

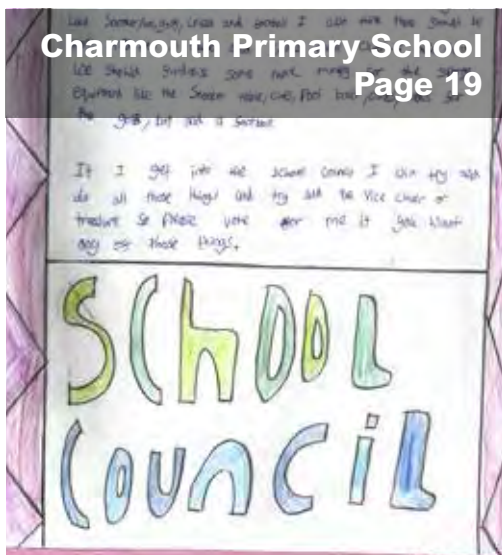
SHORELINE



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

News and Views from Charmouth

Charmouth Primary School Page 19

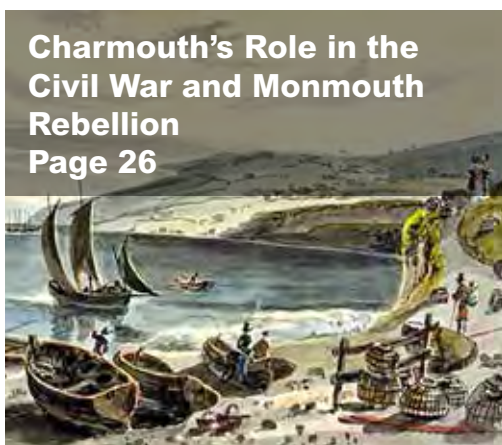


**The Last
Cygnet
Page 12**

Charmouth Now and Then Page 21



Charmouth's Role in the Civil War and Monmouth Rebellion Page 26



Another Amazing Christmas Day Swim Page 14



Curly Goes Home - Page 23



Scouts 'Sling Their Hooks' Page 18



**Something
Fishy from
the White
House
Page 16**

Shoreline and Charmouth's Historian Neil Mattingly Strolling Along Kahala Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii.



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Editorial

Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.

Carl Jung

Dr Sue Beckers' article on page five about the crisis in the NHS is extremely thought-provoking. What is most worrying is that many decisions made by the Clinical Commissioning Group this year will take effect as early as 2016 in order to balance the budget and save money. These could include the outsourcing of many services and the takeover of other services by Trusts and private providers.

I exhort everyone to go online and watch the film that Dr Sue summarises so eloquently. It is just under an hour and makes for compelling viewing. What the doctors in it are saying is that the government is basically pushing us towards an American model of healthcare. The doors of the NHS are now open to closure and privatisation. Huge changes are sweeping in, many of which we have all been kept in the dark about because of the suppression of whistleblowers and the failure of the media to report what is actually going on. We all need to speak out, and soon. Interestingly, our very own MP Oliver Letwin is mentioned more than once in the film. Maybe now is the time for that conversation about the proliferation of second homes in Charmouth and the selling off of the NHS in Dorset!

Huge thanks must go to the lovely Penny Rose who entered Shoreline for the Dorset People's Project Competition early in 2014 and which, to our great excitement, we won! The background to the application and Penny's reasons for putting the magazine forward for this prestigious award can be found on page eight.

On behalf of the Shoreline team I would like to wish our readers, contributors and advertisers a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2015.

Jane

THE SHORELINE TEAM

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Cover photos: Swans and Christmas Day
Swim - Bill Burn

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

Charmouth Traders

This has been a mixed year for Charmouth Traders. We started by donating record amounts to local groups, but bad weather later in the year caused the Bonfire at the Beach to be delayed by a week and the New Year event to be cancelled.

On the positive side, the 2015 Charmouth Calendar made sufficient profit for us to replace the Christmas lights in the village centre and the Charmouth Puzzle Trail was enjoyed by many visitors.

What do we hope to achieve this year?

We will certainly run the Bonfire at the Beach and, weather permitting, the New Year event. We are aiming to reintroduce the Christmas Fayre but we need input from villagers to help organise it. More details later in the year.

A 2016 Charmouth Calendar is planned, with proceeds going to replacement lamp post Christmas lights which were damaged last year. (email your photos to phil.tritton@gmail.com by 28th February)

We will repeat the Puzzle Trail and we are working with the Charmouth Local History Society (The Paveway Group) to introduce a Charmouth History Trail later this year.

Other ideas include a Walking Festival (once we have our coast paths open again) and possibly a Charmouth Festival if we can interest enough people in helping.

Our website, www.charmouth.org which we share with the Heritage Coast Centre has been a great success and will undergo a refresh this year. Contact Ian Simpson at The White House hotel if you would like to advertise or put your society online.

So an ambitious year ahead. Please contact or Ian Simpson if you wish to join or help with any of our events or projects,

Happy New Year

Phil Tritton



Charmouth Fayre 2015

After many successful years of running the Charmouth Fayre, with significant financial contributions to youth groups in the village, the Committee has decided not to have a Fayre in 2015.

Each year significant effort goes into running the Fayre and this work falls on a small group of people. There was an attempt to recruit new supporters at the end of 2014 with very little response from the Charmouth community.

Our aim for 2015 is to run "Party in the Park" type events with possible other activities being trialled for a completely new style Fayre in 2016. We have to look at ways of attracting more people in Charmouth but without increasing the level of staff required to run events.

The Fayre Committee is looking at what can be done to put in place events for not only this year but 2016. This work is in progress and we will update you as soon as our ideas are formalised and certainly in time for the next edition of Shoreline.

**Peter Noel and
David Clifford**



Parish Council News

Press Release – Charmouth Beach and the River Char Estuary

The Foreshore Committee of Charmouth Parish Council has been closely monitoring and consulting with Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Team (WHST), Natural England (NE) and the Environment Agency (EA) with regards to the situation with the River Char estuary.

Background

During stormy conditions the typical behaviour of the river is for longshore drift to build up a storm berm that blocks the river mouth creating a pooled area behind it. The water level rises which sooner or later over-tops the berm and cuts a new channel and drains directly to the south.

In October/November last year the river was unable to cut a new channel through the berm created by the longshore drift and the effect of this was to push the exit further and further to the east. Monitoring of beach profiles by Plymouth Coastal Observatory part of the National strategic monitoring programme shows that the beach in the storms of 2013/2014 lost some considerable volume of sand and shingle, up to 33% in places. This loss of shingle sand is considered to be a significant factor in the river diverting to the east.

The Options

The Parish Council in consultation with the EA, NE and WHST put a contingency plan together to look at ways of alleviating this issue. Though the Parish Council received consent last year which granted a time limited permission to re-align the river channel, there were strict conditions which had to be adhered to.

1. Only in situ shingle be removed
2. Operations MUST be completed by 19/12/14
3. Operations must not damage the significant Lias beds beneath the shingle
4. Excavated shingle must only be used to block the existing river channel
5. No concrete either preformed or poured, rock armour or other imported materials are to be used in the creation of the new channel or the damming of the existing channel

6. This assent does not in any way sanction the protection of the kiosk; or give permission for the creation of sea defences in front of the aforementioned structure.

The principle reason why the proposed realignment was not carried out in November was that there was insufficient shingle on the beach to complete the task effectively. This view was confirmed by the Plymouth Coastal Observatory report received in January. There was also an informed belief that over time the situation would result in the River Char returning naturally to its more normal course as has happened many times previously.

What happens now?

The exceptional circumstances of a much depleted beach has not allowed the river to return to a more conventional channel. Having taken further advice from the outside agencies, the Parish Council staff worked all day Friday 23rd and Monday the 26th and succeeded in opening up a direct channel to the sea. The route to the east has now been dammed up and the removed shingle will be placed in the redundant river bed.

The Future

The Parish Council has a long term strategy to create a beach Management Plan in consultation with all relevant agencies to allow us to manage the river and the beach in a much more proactive manner without having to apply for permissions each time.

For further information Contact Cllr Paul Oatway

Telephone: 01297 561675 or 07768704692

Email: paul.oatway@theliet.org



As seen in this old Charmouth postcard, the mouth of the River Char is naturally always changing its path to the sea and always will.



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From the Charmouth Practice



Crisis in the NHS – What Crisis?

We are told there is a crisis in the NHS. As GPs in Dorset we KNOW there is a crisis. We have been informed by our Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Leads that the NHS in Dorset is already in debt and is predicted to go further into debt unless something radical is done NOW.

The CCG have taken the step of commissioning a "Clinical Services Review" led by the consultancy firm McKinseys and this review has already begun. We, as GPs, have been asked to tell everyone that they need to let the CCG know what they value most in NHS in Dorset in the next 6 months because difficult and far reaching decisions will be made in 2015 and implemented in 2016 in order to save money and balance the budget. We are told our chance is now and if we say nothing and complain about it later then we will find it is too late to reverse the changes. Suggestions have included reorganisation, merging Trusts, outsourcing services and take-over of different services by Trusts and private providers. Please write to your GP headed "comments for the CSR".

In our own practice we know that it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide the care we wish to provide for our patients. Many far reaching changes have already been pushed through very quickly without prior testing, through pilot studies. GPs have been given the additional task of commissioning 80% of health care in addition to their GP work, although the funds available for the management of this task have been much

reduced. In practice it is surprisingly difficult to make any changes happen due to the complexity, bureaucracy and legal tangles of the commissioning process which now also demand that all services have to be opened up to bids from Any Qualified Provider, which includes all private providers. At the same time NHS workers, including GPs, are required to work to targets and threatened with "Naming and Shaming" based on unintelligent data for decisions which used to be considered to be ours to make for our individual patients based on our extensive professional experience.

I was interested to see an invitation to see a short film on the NHS in Bridport Town Hall in my weekly veg box. I was astonished to find that the film featured several well-known doctors who write in the British Medical Journal, including one who is an old friend and former house mate of mine from University. I was even more astonished to see what this film says.

If the NHS is truly going to be the political hot potato that people say it will be for this General Election then I would think that it is very important that this film "NHS Sell Off" by Peter Bach is seen and discussed by everyone who intends to use the NHS in the future. If you don't think you will ever need the NHS then you don't need to worry. If you do intend to use it then you need to see this film as soon as possible and suggest that everyone you know sees and discusses it too.

The film has been funded by public donation through Crowd Funding and can be viewed free on U-Tube. Type in: <https://www.youtube.com> into your browser and search for "Sell-off - The Full Movie" or email autofilm1@gmail.com and ask the gentleman from Autonomy Films to arrange a viewing in a hall in Charmouth for people who do not have access to a computer.

It is our NHS and we need to know what is happening to it.

Have a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Dr Sue Beckers

Charmouth and Wootton-Fitzpaine Conservatives

A Dream Party Broadcast

After seeing in the New Year I had a dream, although many might describe it as a nightmare! I had died, gone to Heaven and was queuing up to be judged. I didn't have to wait long as many of us know, God only needs about four hours sleep a night. The celestial trumpets blew and Margaret arrived, for it was she, and when my time came said, "I know about the sins. What about your stewardship of Charmouth Conservatives?" I said we had done well, raising funds and so on. She wanted more details so I told her about last year's events. I mentioned the Annual Meeting where we elect a committee to plan the year. I said that we welcomed everyone to our events, so that if they liked us, they could be converted, but that bit was very optional and not in any way

a requirement. Lots of non-believers come, just for the social side.

God did not look overly happy, so I quickly gabbled that we had had a very social Big Breakfast, hosted by Peter our Chairman. Then two outside events she already knew about as she had sent sunshine and warm weather, (a barbecue at our house and a garden party at Neil Mattingly's). Given the weather, good food and company, they were both social successes. These were followed by a Referendum celebration party. We were flexible; we would celebrate a 'Yes' vote and drown our sorrows in the event of a 'No' vote.

Things went from bad to worse, she frowned and steam came out of her ears. I name-dropped. "Your friend, Oliver Letwin, told a joke at our Xmas lunch. I didn't think it was a joke, but the non-believers thought it hilarious." Her brow softened a little, "Not his Poll tax joke, was it?" "No it was new. About how all that the Coalition had done was brilliant, and that David and George (like Batman and Robin) had appeared in the nick of time to rescue the country from Gordon Brown."

She didn't like the joke, or pretty much anything I had said. Her face went red, which was not her colour as she said, "I can't stand the 'S' word." Her arm was raised, I was about to be handbagged to hell, when I had a flash of inspiration. "We delivered some European election leaflets and a Conservative was elected." Her arm relaxed a little as she muttered "you can keep your social policies and return to Charmouth as 2015 is a General Election year. Just make sure Oliver is re-elected, or I will condemn you to a fate worse than death: a UKIP and Scottish Nationalist Party coalition!"

So this year, Chairman Peter and the committee are desperate for lots of support at all our functions and for as many as possible to see the blue light and save us from a fate worse than death. Our next very social event is 'The Chairman's bit of a do,' on Sunday 22nd February from 10.30 to 12.30. Please ring for details.

Bob Hughes, Treasurer (560487)

Letters

Thank you for sending me a copy of Shoreline,

I received it today. What a lot it has in it, I shall work my way through it. As for seeing all the WWI chaps' stories down in print, well, that is just wonderful and I'm so glad that people will now know what they did and where they rest. It is so important that their stories are told and not forgotten. Thanks for getting this part of Charmouth's history out to a wider audience and for giving me a mention as well. Hopefully people may now come forward with more information, documents and photos. That would be great if they did and then I can add them to my archive.

Best wishes,

Vernon Rattenburg

Dear Reader

Your interest in Shoreline shows an obvious interest in our lovely village of Charmouth. We are a village with a tremendous range of interests and activities and it is to one of these that I hope to draw your attention.

Charmouth Bowls Club was formed over 30 years ago and has provided a great venue for many people looking for a social and relaxing activity. The Green and Clubhouse are ideally located at the eastern corner of our Barr's Lane Recreation Ground. The Club started off with a maximum membership of 70, plus a waiting list. Sadly, as with many social activities, our numbers have dwindled over the years and we are looking to start our new season with numbers in the lower teens. We are sadly reaching a point where the Club may no longer be sustainable and we are badly in need of new members that can give the Club a much needed boost.

Bowls may be something you have considered and discounted, played then let lapse, or are feeling that it is probably time to give it a try. Whatever your views in the past, I am writing to ask if you would be prepared to at least give it a try. Although low in numbers, we are a friendly and sociable Club that offers a new opportunity. The Club is not a member of the "league" but does play some friendly matches with other local clubs. We also play some in-house friendly competitions through the season, but our main focus is on providing a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon of "roll-ups" for our members and visitors. Members have ranged in age from mid-30s to fit young octogenarians, so we do offer considerable scope. We have a good mix of players, being single ladies, men and married couples.

We play every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 2.00pm and would be delighted if you would consider coming along to join us, at least to give it a try. I first joined as a novice some seven years ago and have enjoyed every minute of it. Please feel free to drop in and give it a try. We can provide all the equipment that you need to get started and will be pleased to provide some tuition if you have not played before. Needless to say, we will be delighted to see any of our lapsed members coming along. If you can make it, then please come to our first day of play which will be Sunday 26th April, or any Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday thereafter. If you would like a bit more information, please give our secretary, Jackie, a call on 01297 560295. We really do need you!

