn, but enemy troops they did see,  
They had to retreat for their safety, and spend a whole day up a tree.

They thought they would travel to Bristol, and hop on a ship and escape.  
And t'was an adventurous journey, en route they had many a scrape.  
They stayed with a Mr George Norton, the man was an innocent host,  
But there was no ship that could take them, so they headed south to the coast.

A Royalist friend lived near Sherborne, so this was a safe place to be,  
The owner was a Colonel Wyndham, who thought he could help them to flee.  
To sail from Lyme Regis or Weymouth, he said, 'We'll soon get you afloat'  
So he and Lord Wilmot went looking, to sort out a suitable boat.

A girl who was called Juliana, was willing to join in the plot,  
She and King Charles went on horseback, to Charmouth so off they did trot.  
They made out that they were a couple, and that they were running away,  
At the Queen's Arms they were welcomed, and told that was where they could stay.

Lord Wilmot was down at Lyme Regis, where he found a man with a boat,  
The man who was called Captain Limbry, gave him an acceptable quote.  
Lord Wilmot said Charles and his party, next day would be on Charmouth shore,  
'We'll be there at dawn' said Lord Wilmot. 'I'll be there on time,' Limbry swore.

Next morning King Charles and his party, slipped quietly down to the beach,  
'To France we will soon all be sailing,' was Wilmot's encouraging speech.  
'Where's the damn boat, I don't see it', said Charles as he looked towards Lyme.  
'The tide will be out in a minute, he should have been here, it's high time.'

But there would be no boat arriving, for Limby was locked in his room,  
His wife found out what he was up to, and she was quite right to assume,  
That if with the help of her husband, King Charles had successfully fled,  
If she didn't do something drastic, then Cromwell would chop off his head.

King Charles then went off to Bridport, a stone says he hid in Lee Lane,  
He then travelled on to Broadwindsor, then went back to Sherborne again.  
And then for some weeks he continued, to lead Cromwell's men quite a dance,  
And finally he found a coal boat, that took him from Shoreham to France.

# The Fourth Charmouth Literary Festival

Saturday 5th October 2013

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### St. Andrews Hall Meeting Room

Fringe writing workshops

**10.40 Writing session with  
Alan Stanford**

### St. Andrews Hall

**09.30 Arrivals, Tea and Coffee**

**10.00 Introductions**

**10.10 John Bryant**

Author of 3.59.4 The Quest to Break the Four Minute Mile. The London Marathon, the history of the greatest race on earth and The Marathon Makers and Jogging. His latest book is a biography, Chris Brasher, about a truly remarkable and singular man.

John is a veteran of marathons around the world and has been involved in the London Marathon since 1981. He has worked as a Fleet Street journalist since 1971, was Editor in Chief of The Daily Telegraph, executive editor of The Daily Mail and for a decade was deputy editor of The Times. John lives in Surrey and Dorset (Charmouth) and has attended all our Literary Festivals and is a great champion of them.

**10.40 Travel Writing with Sarah  
and Wendy**

**Sarah E. Dawson**

Sarah decided, aged 52, to have her own gap year and to follow the latitude 52 degrees north from the east coast of England to the west coast of Wales. It was a personal challenge travelling on her own; her story is unusual and shows that you don't have to go very far in order to experience and write about travel. Her travels continue with latitude 53 and 54.

**Wendy Knee**

Wendy has written three books, Never Die Wondering, Get Cracking and Travels with Granny. Her love of people and zest for life has enabled her to travel to extraordinary places, including Uzbekistan, Ecuador, Guatemala and many more. She cycled 1000 miles through France and Spain following the Camino St Jacques at the age of 58 and at the age of 66, she spent a month volunteering in Uganda and in early 2012 she worked with young teenagers in Mexico. This is the next book.

**11.00 Coffee and writing session  
for all**

**11.30 James Crowden**

James is an author and poet living in south Somerset. In 1972 he joined the army and served in Cyprus, travelling widely in Eastern Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and North West India. In 1976 -77 he spent a winter on the northern side of the Himalaya, in the remote Zangskar Valley in Ladakh.

He works between poetry and prose, between the two worlds of inner and outer landscape. His latest book is called Flowers in the Minefield centred on the First World War.

**12.00 Walk, Write, Wild – Juliette Adair**

Outside activity to inspire your writing, so be prepared for all weathers.

Juliette is dedicated to creating space for writing. She has been encouraging her family to fit round her writing habit for the past 10 years and has an MA in Creative Writing from City University, London. Her novel 'Bog Angel' won the Christopher Little Award in 2007 and was short-listed for the A&C Black centenary prize. She is a member of the Walking Artists Network and in 2006 walked from Dublin to Galway following the route of an ancient story.

**12.15 Poetry – Rosemary Wells  
Followed by workshop in library**

Rosemary has had some of her poetry read on local radio and has been published in local magazines. She won the Silver Salver in the Adult Poetry category at the Wootton Bassett Arts Festival in 2009.

