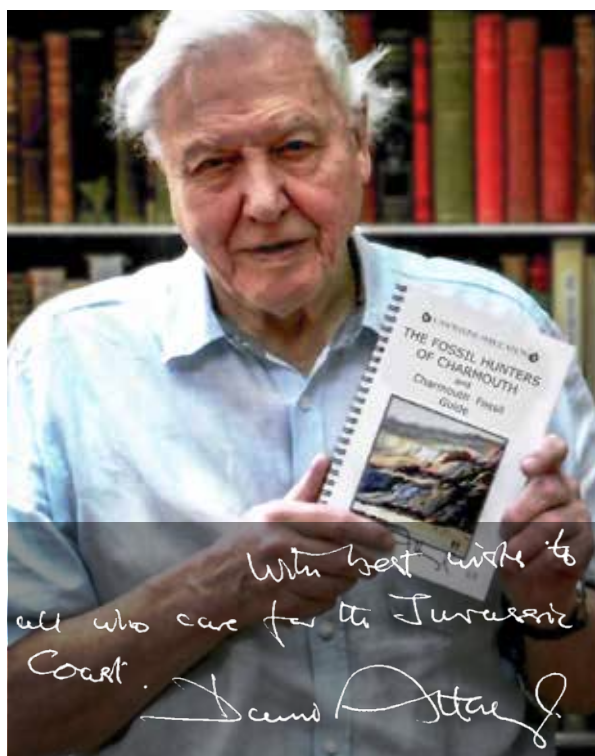
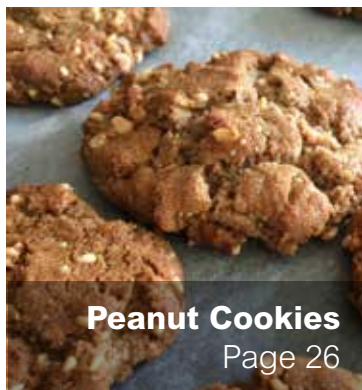


The Building Known as...

Page 20



Charmouth Stores



The village store that has it all



Chilled Food	Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	Craft Beer
Freshly Baked Bread	Confectionery	Baking Ingredients
Cigarettes and Tobacco	Soft Drinks	Great Wine Selection
Frozen Food	Spirits	E-cigarettes
Lottery	Open until 9pm	Cash Machine
Herbs and Spices	Household Products	Local & National Ales
Cakes and Biscuits	Charcoal	Scratchcards
Logs and Kindling Wood	Groceries	Gluten Free Section
Hot Pies and Pasties	Chilled Wine, Beer and Cider	Medicines
Local Products	Seasonal Products	Fresh Flowers
Contactless Payments	Friendly Staff	Ice Cream
Independent	Batteries	Free Delivery Service
Greetings Cards	LOTS OF OFFERS	Crisps, Nuts and Snacks
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Editorial

Embrace your life journey with gratitude so that how you travel along your path is more important than reaching your ultimate destination.

Rosalene Glickman

Welcome to the 10th Anniversary issue of Shoreline. As I sit here in reflective mood, I'm feeling a range of emotions: immense pride that the magazine has reached this milestone and has gone from strength to strength, from a slimline 12 pages in 2008 to the whopping 52 of this issue; thankful for the privilege of working with such a loyal, hardworking and talented team as Lesley, John and Neil – we have developed a creative shorthand that just makes the whole production really enjoyable and fun; and so touched by all the wonderful tributes throughout these pages from readers, contributors and advertisers.

I would sincerely like to thank everyone, who, over the years, has submitted articles which have informed, entertained and educated us on such a wide variety of subjects: amusing, poignant,

provocative, we've loved them all. Please keep them coming!

The magazine would simply not exist without the continued support of local advertisers, our silent partners, who have enabled us to grow the magazine into the hefty publication that it is today. Please show your gratitude to them by using the shops, the cafes, the pubs and the many other services which help to keep our unique village vibrant and alive – it is now even more important with the proliferation of often empty second homes in Charmouth.

Lesley is a superb writer and her article 'The First 10 Years of Shoreline', on page 8 brilliantly chronicles the evolution of the magazine over the past decade, whilst acknowledging the dedication of friends and colleagues who helped make my mad idea a reality all those years ago.

So, dear reader, thank you very much for all the lovely comments and positive feedback over the years, they have been an inspiration to us all.

Jane

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

THE SHORELINE TEAM

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Editor

Lesley Dunlop
Assistant Editor, Features and Diary

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John Kennedy
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The Moorings, Higher Sea Lane,
Charmouth, DT6 6BD**



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



We are so pleased you've reached a monumental 10th Birthday and you and the team deserve a BIG THANK YOU for such a great magazine, which is a brilliant source of local news, information and articles of interest to all who live here...and those that don't!

Sheila Gilbey, Abbots House

Deadline and Issue Dates for Shoreline 2018

SUMMER ISSUE – deadline 18th June, in the shops 16th July.

AUTUMN / WINTER ISSUE – deadline 5th November, in the shops 1st December.

Charmouth Events

Last July the Charmouth Events Committee was formed and we have overseen three successful events and only one cancellation. The August Party in the Park, Firework night and the Christmas Fayre all went well, though the New Year's Eve fireworks had to be cancelled due to the weather. Several local organisations received donations in October as we made money at the three successful events.

THIS YEAR WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING FIVE EVENTS:

- Sunday 27th May** – Party in the Park
- Sunday 26th August** – Party in the Park
- Saturday 3rd November** – Fireworks at the beach
- Thursday 6th December** – Christmas Fayre



Monday 31st December – New Year's Eve Fireworks

As ever, we would be grateful for volunteers to help at the events so keep a note of these dates.

A surprising amount of work is going on in the background as we prepare for this year's events, including getting new barbeques made, selecting and booking bands, improving lighting and signage at the Parties in the Park, auditing the Fayre hut contents, sourcing a better firework supplier and reviewing power needs and safety issues.

We are always interested in ideas for new events and we are currently looking at whether an occasional pop-up cinema would be worthwhile. Now all we need is fine weather!

Phil Tritton



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

Parish Council News

As an update on the autumn report, unfortunately the idea of implementing a Dog Control Order has had to be abandoned due to the lack of powers by Parish Councils in this area when investigated further.

Before Christmas, information was received about the cuts to local bus services, in particular the Route X31 and X53 services. On behalf of the local community, the Parish Council wrote to the General Manager of First Wessex and received the following response:

"Routes 31 and X53 were financially supported by Devon and Dorset Councils by almost £0.5m per annum. Today this is no longer the case, we do not receive any money except for customers travelling. By the nature of the community we serve, between 40 and 50% of the customers that use this service are concessionary travellers. First Wessex also receives one of the lowest reimbursement rates for concessionary travel in the country from Dorset County Council. The County do not do anything wrong; they comply with the Government formula. It unfortunately means that we get less than £1 per journey for almost half of

the customers on the route. As a result the service does not make a profit. Nationally passengers using public transport have been falling mainly due to changes in shopping habits, so with both of these factors we have had to make changes to the timetable to reflect that.

What can be done to improve this situation? I suppose the immediate answer is to provide some financial support. As from Sunday 19 November 2017, the Sunday service is also withdrawn for the winter. The cost of providing the Sunday service for the winter is approximately £13,500, we would generate almost £6000 in revenue which leaves a shortfall of £7500 per annum. This would provide a two-hourly service between Bridport and Axminster with one bus."

