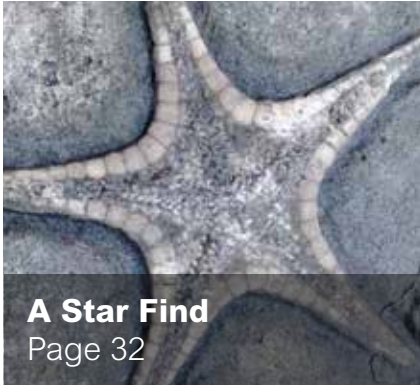


SHORELINE

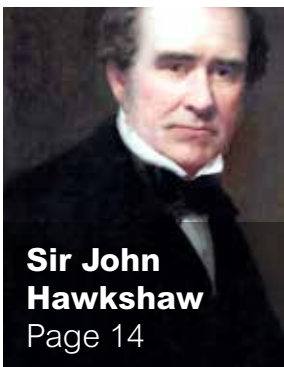
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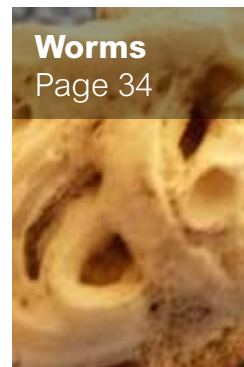
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Debby Snook at Kamakura, Japan, home of the Great Buddha (Daibutsu)

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Editorial

World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not the absence of violence; peace is the manifestation of human compassion.

Dalai Lama

As many of you already know, we were unsuccessful in reaching the semi-finals of the Village of the Year Competition 2017, despite featuring Penelope Keith so prominently on the summer issue's cover! However, the ten minute promotion of Charmouth, filmed in June, will still be shown on Channel 4 sometime in November.

It is always lovely to receive letters to the magazine, giving us positive feedback and letting us know that the many, many hours the four of us put in (gratis) are so appreciated. Please keep them coming!

In this issue we welcome two first-time contributors: Liz Scott, who, on page 20, regales us most amusingly with her intrepid travels across eastern Europe by train with husband Andrew, and also multi-talented artist Terry Coverdale, who has lived a fascinating life teaching textile and fashion design

in China with VSO and travelling all over South East Asia, before finally settling in Charmouth in 2010. Read Terry's story on page 37.

I had no idea that the Charmouth Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch Fund had been going strong since 1986, raising money throughout the year to provide a fabulous lunch for 70 retired Charmouthians. Tricia Forsey and Marilyn Waterson, two of the original committee members (along with Carol Prosser) share their memories of the last 31 years on page 39.

Some forthcoming events for your diaries include Spooky Firework Fun at the Beach on 4th November, The Clifford's Library Quiz on 10th November and the Christmas Fayre on 1st December. See the What's On page for more details.

It is hard to believe that next spring Shoreline will have been in circulation for ten years! We are planning a summer party to celebrate this milestone and as a way of acknowledging the many contributors over the years and the loyal advertisers, most of whom have been with us right from the beginning.

On behalf of the Shoreline team, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jane

THE SHORELINE TEAM

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

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

Deadline and Issue Dates for Shoreline 2018

SPRING ISSUE – deadline 5th March in the shops 1st April.
SUMMER ISSUE – deadline 5th July, in the shops 1st August.
AUTUMN / WINTER ISSUE – deadline 5th November, in the shops 1st December.

Charmouth Events Committee

Charmouth Traders and the Charmouth Fayre Committee decided that it would be better to put the existing Charmouth events into one organization. This would bring a number of benefits:

- A single insurance policy to cover all events
- One larger committee which helps with sharing out the tasks for each event
- A body that can consider ideas for future events
- More transparency regarding costs and profits for each event

Shoreline's call for help in the Summer edition has meant that we now have a good Charmouth Events Committee consisting of Phil Tritton (Chairman), David Clifford (Vice Chairman), Penny Collins (Treasurer), Maggie Wiscombe (Secretary), Ian Simpson, Andy Peters and Aidan Hodgson.

Our Facebook page 'Charmouth Events' has proved extremely successful in communicating timings and calling for volunteers.

Our AGM was held on 25th October at the Community Hall where donations to local causes were distributed.

Our first event was very successful (good weather helped!) and we are now planning the three winter events:

November 4th Spooky Firework Fun at the Beach

December 1st Charmouth Christmas Fayre

December 31st NYE Fireworks at the Beach

Check our Facebook page for updates regarding all our events, including cancellations or rescheduling should the weather turn bad.

Charmouth's Summer Exhibitions

This year, for the first time, three Summer exhibitions ran for the whole of July, August and September.

The library held an art exhibition featuring Charmouth's artists.

The Charmouth Local History Society put on its first exhibition featuring Samuel Hansford's photographs.

St Andrew's Church featured boards using material from the successful book by Neil Mattingly.

The exhibitions attracted several hundred visitors and gave people something to do on rainy days. The organisers at all three venues were pleased with the outcome and are considering ideas for next year. Perhaps you have some thoughts on this? Please contact Shoreline.



Parish Council News



The Parish Council is still struggling to find two Councillors to fill the current vacancies. This means that the workload of the Committees is spread very thinly and it would be really nice to have a full complement of Councillors again. If you are at all interested in making a difference in your community, please do come along to any of the meetings or call into the office for more information. This Council term runs until May 2019, so it will give you a couple of years to decide whether you want to commit to a further four year term!

The annual Residents Draw for Beach Huts takes place next April and is open to all residents of Charmouth Parish. The cost, if a hut is secured in the ballot, is half the standard price and the rental runs from mid-May until the end of September. The ballot for the Green huts is available for all residents to enter and the one for the Blue huts is for Charmouth residents with children under 18. To enter the draw a form should be completed which can be obtained from the Parish Office (charmouthparishcouncil@btconnect.com), and returned by 31 March 2018.

Charmouth Parish Council has reluctantly decided to instruct its Solicitor to investigate the implementation of a Dog Control Order in respect of the land it owns at Charmouth Foreshore and the Playing Field in Barrs Lane under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Before the Parish Council starts the formal process it wishes to seek the views of Charmouth Residents and invites comments, either via the

Parish Council's web site <http://www.charmouth.com/contact-form> (please enter 'Dog Control Order' in the subject line) or in writing to Charmouth Parish Council, The Elms, St Andrews Drive, Charmouth, Dorset DT6 6LN.

The Dog Control Order would formalise the existing Foreshore and Playing Fields dog rules. This is because increasing numbers of people, both residents and visitors, are ignoring the current rules and are verbally abusing Parish Council's employees when they remind people about them.

The consultation is intended to seek the village's view prior to the formal (statutory) consultation process and associated notices.

Finally, you will have noticed that the area east of the bridge at Charmouth, known as Evan's Cliff, has recently been given a makeover, with a new simple seating structure and a panel with key information for visitors and locals. The space has been smartened up into a defined circular area which has been kept low key and as 'natural' as possible. This has reduced the visual intrusion of signs and infrastructure, and created a site which is in keeping with the local environment as well as reducing future maintenance costs.

The aim of the works was to reduce clutter in this area and open it up more, so that the stunning coastal environment can be better appreciated, and to create an open area which complements the bridge. The number of signs has been greatly reduced to one simple panel telling people the key information useful for a visit to the beach, including tide times (as well as a guide on how to read

tide timetables!), safety information, advice on safe fossil hunting and clear information on where you can go with your dog.

Daryl Turner, Cabinet Member for the Natural & Built Environment at Dorset County Council, said:

"This project was possible because of a successful partnership approach between Dorset County Council, Charmouth Parish Council, the Foreshore Committee, the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, the Jurassic Coast Trust and Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We are really pleased with the results which will help our visitors and local people enjoy this section of our stunning Jurassic Coast all the more."

Paul Oatway, Chair of the Charmouth Foreshore Committee, said:

"Charmouth Parish Council and the Foreshore Committee are delighted to have been partners in this project which seeks to enhance and improve our natural environment for visitors and local people. We feel the simple changes have made the area much more attractive and the messages which we want people to take note of, such as the tide times and dog fouling, are now presented in clearer, easier to read format."

The work was led by Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team and the Jurassic Coast Trust working in partnership to deliver access and interpretation improvements along the Jurassic Coast.

Lisa Tuck

Party in the Park



Following the disappointing cancellation of the May Party in the Park, the 27th August event more than made up for it. This time the weather was perfect and being a Bank Holiday weekend meant that there was a really good turnout.

The call for helpers in the Summer edition of Shoreline resulted in a good number of volunteers and the BBQ, bar, children's stall and gate were well manned.

Our headline band Mr Jean again proved very popular and this time Joe and The Juice, a local band, performed a one hour set early on to get everyone in the mood.

The number of people exceeded expectations and the BBQ ran out of food half an hour before the end though the bar kept going, just about! The new children's stall was a big success, selling sweets, water, soft drinks, glow sticks and finger LED lights. The money generated by the event was a record and a large proportion of this was distributed to local organisations at the October AGM.

The Events Committee would like to thank the many people who gave their time to make this event such a success. Without them this event just would not happen.

Next year two Party in the Parks are planned, in May and August.

Phil Tritton

Letters

LINE DANCING SUCCESS!

I have just picked up my copy of Shoreline and was surprised and delighted to see the piece about my Line Dance Group and the entry in the Village Diary. I now have more 'feet on the dance floor': a viable group with a lovely supportive spirit who have learned about a dozen dances. It would be good to welcome even more locals: ladies AND gentlemen! The group meet on your doorstep but we do have members who travel from Lyme Regis, Bridport and Seaton! All are made very welcome! Come and join us, free of charge, between 2.00 - 3.30pm on Tuesdays at Charmouth Village Hall or call me on 01297 561083 if you have any questions. I would like to thank Shoreline very much for its support.

Andrea Harfield

SCOUTING SUCCESS

Great work again for the Scout Group in Shoreline. Thanks for all your support - it has definitely been instrumental in our success.

Kevin Payne, Group Scout Leader

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Last month I was in Charmouth for the first time in something like 60 years. My husband and I went down to the beach and took a walk up the cliff. We had lunch in The Bank House and it was there that I picked up the summer issue of Shoreline – congratulations on a really lively and attractive publication.

When I was about eight or nine, my family spent three consecutive summer holidays in Charmouth, renting a house called Ven Cottage. My sisters and I remember making friends with a couple of other families holidaying there, and my own particular proud memory is that I and one of those friends entered the fancy dress competition in what I suppose was the village fete. We went dressed as the Bisto Kids (who remembers them now?) – our source of outfit being our fathers' holiday gear – and won. That must say something about the kind of clothes our fathers took on holiday in those days! While Charmouth has obviously expanded since my childhood, I was delighted to see that the character of the village is still very much as I remember it. It was a lovely day when we were there.

Apart from wanting to say how much I've enjoyed reading Shoreline, I'd also like to ask permission to reproduce Eden Thomson's very interesting article on Nurdles in my own village's newspaper. Milland is a very small village on the edge of the South Downs and about 15 miles from the coast, so local families sail at Chichester Harbour, Bosham and Hayling Island and use the beaches at the Witterings, and I think the article is very relevant to our area as well as yours. Our newspaper is published every two months and is delivered free of charge by a network of volunteers to every house in the civil parish. It's funded by means of our Rural Fair which we hold biennially. I think the Fair has been running for about 20 years now – possibly more - and has become quite a big event locally, to the extent that it not only funds the production of the newspaper but can also make grants to local organisations.

Regards,

Jacqui Woodhams, West Sussex

(Editor's note: Eden has given permission for her article to appear in 'Milland'.)



Neighbourhood Plan: Village Survey Update

An Open Meeting was held in St. Andrew's Hall on 9th September to present the initial results from the Village Survey held earlier in the year.

The presentation, led by Carole Girling (Chairman of the Steering Group) and Andy Bateman, offered the 60 or so people who attended the opportunity over coffee and biscuits to discuss local issues and to ask questions of members of the Group. There was also a power point presentation which covered the work done so far, and summarised the numerical (quantitative) results of the survey. Approximately 30% of the 854 questionnaires delivered were completed and returned, representing the views of 497 people who live and/or work in Charmouth. This was a good response, the average return rate being 10-15%. The results can be seen in full on the Neighbourhood Plan website (www.charmouth-nhp.co.uk) or in hard copy in The Elms and the Library. The question and answer session following the presentation produced some useful discussions.

The next stage will be to analyse the comments (over 3000 of them!) extracted from the completed surveys. This will be quite time-consuming, but will add a lot of detail about the range of views held by people in Charmouth. When this (qualitative) analysis is complete, the results will be reported at a further meeting. Carole and Andy emphasised that there is still information to be gathered from many sources and a lot more work to be done, and stressed that anyone wishing to volunteer will be welcome. In particular, input from younger members of the community would be valuable, giving a fuller picture of opinions in Charmouth: 80% of respondents to the survey are over 51 years of age, so younger age groups are not well represented. Anyone wishing to get involved please contact Sarah Edwards c/o Lisa Tuck, Parish Council or phone 07594 653 341 or email charmouthneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

Charmouth Free Church

In November last year the vote was cast, for financial reasons, to close the doors of Christchurch URC here in Charmouth and this beautiful iconic building was subsequently sold by tender. I found this whole experience heart-breaking. Though we were few in number, and for the most, advancing in years, these people had become my church family and it felt as though we were being abandoned. Some said kindly meant words such as 'when one door closes another door opens' and others invited us to join their fellowships but nothing seemed to soothe our disappointment and burning need to keep us all together.

I spoke with Robin Loosemore, one of the URC Elders, about organising a car rota but he felt we should have a presence and a mission to others in Charmouth and suggested we use the Club Room of St. Andrew's Community Hall. Together with Derek Ripley, another URC regular, we discussed and prayed about the viability of doing this and Charmouth Free Church was born on 1st January 2017 - initially meeting fortnightly and now every week at 11am. It is almost as though we have been stripped back to the basics of meeting in the Upper Room like the early Christians and we all share and worship with warmth and enthusiasm. It so good to see our family growing - old friends returning, new friends made, visitors spreading the word with Pat, Joan, Anne, Kitty & Mara all happy and smiling!

Visiting preachers lead us in worship a couple of times a month and once a quarter there is a post worship lunch - the next being on 10th December, organised by the wonderful Madeleine Warren, following a speaker from the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Keep an eye out on lamp posts and notice boards throughout the village for details of services together with Charmouth Noticeboard on Facebook. If you want to know any more about our fellowship or would like a home visit please contact me on 561626 or Robin on 560226. Come and join us! All are welcome!

Alison Taylor



Ghost or Goblin – An Unexplained Incident

Whilst doing my National Service, I was driving home across Priddy Moor in Somerset in my old Austin 7 at about midnight. The road was very narrow, with a ditch on either side – a desolate area and misty at that time of night. Suddenly, out of the mist, a tiny pink figure about a metre high appeared in the ditch on the right-hand side of the road and crossed in front of me, stopping in the middle and staring at me. I braked and froze at the sight. It then carried on and went into the ditch on the other side.

Although a bit tired, I was completely sober during this incident, and to this day I can still remember the hairs on the back of my neck standing up! The figure was verwy human-like, but small; not like an animal at all.

Peter Bagley

(Note: If Peter's scary story brings to your mind a memory, sound or image of something inexplicable, we would love to hear about it. Please email lesley@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk or phone 01297 561644 and we will respond enthusiastically!)

Charmouth Traders

Although Charmouth Traders will no longer be responsible for the running of the winter events, it has been a busy period for the traders on other projects.

The Traders will still pay for Charmouth's Christmas lights and extra lights were purchased this year to replace those that were damaged by last year's winter weather.

The Charmouth website www.charmouth.org has been given a facelift and the new portal page is much more customer friendly. Also, Charmouth Charlie makes his first appearance on the website. Expect to see more of him in due course.

The Traders have also been providing figures to Charmouth Parish Council to help with their submission to The Government in their attempt to get Charmouth's sea defences redesignated. At the moment these would not be replaced if a storm badly damaged them, which would put many Charmouth jobs in jeopardy.

Finally, the Traders will be considering what to do with any surplus funds shortly. If your organization is in need of money for a particular project get in touch with us at charmouthtraders@gmail.com.



Phil Tritton

Charmouth Conservatives

We were very disappointed that our local Charmouth candidate, Paul Oatway, was not returned as the West Dorset District Councillor for Lyme Regis and Charmouth. He, and other volunteers, wore out much shoe leather pounding the streets of Lyme and Charmouth campaigning for votes. We wish the winning candidate, Cheryl Reynolds, well.

Fresh from the Party conference with, as you would expect, knives out and freshly sharpened, our thoughts turn to our next events. Barring further snap elections, they will involve food. On Wednesday 1st November we will be having a 'Lasagna Lunch with salad and sweet', price £12.50, including a drink, in a member's home. It will be fun, sociable and have minimal politics and maximum enjoyment. We hope this edition of Shoreline reaches you early enough to book!

On Friday 1st December, Lyme Regis Golf Club will be hosting our Christmas Lunch. This has always been a fairly informal affair, meeting up with old friends and making new ones. This year there will be no formal speaker, so we have fingers crossed that tables do not fall silent as they run out of conversation. It's never happened yet! Details are yet to emerge of menu, prices etc., but if you are interested give me a call and I will send out information in early November.

New members are always welcome. Currently we have a thriving committee, so we are not press-ganging anyone to do more... but if you volunteered you would not be turned away!

Bob Hughes

**All Shoreline issues can be seen online at
www.charmouth.org/charmouth_villagelshoreline-magazine/**

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - Bring a Smile!

The Trussell Trust is a registered charity that sends shoeboxes to Bulgaria and Serbia for babies, children and adults. Last year our local community donated 72 shoe boxes for needy children. This year I hope to reach a target of 100 boxes. They are distributed mainly to abandoned children, Roma people living in difficult conditions, poor rural schools, women's refuges and refugee centres. These gift boxes make such a difference to so many people. Things that we take for granted are a luxury for them. Simple things, like soap, a toothbrush, sweets, candles, plasters, toys, toiletries, pencils and paper. It's hard for us to imagine what life would be like without our 'essentials', but for so many men, women and children, life is a struggle on a daily basis and they have to make do with what they have - which is not a great deal.

One of the reasons I like living in Charmouth is that we are lucky to have a supportive, caring community, where everybody pulls together. Once again local businesses are supporting the shoe box appeal and Tesco Axminster have agreed to have a container where items can be donated and added to shoe boxes. Charmouth Primary school very kindly agreed to send out information in their newsletter. I am most grateful to Fortnam Smith & Banwell, The Salon, Charmouth Fish Bar and The Bank Café, who have once again agreed to be drop-off points for completed boxes. You can pick up a donation envelope/leaflet from them which provides information regarding age groups, gender and suggestions of what to put in your box. Boxes can be dropped off between 3rd and 17th November.

Last year when I decided to make up a couple of gift boxes I imagined a couple of children with smiles on their faces as they opened their 'treasure boxes', finding them filled with as many goodies as I could cram into a small box. I never imagined I would be sending 72 boxes. I was amazed at the kindness and generosity of people I didn't even know. If you don't want to fill a shoe box, you can still help by donating £3.00 to cover the shipping cost of a box or perhaps you could knit baby clothes, mittens or a small teddy. Whatever you do will be appreciated. It would be wonderful to think that this year we could get 100 boxes and 100 smiles. Please do check out The Trussell Trust website for more information or call me, Karen Sands, on 07817 031417.

Thank you so much for your support.

Karen Sands



A few items for the shoeboxes

New Mary Anning Film

Writer/Director Natasha Mattocks is in production on a short film based on the life of the first female palaeontologist, Mary Anning. Funded by the National Film & Television school and executive produced by Nik Powell ('The Crying Game') and Barbara Broccoli ('James Bond'), it is part of a new directors' workshop that aims to elevate the voices of under-represented female and BAME (Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic) directors. Shot on location in Lyme Regis and Charmouth, the film delves into the incredible woman who came to be known as the 'Mother of Palaeontology'. The film will be in post-production for the next few months, followed by an industry screening in early 2018. We aim to have a local screening in Lyme Regis so that all the amazing people who helped out locally will get a chance to see it before it is released into the festival circuit.

Lucy Meer, Production Director



Natashia Mattocks on set

Beachcombers Café

Hollands Room, Bridge Road

We have been running a Breakfast Drop in for approximately five years in the Hollands Room, Bridge Road. It started with the aid of POPP (Partnership for Older People Programme) and Magna Housing Association.

Our aim is to supply people with a breakfast at a reasonable cost in an enjoyable environment, which is also a social event where they can sit and catch up with each other about the community of Charmouth, etc. It is open to all Charmouth residents. You can pop in for just a tea or coffee or a full hearty breakfast between the hours of 10.30-12.30 every Monday from the beginning of October to the end of March.

This year the Breakfast Drop in started on 2nd October and ends on 26th March 2018. For more information connect Alison on 560939.

We run a Bingo session on the second Tuesday of every month from 7.00pm. Eyes down 7.30, end about 9.00pm. For more information contact Rick on 560939.