Many thanks

Jim Greenhalgh
Chairman Charmouth Bowls Club

One day I was out walking on Stonebarrow Hill, near the top by Westhay Farm, and spotted an unusual insect. When I returned home, I tried to identify it in my reference books. The closest I came was a Spanish fly, but that had a bulbous thorax and the Stonebarrow insect didn't. It had a lovely dark green shiny carapace and it wasn't ovoid. I left it where it was, in the hope that it might breed. Like Geoffrey Sell's insect mentioned on page 13 of the autumn issue of Shoreline, it could have been blown here.

Peter Piper, Catherston Leweston

If you can help identify the insect from the above description, please call Peter on 01297 560351

A Wake-Up Call

This is a wake up call for Charmouth sporting activities and active good health! Some years ago Charmouth was awash with sporting activities. Every Saturday afternoon we saw many families supporting our local lads playing football. I don't think Mrs Smith ever missed watching a match throughout her lifetime. The cricket team has gone; surely there are some retired ex-cricketers in the community who could muster a team? Our Bowls Club is desperate for new members. The grass tennis courts and putting have gone and I do not think the croquet set has ever been used. We are even in danger of losing the pub games of pool, darts and skittles, though we do retain the less than energetic pub quiz! Surely there are some ex-sporting enthusiasts amongst the newly arrived members of our community? And now the Charmouth Fayre has been lost through lack of interest.

I have lived in this wonderful village of Charmouth for 38 years and have obviously seen many changes, some for the better, but I do feel we are in danger of losing our community's heart and possibly our physical fitness without more effort from all of us who are so privileged to be able to live in this beautiful part of England. Thank you Shoreline for allowing us to have our say through your publication.

Ivan M Marks, President, Charmouth Bowls Club

Well said. I hope your open letter stirs some emotions, Ivan. You have made some very good points.

David Sarson, Captain, Charmouth Bowls Club

Good for you, Ivan. I too despaired in the end and ceased putting on shows and pantos. There is an apathy which grows year by year. As the older ones retire no one wants to take up the challenge, especially if no payment is offered in return.

Mike Whatmore

Hi Ivan, Well said!

Phil Winstone

Well said Ivan. The Bowls Club really needs more members if it is to continue. Despite our annual recruitment campaigns, too few members have been gained. It really is a game for everyone and an enjoyable summer pastime.

Jackie Rolls, Secretary, Charmouth Bowls Club

Piano Pieces Concert

A concert held at St Andrews Community Hall on 7th November, showcasing pupils taught by Sarah Smith, was well supported and enjoyed by performers and audience alike. The pupils who took part were recent beginners (whose chosen pieces included fun duets with Sarah), pupils playing classical pieces, improvised jazz and contemporary tunes, and those whose piano exams were approaching in December. This was a great opportunity to play their pieces to an audience.

Sarah was delighted with the concert, saying that all the pupils demonstrated their various musical talents enthusiastically, having overcome their initial nerves which are inevitable before a live performance. "I think the pupils deserve to be very pleased with the way they played their pieces, and I hope that these events will help to boost their confidence as young pianists", she said.

Carolyn Fry, flautist, and Sarah played a couple of duets by Faure before tea and cakes were served at the end of the evening by Sheila Thorne, Lorraine Plummer and Becky Lewis. The beautiful flower arrangement in oranges and purples was made by Jill Hillier.



Emily Symes-King and teacher Sarah Smith

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.



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A Community Message from Dorset Police

As I write this, another year is coming to an end so I thought it may be a good time to look back over 2014. The total number of crimes which have been reported in Charmouth was 41, down from 49 in 2013. Thankfully the overall level of crime has remained low throughout the area and we are lucky to live and work in a relatively safe area.

Taking a look at the numbers of different types of crime which have occurred in 2014, there were seven instances of criminal damage, seven assaults and seven instances of theft reported. Two dwelling burglaries, three non-dwelling burglaries, three thefts from unattended motor vehicles, two drugs offences and one arson. Reports of anti-social behaviour have also fallen, from 29 in 2013 to 14 in 2014. Three of these calls related to parking disputes on private land within the village, and six concerned noise complaints. It may be of interest to note that noise complaints, whether they be barking dogs or loud parties are the responsibility of West Dorset District Council's Environmental Health department to investigate. They can be contacted on 01305 251010 or by email –

env.health@westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk.

If you wish to keep up to date with crimes and information in your area, then please consider signing up to our Dorset Alert. Visit www.dorsetalert.co.uk where you can choose to receive information by email, phone or text message and best of all it's free! Alternatively you can keep an eye on our social media pages. We are @LymeRegisSNT on Twitter or search for Bridport, Beaminster & Lyme Regis Safer Neighbourhood Teams on Facebook. A member of the team will also be at Charmouth Central on the first Friday of each month between 14:30 and 15:00 to discuss any issues or queries you may have.

If a crime is taking place or life is in danger then call 999, for all other enquiries please call 101.

PCSO 5474 Luke White

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



PCSO5474 Luke White



PC2204 Kirsti Ball



PCSO5386 John Burton

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Shoreline's Advertisers**

“Shoreline”, the Charmouth Village Magazine

Penny Rose entered Shoreline for the Dorset People's Project early in 2014 and was delighted when, in September, it was declared the winner out of 19 entries in this category of the 2014 Best Dorset Village Competition.

Penny said “Shoreline was the first item that was handed to her when she and Jim moved to Charmouth and it was indispensable during their first year as it gave insight into the village, its clubs, activities and important phone numbers. We watched as it grew from black on yellow to its present exciting and very impressive full colour, and felt that it could win a competition”.

As soon as she saw the entry form for the Dorset-wide competition, Penny began asking a range of villagers their impressions of Shoreline. All comments were positive and contributed to the 12 reasons she put forward when entering the competition. Amongst these were the fact that it is written by villagers for villagers for no profit and for free, with donations mainly from local business advertisements to pay for printing. She stressed the diversity of knowledgeable, non-biased articles from local doctors, police, coastguards, school, historians, geologists, chefs, poets and cooks to name just a few! Penny also wrote that it keeps the village aware of current local events. Many villagers reported to her that they send copies to relatives as far away as New Zealand and Canada.

Penny is now looking to enter Shoreline for a bigger – even national, village magazine competition and says that if anyone has heard of one could they please contact her on pennyrose2009@gmail.com.

She adds: “I feel that winning this competition will give great encouragement to the small editorial team who work really hard to produce this splendid magazine, which is the envy of surrounding villages”.

Penny's application to the Dorset People's Project was as follows:

I wish to enter our village magazine “Shoreline” for the People's Project. It is produced four times a year in Charmouth by a group of volunteer villagers for villagers and visitors. It is free; paid for by advertisements from local businesses and supplemented by funds from social events initiated by other villagers. I am entering “Shoreline” for the following reasons:

- it covers many and varied topics of village interest.



- its contents are well balanced, fun, exciting, non-biased and knowledgeable.

- all contributions come from the local community and articles are written by villagers with specialities in subjects which include local history, local natural history, cookery and poetry.

- our local doctors, police and coastguards include excellent articles on health, security and coastal safety.

- it includes reports on local activities such as our Heritage Coast Centre, Primary School, and many of the 70 local clubs for adults and youngsters.

- letters are published on topical issues – including some from visitors expressing their delight in the magazine.

- essential local information such as telephone numbers and web addresses are included.

- future social events, including some free to the village by our traders are advertised – it is a great means of communicating.

- advertisements included help to maintain a successful working community and infrastructure.

- it is published on the website www.charmouth.org.uk where all back copies can be read, and paper copies are enticingly displayed outside our shops for people to collect.

- it is the envy of surrounding villages – indeed, many inhabitants of these surrounding villages also receive it.

- villagers enjoy taking copies on holiday where they photograph themselves with it, demonstrating their pride and respect for it, and it is regularly sent abroad to relatives as far afield as New Zealand and Canada.

“Shoreline” is a true people's project - it is by the village, for the village. Villagers anticipate it and say they enjoy reading it from cover to cover. Indeed it has become a key part of the village life and reflects the attitude of villagers, pulling together to make Charmouth a place worth living-in.

Charmouth Bowls Club News

Bowls Club members and friends gathered in November for an enjoyable evening at the St. Andrew's Community Hall for their annual Presentation Dinner. Members of both the Bowls Club and the Winter Short Mat section were welcomed by their Captain David Sarson and by the Club President Ivan Marks, who went on to present cups and trophies to successful teams and individuals.

For the third year in succession, the catering was provided by the Hall's very own excellent and voluntary catering team. The catering group have over the years worked tirelessly at providing financial support to the Hall and the Bowls Club have been just one of the many groups to have benefitted from this wonderful service. In appreciation of their efforts, the Club President presented a floral bouquet to the catering team leader, Marilyn Waterson.

Short Mat bowls sessions continue through the winter at the Community Hall every Tuesday afternoon at 2.00pm. These are

very informal sessions and anyone wishing to come along and have a try will be very welcome. Just come along on the day! Outdoor bowls will start again in the spring when notice of the dates will be published.

Jim Greenhalgh, Chairman (01297 561336)



Club President with cup and trophy winners.



The Club President presents a bouquet to Marilyn Waterson of the Village Hall catering team.

The Limes School Reunion

On Sunday 7th December 2014 four former pupils and friends met at Little Lodge to share anecdotes about their time at the Day School, along with the current owners of Mulberry Lodge, formerly part of Charmouth Lodge and Little Lodge, the location for the class rooms. The Limes Day School was run by the Whittington Sisters for 63 years until its closure in the early '60s.

Memories were shared about the rows of desk in the now front lounge with "Winnie" sitting at the front. The Whittington sisters seemingly to look so old and thinking back how "Victorian" they were. The boys' and girls' cloakrooms as you came in through the front door, was upstairs along a corridor, past the other classroom, which is now the front main bedroom. Children would go to Charmouth Lodge for meals and out to the rear gardens. The front lounge in what is now Mulberry Lodge being the room where piano lessons were given. You had to speak properly; no local accents on the pronunciations. Only basic mathematics was taught, hence pupils could not sit the 11+ exams. Interestingly, many started at the school earlier than the advertised age of five years.



Veronica Barnes brought along a newspaper cutting collected by her mother when the school closed and remembers the photo being taken in the garden of Charmouth Lodge. She also brought along her copy book, a treasured reminder of those days. "It was a very interesting and fun afternoon listening to everyone chat and share anecdotes about the Whittington's, the School, how our house Little Lodge was at the time and about Charmouth in general," says Helen Parker of Little Lodge

It is important that these memories and any memorabilia are not lost, so a summer reunion is to be organised where others may wish also to come along.

Helen Parker



Charmouth Housechurch

Charmouth Housechurch meets every Thursday evening from 7.30pm at The Elms. As an independent Christian group, we have bible-based mainstream foundations and express our faith with joyful and friendly meetings where everyone is valued and encouraged. You really will find a warm welcome. Lifts are available locally. Contact Jan Gale on 07897 511075 for further information. If you want to explore your faith, we're here for you.



November was the last Exchange Café and many felt that it was the best yet. Lots of people came to catch up over coffee and cakes, enjoy the ambiance, and find something brought along by another freecycle. From talking to people about the café, it seems there are a couple of misunderstanding people have so I'd like to set the record straight:

MYTH-BUSTER 1 – You do not have to have to bring something in order to come. It is as much about coming to have a coffee as the freecycle part and there is always plenty for everyone whether you bring something or not.

MYTH-BUSTER 2 – It is not a fundraiser. Any donations given go towards running the event and the church only receives a contribution towards heating and lighting. The idea behind it was to bring people together, re-use, recycle or share our excess and to open the doors of St Andrew's to the community in a different way.

New for 2015

You will find a special exchange notice board at the next café. This will be to leave notes about anything that you would like to give but can't bring e.g. something too big or not suitable for the building (manure for the garden maybe?) or something more valuable you would like to be sure found a home. Perhaps you have some plants to give away but they need digging up. It could also be a place to leave a message to the person who left something you took and particularly treasure - the beautiful green bowl I have enjoyed everyday since I picked it up at the September café for example.

What makes the freecycle part of the café so special is when people find something just right for them. What makes it easier for us is when there is not much left at the end to sort out. Think of it less as a chance to clear out the cupboards and more of an opportunity to give a new home to something you think will be of use to someone in your community. November's café was just that and I think that is why it was such a success.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of the following Free Exchange Cafés in 2015:

Saturday 14th February
Saturday 11th April
Saturday 20th June
Saturday 19th September
Saturday 7th November

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News from St. Andrew's Church



The saga about the renovation of our church building continues. Following the Open Village Meeting back in September, a Project Management Group was formed. I'm delighted - this very dynamic group consists of Anne Follett, Jane Morrow, Marie Oldham, Jan Bearpark, Alison Taylor, Helen Hughes, Judith Fraser and myself, as Chair. Jim Pettifer will be joining the group for the next few months. Our first three meetings have been full of ideas for the future.

We are acutely aware that it will take the best part of two years to gain the huge funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund that we require in order to do all the exterior structural work on the tower and west end, as well as a major reordering of the interior for multipurpose use. We are employing a professional Project Manager who will spearhead the major grant applications to a range of grant-makers in addition to HLF (at a cost of £700 per month). Our application will not succeed unless the HLF have good evidence that there is widespread community support for a refurbished parish church. So, the Project Group want to undertake some temporary improvements to the building, in order to make it more usable until HLF money comes 'on stream' in 2016. The priorities are:

- To install a temporary toilet, using current plumbing system under the tower
- To reinstate the kitchen, using second-hand units supplied locally
- To lay a temporary floor in the rear area, on the current concrete base
- To provide a temporary door between the rear room and base of tower
- To remove side pews and redo the floor, to enable temporary exhibitions

We have very little money available to do this work, so we aim to overcome this problem by:

1. Obtaining all materials at the lowest possible 'trade' price, or 'gratis' from people who no longer need them, or who feel generous!
1. Invite everyone in the community to adopt this as a 'community venture' – especially the men with the necessary skills.
1. Run a number of special concerts involving local talent as well as 'imported' from the local area, plus other imaginative events.

Therefore we are asking for your help to make the project successful: a) by offering your time and skills; b) by giving materials that will be useful; c) by making financial

contributions; d) by supporting the special events we will organise; and e) by volunteering to join our Group.

WE ARE HOLDING A SPECIAL FUND RAISING AUCTION OF PROMISES ON 26TH MARCH AT 7PM. There'll be wine and canapes, and an auction of many exciting items and valuable 'promises'. Marie Oldham is organising it – more later!!

Meanwhile the normal life of St Andrew's continues. But we do have one urgent need – a new Treasurer! Audrey Worth is standing down at our April Annual Meeting – without a Treasurer our church cannot legally function!! If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Pauline Berridge.