The Parish Council does financially support the Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service which could be used as an alternative by some residents. Details of the service can be found on the Dorset For You website <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/travel-dorset/bus/community-transport/accessible-transport/axe-valley-and-west-dorset-ring-and-ride> or

by calling (01404) 46520.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Community Hall. It is hoped that this year's topical speakers will be Charmouth Bowling Club, Changing Spaces from St Andrew's Church, and Charmouth Primary School. This meeting is not a Council meeting, it is the Annual Meeting of the Parish which is facilitated by the Council. It has historically always been well attended, which shows the strong sense of community spirit in Charmouth, and so we look forward to seeing you again in April!

Finally, the Parish Council is still short of Councillors and the number needed unfortunately seems to be increasing, rather than decreasing. If you are at all interested in bringing your skills to serve the community on the Council, we would love to hear from you. Please keep a lookout for some new, eye-catching recruitment posters coming soon!

Charmouth Parish Council



Charmouth Traders

Now that the Charmouth Events Committee have taken over responsibility for the events the Traders updates will be shorter than usual.

The Traders still provide the funds for the Christmas trees and lights in The Street, much of which is covered by sales of The Charmouth Calendar. The Christmas 2017 lights and trees looked good except for several of the lamp post displays which now need replacing.

Most of the 2018 Charmouth Calendars were sold, encouraging the Traders to produce a 2019 edition which will be the sixth one. At the time of writing 26 local photographers had submitted 220 photographs with a week to go before the deadline. Many of these were of Charmouth's snow scenes and a special 'Charmouth in the snow' section is planned for inclusion. We are looking at an increase in the print run as we need to sell even more this year to cover the cost of new lamp post displays. A very big thank you to all the photographers who have taken the time to submit photographs.

Charmouth Traders have made a donation to enable hardy fuschias and evergreen shrubs to be planted at the foreshore. We will consider any village initiatives – just email phil.tritton@gmail.com with details.

Phil Tritton



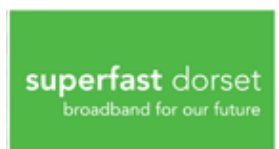
Superfast Fibre Broadband Available in Charmouth

Residents and businesses in Charmouth can now switch to faster, more reliable broadband. Following further work by Openreach, properties across the whole village are now able to access superfast fibre broadband. Switching to a fibre service means:

- Everyone in your home can be online at the same time
- Download films and watch services such as BBC iPlayer and Netflix without annoying buffering
- Keep in touch with friends and family with video calling
- Work from home with a faster, more reliable internet connection

Your speeds won't improve automatically. You must contact an internet provider and ask to switch to fibre broadband to enjoy the faster speeds. Fibre can cost the same or even less than standard broadband. If your provider isn't offering fibre or is looking to charge more, you may want to haggle or shop around for the best deals. For more information about superfast fibre broadband visit www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast

Colin Wood
Marketing & Communications
Officer
Superfast Dorset



Letters

'ATTENBOROUGH AND THE SEA DRAGON'

As a former resident of Uplyme, I was interested in the television film 'Attenborough and the Sea Dragon'. However, as a fossil collector for many years, the programme gave a false impression. IT IS NOT ALRIGHT TO DIG IN THE CLIFFS. Also, the paddle found by Chris Moore was on the beach. On the beach is best and SAFE. This is where all the legendary fossil hunters looked. I also thought the film should have included more about Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and those involved in day-to-day contact with us – the important public and visitors.

Shoreline is a very important 'spokesmagazine' for Charmouth. Its contents reflect the wonders of the World Heritage Coast, including its geology, fossils, nature and history; all that's good and natural. The magazine is bxxxxx brilliant and a great read!

Paul Raymer, Swanage

AMAZING COMMUNITY

I am writing on behalf of the Knit and Natter group that meets each week in St. Andrew's Community Hall Club Room. We held a coffee morning in November and would like to thank all those who came and supported us, enabling us to raise £442. On that same morning Luke Bearpark raised £600 for Children in Need by selling cakes. What an amazing community we live in, that contributes over £1,000 to support charity events in one morning. Fantastic and thank you.

Jan Coleman

Lifeboat Week 2018 is coming!

Members of the committee of the Lyme Regis and Charmouth RNLI Guild have already drawn up a provisional programme for the week which this year runs from 28th July to 3rd August.

And already confirmed for a return visit are the Red Devils, the British Army's official parachute display team. They will be 'dropping in' during the afternoon of 2nd August.

The Guild – the local fundraising branch of the RNLI charity – is holding its annual meeting on 11th April at 7.30pm at the Lyme Regis lifeboat station. The guest speaker is a long-serving lifeboat crew member, Elliott Herbert, who is also a full time Senior Assessor Trainer with the RNLI. New members of the Guild are welcome to attend the meeting.

RNLI Flag Day this year is on 2nd June when volunteer collectors will be on duty in Lyme Regis and Charmouth.

Clare Evans



Lifeboats

The Immediate Future of Charmouth Post Office

There have been so many unconfirmed comments and rumours locally, that I find it necessary to tell you the situation as it is at the time of this publication. There are some points to note:

Firstly: Charmouth Post Office is not a directly managed Post Office. We are not employed by Post Office Ltd. I perform my tasks as a self-employed sub-postmaster appointed as an agent by Post Office Ltd. Over 95% of British Post Offices are run in this way.

Secondly: Post Office Ltd. cannot close Charmouth Post Office whilst I am sub-postmaster, without an agreement with me. A petition to Post Office Ltd. will have no effect on any outcome which may develop.

Thirdly: Post Office Ltd. is under instruction from Her Majesty's Government to maintain the current level of Post Offices.

The plan:

Charmouth Post Office has been earmarked for change under the Post Office Network Transformation plan for over five years. We have been looking for a new sub-postmaster since 2013. There are some 600 Post Offices in UK in a similar position to the one in Charmouth. I am now well past normal retirement and I want to enjoy what is left of my years, and not to spend it tied to the PO counter.

The preferred option for the Post Office is for it to be incorporated into another site in Charmouth. This is the way that Post Office Ltd. want their Post Offices to operate. It is



also my preferred option, as the days of a 'traditional' type of Post Office are numbered. I am pleased to say that, at the time of this publication, discussions are in place with Post Office Ltd. to effect this change, but there may not be any agreement reached. However, a licence to run a Post Office is dependent upon PO Ltd. approval in several ways. Personal competence, solvency, a future plan, and premises security and access are just a cross section of requirements that need to be accepted. If the Post Office is to move to another premises, the Government have defined a staged process which must be adhered to by PO Ltd. So it is not a simple process. The Post Office cannot close on Saturday and begin somewhere else on Monday without approval, and this must be after all systems have been installed and verified under compliance checks by PO Ltd.

The reality:

The transfer of the Post Office is dependent upon several factors and we await developments with interest. We cannot wait forever, but provided there is agreement from all parties concerned, we will continue as we are for the short term only, but the solution must be reasonably expedient. If

not then Charmouth Post Office will close. Charmouth Post Office is 224 years old, Bridport 225 years. We hope that a Post Office is here in another 100 years, but times and activities do change in our, some may say, 'new and better environment'.

I feel we have done all in our power to allow the survival of our Post Office and it will be with great regret if we have to close, but it may happen.

Steve Pile, Sub Postmaster, Charmouth Post Office

Charmouth 2017 Weather

In weather terms, Charmouth is a bit of a Goldilocks. Dominated by south westerly winds and the relatively warm English Channel and the ocean beyond, it never seems to get too hot or too cold. While the rest of the country either freezes or swelters we usually seem to settle for 'comfortable' weather.



The exception to this is the storms we experience from time to time. I don't know if the mighty south westerly gales are stronger here than inland but their impact seems to be amplified by the sight of huge waves crashing into the cliffs or over the Heritage Centre. This is perhaps balanced by the calmer weather when the frequent mists shroud the top of Stonebarrow.

Whatever the causes of the weather, Charmouth residents certainly seem to be more aware than most of its effect on our daily lives.