We are also running a Support group for people with Diabetes. For more information contact Helen on 561580
helenparkercharmouath@btinternet.com

News from St. Andrew's Church



Photo: Neil Mattingly

Our big news is that after a huge amount of discussion, planning and hard work our church Changing Spaces Team have submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, under their major Grants Scheme. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Project Manager, Tom Roberts, who worked almost 24/7 for several weeks to prepare the most comprehensive application for a grant that most of us have ever seen. The application form runs to 30 pages, and the main accompanying full colour document ran to 105 pages! We submitted the bid on the 16th August, and wait to hear the outcome shortly after the HLF Board meeting on the 5th December.



We have displayed the key pages of this application on several display panels in St Andrews, near the vestry. We invite you to drop by and have a look at our plans. We have left a pad of paper for you to offer your comments, we are still keen to consult and hear your views. I must tell you that HLF have been very helpful indeed towards us as we have consulted them about the bid documents, and have strongly encouraged us to put in this bid – whilst making no promises about success.

The total amount that we have bid for in our project totals just over one million pounds. As announced in the previous edition of Shoreline, we have already secured a grant from the Erskine Mutton Trust of £370,000. So, we are seeking a grant towards most of the balance. The essential repairs and redecorations are estimated at around half a million pounds, improvements to the interior and the churchyard are estimated at around quarter of a million pounds, with the remainder as fees for professional advice and support, expenses of volunteer help, inflation and contingencies. Our figures have been calculated in consultation with the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is a huge and ambitious sum, but Changing Spaces sincerely believe that if this project is successful, it will be of huge benefit to the residents and the organisations of Charmouth, along with the tens of thousands of visitors who come here each year.

During the Autumn the Changing Spaces Team is entering into dialogue with a variety of organisations within the village, in order to discover together, areas of potentially fruitful collaboration, drawing upon grant money that HLF could make available to the village. HLF could provide financial backing for a range of community projects and heritage related activities – and Changing Spaces want to investigate a range

of ideas this Autumn, and bolster our application by informing HLF about them. Ideas could include: Art, History &/or Fossil Exhibitions, Educational Facilities and Lectures using state of the art technology, Coffee Shop, Cinema, Concerts, Music Group rehearsal space, Playzone, 'Green lung' Churchyard Garden, Sculpture Trail. So, we hope that together we can get our creative juices flowing to benefit us all! Please let us know your ideas!

Here is a list of Services and Events we plan from the beginning of November up to the end of the year:

November 12th: 10.45am Remembrance Sunday Parade with placing of Wreaths at the War Memorial, followed by Service in St Andrews Church from 11am.

18th November: 10am – 11.30am: FreeXChange Café at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall.



25th November: 10am – 12.30pm: Christmas Fayre in St Andrews Church. (If you would like to book a table (or two) then please contact Pauline Berridge.

3rd December: 3pm; special Advent Sunday "Short & Sweet" Service led by Ros Woodbridge on the Theme of "The Specialness of Christmas". Suitable for younger people – tea follows afterwards.

15th December: 4pm; Catherston Church Carol Service celebrating an Exhibition of Nativity Scenes.

17th December: 6.30pm; Charmouth Village Carol Service in St Andrews.

18th December: 7/7.30pm; Edward Jacob's Choir perform a Christmas Concert, at St Andrews.

24th December: 3pm; Christmas Crib Service at St Andrews. 11pm; Midnight Communion Service at St Andrews.

25th December: 9.30am; Christmas Family Service at Catherston Church.

December 31st: 10am; United New Year's Eve Service with Charmouth Free Church at St Andrews.

For more information please contact me, Revd Stephen Skinner, on 01297 443763.

TALES FROM THE ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW

On Thursday 20th July, people packed the church to hear Paul Atterbury share his experiences and favourite stories from behind the scenes at the Antiques Roadshow. We discovered how the programmes are made, about life on the Roadshow circuit and the often hilarious exploits of the experts and the public. Paul spoke for over an hour, we then had a break for a drink and a chat (the pews get a bit hard after an hour), before continuing with questions from the audience. He answered with great humour and shared many interesting anecdotes. Changing Spaces is a team working together to create a community space at St Andrews in much the same way that Paul Atterbury was involved in at the Eype church when he lived there. He very kindly donated his time and we raised over £1000 towards our goal.

Helen Hughes



Photo: Neil Mattingly

Busy Lizzy Revealed



Between winter 2014 and winter 2015, Busy Lizzy shared her practical gardening advice and tips with readers of Shoreline. Thanks to her, we were fortunate to be able to print articles that not only related to the season in question, but also to the local weather conditions. Busy Lizzy, who wanted to remain anonymous whilst she was writing for us, is now leaving Dorset for Herefordshire, so we persuaded her to reveal all about herself and tell us why she developed such enthusiasm for gardening. Here's her story:

"My Dad was a miner in Warwickshire. As a release from his hard work in the pits, he'd come home and go straight into the garden where he'd tend his plants. I was with him, watching what he did from a very young age. As a child, our mining village held an annual gala and I was 12 or 13 when I won 1st prize for making a puppet. Then, another year, a woman over the road came to see my mother about a competition for the best dressed salad. I decided to have a go. I put my entry on a big meat plate and even made palm trees from onions and flowers from tomatoes. I received 1st prize! Dad used to show his dahlias and chrysanthemums.

In 1979, after passing my general nursing exams, I came to Dorset as a district nurse and midwife. When I arrived in

Bridport I was billeted to the nurses' section of the old hospital there. In those days, people knew me as Sister Mary Canning. I met my husband Roger in 1980, but it took seven years of courting before I agreed to marry him! I was lucky when we moved to our house in Morecambelake, because the garden had been well cultivated. I was able to grow huge vegetables and I was in my glory, as my enthusiasm for gardening had remained with me. In retirement I joined the Morecambelake Gardening Club. We ran shows and talks and at one event Joy Everington, who was attached to the Dorset Agricultural Association, told us that judges were needed locally. She encouraged gardening club members to come forward. Two of us, including me, said 'yes'. She wrote to us with details and we went to evening classes at the Agricultural College in Dorchester. Every week we had different lectures and National Vegetable Society members gave us talks every six weeks. I took the horticultural exam and also the National Vegetable Society exam. Then I met a member of another of the local horticultural societies and he arranged for me to do an exam for serious gardeners and people who wanted to become judges. I passed and became a National Vegetable Society judge and it's gone on from there. I've judged in Dorset, Devon, Somerset, Hampshire and London. As far as flowers are concerned, roses have always been my favourites. I love their different scents. Most of the roses I planted in my Morecambelake garden are perfumed hybrid tea roses.

When I was writing for Shoreline, I didn't want people to know it was me, as those locally knew me as a nurse and midwife. I enjoyed offering advice to Shoreline readers (editorial note: these articles are still available to view online at www.charmouth.org; just look for the Shoreline tab and find the issues mentioned above), but problems with both of my shoulders have meant that I haven't been able to garden as I would like to have done for the last three years."

So, as Margaret Moores (aka Busy Lizzy) settles in Herefordshire, we wish her improved health, easy garden cultivation, good growing weather, few weeds and happy days enjoying the fruits of her labours. Au revoir Margaret. We thank you for your thoughtful articles. We'll miss you.

Lesley Dunlop

To advertise in Shoreline please contact: neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk

From the Charmouth Practice



Thank you to all our patients who reported their satisfaction with the Charmouth Practice GP services in the NHS patient satisfaction survey this year. The resulting 100% "good or better than good" overall rating put us at the top of a list of all Dorset practices in the Dorset Echo in August. Coming after our "Outstanding" for Care from the CQC, this is very uplifting for us all at the practice and reflects on the hard work and dedication of the whole team. In fact we are lucky in Dorset where the quality of GP care is known to be very high anyway, but sadly this doesn't mean we have escaped the nationwide GP recruitment crisis. A shortage of GPs, together with the NHS funding crisis, means there will inevitably be a lot of changes ahead. Please heed Chris Boothroyd's call to get involved which he makes in his article in this edition of Shoreline. If there are going to be significant changes to the way care is delivered, it would be better to influence those changes wherever possible so that they improve care for all local people.

Charmouth Diabetes project – Putting your best foot forward

Diabetes care is being moved out from hospital clinics to Primary care (General Practice). Everyone with diabetes is entitled to nine annual checks to help them to keep healthy. These include; glucose checks; urine checks for protein; cholesterol and kidney function checks; eye checks; weight checks and help to stop smoking. Arguably the most important checks are for blood pressure and foot care. This is because diabetes can lead to numbness, poor circulation and sugary blood and a risk that any damage to the skin of the foot could lead to an ulcer or a serious infection. Knowing how to best care for feet is so important that we will be organising another Diabetes Conversation in February (we might call it Foot Care in

February??) to share information and advice. For this Diabetes Conversation we would like to have your questions in advance. As soon as we have the details of when and where this will be, we will post a notice inside and outside the surgery, at the chemist and on your repeat prescription slip. Very generously, the new Diabetes Support Group running in Charmouth has offered to provide some tasty diabetes friendly nibbles to try at our foot care event. If you want to join the Diabetes Support Group itself which meets in the Hollands Room, please contact Helen Parker on 01297 561580 for details.

Weight and whatever you ate...

Anyone who feels they need extra help with weight loss on the NHS should know that this is available in Dorset from the Tier 3 Weight Management Service based in Southampton. The snag is that to qualify for a referral from your GP you will have to demonstrate 2 years of engagement with some kind of valid weight loss plan or service, eg Live well Dorset, Weight Watchers or Slimming World. My recommendation is that you make sure your weight, height and waist measurements are logged on your GP record now, together with details of the plan you are following, so that in two years' time you can qualify for a referral if you need it. This is the only route to weight loss or Bariatric surgery like gastric bypasses, on the NHS. Of course, exercise is a key part of turning around the faulty way the body uses food which pushes us towards diabetes. Try to aim for at least 30 minutes a day of any movement that gets you slightly sweaty and out of breath. This can be in 10 minute chunks and is extra beneficial if every now and then you put in a high intensity spurt like running up the stairs, to fire up your muscle mitochondrial power houses which suck the fat out of your blood.

I was so excited to find that all the latest advice about food and digestion discussed in these columns over the years has been summed up beautifully in Michael Moseley's latest book "The Clever Guts' Diet". Fascinating facts and tips include apple cider vinegar in a glass of water before meals to help weight loss, why sleep deprivation makes you hungry and how intermittent fasting can improve your good Akkermansia bacteria which reduces damaging inflammation and helps to prevent diabetes. Recommended reading – why not add it to your Christmas wish list?

In the meantime, wishing you a mellow and fruitful autumn.

Dr Sue Beckers

Charmouth Local History Society (The Pavey Group)

Over the summer months we ran a free exhibition in the Pavey Room in The Elms. This showcased a selection of the enormous number of old photographs we have. There were over 200 images, all with some accompanying notes, showing various aspects of the village, some dating back to the 19th century, and including many of Samuel Hansford's wonderful photos. Also on display were some of the artefacts we have collected over the years, ranging from the prehistoric to interesting objects like the raisin stoner and coffee grinder that used be part of the local stores.

The exhibition proved to be a great success, with many (over 200) visitors from the village and further afield (including the US, Australia and New Zealand). We have decided to keep the exhibition running through the winter months. The Pavey Room will be open most Mondays 2-4pm and at other

times by appointment; please ring Neil Mattingly on 07961 451379 for details. This will be an opportunity to view (or re-view) the exhibits at your leisure. Also there will always be a committee member on hand to discuss with you any ideas, suggestions or requests.

Talking of committee members, we are still short of a couple and would very much welcome enquiries from anyone thinking of getting involved. The Society is quite active again now but, as so often, the burden of keeping the village's societies going falls on too few shoulders. You can contact us via the website or ring the secretary on 560646.

We expect to organise another of our ever-popular talks in the spring – keep a look out for posters or check the website – and the next Village Echo is due out next Easter. If anyone has something they would like to contribute to the Echo, from a full article to an anecdote or some old photos, please do get in touch.

Richard Dunn, Secretary



All together now: "The NHS belongs to us!"

'The NHS belongs to the people' is the opening line of the NHS Constitution. You can almost hear Nye Bevan's Welsh lilt.

Beyond its emphatic first line, the NHS Constitution tells us, the public, that 'You have the right to be involved, directly or through representatives, in the planning of healthcare services commissioned by NHS bodies, the development and consideration of proposals for changes in the way those services are provided, and in decisions to be made affecting the operation of those services.'

The Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is busy 'planning healthcare services' and 'considering proposals for changes in the way those services are provided' in Charmouth and Lyme Regis. Having, constitutionally, 'the right to be involved', let's get involved.

Involved in what? Charmouth residents have an outstanding local medical practice, highly-rated by its patients, holding an indefinite Medical Service contract with the NHS in the usual way. So patients registered with the Practice can happily relax?

Partly, perhaps. But, unlike the Charmouth Practice (or Kent House in Lyme), the Lyme Regis Medical Centre (LRMC) is run by Virgin Care, whose NHS contract expires in January 2019: the CCG must plan for what is then to happen at LRMC. Nothing to do with Charmouth, then?

Not quite. GP contracts cover only certain services: essentially, the doctors, practice nurses, clinics, and so on. But Virgin Care's contract at LRMC also includes providing 'Community Services' – such as Community Nursing, Hospital at Home, Intermediate Care, Children's Health, Primary Mental Health, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and a Social Worker, as well as the Minor Injuries Unit – to everyone across Lyme Regis and Charmouth. So what happens with this Community Services contract will affect Charmouth-registered patients just as much as those registered with the two Lyme Regis Practices.

And what happens to the GP part of Virgin's contract might also, eventually, have wider implications. Intriguingly, the CCG considers possibly combining Lyme Regis and Charmouth GP practice lists (ie patients), GP services then being 'provided by one GP provider based at Lyme Regis Medical Centre with a practice at Charmouth'. (Don't

panic: 'one GP provider' doesn't mean 'one GP'!) But how could that be possible given the current three independent 'provider' contracts?

This might be a clue. The CCG has already linked the seven Practices covering Beaminster, Maiden Newton, Portesham, Bridport, Charmouth and Lyme into a 'Locality Group', sharing professional ideas and best practice. That's good. Six (all except Virgin at LRMC) also work together as 'Jurassic Coast Health Care Ltd', a Private Limited Company with Directors and shareholders from among the GPs involved. This company can, as a collective, bid to provide services, just as each GP 'business' within it can do so individually. NHS Health Checks, commissioned by Dorset Public Health, are already provided by this collective, dividing up the money pro rata according to checks done.

Imagine this on a larger scale, bidding for and providing many more services. That would be a single provider, built from several GP Practices. Imagine, too, the collective administrative work...

With re-shaping underway, we must exercise our 'right to be involved'. LymeForward's Health & Wellbeing group of ten industrious volunteers, several with great NHS experience, has done groundwork to understand the exact detail of what primary care and community services are provided now in Lyme and Charmouth, as a basis for proposing improvements. It's in communication with the CCG, and with other helpful people.

This group, which I chair, now needs to better understand your experiences, particularly of those Virgin-provided 'community services' that aren't part of the GPs' direct responsibility. What works well for you, of course. But to guide these potentially major changes in local health provision it's important to know what services may be missing, and what isn't working so well. Our area in the west of the county is untypical, with many special challenges. We must help the CCG to appreciate those. If we don't, the CCG will still be fine. But we won't.

So please let us have your stories and ideas, and soon. You can send them to me (chris@caboothroyd.net, or call 01297-442237) or contact the Patient Participation Group for Charmouth Medical Practice: Joanna Scotton (joanna@goldcap.co.uk, currently not available by phone). Or you could always drop an envelope into the Practice reception, addressed to Joanna with 'PPG' in brackets.

Chris Boothroyd



Charmouth Pharmacy

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Who are we?

The charity became established in 2004 recognising that tax in retirement can become quite complicated. Our aim then was to provide free professional help and advice on personal income tax and it remains so today. Our clientele are older people on modest incomes who would find it difficult or unrealistic to pay for tax advice. For this reason we have set our age criteria at 60+ and annual income limit at £20,000. Most of our help is given over the phone but where necessary we offer a face to face service operated by over 420 volunteers based around the UK

However, we can be flexible with the income limit where there are other circumstances, perhaps disability or advanced age and we will also offer help and advice to people in their 50s who may start to receive a pension through illness, bereavement or early retirement. We are currently the only charity who offer tax advice on pension flexibility payments, which have specific tax implications and are often overtaxed at source.

I'm sure you can see the pattern now – we deal with people who have pensions and tax concerns!

What do we actually do?

- *help with any personal tax query*
- *check that your tax codes are correct – if these are wrong your tax will be wrong!*

- *identify anything that is going wrong with your tax, and help put it right*
- *give information on allowances and the way tax is calculated and collected*
- *help you understand an underpayment; if it's right; and, how you can pay*
- *advise you on action needed or, with your consent, talk to HMRC on your behalf*
- *provide tax advice when you retire or are bereaved*
- *help complete various tax forms*
- *help you access your personal tax account online*
- *give information on the tax implications surrounding pension flexibility*
- *where we can't help, refer you to another charity or HMRC, armed with the right questions*

We work closely with our sister charity TaxAid who help people of working age with their tax queries. They also deal with business tax and are specialists in Tax debt.

How can I get help?

Contact Tax Help for Older People;

by phone: 0845 601 3321* or 01308 488066,

*Calls to our 0845 number may cost 5ppm if not included as free in your call package, as well as your phone company's access charge.

by email: taxvol@taxvol.org.uk,

website www.taxvol.org.uk or

by post: Tax Help for Older People, Unit 10, Pineapple Business Park, Salway Ash, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5DB.

Contact TaxAid by phone - 0345 120 3779

Charmouth Sewing Circle

Charmouth Sewing Circle welcomes new participants to our small informal group. We work on joint quilting/patchwork projects for charitable causes, or on our own handicrafts in the comfortable setting of the library servery, with congenial company and a cuppa. There is no club to join, or other obligation apart from a small weekly room charge, and we have two sewing machines on site.

If you wish to come along, please contact our Treasurer, Elaine Phillips, on 07584495053, as we occasionally have trips out for supplies. We look forward to seeing you!

Charmouth Sewing Circle: Tuesdays 10.30 – 12.45, Charmouth Central Library

Irena Campion

Could you be eligible for up to 30 hours of free childcare a week for your 3 or 4 year old?

All parents get 15 hours of free childcare a week for their 3 or 4 year old, but some working parents can now get up to 30 hours free childcare a week. To claim each parent must earn at least £120 a week. You can use the funding to pay for any childminders, pre-schools, nurseries, play groups and out-of-school clubs registered to the scheme.

To see the full eligibility criteria, how to apply for January 2018, or to see when you can claim, visit www.dorsetforyou.com/30hours. You can also contact Dorset County Council's Family Information Service on 01305 221066.

Anna Guest

Charmouth Village People

Organised Events for Seniors in our Village

Hello everyone, it is time to report on changes in our club and outline the programme for the forthcoming months to Christmas. I hope you all had a delightful summer and are now looking forward to joining in our activities again.

Our secretary has resigned, unfortunately, but the members have come together and we're enthusiastically going forward with our groups and will be looking for a new secretary by the AGM next April.

Day Trips

I am planning a Christmas shopping coach trip to Clarks Village, Street on Wednesday 15th November when all their displays and lights will be on and as an organised group we will receive an extra 10% discount voucher on the day. There will be more information about this shortly.

Theatre Visits

There is a trip planned to see the matinee performance of South Pacific at Axminster on Saturday 18th November. We arrange transport in our own cars. If you would like to be included and to reserve a ticket please contact Ann Macnair on this occasion on 01297 560611. We are very pleased to announce that theatre visits will in future be organised by Cherry Davies 01297 560093 and we will let you know more details by telephone to the regular attendees and on the library notice board.

Meet Ups

There is an open invitation to all our members and friends to meet up on Friday afternoons between 2.30pm and 4.00pm at the Bank House Cafe on a friendly and drop in basis. It is an opportunity to relax in good company and join in the chatter over a good cup of tea or coffee, and cake! We felt this would be especially welcome during the winter months. Thanks to Sally and Wendy for hosting us.

Pop Up Writers

Pop Up Writers starts again on Wednesday 13th September in the Library at 2.00pm to 4.00pm. We are a friendly group of scribblers with different styles, and poets are welcome. We

meet on 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday afternoons of the month and read our work to each other, when our members who contribute comedy pieces often cause hilarity. There is a wide range of contributions. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Mike Clarke on 01297 561651. Subs to cover expenses are £2 a session. Tea/coffee and biscuits are served.

Memorable Memoirs

Memorable Memoirs (MM) is our longest running group which is loyally attended by members on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Charmouth Library. There is usually a speaker who begins at 2.10pm and continues until tea/coffee and cake is served at 3.00pm. Subs to cover expenses are £2 a session. We welcome new members so if you would like more information please call Jan Gale on 07460 707294. We can arrange lifts if you have mobility difficulties.

Weds 1.11.17 – Mike Seaman will give a talk on his involvement with the National Coastwatch and in the Look Out, Charmouth

Weds 6.12.17 – Fun and games and bubbles!