Revd Stephen Skinner, Team Rector

Tower of Strength

By Peter Crowter

As I sit in the chair that I lounge in, to read, snooze and watch the TV,
Pursuits that I have lots of time for, 'cause now I'm an old retiree.
My gaze often strays through the window, and over the roofs down The Street,
And focuses onto the tower, a sight other buildings can't beat.

Its owner, the church, is well hidden, by rooftops of buildings less grand,
The tower proudly stands high above them, and that was the way it was planned.
A sort of a guardian angel, to watch over all of her flock,
A permanent feature of Charmouth, reliable, solid as rock.

The tower is demure in the mornings, and while I eat Marmite on toast,
She blends with the hillside behind her, almost unseen like a ghost.
She's like this for much of the morning, but wakes as the sun moves around,
Except when it's raining and misty, and then she's not easily found.

In late afternoon and the evening, she really comes into her own,
Floodlit by the sun she is glowing, proud like a queen on her throne.
I watch her get brighter and brighter, she stands out in brilliant 3-D,
I'm tempted to rush for my camera, it's better than watching TV.

The magical moment's a brief one, to catch it you have to act fast,
The sun is relentlessly sinking, the best of the light show is past.
The tower once again is in shadow, behind on the hill houses wink.
The sun throws its light from their windows, and soon it will finally sink.

The church of St Andrew's in Charmouth, a friend that resides on the hill,
Like churches all over the country, a vital role she has to fill.
The numbers that worship on Sundays, it has to be said now are few,
I'm one of the ones not attending, and possibly also are you.

However we take it for granted, our church will forever be there,
To turn to if we are in trouble, when we need some spiritual care,
Men's faith has constructed our churches, and also has kept them maintained,
And from their comforting presence, all folk through the ages have gained.

Charmouth Central



A packed Annual General Meeting gave Hazel Robinson, our outgoing chairman, a big thank you for her three years of hard work, which saw Charmouth Library emerge from the threat of closure to become a vibrant Library. Additionally, she had overseen the construction and equipping of a new community room at the rear of the library, which seats up to 28 people, making it ideal for smaller meetings, craft and other groups. This had not been achieved single-handedly, as she had also recruited an active committee, the Friends' organisation, and around 40 volunteers to run the library on a day-to-day basis.

The library is now buoyant, with longer opening hours, more members, book issues which compare favourably with County and other Community libraries and our special ingredient, welcoming staff! There are activities for old, young and in-betweeners. These include Rhyme-time for children, Canasta and 'Tea and Chat' for the older age group, which make the "Community" bit of Charmouth Library and Community Hub a growing reality.

Some groups are run by the Friends, others are external bookings from individuals, or groups like U3A who have started a Canasta club. These activities are publicised on the noticeboard outside the Library, the Charmouth Village and Library websites.

Our next new launch is our Film Club, with adult and junior groups. The curtain went up for adults on Sunday Jan 25th at 8 pm. The first film was 'Nebraska' Please contact Hazel (she has not disappeared completely!) on HazelRosery@aol.com for details and to book seats for future films.

There is no entry charge, refreshments will be on sale, but I am not sure about the Popcorn. Watch our notice boards for the launch of the Junior Film Club.

Externally the grounds have been landscaped, creating a perfumed garden out of a wilderness. Our thanks go to volunteers who helped, the organisations who have made grants to us and our local contractors, who have enabled these

things to happen rapidly and to a very high standard. Our Parish Council verbally encourages us in our endeavours, many Councillors are individual Friends and some have been able to help with grants too.

We have done well and we hope to do even better in the future by making the most of our facilities. You can help us in a variety of ways: take out books for yourself and families, or if you know someone who can't make it to the library, volunteer to pick up the odd book for them. We can always use more volunteers and we promise not to throw you in at the deep end. You will have some training. Our finances are reasonably good, but more Friends contributing £24 per year will reduce our reliance on grants, which are ever harder to find. Ring Deb for details on 561011.

If you are interested in a 'one-off' or regular booking of our facilities, please ring Deb Winstone on 561011.

Bob Hughes, Acting Chairman (560487)

Great News for Charmouth and the Friends of Charmouth Library

A recent opinion poll in 'The Times' said that Charmouth was the second best village in Britain in which to live. It suggested a range of factors which caused it to be so good: size of village, shopping facilities, pubs, school, churches, access to sea and country, etc. It seemed to me that it missed out Charmouth's best feature: its people.

The Volunteer Centre, a co-ordinating organisation for community groups in Dorset, has recognised us. Friends of Charmouth Library were awarded a certificate as 'Volunteer Group of the year' for its outstanding volunteer contribution. In the last 12 months a huge number of people from in and around Charmouth have helped the library move from certain closure to a success story.

We recognise that in Charmouth there are many other groups, sustained by their volunteers, which help to enrich the community spirit. We accept the award with some pride, but also with some humility, knowing that we are one amongst many. For me, it is a major reason why Charmouth is, in the words of my six-year-old grandson, 'The Happy place.'

Bob Hughes

Church Floodlights

Have you got something to celebrate? Why not sponsor the floodlights on the church to celebrate an anniversary, christening, birthday, new grandchild or to remember someone special? If you would like to light up the tower for a special occasion, or just to enjoy it lighting up the street scene, please contact Helen Hughes on 01297 560487. The cost will be £10 per night or £20 for the week, to go towards church funds. We look forward to sharing your occasion with you!

Helen Hughes

Nick Shannon

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Last Cygnet Swimming on the River Char

In late spring the pair of swans created their nest amongst the reeds and six cygnets were hatched. Four cygnets, monitored and fed regularly by several Charmouth residents, were successfully reared through the summer. Dave Wheeler, from the Abbotsbury Swannery, visited once to check on the cygnets and pronounced them to be 'strong and healthy'. In September the parent birds and two cygnets flew to Abbotsbury where the cygnets were checked and ringed with numbers linking them to their parents. A third cygnet probably flew to Abbotsbury but could not be linked to the parents as it did not arrive with them.

The remaining cygnet was unlikely to survive on the river without the parents to defend it. Following phone calls from concerned residents and after obtaining permission to capture the remaining cygnet, Dave Wheeler arrived in early October to transport it to Abbotsbury. Several of us met with Dave to see the cygnet safely caught, wrapped in a blue jacket for safe transportation and fed a large bucket of grain on the way to the Swannery, where it would be reunited with the rest of the family.

Jan Coleman

The National Trust and the 'Future Coast' Project

Those of us who live on or near the coast are well aware that our coastline can change almost overnight. We remember the damage and loss sustained in the extreme storms of February 2014. At Middle Beach, Studland for example, there was some 10 metres of soft cliff given to the sea in just one night. Of course this is a natural process and in fact the sediment released then performs a valuable function in terms of nourishing the foreshore which then provides its own coast protection....one of nature's more obvious feedback mechanisms. Where there is no man-made infrastructure to concern us, it is sensible to allow this process to continue unhindered and that would seem to be the most sustainable long-term management strategy as well.

Where there is infrastructure, the choices become more difficult....do we construct (increasingly expensive) defences or do we try to 'roll back' the infrastructure to 'safer' ground? We know that coastal engineering works are often complex to build and expensive and even top quality engineering will only have a design life of some 60-70 years. So 'roll back' seems increasingly to be a 'better bet'.

A similar argument applies to the natural flora and fauna of the coast, especially as sea levels rise and accelerated erosion appear ever more likely in the decades to come. There are many species of plants, invertebrates and animals that require adequate space to nest, to breed and of course, to forage for food. It is amazing how extensive some foraging areas have to be for survival. If habitats, food sources and breeding grounds are being 'squeezed' on the one hand by coastal erosion and on the other by unsympathetic agricultural practices, political or land ownership issues on the landward side, then gradual but successful ecological 'roll back' becomes compromised. Rare or vulnerable species can be 'squeezed' to the point of extinction in such cases.

The *National Trust* has recently embarked upon an exciting project that aims to examine a range of Trust 'hotspot' sites, that is to say;

identify those sites where ecological 'roll back' would be difficult under the present prevailing conditions. The solutions have to be tailored to individual sites and situations. For example, it may be that changes in agricultural practice will be required and various reports from the government under the general heading of 'Making Space for Nature' have outlined how less intensive coastal farming practices can support wildlife without compromising the viability of the farming operation.

With some *National Trust* coastal properties, there will be situations where the ownership of land (behind or next to the coastal strip) is outside of Trust control. Once such locations are fully identified (and that is a key objective of the 'Future Coast' Project), it is a case of liaising with the current land owner/local authority/ Natural England etc to explore joint plans that will support ecological 'roll back'. In

a few cases, it may prove desirable to try to acquire land; either to join up smaller parcels of coastal strip so that the wildlife is provided with a wider and more comprehensive roaming area or more extensive areas

of land beyond the immediate coastal strip so that as the coast erodes, the natural flora and fauna have space to roll back in harmony with the erosion.

Phase 1 of the project involves a desk-based survey of all *National Trust* coastal properties to assess which are vulnerable to loss or damage from erosion and where natural ecological 'roll back' is currently deemed to be difficult. This work will be followed by 'on the ground' inspections to verify the desk top findings and to add in local and specific knowledge. More detailed opportunities and constraints will also be identified at this stage. By the summer of 2015 we will have a much better idea of which properties need further consideration and how to progress with any adaptations deemed necessary.

The *National Trust* has a reputation for exemplifying 'best practice' where coastal management is concerned and the 'Future Coast' initiative illustrates how important it is to think in the widest possible context and to plan for the long-term rather than just for the next short while. If we want our wildlife to thrive at the coast we must give them space to do so....

Tony Flux
Coast and Marine Adviser (SW)



Is there space here for coastal species to move landwards as sea levels rise?

Charmouth Poetry Corner

SPRINGTIME

by Peter Crowter

Down Higher Sea Lane towards the sea I take my morning walk,
Demure and pale, white nodding bells on tiny slender stalk.
Snowdrops brave have woken up I have to be impressed,
I think that it's still freezing and have on my thermal vest.

The trees are bare their silhouettes stand out against the sky,
Black sentinels claim their domain and look out from on high
The rookery is silent now but that won't be for long
They'll start domestic duties soon, become a noisy throng

The rain has stopped, the sun peeps out, it looks a little shy,
Catkins on the hazel swing like lambs' tails out to dry.
A hint of warmth do I detect, more so than yesterday,
Do I detect a sign or two that spring is on the way?

The primroses and violets and the lesser celandine,
Give the banks beside the lanes a colourful design.
The sun invites the butterflies to visit flowers and sip,
I think that is a speckled wood and there's an orange tip.

The early birds are nesting now and fill the air with song,
The blackbird's laid its greenish eggs; the song thrush won't be long.
The blackbird's underrated song, to me it is the best,
The song thrush sings its phrases thrice, to make sure you're impressed.

I spot a lonely swallow and for me that is the first,
It skims across the water, takes a sip to quench its thirst.
The house martins will follow soon and swifts will scythe the air.
I might just hear a cuckoo but it's getting very rare.

The daffodils, to see them is an every day event,
But their familiarity, to me it breeds content.
And when we feel enough's enough, a change is on its way,
Yellow fades and blue becomes the colour of the day.

The bluebells thrive beneath the trees whose leaves are new and bright,
They compliment each other, their display a dazzling sight.
Spring is almost over now, it leaves us on a high.
Summer's round the corner and to spring we say 'Goodbye'.



The Elegant Fowl

I found this verse that I'd written 40 years ago as a book marker entitled 'Birds of Canada' in the attic one morning. I remembered when I counted 17 of these beautiful birds - the snowy owls - on the way to school one very cold winter's morning. I'd never seen so many of these lugubrious, hapless, beautiful fowl. I had to ask what possible force could have induced them to fly so far south from their extreme polar regions? Some speculations occupied my mind and, by the time I'd arrived at school, some ill-formed notions had formed. The following are the fruits of my labours.

Although I was witness to this bird's remarkable presence in my Canadian existence, the Snowy Owl, being a circumpolar species, is seen frequently in the far north of Britain, especially the Outer Isles. As it was rather chilly

a week or so ago, the following lines might have some relevance - just think how lucky we are here!

Peter M. Press

THE SNOWY OWL

(*Nyctea Scandiaca*)

The Snowy Owl with Ookpical cowl*
Flaps southward on many a season.
The question I learn is of concern to
Those who'd establish a reason.

I've heard pundits state in attempts to
Equate the predator/prey correlation.
From this I deduce that if lemmings produce
The owls will increase population.

Now why is he here, for this is not clear;
Some tentatively suggest a migration.
Others I know, say this is not so,
It's merely a food motivation.

The question this poses, is it *Nyctea's*
Neuroses that bring him so far every year?
But it's far simpler than this - as he would insist,
'It's very much warmer down here'.

* The Ookpic is the Inuit name of the Snowy Owl

Hensleigh House

We took over running Hensleigh House the day after August Bank Holiday Monday, with 18 breakfasts served on the first morning. It was quite daunting taking on a busy guest house at one of the busiest times of the year, but it enabled us to get to grips with the essentials quickly, and get a good feel for the business before the Winter maintenance.

We are most grateful to the staff who have continued to work with us, and have helped enormously ensuring the smooth running of the business. The staff do of course include George the Giraffe, who has been at Hensleigh for many years, but has taken the opportunity to move outside to the shrubbery where he entertains the visitors to Lower Sea Lane.

At the moment we are concentrating on providing quality bed and breakfast, although we closed during December and January to enable some essential maintenance to be carried out, and for us to stamp our identity on the rooms with redecoration. There is also lots of time being devoted to marketing including the website, Facebook pages, and links to many online directories (do take a moment to visit our Facebook page).

In 2015 we will again be serving cream teas and hope to expand to offer a wider range of daytime teas, coffees snacks and light lunches. We are also pleased to cater for parties, celebrations and events for up to 50 people.

In our short time in the village we have fallen in love with Charmouth, and look forward to many happy years as a part of the local community.

Jim & Dawn Greenfield

St Andrew's Community Hall

Since our last article in Shoreline I can report that 40 solar panels have now been installed onto the hall which will generate up to 10kW of pollution free energy which in turn will help us to maintain our, already low, hire charges.

Forthcoming events include bingo sessions which are planned for the third Fridays of January, February and March (Easter Bingo) and will take a break through the summer months and recommence in October. We will also be holding other varied fund raising events throughout the year.

Please look at notice boards around the village and/or visit our web site at:
www.standrewscommunityhallcharmouth.co.uk
for further details.

Jeff Prosser

St. Andrew's Community Hall Committee

The Christmas Day Swim 2014

This year's Christmas Day Swim was our first official event as Charmouth representatives of the Lyme Regis & Charmouth Lifeboat Guild, having taken over from David and Hilary Munday on their retirement.

We were absolutely delighted with how things went on the day, from the magnificent weather to the sheer number of swimmers and spectators and we were thrilled when we found that the day's collection came in at £2,047.91 - a truly amazing result! We would like to thank everyone that contributed, with special thanks to the collectors, The Royal Oak and of course the lifeboat crew.



We are now planning for Lifeboat Week (18th-25th July) and are hoping to introduce a couple more events focused in Charmouth. If you think you would like to help, please do get in touch.