Bill Burn

CHARMOUTH WEATHER STATISTICS 2017

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
"Av Temp °C"	5	7	9	9	13	16	17	16	14	13	8	7
"Max °C"	12	15	16	17	23	28	27	23	20	18	15	14
"Min °C"	-3	-1	0	-1	4	8	9	8	4	3	-1	-2
"Rain mm"	48	60	66	52	42	71	55	47	55	66	68	58
Wind Gust mph	30	38	41	32	26	44	34	29	34	41	42	36

	2017	For comparison: 2016
Hottest Day:	28.4°C (20th June)	26.2°C (19th July)
Coldest Day:	-2.7°C (3rd Jan)	-3.1°C (16th Feb)
Wettest Day:	27 mm (19th Oct)	37 mm (22nd Nov)
Windiest gust:	44 mph (5th June)	53 mph (28th Mar)
Total rainfall 2017:	770mm (30 in)	672mm (26 in)



Before moving to Charmouth we came across Shoreline and thought that it reflected a thriving village, a rich history and a friendly community. We were not wrong.

Bill & Diana Burn

Charmouth Parking Refund Scheme

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



Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers

Charmouth Conservatives

We are delighted that although some of our local members are just plain wrong on Brexit issues, none have taken to Shoreline to indulge in a bout of backstabbing to further their views, or their prospects of higher office in the local Branch. The officers are, as you would expect, ever vigilant to fight off any upstarts who might wish to attain these positions of power and privilege!

For example, our AGM is on 23rd April in The Elms at 10.30. Two days later, Chairman Peter is holding his annual 'Bit of a Do.' (Bacon Butties or Danish pastries, Coffee or Prosecco. (It is £7.50, I heard you ask.) You will recognise that this is just a ploy to make it harder for any new Chairman to usurp his position, as they would have no time to organise their event. Peter's tickets are available now, from committee members Maralyn (560402), Helen (560487) and Jan (560730). Obviously the committee are united in seeking to avoid a change of leader. However, if you are interested in local democracy and wish to attend, let me know and I will save you a seat.

In a bold attempt to ensure that we continue to have slightly more members than Lyme Regis Branch, we are holding a 'Meet the Conservatives' evening (drinks and nibbles at no charge, but donations will not be refused) on Friday 6th April from 6.30p.m. at Maralyn and Malcolm Hinxman's home. We will be inviting people who have moved to Charmouth in the last couple of years, but if you would like to gatecrash, you will be made very welcome. Ring Maralyn for details.

Our final event this quarter will be our ever-popular gamble on the English summer weather, i.e. The Barbecue. Last year 57 attended. We will be timing the event carefully to avoid clashes with any UK interest. We considered that Finals Day should be very safe, but thought that would be rather cynical. It is likely to be mid-June.

Bob Hughes *Treasurer*

Views expressed are not necessarily shared by any other committee member. Many would welcome with open arms new members, new committee members, new officers and particularly someone to write Shoreline articles.

Charmouth Village People

Over the last few months Charmouth Village People have been busy, as always. Our memory group has rebranded into the magically named Kaleidoscope. This reflects our new, eclectic, fun activities on offer. Kaleidoscope is where we get together to share memories, listen to musical and dramatic reading performances and more, in Charmouth Library on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month, 2-4pm.

Amanda Baber, *Secretary*



News from St. Andrew's Church



Over the many years that I have contributed to Shoreline I have provided Charmouth with regular updates on our progress, with the restoration and improvements to our building and its facilities. It seems to me that we have made frustratingly slow progress on the overall (but very expensive) 'master plan' – I expect you feel the same! However it is important to record the progress over the past few years: the aisle roofs have been fully repaired; many of the side pews removed, with new stone flooring; a new boiler installed; dry rot in the rear overcome, with a new toilet and kitchen; and improved drainage outside the west end of the building. This has cost us tens of thousands of pounds, through grants and many fund raising events. So I want to thank everyone who has been involved in these challenging projects.

Many of you will already know that we were unsuccessful in our grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, HLF have encouraged us to submit another bid, for the deadline of 1st June. They tell us that we have a redevelopment programme that is worthy of support – but that further work to raise our application from 'good' to 'outstanding' is required. Competition for decreasing amounts of grant-aid is stiffer than ever. So, the Changing Spaces team have agreed to work hard to submit another bid, with the help of our professional advisers. The bid will be somewhat simpler than our previous application, and address HLF concerns that our longer term programme of building repairs and redevelopment, heritage and community activities, is really sustainable.

Meanwhile, with our other grant from Erskine Mutton, we aim to remove the remainder of the side pews, and install a new front door and entrance area. We aim to mount more exhibitions of art and local history. We want to run more concerts of both popular and classical performances. We will build on the great success of the first Lunchtime Concert on 27th February, and the memorable 'Elvis' Concert of 10th March. We would like to hold lectures in St. Andrew's – for we believe we have an excellent facility, capable of seating a large number of locals and visitors. Many thanks to the energy and talents of our Changing Spaces team for organising these so well.

Meanwhile, the main purpose of our church – to hold regular Services of worship – continues! Our winter congregations have been encouragingly large, thanks not only to our loyal regulars, but also our more regular 'second home' visitors. We hold 9.30am Communion Services on the first and third Sundays each month, with a Songs of Praise on the second Sundays, and Charmouth Praise on the fourth Sundays. On fifth Sundays we now hold a joint Service with Charmouth Free Church. Our Easter/Holy Week Services are held in conjunction with the rest of our Golden Cap Team – more information on our website, posters, flyers, and our own Golden Cap Magazine.

Finally, our very popular FreeXchange Cafes continue in 2018 on a quarterly basis – the next one being Saturday 7th April, from 10am. Volunteers to help would be very welcome!

Revd Stephen Skinner,
Team Rector of the Golden Cap Churches.
www.goldencapteamofchurches.org.uk



First Charmouth Lunchtime Concert Deemed a Success

The Changing Spaces team and St Andrew's PCC arranged this experimental concert to find out whether a series of lunchtime classical concerts, along the lines of the Axminster lunchtime concerts, would be welcomed within Charmouth. As part of the ongoing process of applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) award for St Andrew's, the HLF have advised that one of the criteria they judge bids by is that events held should be sustainable in the future, beyond the initial expenditure of any funding awarded.

The first concert was performed on 27th February at St Andrew's Church by a string quartet comprising: Dave Cook (from Swanage), violin/recorder; Liz Sansom (from Charmouth), violin; Liz Knight (from Poole), viola; and Helen Senior (from Poole), cello.

The programme comprised:

- 1) Corelli - 'Concerto Grosso' op.6 no.8
- 2) Loeillet - Movement from Recorder sonata in A minor
- 3) Haydn - 2 movements from string quartet op.76 no.3
- 4) Elgar - 'Chanson de Matin'
- 5) Bernstein - 'One hand, one heart'

On what, at the time of writing, was the coldest day of the winter, an audience of 67 appreciated the way the acoustics of St Andrew's complemented the music in a unique way. They also appreciated the hot drinks and refreshments provided by Mary and Malcolm McNair – many thanks. The feedback received after the concert was very encouraging and strongly suggested that this was an event which could support the HLF's criterion that events held should be sustainable.

Thanks are due to the PCC, the Changing Spaces team, the musicians and all those who formed the audience. We all hope that this concert will prove to have been the first of many others to be held in the future. Any reader who may have suggestions or contacts for possible future performers should email liz@elizabethsansom.co.uk with details.