**E Books – Alan Stanford**

Writing is a casual hobby for me and to see my three books available on Amazon's Kindle has given me a real sense of achievement. My first release, written under my pen name Alan lee Ford is a 'lightweight' thriller called The Hickory Factor. Sallyann Sheridan, A friend and inspirational writer, suggested I should have a go at writing a novel. 'But what could I write about?' I asked. Her simple and logical reply was, 'write what you know.'

**Lunch Hour**

Literary soap box around the centre of village. This is your chance to stand on your soap box and read out your work (6 minutes max each).

**02.00 Roving Press – Julie Musk**

Julie Musk is the project instigator, creative writing arm and principal editor for Roving Press Ltd, an independent local book publisher. She says, 'Roving Press was born of our desire to publish books that are down-to-earth, helpful and with a travel and/or local interest slant. We produce only a handful of new books each year which we enjoy and believe in. As well as publishing our own titles, we offer a full or partial publishing service for those wishing to self-publish. Julie is a long-term copyeditor and proofreader for other publishers including Wiley-Blackwell and OUP, and is the author of A Slice of Apple Pie: Your One-Stop Guide to Living in America, Lesser Known Swanage and Lesser Known Weymouth.

**02.30 Peter John Cooper TBC**

Peter will talk about his experience of writing and having his work edited/proof read. Peter is a playwright, poet and theatre director whose work has been seen throughout the UK during the past 40 years. Among his prolific output are two adaptations of Hardy novels which have been published online and two books, She Opened the Door: The Wife and Women Who Haunted Thomas Hardy (published by Roving Press) and a self-published e-novel.

**03.00 Tea – write a biography on one  
side of paper**

Dual personality – let the other person come out.

**03.30 Short story – small but perfectly  
formed – Frances Colville**

Frances lived abroad in Norway and Belgium for 25 years, before settling in Chideock. She writes flash fiction and short stories, has had a piece of flash fiction included in Dorset Voices, an anthology published by Roving Press, and recently won first prize in a Story Slam for Dorset writers. She has also had a play for radio produced at Bridport Arts Centre and is involved in various local history projects. She is currently working on a novel set during the First World War.

**04.00 Close with round up of the day.**

**Contact Wendy Knee  
01297 561493 or 0796 884 6514  
e-mail [wendyknee.com](mailto:wendyknee.com)**





## Romano pepper, hazelnut and raspberry salad recipe

**The combination of sweet roast Romano peppers, a sharp super fruity raspberry vinegar dressing and crunchy roast hazelnuts is worthy of being a meal on its own. The sugar snaps and gem lettuce add a great crunch to a salad. Raspberry vinegar dressing is incredibly versatile and can be used with salty cheeses like feta and halloumi; alternatively try with nutty globe artichoke hearts.**

Serves 4-6

Equipment needed: a hand stick blender to make the dressing

### For the salad

500gm Romano pepper (roughly 4)  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 tablespoon raspberry vinegar  
2 cloves of garlic roughly crushed  
2 small gem lettuce approx 200gms leaves separated, washed and shaken dry  
150gm sugar snap peas topped and tailed and washed  
80gm roast skinned hazelnuts, roughly chopped  
100gm fresh raspberries

## Charmouth Bakery

Open 6 days a week  
8am – 4pm

Local supplier of freshly baked bread and cakes

Available to order, or from our premises, 50yds along Barr's Lane (by side of P.O.)

Baps, Finger Rolls, French Sticks, Granary Sticks

No order too big or too small



Have your weekly bakery produce delivered to your door

**Please ring for more information**  
**01297 560213**

### Method

Pre-heat oven to 150°C

Slice the Romano peppers in half lengthways and remove the stalk and seeds. Baste the peppers with the olive oil, raspberry vinegar, garlic, salt and pepper. Roast all together at 150°C for 30 minutes or until just cooked but retaining good texture. Cool for 30 minutes.

Mix the peppers with the gem lettuce, sugar snaps and crushed hazelnuts. Then finally sprinkle the raspberries on the salad.

*The dressing serves 8+*

*100gm raspberries (fresh or frozen)*

*Juice ½ lemon*

*50ml water*

*3 tablespoons raspberry vinegar*

*1 dessert spoon caster sugar*

*100ml rapeseed oil*

*Pinch sea salt*

In a small pan on a medium heat bring to the boil the raspberries, lemon juice and water, simmer for two minutes, then allow them to cool for 15 minutes.

Transfer the mix to a jug and add the raspberry vinegar and sugar. Blend with a stick blender until thick and smooth. Slowly add the rapeseed oil, a little at a time like a mayonnaise until smooth and 'superpink'.

Season with a little sea salt and serve with the salad.