Clare and Colin Evans

01297 561477 or
evanscolfry@aol.com

The Royal Oak

The Royal Oak has traditionally been a venue for Charmouth locals to come and unwind after a day's work or tough week over a pint of Palmers Ale and to share news and views of the village. Many years ago with as many as 6 pubs in the village, the locals were spoilt for choice; now with only 2 pubs the Oak is a vital part of community life.

Karen Phillips took over as landlady on December 1st and along with partner Ian Hendry and daughter Emily, they hope to continue to serve local interests as well as those of the many walkers and visitors to the area.

Good beer, chilled wine and simple, homemade dishes at a sensible price is the mantra of Karen. "The locals have already been extremely supportive over the Christmas and New Year period, so we already feel a valued part of the community" – long may it continue.

Karen and Ian welcome you to



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From the White House

There is much debate over sustainable fish at the moment; we have plundered the seas for too many years and now a lot of species are dangerously close to collapse. There are increasingly calls for changes in habits so that we eat less of the endangered fish and more of those that have sustainable populations.

One such fish is the Pollock. For me I find the fresh fish a bit too 'wet' and flabby and I'm not a great fan. It's good for fish pies and the like but as a fillet I would much rather have cod or haddock. However the pollock comes into its own when smoked. The salting firms up the flesh and it smokes really well.

Following are a couple of recipes which are as suitable to haddock as they are to pollock. It is becoming increasingly more common in fish shops so do look around for the smoked variety. It is worth it.

Ian Simpson

Poached smoked pollock with cheese sauce and poached egg

Soak the pollock in three quarters of pint of cold milk for 20 mins. Remove from the milk and put the milk on to boil with a bayleaf

In another pan melt 2oz butter and then add 2oz flour. Stir with a wooden spoon and cook gently for 3/4 minutes. Add the milk a little at a time and stir vigorously until a smooth sauce is obtained. Add 4oz grated mature cheddar and stir in till melted.

Poach the pollock in a little more milk for a few minutes depending on the thickness of the portion. Remove and keep warm. Then gently poach an egg in the smoky fishy milk. Remember the fresher the eggs the less they spread all over the pan. When cooked, place on the pollock, coat with the cheese sauce, sprinkle with some chives and eat.

Smoked pollock fishcakes

8oz cold Mmashed potato (as dry as you can get it.)

8oz chopped up smoked pollock fillet.

Mix together in a bowl. Add seasoning, salt, pepper chives, tarragon, parsley, even a tin of tuna goes well.

Mould by hand into fishcake shapes.

Put into a freezer for an hour so they firm up.

Then pass through seasoned flour, then egg wash and finally breadcrumb to coat.

Fry till golden brown on both sides. Finish cooking in the oven till cooked through.

Serve with tartare sauce.

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The War-time Connection– Olivia Hole, OBE



Olivia Hole will be remembered by those whose memories of Charmouth stretch back 20 years or more. An active and energetic lady with a keen mind, she was a founder of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. She was also president of the Charmouth Society for some years; a member of the Women's Institute; an avid writer, diarist and reader (a self-confessed "wordsmith"); and a keen boat owner and sailor. In retirement she learned to fly a Cessna and was a member of Exeter Flying Club. Ahead of her time, she belonged to the Euthanasia Society and was a pro-active recycler.

Her enthusiasm for photography stemmed from the mid-1960s when she retired to Charmouth and took thousands of slides of village life and the ever-changing coastline.

Her public slide shows with accompanying witty commentaries were well attended. Olivia's niece, Hilary Munday, notes that each set of slides was specially chosen, not only for every show, but with specific audiences in mind.

Born Olivia Cockett in London in 1912, she was one of around 475 people across Britain – mainly middle class and literate – who, in the summer of 1939, volunteered to be an 'Observer'. She kept a diary and recorded her everyday life and thoughts, which inevitably included her family and friends. She was also expected to respond to open-

ended questionnaires known as 'war directives'. Organised on a shoe string budget by social research organisation Mass-Observation (M-O), the results were used to obtain data and also helped to shape British government policies. Mass-Observation had recorded people's opinions at King Edward VIII's abdication in 1936 and the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth the following year, but its usefulness as a source of prime historical and cultural information came into its own during the testing years of World War II.

Olivia's M-O diary began at the time of the outset of war in 1939, the year she joined the civil service, and ended in October 1942. Her entries in 1941 and 1942 were irregular, due in part to work disruptions. She wrote in detail about the impact of the war on her life, her family's lives and those around her. She related her personal feelings and frustrations, her views on rationing, blackout precautions, dark moments when bombs landed nearby, the books she read, the music on the radio, the friends she met, the difficulties getting on buses, trains and trams – and her special "Man", Bill Hole, who worked for the Metropolitan Police.



Apart from her first job as a clerk with the Metropolitan Police, Olivia spent her career with the Ministry of Works. In 1946 she was a staff officer and by 1947 she had been promoted to the minister's office and became his assistant private secretary. On her retirement in 1964, she had become one of the most senior women in the Ministry of Works and received the OBE in the 1965 New Year Honours list. Olivia continued to report to Mass-Observation until well into the 1990s, when her eyesight failed. Olivia and Bill retired to Charmouth, to Lynchets on Higher Sea Lane, where her niece Hilary and husband David now live. They enjoyed outdoor pursuits together and were both wardens of the National Trust Golden Cap estate. I indicated earlier that Olivia

had learnt to fly. Her instructor was Mike Davies, Charmouth's former pharmacist and Mary Davis' late husband. Mary remembers Olivia as a "really lovely, gentle lady who loved children", although she had none of her own. Olivia was the first person in the village to extend an invitation when Mary and Mike first moved here. "Mike was working so I took my son Geoff, who was then 18 months old, and we had tea with Olivia." Mary also remembers that she always had a camera with her. She recalls that Olivia did so much for the village in terms of photographing and recording life here through three decades that the Parish Council gave her the use of the Grade II listed Napoleonic Lookout by the beach.

Well into old age, Olivia read philosophy, mathematics, sociology, history, poetry and natural science, particularly geology. She is remembered by her family as having a good wit, a sharp mind and unconventional views. Olivia died in 1998, aged 86. She and Bill, who died in 1972, are buried in Charmouth Cemetery.

Olivia was the subject of a book entitled 'Love and War in London, A Woman's Diary 1939-1942', published in 2005 by Wilfrid Laurier University Press of Ontario and edited by Robert W Malcolmson. If you would like to learn more about her life and experiences in London during the war, this book makes an interesting read. Background on the Mass-Observation organisation is on <http://www.massobs.org.uk/index.htm> The original M-O archive source material is held at the University of Sussex.

With thanks to Hilary & David Munday and Mary Davis.

Lesley Dunlop

Look out for an article from Mary Davis in the next issue. Mary also flew with husband Mike for some years and took aerial photographs of the village. We'll bring you her recollections next time.

Clever Sleuths Wanted! In Villages

Solve the Mystery of the Rose Bouquet!

Professional theatre company SMALLWORLD THEATRE challenge audiences to answer some simple riddles during their tour of *The Mystery of the Rose Bouquet* by Manuel Puig to Dorset villages early in 2015.

Puig, the famous Argentinian playwright writes in the tradition of South American realism and intrigues his audiences with

his blend of dream, illusion and reality. But beneath it all lies the truth! But whose truth? What is the Mystery of the Rose Bouquet?

Complete a form at the end of the play, giving a solution to the Mystery! These will be judged by an impartial judge and a prize awarded for the best answer at the end of the tour.

Test your detective skills at Bourton 14th February, Charmouth 28th February, Powerstock Hut 7th March, Whitchurch Canonicorum 14th March, Litton Cheney 28th March.

At 7.30 pm. in St. Andrews Community Hall.

Charmouth Scout Group News

Beavers and Cubs Use Their Dough Wisely



To help decorate the Parish Church for its Harvest Festival service, Cubs from 1st Charmouth decided to harness their dough making skills. Half the Pack made traditional harvest wheat sheaves, while the others made a variety of animals that might be found in local fields. For good measure, some of the Cubs also tried their hand at making harvest scenes by gluing pasta shapes on to base boards.

Not to be left out, the Beavers made three round focaccia loaves, which were taken and eaten at the Harvest Lunch, while the Scouts chipped in with the jars of jams and chutneys they had made three days earlier. Various dry and tinned goods were also donated by parents.

The Vicar, Stephen Skinner, was delighted with the results and placed the items around the altar for the annual thanksgiving service. In addition to involving members of the Scout Group in a quiz about fruits in the bible, Stephen also invited one of the Cubs to read a harvest poem and a Scout to read the lesson for the day.

Commenting on the Group's hard work, Scout Leader Kevin Payne said, "We are always keen to get our members involved in the Harvest Festival service and making items to decorate the church and to be distributed to the needy is an ideal way for us to do this."

Scouts 'Sling Their Hooks'



In order to take a step closer towards gaining their Chief Scout's Gold Awards, six older members of the troop decided to tackle their overnight Expedition Challenge over a very wet and muddy October weekend.

To make matters even more

interesting, they decided to shun hike tents in favour of trying out the Scout group's new hammocks and shelter tarps – bought thanks to a grant from the Bridport Car Boot Sale Charity Fund.

Despite getting lost on a number of occasions and having to wade through thick mud, they made it to the camp site near Little Windsor, where they were joined by Scouts from two other Troops. After erecting their hammocks, the Scouts then learned some new survival skills. These included lighting fires with potassium permanganate and glycerine (very popular), making a methylated spirit stove from an old coke tin



and carving a spoon from scratch.

Next day, the weather improved and the six arrived safely and on time to their finish point on the top of Pilsdon Pen.

Swimming Gala Trophy Retained

Having won the Trophy for the first time in 2013, the Scouts were keen to retain it in 2014. Entering virtually the same team as the year before, the Scouts swept the board by winning all six of the swimming races and doing well in the three fun events. Commenting on the win, Carol Moorey, who masterminded both wins, said, "We are lucky to have so many young people who are not only strong swimmers but also excellent Scouts." Unfortunately, the Cubs can second to last in their event, but had great fun in the process.

Two more Members Gain Chief Scouts Awards

We are delighted to report that Oliver Pemberton was awarded his Chief Scout's Silver Award and Sophie Chong her Chief Scout's Gold by the District Commissioner at the annual Carol Service in December. These Awards, which are the highest for a Cub and Scout, respectively, require a lot of hard work and dedication and are a real mark achievement. Well done Oliver and Sophie!

50 Years and Still Going Strong

Don't forget, the 1st Charmouth Scout Group celebrates its 50th anniversary this May and we are hoping as many ex-members as possible will join in the celebrations.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been hard at work designing a commemorative badge, and the winning entry will be chosen shortly.

We are hoping to create a database of ex-Beaver, Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Leaders so we can invite them to the exciting events we are planning to run throughout the year to celebrate our Golden Anniversary. We are also hoping ex-members will make a one-off donation to the Group so we can get the HQ back to the state it was in when it was erected 50 years ago – or an even better one!

For more details contact Kevin Payne
payne.kevin6@gmail.com.



Charmouth Primary School

Another term has flown by and the children have been engaged in lots of exciting things over the course of the term. Beach School has become embedded in our school practice and the children are learning out of outdoors regularly in our unique learning environment on or near the beach.

As a school, we have enjoyed being involved with the local community in recent months. Some children have been involved in supporting members of the community at Memorable Memoirs, demonstrating and talking about their knowledge and understanding of computers. At Christmas, Year 5, known as Turtles Class, sang Christmas songs and carols to the residents in St Andrew's House in Charmouth.

We have also been privileged for our school to be approached by the new Parliament Education Outreach Officer for the South West as part of initiative supporting schools across the region in Parliamentary and Democratic Education. The outreach officer's role is to visit schools across the region and provide assemblies and a range of workshops covering a variety of topics such as Introduction to Parliament, Making Laws, Elections and Voting and Debating. Years 5 and 6 took part a series of workshops and were inspired by the initiative.

The children also enjoyed participating in our Christmas Bazaar in December. Many children sang Christmas Carols and Year 6 worked with Alison from Morgans to produce a sweet stall. They combined this with a project in maths in the curriculum and they were able to calculate profit and loss margins. We are pleased to say that they made a slight profit! Thank you to Alison for her support – the whole experiences went down a treat! It was also lovely to see many members of the Charmouth community during the course of the evening and share in our festive fun.

Our School Council was formed in November last year and has worked to voice the opinion of the students that it serves. The whole school took part in a persuasive writing project and those that wanted to stand had their work displayed. We held a series of assemblies where each year group's representatives gave a short speech on what they'd change if they were elected. Following that the whole school voted for each other, a boy and a girl in each class. We had 14 School Council members last year and an overwhelming number of children who wanted to stand.

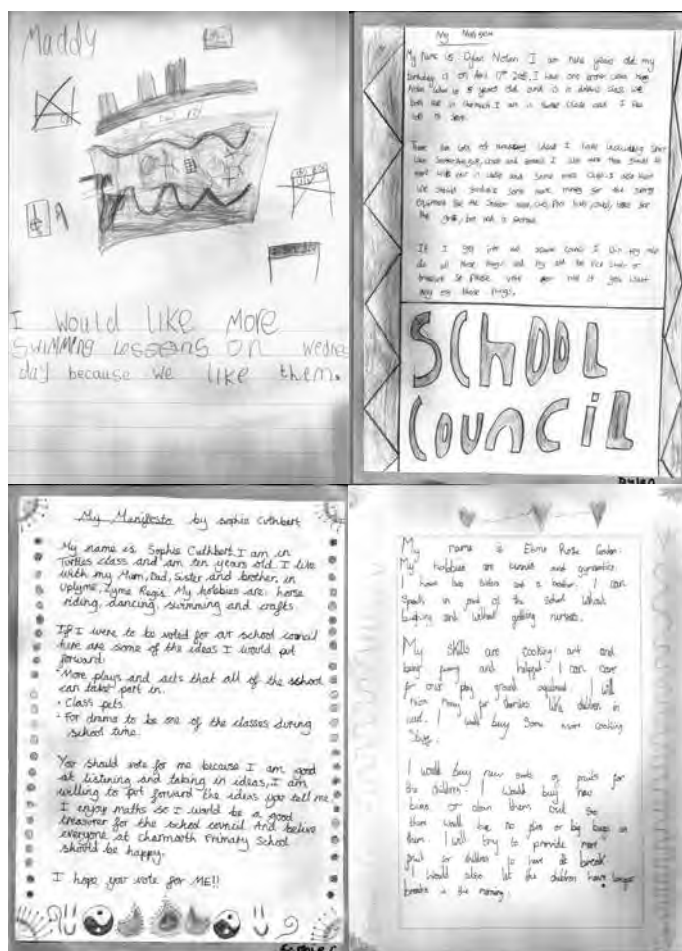
School Council meet during their lunchtimes to discuss worries, suggestions from their peers and new ways to raise and spend money. They initiated suggestion books, which they bring to each meeting and feedback findings to their class. The School Council has raised £257 this year with their non-uniform day, cake sale and art competition. After three meetings, they

decided to spend the majority of the money on playtime games and have purchased space hoppers, bouncers, safer balls to play with and a target set.