Roger Sansom

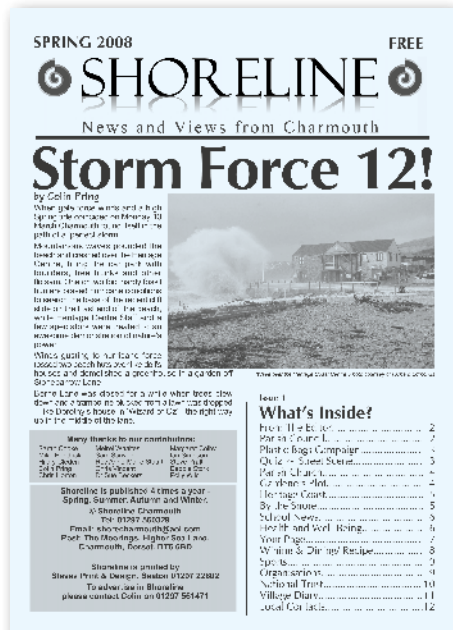


CHANGING SPACES

On Saturday 10th March, 70 people rocked in the aisles to the amazing sound of Elvis tribute act Johnny King, who once again, very generously gave his services free of charge, enabling us to raise over £700 which will go towards expenses incurred with our HLF bid. A big thank you to Johnny and to all who supported the event.

Helen Hughes

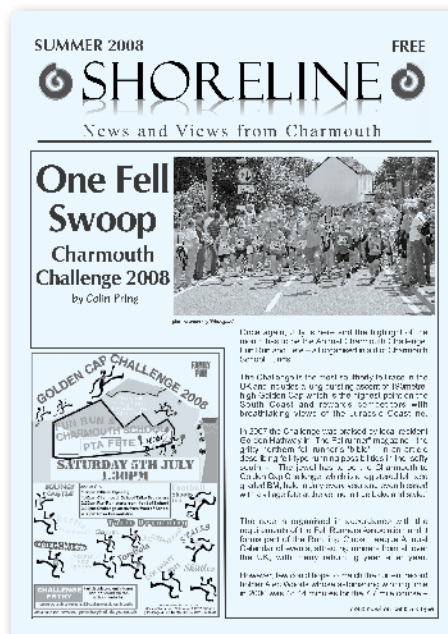
I distinctly remember my pleasant surprise when Shoreline first came through our letter box in spring 2008. New to permanent life in this lovely village, I was surrounded by packing boxes and Bob was still working. We had pondered what this new chapter in our lives would bring... when, three days later, it brought a force 12 gale. Horrifying in its intensity, it caused damage throughout the village. The sea front and beach were piled with debris hurled by an angry sea, two beach huts were upended, a greenhouse was destroyed and a trampoline in a garden was uplifted and blown into the road, right side up. A perfect storm indeed. And a perfect headline too: 'Storm Force 12!'. Shoreline had come in like a lion.



The magazine was masterminded by the then-Charmouth Parish Councillor Jane Morrow, a pro-active and energetic individual who had been overwhelmed by the sheer diversity of clubs, societies and organisations in the village as she gathered information for Charmouth's entry into the Dorset Best Community Village. After enjoying the local magazine in her native Hurley in Berkshire, she devised a plan of action to edit a new magazine and put into print the 'richness and diversity' she had uncovered in Charmouth. First on her team was the multi-talented and hard-working Sarah Cooke, who Jane met at a craft fair. While Jane liaised with local groups and societies and developed a 'look' for Shoreline, her apt title, Sarah delved into formatting and created a 'face' for the magazine. Colin Pring agreed to become Treasurer, his third such role in the village at the time. Enthusiastic and creative, he also compiled the contacts page, handled advertising - upon which Shoreline would rely for funding - and wrote about the storm for the first headline article. Polly Wild

edited the Village Diary, while Tim Heap devised the Shoreline ammonite logo, solved numerous IT issues and, in time, set up <https://charmouth.org/> for the Charmouth Traders Association, village - and Shoreline - use. Caroline Harrison of The Diary advised Jane about the layout and design of the first issue. And so Shoreline was born.

The magazine's first incarnation was as a 12-pager on coloured paper, with black print. Initially distributed through letter boxes free of charge, a notice inside invited villagers to subscribe to what would be a quarterly magazine. The first issue was, as Jane then described, a 'slimline version' of what she hoped Shoreline would become. Amongst the main contributors were Charmouth School, the Parish Council, St. Andrew's Church, the White House, Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and Charmouth Gardeners. A topical article by the forward-thinking Sarah Cooke focused on the use of plastic bags, alerting readers to the dangers to wildlife, warning 'it won't be too long before a charge will be introduced on all plastic bags.' How right she was! Now, 10 years later, the dangers to wildlife have been fully acknowledged and shops charge for plastic bags. In the last few Shorelines, Eden Thomson has taken up the banner, keeping readers informed on the ongoing issue of plastic waste, particularly nurdles, which regularly wash up on the beach.



Duly impressed with the first issue, I called on Jane to offer an article on Michael Hendrick's Charmouth pottery business, which was active in the village between 1967 and 1993. His Charmouth pottery cottages had long fascinated me. Jane welcomed my musings and Shoreline's second issue marked the beginning of my contributions. The headline article on the Charmouth Fun Run was written by Colin. Already, the

magazine had almost doubled in size to 20 pages and proudly boasted 26 contributors. Its content had expanded to include weddings, christenings and obituaries, a kids' corner, Scout news, poems, a wildlife report and the flower show.

I was asked to join the team in early 2009 as feature writer and 'diary maid' and undertook a review for the spring issue of Charmouth's eight restaurants and eateries; yes eight, but only writing, not dining! The next big feature, in the autumn 2009 issue, was on Charmouth's fossil hunters. It spawned a Shoreline publication, 'Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters & Charmouth Fossil Guide' which is still being sold at the CHCC, and also a Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters evening in 2010 which was led by Richard Edmonds, Phil Davidson, Andy Cowap and Ray Jennings and attended by palaeontologists and villagers. I don't ever recall seeing the Village Hall as packed as it was on that night. It was followed two years later by a second and equally packed Meet the Charmouth Fossil Hunters II in the larger Community Hall. Sir Denys Bruntsden, David Sole, Richard Edmonds and Tony Flux gave insightful presentations and there were fossil exhibits from the collections of Pete Langham, Andy Cowap, Tony Gill, David Sole, Chris Moore, CHCC, Paddy Howe, Chris Andrew, Barney Hansford - courtesy of his granddaughter Davina, and Ray Jennings - courtesy of his daughter Cherry Barlow. Geoff Townson also exhibited a selection of his seascapes. The event became part of the Jurassic Coast Earth Festival 2012. The companion Shoreline publication 'Charmouth Through the Generations' came about through the collaboration of David and the late lamented Davina Hansford, who wished to put on record the historical facts of Barney Hansford's Fossil & Country Life Exhibition, which was located where Barney's Close is now. This publication is also available at the CHCC. Both booklets bring in small profits for Shoreline and CHCC.

By this time, Shoreline was well embedded in the village and space within its pages was actively sought by an ever-growing number of local groups and societies to alert others to their respective activities and needs. We benefitted then, as we still do, from brilliantly researched local history contributions from Neil Mattingly; witty, up-to-the-minute poems from Charmouth's own Poet Laureate, Peter Crowter; as well as valuable and practical health and healthy eating advice from Charmouth's own doctors, Sue & Martin Beckers.

In early 2012, pressures of work and family plus a move to Lyme Regis resulted in Sarah's departure from the



team. We all wondered who could take over her demanding role, when Bob Dunlop, my other half, immediately stepped into the breach, whilst I became Assistant Editor. With 15 years' international experience in printing and publishing, he introduced the eye-catching, part-colour, white paper version that you see today. He also initiated the cover page multi-photo assemblage that is still in use and formatted the first 52-page issue. Three issues later, and having taken Shoreline to the next level, Bob returned to his other local commitments and handed over to John Kennedy. John's strong background and expertise in graphic design and formatting, together with his creative skills and abilities, enabled him to take the reins in seamless style and he has since been enthusiastically formatting Shoreline and developing concepts for the 'look' of the magazine.