**Vegetarian restaurant**  
1A Coombe Street, Lyme Regis DT7 3PY  
T: 01297 445189  
Book online 7 days a week 24 hours a day

**Tierra**  
KITCHEN

Open Wednesday to Saturday lunch & dinner plus Sunday lunch.

## Your Advertising Supports Shoreline

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

**Clean Living**



### Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- \*Free survey and quotation with no obligation
- \*Safe insect/moth/fleas protection/extermination
- \*Safe cleaning of both wool and synthetic carpets
- \*Fire proofing of carpets
- \*Upholstery
- \*Stain-guarding of carpets & upholstery
- \*Leather
- \*Covering W. Dorset, E. Devon & S. Somerset
- \*Oriental carpets a speciality
- \*All work properly insured
- \*Turbo drying of carpets and upholstery.
- \*Full member of the NCCA

**Tel: 01297 561505**

**Mobile: 07970 060449**

# From the Charmouth Practice



## Calling all Metabolic Warriors

Like so many people, you may be fighting your very own “Battle of the Bulge”. Is your waist over 40 inches (men) and 35 inches (women) and waist wider than your hips? Perhaps your blood tests have suggested you might be heading for diabetes and heart disease with a raised fasting glucose or changes in your blood fats with lowering of helpful HDL and raising of the level of fasting triglyceride fats. You might also have high blood pressure and a general feeling of tiredness and heaviness. You are in very good company – up to 25% of us may have the same abnormal changes in the way our bodies are dealing with food and the numbers just keep increasing. We are seeing a rising tide of central obesity; diabetes and heart disease roll in steadily and unstopably from the States and across Europe, now affecting every corner of the planet where western food is prevalent.

This no longer just a battle – it has become a WORLD WAR!

### But it's not about the fat we eat

In the last issue of Shoreline I explained how we have been sold 40 years of a “Big Fat Lie”. It never was about the fat in our foods – it has always been about the processed foods low in fibre but high in sugar and neat fructose like fruit juice... and alcohol. These are the foods which are relatively new since Stone Age times and which have to be broken down in the liver and burnt for food. If large amounts are quickly absorbed, as from modern processed food, then they hit a bottleneck in the liver where the normal fat and protein are processed and the liver cannot cope and has no choice but to dump the excess as fat in and around the liver itself. This explains why the waist lines increase but the excess fat and free radicals produced also have serious effects on our general health too. They cause the liver to malfunction and become resistant to insulin which in turn means the body has to release more and more insulin to do the same job. Meanwhile all the excess fat is exported as triglycerides in fat carrier bags (small dense LDLs) which cause furring up of our arteries. The insulin resistance means the body can no longer control glucose levels in the blood and so we head towards diabetes and the furring up of arteries gives us the heart disease. Bottom line – sugar, fruit juice and alcohol turn into fat; are the cause of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes and ultimately cause heart disease. They are the spears being hurled at you in this battle so you need to find a shield – and fast! What can you do?

The Big Fat Lie said “cut your fat and go on a diet. All calories are equal – just cut them down.”

Who's tried a diet? It feels like putting yourself on the end of a tight piece of elastic. Deny yourself food day after day and you crave it even more. Eat low fat everything and the pounds simply do not budge. Exercise to your heart's content and you will be fitter – yes but slimmer? Unlikely! Why doesn't it work? – The answer lies with the high levels of the boss hormone INSULIN – growth promoter and storage facilitator which in Metabolic Syndrome is playing havoc with the way the body looks after fats.

### Insulin calls the shots

When it is being released in the correct amounts in the body, insulin has a very crucial job to override all other hormones saying “If I am around there must be glucose starch in the blood. Glucose is a vital but very dangerous fuel (like petrol) which damages the inside of blood vessels and so must be used up first, before any fat. I insist the cells lock all the fat up until the glucose is burnt and my level reduces. “

When insulin goes up artificially high it still says exactly the same, locking the fat away and stopping it from being used for fuel. However, now the insulin is high because of the malfunction caused by sugar and fructose. There is NO HIGH GLUCOSE STARCH but hang on! - the fat is in lockdown and cannot be used. Result – the body gets fatter but the person is literally starving. That person has no option but to go and hunt for some starchy glucose (bread, pasta, potatoes) as quickly as possible for energy. If the starchy stuff comes with sugar, fruit juice or alcohol and no fibre to slow it down then the situation never resolves, fat is always locked away and people are left hungry for starch, while at the same time getting fatter and fatter. And the picture is that of metabolic syndrome with expanding waistlines, carb cravings and those key changes in the fats.

Astonishingly, this means that we do not get fat because we eat too much, but rather we overeat because we are starving after insulin has locked all our fat away in our fat tissue!