They have been involved in working with governors, interviewing and publishing their work on two governors and have also been in governor meetings, explaining what their role is. They have interviewed future staff during the formal interview process.

We have just elected a new School Council following the process described above and we are delighted to have 14 new members. They have each written their manifestos and would like to share them with you in this edition.

Gillian Morris, Head Teacher



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Festive Feel at Charmouth Concert

The Charmouth and Bridport Pop & Rock Choir presented an up-beat and memorable Christmas concert on Saturday 20th December at St. Andrew's Community Hall, Charmouth. The choir sang purposefully and musically and were also joined by five guest singers from the Axe Valley Community Choir.

The hall was packed to capacity with an enthusiastic crowd who joined in with Christmas carols and other seasonal songs. The programme was varied and harmonious and included a new arrangement of the popular song, Mistletoe and Wine, a catchy version of I Can See Clearly and a six part harmony arrangement of Sunny.

Soloists were Maria Beazley who sang a beautiful Russian folk song, Helen Van Der Plank who sang Fly me to the Moon and a haunting arrangement of You've got a Friend, and Ben Jones who took solo parts in two of the Christmas melodies. Refreshments were served by volunteer husbands of choir members and stage sound and lighting was effectively controlled by Matthew Wallace.

The evening was directed, accompanied and compered by Edward Jacobs who also played a dramatic solo piano arrangement of the song Feelings. Edward is now well known in the West Dorset and East Devon areas and performs and directs all over the South West including Cornwall and Bristol.

David Parker-Smith



Members of the Charmouth and Bridport Pop and Rock Choir presenting a cheque for £150 to the RNLI from the proceeds of their sold out Christmas Concert on 20th December in Charmouth

Heritage Coast U3A

The essential New Year Message from The Heritage Coast U3A is that we go from strength to strength with a membership now topping 600, more than 45 groups to choose from and a regular programme of talks that are increasingly well attended throughout the year. We sense that members are taking more advantage of the opportunity to meet up before the talks for a coffee and a chat.

Our Charmouth representation, in particular, has seen a large increase and a couple of our groups now meet regularly in the village. The importance to us all is not so much in the numbers themselves as in the opportunities, created through economies of scale producing a wider range of expertise to run groups and more viability for trips. If you are already a member and might offer to lead something or if you are not a member but might be able to bring something new to the organisation, then Penny Rose (Groups Co-ordinator – pennyrose2009@gmail.com) would love to hear from you.

Forthcoming trips this year that might whet the appetite and persuade you to contact Mary Bohane (Membership Secretary – marybohane@yahoo.co.uk):

March 19-21: Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Swan Lake and Madam Butterfly on successive nights.

April 11: Welsh National Opera – Bristol Hippodrome - 'Hansel and Gretel'

June 4: Bristol Hippodrome – matinee - 'Jersey Boys'

September 10th: Plymouth Mayflower – matinee - 'Annie' - featuring Craig Revel Horwood

Concerts In The West – bringing the very finest young classical musicians to the West Country, begins its 10th season in Lyme Regis at a new venue – The Hub in Church Street. U3A members are entitled to discounts. Details for the whole season are online at www.concertsinthewest.org but you might like to put the first in your diary now: a piano recital by Martin Cousin on February 7th at 7.30pm. Martin will be playing a newly acquired Yamaha Boudoir Grand. You can pay on the door or get tickets from The Serendip Bookshop in Lyme Regis.

John Bartholomew

Charmouth Christian Fellowship

On 19th October we celebrated our first anniversary as Charmouth Christian Fellowship. In the afternoon we had a buffet-style meal and about 35-40 people joined with us. It was most encouraging that so many should support us in one way or another. Most of these stopped on to join in our service at 6.00pm. All had encouraging comments for us and all in all it was a wonderful day. Throughout the year we have enjoyed many great times of blessing, especially with holidaymakers coming back to us two or three times. Of course, like all churches, we have gone through difficult times but that is what we have done, "gone through them".

As I sat down to write this article, I watched on television what happened at the sales on 'Black Friday' on the run up to Christmas. It seemed to me that so many were driven by a selfish "I want, I want" attitude. I watched three people fighting for one television! I asked myself is this really what Christmas is all about. One of the best known verses in the Bible – John, chapter 3, verse 156.... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." This is where the giving of presents really comes from. How wonderful it would be if more folk considered themselves a little less and others a little more. Mike and I wish all the readers of Shoreline a healthy, peaceful and happy 2015.

Tony English 01297 560562



Moths & Butterflies

If gardening articles and wildlife writers have encouraged you to plant for butterflies in your garden, hurrah! I may have mentioned this before, but beware of buying large and blousy flowers where the plant breeders have bred out the natural scents, denying insects their nectar. One plant catalogue I saw this year actually labelled their pictures of the right flowers "butterfly friendly" - good for them.

One insect I enjoy seeing each year in my garden, usually on lavender, is actually a moth. It hovers in front of flowers to feed without settling on them, and moves through the air just like small tropical birds, hence its name, Humming-bird Hawk moth. The moth is dull in colour, mostly brown, but is a joy to see flying.

A butterfly to set the pulse racing is the Swallowtail. Big and beautiful, our native Swallowtail is confined to the Norfolk Broads as its caterpillar feeds only on milk parsley, which grows in very wet places. So you won't see *Papilio machaon britannicus* in your garden. However there is a Continental Swallowtail, a little larger and with less dark colouring than ours, which is common on the continent, but historically very rare in this country. This creature is not so fussy with its food, likes a warm climate, and up to now seems not to survive our winters. However they have started invading, and have been recorded in the southern counties, even breeding in gardens in Hastings, Eastbourne and Chichester. So why not Charmouth? Do report any sightings - Butterfly Conservation will help you (www.dorsetbutterflies.com). One butterfly you should see most years is the Clouded Yellow. A little larger than our Small White, it is buttery yellow with a chocolate border. It cannot survive our winters, so it was always said, and we rely on immigration to see it each summer. However I had a female drinking nectar from a late flower in my garden on 17th November last, and they have been shown to survive the winter in the caterpillar state on the cliffs at Bournemouth, so why not here? I must go onto the undercliff below me next spring to find any eggs or caterpillars on the Clover and Bird's-foot trefoil, and perhaps add a new breeding butterfly to the Charmouth list.

Geoffrey Sell



Charmouth Now and Then



I'm sure that most people looking through old photos of Charmouth on the village website try and compare them in their mind's eye to the present day street scene (see Neil Mattingly's website http://www.charmouthhistory.com/charmouth_home.htm for early photographs of the village). I've developed this a little bit further by trying to take new photos from the same position and blending them with the old.

Taking photos from the same position can be hazardous as it's often in the middle of the road and modern traffic is somewhat faster than horse-drawn carriages. Sometimes it's impossible if the original photo was taken from the edge of a cliff that has since eroded away. In some cases houses have been demolished or new ones built, making the original position hard to pinpoint. Once the location is found by lining up angles of roofs, positions of chimney pots and windows or even hedge lines, it is possible to get close to the original camera position. The next problem is to try and reproduce the focal length and aperture of the lens so that the inherent distortions are similar. If all else fails, a bit of judicious stretching and tweaking using computer software can usually make the two photos fit together, or at least hide the 'joins'. The end result gives a fascinating if somewhat haunting glimpse of times gone by set in the context of modern day Charmouth.

https://onedrive.live.com/redir.aspx?cid=94e05b38f92dac-6c&resid=94E05B38F92DAC6C!1288&parId=94E05B38F92DAC-6C!135&authkey=!ABTfU11q_6ctZVo&ithint=folder%2cjpg

They may take a while to load. Viewing them on 'slideshow' is probably best. I think that clicking on 'View Original' will give you a higher resolution if you need copies. Let me know if the link doesn't work; it sometimes plays up. Thanks to Neil Mattingly for allowing me to borrow his extensive collection of Charmouth photos.

Bill Burns

And our thanks to Bill who took the contemporary photos. We think you'll agree that his blend of Charmouth now and then is impressive and imaginative!



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The Evans Cliff Landslip 2003 - 2014

Evans Cliff is the area immediately east of the mouth of the River Char. In 1945 this land was bequeathed to Charmouth Parish Council by Miss Gertrude Evans of Hammonds Mead house, "never to be built on".

I began photographing Evans Cliff in 2001 and have watched the progress of its landslip over the last fifteen years. This photo was taken in Feb 2003 and, for reference, shows the Parish Boundary hedge and the wide metal gate quite some distance from the cliff edge - compare with later pictures...



The photo below was taken at the end of the same year and shows the same features from a more familiar viewpoint.



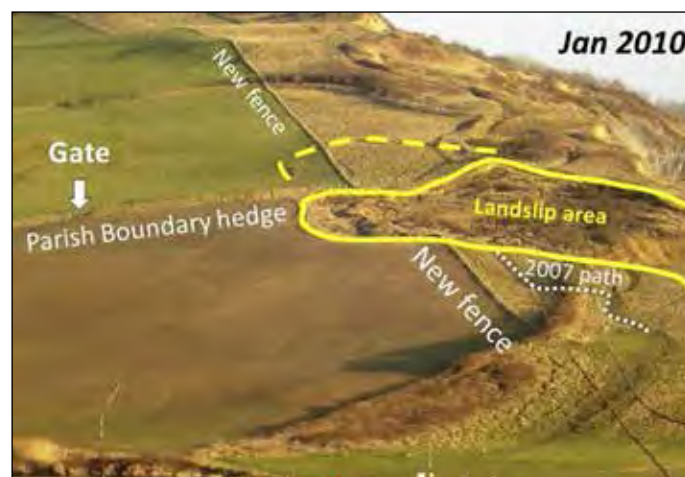
The next picture was taken in March 2007 shortly after erection of a fence all the way up the west flank of Stonebarrow. This allowed the coastal path to be re-opened.



A year later this new fence was in the midst of the landslip which had crept inland to the north and east. The boundary hedge broke in two and the southern end slid downhill to the southwest.



By Jan 2010 cracks had appeared further north.



The next image is how it looked recently. Note how close the end of the hedge is to the gate.



If you wish to see more of my images and/or discuss the geology, please get in touch via www.geofftownson.co.uk

You can also see and download this article in the online copies of Shoreline at www.charmouth.org

Geoff Townson

Cuttlebones and Cuttlefish – not bones or fish!

Along the beach in Charmouth in November, following heavy seas and strong winds, many cuttlebones of different sizes had been washed up. We know their name, but what are they?

Much enjoyed by caged birds as a source of calcium, cuttlebones come from cuttlefish (*Sepia* sp.) but, as you will see, the names are quite misleading. The so-called 'cuttlebone' is not bone but an internal shell from the cuttlefish – not a fish but a Cephalopod mollusc. Cephalopods (meaning head-foot) form a large group in the Mollusc phylum and include the familiar squid and octopus. Cephalopods are surprisingly adaptable animals that learn quickly and can be trained to successfully perform tasks that other molluscs (whelks or oysters, for example) could not possibly achieve!

When cuttlefish eggs were hatched at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (CHCC), about 10 baby cuttlefish emerged, each about the size of a small thumbnail. The beginnings of a shell could be seen through the flesh on top of each animal. Rather than having a shell on the outside of the body like molluscs such as snails or bivalve shellfish, these animals have their shell inside the body. Here it helps to protect the internal organs such as the gills and heart as well as maintaining the shape of the animal. The growth and development of these fascinating creatures was watched with interest.

If you pick up a cuttlebone from a strandline, you will find it weighs just a few grams - so light because it contains thousands of tiny pockets. In the living animal, some of the pockets contain fluid, while a larger number towards the front of the animal contain air. Because of this shelly flotation aid, the animal can maintain buoyancy in the water despite a relatively heavy head and tentacles.

While some cuttlefish were put back into the sea at an early age, one was kept in a tank at the CHCC and was named Curly. As the main predator, Curly was the 'top dog' in the tank, chasing after prawns, grabbing small crabs and other prey creatures. He became really large (about 9cm long) and could sometimes be seen swimming around or more usually resting almost buried in fine or coarse sand. Being a creature that can match its own colours to those beneath it, Curly was often difficult to make out against the background. Sometimes he would rest in the water near the front of the tank and, in dim light, could be seen giving off an eerie greenish glow from his underside. This bioluminescence is produced by the action of special enzymes. Such light, produced without heat, is often used by marine creatures to attract mates; sadly for Curly, there were no potential mates in the tank!

Cuttlefish eyes are large and complex; good vision is important for making out shapes and movement of objects including prey



in the water. Also important to cuttlefish are their tentacles, extensions of the foot, which, rather like its cousin the octopus, can grab and hold on to prey with little suckers. Mouthparts are hidden away closer to the head where a hard, pointed beak-like structure can bite and tear food.

Movement in cuttlefish can happen in different ways; slow movements are caused by a long marginal fin around the animal's 'waistline', if you can call it that! This fin ripples sinuously and the animal can move and steer itself in the water. Very fast movement can occur when the animal uses its siphon, a tube-like structure beside the head, to expel water quickly from the mantle cavity. This causes rapid 'rocket propulsion' which would certainly surprise a predator. Sometimes as a defence against an unwelcome predator, the cuttlefish may also shoot out black ink from its ink-sac causing a confusing smokescreen, allowing escape from danger.

Cephalopods are a successful and sophisticated group little changed over hundreds of millions of years. Evidence for these creatures in the once-warm Jurassic and Cretaceous waters in this area can be seen from the many belemnites (internal shell 'guard' from a squid-like animal) and ammonites (with shells on the outside of the body) found in the cliffs.

If you are wondering about Curly, he was returned to the sea in autumn 2014 and we hope he coped well with his change of environment, especially his first wave! If you want to know more about Curly's story, the wardens at the CHCC will be pleased to tell you about him and plans for an exciting new cuttlefish hatchery at the Centre, which we hope you will visit.

Rosalind Cole

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Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



Looking back to this time last year, I am glad to report that the Centre weathered the storms (quite literally) and would like to thank the village as a whole for their support over the past 12 months.

Looking forward to this coming year, there have been changes again at the Centre in terms of layout and interpretation. Over this winter period our Working Party and warden team have been busy re-designing our Kid's Corner, with a bit of help from the Junior Rangers and Darrell Wakelam and the installation of a new giant ammonite sculpture, as well as new activity stations.

In addition to the above, over the past 12 months we have been trialling a rearing tank for Cuttlefish, so that visitors can draw comparisons between the past and present marine life of Charmouth using the Cuttlefish and Belemnite as examples.

With the help of Peter Grinter and Co, we sourced the eggs from his lobster pots and over 15 young cuttlefish were hatched over this season! Our resident cuttlefish who we fondly named "Curly" was released back into the sea at Broad Ledge, Lyme Regis in late September. He hovered on the surface of the water for a short period, turned around and looked back at us (or so we like to think, ha! he was probably just getting his bearings!) and then propelled himself off down the channel on the outgoing tide. To learn more about our cuttlefish, please see the report from the Chair of the Friends.