If you have read the above you will notice we are very busy planning and attending events in and out of the village. We always need more help so if you feel inspired by any of our activities please get in touch as either a participant, or a helper, because you are essential. We hold our AGM in April and will be looking for a new secretary. All our team work together well and cooperate so that the burden doesn't fall on any one person, but we need younger people to step in and enjoy the ride with us. We'd love to have people we can share all we do with and help them to take the reins in the future. You wouldn't have to attend everything. You could work in the background in organising and documenting, keeping our records, adding to the web site, or any other aspect that interests you. If you think you are too young you are probably the person we are looking for! Please get in touch with me, Jan Gale, on 07460 707294 for more information on any of the above.

All our clubs are administered by Charmouth Village People, a committee with a constitution, who fundraise locally and whose records are all available for public scrutiny.

Jan Gale



2018 Charmouth Calendar – a great Christmas Gift

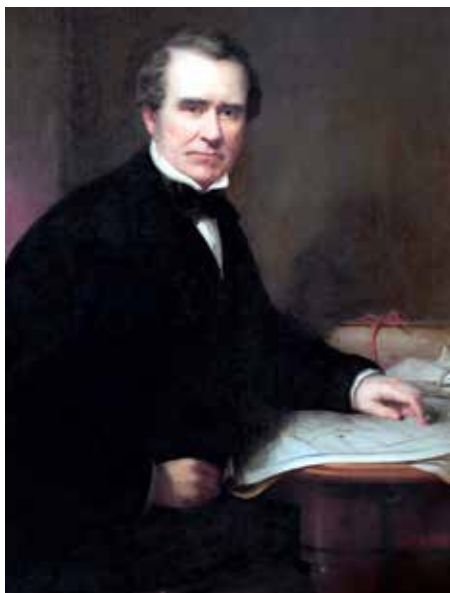
The fifth Charmouth Calendar is on sale around the village.

Amazing local photographers submitted a record 254 photographs and again the high standard this year meant that it was difficult to choose the best 13 for the front cover and for each of the 12 months. The result is an excellent calendar which it is hoped will raise funds for the 2018 Christmas lights and Fayre.

The price has been held at £5.99.

Phil Tritton





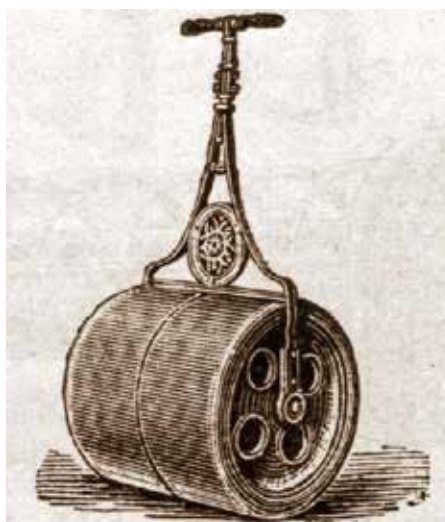
An Exciting Find! - a Link with Charmouth's Famous Lord of The Manor – Sir John Hawkshaw (1811-1891)

I recently purchased a metal plaque with the inscription 'Presented by J. Hawkshaw, Esq. to the Charmouth Cricket Club 1865'. The name rang bells with me as that of the famous engineer who had once tried to link Charmouth, Lyme Regis and Bridport with a railway that would have joined the main line at Chard. He was probably the most famous national figure apart from King Charles II to be associated with the village. What made it so exiting was the plaque was given by him to Charmouth so long ago and by a miracle has survived. It was not until I went to The British Newspaper Archives website, which has a database of most papers since they were published, that I was able to solve the mystery as to what it was. The 'Bridport News' on 1st July of that year under Cricket Club reported that:



"We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. Hawkshaw has presented this Club a large iron roller, for the use of the ground. It has on it the following "Presented by J. Hawkshaw, Esq. to the Charmouth Cricket Club, 1865." Last Wednesday's match was played between the Charmouth Cricket Club and an Eleven from Bridport".

It would seem that the iron plate originally fitted on the front of this roller. It was the only memorial to this great engineer ever being in Charmouth. He ranked with Brunel in his many projects and, unlike him, lived a long and prosperous life, dying in 1891 aged 80 and leaving a fortune of over £220,000. He in some ways unites those other famous Victorians who had such an impact on Charmouth at that time - Charles Fowler (1792-1867) architect of Covent Garden Market and St. Andrew's Church and George Frean (1793- 1868), owner of a number of mills, including Charmouth and Lyme Regis Cement Works.



He was already a famous engineer when, in 1864, he purchased three substantial estates in this area. The first was the Manor of Charmouth from George Frean which encompassed most of the fields south of The Street. The second was 'Poulett House' and its grounds in Lyme Regis. He also bought Lily Farm in Charmouth from the trustees of the Bishop of Llandaff and other houses and fields in both places. His motivation was for a number of reasons, including the creation of a country estate with 'Poulett House', now the Alexandra Hotel, as its focus. But it was mainly for his ambition of constructing a railway from Bridport Station (opened in 1857), through Charmouth, Lyme Regis and Axminster (opened in 1860) and linking it to the main line at Chard. If successful, the value of his properties would have increased substantially as a result. At the time of the purchases he was renting Everleigh Manor near Andover and had previously, in 1863, stood as an unsuccessful Liberal Candidate there. A family friend who often stayed with him was John Gould, the famous ornithologist. He was born in Lyme Regis where his father was the gardener at 'Poulett House' and it was he who told John about the forthcoming sale of the Estate, at that time owned by Colonel William Pinney who was standing down as the M.P for Lyme Regis after 33 years. It was to give Hawkshaw the opportunity of returning to politics after just two years from his defeat at Andover after purchasing it. He was to offer the voters the promise of a new railway station

and line linking it to the rest of Britain. Charmouth would also have a new station and line if successful. He set out to be a benevolent benefactor, especially in Charmouth, which formed part of the constituency. Here he was to design and build a water supply from a Reservoir he had built in a field on his land at Lily Farm. The Bridport News in June 1865 reported:

"Through the kindness and liberality of Mr Hawkshaw, a great boon is about to be conferred on this place, in the shape of a plentiful supply of pure water, in which. Indispensable requisite, Charmouth has hitherto been poorly off. For though nature has placed an abundance within easy reach, as yet no good method of distributing the precious gift had ever been adopted. the state of things is now to be remedied. Messrs Brown of Lyme, have contracted to build a tank, capable of holding 11,500 gallons of water, at the source of the spring known as The Grange, and to lay mains and provide public taps through the whole of the village. Any householder will be able, we understand, at a trifling expense, to have the water brought to his house".

Taps were placed by the side of The Street for the use of those who did not possess a well and pump. There are still signs of these in the walls of properties in the village today. He was also a generous landlord, for the Bridport News at the time wrote:



"On Wednesday week last, John Hawkshaw Esq, lord of the manor, and owner of considerable property in Lyme Regis and Charmouth, held his half yearly rent audit at the Coach and Horses Hotel. The business being conducted by R. Hillman, Esq, solicitor, steward. There were present a large number of the principal tenants, both of Charmouth and Lyme Regis, who after the business was concluded, dined together, and afterward spent a very pleasant evening. On the occasion R. Hillman, Esq occupied the chair, and Mr. Morcom, the vice Chair. The dinner was a most excellent spread, and was served by Mr. and Mrs. Holly's usual good style and gave the greatest satisfaction".

It was also reported that he gave every poor family a generous supply of coal. The large iron roller for The Cricket Club, was clearly another way he made villagers aware of his generosity, by

having his name inscribed on the iron plate in its centre. The club had been formed just two years before and proved very popular, with its weekly results appearing in the Bridport News. There were matches between neighbouring villages and towns as well as Men against Women' and 'Married against singles'. Two of John's sons played in the team, which was then captained by Michael Morcom and no doubt he watched them play when in Charmouth.



The original plans for the Bridport, Lyme and Axminster Railway are kept at the Devon Archives in Exeter and are very detailed, showing the route and cross sections of the countryside, with a tunnel at Penn Hill. There is a record book that goes with it of the owners and occupiers of properties and fields it would pass through. John Hawkshaw signs himself as Consultant Engineer and Lord of the Manor of Charmouth. The previous Lord had been George Frean from Plymouth, who had bought the large Estate from John Liddon ten years before and had sold most of it off, leaving just a number of fields and an unviable cement works near the beach which he then sold at a large profit to Hawkshaw, who paid £8000 for it. The Charmouth Station would have been built on a field where the recreation ground at the back of The Street is today, then owned by Henry Compton, with its entrance at Barrs Lane. He was not the first to draw up a plan for a railway for, in 1846, Joseph Locke had submitted detailed plans to Parliament for a line with a station behind the Catherston cottages for the Yeovil and Dorchester Railway. In the same year Isambard Kingdom Brunel planned a line linking Charmouth with Yeovil and Bridport for the Great Western. But both of these failed as money ran out after the period of railway mania that swept England. The Bridport News reported the new attempt in rather derogatory terms as follows:

"There is again presented to us the bright and alluring vision of a railway for this district, but whether it is to assume actual shape or form or, like its precursors, amuse us for a while and then melt into thin air, I will not attempt to predict. The intended line is entitled the Bridport, Lyme, and South Coast Railway, and is to connect the Great Western at Bridport with the South-Western at a point about midway between Axminster and Chard, throwing off a branch at Whitchurch for Lyme. It is this branch which is to pass

through this place. The first Charmouth Mead is the spot selected for that station. After passing Charmouth, the proposed line will make a considerable detour; the distance from Lyme, which is about two miles by the road, would be about four by the proposed rail. The only work of any difficulty in the neighbourhood would be a tunnel of 347 yards, between this and Lyme, and through the hill near Pen Inn. Pitcleaves, a field near the cemetery, it to be the terminus at Lyme. The maps and plans of so much as relates to this parish are now at the clerks for inspection, and a bill is to be brought into Parliament during next session. There can be no doubt but that a railway would be a very material benefit to us and if it should be carried out as we hope it will, the beauties of Charmouth will then no doubt attract a large share of public attention".

To assist Hawkshaw with his attempt to get support for the railway line in Charmouth, he was to call on local businessman, Michael Morcom, who ran the Cement Works that he owned, and who had previously rented it from his father-in-law, George Frean. The Bridport News later reported that:



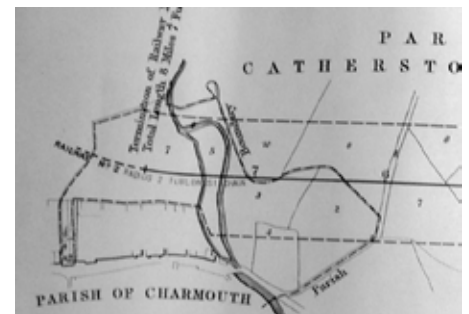
"Mr Morcom, of Charmouth occupying the chair. Several gentlemen and tradesmen were present, and took great interest in the proceedings. Some very practical speeches were made, and there is every probability of the railway being constructed, as a portion of the intended line has been surveyed, and there is every reason to believe it is a bona fide affair, as the promoters as well as the inhabitants of both Charmouth and Lyme, see the necessity of a railway, and further, there is also a prospect of paying the shareholders a fair if not good dividend".

This was just one of a number of projects Hawkshaw was involved with at the time and many did not proceed either because parliamentary approval was refused, or because the necessary capital was not forthcoming from investors. In January 1864 the South Eastern Railway extension was opened from London Bridge to Charing Cross Station, including Hungerford Bridge across the River Thames. He was the Engineer for this project, which involved the demolition of Hungerford Market, which had been designed by Charles Fowler. Charing Cross Station was built on the site of Fowler's early work. The

former bridge that led to the market designed by Brunel, was replaced by Hawkshaw with the present bridge. Material from this was re-used to finish Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, which remained unfinished after his early death. Charles Fowler specialised in markets and he designed those in Covent Garden, Tavistock, as well as the lower and upper ones in Exeter. He also designed a number of churches, including St. Andrew's in Charmouth. His family was associated with the village and both his mother and aunt lived here and have memorials in the church.

John Hawkshaw also designed the bridge over the Narmada River, India; was engineer of Amsterdam ship canal (1862); and wrote a report on the route chosen for the Suez Canal (1863). He designed a number of docks, including the Albert Dock at Hull and the West India Dock in London. He was also the consultant engineer on the Severn Tunnel and the engineer for the first Channel Tunnel. Another link with Charmouth is that of Edward Hartsinck Day, a resident of Charmouth, who assisted him with the geological investigations on each side of the Channel between 1865 and 1867. He later left for America and was Assay Master in the Columbia College School of Mining. During his time in Charmouth he found a complete Plesiosaurus from the Lower Lias at Charmouth, which was purchased by the British Museum.

The election for Lyme Regis and Charmouth was to be on July 12th 1865, but Hawkshaw was prevented just two weeks before from standing due to his holding a government appointment as the engineer to the government-funded harbour at Holyhead. Undeterred, his 24-year-old son John Clarke, who had just finished at Cambridge University, stood instead. After a campaign lasting just eight days, he lost the contest, but by only nine votes. He actually won by 92 votes to 87 in Lyme Regis, but lost by 15 to 29 in Charmouth, which was decisive. He later wrote of the experience:

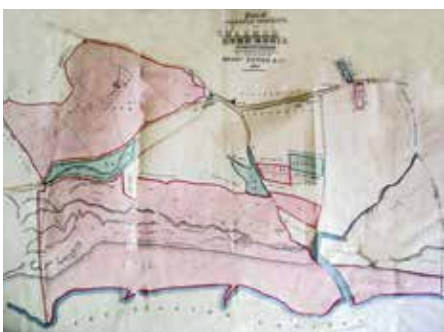


"Lyme Regis was a most corrupt borough and was very properly disenfranchised later on. The people had lived for years on smuggling and elections. Charmouth formed part of the borough for voting purposes and I heard after the election that there were only 11 electors there who were not bribed. I lunched at one house where, after lunch, they asked £100 for their vote".

After getting his degree at Cambridge, he joined his father's practice in London and worked with him on many important projects. In the same year he married Cicely Wedgwood, daughter of Francis Wedgwood, grandson of Josiah Wedgwood, founder of the famous pottery firm. Francis's sister, Emma Wedgwood, married her cousin Charles Darwin. This family connection and the close proximity to the Jurassic Coast must have fostered his love of collecting fossils. His fine collection still exists and is on display in his original cabinet at Haslemere Museum in Surrey and contains a fine Ichthyosaurus from Charmouth.



Before the year was out, the Hawkshaws not only lost the election, but failed in their attempt to get parliamentary approval for their railway due to opposition from the Great Western Railway and London & South Western Railway companies. Undeterred by the setback, the following year John finally bought a country estate at Hollycombe in Surrey and then attempted to sell his substantial properties in both Lyme Regis and Charmouth. There was to be an auction in July 1867, but it was postponed until September of that year. The original catalogue for the sale can be seen in the Dorset Archives and is very comprehensive and contains some fine maps of both Charmouth and Lyme Regis. An extract from the newspaper report afterwards records:



"The Sale of Mr. Hawkshaw's property - this important sale by auction took place at the Assembly Rooms in Lyme Regis on Tuesday 10th September, under the direction of Messrs Driver and Co., of 4, Whitehall, London. For some of the properties the competition was spirited, but several lots still remain unsold. In Lyme, Lot 1, Paulett House and grounds adjoining, purchased by H.F. Ingram, Esq. for £3000. In Charmouth - Lot 21, Lilly Farm offered £3150, reserve price £4000. Lot 30, The Drang, let to the executors of the late George Payne, sold for £210. Lot 31, Manor of Langmoor, not sold, reserve price, £4000".

Other lots raised a further £4,430. Many failed to reach reserve price, however, and properties valued at £16,750, including the coastguard buildings, boat-building premises and shipyard went unsold. The Manor of Langmoor referred to above was actually the Cement Works and the fields around. It was not until it was bought by John James Coulton four years later that they were able to dispose of this lot. It was this gentleman who also bought The Drang and later attempted to build a housing estate on the land in Higher Sea Lane. Lily Farm was to remain with the Hawkshaws until it was finally sold in 1914 at a much lower price than originally offered. Their friend and tenant, Michael Morcom gave up the Cement Works in 1872 and returned to Plymouth and the building found new uses as storage for fishing nets, bathing machines and tents by the Hunter family, who rented it from Coulton.

There follows a list of just some of the schemes Hawkshaw was involved with during his short time in Charmouth, from Martin Beaumont's recent publication on the life of the eminent engineer.

1864 He purchased properties in Lyme Regis and Charmouth. Lord of the Manor of Charmouth. Mini Railway Mania: numerous abortive railway schemes proposed, including Hawkshaw's Bridport, Lyme & Axminster Railway. John Clarke Hawkshaw (his son) joined firm; sent to Egypt to report on first cataract of the Nile.

11th January - Opening of SER extension from London Bridge Station to Charing Cross Station, including Hungerford Bridge across River Thames.

7th August - To Russia "where I have large works in progress". (Dunaburg & Witepsk Railway).

8th December - Opening of Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol.

December Hawkshaw became Trustee of new Institute of Civil Engineers Benevolent Fund with J Fowler & J R McClean.

1864-85 Consulting Engineer to Jamaica Railway.

1865 Investigated geology of sea-bed between Britain and France.

21st January - Lieutenant Colonel, Engineer and Railway Staff Volunteer Corps (subsequently Colonel Commandant from 1878 until his death in 1891).

13th July - Lyme Regis election - ineligible. Son Clarke stood instead and lost by nine votes.

12th October - John Clarke Hawkshaw married Cecily Wedgwood, sister of Godfrey Wedgwood and niece of Charles & Emma Darwin.

3rd December - Collapse of Sturges Meek's new stone viaduct at Mytholmbridge, intended to replace Hawkshaw's timber trestle viaduct of 1849.

1865-69 Constructed East London Railway through Marc Brunei's Thames Tunnel from Wapping to New Cross.

1866 Advised on design of roof structure for the Royal Albert Hall.

June Bought Hollycombe, West Sussex.

1st September - Opening of City Terminus Extension of the Charing Cross Railway to Cannon Street.

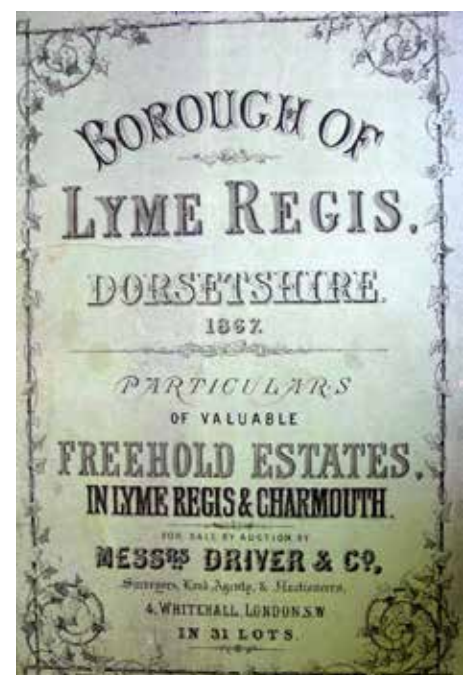
1866-1870 South Dock of the East & West India Dock Company, London (opened 5th March 1870)

1867 10th September - His Charmouth and Lyme Regis Estate auctioned.

Looking back at the brief time Hawkshaw was associated with Charmouth, one has to reflect on what would have happened if his efforts had succeeded in 1865. John or his son would have been our Member of Parliament with tremendous influence with the many projects with which they were involved. Lyme Regis would have had their railway instead of waiting until 1903 for it. We would also have had our station, although we would have lost the playing fields, as that was where it was to be built. At the same time, John Hawkshaw knew that with the railway would come expansion of both places and the qualities that we appreciate today of a village would have been lost.

You can find out more about Sir John Hawkshaw and his time in Charmouth on my website: freshford.com/charmouth or just enter John Hawkshaw Charmouth into google.

Neil Mattingly



Four Generations of Charmouth Firefighters

After Penelope Keith's recent visit to Charmouth Fire station in conjunction with her 'Village of the Year' series, Jill Matthews was prompted to gather information on the four members of her family who, although they had other jobs, became retained firefighters and responded to local emergency callouts.

Father, Len Linthorne, born in 1903, moved to Charmouth in 1934 after returning from India and leaving the Army. Soon afterwards he moved to Newlands House (now Stonebarrow Manor) with his wife Eveline and they worked respectively as housekeeper and chauffeur to Mr. Thring. In later years, Len worked at Billy Gear's garage. They had a son, Geoffrey, and daughter, Jill. In 1940, aged 36, he rejoined the Army, eventually returning to Charmouth in 1947 where he worked for Mr. Munday, a builder who lived at Mill View. Len joined the Charmouth Fire Brigade and served until his death in 1953. Members of Charmouth Fire Brigade, together with representatives of the Dorset Fire Service from three west Dorset towns attended the service at the Congregational Chapel, just two weeks after he stood beside them at the united service at St. Andrew's Church, the Sunday before Coronation Day. Four fire engines, from Charmouth, Bridport, Lyme Regis and possibly Beaminstor drove at walking pace with the hearse from the chapel to the cemetery.