### You can correct this – there is a shield

The shield is an eating plan in three simple parts

- 1 SHUN THE SUGAR (and the fruit juice and excess alcohol too)
- 2 FILL UP ON FIBRE and the FAT that comes naturally in protein foods like tasty meat, fish, eggs, nuts and seeds
- 3 If you eat a meal with starchy carbs and fats together then be sure to maximise the fibre

What No.3 means is – when you have meat and potatoes, or bangers and mash, or fish and chips, or pizza and ham, or a cheese sandwich or anything with fat and starch together, then you need to slow everything down with a lot of fibre. Think low GI fibre from plants such as vegetables with their skins on, leafy greens, beans, seeds or whole English fruits; all of which will make sure the fat goes slowly through the bottle neck in the liver. What does this look like? If you don't want to change anything drastically you can start by trying, for example;

*Meat and potatoes WITH piles of cabbage and beans*

*Bangers and mash WITH loads of mixed frozen veg.*

*Fish and chips WITH huge heaps of salad or spinach*

*Pizza and ham WITH baked beans and different veg on the topping*

*Cheese sandwich WITH wholemeal granary bread and salad veg and an apple*

### Your Weapons in this war

- COOKING for yourself so you can choose what goes in your food (we need people to run workshops)
- Checking the FOOD LABELS and only choosing ones where “of which sugars” is less than 10 out of 100g



- Keeping ACTIVE, but not so much that you “work up an appetite” and eat all the wrong things as a result.
- And use the FAST or 5/2 diet to bring those insulin levels down very quickly. Ask people on these diets and they are astonished at how easy it is to stop snacking and how their appetite changes. Reducing insulin levels is the key.

At The Charmouth Practice we have started metabolic workshops for people who want to try a new approach. Anyone who thinks they too are a Metabolic Warrior is welcome to leave their name at reception for the next set of workshops.

Now let battle commence!

**Dr Sue Beckers**



**Charmouth Pharmacy**

Francis Lock and his team helping to  
care for our community since 1987

**Tel: 01297 560261**

## How I Survived Being Sugar Free

**W**hen I was advised by a kinesiologist to avoid soya, dairy, sugar and wheat, in fact all grains apart from rice, my heart sank. It seemed that all I was allowed to eat was meat and two veg. What was I going to do when I went to a fete with all those lovely cakes or when I dined out at a restaurant with all those delicious desserts?

Having read Dr Sue Beckers article in the last Shoreline, something clicked and I thought I am not going to be deprived of all that I love, so I decided to look into ways of being able to have some nice treats on occasion. I searched online for certain ingredients, visited various health shops and gradually got all my sugar substitutes together, which are listed below. I hadn't baked a cake in years and to be quite honest, the idea didn't appeal to me, but I found a recipe for chocolate brownies in a book called 'Honestly Healthy'. It was a wet Sunday afternoon and so, whilst listening to radio 4, I got organized, gathered all my ingredients together and actually enjoyed baking my first batch of brownies! A brownie a day satisfies any sugar craving because the brownies are so chocolatey that one is sufficient, and kept in a fridge they become more moist as the week goes on. Gone now are the days when I could eat a big slab of cake! Cacao is a superfood which is actually good for you. I carry a piece of cake or a brownie with me if I go out for afternoon tea and discreetly have a nibble in the car beforehand.....

I have been religiously taking Aquafit classes at Bridport Leisure Centre and had my six week assessment recently and discovered that I had actually lost 4kilos in weight since February. This was done by eating full fat ingredients, sugar free and gluten free products plus having my cake and eating it!

### SUGAR FREE BROWNIES

**125g (4oz) rice flour**

**75g (3oz) raw cacao powder**

**¼ tsp baking powder**

**175g (6oz) sweet potato, cooked and mashed to a puree**

**250g (8oz) date syrup**

**175g (6oz) butter, melted**

**1 egg**

**¼ tsp vanilla extract**

**I add chopped nuts or cacao nibs**

**Method:**

**Preheat oven to 180c/350f/gas mark 4.**

**Sift the rice flour, cacao powder and baking powder into a bowl.**

**Melt butter in another bowl over a pan of hot water and then add sweet potato, date syrup, vanilla extract and the egg. The mixture should be cool enough by now.**

**Stir in the dry ingredients. Pour mixture into a rectangular cake tin lined with baking parchment and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until set on top but gooey in the middle. Cut into eight pieces.**

### CACAO AND DATE BITES

**Soak a few dates and chop roughly.**

**Combine some cacao powder and coconut oil together (you can gently melt the oil in a bowl over hot water) don't let it get too hot. Add the chopped dates**

**I don't weigh the ingredients, I just do it to taste - the more cacao you use the stronger the chocolate taste and the more dates you use the sweeter it is.**

**Roll into balls & enjoy at your leisure – yummy!**

Natural Sweeteners

Zylosweet crystals, rice syrup, date syrup, and agave can be found at most wholefood and health food shops. They also sell cacao powder, coconut oil, rice flour and gluten free flour.