In order to create the Cuttlefish Nursery we will be purchasing a new chiller unit for the tank, so that we are able to maintain the optimum water temperature required for hatching and survival, and we would like to thank the Friends of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre for their contribution of £200 towards the costs. We also have other funding applications submitted to assist us further in this purchase.

We are already full booked for some weeks in the summer term with schools, and our new events programme is now distributed to all Tourist Information Centres and available on our website, so why not come and join us on a fossil walk and walk off those extra mince pies from the Christmas period!

By the time you read this newsletter the Centre will also have two new members of staff for the year. In January we will have interviewed and reappointed our third full-time warden and also our seasonal warden for the 2015 season. We anticipate that both posts will commence in March, just in time for the Easter holidays period.

In addition to the new staff members we will also be holding our annual Volunteer training day in March, where we update our volunteers on the changes at the Centre and make sure that the whole team of both staff and volunteers are ready for the new season. If you have time to spare at all, the Centre always welcomes new volunteers and no experience is necessary. If you would be interested in joining the Friends volunteer group then please contact the Centre, or pop in and see us.

Meirel Whaites

Senior Warden Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

In October I found a fossil beetle on Black Ven that is the most complete specimen of its kind in the world. It was identified by one of the world experts, Andrew Ross from The National Museum of Scotland as *Holcoptera giebeli*. This beetle was only known from fragmentary remains and this specimen should help us determine how this 190 million year old insect is related to other beetles alive today.



Jurassic insect remains are rare fossils and should be recorded here at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre for the Fossil Collecting Code. This fossil is on display here at the Centre in our new Recent Finds Cabinet and will be donated to The Natural History Museum collections in London in the future.

Free Events

As part of our Dinosaur Discovery project we are running two free events in February 2015. If you would like to come and join the fun, please contact the Centre on 01297 560772 to reserve your places, as spaces are limited.

Free Fossil Hunting Walk

Sunday 1st February 9.30 – 11.30am.

Join the wardens for a talk in the Centre before heading out onto the beach to look for fossils.

The Charmouth Dinosaur Lectures

Friday 27th February 7 – 9pm

Venue: Charmouth Primary School

There will be two talks that will focus on Charmouth's rich history of fossils and fossil collecting.

The Charmouth Dinosaur - By Phil Davidson (Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre's Geological Warden) and David Sole (Local Fossil Collector)

How to find and clean an ichthyosaur - By Richard Edmonds (Earth Science Manager, The Jurassic Coast Team)

Booking is essential for both these free events as spaces are limited.

The Dinosaur Discovery Project is kindly supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund – Sharing Heritage, The Curry Fund – The Geologists' Association, The Friends of The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, Charmouth Parish Council and The Charmouth Traders Association.

Phil Davidson

Geological Warden

To advertise in Shoreline and help support this village magazine, please contact: neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk

Upcoming Events

Fossil Fantastic Days
These exclusive Family days are ideal for any budding fossil hunters. Activities include a fossil hunting walk, fossil 25 and art and craft fun. Sat 21st Feb & Sat 7th March (please see our website for more events)

Fossil Roadshows
Join us for a day of fossil fun, with local collectors bringing their displays, artefacts and don't forget to go on our fossil hunting walk. Sat 8th April & Sat 12th August (TBC)

Marine Week
Join us for a week of marine museum! Events include rockpool rambles, planetarium, Pevensie Day and much more! 30th July - 5th August

Cuttlefish Nursery
Join us for a week of marine museum! Events include rockpool rambles, planetarium, Pevensie Day and much more! 30th July - 5th August

About us

The Centre
Your first step to discovering the Jurassic Coast and its fossils. Free Entry.

Visit The Centre and see our amazing fossil collections and find out how to find your own fossils on the beach. With free entry to the Centre, why not come and meet the Charmouth Dinosaurs, visit the shop, explore our marine tanks or discover our Jurassic Theatre.

We are located right next to the beach, on the first floor of the building with ramp access to the sea.

Entry to the Centre is free. As a charity we rely on donations.

For all events children under 18 must be accompanied by a full paying adult. We reserve the right to charge/cancel any event. Booking is essential for all events.

April - October 10.00am - 4.30pm Daily
November - March use our website for opening times.

How to get here

we are here

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre
Lower 1st Lane, Charmouth, Dorset, DT6 9LQ

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

Events Guide
Jan - May 2015

01297 560772 Registered Charity No. 1105386 www.charmouth.org/chcc

Fossil Hunting Walks

Fossil hunting walks leave from the Centre. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start time. Walks last 2 hours and include a picnic. Adult £2.00 Child £1.00 (2 years and under free)

Date	Time	Date	Time
17th Feb	10.00am	20th Apr	10.00am
24th Feb	10.00am	27th Apr	10.00am
3rd Mar	10.00am	4th May	10.00am
10th Mar	10.00am	11th May	10.00am
17th Mar	10.00am	18th May	10.00am
24th Mar	10.00am	25th May	10.00am
31st Mar	10.00am	1st Jun	10.00am
7th Apr	10.00am	8th Jun	10.00am
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Charmouth's Role in the Civil War and Monmouth Rebellion



Many of you may have been watching the wonderful Channel 4 series "Walking through History" produced by Wildfire Television. The sixth and last programme dealt with the Monmouth Rebellion.

I was fortunate to be involved with this and spent part of a day with two of the team who were researching it prior to being recorded at a later date. I was able to supply them with information and illustrations relating to Charmouth's role in this uprising, some of which they were able to use. As the programme had to condense so many locations and their history into just an hour, I felt it may be of interest to Shoreline readers to share some of the insights I had found regarding our village at the time of the Monmouth Rebellion.

Sir Tony Robinson was featured reading Shoreline in the last issue of the magazine when he was photographed whilst filming. He later appeared near the Heritage Centre and we were fortunate in seeing a number of glimpses of the village, including aerial shots. I was excited when they used an early print of mine by Thomas Daniell showing the path that originally went along the coast linking us with Lyme Regis, which has long since disappeared, that had been used by the rebels on their way to a skirmish in Bridport. The programme also touched on the planned escape of King Charles II from Charmouth and how it had to be abandoned when the boatman, Stephen Lymbry failed to turn up after his wife had earlier found out and locked him in their house. The King was to briefly stay in the Queens Armes (Abbott's House) before going on to Bridport

and eventual escape from Shoreham to France.

I have been fascinated by the gentleman who planned and nearly succeeded in this attempt. His name was William Ellesdon and both he and his descendants were to dominate the lives of villagers for nearly 150 years. I have tried to build up a picture of Charmouth during this turbulent chapter in the country's history from the limited records that have survived. The year before the Civil war began in 1641, Parliament decreed that all males over 18 should take a Protestation (declaration of loyalty) Oath. All names were listed and anyone who refused to take it was recorded. Seventy five gentlemen were to sign it in Charmouth, which has shown to equate to an approximate total population of 250. In the same year there was an order that the hundred of Whitchurch and the tithings of Hawkchurch and Dalwood were ordered to contribute £10 per year to the Poor Rates of Charmouth - "where there are many poor people whom the parish cannot relieve".

A further insight into the state of the village can be seen in the comprehensive survey carried out by Sir William Petre when he purchased it from the Queen a century before. The original document survives in Devon Record Office and clearly shows that the majority of his tenants occupied cottages along The Street with an acre of land and a further acre of common land which they farmed. There were a number of people who had larger holdings, the most prominent of whom were the Limbrys. A branch of this family lived in what is today's Charmouth House, then known as The Fountain. It was one of a number of hostleries along

The Street that served travellers using the London to Exeter road that passed through the village. A descendant of this family, Stephen Limbry, was to feature as the seaman in the attempted escape of King Charles II. A contemporary road map by John Ogilby shows the village with its main street lined with houses and the paths to the sea, now Lower Sea Lane and Barr's Lane, which led to Wootton Fitzpaine.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the village was mainly owned by Sir John Pole. He had sided with Parliament and in 1643 he twice helped to lead anti-royalist raids in Devon and Cornwall. However, he also participated in abortive local peace negotiations that year. His position in Devon was complicated by his son William's decision to fight for the king, and both Colcombe Castle and Shute Barton were badly damaged during the war by royalist and parliamentary forces respectively. He was active in local government, but he evidently disapproved of Charles I's execution as he declined to serve under the Commonwealth, despite being retained on the Devon bench. He died in April 1658, and was buried at Colyton, where he had erected a lavish monument to himself and his first wife. Although he was to sell the Manor of Charmouth to William Ellesdon in 1648, he retained The Mill and 35 acres of land in the village, which was eventually to be sold by his descendants at the end of the 18th century.

William Ellesdon, in contrast to Sir John Pole, was a staunch Royalist. No doubt his father, Anthony, held the same sympathies and in buying the adjoining Newlands, with its fine house Stonebarrow Manor the following year, was making a hasty departure from Lyme Regis where he had been Mayor no less than three times. This town had always held an independent stance and was known as a Parliamentary stronghold. This culminated in the famous Siege of 1644 when, for 8 weeks, they withstood the forces of Prince Maurice, who eventually abandoned his attempt. Loyalties to each side existed within families and it is interesting to see who William's brother, John supported, for there is a later letter from Col. Robert Mohun "setting forth articles against John Ellesden, who was put into the place of Collector of Customs of Lyme by Cromwell".

The Ellesdons were originally successful merchants from Lyme Regis and were regularly mayors of the borough. The Church still has a brass shield which extols them and records four generations being buried in their vault. Coincidentally the last is Anthony, father of William Ellesdon, the central character to this

article who is shown as dying in 1655. This same gentleman purchased the Manor of Newlands, which today forms part of Charmouth in 1649. The family lived in a large house in Church Street, near where the famous George Inn stood. It was here that William and his brother John were bought up by their parents, Grace and Anthony. John's life was to be spent in Lyme Regis where he was to eventually become its Mayor in 1659 and, with his wife Sarah Clapcott, have four children, John, Grace, Mary and Thomas. The latter was to briefly unite the two branches of the family by marrying his cousin Mary in 1726, who by then was a widow on the death of her husband, Richard Henvill.

William Ellesdon was a Royalist and held the position of Captain and later Colonel in the army and was to risk his life in support of the King. For that would have been his fate if charged for assisting in his escape. It must have been a miracle that he was able to remain a free man until his return. Earlier he had been successful in assisting Lord Berkley to escape across to France after the Battle of Worcester and no doubt would have repeated this with Charles, if Stephen Limbry had not returned home to his angry wife. But King Charles was to give him a gold coin when he briefly spent the night before the planned escape at a house his father owned at Monkton Wyld, still called Elsdons. At the same time, he promised that when he regained his throne he would reward him handsomely. His Majesty, on his restoration, visited the village and granted to him and two successive heirs a pension of £300 per annum, and presented him with a medal bearing the inscription "Faithful to the Horns of the Altar". The King also gave a beautiful miniature by Samuel Cooper of Ellesdon, together with a pair of silver candlesticks. He was presented with a coat of arms, which can be seen today on their marble memorial in St. Andrews and on a large plaque commemorating his son's later improvements to the church. The pension was for both him and his immediate family and would be derived from taxes received from the port of Lyme Regis.

There is a website called British history online that has a huge database covering parliamentary records and almost yearly there are references to those benefitting from his pension and through this I have been able to obtain important information about the family. Most intriguing was £1000 he was to receive in 1663 for his work for the King's Secret Service. Unfortunately the money was often not forthcoming and there are pleas from his family for these outstanding payments. It shows that he died in 1684, the year before the Monmouth Rebellion, but his pension was to continue to be received by his wife, Joanne and children - Anthony, Charles, Mary and Anne. It was his eldest son Anthony who was to take over his role and live in what was the largest house in the village opposite

the Church, where he lived for almost 80 years. Little is known about him apart from the charitable work that he did that is recorded on the impressive marble monument erected by his niece's husband, Richard Henvill, who inherited his estate. He no doubt had the same loyalty as his father to King Charles II, as he was still receiving a pension of £100 a year as a result of his support. But this was to change when his catholic brother, King James took the throne on his death. There is no record that I have found of Anthony's sympathies during the next tumultuous chapter in the country's history.

But Charmouth as a whole welcomed the return of the Duke of Monmouth, the illegitimate eldest son of Charles II and his mistress Lucy Walters. He unsuccessfully attempted to depose his uncle, King James II, in what is commonly called the Monmouth Rebellion. After declaring himself the legitimate king and gaining support from the Protestants opposed to James's Roman Catholic rule, Monmouth set sail from Holland and landed in Dorset in May 1685. The Duke had three ships with which to invade and chose Lyme Regis as it was near to Taunton where he believed he had great support. The night prior a number of his followers, under the leadership of Thomas Dare of Taunton, landed on the beach at Seatown, near Charmouth. Their mission was to seek support in the surrounding villages. No doubt Charmouth was amongst them; with later records showing at least 16 joined him, out of a population of no more than 250. The villagers would have seen the boats pass their shores and well before 10 am on the 11th June the Helderberg, the Pink and the Dogger were off Lyme. Near the shore they encountered a boat with three fishermen, who were detained aboard the Duke's ship.

It was Samuel Robbins from Charmouth who would go down in history by selling his catch to the rebels. The records show him later 'taken at Lyme Regis and sent to Dorchester gaol' where he was tried and hanged at Wareham, even though he was not a supporter. A contemporary report brings this sad tale to life as follows: "One Samuel Robbins of Charmouth who was executed, or rather murdered at Wareham. I cannot pass him by in silence, his case being so extraordinary hard, that to speak moderately between the King and his case, I do say this, that I verily believe never Man suffered innocently, as I hope you will be satisfied in matter you have heard his Crime.

In the summer he generally used the craft of fishing to get a competent maintenance for his family, and happened to be out at sea fishing before Lyme, that day the Duke came in to land, and was commanded on board of one of the Duke's Ships, he not knowing who they were, and they bought his fish off him, after which they told him that was

the Duke of Monmouth, pointing at him as he was just going to land. He desired to go on shore, which was refused, and told that as soon as the Duke was landed he should have his liberty. So accordingly he came on shore, and never was with him, or even took arms under him. I leave the reader to judge whether this was high treason or not. This was all he was guilty of except that he was a good honest man, a zealous Christian, a man of very good life and conversation, as I think his neighbours will attest it, in most Towns and Parishes near where he lived, but he had a good book in his house when taken called the Solemn League and Covenant. This was the High Treason he must be guilty of, which was aggravated by The Lord Chief Justice, by one or two Spirits, his neighbours. But to be short, he received his sentence of death with great courage, and not at all dismayed, saying very often in prison before "if it pleased God to call him now to death, he should be read, but, said he, I am as innocent of anything I have done against any man that may deserve this punishment, as the child now unborn". When he came to the place of execution, he very cheerfully declared his innocence to the spectators, as before, and so praying very devoutly for some time, he was executed".