Shoreline and its close-knit team continued to sail along happily until Colin became very ill and could no longer continue. His sage advice, energy and capabilities were sorely missed. Another very difficult act to follow. In stepped retired airline pilot, Neil Charleton. Neil willingly took on the responsibility of advertising and treasurer, a task a world away from his high-flying career. He actively sought new advertisers and ensured that the needs of existing advertisers were met. His communication skills, and his adept and friendly handling of this key role is crucial to Shoreline, as the magazine's very existence depends upon the income from advertising.

The second 52-pager, formatted by John in autumn 2014, was a key issue. Our thanks go to Penny Rose, who kindly nominated Shoreline for the prestigious Dorset People's Project Award. We won, beating 18 other entrants across the county. A photo on the cover shows a delighted Jane with the award. We proudly carried the award logo on the front cover for two years; it is now sited

below Jane's editorial. The same issue carried an extensive World War I & II commemoration and a tribute to the fallen from Charmouth, to which military researcher Vernon Rattenbury kindly gave his time.

Now, in addition, we are fortunate to have valued geology articles by artist/geologist Geoff Townson; fascinating articles on marine creatures by Ros Cole; Richard Phillip's birding accounts; Geoffrey Sell's seasonal reports on butterflies and moths; and National Coastwatch Institution updates... to name just a few topics from our wonderful contributors. We have also run several competitions, with good support. Our Distant Shorelines section has resulted in the magazine being surreptitiously packed into suitcases and taken to the four corners of the earth. Thanks everyone and keep them coming! Then there's the name dropping: Sir David Attenborough has appeared within our pages, as has Sir Tony Robinson, Chris Packham, Penelope Keith... and, in this issue, Emeritus Professor Brian Fagan and Professor Iain Stewart. Penelope Keith was in Charmouth for the recent Village of the Year Competition. Jane worked hard to prepare material for Charmouth's entry and the village was featured on television. It was an eventual runner-up.



We don't have the space here to itemise all the village events that Shoreline has covered over the first 10 years; there are far, far too many. But here are a few that may evoke memories:

- The day a Navy Lynx helicopter made an emergency landing in the field by the beach and its subsequent dramatic airlift by an Army Chinook helicopter
- Hazel Robinson's valiant stand when Charmouth Library was threatened with closure

- The construction and inauguration of the new bridge over the River Char
- The uncovering of the Community Hall's 1910 centenary capsule and the grand opening of the extension
- The Diamond Jubilee Street Party in Lower Sea Lane, attended by 'royalty' (Pam Ladd and Mike Whatmore)
- The flooding of the River Char

If this article has encouraged a little nostalgia, every issue from the first to the latest may be viewed at https://charmouth.org/charmouth_village/shoreline-magazine/

True to Jane's hopes and thanks to her constant and vigilant nurturing, the dedicated early support of Sarah and Colin and the small handful of team members since, the magazine has grown like Topsy to become a consistently substantial read of 44+ pages.

It just remains for Jane, Neil, John and me to say a big, big thank you to all our loyal advertisers, without whom Shoreline would not survive; our willing and knowledgeable contributors, who are Shoreline's life blood; and Axminster Printing, for doing such a great job! Without you all, we would certainly be twiddling our thumbs! So it's onward and upward to the next decade!

Lesley Dunlop

P.S. Ten years on and the weather has gone full circle in terms of extremes. As I write, the village is picturesquely enveloped in white, snow is falling, it's -3°C and everything is at a standstill, except for the tobogganers on Stonebarrow Hill. The first decade hasn't quite gone out like a lamb!

10 YEARS As soon as I saw Shoreline when it was born I knew it was going to thrive and grow into the interesting, informative and enjoyable read it is today. The pages are packed with reports about people, the village and its activities, holidays, health, points of view and much more. Advertising is helpful if you're looking for any sort of provision or work to be done, and of course the diary is packed full of Charmouth's wide range of village activities for all ages. I am delighted to have my Charmouth Village People clubs mentioned regularly, with accounts of our activities. I would like to congratulate Jane, Lesley, Neil and John for putting the magazine together with such professional results both in print and online. We all look forward to the latest edition. Thank you all.

Janice Gale

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

The Shoreline Team - Present and Past

Jane Morrow

I studied Hotel and Catering Management at the now Oxford Brookes University and then managed two restaurants in the city before returning to the village of Hurley in Berkshire, where I grew up, to run the East Arms Hotel for several years. On a trip to Santa Barbara, California in 1979, I met my husband Bud and spent four idyllic years living on his sailboat, a 45 foot Block Island Cutter. We eventually came back to earth and moved to Montrose, Colorado, in the Rocky Mountains. We spent 20 wonderful years there, where I had a successful healing practice, offering Reiki, massage, reflexology and meditation classes.

In 2003, in order to be closer to my elderly parents, we left the US and settled in Charmouth. Within two years of being in the village I applied and was co-opted onto the Parish Council. In 2006, when a request from DCA to enter Charmouth into the Dorset Best Community Village Competition was passed around the Councillors, I agreed to pursue it. After much research, I completed the very comprehensive questionnaire and sent it in. To everyone's surprise and absolute delight, Charmouth was awarded first prize!

Buoyed by this success, the idea of a magazine similar to the 'Hurly Burly' in my native Hurley began to foment, despite the fact that I had absolutely no editing or publishing experience. A fortuitous meeting with the lovely Sarah Cooke at a craft fair in 2007, where I broached the crazy idea with her, was how Shoreline was born, and in the spring of 2008, the first issue, only 12 pages long, was delivered to every house in the village. The rest, as they say, is history.

Lesley Dunlop

It's an absolute pleasure to write for Shoreline. In doing so, I've met many interesting local people, all with stories worth telling. My main, 20-year career in London was with a foreign embassy, and researching and writing reports was an integral part of the work. Since then, I was in British government service and also enjoyed researching and writing articles for an international cinematography magazine. I edited and published a Watford local history book and am now writing a book that combines family and social history with several WWI and WWII military campaigns. Give me a pen (or a keyboard) and I'm happy. Happy too that Jane took me on as part of the Shoreline team. I like to think that Shoreline helps our lovely community and strengthens the community spirit for the benefit of all.

Neil Charleton

Born and bred in Northern Ireland, I went straight into flying training after leaving school and spent the next 38 years of my life as a commercial pilot. After a long and varied career flying everything from helicopters to Jumbo jets, I was finally forced into retirement following a medical issue in 2010. By then I was already living in Charmouth, having migrated further west during the final years of employment. Unable to simply sit at home twiddling my thumbs, I took a part-time job behind the bar in the George where I was approached one evening by Jane, our Editor, asking me to consider becoming Treasurer of Shoreline. Aware of the magazine since its beginnings, I accepted. It is a privilege to help on the magazine that has gone from strength to strength amongst both residents and visitors and might now be considered a Charmouth national treasure!

John Kennedy

I was born and grew up in South London and the one thing that I was good at was art. So with the guidance of a great art teacher and some hard work I managed to get to study typography and graphic design at Camberwell College of Art in London, which started my career in the advertising industry as an art director and senior designer. In the 1990s I became freelance, providing my own creative graphic design services.

In 2009, I was very lucky to have been able to move to Charmouth with my wife Jan, with plans of semi-retiring and taking it easy. We soon got to know Lesley and Bob well. I could see that Lesley was very passionate about her work on Shoreline. Then in a moment of madness I volunteered my skills to help with the magazine's design, layout and photography.