Husband, Stuart Matthews, born 1942, moved to Charmouth on his marriage to Jill Linthorne in 1963. They had two sons and a daughter. Stuart worked for Axminster Carpets for 53 years and retired in 2002 due to ill health, though he was retained on a

consultancy basis. He joined Charmouth Fire Service initially as a volunteer, then as a retained firefighter from 1977 until 1989, when he suffered a heart attack at the age of 46. He died in 2010.

Son, Julian Matthews, born 1964, attended Charmouth Primary and Woodroffe schools. He joined the Coldstream Guards at 16 years of age and served in Ireland, Cyprus, Belize and the Falkland Islands for a total of five years. In the early 1980s he was on stand-by duty on a green goddess at Greenham Common during the demonstrations. After returning to Charmouth, he joined the Charmouth Fire Service and served for two years, after which he left to work in Poole. After an accident, he moved back to the area, attended Kingston Maurward College and completed a countryside management course. He now works for Ferne Animal Sanctuary.

Grandson, Ben Perry, born 1996, attended Charmouth Primary and Woodroffe School, where he became deputy head boy. After completing A-levels, he worked for Creative Solutions in Axminster. Ben joined Charmouth Fire Service as a retained firefighter this year and recently took part in a simulated training exercise for Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service that involved crews from three fire stations.

The fire service is actively recruiting in west Dorset. See visitdwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/current-vacancies or see the banner currently outside Charmouth Fire Station.

Lesley Dunlop



Len Linthorne, 1934, in Campbellpore, North West Frontier Province, now Attock in Pakistan



Group at Charmouth Fire Station, late 1940s/early 1950s. Len Linthorne is first left in back row



Stuart (right), with son Julian Matthews



Ben Perry

Charmouth Central Library and Internet Cafe



News and Events

Our volunteers are brilliant but we are looking for the 'Special two' We need a new Chairman and a new Secretary. Our current ones will stay close to the Library, but we feel new people with new and different ideas will help us move forward faster. Neither job is hugely onerous. The secretary's job has two distinct elements; one is helping the administration run smoothly and the other is reminding Friends to renew their membership. This job can easily be split if we have volunteers for one part and not the other. The Chairman's job is to maintain good governance and ensure that our organisation is properly balanced. Ring me for job descriptions!

This bit is just bragging. In the Neighbourhood Plan Survey there was a question about the Library. I have reproduced the answer below, but dare not comment further, lest I appear to be boasting. One person was not very satisfied with the Library, but 215 were satisfied or very satisfied with the Library and its facilities. We will continue to strive to do better!

At the end of September it was all change with the Art Exhibition. We said au revoir, very gratefully, to the band of Charmouth artists who have provided us with regularly changing artwork on our walls, for almost two years. They are taking a break, hopefully with paintbrushes in hand, but we hope to welcome them back in the future. Starting in October, a 'new to us' Charmouth artist, Patrick Sullivan will be displaying his work in a one man exhibition, so I hope you will visit to see his work. If you have talents as a painter/photographer and would like your work to be seen by a wider audience give me a call.

Book Sales by the Beach, courtesy of the Parish Council, had a mixed result this summer, with one day rained off and two fine days. Total sales £180. Thanks to all who donated books. Please pray harder for fine weather next year!

Future Events: Sneakily placed in other parts of Shoreline you will see news of our ever-popular, always sold out quiz and a



new venture, 'a table top sale' featuring bags, bracelets, belts and jewellery. Read carefully or you might miss them.

Numbers: All our numbers are up compared with previous years. Our book issues are up around 5%. The number of visitors is buoyant, ranging from 350 a month in January to almost 700 in August. They are a useful indicator of the work we do in the whole building: books loaned and returned, visitors to look at the various art works on display, find information from our local Information Point, use the Internet café or buy craft items made by local people. The proceeds are keeping us in a good position financially.



Photo: Geoff Townson

Farewell to Hazel and Alan Robinson

On Friday 30th June Hazel, the saviour of the library when it was scheduled to be closed, held a farewell tea party in the library and servery for the entire library team of friends, volunteers, helpers and gardeners. They prepared a sumptuous spread with sandwiches, cake and plenty of 'fizz' and, of course, tea.

Pam Shirley presented Hazel and Alan with gifts bought from a substantial collection made on their behalf. Hazel unveiled the main part of the gift bought to celebrate her initiative in saving our precious library. She was delighted and highly amused to find that it was a Witch Hazel tree (we had all thought it would appeal to Hazel's sense of humour, and might well outlast her!!!) This was followed by a small multi-striped tea pot (echoing the decor in the library) and, appropriately enough, a book token.

There is a 'legacy' from Hazel's time: Two large packs of mixed mosaics plus cement etc. By the entranceway we have a painted panel, which we would love to see covered by mosaics. Is there an individual, or organisation, who might like to apply their creative talents and leave their lasting mark in Charmouth?

Bob Hughes, Chairman

Rhymetime at Charmouth Central

First of all, an apology. We are very sorry if we wake anyone up in the village at 9.30am on Mondays in term time with our very loud singing in the Library... If you're happy and you know it, The Grand Old Duke Of York, The Wheels on the Bus or something similar. It's a great start to the week for a group of under-fives together with their parents or carers.

The singing is interspersed with stories being read by one of an enthusiastic group of volunteers, with the books often being chosen from the great selection at the Library by the children themselves. Really young ones enjoy playing with a range of toys and puzzles on the two beautiful quilts made for us by the Library Sewing Circle.

The grown-ups can enjoy a cuppa and a catch up as well during the session. Sometimes, if they are really good, they might receive a sticker at the end as well as the little ones!

We are about to celebrate our 200th Rhymetime, which started as soon as the Library was taken over from West Dorset Council to be run by local volunteers.

It has been a delight to watch a steady stream of children come along - often as babies (one was less than a week old), develop into inquisitive toddlers and blossom into confident pre-schoolers. Many develop a love of visiting the Library and choosing books to take home - something I hope will always stay with them.

So, if you look after an under five year old on Monday mornings - or are here on holiday with one, why not come and join us? - no charge, but donations to the Library are very welcome. We would also love more volunteer readers; no previous experience necessary.

Let's keep the Wheels on the Rhymetime Bus rolling.

Mandy Harvey, harveyinteriors@btinternet.com



Winter approaches: Charmouth Library fights back!

Gloomy days are just around the corner! As we move towards dull and dreary winter weather, there are a couple of regular events at the Library might just take the edge off the doom and gloom. Wednesdays at 7.00 p.m. is ideal for Bridge players who have played a little, are not super competitive, enjoy good company and, optionally, like a glass of wine. It's a roll up, you do not have to bring a partner and the cost of the Bridge is an unbelievably low £1 (yes one pound). For more details contact Andrew Scott (Andrewscott46@btinternet.com)

Friday afternoon sees another group of card sharps at play; this time it's Canasta. Whilst I have never played with this group, I have been in the Library whilst they are playing and heard the laughter. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Another inexpensive way to pass an afternoon. For details re time and cost, email Val Penn on vpenn231@gmail.com

If you have ideas about parties, meetings, or group activities for friends or small groups (up to 20/25) our prices are low (£6 a session) with facilities for refreshments. Please contact Kim Oatway on oatwaykim@gmail.com and she will be able to help you.

Bob Hughes

New Black Dog Creative Writing Course

Stimulating, supportive classes for beginners or more experienced writers. The course will build your confidence and help you to develop essential writing skills. Taught by experienced teacher and published author Joanna Smith. Wednesdays 10.00 to 11.45 in The Servery at Charmouth Central, starting 3rd January. £125 per ten week term. For more details, please contact Joanna on 0782 4617453 or joatlyme@gmail.com. More information at www.blackdogwritinggroup.weebly.com

Joanna Smith

Whitchurch Wheelers

Last May, three local ladies calling themselves the Whitchurch Wheelers completed the 54-mile Coast to Coast Cycling Challenge for Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, raising more than £1700 in sponsorship money in the process.

What was it like to cycle 54 miles for the Coast to Coast Challenge? We spent the day pedalling with purpose in stunning countryside and through all four seasons. We faced and conquered all the hills on two wheels. We took advantage of the rest stops at Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton Rugby Club, Ilminster and Drimpton to refill our water bottles and have snacks and comfort breaks. The weather was very changeable! On the first stretch it felt like summer, on the second stretch spring with freshening winds and around Taunton autumn and winter-like storm clouds brought downpours of rain and hail. We arrived at Ilminster drenched and chilled. Fortunately, after the stop at Ilminster, there were a few more steep hills to warm us up! Throughout the day everyone was talking about the route and saying that after the last stop in Drimpton it would be downhill to the end but when we set off on the final stretch, although the sun was shining, we found ourselves heading into a strong wind for the rest of the way to West Bay. It was a challenge, but we made it to the finish cheered on by friends and family waiting for us.

What were your highlights from the day?

Judith Newman: A few friends had made a special effort to meet me at the finish and it meant a lot to see them there. I enjoyed the training for the event, cycling through the lanes and absorbing the beauty of the countryside and hedgerows, especially watching the progression of spring through the appearance of the different wildflowers, from snowdrops to primroses, daffodils and bluebells. Lucy Vickery: I enjoyed seeing so many different age groups and people of different abilities participating. The countryside we passed through was beautiful and from a bike you get to appreciate the lovely houses and gardens, the fields and animals. The camaraderie of the cyclists was fun - chatting

and meeting new people who share a common interest. A big highlight was FINISHING! Betsy West: All along the way there were stewards at key intersections and lots of volunteers at the stops encouraging us onwards and helping us find the way.

During the summer, the Whitchurch Wheelers continued cycling, meeting occasionally to have rides together and with friends. On 9th September the Wheelers, seven strong on the day, met the challenge of a 25-mile route, visiting nine area churches including St. Andrew's, Charmouth and St. Mary, Catherston Leweston, for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust Annual Ride & Stride effort.

Whitchurch Wheelers Rolling On....Would you like to get out on your bike in friendly company? The Whitchurch Wheelers go out on a social ride most Tuesdays and would be delighted for you to come along. It's a great way to get fit, make friends and enjoy our beautiful surroundings. Contact Betsy West for more information: betsywest@ryallfarm.com, 01297 489795.

(Ed note: Very well done, ladies!)



L to r: Judith Newman, Betsy West, Hannah Colby, Simon George Courtney-Hughes, Sal & John Day at St. Andrew's Church on 9th September. Photo by fellow rider and Charmouth resident: Liz Scott

**All Shoreline issues can be seen online at
www.charmouth.org/charmouth_villagelshoreline-magazine/**



Intrepid Travellers Tell All

Having decided we would like to spend a week in Greece, in the Mani exploring the area where Paddy Leigh Fermor lived, we turned our minds to the journey and decided to travel there by train and fly back. For us, the journey became much more than just a route, more a meeting of minds between a couple of middle-class geriatrics and the many young Europeans who were pleased to engage us in conversation. We did pre-book the train as far as Vienna but thereafter, although we had a tight time line, we had no trains or accommodation booked. We travelled with back packs, Andrew's mainly filled with wine and guide books; mine food and cleaning products! If you like to have your travel booked for you and prefer first world standards and lots of clothes, this sort of holiday may not be for you. But if you like the idea of a bit of an adventure, you would find it exciting, liberating and extremely thought provoking.

DAY 1. 19th June. We (the Colonel) and I leave Axminster on the 05.52, with bulging food hamper (well, cheapo folding backpack from Lidl) containing delicious bits from Waitrose, two plastic glasses and a bottle of wine. We change at Brussels, missing the terrorist attack by a day. Mild admonishing message from our offspring produces a rueful smile; at least we are in touch. There are four of us in the sleeping compartment from Cologne to Vienna. An ageing German biker with interesting studded leathers, long grey hair and a fascinating moustache; can't resist a few sideways glances to check it out. He doesn't speak. The fourth traveller is a friendly Muslim with excellent English who talks to us about keeping Ramadan. We are on the top bunks; a challenge, especially for the Colonel and his wonky knee. There's not much he doesn't know about these carriages, having commanded an ambulance train back in the day (he says), he's obviously done 'putting ladder up and down' but not stowing it the right way round, it transpires! Ablutions adequate (for hardened campers), coffee and

buns provided before arrival. Not the Orient Express.

DAY 2. 20th June. Vienna to Villach. Another modern train. We are stocked up with more picnic goodies. We are joined by Arthur, early 40s, near perfect English, travelling to celebrate the summer solstice; bonfires are lit all over hillsides. I think it's an old pagan tradition popular in this area. We spend four hours discussing the EU. His father was a Green Party MEP. He classes himself as European first, Austrian second. We compare Europe to a patchwork quilt of protection and unity. Colonel reminds him that Austria started WW1 and the near miss in the recent Austrian election. He takes it well! He makes his case so well, he could have helped our Dave when it was needed. Arthur is pleased to be having a proper conversation in English. When we get up to go we notice the rest of the carriage is empty! We buy an ice cream in Villach; the young man says he's been to Manchester and London, he liked Manchester but London was full of Arabs. Where is Arthur and his message of tolerance when we need him! On arrival our room isn't ready so we're upgraded! We love Villach already. We walk round the old town and have an excellent Italian meal. Tremendous thunderstorm overnight.

DAY 3. 21st June. Villach to Zagreb, we leave at 1300 on a grotty old train, refurbished with six new wide seats per compartment. Third world loo, but no worries. I have my mobile utility room to hand. No food or drink, but we are prepared. There is another thunderstorm, the train grinds to a halt. The electrics have gone phut it seems. We wait for a diesel engine to bring us into Zagreb, three hours late. Not much time for sightseeing here, but there is a marvellous concert in the main square just near our accommodation which looks like a slum on the outside but turns out to be a really chi chi flat within, costing £50 for the night. Pint beer Zagreb £1.50 (meal) accommodation £50. The train in Lubyanka is decorated by a graffiti artist. Much time is spent getting to grips with the ethnicity and history of the Balkans. Colonel is not making sense; I resort to the guide books: ummm, it is tricky!

DAY 4. 22nd June. Zagreb to Split. Modern tilting train; we take a picnic breakfast. In Croatia all seats on trains have to be booked. We find our seats, some others come along to claim, the Colonel gesticulating madly like a demented Englishman with silly tilly that these are our seats. Well they are, but we are in the wrong carriage. The ladies are faintly bemused but take it well! Station masters on obvious duty at each station. Parade ground smart with service dress, standing to attention as the train leaves, complete with twizzle stick under his arm. Beautiful scenery, mountains and rivers. Croatia has third largest water supply in Europe from the lakes region. Beautiful accommodation in quiet residential area with pool and shady garden. Have what turns out to be our best dinner, local restaurant, local flavours and wine never before tried. Would have liked to stay awhile but to get to the Peloponnese we have a busy schedule.

DAY 5. 23rd June. We travel by boat today as there are no trains for this section. What a

magical journey along the Croatian coastline to Dubrovnik, stopping off at various islands and harbours en route. We meet a charming German mother and two children of seven and five years of age. Children start school at six in Germany; we discuss preschool education. The year before school, there are visits to places like fire stations and they learn about the world. There is a lot of sport and outdoor play. There is no reading and writing. The concept of maths is learnt through play. Young children can go to Kindergarten, this is from 8am till 4 pm max, Monday to Friday. Kindergarten is closed for three weeks in the summer and one week in the winter. You pay a percentage out of your wages for this. The mum is pleased to be speaking English in this way, her daughter tries to teach me some German. Inevitably the question of Brexit is asked. She sees herself as European first, German second. Somehow the English Channel seems very wide. Our accommodation tonight is a disappointment after Split, the nearby beach is a building site. We head for the charming old town and wait for the cruise shippers to return but it is still very busy. I would like to return for a quiet look in the off season. However, having paid £20 for two glasses of wine near the main square. Colonel is unsure! Lovely meal in tucked away non touristy tiny restaurant. We chat to an Irish couple; the men discuss the Lions Tour, at length! Re EU, they say in Ireland if they don't like the result of a referendum, they just have another one!

DAY 6. 24th June. Dubrovnik to Kotor Bay, Montenegro by bus. Easy border crossing. We find our accommodation, after last night we thought we'd spread out a bit and rather extravagantly have a two bed apartment with lovely outside seating areas, 100 metres from the sea, with a view of the mountains. Of course we love it, wow it's humid though with the mountains all round. The Old Town is as cute and we enjoy a very good Maritime Museum with a couple of excellent sea paintings done in the '20s. Charming people everywhere. We stay here two nights; what a treat!

DAY 8. 25th June. Kotor Bay to Bar by bus. Still stunning scenery, nothing much to say about Bar except there is a train. There are a lot of Russian and Ukrainian tourists here. We chat to a charming Russian family (there is a baby; we make friends). I chat to the babushka through son with good English. We don't go into politics, for the first time we aren't asked what the heck the UK is up to re the EU, neither do we ask about Putin's role in Syria! Accommodation is minimal and the take away breakfast more so!

DAY 9. 26th June. Bar to Belgrade. This is to be the highlight train journey, through the mountains, stunning scenery, we are perched on the side of the hillside. Until 2007 it was the highest railway bridge in the world; no wonder the line took 30 years to complete. There is a restaurant car with no food, the journey is 12 hours. We have some provisions but not our usual. We are joined in the carriage by a Serbian; it seems that Serbians are the bad boys in history. We give him the benefit of the doubt. He has a whiff of je ne sais quoi and yesterday's alcohol. He is minus a front tooth but that doesn't detract from his

crinkly-eyed smile. I am knitting, he seems to have two words of English, strangely, "super and jumper!" He likes to help me measure my work. We try a conversation using our Montenegrin guide. He is Serbian, but it's the best we can do. Unfortunately he cannot see without glasses and he has none. I have to lend him mine, which he puts on skew whiff every time. A certain amount of shoulder-shaking ensues opposite me. I like to think he was genuine, but I admit to tucking my bag firmly out of reach in the next tunnel. At this stage of the journey we are covered by our first class Balkan Rail Pass (25% reduction for over 65s) but there are no first class carriages in Montenegro or Serbia. However the carriage had six large seats again and the air con worked; the loos are unclassable, but still we are prepared. The train never really gets going on speed; maybe it's the intense heat. We arrive two hours late in Belgrade, somewhat frazzled. Having gone a bit down market accommodation wise in Bar, we take advantage of a deal, posh hotel near the station, £48 reduced from £251, but as to who would pay £251, I am unclear. We come across a marvellous local restaurant and chat to fellow British geriatric inter railers. I think she might be a bit away with the fairies, or maybe it's the travelling!

DAY 10. 27th June. Night sleeper to Thessaloniki. We do our best by Belgrade, we walk round the sites, it is boiling hot, the Danube doesn't look blue. It is the new party capital of Europe (apparently). I think that just means drinks are cheap. There's a whiff of third whole about the place without the charm. We board the train properly equipped with victuals. We have a first class pass, but there are no first class carriages! We are joined by a young Swiss couple inter railing; we share our wine. They tell us (in perfect English of course, spoken on his part with a sweet, rather camp accent!) all about the Swiss education system. There are no exams in primary school, their entry to which secondary school they go to depends on grades. For college they either undertake an academic university course or a vocational one, which will include an internship. He is going to study food science and management, his internship is with a food packaging company, he has to get back by Monday.

DAY 11. 28th June. To Thessaloniki. We are woken early, the guard makes us a sweet Turkish coffee which tastes of heaven. We have to do the last bit by bus as the final 68 km of rail line is in disrepair. There is no loo on the station, so in desperation I hop onto a random train. The bus stops at the Greek border, with modern duty free and lavatory block. Had I known! The countryside is getting more arid by the hour. Again our accommodation is super close to the station and looks frighteningly dive-like on the outside, but it had been refurbished inside. We go to the excellent Atatürk museum (he was born here), we learn a lot about him and spend the next couple of days talking about him. What a leader, with the formation of modern Turkey at the end of the Ottoman Empire. As a student he refused to just learn by rote, preferring to find things out for himself. As a statesman, he was a great communicator, inviting heads of states for talks, including Edward VIII, Shahs of Iran,

King of Jordan, Afghanistan, etc. However, in 1923, 300,000 Turks and Greeks were forcibly repatriated and there was ethnic cleansing of Albanians besides. We try to visit the Jewish museum here, it takes an age to find, but it was closed sadly. We go everywhere on foot or by public transport. Navigating round foreign cities with a map is part of the challenge (apparently!). I, however, am grateful on occasion to google maps on my iPhone. We sometimes end up in the side streets, there are mounds of rubbish overflowing from bins and the temperature is set to reach 40 this weekend. We eat in a bohemian area near the Jewish museum, away from the detritus. Cretan cuisine, it's amazing (not like the Cretan food we had on our honeymoon 44 years ago!). The portions are obscenely large. There is an accordion player, then come the accordion playing children, ours can only manage three notes, which she repeats tunelessly with her right hand, her left hand doesn't do the squeazy bit as it is held out in supplication. I (and every other living independent tourist, I'm sure) hates this bit. I am filled with remorse and confusion. We are told they are from Serbia (the "bad boys" of the Balkans, remember) and that they are living with their parents. Ergo they are not refugees from Syria. I eat what I need of atrocious sized portion and get the rest packed up (the universal "el packetto please") and give the children the packet of food. OK, cop out I know....