Another Charmouth man, William Guppy, also met an unfortunate end. He was tried at Dorchester by the notorious Judge Jeffries and transported from Weymouth on the way to Barbados, but tragically died on board the Betty on 17th December 1685. His house on the Old Lyme Hill was for many centuries referred to as Guppy's Tenement as a memorial to this poor soul. He was amongst 16 villagers suspected as rebels. The full list is shown below:

- *Birdle John, of Charmouth, suspected*
- *Buffet, Thomas, of Charmouth, suspected*
- *Burrough (Burrow) Joseph of Charmouth, suspected*
- *Follett, George of Charmouth, suspected*
- *Guppy, William of Charmouth, "supposed", tried at Dorchester and transported for Nipho* from Weymouth, 25th November on the "Betty" towards Barbados, died at sea on 17th December 1685.*
- *Holman Thomas, of Charmouth, suspected*
- *Parsons, John, of Charmouth, suspected*
- *PARSONS, Thomas senior, of Charmouth, 'suspected'.*
- *PARSONS, Thomas junior, of Charmouth, 'suspected'. One of these two was tried at Dorchester and*

transported for Booth** on the "Happy Return" from Weymouth, 25th Sept. to Barbados; sold to Capt. John Parnell.

- **PARSONS, William, husbandman, of Charmouth, suspected** [see John Parsons of Charmouth] William was tried at Exeter and hanged in October at Ottery St Mary. Land at Shute, co. Devon forfeit and for sale.
- **ROBBINS, Samuel, of Charmouth, 'taken at Lyme Regis and sent to Dorchester goal', July 14; tried at Dorchester 10th Sept. hanged at Wareham 22nd Sept. He sold fish to Monmouth at sea and so landed with him.**
- **Sampson, John of Charmouth, suspected, John Sansone of Hawkchurch "seen in Monmouth's camp" by Weston Hillary.**
- **Shave, William of Charmouth, suspected.**
- **Tallis, Nicholas of Charmouth, suspected.**
- **Webber, Richard of Charmouth, suspected**
- **Young, Robert, suspected.**

There is one other reminder of Charmouth's involvement in the Rebellion, it is a Memorial to Edward Coker at St. Mary's Church at Bridport. It reads: "In memory of Edward Coker of Maypowder (Mapperton) Slayne at The Bull Inn in Bridport 14th June 1685 by one Venner, who was an officer under the late Duke of Monmouth in that Rebellion". It is a record of the rebels' attack on the town by a party of 400 foot and forty horse which left Lyme Regis on the Saturday after the landing. The following day they were routed, and in the afternoon came back helter skelter to Lyme. They left and returned by the lane to Charmouth along the bottom of the cliffs. There is a print dated 1814 by William Daniel that shows the path which has long since disappeared although a section still survives in Church Lane.

The Duke of Monmouth was defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor some six weeks after landing at Lyme, fleeing from the battlefield, only to be captured and executed on 15th July on Tower Hill. Unlike his father King Charles II, he was not able to escape back to the continent. It was to be after only three years, in 1688, that the unpopular Catholic King James II was deposed by William of Orange.

The programme - "England's Last Battle" and others in the three series can be seen on the Channel 4 website by going to the "Walking Through History" link. I have personally found all of them very informative and worthwhile watching, especially the Frontline Dorset programme in the first series, covering

the important role the county played in the Second World War. There are also detailed maps of the routes and further information regarding each walk. If you wish to find out more about Charmouth's role in 17th century England, do of course visit my website: freshford.com and click on Charmouth.

Neil Mattingly

* Nipho would have been the unusual surname of Guppy's new owner, if he had made it. The rebels would have had the lives of slaves, although most died on the terrible journeys out to the West Indies.

** Booth is the surname of the gentleman who would have owned Parsons, a man who faced a life of slavery. Although on the return of William to the throne, many were given their freedom. There is an interesting story relating to the Henley family where one of the rebels stayed and made his fortune in the West Indies after being freed.



The Charmouth Local History Society

The Charmouth Local History Society, or Pavey Group as it is better known in the village, has a new website which reflects its purpose of adapting to the internet age and getting its message across. There is a wide diaspora of Charmouthians (as Peter Press christened us) who home in on the local websites to find out what is happening in the village. We aim, with the Charmouth Portal and Shoreline, to provide an information resource to those who aren't fortunate enough to live here. Please do have a look at www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk and see what we offer villagers and those outside who wish connect with us.

In November we had a successful display of Claud Hider's local photographs from 1923, organised by Neil Mattingly and Liz Scott. It filled the Village Hall and drew visitors from a wide area. Our only regret was that the hall was so full, we couldn't circulate our rather splendid refreshments properly! Currently we are planning our spring programme and further details should be available soon. We also plan to produce our next edition of the Village Echo, although printing has been a bit of an issue recently.

We'll hope to see you at our forthcoming meetings and will give you plenty of notice of when that's going to happen.

Russell Telfer, Hon Secretary

Deadline and Issue Dates for Shoreline 2015

SUMMER ISSUE

– deadline 4th May, in the shops 1st June.

AUTUMN ISSUE

– deadline 1st September, in the shops 1st October.

Charmouth Gardening 2015

Happy New Year to you All

Hello, I hope you all enjoyed the festivities, where did the year go? I had a new puppy and six months of it was spent on her; now I have a couple of months to teach her NOT to go on the garden!

You know it would be lovely if some of you conferred with me, sending your questions about gardening, pot plants, etc. I could then answer specific questions; anything to do with the subject of growing. You can contact me via Shoreline or Charmouth Gardeners Group. That way I would have something to investigate.

February - This month is time to plan, get your seeds, and sort out your growing trays and pots. I'm not sure if there are half-price seeds at Otter Nurseries this year, but it is usually about now when they're on sale. The spring planting books are coming through the door at a rate of knots too. I find the Jersey Plants Direct really good value and it saves all the hassle of growing from seeds (Although there are always some I insist on growing, usually veg.) I have dealt with JPD for the past few years and find their prices very reasonable, especially as they offer seedlings that cover the whole garden year. Getting them as small ready grown seedlings cuts down on your time and effort and gives us more time to get the borders, etc. ready. However they are not the only catalogs to offer this. Suttons, Thompson and Morgans etc. are all ready and waiting to take your money.

I am not growing as much as I used to as life is catching up with me, like a great many others. But if I stopped growing it would be like parting with a dear friend, however something else always comes along to fill the void!

March - The hard work is just beginning, but by now you should be seeing some results of your earlier effort. Your own grown seedlings should be sprouting and care being taken against frost, insects and our dear friends, the slugs and snails. If you put your sweet pea seeds in pots in November then check them and do make sure they too are safe. Lift them and check underneath for any tiny slugs that may decimate them if neglected. Give your beds a final dig over to lift and loosen the soil and apply lime or any fertilizer that may be needed to feed your plants so that it will be well mixed into the soil, ready for new seeds or plants. Do check the seed packets for sowing times; it is important if seeds go straight into the ground, the soil may not be warm enough! Better to sow them into seed boxes that are kept in the shed or greenhouse and plant them out after the frost. Sow your flower seeds at three to four week intervals. That way you will have a continual block of colour all summer, as the flowers die and you deadhead, the second

plants will start to flower. When you deadhead those, the first ones will be flowering again. Try it.

April - Now is the time to get started with your planting out, if the weather is good enough. Remember to water regularly if the weather is dry; the same applies to seeds if you are sowing them straight into the garden. Do not pour the water directly onto the row/patch of seeds but water around then so that you don't wash them away and do put some kind of covering over them to stop the birds using your garden seeds beds as their dinner table. Do put some feed out for the birds, as they will need to keep their strength up to lay their eggs and feed their babies. They will have more food later when they come to find the bugs and caterpillars amongst your vegetables and flowers! Do prune your roses hard and give feed and mulch to keep the moisture in. This is the time to remove all dead debris from your beds. A weak wash of Amatilox in early spring before any leaves appear will not harm the soil as it acts as a fungal spray. Feed with half strength Maxicrop every watering. Remember to continue feeding your plants as, like your children and your pets, they require regular feeding to grow. Check your pot plants feed and water them regularly; remove any dead or dying leaves and flowers. Thin out and weed your strawberry patch, then feed them. Watch out for mice eating the fruits. Make sure the green house is cleared and ready to take the new plants, if not already done.

May - Start to prune your early flowering shrubs and thin out the branches, reduce the stems to a few centimeters that will encourage them to grow and flower more profusely next season. *Spray your garden fruit bushes to prevent the bugs and caterpillars from spoiling your fruit crops. If you have early fruiting bushes, spray them earlier as the flower buds start to grow. This will prevent the fruit being spoilt. Most of the hard work should be done by now, so start to look after your flowers and vegetables, especially if you are hoping to show them. The onions should be a good size now and would benefit by being supported with rings to stop the leaves from bending as it interrupts the growth of the bulbs. Like every other plant, they need to be fed and watered well in dry weather. A regular feed of Maxigrow (liquid) keeps them growing. This is also great for the peas, beans and any other plants that you have. Groves and Otter Nurseries stock the larger bottles of this and a bottle will last you all summer, unless you have an allotment. Then you may need more.

Well sorry but that's all the time I have to talk to you this instalment. See you all later in the year. Happy gardening and grow them big.

Busy Lizzy

Please put your gardening questions to Lizzy via Shoreline or the Gardeners Group. She will be delighted to answer them in the next issue.



Ballroom and Latin Dance Classes

Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close

Monday afternoons.

Improvers: 12.30 and 1.30 pm

Beginners: 2.30 pm

Mixed Abilities: 3.30 pm

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Oil Field Trash – The British Sort *Episode One*

The human being goes through a mixture of excitement and apprehension when about to undertake a new venture, in a new land.

Last check in was 08:15Hrs. It was the British Caledonian counter at the Victoria Station terminal. The 08:30 train was the last to get me to Gatwick for a prompt 10:00 take off.

I was alone, and even then I did not know that this, or similar, was to be my route for the next five years or so. I would soon become a seasoned flier, it was February 1975, and the route was London to Tripoli (Libya).

My seat was 11A, the aircraft was a BAC 111, made at the factory at Hurn, on the other side of Bournemouth airport. It was an original 111, no 'hush kit', just loads of power and a scream of noise whilst leaving unburned Jet A1 behind. Our take off run seemed endless, but the aircraft was full, passengers and fuel, and this was the extreme range limit for a 111. Eventually came 'rotation' and after three hours and some minutes we landed on the scorched tarmac of Tripoli International Airport. We taxied to a point outside a large shed. This was the old building and housed all elements of border control and customs allied with total mayhem.

Custom checks were usually a search for alcoholic drinks, pornography and bacon. As time went on all sorts of methods were used to dupe the officials. One young lady arrived from Malta, carrying a 'fish-bowl' complete with plastic goldfish, floating in a sea of Smirnoff! The tonic we could buy locally, beer shampoo we could not.

I had a pristine visa in my passport, all features duly translated into Arabic. A flowing movement of the official's arm and my passport was updated with an entry stamp. I was in, following instructions to my pick-up point, and after a 35 minute drive was introduced to my new colleagues at Gibraltar Company, Gibco as it became to be known by all. It was a geological service company providing well site knowledge to both oil and water industries throughout Libya.

Our work time was based on 'need' and whilst drilling operations were shut down our staff came into town on standby. Very soon it was apparent that a staff house full of young men, all geologists, would need an outlet other than work, so we became involved in rugby (Brits against the French each Saturday), 11 a side soccer (Brits against the French and Germans each Friday), World 9-a-side soccer league with eight or ten nationalities providing teams, brewing (every other day), and drinking (every day). Libya became the world's best seller of Swiss Biomalt. We in fact, had more than ten large dustbins brewing in rotation.

As for work, which some thought secondary to our lifestyle, we worked for Mobil, Oxy, Oasis, Libyan National Oil Corp, Arabian Gulf Exploration Co, Libyan Water Authority, Petrobras and all who would have us.

I worked as a field based geologist for five of the above clients before I became a Tripoli based technician, and finally Operations

Manager, looking after the day to day running of the company. Gibco had its origins in a company called Garmac, after Garrett and McGhee, the partners who set the company up. Eventually Garmac was split into Garmac Singapore and Garmac Libya, the latter morphing into Gibraltar Co. with Frank McGhee and some 'silent' local partners as owners.

Soon after arriving in Libya I was sent to work with Mohamed Ramadan, an Egyptian but settled and educated in Tripoli. He was to teach me the rudiments of working in the desert. Shortly after, I joined forces with Patrick 'Kenny Congo' Butcher. We were both 'rookies' when we sat our first oil well, Z3-80, for Ageco. This was a former BP concession and was an extension of the famous, and massive, 'Sarir' oilfield, upon which along with its reserves in Iran, BP became known as a finder of large and highly productive oilfields. Pat was a good all round sportsman, was a Welsh school's hockey international, and I was to meet, by chance, his former PE teacher whilst I was on a cricket tour in South Wales some years later. Z3-80 was a massive oil producer. Sadly I couldn't convert him to a decent team, so he remains an avid Manchester United fan.

Pat and I were split into different teams after completing this job, and I was joined by Mervyn 'The Swerve' Luscombe, a west country lad from Yealmpton, who now runs a taxi service in Exeter. It's perfect for him, as he remains a perpetual talker!

Following this were stints in most areas of the Libyan desert, the rocky plateau of Western Libya, the sand dunes of Waha in the south and of Sarir in the East, the dried lake beds of South West Libya, near the Niger/Chad border, where it was impossible not to fall over flint spear, or arrow-heads. There were also wide expanses of nothing, little terrain changes, and driving around in a circle thinking you are moving in a straight line. I found out that 'Hell hath no fury' than a desert storm, a ghibli, which will make your windscreen and glass lights opaque in minutes, and take Land Rover paint back to bare metal in an instant.

Flying became commonplace, aircraft were as diverse as a single piston propeller driven de Havilland Beaver, Britten-Norman Islander and Trilander, de Havilland Twin Otter, the STOL champion Pilatus Porter, Fokker F27 (Fokker or Fairchild made), and later the Fokker F28. The one F27 I remember most, was designated PH-ARO, Dutch registered (alpha romeo oscar), later seen working for the Dutch City Hopper service and landing at Birmingham Elmdon Airport, whilst I was waiting at the end of the runway for a holiday.

However the fondest memory of flying are the journeys made in the old DC3 'Dakota', the type of aeroplane used on D-Day as the main paratroop carrier. This was wonderful, and even in the mid 1970's the aircraft was 35 years old, and the two pilots looked twice that age! It was a lumbering 'carthorse' type of aircraft, but it got you there even if it was likely to lose bits along the way. Who cared, they picked them up on a later journey anyway. The pilots always smiled when their engine cowlings were returned a week later.

So having spent some two years on full blown exploration or field delineation boreholes, it was time to move into town, and a completely

new lifestyle and work experience. This was a great job, decision making, full-time seven days a week, diverse, but rewarding.

Being in town meant that the social life was a completely new experience. Apart from attending the Queen's birthdays at the embassy, the birthday toast in Coca Cola, there was always something going on. Most ex-pats brewed beer and made wine, and 'Siddiqi Juice or Flash' at 100% proof was always available if you knew where look. The good stuff would always burn with a blue flame! We always seemed to find some form of entertainment. Parties were common, a dart league was set up and I played for 'Dallas Cowboys', and whist and bridge clubs were abundant. In between all that, John 'Henry' Hoskinson and I ran the office, sourced equipment and supplies, played taxi service, and sometimes slept. 'John Henry' was from Liverpool, and lived in Anfield Road, so you can guess which football team he supported, and didn't he keep telling us!