It can be hard work but it is nice to be part of the Shoreline team working on something that is worthwhile, informative, entertaining and liked by so many people.



Sarah Cooke

Well, well, well, was it really 10 years ago that Jane and I put our heads together for the first time to come up with this little publication? How time flies! At the time I was living in Charmouth and working as a teaching assistant at the school. A period in my life when I had time on my hands. Shoreline certainly put a stop to that! Without a moment's thought I was assistant editor and, soon after, typesetter for Shoreline magazine. Jane and I never knew how much of a success it would become and our first meagre pages of stories and village information very quickly became the mammoth volume it is today. Running Shoreline is no mean feat; once you've badgered people for stories, placed deadlines, found advertising and village events, the whole lot has to be edited and then fitted into the most complicated jigsaw of two-sided pages. Once everyone is happy and the final tweaks have been made, it's off to the printers. A few days later, the boxes of sweet-smelling magazines arrive back and the physical work begins – delivery! I'm not sure if the magazine is still being delivered to homes in and around Charmouth [yes it is... to paid subscribers] but I certainly lost some calories to them! A few weeks later and the whole process started again.

After leaving the village, I felt I should pass my role on to Lesley, who has done a sterling job and with

Jane and the team, continues to keep Shoreline as popular as ever. So here's to 10 years of Shoreline and many more years to come!

Bob Dunlop

After a degree in Topographic Science at the University of Glasgow, I was employed in international mapping which took me to Africa, Middle East, Far East, USA and Europe, as well as UK. This was followed by varied roles in international graphic arts, printing and publishing: product development, project management, marketing, sales/product support and consultancy. (This background enabled me to introduce new features and design changes to Shoreline in 2012: page layout, white paper, pages with colour.) Latterly, I provided management/consultancy in various UK sectors: heavy/light manufacturing, service industries, computer systems, oil, police, military, central and local government, followed by British government service in overseas finance and performance monitoring. During retirement in Charmouth I have undertaken various voluntary roles and I still hanker back to Topographic Science - Lesley and I visit topographic, geological and fossil sites worldwide, as well as returning to countries and people from our past.



Colin Pring

We moved to Charmouth in 2006 and, in typical newcomer fashion, Colin was full of energy for a new project. We had talked about him starting a small business; as a newly retired Local Government officer he still had plenty of energy. However, while trying to find out what was going on in Charmouth we soon realised there was no single source for a listing of local events. So, when the idea of a local magazine was suggested, Colin threw himself into helping with his usual energy, enthusiasm and can do attitude. He loved solving problems and finding out about new things, so never having done anything like this before, he set about helping to set up what was to become Shoreline with his usual gusto. Colin was a bit of a frustrated artist – he ended up in a rather technical field of work but had artistic leanings. I remember he spent a lot of time looking at different typefaces and logos for the front page of Shoreline. He approached everything with great precision – doing exhaustive research before he was satisfied. He had the ability to notice the smallest of details and the persistence to pursue things until he was happy with the results. He also had a keen interest in people and the ability to charm with his wit and humour.



Hilarie Pring



Shoreline has been a fantastic way of reaching out further than our regular library users. It has enabled us to document our successes, from the take-over from Dorset County Council to the completion of our building and renovation projects, and to advertise special events. It's been great for us. More importantly, the number and variety of articles highlight what a brilliant community we are, with a huge range of activities and events, almost always open to all. Looking forward to the next 10 years!

Bob Hughes, former Chair, Charmouth Library

The Great Wall Drone Adventure!



In the Gobi: Eric & William direct, Ed Mills shoots.

Is there anyone in Charmouth who wouldn't fancy travelling the entire length of the Great Wall of China? That's about 5,000kms from the Yellow Sea in the East all the way to the Gobi Desert in the far West – the full distance of China's Ming Dynasty Great Wall. That was the tempting offer I'd faced... and surely the ultimate bucket-list travel adventure? Admittedly, you would need two months to make the journey. But you'd have the best guide in the world looking after you – the Englishman, famous across China, as the Guardian of the Great Wall - Mr William Lindsay OBE.

I'd first met Will by chance when I was in Beijing in 2008 pitching a TV series to film China's most iconic landscapes from a helicopter in High Definition. At the CCTV HQ – the state broadcaster which is like a Chinese BBC with 12 channels and an audience of 1.5 billion – as we discussed how to shoot the Great Wall from the air, a Chinese producer had asked me if I'd ever met the "amazing Englishman" who had devoted his life to protecting the Wall?

The next day, I'd got William's email and was eagerly awaiting his arrival for breakfast at 6am on the day I was due to fly back home to Charmouth. The 6ft. 4in. gentle giant walked in and to my amazement, like me, he turned out to be a Scouser. We had much in common, including a couple of mutual friends - what a small world it is and what a life-changing chance-encounter!

Within an hour of eager chatting, I'd discovered he'd grown up beside the sea wall of Wallesey across the Mersey from my home-town, Liverpool. Will had always been a great marathon-man and after running the 84 miles of Hadrian's Wall in two days, he landed up at a pub in Wallsend and the barmaid jokingly suggested: "Why 'ay lad, you'll be running the Great Wall of China next then!" Will is a determined soul. He'd always been obsessed with the Great Wall of China ever since he first spotted its crenellations rolling across his school-boy atlas and dreamed of following the 2,500-mile route across North-east China, just south of Mongolia.

So in 1986-87, Will became the first person ever to run the entire length of the Great Wall alone - despite the fact that back then China was largely closed to foreigners. It was an epic undertaking, which took almost a year. He was arrested 11 times by police across seven different provinces and was actually deported from China once! But while waiting to be deported from Beijing, Will fell in love with a beautiful, English-speaking Chinese girl whom he eventually married. After completing his Great Wall run – alone and with no back-up team – Will returned to Britain with his Chinese wife, wrote a best-selling book, 'Alone On The Great Wall', and appeared on The Terry Wogan TV chat show to tell the nation of his amazing

adventure. By 1990 the couple returned to China to commit their life and work to preserving the wall – a third of which had already been destroyed by war, revolution and nature in the 500 years since the Ming Dynasty completed it.

After that five-hour breakfast meeting when I first met Will in 2008, I spent the next decade trying to make a film about this incredible obsessive who'd devoted 30 years of his life to the Great Wall, writing six books, curating three world exhibitions, as well as establishing World Heritage protective status for the wall. For all this effort, the Queen made him an OBE in 2006, while the Chinese offered the rare honour of a National Friendship Medal for his work as 'The Guardian of the Great Wall'.

Despite this incredible story, no British broadcaster would fund my film about The Man Who Loved The Great Wall. So after years of frustration, Will rang me in 2016 to ask if I wanted to join his 30th anniversary expedition all along the Great Wall. With the help of Chinese social media funding, Will was taking his wife and two sons, Jimmy, 22, and Tommy, 15, on a return-trip all along the entire length of the Great Wall. But the twist was I would be filming the 2,500-mile journey and his sons would shoot the Great Wall from the air by drone! I could come if I agreed to make the film.

I flew out to Beijing in June, 2016, to discuss the eight-week adventure and meet the Chinese crew and sponsors. I had a month to decide whether to commit. There was no doubt in my mind – what a unique adventure and what a film: All Along The Great Wall: A Drone Adventure.

By mid-July, we were shooting at dawn at the start of the Great Wall at Old Dragon's Head on the exotic shoreline of the Yellow Sea. With me was my keen, young cameraman and editor,



Inner Mongolia: Eric & Holly on the oldest section of Great Wall

Ed Mills – a Woodroffe student who'd done work experience with me many times over these years. It was Ed's first experience flying and his first trip out of these islands. Just imagine landing in China in 40°C heat and embarking on an eight-week journey across the Great Wall towards the Western Gobi as your first foreign travel! We were joined by our crew runner – Holly Harwood – my daughter on her first gap-year adventure after leaving Exeter College. Both proved wiser than their years.