Most cafes and restaurants now offer gluten free bread but the best I have come across is from the Common Loaf Bakery at The Canteen, Axminster on Thursdays.

Call me if you have any difficulty finding ingredients.

**Cathy Roberts**

01297 489573

## We Remember

### Betty Gladys Stork

1936 – 2013



Just about everyone knew Betty; if not by name, then certainly by sight. She could be seen about the village shopping most mornings, and always at the Monday market, or waiting patiently at the bus stop to catch the 31 to Bridport. Instantly recognisable with her immaculately coiffured blonde hair, smartly dressed, a beautiful beaming, ready smile and a softly spoken, gentle, local accent. Always ready to stop for a few moments for a little chat

during her busy day.

Betty was born in the village of Uplyme in July 1936 and was christened Betty Gladys Farrant. Note it was Betty not Elizabeth. She attended primary school, or infants and juniors as it was then in Uplyme and later went on to secondary school in Axminster. After leaving school Betty embarked on a career in hotels and eventually arrived in Charmouth at the age of 16 where she was employed in various establishments. This was to remain the pattern for the rest of her working life, eventually ending her career at what was then The Queens Armes, now known as The Abbot's House in The Street, Charmouth.

Shortly after arriving in Charmouth she met a young 18 year old sailor, a local man, Jeff Stork, home on leave from the Royal Navy. Jeff was eventually to become her husband. Betty settled into village life, her job, raising a family and caring for Jeff who unfortunately met with a serious motorcycle accident, which to this day has left him disabled.

Betty and Jeff have two daughters, Linda, the eldest and Susan, who presented them with four grandchildren and more recently two great grandchildren. Betty loved her family very much and nothing gave her as much pleasure as when they were all together.

She was particularly fond of bingo and would attend sessions at The Community Hall on a weekly basis and often in Bridport as well. Her other passion was well - made smart shoes of which I understand she had quite a collection! She was a working member of The Charmouth Senior Citizens Christmas lunch committee, which exists to raise funds and indeed mount a splendid post- Christmas lunch every January for the benefit of local people. This is usually followed by a summer outing in June. Betty could always be seen tirelessly serving and clearing up though many attending were her junior by years. She was also a member of a group of local ladies known as the "Charmouth Golden Girls" who enjoy outings, theatre and cinema trips together.

As if all this wasn't enough, Betty would help Jeff with his hobby, gardening, helping with tasks he found awkward.

Betty had a good life and was a happy person with "Narry a bad word to say" and she will be sorely missed by her family and all who knew her. "God Bless, Betty"

**Mike Whatmore**

## BRIDLINGTON BECKONS

**This is an advertisement for a holiday apartment in Bridlington (that's on the east coast of Yorkshire, if you didn't know) but it's also a story about something that happened to me.**

My Dad became very ill with cancer and I went to help where I could. He died and it changed a few people's lives and saddened a lot more. He was a good man, one of the best you could wish to know, and I am luckier than most because I was his only daughter and we got on great.

I ended up staying in Yorkshire for a bit, for one reason and another, and needed a place to be for a week. I looked around quite a few holiday lets, some quite nice and others not so good. Bailey Seascape Holiday Apartments was the last place I looked at and I nearly didn't go at all as we had already found one that seemed to suit us, but John sounded nice on the phone and I decided to have a look. I knew it was the place for us (that's me and my 12 year old son) as soon as I walked through the door. It had everything we needed, it was better value than most other places we had seen, it was clean, lovely décor, comfortable and just right. It even had a big picture of nautilus and seashells on the wall which reminded me of the ammonites in Charmouth. Turns out that John had done most of the work on the flats himself and his thoughtfulness is evident in lots of ways. The thing is, that when someone you love very much has gone and things are not as you planned, it's good to be in a place that feels cared for, and that's how I felt. I said to my brother that it felt like heaven...even though that may sound strange, it did.

We are returning to the flat for longer and I said to John that I would spread the word about his holiday flats because there is some availability throughout the year.

Now a few words about Bridlington.

It's bigger than Bridport but not so big as Exeter. It's a northern seaside town and has the amusements and fairground rides on the front but it also has an old town with quaint little shops, a priory with a lot of history and a town centre with Marks and Spencers!

There is a pirate ship which takes you around the bay for 10 minutes, it's only £1 at the moment but that might go up in the holidays. It has some very good fish and chip shops, you have to try them all to find the best. It's much flatter than Dorset so you can cycle for miles and not get tired. There is some great countryside around the town. Just out of the town are Sewerby Hall, Flamborough Lighthouse and Bempton cliffs which are home to lots and lots of birds. If you fancy a journey further afield, there is Filey, Scarborough and Whitby to visit. Anne Bronte is buried in Scarborough and Haworth is also worth visiting in West Yorkshire if you are a Wuthering Heights fan.