Gibraltar Co. operated three staff houses called 'Garmac', 'Gibco', and 'Rock Bottom', all at different stages west of central Tripoli. An unofficial fourth home was 'Ben Halim' the British nurses quarters.

As ex-pats it was important to have two rooms in each house set aside for essentials. The first was the 'brewery', the second was the bar. Rock Bottom, boasted the 'longest bar in Tripoli' and about the length of the side wall of Charmouth Post Office. Our geologists became so adept at making bars for other ex-pats, that it nearly became a side business.

One day we were all sitting around in the Gibraltar Co. house, when a small dog bounded into the establishment, chased by a very attractive young lady. This young lady, Wendy, was a school teacher at the local English school. She was soon a fixture in our lives. She was from Northern Ireland, her surname was Burton and she became the wife of Pete Seed, my predecessor in the Gibco office. Pete was heard to say he had 'gone for a Burton', and he certainly had. Wendy was the sister of the now famous actress Amanda Burton.

As for the manic small dog, this was a full desert dog, like a cross between an alsation and a golden retriever. It was adopted by Dave 'Spiv' and Linda Waldram, and when they returned to England the dog came with them and had a full and happy life in Matlock and Bolton. Dave and Linda now reside in the Costa del Sol.

As for other events: a nearly failed wedding, three wheeler VW's, an entire company in jail, Everton FC against the Libyan national team, 'Mike the Pole' our Charmouth connection, Sabratha and Leptis Magna, Fisherman's beach, Christmas lunch arriving on the hoof, the 'Bread Pudding' expeditionand more, much more.

It's all in episode two, and will continue in the next issue. Can't wait?

Steve Pile

We Remember

Colin Pring 1940 - 2014

I was lucky to have met Colin seven years ago through one of the voluntary roles he took on in the Lyme Regis and Charmouth area. I am one of many from the community who want to pay tribute to him for his wonderful way of doing things and his generosity to the community as a whole.

For many of us Colin was the definition of a stalwart. Somebody you could always rely on. He had a wonderful way of knowing what to do in any situation and would offer his advice freely with kindness and compassion. Of course, all of his words would be framed by those twinkling eyes and warm smile and so you always felt so much better after a chat with Colin.



He was always happiest when helping children and young people. In his role as school governor at Charmouth Primary he would be content to wade through the hugest pile of paperwork or data but much happier when reading with the children. He was also one of the few governors that most of the children knew by name, quite a rarity. I had the pleasurable task of interviewing children with Colin from reception class through to year 6 as we had been asked to produce a survey on play times. We had both been the first to volunteer for this job and that was no coincidence! As we worked our way up through the classes he was thrilled to see how many of the playground games he knew already and then was determined to understand the rules of the ones he didn't. He always had time to listen, however young or old you were and whether you were articulate or struggled to get your words out.

Another friend and co-governor has given me a few words that I would like to pass on.

"I think of Colin as a man with great integrity. He gave his time unstintingly to Charmouth School, as a parent and a governor and whatever roles he took on, he saw them through with skill, patience and good humour. He could be completely relied upon, was always there when he said he was going to be, and always meticulously prepared. He was kind, thoughtful and generous. He was a cool man in a tight spot - I liked him and admired him and know his loss to Hilarie and Katie will be immeasurable."

Along with the huge amount of work at the school, Colin also worked hard on the Youth Club Committee and was treasurer and advertising manager of Shoreline from its inception in 2008 until he had to step down in 2013. His input was paramount in the running of these organisations and the secure foundations he helped build mean they are still thriving today. As Colin's family and friends come to terms with his departing, so too does our community. There are many people who have been touched by his way of doing things: consistency, compassion, fairness, reliability, empathy, youthful energy, kindness, thoughtfulness, fun. These are words I have heard time and time again as I have talked to his friends and colleagues.

These are the qualities we will remember him by. Any way we can promote those qualities in ourselves and in other people will be a fitting tribute and remembrance of Colin's life. Of course, all of these qualities are made even better by making sure you have that twinkle in your eye!

A tribute to Colin by Pete Wild and read at his funeral on 9th October 2014

Janice Berry 1936 - 2014

Jan lived in Charmouth with her little dog Satch and frequently was seen walking him on the beach, greeting her friends or sitting with him outside her beach hut, winter or summer, as long as the sun was shining. She joined us many times at our shared hut for barbeques, picnics and often plenty of wine.

Born in Romford, Essex to parents who were a dentist and midwife and surgical nurse, Jan also went into nursing and travelled the country with the first blood donation team. She married local musician, Roy, and over the next 5 years had 4 children. Her son John later died at age 26, something she never really got over. The family moved from Essex in 1978 to the small seaside village of Mundesley, Norfolk. There Jan, despite being deaf, joined lots of groups including badminton, various choral societies and she became the local seamstress, helping the local amateur dramatics group with all their costumes for the next 20 years, some of which apparently they still use even now. In 2007 Jan moved to be near to us in Charmouth. She lived in Axminster first, then made the move to Charmouth where she made many friends and again, despite being deaf, joined many of the local groups in the village.

Her hearing aids must have been the worst in the world! They caused many problems, like the time they hissed like a disapproving member of the audience during the seduction

scene of Glyndebourne's Don Giovanni! They also had a habit of picking up citizen band radio broadcasts. Of course she could never hear any of this going on, but everyone else around her could!



Jan was a quiet lady, but she had a strong personality. She was quietly artistic, quietly bohemian and definitely quietly stubborn! Even though she was often the quietest at family get-togethers, she was definitely in charge and you could see the absolute delight at being with her daughters and grandchildren. She was present at the births of all her four grandchildren.

But Jan was more than just a mum to her daughters - she was a best friend and companion on many trips and holidays. Her daughters started a girlie weekend with her on her 60th birthday and they had such a good time they continued their weekends every year, enabling her to shop in every city, but always stopping for tea and cakes in the afternoon! One of Sally's favourite recollections was a trip on the Orient Express which Jan found so exciting that she ran carriage to carriage photographing all the wonderful sights (including the bathrooms!) Only a glass of champagne served to settle her down, and this was at the age of 72!

Jan lived her life with a positive attitude, making the most of life's opportunities even during her illness, when she told us to be happy and to remember that she would always only be in the room next door.

Jillian Hunt

What's on in Charmouth

CHARMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

This year's Annual Parish Meeting for Charmouth will be held on Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7.30pm.

The venue will be St Andrew's Community Hall instead of The Elms and as usual there will be topical guest speakers attending and a report from the Parish Council.



CHARITY QUIZ

Saturday 28th March
Wootton Fitzpaine
Village Hall

7.00 for 7.30pm

Tickets £8 - includes a hot supper

Bar available

Tickets from Bill Taylor Tel: 01297 560081,

Email: bill.taylor@btinternet.com

Or any Lyme Regis Rotarian

Last year was a sell out so buy early

A Rotary Club of Lyme Regis Event: Proceeds to
1st Charmouth Scout Group

Charmouth Gardeners

Please support your local Gardening Club
Below are details of forthcoming events.

AGM followed by Mr. B. Hesketh speaking on 'Organic Gardening' plus information on how to 'Show' vegetables for best results.

Wednesday 11th February – 2.30pm
– Village Hall, Wesley Close

Mr. J. Varndell speaking on 'The Natural Beauty of Dorset'.

Wednesday 8th April – 2.30pm – Village Hall, Wesley Close

'Bring and Buy' Plant and Home Produce Coffee morning.

Saturday 9th May – 10am – Village Hall, Wesley Close

A very popular event last year; be sure to arrive on time in order to snap up the best deals...

All events are free entrance. The Wednesday afternoon dates have entertaining speakers enthusiastic about their varied subjects. Refreshments available at a nominal cost.

Please do join us – All welcome, especially people wishing to join!

Pauline Bonner

Monkton Wyld Court

18 Feb, 18 Mar, 15 Apr, 20 May

Local Lunch, £8 per person. Please prebook.

For more information contact monktonwyldcourt@btinternet.com



Charmouth Bonfire Night under a full Moon 2014

Noticeboard

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



Charmouth village People would like to publicly express our grateful thanks for donations received from organisations and individuals in Charmouth who have generously contributed towards the organisation of Memorable Memoirs, IT for seniors, outings, theatre visits, Christmas parties and holidays for our members.

Jan Gale



Michael Brown with Shoreline at the Welsh Memorial near Zandvoorde, Flanders on 26 October 2014. The memorial was unveiled last August and is dedicated to the men and women of Welsh descent who took part in World War I. Michael has been a visitor to Charmouth for 30 years and, for the last six years, he has stayed at Manor Farm Holiday Centre.

Tell our Advertisers "I saw your Ad in Shoreline"



The Shoreline Team out celebrating winning the Dorset People's Project Award in September 2014.

Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Badminton Club (experience required)	Mon 8-10pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Trish Evans 442136
Badminton (social)	Tues 7-10pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Pauline Bonner 560251
Beachcombers Café	Mon 10-12am	Hollands Room, Bridge Road	Alison McTrustery 07789 165570
Beavers (ages 6-7)	Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Amanda Clist 01297 560157
Bingo (fund raising for Community Hall)	3rd Fri each month 7.30pm (eyes down)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Jane Tait 560801
Bopper Bus	Fri 4.45-8pm	Bridport Leisure Centre Drop off/pick up Primary School	Kate Geraghty 489422 Melanie Harvey 560393
Bowls Club <i>Summer:</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 01297 561336
Brownies (ages 7-10)	Mon 4.30-6pm (term-time only)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Caroline Davis 560207
Bridge Club (partners can be provided)	Thurs 7-10.30pm	Wood Farm (opposite swimming pool)	Vincent Pielesz 560738
Charmouth Local History Society	Tues 9.30-10.30am	The Elms, The Street	Russell Telfer, 560806
Cherubs	Wed 9.30-11.30am (term-time only)	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kathryn Radley 442796
Cubs (ages 8-10.5)	Thurs 5.00-6.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Ed Pemberton 01297 560241
Gardeners	2nd Wed each month 2.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kay Churchman 560980
Girl Guides (ages 10 onwards)	Wed 7-8.45pm (term-time only)	Wooton Fitzpaine	Davina Pennells 560965
Junior Rangers Club (ages 8-12)	2nd Saturday each month 10.30-12noon	Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre	Helen Anthony 560772
Junior Youth Club (ages 8-12)	Tues 6.30-8.30pm	Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	James Ward - Rice 01308 422500 or 07827 846891
Library Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s)	Fri 9.30-10am	Library, The Street	Mandy Harvey 01297 560167
Memorable Memoirs	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm	Charmouth Central Library	Jan Gale 07897 511075
Parish Council Meeting	3rd Tues each month 7.30pm	The Elms, The Street	Lisa Tuck 01297 560826
Sewing Circle	Tuesdays 10.30-12.30pm	Charmouth Central	Hazel Robinson 561214 or HazelRosery@aol.com
Scouts (ages 10.5-14)	Thurs 6.45-8.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Carol Moorey 01297 560100
Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Mon to Thurs (term-time only) 9am-12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
Tea and Chat	1st & 3rd Monday each month 3pm - 4.15pm	Charmouth Central	Felicity Horton 07736 825283
The British Legion (Women's Section)	1st Wed each month 2.30pm	The Elms, The Street	Trish Forsey 01297 560561
Wyld Morris dancing practice	Wed 7.15pm	Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court	Briony Blair 489546
Whist Evening	2nd & 4th Mon each month 7.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Eileen Lugg 560675

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

Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

EMERGENCIES POLICE	Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard	999 or 112
	PC Kirsti Ball, PCSO Luke White & PCSO John Burton for Community Police issues (ask by name)	101
	Non urgent call number for reporting incidents / enquiries	101
	Bridport Police Station, Tannery Road	101
FIRE and RESCUE	West Dorset Fire and Rescue Service — Group Manager	01305 252600
HM COASTGUARD	Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis (Not 24 hours)	01297 442852
DOCTORS	The Charmouth Medical Practice, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560872
	The Lyme Practice, The Elms Medical Centre, The Street, Charmouth	01297 561068
	The Lyme Practice, Lyme Community Medical Centre, Lyme Regis	01297 445777
	NHS Direct — 24-hour Healthcare Advice and Information Line	0845 4647
HOSPITALS	Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester	01305 251150
	Bridport Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Bridport	01308 422371
DENTISTS	Dorset Dental Helpline	01202 854443
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	National Rail Enquiries — Information on Timetables, Tickets and Train Running Times	08457 484950
	National Traveline — Information on Bus and Bus/Rail Timetables and Tickets	08712 002233
EMERGENCY	Gas	0800 111999
	Electricity (Western Power Distribution)	0800 365900
	Water (Wessex Water)	08456 004600
	Floodline	08459 881188
	Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 807060
CHEMISTS	F G Lock, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560261
	Boots the Chemist, 45 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442026
	Lloyds Pharmacy, Lyme Community Care Centre, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442981
SCHOOLS	Charmouth County Primary, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560591
	St Michael's C of E, V A Primary, Kingsway, Lyme Regis	01297 442623
	The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442232
CHURCHES	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Stephen Skinner	01297 443763
	United Reformed Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Ian Kirby	01297 631117
BEFRIENDING	Charmouth	07736 825283
COUNCILS		
CHARMOUTH PARISH	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
W. DORSET DISTRICT	Councillor — Mrs J Bremner	01297 560431
	Mountfield House, Rax Lane, Bridport — All services	01305 251010
DORSET COUNTY	Councillor — Daryl Turner – d.w.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk	
	County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01305 221000
DORSET'S PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES www.dorsetforyou.com		
LOCAL M.P.	Oliver Letwin, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail letwin@parliament.uk	0207 219 3000
CITIZENS' ADVICE	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm)	01297 445325
	45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01308 456594
POST OFFICES	1 The Arcade, Charmouth	01297 560563
	37 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442836
LIBRARIES	The Street, Charmouth	01297 560640
	Silver Street, Lyme Regis	01297 443151
	South Street, Bridport	01308 422778
	South Street, Axminster	01297 32693
SWIM / LEISURE	Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport	01308 427464
	Flamingo Pool, Lyme Road, Axminster	01297 35800
	Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth	01297 560259
CINEMAS	Regent, Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442053
	Electric Palace, 35 South Street, Bridport	01308 424901
THEATRES	Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442394
	Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport	01308 424204
	Guildhall, West Street, Axminster	01297 33595
TOURIST INFORMATION	Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442138
	Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport	01308 424901

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ASK THE EXPERT

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

A. This is probably the most common question estate agents are asked – mostly in the lead up to Easter and during the autumn as well as in the New Year.

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

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

Similar, though different cases can equally be made for the Easter and autumn periods. But, does this necessarily make

any of them a particularly 'good' time to put your home on the market?

Actually, timing is generally less important than you might think. The simple fact is that if your property is well-presented and well-priced, it stands just as much chance of selling during the summer holidays as it does in the New Year - or at Easter or in the autumn. So, my advice is always the same: forget about trying to predict the ever-changing market and just move when it suits you. If that's now then there's no time like the present!

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