DAY 12. June. Thessaloniki to Athens. We are beyond excited, we have a first class ticket and a first class carriage. We still don't trust the legend of 'with restaurant car' so we come prepared. We nearly collapse with excitement as we see the first class lav, large, shiny, and immaculate with lots of buttons to press. We have comfy seats in a carriage for six. A grumpy Greek who tuts when I sneeze (must have been the excitement), a girl who does not speak or gesticulate, her full attention is directed towards her iPhone - for the whole journey. To be fair this is normal, we have found, no books have been apparent among the young at all and I'm sure that given the chance all the young whom we have engaged in conversation through Europe would have been doing the same had we given them the chance! The other two charmers were a bouzouki player (a small one she says) who has half a lustrous head of dark hair, the other half is shaved. She has the most open face and biggest smile, I love her already. And then there is the businessman travelling to Athens for work, with an equal sized smile. We settle in. Very quickly we realise the air con is not working. The businessman remarks that it is 35 outside and 40 inside, his friend travelled on this line and warned him there was no 'clima'. Our travelling companion says he decided to trust his government. "You must be the only one!" I remark. Business man and bouzouki (small one) player seem to find this amusing. I got to the super lav. I find the girl before me is unable to operate the switches from inside the cubicle so I do it for her on the outside. I return to compartment to enlist the help of the Colonel to become relief part-time lavatory attendant. This I feel may be a new role in his train commanding experience. I relieve him of the role quickly, however, as others are in need of his services and I fear he might leave them in there as a school boy

prank. We decide to recce the restaurant car. Blow me there is a three course meal on offer for 7. Another Brit couple are cooing over it, but we can't face a hot meal, it must be 45 in there if it's a degree. We stick to cold beer and iced coffee. We return to the carriage. Our business man says did we get a meal? In first class it should be included in the price, he trots off hopefully, still trusting his government (the only one). He returns, no it wasn't free but it used to be. Due to the bankrupt state of Greece, another country (unspecified) had taken over the running of the trains. So although they run, it appears to be a skeleton service. The temperature rises, conversation stops, I can no longer knit or read, never mind chat. I begin to wonder where this train is heading and in what century. (The book I have been reading is *East West Street* by Philippe Sands.) But this is our last train journey of the trip..... We arrive at the train station in Athens and are thrilled to find we can hop on a bus to the bus station where we need to book our bus journey to Kalamata, thus saving £20 taxi ride! However from there we grab a cab to our lodgings which are a bit out of town. Later that evening we navigate round the metro system and walk a scenic route round Athens. It transpires that the whole of Greece is in the grip of a refuse strike. Temperatures are set to top 40 this weekend, poor Greece. We dine at a recommended restaurant but fail to secure a table on the roof with stunning view of the floodlit Acropolis. This irritates me somewhat as tables for two remain empty all evening! We meet a passionate Greekophile. She is a journalist, Dutch by birth. She feels let down by the EU and is harrowed by the refugee camps she has visited. Colonel makes the point about returning to the drachma, devaluing and getting on with trading. She says 300,000 people would have died in the hospitals as they would not be able to get the medication. She did not believe the EU promise of this not happening. We manage to navigate home on foot and by tube, this time avoiding the detritus strewn streets. An early start so we grab a cab. Colonel has map and points out that we are going in the wrong direction for the bus station (we're not!); the cab driver takes it well! Our last trip is by bus over the Peloponnese by the new motorway; there used to be a train.... But there is a new airport in Kalamata from whence we shall return to Blighty.

At our luxury accommodation where we are to spend a week we discuss the Greek problem with the owner. She is half English. Her husband is a civil engineer doing the renovations for the Benati Institute at Paddy Leigh Fermor's home, a visit to which is the reason for coming to the Mani. We discuss the Greek problem with Nina, 80% of their income goes in taxation. Then, they pay for private healthcare and education as the alternative is unthinkable. She says corruption starts at the top. The MPs have good salaries but pay no tax and yet pay nothing for living and travelling expense. It is known the tax inspectors are corrupt. "Surely", we say, "journalists would expose this." It appears there is not a completely free press. What?! We decide to concentrate on the wonders of the Mani.

Liz Scott



Michael Clarke

Tell us a little about yourself and your interest in painting.

I was born in the historic town of Drogheda, situated on the east coast of Ireland, about 30 miles north of Dublin and near lovely unspoiled sandy beaches; ideal for swimming, unlimited sea and river fishing and sailing. A boy's paradise to grow up in.

Having just completed my final senior exams at school, I was delighted to receive an invitation from relatives in London to come and spend time sightseeing there, which was always an ambition of mine, as I always had a great love of history.

As a tourist, I discovered my 'travel fund' was rapidly depleted and I had so many historical sights still on my 'must see' list. I then had the great fortune to obtain a temporary position with an architectural firm as a junior draughtsman, as I had a good basic educational grounding in the use of drawing instruments for engineering draughtsmanship. This temporary job had a strong influence on me and I became engrossed in the art of architecture and its related designs and I combined this new-found fascination with weekend sightseeing. Alas, my very extended holiday came to the attention of the then War Office and they invited me to extend my 'holiday' for a further two years, by joining them in the service of the Queen, called National Service. Having an adventurous spirit, how could I resist such an offer?

Having completed the first six months of service in basic and advanced training with the Royal Engineers, I was eventually posted to an operationally active unit in Wiltshire, where they initially employed me as a draughtsman, drawing training charts which were so simple that I managed to complete my first week's 'work load' by the end of the first two days, leaving me to explore the camp's technical library, which doubled as my own little drawing office. Among the many technical and law reference books which I scoured through, I discovered to my amazement that any National Serviceman who worked in any profession, before being called up, had the right, during his service, to attend any college for one day and one evening a week, to further any particular skill relating to his profession. On this basis, I wrote a request to my senior officer, requesting permission to attend art school and held my breath. His reaction was a well-masked reaction of mixed amazement and fury at such an idea. I was sternly instructed to wait his decision and, following his obvious rapid search of the same site of information as I had, he granted me permission to attend the Swindon School of Art every Wednesday, providing I kept my weekly mission a secret. The teaching I experienced was brilliant, and I became engrossed in the world of art and acquired

a good grounding in drawing and painting. The remainder of my military service gradually became quite busy and adventurous and I actually enjoyed the whole experience.

Back in 'Civvy Street', I found it far too tame to return to architecture and slowly settled down. Then I met and married my wife Jan, eventually raising our family of two boys and a girl. I eventually found an outlet for my spirit and started a full-time career in the Fire Service and completed almost 30 very unforgettable years in Hertfordshire.

What brought you to Charmouth?

Our children grew up and, over time, they married and somehow all moved to the south west and, tiring of the long journeys to visit them, 11 years ago we came and joined them here and never once regretted that decision.

How did you become involved in painting backdrops for the Community Hall?

My wife and I saw an advertisement requesting volunteers to join a group at the Community Hall who were planning a pantomime. Jan became assistant choreographer for the group and somehow I became the 'Scenery Director'. Never having produced any drawing or painting larger than 18 inches long (or high), I took a deep breath and began the production of four 16 foot long by nine foot high pantomime scenes. With the help of Keith Waterson and Andy Peters, the scenery was finally completed just a few hours before opening night.

Which Charmouth events have utilised your backdrops?

Apart from the 2009 panto, I completed 'A Beach/ Foreshore' scene for one play and 'A Heavenly Starry Night Sky' for another play; 'A Charmouth Village in Snow' scene for the Post woman's retirement event and, recently, a backdrop with scenes from 'Alice in Wonderland' for a wedding reception.

Apart from painting, what are your hobbies?

I assist Jan with the Movement & Dance class which she runs and also help with fund-raising for the Charmouth OAP Christmas Lunch and Summer Outing Fund. I am a member of the Pop-Up Writers Group, which is a very enjoyable amateur writers' group, and I constantly dream of spending a whole day out in the countryside... just painting.

A chance meeting with Michael at the Charmouth Gardeners' Show resulted in an exchange of emails and this article. One of his backdrops can be seen in the photo, which was taken at the show in the Community Hall.

Lesley Dunlop

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Congratulations to Charlotte and Olly Farmer..

...who were married on Saturday 15th August 2017. Charlotte, with her father and attended by sisters Kelly and Robyn and daughters Kayley, Sacha and Teagan, arrived at St Andrew's Church in a horse and carriage. One hundred guests enjoyed the afternoon reception in a marquee at the beach and the evening guests danced the night away under a glorious full moon. The happy couple spent a ten day honeymoon in Thailand.



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Missy and the Whitts

Deep within charming Charmouth, Amanda Baber has been busy writing a new book. Having moved from Bedfordshire last year, she found herself overwhelmed by the rich history of the village and was intrigued to learn more. It was Missy who gave Amanda the idea for her book as she lay on the carpet with all of her legs twitching in a doggy dream. What does Missy see in her dreams, Amanda thought? Having joined the Charmouth Local History Society last autumn, Amanda now had Missy and history on her mind. The wealth of information at the society presented real-life happenings from times past. So many photographs showing not only streets and houses, but people resting, working, travelling and chatting to each other were displayed. Taking these ideas, Amanda focused on the Whittington family based in Charmouth and began her first book.

'Missy and the Whitts' takes readers of all ages into the local history of Charmouth in a fun and entertaining way (suitable for adults and older children). Throughout the book, Amanda has illustrated scenes with pen and ink drawings based on real photographs. She wanted to create something fun to encourage everyone to enjoy the rich history of the village. Missy travels back to the 1950s and '60s and meets the Whittington sisters, their cat Nemo and a number of other characters (including some of a distinctly supernatural kind). Her dreams are based on historical research and so reflect what we know about Charmouth's past and the people who lived then. The Whittington sisters were well-known in the village and were descendants of Dick Whittington himself (Mayor of London and known in our pantomimes today).


Having been writing since she was a child, Amanda is delighted to bring you this imaginative story in which she puts into words how a dog could see the world, alongside her creative images of times past.

'Missy and the Whitts' can be found in the Pavey Room at The Elms, Morgan's, the Post Office and Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. The printed book costs £3.00, with all proceeds going towards the Charmouth Local History Society.

Amanda also runs Missy's Matters online shop at Etsy and donates proceeds to charities.

Have Fun. Read. Support. Your local history.

Do you want to read a fun book and delve into the rich local history of Charmouth?
Where does Missy, the young puppy, go?



Missy and the Whitts
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by Amanda Baber

The local history of Charmouth can be found in Missy's dreams

Missy, the flat coated retriever puppy, takes us into the past in her dreams. In 'Missy and the Whitts' she meets the Whittington sisters and their cat called Nemo, local residents and even supernatural beings. The book is beautifully illustrated throughout by the author and based on historical research.

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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.



*All Shoreline issues can be seen online at
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Charmouth Primary School

Headteacher's News

The school term started off well and already autumn is making its mark. The autumnal nip is in the air and the children are beginning to wear their winter uniform. Many of us look forward to the seasonal changes as we head into autumn. We look forward to the darker evenings, curled up by the fire and planning Christmas events with families and friends.

This term will bring about change at our school. This is my final term as Headteacher of Charmouth Primary School. I shall be relocating to a different part of the country at Christmas due to my husband's work. A new Headteacher has been appointed from January and will take the school forward to its next stage.

In the meantime, the children are embracing their learning with enthusiasm and members of our newly-formed Eco Committee are taking their responsibilities seriously and are preparing an action plan to involve the children, parents and the local community in making a difference to our local community. Three of their targets this term are:

- *Ways of walking to school more regularly and becoming healthier*
- *Ways of saving electricity in our school and finding ways to analyse the results*
- *Improving our environment and providing a safe habitat for creatures*



As part of the children's responsibilities, they are creating their own notice board to keep everyone up to date with current developments. They are very keen on protecting wildlife locally and preserving wildlife globally. The children have chosen some paintings that were completed by older children recently about the rainforest and would like to share some of them with you.

It has been a privilege to work at Charmouth Primary School over the last five and a bit years. Thank you for your support and interest in the school and I hope that the local community will continue to flourish. Best wishes,

Gillian Morris

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Bymead House

Nursing and Residential Home

At Bymead we aim to provide wide-ranging training to our staff as we believe a well-trained workforce is essential. Recently we took this training to a new level. Sue Blacklock arranged for a Virtual Reality Dementia Tour Bus to visit for the day. The tour/training is an experiential tool that helps create a first-hand understanding of what it feels like to have dementia. It felt like we literally stepped inside the shoes of someone living with this illness.

We were equipped with headphones from which emitted a cacophony of disorienting noises, vision limiting dark glasses, large woollen gloves and spiked gel shoe inserts making walking extremely uncomfortable.

The eight minutes each of us spent living in this new world had a huge impact on everyone. We all felt it gave us more insight in that short time than many formal lectures we had attended.



Bymead House will be holding quite a number of events and activities in the coming months. Most notably, the Director Sue Blacklock, will have reached her 25th year of ownership in November. We will be celebrating the occasion on Friday 10th November (5.00-6.30) along with our Bonfire Night festivities. We would like to invite all relatives, residents, staff and friends, both old and new, to the event for some food, fireworks and entertainment.

We have a varied line-up of activities and entertainment in the run up to Christmas including a trip to Beer to see the Christmas lights; Christmas Carols by the Brownies and a visit from the Mountjoy Handbell Ringers.

This year our traditional Carol Service is on Sunday 3rd December from 2.30p.m. This will be the Revd Ian Kirby's last service as minister of Charmouth's United Reformed Church. We would therefore like to invite any of Ian's parishioners to the Carol Service to wish him well.

Bymead will again be holding our annual Christmas Buffet on Monday 18th December from 5p.m. This will be followed by a performance of Mother Goose by a pantomime company. We would like to invite all the friends and relatives of Bymead to attend these events and join us in our festivities.

Finally, Bymead House would like to wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our residents, families, friends and staff.

Amy Blacklock

Poetry Corner

THE LOOKOUT

By Peter Crowter

The Customs and Excise Service, decided in 1804,
To build an octagonal building, precariously close to the shore.
Napoleon had them all twitchy, they wondered if he would invade,
They needed to spot the French coming, and that's why the Lookout was made.

Napoleon thought the thing over, decided his plans he would scratch,
The English were not a pushover, he feared that he might meet his match.
So now was the Lookout redundant? The customs had other ideas,
There were other men to look out for, men with some dodgy careers.

These men were not bent on invasion, but smuggling brandy from France,
And chances to catch them red handed, the Lookout would greatly enhance.
The smugglers in Charmouth were crafty, with a secret route from the shore,
A lane to transport all their booty, and no doubt to some secret store.

One day by the river in Charmouth, three Lyme Regis Revenue men,
Nabbed many barrels of brandy and captured two smugglers and then,
Were tackled by ninety drunk smugglers, who made off with most of the booze,
But three of the men were arrested, spent three months in jail with the screws.

Smuggling went quiet around Charmouth, for years the Lookout was unused,
Then someone came up with a notion, and sea-going folk were enthused.
A man from the National Coastwatch, said 'That Lookout's just what we need,
To spy Lyme Bay's waters for problems,' and all of his colleagues agreed.

They thought they would have a grand opening, and Dorset's bigwigs did the job,
Now volunteers sit there on duty, and look out from Portland to Cobb.
It might be of use after Brexit, 'cause smuggling might start up again,
It could once again be French brandy, or barrels of sherry from Spain.



Charmouth Gardeners' Summer Show



Charmouth Gardeners' Village Show was held on the 12th August 2017. The day was a great success with over 500 exhibits and wonderful displays in both halls. Each year seems to bring new entrants, seemingly happy to join in the fun of the day. As usual the Gardeners' committee wish to thank the many people who help to make the day the joyful occasion it always seems to be. Many hands make light work and that is certainly the case when organising such a busy two-day event. May the sun shine and help to make our gardens fruitful and hope to see you all next year. Membership of the Gardeners' is not obligatory when joining in the Show, although, our annual membership fee is only £5 with lots of advantages, visits and speaker dates.

Pauline Bonner, *Show Secretary*

Prize and Trophy List – 2017

RHS Banksian Medal – Highest Points/Prize Certificates
Diana Burn

Grace Laker Cup – Highest Points for Flower & Vegetables
Sheila Samuel

Poppleton Cup – Best Floral Exhibit
Kathy Fereday

Wyn Durbridge Bowl – Best Vase of Garden Flowers/Shrubs
Sandy Hinton

BD (Best Dahlia) Founders Trophy
Rachel Bevington

Joe Tisshaw Trophy – Best in Sweet Pea class
Jan Plummer

Rose Vase Trophy – Best Specimen Rose
Patsy Flather

Rose Cup – Best in Rose classes
Jan Plummer

Stan Durbridge Bowl – Best Pot Plant
Ron Dampier

Marcel Clouzy Cup – Best Exhibit in Floral Arrangement
Kathy Fereday

Thalatta Cup – Best in Handicrafts
Valerie Penn

George Cup – Best Exhibit in Fruit & Vegetables
Ron Dampier

Clouzy Cup – Best in Home Produce
Patsy Flather

Norah Kidd Trophy – Highest Points in Photographic
Bill Burn

Moseley Cup for Best Photograph
Neil Mattingly

RHS Award of Merit for Young Exhibitors
Zach Court

Diploma in Horticulture – Worthy Exhibit in Horticulture Sections
Lesley Dunlop

For more membership information, please contact 01297 561076 or 561625.

Charmouth Gardeners' – Dates for Your Diary

All meetings at the Village Hall, Wesley Close

Wednesday 8th November 2017– 2.30pm - Village Hall, Wesley Close: Ms. Jenny Short will speak on 'Berried treasure' – an apt subject for this time of year.

Wednesday 10th January 2018– 2.30pm - Village Hall, Wesley Close: Mr. John Studley will speak on 'Vegetable growing'.

Wednesday 14th February 2018 – 2.30pm - Village Hall, Wesley Close: Annual General Meeting - followed by Mr. Colin Varndell who will speak on 'Tales from the Hide' – a humorous presentation of Wildlife photography.

Plus, an opportunity to renew subscription for 2018-2019.

To advertise in Shoreline please contact: neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk

Charmouth Village Hall 140 Club



What is it?

Charmouth Village Hall in Wesley Close, formerly the WI Hall, is now leased to us for the benefit of the local community. It is a non-profit making registered charity and is run by a committee and a board of trustees. On this basis, our hire charges are low: £10, £12 or £15 per four hour session and our current annual average is 37 bookings per month, indicating that we offer a very useful facility. We have every day running costs, but our bank balance stays fairly constant. Many of you will know that our toilets and heating were upgraded last year: we were lucky enough to obtain a National Lottery grant to cover this expenditure. However, as with all properties, maintenance, heating, modernising and repair work sometimes become necessary and we need to draw on reserves. This is where the 140 club lottery comes in.

Originally there were 140 members in the club, bringing in a total of £1680 p.a., of which £720 p.a. is paid out in the monthly draws, leaving us a net profit of £960 p.a. Our current membership and income are rather less, though the monthly figure being paid out remains the same! Prizes consist of £30, £20 and £10 each month. Winners' names are displayed on the Village Hall notice board and the cheques are delivered to the winners' home addresses. The subscription remains at £12 p.a.

If you would like to become a member, please contact either Jean Kesterton (560009) or Gill Savage (560615) and they will be more than happy to allocate you a very lucky number!

Jean Kesterton



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Charmouth Bowls Club

Charmouth Bowls Club is situated at the recreation field in Barrs Lane in the very heart of the village. Established over 30 years ago, it remains a wonderful village facility to this day and is in regular use three times a week, every week, from April to October.

Members of the club get together during the summer months to play on a Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. The sessions are an informal, relaxed and friendly 'roll-up'. There is no dress code (other than mandatory flat-soled shoes), all equipment necessary to play the game is owned and provided by the Club, and there's tea, coffee and biscuits midway through the afternoon and a chance for a chat.

Throughout the season, the club arranges a programme of matches with other local bowls clubs. These matches are all 'friendlies' (versus other bowls clubs which, like Charmouth, are not league clubs) and are great fun, as well as giving the opportunity to test out our match-play against erstwhile opposition! Home-green advantage is to everyone's benefit, recording a win away from home is a feather in one's cap, as playing well on an unfamiliar green is a creditable accomplishment!

The game of Bowls is a game for everyone. There are no bars to membership, as players of any age and ability can take part. The young and the old, the novice and the pro, the first-timer and the old-timer – all can capitalise on this village amenity and enjoy a game together.

Charmouth Bowls Club is always looking to welcome new players. You would be most welcome to join us at any time. We are warm, friendly, and encouraging, and have long ago jettisoned the clichéd baggage that often goes with 'Club' membership. We are not a clique, we are not tied to fussy rules and archaic traditions; we are not caught up in unnecessary internal politics. Your first afternoon is free. Subsequent afternoons are £3 a time. Membership in your first season is not required. We just want to encourage participation and the continued use of this wonderful facility. The more players the village can produce, the more fun we'll have.