Before we left home, I had joking offers from numerous Charmouth Fat Dads to "carry our bags" or "help with the camping and cooking". But I'm hoping anyone in Charmouth who fancies experiencing our Great Wall adventure will try it the easy way – by watching it on a big HD screen. This summer we plan to show our two films: Flying The Great Wall and All Along The Great Wall: A Drone Adventure – one covers the ground trip and the other is entirely a drone journey from the air – seeing the Ming Dynasty Wall as only a bird can ever see it. So do keep an eye out for your chance to cross the Great Wall – and cross it off your bucket-list - without ever leaving the calm serenity of our lovely, safe village.

Eric Harwood

10
YEARS

Shoreline is an invaluable part of our village community – connecting and informing a whole range of different age groups and keeping all of us posted on the wonder and magic of Charmouth, its history and its people...I love it! As a community newspaper, it punches way above its weight, offering diverse views, human insight and quality reportage.

Eric Harwood

Butterfly and Moth Migration



Jean's Journey

My journey to Easter Island began with a stopover for a few days in Santiago, then a short flight to the Atacama Desert. Landing next to a shed-like building (the official airport!), we travelled a straight track for 60 kilometres over copper-coloured gravel and boulders of the desert terrain before dropping 3,000 feet along a winding track to Don Pedro, near the Bolivian border. I wasn't surprised to learn that this area had been used to test vehicles going to the moon, now called Moon Valley. There was also a large salt lake which is the home and nesting site of flamingos.

Back to Santiago and a five-hour flight to Easter Island. A triangular volcanic island 2,500 miles from mainland Chile and Tahiti, approximately 7 x 8 x 12 miles, it is unique, in that the land can only be owned by the 600 indigenous people believed to originate from Polynesia. The magic of the island is coming across the many (887, we are told) statues, some standing. They are believed to have been carved from the volcanic rock from the only quarry and erected on the death of a chief so that his spiritual mana or power would oversee the people of his tribal village – thus backs to the sea and eyes carved last. Also, when toppled by warring tribes they fell face down, thus eliminating their power. The standing Moai were restored in 1955 by archaeologists. It is interesting that there is only one statue with inset shell eyes on the island. I was lucky to be there while the island festival was held and saw the 1993 film made on and of the island.

Jean Kesterton

We are well placed here on the south coast to get a good number of butterflies and moths flying over from the Continent, and numbers of these are increasing all the time. Yes, it's global warming again. With numbers of insects decreasing all the time due to farming practices and habitat destruction, let us be glad for some new species, particularly those which can colonise this country. We have all noticed the abundance of Red Admiral butterflies last autumn, and this would not happen without reinforcements from the Continent. Some Red Admirals have now begun to hibernate here in the south (I saw my last one on 3rd December, and that one was never going to fly over the sea for warmer climes).

People used to think that an insect must suffer damage to its wings flying hundreds of miles, but not so. One researcher decided to try and see if a long flight could damage a moth's wings, so he blew onto the wing of a dead specimen as hard as he could through a glass tube, and not a scale could he remove. This makes sense as an insect must surely strike a hard object to cause damage, and there is some evidence that insects that migrate will take to the air as soon as their wings are ready to fly. Painted Lady butterflies have been observed in a mass hatching from the chrysalis in North Africa and take to the wing in a great cloud, heading north. I show a picture of a Dark Crimson Underwing which came to my moth trap in July 2015, and I believe it was on migration. Firstly, this species is rare outside its normal habitat of old oak wood, and secondly, its behaviour. After I had put it on a log to take its photograph, it then decided to take off. After vibrating its wings for a moment to warm the muscles up, it flew off. But it did not just fly over the hedge: it spiralled straight up above me until it was just a dot in the sky, when it caught the wind and carried on its migration, inland. This moth is reckoned to be an occasional immigrant to the south coast, and yes, its wings were perfect. A moth which has reached our shores in large numbers in 2017 is the Silver-striped Hawk-moth. It would be wonderful if this fine moth could become a local insect, but its home is North Africa, and it cannot survive our winters.

Geoffrey Sell



Dark Crimson Underwing



Silver-striped Hawk



Charmouth Bowls Club is delighted that Shoreline has reached its 10 year anniversary. During those 10 years it has been a great supporter of the Club and an edition has not gone by without some article covering our activities. As the immediate past Chairman of the Club, I would like to pass our hearty congratulations to your small but dedicated team for the past 10 years of support, not only for our Club and its members, but for the many local organisations that have benefitted from your excellent publication. Many, many thanks and may you continue to provide us with this wonderful source of local news and information.

With the very best wishes of all at Charmouth Bowls Club.



I was aware of Shoreline long before I moved to Charmouth and had assumed it was produced by a large production house. I used to read it online or get a copy whilst visiting for its interesting and thought-provoking content. To my surprise when placing an advert, the production is local but the impact of such a high quality magazine is far-reaching. Shoreline's depth of articles and local news has resulted in customers for me from advertising. Despite a few publications a year... if you advertise, your advert is around for a long period of time as people keep their copies and it is also available online.

Helen Parker, HP Counselling

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



SC members with various projects in front of March's showcase of items for sale.

Charmouth Sewing Circle

Charmouth Sewing Circle welcomes new participants to our small informal group that meets on Tuesdays at 10.30 – 12.45pm at Charmouth Central Library. We work on joint quilting/patchwork and knitting projects for charitable causes, or enjoy working 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 07584 495053, as we occasionally have trips out for supplies.

Our popular items for sale are on display in the library servery and in our seasonal window by the front door - they can be purchased from library staff during normal opening hours. Whether maker or purchaser, we look forward to seeing you!

Irene Campion

Tuesday Lunch Group

Is held once a month (on the 3rd Tuesday in the month). The venue is the back room of the Community Hall. This lunch arrangement was initially started as part of an Age Concern venture and had been part of Charmouth village life long before we arrived in the village 20 years ago. Some of the volunteers originally involved still help to make it a lovely get-together!

Two previously separate charities, Age Concern and Help the Aged joined together in 2010 and became Age UK but somehow, well before then, the group of volunteers in Charmouth had continued to keep this lunch date going (without any funding) with the aim of supporting older people to join together, enjoy company and a lovely meal.

We currently cater for 24 people (with a few extra if need be) and there does always seem to be a waiting list of people who would like to enjoy the meal and company (word of mouth is the most often used entry). The cost to the guests is minimal for a two-course lunch and tea or coffee but we manage to cover the purchase of food each month.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who usually help once every two months for approximately two hours. We cook, serve, wash-up and importantly chat with our guests and enjoy each other's company. It would be lovely if we could entice other like-minded people to join our group as volunteers (especially in the food purchasing, preparation and cooking – all costs are covered!). We do like to serve home-cooked food but sometimes Christmas food or delicious puddings may be sneaked in! If you could help, please contact 01297 560251. We await your call....

Peter & Pauline Bonner



Ghostly Goings On... in Fountains Abbey

Intrigued by Peter Bagley's note in the last Shoreline, I was reminded of a strange experience my family and I had at Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire. It was on a lovely summer day in the 1960s and we were enjoying looking around the ruins. After the dissolution in the 16th century, the church lost its roof and now the floor is well tended grass. As we entered the church it happened... Walking up the nave, I noticed that my wife and daughters were aware of something, although I was not. My wife told me afterwards that she heard monks chanting and the sound passed us as if following the line where the aisle would have been. Our elder daughter, who was seven years old and a short distance from us, actually saw a line of monks processing through the church, and was frightened. Our younger daughter, aged four, was terrified and fled. We found her by our car. Some years later we told this story to a friend who was visiting, and he said that this happening occurred from time to time. On his next visit to us he brought an old book which detailed the fact; well, it is a fact if you have seen it happen!