I am not sure how long I will be staying in sunny (and sometimes a bit windy) Bridlington but if you fancy a week's break and want a recommendation for a fine holiday flat, then try a week at Bailey Seascape Holiday Apartments at 48, Trinity Road, Bridlington. You can google it or ring John on 07836 638172.

**Mary Elliot**



## What's on in Charmouth

### Dyeing and Feltmaking Weekend on the Jurassic Coast

Sat 10th & Sun 11th August,  
10.30am - 4.30pm Charmouth, Dorset.

£60 per day, £100 for both days, including  
all materials, tasty vegetarian lunch and all  
refreshments (max 6 participants)

Suitable for beginners.

For bookings/further details:  
01297 560484  
ajbass@waitrose.com

### Second Vintage Fair

at the Village Hall, Wesley Close, Charmouth  
on Sunday August 25th,  
from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.  
Contact 01297 560634.

### 30th Anniversary Charmouth Challenge Fun Run and Summer Fair 2013

Saturday 6th July - 1.00pm

CHARMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL PTEA  
SUMMER FAIR  
In the school and grounds

The Fair starts at 1.00pm and includes:

Raffles, BBQ, Games, Stalls, Tombola, Refreshments, Balloon  
modelling and so much more...

Dorset Fire and Rescue will be there to cool us down if things  
get too hot.

#### RUNNER INFORMATION:

All races start from the front of the school

12.30pm - Registration opens

2.00pm - Fun Run (2 miles) and Mini Challenge

2.30pm - The Challenge

Full details at: [www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk](http://www.charmouthchallenge.co.uk) and [www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.charmouth.dorset.sch.uk)

### Selection of Courses from Monkton Wyld Court

For more information contact  
[monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com](mailto:monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com)

<b>12-14 July</b>	<b>Introduction to Beekeeping</b> (subsidised spaces for South West Dorset residents)
<b>17 July</b>	<b>Local Lunch</b>
<b>21 Aug</b>	<b>Local Lunch</b>
<b>25-30 Aug</b>	<b>Wyld Science Family Week</b>
<b>18 Sept</b>	<b>Local Lunch.</b>

### BYMEAD HOUSE

Forthcoming events to which you are warmly  
invited:

**Friday 26th July 2013 at 3pm**

*Cake stall, Pimms, strawberries and cream in  
the garden*

**Saturday 31st August at 12.30**

*A summer BBQ*

**Sunday 29th September at 3pm**

*Afternoon tea in aid of Macmillan Cancer  
support*

**As usual on the 2nd Sunday of every month  
we hold our family service at 2.45pm**

Sharon Dellow

Manager 01297 560620



*Clinic of Chinese Medicine*  
Acupuncturist MBACc. LicAC.

*Hilary Sharp*

Clinics  
CHARMOUTH  
AXMINSTER  
HONITON

01297 560639

01404 45137

[enquiries@hilarysharp.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hilarysharp.co.uk)

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

### CHAR VALLEY HEALTH CLUB

Located within Manor Farm Holiday Centre, Charmouth,  
Char Valley Health Club boasts a state of the art fitness suite,  
pool, steam room, sauna and coffee shop.

Exclusively for adults only.

We offer daily rates and memberships.

Mobile: 07971 520897

Email: [Health@manorfarmholidaycentre.co.uk](mailto:Health@manorfarmholidaycentre.co.uk)

## Noticeboard

### The George

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our first beer festival on the 8th June such a success. The weather was superb and the atmosphere was great. Everybody really enjoyed themselves and we received lots of positive comments. We raised £427.55 for Cancer Research UK on the raffle and cake stall. A lot of the raffle prizes were donated very generously by the local shops. We also raised £233 for Help for Heroes. A special thank you to Kelly, John and Gerry for helping out on the day. We will definitely be holding another beer festival next year. Watch out for our boards outside to say when our live music is on. Also our beer garden is an ideal place to sit and enjoy your favourite tipple.

Thanks again

Dean Herbert



Charmouth walkers trip to black mountains in Wales

### Weldmar Hospicecare Trust Charmouth Branch

Once again we would like to thank all our supporters for making our "Souper Lunch and Table Top Sale" such a success on May 4th.

We raised a grand total of £800. So whether you donated goods for sale, raffle prizes or bought bargains or had lunch thank you very much.

We look forward to seeing you at future events.

Kathy Fereday and committee members.

Alien craft zapping the cliffs east of Charmouth - is this what's behind all the recent landslips....?



Geoff Townson

### Charmouth Knitting Group

A group of us meet every Thursday at 2pm at St Andrew's Parish Church to knit and chat. We knit jumpers, hats, teddies and blankets for charities needing knitted goods in Africa and England. We would love to see you on a Thursday afternoon to join the knitting group or we can provide you with patterns if you just want to knit at home. Most of the wool we knit with is donated so maybe, if you are not a knitter, you could donate some wool - double knit is best but we can use any wool. Any donations of wool can be left in the box inside the church door or telephone 561625 and one of us will collect your donation. Many thanks.