Why not try your hand at our indoor sessions? As the evenings start to draw in and the outdoor season is behind us, why not come along to St Andrew's Community Hall in Lower Sea Lane for a session of short-mat bowls? We meet at 2pm on a Tuesday afternoon. Come as you are, enjoy a warm welcome, and get an introduction to bowls technique. Who knows, you may get smitten and be next summer's star player!

For more information, please contact our Hon. Secretary, Jackie Rolls, on 01297 560295.

Mark Gordon-Christopher, *Club Chairman*

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AUTUMN/WINTER - Birding Update in Charmouth

Coastal Lyme Bay is blessed with a diverse range of habitats with a rich mix of fauna and flora. Different habitats attract different birds so as a Birder I would expect to see different birds in these different habitats. Part of the joy of Birding is, however, turning up the unexpected. How exciting is it, for example, when a usually shy woodland bird such as the colourful Jay suddenly arrives on the peanut feeder in our village garden? I've seen them moving through the undercliff but never before actually in my garden. But there, on 30th May, a Jay appeared and some of my neighbours and I were treated to close views of this beautiful member of the crow family – the patch of electric blue on its wing contrasting with its pinkish, grey back and eye-catching white rump as its flies away. And then after a few days the visitor disappeared just as suddenly as it had arrived.

Returning to my theme, however, the main habitats to be found in and around Charmouth include Sea, Beach, Reedbed, Marsh, Cliff, Scrub, Woodland, River, Ponds, Farmland as well as Gardens. In this article I will concentrate on three of these, which can all be found within 200m of the car parks at the end of Lower Sea Lane: the Beach/ Shoreline, the Reedbed and the River.



1. Sea and Shoreline

If you draw a circle centred on the Heritage Centre half the area is covered by sea – an obvious observation for someone who knows Charmouth! So is it the sea which has the biggest influence on my Charmouth birding? I think so. Several of my inland Birding acquaintances tell me that they are quite envious of my coastal patch and the opportunities that this provides. Gulls and Gannets, Cormorants and Terns are common sights but this is only the start of the potential.

For example, imagine a seabird which usually spends most of its life-cycle far out at sea, doing what ocean-going birds do, being suddenly displaced by a violent storm in the English Channel and finding itself pushed by wind and wave inshore to Lyme Bay, miles away from its usual area. And so it was on 5/6th June that an unusually wild summer storm drove many Storm Petrel close inshore along the south coast. The name of these wonderful seabirds gives a clue to their resilience but they are quite tiny, only measuring the same length as a House Sparrow, smaller than a Starling but with longer wings. On 7th June I spent some time sea-watching down by the Heritage Centre and was delighted to see two Storm Petrel quite close, fluttering and dipping between the surf off Charmouth between the big yellow Buoy and the Beach. All the birds I saw were making their way slowly westwards and back out towards



Here's a selection of some seabirds which are to be found around Charmouth - Photos clockwise from top left Sandwich Tern, Great Black-backed Gull, Mediterranean Gull (summer), Mediterranean Gull (winter)

the Atlantic. And on 8th June I was lucky to see my 3rd and 4th 'Charmouth' Storm Petrel. What a treat!

For a spot of "Sea-watching" for birds, all you need is a pair of good binoculars, or preferably a telescope, and a bit of patience! And who knows what else you might see, apart from the fisher folk and potters from Lyme Regis? This year I was lucky enough to see a pod of dolphin only a couple of hundred metres off the beach at West Bexington. And on another occasion a rare Sunfish – an unusual visitor from the tropics – drift past. A very enjoyable way to spend the odd hour or two.

If you spend some time around the Beach area, you might have seen the resident Rock Pipits. At first sight they can appear quite drab, brown birds, but they are confiding and at most times of the year forage for food items around the feet of visitors and villagers alike. Up close, and with the sun shining, their intricate plumage sparkles in cryptic patterns of brown and buff. Personally, I really like them and think these birds are full of character. Because they can be so tame, one is often able to get really good views and without fancy optical equipment.



Photo of a Rock Pipit:

Early morning dog walkers will have seen the normally shy Ravens around the Beach car park. Opportunists, they are starting to get a bit lazy, so first thing in the morning before it gets busy they will try for an early snack of last night's fish 'n' chips round by the litter bins near the Heritage Centre. I took this photo at 6am on a summer morning. The bird didn't stay long, retreating to the Stonebarrow cliffs to resume its day.



Photo of an early morning Raven checking out the Waste Bins:

So here in Charmouth we are blessed with a rich diversity of wildlife which lives in, on and around Lyme Bay.

2. Reedbed

A Reedbed grows in freshwater at the side of a pond, lake or slow-moving river. The habitat supports a wide variety of waterbirds, dragonflies, damselflies, snails, moths and butterflies and many other invertebrates. Reedbeds are



Photo of the Beach Reedbed which is an important Pied Wagtail roosting site

important because they also provide suitable food-rich bird-nesting sites during the summer months, and safe cover for roosting at all times of the year and particularly in the winter months. In Charmouth we have two Reedbeds, the first located alongside the river at Seadown Caravan Park, and the second between the two carparks: the "Beach Reedbed".

The large Reedbeds on the Somerset levels are of national significance and support populations of Ducks, Water Rail, Heron, Egrets, Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Hobby. Although clearly not on that scale, I have seen Water Rail and Snipe using our more modest Reedbeds. In summer they play host to breeding Reed Warbler and Reed Bunting. On occasions, I've also seen and heard Sedge Warbler passing through on their annual migration. One early autumn evening I even saw 25 Starling coming in to roost. Not exactly a 'murmuration' but an extremely important habitat for those local individuals nevertheless. But it is the rather unassuming Beach Reedbed squeezed between two car parks on which I will concentrate. Because although small in size it is of major importance locally as a Pied Wagtail roost.

If you've been down to the seafront as it is getting dark on an autumn evening, I'm sure you won't have failed to notice the accumulation of Pied Wagtails running around the car parks and areas surrounding the beach Reedbed. Coming in from the surrounding farmland the numbers increase over the evening from a few, to 10 or 20 then 50 and finally into three figures. But why do they come? For food or to bathe possibly? Everywhere you look they are certainly catching flies on the grass, seaweed, carpark or having a bathe at the side of the riverbank. But a late snack and a quick spruce up of their feathers is not the main reason they are here at this time of the day. Gradually, one by one, they disappear into the Reedbed where they spend the night roosting. I have counted upwards of 150 Pied Wagtail (maybe more) using the Reedbed as their safe haven for the night.

There's a delicate balance to uphold here, and as custodians of our fragile landscape we all share a responsibility to protect habitats such as these. And if this Reedbed is cut down, then this vital habitat will be destroyed and an extremely important Pied Wagtail roost site will disappear.



Photos A Pied Wagtail (at roost in the Reedbed) and a juvenile Pied Wagtail taken on the footbridge.

3. River

We are so fortunate to have a small river flowing through our village, under the footbridge, across the beach and out to sea. Visiting fishermen occasionally try their luck in the river and I've seen one catch a small brown trout. Mullet also like the brackish water. What birds would we expect to see in and around the river? Expect to see Mute Swans and Mallard ducks, but also Grey Heron, Little Egret and Waders are fairly common visitors. The fish in the river inevitably attract predators.



Photos top to bottom - a Cormorant dries its wings after a spot of fishing in the river and a visiting juvenile Dunlin (© Alan Smith) probes for invertebrate food morsels:

Grey Wagtail love running water and can be found along the river at Seadown and Manor House Farm. This juvenile Little Grebe (left) was unusual, staying for a few days in late summer before moving on; Grey Wagtail (right):

Little Egrets try an ambush technique for their quarry, often moving energetically with wings outstretched or shuffling with their yellow feet to dislodge small fry, whereas the Grey Heron prefer the stealthy, stalking approach, before striking to impale an eel or unfortunate frog.



Photos Little Egret (top), Grey Heron (bottom):

If you're really lucky you may even see a Dipper or Kingfisher. Both are shy, but with patience both species can be found in quieter stretches of the River Char.

And on one memorable occasion a Glossy Ibis visited the river for a few hours:

Happy Winter Birding!

Richard Phillips

All photos in this article have been taken by ©Richard Phillips with the exception of the photo of the Dunlin which was taken by ©Alan Smith and included with thanks.

Blog: www.charmouthbirding.blogspot.co.uk Twitter: @cork_head

Coconut Curry Butternut Squash Soup with Kale Oil



Now the summer is over, we have darker evenings and chilly mornings. With this autumnal period comes an abundance of fruit and vegetables - apples, pears, plums, squash, pumpkins, parsnips - to name but a few.

The versatility of these crops is brilliant for those who enjoy a cooking session, snuggled up in a warm kitchen cooking soups, vegetable curries and stews, stewed fruits ready for crumbles and pies: real comfort food for those cold winter days.

Soups are the ultimate comfort food for lunch or supper with a chunk of lovely bread.

Butternut squash is a real pain to peel, particularly if your hands aren't very strong, but roasting it first makes it so easy to use. It softens it through and keeps all the flavour without any need to peel.

Serves: 4

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 50 minutes

Total time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Ingredients

Curry Paste:

2 tsp ground coriander

2 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp ground black pepper

1 tsp chilli flakes

1 tbsp lime juice

3 garlic cloves

1 tsp ground lemongrass

1 small onion, peeled and diced

1 tbsp fresh, chopped coriander

2 tsp ground ginger, or a knob of fresh ginger, peeled and chopped

1 tsp salt

In food processor, pulse all the ingredients until smooth.

Soup:

2 tbsp coconut oil

1 onion, diced

3 celery sticks, chopped

3 carrots, peeled and chopped

1 large butternut squash, halved and seeded

1 can, 400ml, coconut milk

Kale Oil:

Handful of Kale

Rapeseed Oil

Salt and black pepper

Method

Place the butternut squash flesh down on a baking tray lined with foil. Pierce several times with a sharp knife. Bake for 50 minutes at 180C / Gas Mark 4 until tender. Leave to cool slightly.

Heat the coconut oil in a large saucepan and add the carrot, celery and onion.

Cook until softened. Stir in the curry paste and cook for 2 minutes.

Scrape out all of the squash into the pan adding any juices from the tray, and stir well.

Add the can of coconut milk and a can of water.

Stir well and bring to the boil. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Puree the soup until smooth.

Serve with a drizzle of kale oil.

Kale Oil:

Cook the kale in a little water until tender. Drain well. Cool and blend with rapeseed oil until smooth. Season to taste. Any remaining oil can be tossed into cooked pasta and served topped with Parmesan shavings.

Tips:

For a quick curry, omit the water and add cooked diced chicken, cooked prawns or hard-boiled eggs to serve with basmati rice.

Double the amount of curry paste and store the extra in the fridge. It will keep for up to 10 days.

Sheila Gilbey

The Abbots House
www.abbotshouse.co.uk
Blog: sheilaspantry.co.uk

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



An eerie quiet has descended on Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre after the madness of the summer holidays. During the summer, we welcomed tens of thousands of visitors, including 30,000 visitors in 30 days in August. Thousands of people joined us on our fossil hunting walks, and found their own 190 million year old fossils. As well as the constant supply of ammonites, belemnites, and crinoids, people have also found bits of ichthyosaur, fish, and sea urchins on fossil hunting walks. Interestingly, there has been an unusually high number of plesiosaur bones found on our walks this summer, leading us to believe that there is a plesiosaur skeleton washing out of one of the mudslides.

We have also held a number of marine events over the summer. We held several Rockpool Rambles, exploring the marine life on the ledges at Lyme Regis. This provided a fantastic opportunity for people to learn more about the extraordinary creatures that live in Lyme Bay, several of which are currently enjoying a little holiday in the fish tanks in the Centre. We also held a couple of beach cleans, as well as our annual Pirate Day!

On the August bank holiday, we had a coastguard cliff rescue demonstration, where the Charmouth coastguards showed us how they would rescue somebody from a cliff – plus some

advice on how to avoid needing to be rescued in the first place.

We currently have some exciting new finds on display in our 'recent finds cabinet', including a fossil starfish, thought to be a new species. This starfish was found by Tony Gill (owner of 'Charmouth Fossils', the shop below the Centre). Also currently on display are an ammonite with spines and a very rare fossilised pine cone.

We have various events planned over the next few months to brighten up the gloomy winter. On the 18th of November, we will be holding a Fossil Fantastic Day. This is an excellent opportunity for families to experience fossil-themed arts and crafts, Jurassic talks, fossil hunting, and more. There will also be an art and craft fair held in the Centre on the 25th and 26th of November. The winter working party will be making the most of the quieter months by renovating the education room. We will also be updating our website over the winter, ready for the 2018 summer season.

Thanks largely to our hardworking volunteers, 2017 looks set to be another record-breaking year. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the Centre or phone us on 01297 560772 to find out more. Hopefully, 2018 will be another busy year with lots more exciting fossil finds!

Yolanda Aze

Attenborough and the Sea Dragon

In our spring issue we reported that the BBC was in the early stages of work on a one-hour special called **Attenborough and the Sea Dragon**. Based on a new species of Ichthyosaur found in Charmouth by local palaeontologist Chris Moore, it is due to be screened early next year. I now understand from Producer Sally Thomson that after Chris prepared the fossil, it was scanned at Southampton University and work is currently underway at Bristol University to create a 3D computer image of the creature. Filming is ongoing and editing will commence at the end of October, when this issue of *Shoreline* is published.

Lesley Dunlop

Volunteering at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

This year we have done well for new volunteers at the CHCC but others are still needed. With huge numbers of visitors over the summer and other holiday periods, a few more would certainly be useful. As we move into the winter period, this is a good time to start volunteering as it is relatively quiet and therefore easier to learn about working on the desk, helping with fossil hunting walks or other activities.

Working at the CHCC is worthwhile, fun and fulfilling; if you would like to join our band of volunteer Friends of the CHCC, do please contact the Wardens at the Centre. You will be made most welcome.

Rosalind Cole, *Trustee and Chairman of the Friends of the CHCC*



All Shoreline issues can be seen online at
www.charmouth.org/charmouth_villagelshoreline-magazine/

A Roaring Success

At the end of a CHCC Friends meeting it was suggested that the Megalosaurus money collector needed an enhancement to attract more visitors to part with their money. It was agreed that a Megalosaurus should be fitted with a dinosaur roar, but where would we find such a mechanism to make a roar every time a coin was fed down it's throat? We contacted Pauline Berridge's cousin John Ross, retired founder of Ross Video in Canada, and he kindly offered to take the task onboard. Using a loudspeaker from a Toyota Corolla, a sound system from an audio greetings card, some infrared detectors from Radio Shack and a dinosaur double roar from the Jurassic Park sound track, a mechanism was put together. The tested kit was flown over and the winter working party retro fitted it to the Megalosaurus. Thanks to J R's brilliance it has proved to be a great money gatherer and we thank him most sincerely for his time and effort in designing an electronic system to keep the money rolling! John Ross is pictured with Senior Warden Phil Davidson on his recent visit to the Centre.

John Berridge



Phil Davidson, Senior Warden at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and the man who mended the dinosaur's roar, a cousin of Pauline Berridge.

3:10 TO JURA

I apologise at the outset to those who mine and collect on the Jurassic Coast for either pleasure or profit and who find the most amazing fossils and then use their skills in preparing them for display or sale.

My main passion for collecting is minerals and I am quite happy on an old mine spoil heap on a windswept hill in the North Pennines. Yes I am also one of those to be found rummaging in garden centre rock piles, looking at shop fronts and inspecting any hole being dug in the road. Once one of my brothers pulled me from a coal bunker after we had just learnt about coal at junior school and at secondary school I was given the task to sort and catalogue the school rock and mineral collection. I loved it. As an undergraduate I went on one geology field trip to the Pembroke Coast and revelled in what is called the hard

geology "rocks". I also went pot holing - the most frightening thing I have done in my life!

After a lifetime of visiting, I now live in Charmouth, and it is inevitable that the beach becomes part of your life. Along with sunsets, dog walking, sea watching and staring at a clear night sky, you collect fossils.

On the beach, one sunny summer's afternoon, I spotted something in and around a rock fall. This was about to be my 3:10 To Jura moment. I looked, prodded, probed and with amazement I saw ribs, vertebrae and parts of a paddle. Picking up a long piece of vertebrae, I realised something of interest was there. Fortunately, just passing by, was a similarly overburdened rucksack and hammer-carrying fossil hunter, Tony Vale from

Medway Fossil and Mineral Society. We talked, we rummaged and without Tony's help about 40 kilos of Ichthyosaur - laden rock would not have got off the beach. We carried full rucksacks and sledged the main piece of rock to the car park. I said at the time "this will teach me to not find anything bigger in the future".

Once home, with expert advice from Chris East, an amazing fossil hunter, it was agreed at least to see what the main part held and ensure its preservation. What you see is Chris's amazing work. There is still more to process.

I think we can all have our 3:10 To Jura moment in Charmouth. I have discussed fossils on the beach in many different languages, dialects and with hand signals. I've been asked seriously if you can then eat them and told with some creative expressions to go away when advising people to avoid a mud flow or not to climb up a steep, unstable rock fall. I met someone under Golden Cap asking "what's all this fossil business then" whilst they only had a pair of shorts and flip flops on. All I could think of was how on earth had they got there. Often you can just chill with someone and pass the time of day, as beachcombers do.

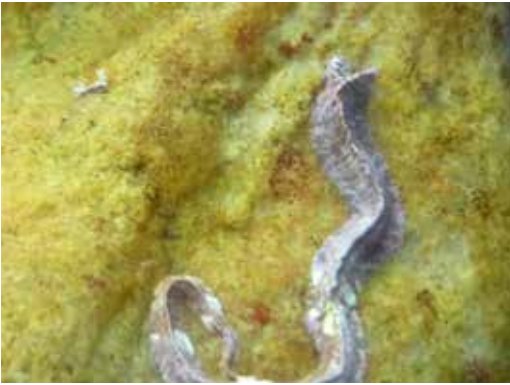
I believe if we over-develop Charmouth Beach with its unique foreshore of river estuary, grass, beach and cliffs, we will lose the essence of what people seek when they come to Charmouth.

We should allow people to beachcomb, rummage in the shingle and rocks to discover things for themselves. For me this is the essence of any human activity: touching, thinking and discovering the world around us, for ourselves, at our own pace and in our own way. Then anyone can have their 3:10 To Jura moment.

Helen Parker



SHORELINE CREATURES: MARINE WORMS



Worms! Much loved by cartoonists, children's book authors and film-makers, these creatures can be the subject of dislike or even severe phobias if encountered in real life. Amazingly abundant, there are about eight thousand species of worms, some parasitic, but how often do we see them? Unless you keep a compost heap, dig the garden or look for bait on beaches you probably won't see many.

Marine worms can be found in burrows in sediments such as sand or mud, in tubes attached to hard surfaces or protruding from the sea bed. Others are free-living, hiding under rocks or seaweed, among shells or shingle.

In marine environments the most common worms are bristle worms or Polychaetes (pronounced Polly Keats) meaning many bristles. Some species move about freely while others construct burrows or tubes in which they permanently live. Usually the tubes are more obvious than their occupants and form protective structures into which the animals can withdraw. Tubes can be made of grains of sand or mud glued together with mucus secreted by the worms; others have harder, chalky (calcareous) tubes.

Two examples of marine worms are those with calcareous tubes which are secreted as they grow. Interestingly, on Charmouth beach, there are also fossil worm tubes to be found in boulders or cobbles of Cretaceous greensand or, sometimes, the little spirals about 1 cm in diameter may be found in the shingle. These spiral tubes from worms which once lived about 100 million years ago are remarkably similar to modern day worm tubes. If there is a successful formula for survival, why change?

Calcareous worm tubes are strong and provide good protection from weather, wild waves, pebble damage and predators.

Commonly found tubes look chalky white, are roughly triangular in cross-section and have a 'keel', as shown in the pictures. Often to be found in looped formations, they encrust hard surfaces such as rocks, pebbles and shells. The keel-worm (*Pomatoceros triqueter*) is a common example of a small worm about 25mm long, with a head bearing gills for taking oxygen from the water, tentacle-like filaments for feeding and a modified tentacle forming a 'stopper' to close the tube and keep the worm from drying out at low tide. These worms live in shallow water and, when covered by the sea, filter out small particles of food such as plankton.

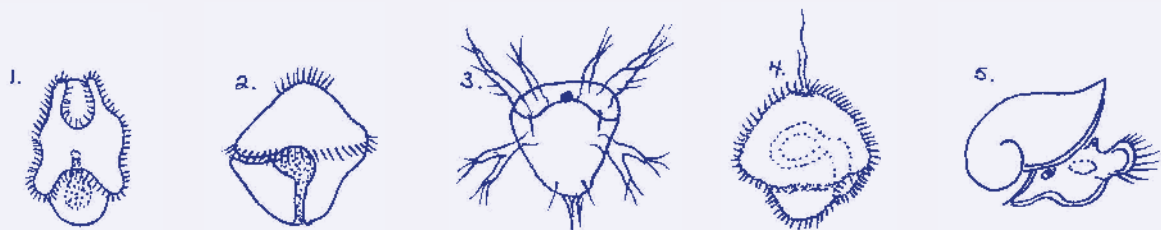
Smaller, spiral tubes housing very small worms, *Spirorbis*, (about 3.5mm) belong to the same family. With their calcareous tubes they commonly live on brown seaweed such as serrated wrack although they may also encrust hard surfaces such as shells and rocks. Like the other worms these are filter feeders, taking tiny particles from the sea water when immersed.