### BIG MIX MUSIC FESTIVAL BY THE SEA

SATURDAY 6TH JULY

1pm - 11pm - open air main stage  
- Theatre Square, Lyme Regis

11pm - 1am - continues upstairs  
- Marine Theatre bar with DJ's

FEATURING

Papa Le Gal and Guests. RPM, hot from their set at Glastonbury

B Sharp singers and players

Other bands and music acts from across the south-west

.....

Summer BBQ with award-winning chef Ian Simpson from the White House Hotel, Charmouth

Bar open all day for over 18's

Come and party, come and enjoy a festival on your doorstep!

FREE - EVERYBODY WELCOME

[www.bsharp.uk.com](http://www.bsharp.uk.com)

for info: 07968 177663

# 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)	Wooton Fitzpaine	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	Lisa Tuck 01297 560826
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](mailto:lesley@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk) | 01297 561644**



# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

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

## Shoreline Summer 2013



Part of recent 8ft wide commission

### Geoff Townson Landscape Paintings

Happy to discuss  
"No-Obligation" Commissions

Phone 01297 561337 Mobile 07748 752927 [www.geofftownson.co.uk](http://www.geofftownson.co.uk)  
Visit 7 Hammonds Mead - Browse original work, reproductions & cards

### Jane Townson

Hand-knitted Hats, Scarves  
Necklaces, Felted Bags  
Paintings in Wool



### Jim Allen Roofing and Building Contractor



Brickwork, Chimneys  
& Fireplaces



Roofing Repairs  
& Guttering



Stonework



Fencing



Carpentry &  
Property Maintenance

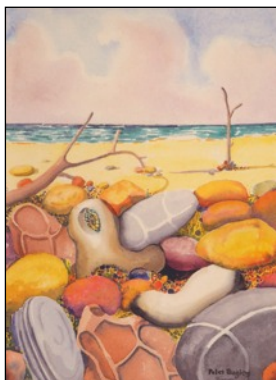


Patios

No job too big or too small

Tel: 01308 863809 Mobile: 07976 372045

E-mail: [alljm996@aol.com](mailto:alljm996@aol.com) Website: [www.jimallenbuilding.co.uk](http://www.jimallenbuilding.co.uk)



### Peter Bagley Paintings

A small studio gallery,  
selling watercolour paintings  
by Peter Bagley

Open most Sundays 10am-3pm

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

AURORA  
St Andrew's Drive  
off Lower Sea Lane  
Charmouth, Dorset, DT6 6LN



### SB Plumbing & Heating Services



Registered  
Technician

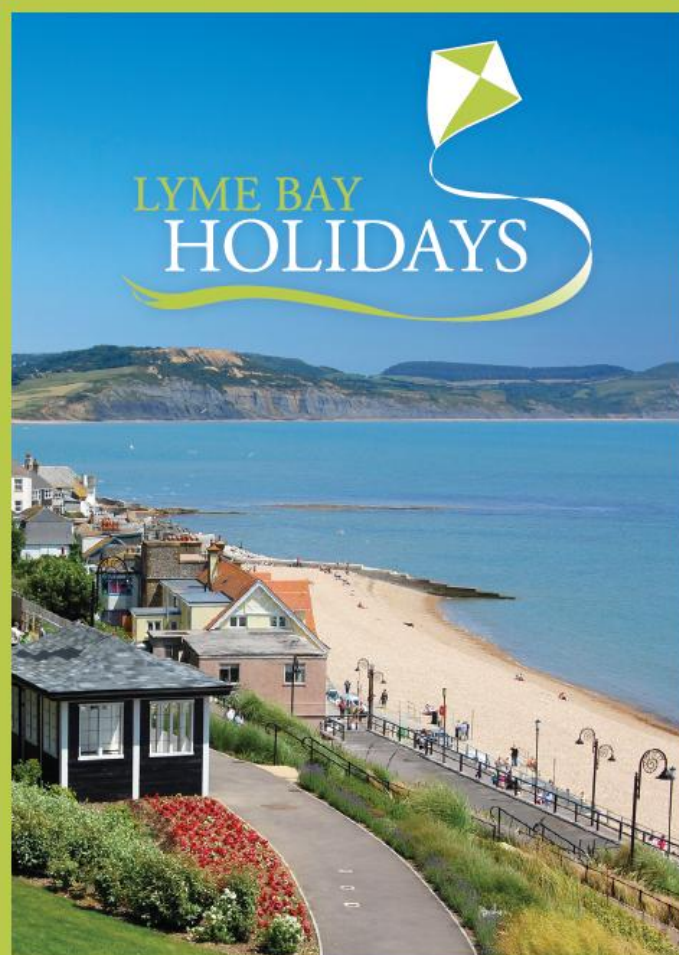
### From Ballcocks to Boilers !

For all your domestic Plumbing and  
Heating needs.

Natural Gas, LPG & Oil fired boilers installed and serviced.  
Central Heating upgrades and Powerflushing  
General plumbing, heating maintenance and repairs.

Tel: 01297 23321 or 07764 193184

**Tell our Advertisers "I saw your Ad in Shoreline"**



LYME BAY  
HOLIDAYS

you'll love our  
view on holidays

Superb self-catering holidays. Over 250  
cottages in and around Lyme Regis

Lyme Bay Holidays is a family run business specialising  
in self catering holidays for more than 20 years. We are  
a flexible business acting as a booking agent via our first  
class professional website and brochure. We also offer:

- Essential management services such as key handout
- Organising cleaning and gardening services
- 24 hour emergency maintenance service for your  
guests in residence.

visit our website: [www.lymebayholidays.co.uk](http://www.lymebayholidays.co.uk)

please call Ben or Dave to discuss:

**01297 44 33 63**

**JOB VACANCIES**  
good housekeepers  
always required

# Shoreline Summer 2013



**Contemporary Art Gallery**

Morcombelake  
Dorset DT6 6DY  
01297 489746

Open Tuesday to Saturday  
10am – 5pm

[www.artwavewest.com](http://www.artwavewest.com)





We carry out all forms of work...  
Extensions • Renovations • New Build  
Unit 5, Cross Farm  
Whitchurch Canonieum DT6 6RF  
Tel 01297 561060 or 01297 441055  
Email: [crosbybuilder@gmail.com](mailto:crosbybuilder@gmail.com)



**KOMIT KOMPOST**

Based on Farmyard Manure

**Free of unpleasant odours**

Feeds, conditions and suppresses weeds

Bulk bags, 40 litre bags or loose bulk

COMPOSTED MANURE, MULCH,  
POTTING COMPOST, TOPSOIL AND WOODCHIP

Telephone: Komit Kompost on 01308 863054 or 07974 943411  
Email: [komitkompost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:komitkompost@hotmail.co.uk) Web: [www.komitkompost.co.uk](http://www.komitkompost.co.uk)

*Jillian Hunt*



**Seamstress**

Charmouth  
01297 561173

*Curtains, blinds and cushions  
Dressmaking and alterations*

**To advertise in Shoreline and help support this village magazine, please contact: [neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk)**

## ASK THE EXPERT

**Q.** Our house has just gone on the market - is there anything we can do to help our agent sell it quickly?

**A.** Your estate agent will advertise your house, make sure that the details are seen by potential buyers and arrange and attend viewing appointments but yes, there are actually a few things you can do to help the process to a speedy completion with minimal stress...

• *Presentation for viewings - Generally speaking, a well presented house smells fresh and is clean and tidy with worktops free of washing up, etc. Your agent may advise you on specific points to take it a little further - perhaps with a bit of de-cluttering or a little redecoration - it is of course up to you to put this advice into action*

• *Leave viewings to the agents - Try to be out when viewings take place. It may well be useful for prospective purchasers to know how easy the neighbours are to get along with but owners also tend to point out things they would change if they were to stay, which can then come across as negative however unintended or well-meant*

• *Instruct a solicitor/conveyancer as soon as possible. This way, any pre-sale paperwork can be done in preparation so once a buyer is found it'll be all systems go for the quickest possible transaction timescale. Property Sharing Expert estate agencies offer a fixed fee, no sale-no fee conveyancing service so if the property doesn't sell after all, there is no fee to pay*

• *In order for your solicitor/conveyancer to take action, they'll need some documents from you so dig out and gather together information such as proof of identities, guarantees and details of work carried out at the property, paperwork on issues such as subsidence*

*and additional insurances, etc. The earlier your legal representative has these, the earlier they can start to prepare the necessary legal documents for a sale*

• *In addition, put time aside to read and respond quickly to requests from lenders, legal companies and estate agents, to help things move swiftly towards completion*

• *And get quotes from removal companies early on - the last thing you want when selling your home is to have to rush around at the last minute to find a removal company, only to find that you've been charged over the odds!*

Property Sharing Expert estate agents are based throughout the South West and work with each other, sharing properties to reach more buyers. To find your nearest Property Sharing Expert estate agent, visit [www.propertysharingexperts.com](http://www.propertysharingexperts.com).

**As your Local Independent Estate Agent, we offer free valuations and accompanied viewings 7 days a week. Choose us for our local knowledge expertise and enthusiasm, for all purchasers, local or out of area, looking for a permanent or second home.**

**WE ARE HERE ... LET US HELP YOU**



**FORTNAM  
SMITH & BANWELL**

**Tel: 01297 560945 or [www.fsb4homes.com](http://www.fsb4homes.com)**