Marine Polychaetes form a fascinating group; all have larvae which live among the plankton. Some adults are tiny while others are very long: 20, 30, 50 cm....! The free-living ones, not described here, are interesting to find in crevices between rocks, burrowed into sediment or amongst seaweed, many being attractively coloured green, red or brown. Forming an important part of the food web, such worms are food for crabs, fish and many other marine creatures. Marine worms are to be admired, if not for their beauty, then for their ability to adapt and survive in a variety of changing, and sometimes challenging, environmental conditions.

Some examples of worm tubes may be seen in the corner marine tank at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.

Rosalind Cole

Editorial apologies to Ros Cole for the missing key to her marine larvae sketches in her previous article Shoreline Creatures - Catching those microscopic aliens...



The answers to the sketches of marine larvae in the zooplankton (not to scale) in our summer issue are:

1) Bipinnaria - sea urchin. 2) Trochosphere - mollusc (e.g. limpet). 3) Nauplius - prawn. 4) Pilidium - marine worm. 5) Veliger - mollusc (gastropod/snail).

Why are there so many fossils at Charmouth?

This is the most common question asked by visitors to the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and during Fossil Walks. The short answer is “the cliffs contain lots of fossils and the cliffs are always eroding - so the fossils continually end up on the beach”. If you would like a longer answer, keep reading...



How did the fossils get into the cliffs?

The cliffs are made up of clay deposited on the Early Jurassic sea bed over a period of some five million years (195-190 million years ago). The bottom of the sea was often stagnant, without enough oxygen in the water for creatures to live at the seabed. Clay was washed in from distant rivers and slowly accumulated as the seabed slowly subsided. Sea creatures (ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs, ammonites and belemnites) thrived in the upper part of the warm tropical sea where there was more oxygen and more food.

Sometimes, when less clay was being washed in, the seabed was also oxygenated and sea shells (gastropods, bivalves, brachiopods), sea lilies (crinoids) and burrowing worms and crustaceans lived on and in the seabed. More calcareous material ('lime') accumulated and thin pale grey layers were laid down instead of the usual thick dark grey clays.

We don't know the life span of all these sea creatures but if only one ammonite died every ten years and landed on one square metre of sea bed that's a lot of ammonites in five million years over the total thickness and area being eroded!

However (negative), they didn't all become perfectly preserved. As the clays were buried they were compressed by the weight of more sediment on top. Sea water was slowly squeezed out and conical calcium carbonate crystals (calcite) grew in horizontal "hydraulic fractures" – what we now call "beef" (cone-in-cone structures). Ammonite shells were dissolved and only delicate impressions remain in the clays (now compressed into 'shales') and on beef rock surfaces.

What is called "preservation potential" was low in the shales and although ammonites can be seen in broken surfaces, they are very fragile and crumble away when dry. Belemnites, on the other hand, had a solid crystalline, bullet-shaped, internal shell (rostrum or guard) which has a high preservation potential, hence the large numbers to be found.

However (positive), quite soon after burial the pale grey calcareous layers became hard limestones. Ammonites and other shells could be preserved in 3D, rather than being completely compressed. When buried a few hundred metres, these layers shrank and calcite filled the cracks – to form those white streaks and attractive polygonal patterns often seen in beach pebbles and boulders.

At other times, when the sea bed was stagnant, bacteria within the sea bed converted organic matter into iron sulphide (iron pyrite, fools' gold) and ammonites are preserved in 3D. Depending on how busy these bacteria were, fools' gold ammonites can be perfectly preserved or can be overgrown with pyrite and hardly any ammonite is visible. Pyritised fossils are harder than the shales they are embedded in so are washed out by the sea 'already polished' for you to find.

Sometimes the pyrite replaced only the organic coating of the ammonite chambers and the hollow chamber is filled with calcite crystals. Such white calcite ammonites with wavy pyrite chamber walls are a great find. Sometimes perfect little sparkly golden cubic iron pyrite crystals are found but mostly the pyrite is a very fine-grained, rather dull brown, material.

How did these shales and limestones become coastal cliffs 200 million years later?

These Lower Jurassic shales and limestones were succeeded by more layers of shale, sandstone and limestone laid down over the following 50 million years, burying the shales and limestones at Charmouth to a depth of over a kilometre. As a result of rifting between Europe and North America, the continental crust of the British Isles tilted down to the southeast and the Jurassic rocks to the west were tilted up to become land.

Varying amounts of bacterial pyrite



Further earth movements and sea level rise allowed the sea to spread over the area once more and, 125-100 million years ago (mid-Cretaceous), a layer of orange sand and limestone was deposited on the eroded Jurassic surface. This 50 metres thick layer of Upper Greensand (the tops of Black Ven, Stonebarrow and Golden Cap) is the source of all the orange-brown chert (silicified sandstone and limestone) which makes up most of Charmouth's beach sand and pebbles.

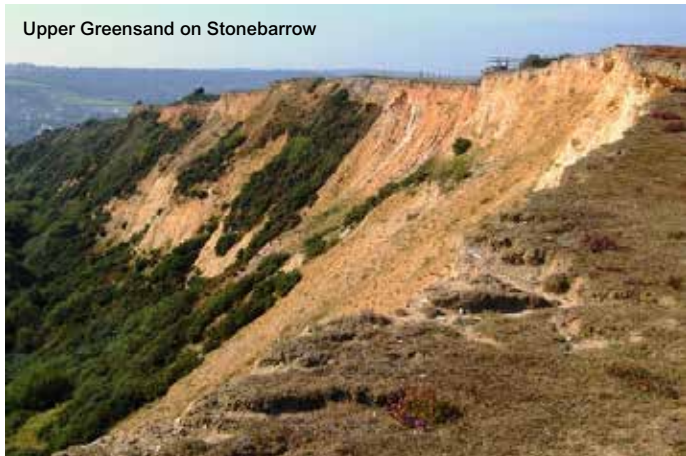
The sea level continued to rise and a vast area of NW Europe was covered by a warm continental shelf sea with very little input of land-derived sediment. For 35 million years, blooms of planktonic calcareous algae deposited very fine calcium carbonate (chalk) on the sea bed. Sponges and plankton added silica and shelly invertebrates added more calcium carbonate - resulting in the widespread Upper Cretaceous Chalk with flints (silicified chalk), reaching over 300m thick over Dorset – that's only about 1mm of chalk deposited every 100 years.

Thus the Lower Jurassic rocks of Charmouth were once again buried, this time to a depth of about 350 metres. At the end of the Cretaceous period the marine reptiles, ammonites and belemnites all became extinct, thanks to that meteorite

impact in Mexico which resulted in devastating changes in the chemistry of the sea and the atmosphere.

The continent of Greenland & North America finally broke away and drifted westwards from the continent of Europe & Asia. During this period (65 million years ago to now), the British Isles continued to be tilted to the southeast and the erosion products of the rising northwest area were deposited in sedimentary basins to the east and southeast (the North Sea, Hampshire and London Basins).

Upper Greensand on Stonebarrow



The Charmouth area was land throughout this time. About 20 million years ago the African continent impinged on the European crust and compression resulted in formation of several mountain chains in mainland Europe. Southern England also suffered compression, resulting in reverse movement of some faults, creating sharp anticlines (up-folds) in Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey and Sussex as well as overall uplift of the Weald. The overall tilt to the southeast continued.

For the last 20 million years the British Isles has continued to be eroded and sediment deposited in the North Sea basin. In West Dorset, erosion of the older rocks continued, removing much of the flinty Chalk and cherty Upper Greensand to reveal the Lower Jurassic below.

The Ice Ages resulted in thick land ice and sea ice over the British Isles and the continental shelf but permanent ice sheets did not reach as far south as Dorset. The land was, however, deeply affected by permafrost and sea level fluctuated from 10m above present to 130m below present.

Only 25,000 years ago the coast was some 60km to the south and Charmouth was well inland. The present day cliffs are a result of continued erosion as the sea level continues to rise after the last Ice Age. The volume of sea water is increasing due to melting of land ice and the expansion of water as the temperature increases.

Lyme Bay during the Ice Ages



Our Lower Jurassic cliffs will continue to erode and fossils will continue to be exposed on our beaches – if not collected, they will be ground away by the waves and all that gritty flinty cherty sand. Keep fossil hunting on the beach (not in the cliffs) and if you are not sure what you have found, just ask at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.

Geoff Townson

Phil Davidson, Geological Warden at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre says:
The best place to look for fossils is in the loose material on the beach and NOT in the cliffs. The cliffs are very unstable and you should make sure you keep your distance from them. Rockfalls and sticky mudslides should be avoided as they can cut off the beach on an incoming tide. Always check the tides times before going out fossil hunting.



Women's Institute celebrating their Centenary year

Members of Whitchurch and Morcombelake Women's Institute celebrating their Centenary year with a special tea party at Whitchurch Village Hall. A Centenary dinner is also to be held with invited guests and a number of members who have moved out of the area. Everyone is looking forward to catching up and seeing friends.

The WI was formed on 9th October 1917 when 45 women became Foundation Members. The venue was then a reading room situated in Whitchurch. One hundred years on we still meet on the second Tuesday of the month, still with a 'cooperative tea' (bring and share) as in 1917. Whitchurch and Morcombelake WI have been involved in very many village events over the years and many friendships have been created.

Pat Veal, secretary

Terry Coverdale, Textile Designer/Multi-Media Artist



I knew as a pupil at Woodroffe School in Lyme Regis that I wanted to go to art college. I had always loved drawing.

On my Art Foundation Course, design became an option. I was torn between graphics and fashion/textiles and opted for fashion at Saint Martin's (strongly influenced by a tutor who had designed the early Doctor Who costumes), but later transferred to

the Central School of Art and Design so I could focus on Textile Design.

Armed with a Dip AD in printed textiles, an MA in knitwear design and no business knowledge, I left London and moved to mid-Wales where, with a £100 loan, I found an empty shop, bought some wool and began designing and making one-off knitted garments. When the lease expired, I was invited to live and work in a wing of a castle, paying my rent in whisky and jumpers. I left my council house and entered a world of writers, musicians, actors and people who didn't seem to do anything except have a good time. But they did buy my knitwear.

For the next 15 years I continued designing knitwear, working as a ceramics decorator painting tiles, and doing freelance illustration. I also did some part-time lecturing.

I loved teaching and the arrival of Sumatriptan, a drug to treat migraine attacks, meant that I could study for a PGCE in Art and Design and teach full time. I spent the next ten years teaching textile/fashion design and art and design in schools and colleges in the UK. My two major posts were at colleges in Mid Wales and East Yorkshire where, as Programme Area Manager for Art and Design, I had the opportunity to expand the subject areas and design new courses. I loved working in further education. The expectations of students were usually low, often having left school with no formal qualifications and it was wonderful to see these exceeded. I was fortunate in having many mature students who flourished, given the opportunity to study a subject they had been denied when younger. I was then ready for a new challenge and, having always had a fascination with the Far East and China in particular, I applied to do VSO.

By the beginning of 2000 I was in Beijing at the start of a two year placement in China. I had asked to go to Yunnan Province as the little research I was able to do (pre-internet) suggested that it had the richest diversity of costume and textiles in China due to its 26 different ethnic nationalities. After three weeks of in-country and language training in Xi'an, a three day train journey and 12 hours by road, I arrived at Wenshan Teachers' College. In distance I was as far from Beijing as Istanbul is from here. The nearest city was Hanoi. I was the only foreigner in the town and the cause of many accidents.

My role was to introduce communicative methodology that my students would be able to apply in their future positions as teachers. My aim was to not fall off the high teacher platform or choke on the clouds of chalk dust which engulfed me. I mostly managed both. The students were delightful. Most were from small villages and didn't want to be teachers. Mandarin was often their third language but the only one they had in common with their classmates. Their English was the equivalent of my Mandarin. Learned in school but not spoken. Many older people had not been to school. Somehow we managed to communicate.

I knew nothing about the Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture and had seen no pictures so, when on my first Sunday, I ventured into the town I was stunned. It was market day and the streets were full of women and girls in the



most amazing costumes I had ever seen. This wasn't a festival, just everyday clothing.

Today, an internet search will bring up dozens of images and videos of this beautiful province and Google earth shows that the small town with dusty roads is now a large city. The fertile terraced countryside surrounding the college campus is covered in apartment blocks. There is virtually nothing left of the old town which I loved, but by which my students were embarrassed.

Instead of four weeks' annual holiday, I now had four months and I used this time to travel. Yunnan borders Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Tibet and, with regional variations, their ethnic tribespeople have settled on both sides of the national boundaries. I have since travelled back to Indochina, studying and collecting textiles.

Easiest to access from Yunnan was Thailand, where I taught in Bangkok for a while. From there it was possible to travel overland and sometimes by sea to the rest of South East Asia. In Japan I attended workshops in embroidery, silk painting, calligraphy and paper making....all processes which I use in my own work.

After 18 months in Wenshan, I was offered a VSO placement in Guilin in the neighbouring province of Guangxi, to teach textile/fashion design in a government art college. The aim was that students would return to their villages to set up sustainable cottage industries which would cater to the growing tourist market in Guilin and Yangshou. It was good to be teaching my own subject again. I was even given my own massive studio and I bought a variety of handmade papers and brushes which I still use in my work. I was fortunate to study Chinese painting under the head of the art department who was one of the top 100 artists in China. He reminded us every lesson. The students had to contend with freezing winter temperatures, working with

mittened hands covered in chilblains, followed by scorching summers where the humidity caused paper to disintegrate. There was no heating south of the Yellow River. During the rainy season they waded through waist-high water to our second floor studios. Although initially bemused, the students became receptive to new design practices.

The pace of development in Guilin was phenomenal. Tree lined streets and golden pagodas could appear overnight. It was all for the tourists. I had to travel into the countryside to find authentic textiles in local markets.

During my travels throughout China I visited some grim places and I appreciated once again being in another amazing natural environment.

My last VSO placement was in Tanzania but the British involvement in the 2003 war in Iraq meant that I was advised to leave for my own safety, after several death threats and near misses. I was able to spend some time in Zanzibar, whilst my exit was being arranged. In the backstreets of Stone Town with its influences of Swahili, Indian, and Arabic cultures, I found Kuba cloth, Irian batik and Indian embroidery and met several textile artists producing lovely contemporary work. Unable to make plans for accommodation or work before I left Tanzania a difficult time followed.

Back in the UK I began working as a textile artist attending a part-time degree course in Fine and Applied Art, which led to some teaching and the opportunity to exhibit with a group of multi-media artists. During this period I produced mostly paintings, knitted scarves and jewellery. Although the software was basic, I began to explore the digital manipulation images.

I moved to Charmouth seven years ago. It's very good to be back in the area where I grew up and to know that I'm unlikely to find a black mamba in my bathroom or be attacked by a machete. I will probably never again be in the privileged position of living and working with people whose culture is so richly immersed in textile design, but I'm going to Jaipur next year to attend block printing and embroidery workshops.

I love living so close to the sea, which influences much of my work. I'm fascinated by the patterns created by the refraction of light on the tide line pebbles and the reflections under the bridge over the river Char. Sketching the sea and shoreline is an ongoing challenge.

Recently I've been using figures in silhouette to create a visual narrative in my work. I'm looking forward to being able to experiment with different processes to combine my love of drawing, textiles, photography and digital imagery. I have thousands of photos to catalogue and each one takes me back to the moment it was taken. It's a very exciting time to be working in the visual arts and to have the luxury of time and space in which to explore new ideas.

Terry Coverdale

ADVERTORIAL



OPEN STUDIO

Now retired from my career as a freelance textile designer/artist and lecturer in art & design, I've stopped selling through other outlets and am working from my home next to the Community Hall where the ground floor has become my work space.

This year I've started having 'Open Studio' days where people have the opportunity to see and buy my work which is all original and includes one-off designer scarves made from silk and kid mohair, pebbles which have been gilded with metal leaf and 2 dimensional multi media works. I have a large range of limited edition photographic prints in different sizes and cards for every occasion.

Sundays are my Open Studio Days... you are welcome to come in and browse, or call at other times if you have a forgotten card or present!

TERRY COVERDALE, TEXTILE DESIGNER / MULTI MEDIA ARTIST HALLSIDE, LOWER SEA LANE, CHARMOUTH, DORSET, DT6 6LL

Tel: 01297 561642
email: coverdale-design@hotmail.co.uk



Charmouth residents brave the chilly seas during filming for the Village of the Year Competition 2017



A proper Party in the Park



Red Arrows soar above Charmouth



Run runners run - Charmouth Challenge

Charmouth Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch Fund



Manor Farm in the '90s. L-R: Pat Roach?, Jean Pomery, Pauline Haytor, Tricia Forsey, Myra Edwards, Barbara Loosemore, Pat Dalton, Jeff Stork, Joan Aldworth, Carol Prosser, Betty Stork, Eileen Milton, Clifford Loosemore, Robin Loosemore and Marilyn Edwards

Charmouth Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch Fund has its roots in 1962. On 17th December 1962 a group of villagers got together in The George Hotel (as it was then known) to do something for the village. A committee was chosen and they decided to call it The George Hotel Social Club. The members were: Chairman – Jeff Stork, Secretary – Henry Turner, Treasurer – Jerry White (landlord of The George), together with the following committee members: Paul Sartin, Charlie Stirk, Jack Bartlett, Roy Aldworth, Dennis Bearpark and Jock Smith.

The committee decided to meet in The George every Friday evening at 9pm. Anyone could join the club and pay a small monthly amount. A weekly raffle was held and the tickets were sold in The George and around the village during the week. All the shops in the village were very good about donating prizes and there were six prizes every week. The proceeds from the raffle and the club were put in the bank for an annual outing. The idea was to go to a town or city where a football match was taking place. The men could watch the match and the ladies could go shopping. The coach would be loaded up with drink for the thirsty. In the evening they would go to a show and then stop for fish and chips on the way back. This was completely paid for by the Social Club and one member can remember once when three coaches were filled.

Gradually over the years, the club did other things. For example, a basket of fruit was sent to any villager in hospital, a turkey was given to Lyme Regis Hospital every Christmas and a wreath sent for a funeral. There were many other donations, such as memory seats around the village, lights on the church tower (the electric bill was paid as well for several years as the church thought it too expensive), the clock at the beach (the original), the clock on the pharmacy in memory of Linda Edwards, prizes for the Charmouth Fayre plus donations to Charmouth Primary School and Woodroffe School. At one point a pantomime for school-age children and a Father Christmas grotto for the young ones was added and in 1983 a Christmas lunch at The George was added to the list paid for by the social club.

On 10th April 1986 a meeting was held in The George. Those present were Mr J Stork, Mrs P Hayter, Mrs C Gillings, Mrs J Aldworth, Mrs P Forsey, Mr P Dalton, Mr C Stirk, Mrs J Smith, Mrs Butler and Mrs Waterson.

Mr Stork opened the meeting by explaining that the committee of The George Hotel Social Club were retiring and wanted to form a new committee specifically to organise an annual Christmas Lunch. This event had been enjoyed by so many people over the previous three years that they felt it would be a shame to let it cease. The social club made a donation of £375 to the new committee. Mr Stork also pointed out that between

£400 and £500 would have to be raised each year as the previous year's lunch had cost £405 for 80 people.

The new committee consisted of: Chairman Mrs M Waterson, Treasurer Mr J Stork, Secretary Mrs P Forsey, the rest of the committee being C Gillings, J Aldworth, P Dalton, C Stirk, C Prosser, P Roach, B Thomas and C Grinter. The first decision taken by the new committee was to name the new organisation The Charmouth Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch Fund. From those beginnings, the C.S.C.C.L.F. went on to provide a Christmas lunch every year (at the beginning of January) and a yearly outing in June.

The first two lunches were held in The George over two days and cooked by Christian, the landlord. One was held at the WI Hall and we then moved to Manor Farm at the invitation of Barbara and Clifford Loosemore (we just paid for the electricity used) and the cooking and preparation was taken over by Val Cozens. Val was already well known for her cooking and she and her helpers cooked a wonderful meal every year. This was 1988 and Val was already partially retired, but said she would carry on doing the Christmas meals for us. The last meal she cooked for us was in January 2015 as she was moving out of Lyme and would not be around the following year.

Over the years, we have raised funds in many ways by having car boot sales, Steptoe sales, bingos, coffee mornings, harvest homes at The Oak and now an annual auction of produce at The George, which always does well. On top of that, over the years we have had donations from the Charmouth Fayre and many donations from individuals in the village.

We have also had a lot of help over the years and two of those I would like to mention are Steve and Gill from the Post Office. For the last 18 years (from when they started in 1999) they have taken the names of villagers attending both the Christmas Lunch and the outing in June which has been invaluable to the committee, so thank you Steve and Gill.

The lunch is open to all retired Charmouth citizens and we would love to see some new faces at our lunch. We can cater for 70 people so to make sure of a place, Steve in the Post Office keeps the list and all you have to do is to put your name down. A notice will be put up on the notice board as to when the list is open.

We are now in our 31st year and gearing up for the next Christmas lunch, which will be held at the Community Hall on Tuesday 9th January 2018. Apologies if anything or anyone has been forgotten.

Tricia Forsey & Marilyn Waterson



In the Community Hall: L-R: Thelma, Jean, Betty, Kay, Christine, Joan, Myra, Tricia and Carol

Charmouth Scout News



Going the Distance for Clean Water

Sponsored Trek Cart pulls raise enough to 'twin' two loos and make a large donation to WaterAid

Both toilets in 1st Charmouth Scout Group's newly refurbished HQ will shortly be twinned with latrines halfway around the world. This follows the Group's Cubs, Scouts and Explorers taking part in a sponsored Trek Cart pull that raised over £450. The total included a donation from members of the Brit Valley Rotary Club of £130, who were keen to help.

The cart was loaded up with some 200 litres of water and pulled, by a relay of teams, three miles around the recreation ground in Barr's Lane, a distance designed to simulate what many children in developing countries have to do each day to collect water from wells and rivers a long way from their communities.

Since it costs only £60 to twin each toilet, the remaining funds will be given to WaterAid – a charity which has visited both the Scouts and Explorers in recent months to talk about their vital work in delivering clean water around the world.

Toilet Twinning funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund. Donations are used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education. This vital combination works together to prevent the spread of disease. Children are healthier, and able to go to school; parents are well enough to work their land and grow enough food to feed their families. WaterAid aims to transform lives by helping some of the world's poorest people install taps and toilets within their communities, thereby improving sanitation and hygiene, and reducing the incidence of disease.

Commenting on the success of the sponsored event, Kevin Payne, Group Scout Leader, said, "After WaterAid gave very inspiring presentations to both our Scouts and Explorers, they were very keen to support this very worthy cause. Furthermore, when our Scout Leader, Alex Willatt, discovered the opportunity to twin our new loos with latrines halfway around the world, this seemed like an ideal way have a permanent reminder of the need for clean water in our own HQ. Luckily, we had the ability to transport such a large volume of water using our recently acquired trek cart, although both of the wheels are now in need of repair, such was the weight of the water! The transported water did not go to waste, as some was used to water the plants at the front of our HQ and the rest was used in a series of water carrying games, designed to highlight the need to transport water carefully, as it is such a precious resource."

Kevin Payne, Group Scout Leader

Summer Camp is Ship-shape and Bristol fashion

For this year's summer camp, 21 Scouts set up their tents on a site on the outskirts of Bristol and enjoyed a wide variety of great activities, despite the inclement weather.

First up was a trip to Bristol docks where they had a go at kayaking, gig rowing and canoeing. Next day it was High Ropes – with nearly all the Scouts making the treacherous ascent up a 25ft pool in order to stand on a platform the size of a tea tray before completing the 'leap of faith' to catch a trapeze! Needless to say, I did not attempt it!!

Other activities included learning survival skills, which included building hammocks and shelters and staying in them overnight in a rain storm (fortunately, everyone stayed dry and orienteering. The camp was capped off with a trip to AirHop, the giant indoor trampoline park in Bristol, which proved very popular with everyone.



Beavers Put the Out in Scouting!

We are continuing to run an exciting programme for our Beaver Colony, which is currently 16-strong (6 to 8 year old boys and girls). We have a long waiting list, but are limited to numbers due to the lack of uniformed leaders. If we had more leaders, we could consider expansion.



Last term we made the most of the summer weather by being outside as much as possible. We went on a mini hike and identified lots of trees and took leaf rubbings from around the playing fields. We earned our Sports badge by playing rounders for six weeks, encouraging team participation and learning the rules of the game.

We spent a week designing and creating lolly stick rafts and finished our summer term by racing them down the river at Charmouth. Several Beavers had designed their own fantastic rafts and brought those down to race as well. We finished the evening toasting marshmallows over our fire-pit down on the beach.

We had a great evening at the RNLI Boat Station in Lyme and were lucky to witness the launch of the boat as it was going out to meet a Trinity House boat anchored up just outside the harbour.

This term we are aiming to gain our Science badge by taking part in some fun experiments. We will also concentrate on disability awareness and learn about being blind or losing a limb, taking part in games to see how difficult it is to live with a disability.

With our emphasis on fun, we are planning a Halloween and Christmas Party Night!

Cayote (Karen Southcott)



Scout Stop Press

Here are a few photos of the creations made by the Scouts using tins and packets of food etc. for display at the Harvest Festival Service. We decided to do this, rather than make animals from vegetables and fruits (as we had done before), since this approach means all the food stays packaged up and can be distributed to the needy around the parish. The Cubs made three traditional Harvest Wheat Sheaves which will also be displayed at the service.

Kevin Payne,
Group Scout Leader



Charmouth Explorer Scout Report

Walking. An almost obsolete hobby only continued by people who either have plenty of land or plenty of time. So, to prove it can be fun and enjoyable, the Charmouth Seagulls decided to walk. Not a particularly surprising thing for scout groups to do being, along with knots and high shocks, the general stereotype of every person with a scarf and toggle around their neck. But we did it anyway. However, a walk across Golden Cap or even Dartmoor could never fully show the true grandeur of the Charmouth Seagulls, so instead we walked the entire length of Dorset. That is the 110km that runs from Tollard Royal (on the Wiltshire border) all the way to Lyme Regis. We began this grand expedition on the 7th August and finally finished on 11th August.

Dorset is an odd county. That is what one learns when it is seen from one corner to the other; the natural beauty of both the rolling hills but also the footpaths we trod. This was made greater still by the companionship we all felt by being together all that time. It's incredible how close to someone you feel after spending over 100 hours with them. As each day went on we all grew much closer and the walk became that much more special because we were no longer walking for the sake of walking but walking together because we wanted to and that is what people are missing when they stay sitting at home. It may be warmer and drier (almost certainly drier) but you can't possibly feel the same compassion as those lucky few of us

who are laughing as we kick at the puddles on the uneven track.

So yes, we got wet and yes, we all got the occasional blister but none cared nor would care if we did it again. But that is what walking is about. It's about getting wet and having sore feet but always with others, always with people you like, always to have a good time. This is what Charmouth Seagulls is about. Exploring forgotten wonders with friends.

Sean Harvey Aged 16

Charmouth Explorer Scouts (Charmouth Seagulls) meet on Thursday evenings 5.15 – 6.45pm at the Youth Club Hall in Wesley Close. For further information contact Melanie Harvey 01297 560393 or melanie@atthecoast.co.uk



Collection of old coins and banknotes for Dorset and West Dorset District Scouts

We are asking for money you will not miss.

- FOREIGN COINS OR NOTES
- OLD BRITISH/IRISH CURRENCY
- FARTHINGS TO OLD 50 PENCE,
- OLD, OBSOLETE OR CURRENT CURRENCY
- LITERALLY ANYTHING THAT IS OR WAS ONCE MONEY SHOULD BE COLLECTED.

You can help without really having to put your hand in your pocket by simply sorting out any old foreign notes and coins

left over from holidays and business trips.

Any old British or Irish coins and notes can also help. Even old decimal coins or farthings, 1d pennies, three pence, six pence, shillings and crowns are welcome.

Seek out those old Spanish Pesetas, American Dollars, German Marks etc, literally anything, even obsolete currency can help. Foreign coins and small banknotes cannot be exchanged at any British bank or Bureau de Change.

So please take a moment to donate these coins and banknotes and Cash4Coins will buy it all and turn it into a useful donation for Dorset and West Dorset District Scouts.

Drop off point – 16, Double Common, Charmouth.

Many thanks,

Melanie Harvey, Explorer Scout Leader Charmouth Seagulls



Alan Buckingham Receives Royal Award

Rotarian Alan Buckingham was honoured for his voluntary work with the Abbeyfield Society over many years when, at a ceremony in his house in Charmouth on 20th July, he was presented with the Royal Patron's Award by Mr Douglas Webb, CEO of the Abbeyfield Society, on behalf of HRH The Prince of Wales. Prince Charles has been Patron to the Society for 38 years and has shown a keen interest in its aims and progress. Abbeyfield is a unique organisation insofar as it strives to provide supported living for older people in comfortable, family-style accommodation, freed up from the stresses of maintaining a house and garden, and with the added benefit of the provision of meals and companionship. Relieving loneliness in old age is a key aim of the society.

Speaking before presenting the award, Douglas praised Alan's hard work, foresight and dedication over more than 40 years serving the Society in a great number of roles both locally and nationally. Alan, now 90 years young, was

Chairman of Launceston Abbeyfield Society in the 1970s, becoming Regional Chairman for the Devon & Cornwall area between 1987 and 1998, a post which involved travelling to all of the Abbeyfield premises throughout the region. He then became a member of the Board of Directors of the Abbeyfield Society UK, rising to become National Vice Chairman, only recently resigning from all work with the Abbeyfield Society. Douglas emphasised that, during the time Alan was an active volunteer, there had been many changes in rules and regulations which affected the smooth and financially stable running of the Society's premises throughout the UK; challenges which, he said, Alan met with enthusiasm and pragmatism, mindful of the needs of staff and residents alike.

The certificate, signed by Prince Charles, reads:

"In grateful recognition of your outstanding and valued commitment to the care of older people, in particular for your enthusiasm in bringing people together, providing ongoing support and always making time for older people."

In reply, Alan said how proud he was to have served the society and hoped his efforts had not been in vain. He thanked his wife, Cynthia, for her help and unstinting backing throughout and noted that Cynthia had, herself, been Chair of the Abbeyfield Axminster Society for nine years when the couple moved to Dorset from Cornwall. Alan also said he shared this award with all of the many people with whom he had worked at Abbeyfield over the years.

In addition to his work with Abbeyfield, Alan has served in Rotary, being President of the Rotary Club of Launceston (1979/80) and the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis (2000/01). In addition, he served as Mayor of Launceston (1976-78). Cynthia was also Mayor of Launceston (1983-84) and Chair of the Association of Parish Councils, was a Past President of the Inner Wheel Club of Launceston and Lyme Regis and is a former President and currently a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Seaton. Cynthia is also a Past President of the Charmouth Branch of the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

John McCallum



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What's On

Monkton Wyld Court

Local Lunch - 1st Saturday & 3rd Wednesday every month

Enjoy and share the produce of Monkton Wyld Court whilst learning about sustainable living methods

Price: £8, £4 for 12s and under. PLEASE BOOK AHEAD

Arrive from 12:30pm, lunch served at 1pm, informal grounds tour at 2pm

Phone 01297 560342 or email info@monktonwyldcourt.org

Heritage Coast U3A talks and events – all at Woodmead Halls, Lyme Regis DT7 3PG.
Free (except Quiz) to U3A members; donation of £2 suggested for non-members.
Contact: Mary Bohane, 01297-444566



Friday 10th November. 10.00 am

Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker Sir David Ratford, K.C.M.G., C.V.O.

The AGM will be held first: hear a summary of the year's activities ranging across the many groups, monthly talks, trips and visits; learn of the (good) state of the U3A's finances; ask questions, make suggestions, and elect (or change) the committee.

During the coffee break at 10.30, members can book tickets for the Christmas Quiz on Friday 8th December.

At 11.00, hear from Sir David Ratford, whose fascinating and distinguished career as a diplomat covered British Embassies in Prague, Mogadishu, Moscow (twice), Paris and Copenhagen before becoming UK Ambassador to Norway between 1990 and 1994. His times in Moscow took in extraordinary events: the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia; the expulsion from London of 105 KGB officers and tit-for-tat expulsions from the British Embassy; the death of Brezhnev; the first months of Gorbachev; the shooting down of Korean Airlines flight No. 007; and the 'exfiltration' of the KGB double agent, Oleg Gordievsky. All that should have prepared him well for Lyme and Charmouth

Friday 8th December. 11.00am - 3.00pm (doors open 10.30am)
'Universally Challenged': the U3A Christmas Quiz

Woodmead Halls will once again rock with laughter and shudder with racked brains with Quizmaster John Bartholomew.

The quiz is for U3A members only, with participation strictly by pre-booked ticket. Tickets will first be available at the AGM on Friday 10th November. Any spaces left after the AGM will be offered through the Members' Newsletter. The last day for booking tickets will be Tuesday 5th December.

There will be 18 tables with 6 people on each. You can book individually, joining a table with other members (this can be a very social occasion) or for a team of 6. If acting for a team, bookings will be taken only if you have the names of all members of that team with you at the time of booking: no exceptions will be made!

Payment of £4.00 per person is made on arrival, with ticket, at the quiz, not at time of booking. Be aware that parking in Woodmead Halls car park costs £1.00 per hour if you don't have a Resident's Permit.

A snack-with-wine-or-soft-drinks will be served at lunchtime: vegetarian food will be available if noted at booking. Please bring your own food if you have other dietary needs.

Friday 12th January. 11.00am talk; coffee 10.00am - 10.40am
Bee Aware. Illustrated talk from Brigit Strawbridge.

Brigit will introduce the fascinating and often hidden world of bees. She is an amateur naturalist, wildlife gardener and bee enthusiast who writes, speaks and campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of our native wild bees and the reasons for their decline. She will explain the differences between honeybees, bumblebees and solitary bees, describing their lifecycles, behaviour and the roles different species play in pollinating different flowering plants. She will also speak about the problems they all face and, crucially, tell us what we can do to help.

A social gathering, with refreshment, will follow the talk to bring further cheer to January.

Friday 9th February. 10.00am. Social meeting with coffee.

An opportunity to chat with other members and to talk to representatives of the activity groups. You can join new groups or consider starting your own. The committee members and many group leaders will be there. Bring your friends! At 10.00am there's a special welcome for new(ish) members who've joined in the previous 12 - 18 months.



The QUIZ WITH A DIFFERENCE is back on FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER.

Charmouth Central will be holding another funfilled interactive quiz for you to puzzle, laugh, sniff and taste your way through!

The venue is St Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane. Doors open at 7pm, our Question Master will begin promptly at 7.30pm.

There will be a bar all evening and a sandwich supper provided at around 8.30pm.

Tickets are £8 each, and will be on sale at Charmouth Central during opening hours from Wednesday 1st November.

There will be a maximum of ten tables with teams of six people. Individual ticket holders will be put in teams on the night.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



On SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER from 1pm until 3pm, we will be holding a themed table top sale at Charmouth Central. Our brief is, Bags, Belts and Beads, (general jewellery included, just, 'beads' worked for the tag line) the cost for the table is £5.

Please contact Jane Clifford on 01297 560879 to book a table.

If this is successful we hope to run more sales in the New Year.

Charmouth Central opening times are: 2pm until 5pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday,

10am until 1am Thursday and Friday, 10.30am until 12.30pm on Saturday.

Charmouth Central... your friendly Community Library.

Jane Clifford

TWINNING ANNUAL CHICAGO BRIDGE AFTERNOON

Saturday 13th January

2pm, Village Hall

Tickets/info from Peter Bonner
560251 or 561317

Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers

We Remember

Frances Margaret Carter

1931- 2017

Margaret was born in Stratford upon Avon, an only child with an enduring love of books and an aptitude for sport. She won a scholarship to Warwick High School for girls



cycling the 15 miles there every day. She took part in all the sports and represented her school many times. That love of sport remained throughout her life, becoming an accomplished golfer and superb tennis player while she lived in India. When she and David retired, they took up bowls, and Margaret went on to represent the County of Dorset, travelling all over southern England to attend matches.

Margaret met David in 1949 when they both worked for the same company in Stratford. David took up a position in Madras, India and they continued to correspond for many months before he realised he could not live without her and proposed marriage. In the September of 1953, at the age of 22, Margaret embarked on a three-week long sea voyage to Bombay with only a suitcase with her wedding dress in it. Many times, she had been asked how she could be so sure David would be waiting for her and she said to her family, that she never had any doubt that he would be there because they loved each other. Within a few days of docking at Bombay, struggling to cope with the stifling heat, a whole new culture, different food and unfamiliar people, she was married to David Carter in St Mary's Church, Fort St George, Madras and the rest, as they say, is history.

I cannot begin to tell you of the long and happy married life and adventures they shared. I will just say that my mother loved her family unconditionally, she valued her friendships, took pleasure from her garden and was in awe of the extraordinary beauty that surrounded her here in Dorset.

She saw God in the natural world and said she felt closest to Him with His creation all around her. She had a deep and personal relationship with Christ as Her Saviour and I have no doubt that she is at peace in his arms now.

Helen Goff

Rebecca Loader MCSP

Chartered Physiotherapist
Registered with the Health Professions Council

Waddington House,
The Street, Charmouth,
Dorset DT6 6QE

Tel: 01297 561425

Email: rebeccaloaderphysio@outlook.com



Member of The Organisation of Chartered Physiotherapists in Private Practice

Jurassic Art & Craft Fayre Charmouth

Sat 25th and Sun 26th November
10.30 am - 4.30 pm

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(01297 560772)

Charmouth and Bridport Pop & Rock Choir together with Lyme Regis Golf Club Choir

Christmas Variety Concert

Musical Director: Edward Jacobs

Monday 18th December 2017 at St Andrew's Church, Charmouth

Tickets £7 (including a drink) and will be available after
27th November from the Charmouth branch of Fortnam Smith and
Banwell

or by contacting Jan Coleman on (01297) 561625.

Doors will open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Refreshments will be available.

Come along for an evening of enjoyable musical variety

"This year's performance will support local charities"

Knit and natter

invite you to join them for a cup of
coffee and 'natter'

ON SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER IN THE
VILLAGE HALL

10.00 – 12.00

Raising money to buy wool.

Tombola
Christmas raffle
Cakes

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Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Badminton Club (experience required)	Mon 8.00 – 10.00pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Trish Evans 442136
Badminton (social)	Tues 7.00 – 10.00pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Russell Telfer 560806
Beachcombers Café	Mon 10.00 – 12.00am	Hollands Room, Bridge Road	Alison McTrustery 07789 165570
Beavers (ages 6-7)	Mondays 5.30 – 6.45pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Karen Southcott 01297 489191
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 – 6.00pm (term-time only)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Caroline Davis 560207
Bridge Club (partners can be provided)	Thurs 7.00 – 10.30pm	Wood Farm (opposite swimming pool)	Vincent Pielez 560738
Charmouth Local History Society	Most Mondays 2-4pm or by appointment.	The Elms, The Street	Richard Dunn 560646
Cherubs (Mums & Toddler Group)	Wed 9.30 – 11.30am (term-time only)	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Vicki Whatmore 561315
Cubs (ages 8-10.5)	Thurs 5.00 – 6.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Kevin Payne 07976 534517
Explorer Scouts (ages 14-18)	Thursday 5.15 – 6.45pm	The Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	Melanie Harvey 01297 560393
Gardeners	2nd Wed each month-winter; two outings-summer	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Penny Rose 561076
Girl Guides (ages 10 onwards)	Wed 7-8.45pm (term-time only)	Wooton Fitzpaine	Davina Pennells 560965
Junior Rangers Club (ages 8-12)	2nd Saturday each month 10.30-12noon	Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre	Alison Ferris 560772
Knit and Natter group	Thursday 2 – 4pm	St. Andrew's Community Hall	Jan Coleman 561625
Library Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s)	Monday 9.30 - 10am in term time	Library, The Street	Mandy Harvey 01297 560167
Line Dancing	Tuesday afternoons from 2.00-3.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Andrea Harfield 01297 561083
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	Elaine Phillips 07584 495053.
Scouts (ages 10.5-14)	Thurs 7.00 – 8.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Kevin Payne 07976 534517
Steiner Kindergarten (ages 3-6)	Mon to Thurs (term-time only) 9.00am – 12.30pm	Monkton Wyld Court	Charlotte Plummer 560342
Tea and Chat	1st & 3rd Monday each month 3.00 – 4.15pm	Charmouth Central	Felicity Horton 07736 825283
Wyld Morris dancing practice	Wed 7.15pm	Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court	Briony Blair 489546
Whist Evening	2nd & 4th Mon each month 7.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Eileen Lugg 560675
Whitchurch WI	2nd Tuesday each month - 2.30pm	Village Hall, Whitchurch	Pat Veal (01297 560544)

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
	PCSO Luke White 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, 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	Mr Yang, 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
	The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442232
CHURCHES	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Rev Stephen Skinner	01297 443763
CHARMOUTH HALLS	Village Hall, bookings Gill Savage	01297 560615
	St Andrew's Community Hall, bookings Leslie Bowditch	01297 560572
BEFRIENDING	Charmouth	07736 825283
COUNCILS		
CHARMOUTH PARISH	Chairman — Peter Noel	01297 561017
	Clerk — Mrs L Tuck, The Elms, St Andrew's Drive, Charmouth	01297 560826
	Heritage Coast Centre, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560772
	Beach Attendant, Charmouth Beach	01297 560626
W. DORSET DISTRICT	Councillor — Daryl Turner – d.w.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk	01297 443591
	Councillor — Mr George Symonds – Clrg-symonds@westdorset-dc-gov-net	
	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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