Geoffrey Sell



Charmouth & Area – Royal Voluntary Service Home Library Service

Do you like to read but find it difficult to get to the library to get new books? We might be able to help. Charmouth Community Library has a team of dedicated Royal Voluntary Central Service volunteers who are able to visit on a regular basis, delivering the books you want from the Library to your home, free of charge. Large print books and talking books can also be delivered.

This service is funded by Dorset Library Service, and delivered by the Royal Voluntary Service. It is available across Dorset to anyone who cannot easily get to their local library, and can be provided on a temporary basis as well as long term. All Royal Voluntary Service volunteers are DBS checked and receive ongoing training and support.

If you are interested in receiving the Home Library Service, please contact Maria Jacobson, Royal Voluntary Service Manager, Dorset Home Library Service on 01305 236666, or Maria.Jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Luke Bearpark Bakes for BBC Children in Need

What first triggered your interest in fund-raising and when did you start?

It was a spur of the moment kind of thing really. I started with two friends; we just wanted to raise some money for a charity that we could relate to (Children in Need) because we knew how lucky we were compared to other children in the UK.

Why did you decide to bake cakes for your cause?

Cake sales seem to be something that everyone loves, whether it's a slice of chocolate cake or a fruit scone, there's something for everyone. As well as this, it's something that I love doing! I love baking the classics and also experimenting with new flavours!

Why did you choose Children in Need as your charity?

Children in Need seemed like the obvious choice! We were all kids, so doing something that could benefit other children in our country was something that we all wanted to do and something that I still want to do today. Children in Need is a fantastic charity that helps hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged children every year.

What comments have you received from people who bought your cakes?

Well, everyone seems to love them, which is always nice to hear! Every year, people seem amazed at how many cakes and treats there are on the stall but it wouldn't be possible without the generous donations from the fantastic people of Charmouth!

What has motivated you to continue running cake sales in The Arcade in Charmouth after eight years?

I think the main motivator for me is that I know that I'm doing something good for a great charity! In addition to this, the positive comments from the people who buy the cakes and the number of people who always brave the weather to donate cakes is always something that makes me want to continue holding the cake sales.

How much money have you raised overall?

Well, over the years, I've raised an incredible £2,556. So, from just selling cakes in the village, I think that's pretty good! But,

it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the people who come out year upon year to support me!

When is your next sale at The Arcade and which cakes will you be baking?

This year, I'm planning on doing things slightly differently. As this is my last year of being a 'child', I want to go bigger and better than ever when it comes to fundraising for Children in Need. I'll still be holding the annual cake sale; this year on Saturday 17th November. As usual, there will be the classics, Victoria sponge and chocolate fudge cake, as well as the return of the extremely popular Pudsey biscuits and polka dot muffins, plus so much more!

What are your future fund-raising ambitions?

In addition to the cake sale, I'm planning on holding several other events to raise money for Children in Need. What these will be is still being decided, but I have loads of ideas and planning for some events is already underway! I'll be releasing more details closer to the time, so keep an eye out on Charmouth Notice Board on Facebook and also for the yellow posters that will be popping up around the village as we get closer to the date. I'd love for 2018 to be my biggest year yet for Children in Need fundraising and I'm looking forward to releasing the details to everyone. In the future I'd like to think I'll still have time to hold fundraising events. So here's to 2018 and raising the most by showing our spots and raising lots for BBC Children in Need!

I'm currently at Exeter College studying Travel and Tourism and in the future I hope to be working in the industry, preferably up in the sky. It's a massive industry, so I don't know where I'll be from one day to the next and that's why I'm not sure if I'll be able to hold fundraising events every year, but I will try my best to do so, even if it's just something small.

Lesley Dunlop

Well done Luke and good luck with your studies!

With thanks to Roy Churchman for suggesting this article.



Meet and Remember – a Memory Café for Lyme Regis, Uplyme and Charmouth

**LymeForward launches
a memory café for Lyme
Regis, Uplyme and
Charmouth on Wednesday
21st February 2018 at 2pm.**

**Meet and Remember will take place
on the third Wednesday of each
month at the Lyme Regis football
pavilion, Charmouth Road, Lyme
Regis. The pavilion, the use of which**

**has been donated by the football
club, has fantastic facilities following
its recent refurbishment and free
parking.**



MEET AND REMEMBER

The café, which will be run by volunteers, will provide a supportive, friendly environment for those experiencing memory loss or who have recently been diagnosed with dementia and the friends/relatives/carers who support them. The sessions will be a mixture of music, crafts, memory activities, talks and information about dementia, general interest talks and outings. Information and advice will also be available. There will be tea,

coffee and cake! Financial support for these resources has been received from Lyme Regis Carnival and Rotary.

There will be a small lending library that will include books with information about dementia and reading books that can be accessed by those with memory loss and their families and friends. Any donations of suitable books would be welcome.

*For further information please
contact Heather Prior, LymeForward,
lymememory@gmail.com or 01297
441224.*



Three Generations at The Salon

The Salon in Charmouth now has three generations of the same family working alongside each other. Louise Thresher has owned The Salon for 12 years. Her father, David Briggs, joined the team seven years ago after selling his salon in Bridport. Harry, Louise's son, then followed last July and now works at The Salon part time too.

The family's history in the hairdressing profession started back in 1964 when David left school and embarked on an apprenticeship. After little encouragement from school and family, David was determined to prove everyone wrong. So after completing his three year-apprenticeship and spending two years improving his skills, he opened his first salon in Luton, Bedfordshire in 1969 at the very early age of 20.

During his career, David has had three salons, including Hair By David in Bridport which he ran for nearly 30 years with the help of his wife Sheila, who also trained as a hairdresser. He has trained between 30 and 40 apprentices over the years and is still in touch with past staff who now live in Australia, Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Dorset.

Louise was brought up in the trade. She and her brother were actually born on the premises of David's first salon, David Hair Fashions, which they lived above. At the tender age of three, Louise was already keen to help in the salon. She had her own stool which she would climb on to enable her to remove rollers from the ladies' hair after a set.

The family moved to Bridport in 1982 when David opened Hair By David. On leaving school, Louise attended Weymouth College for a year studying Hair & Beauty full time, whilst working in her father's salon at weekends and during the holidays. She then moved to Bristol and continued her training there. After a break from hairdressing, Louise returned to Bridport in 1995 and once again worked with her father, continuing her training to acquire her NVQ Level 3.

David and Louise then worked together until January 2006 when Louise and her husband brought what was Vincent's Hair Design. History then repeated itself as Louise and her family lived on the premises of The Salon when it first opened.

Louise's son Harry always showed a keen interest in barbering, but when he left Woodroffe School in 2011 there were no opportunities locally to study just barbering, so he studied Sport Coaching & Development. Last year the opportunity came along for Harry to attain his Level 2 Barbering at Exeter College, so he went for it. He completed it in early July last year and joined the team at The Salon soon after. Harry has now just completed his Level 3 in Barbering, which includes wet shaves. Harry still works as a football coach for Exeter City Football Club developing the under 11s.

So, The Salon truly is a family business and along with their other fabulous staff: Laura, Vicki, Nikki and Vicky, it has a fantastic team and the hairdressing profession continues on into the next generation.



Louise Thresher



Early 1971, David outside his first salon, David Hair Fashions, with son Gary



David working in his second salon, late 1970s

Charmouth Twinning

On the weekend of May 17th – 20th you may see a few Charmouth citizens testing their French language skills as we host the Twinning biennial event here in Charmouth. Please do say 'Bonjour' in order to enhance the already renowned friendliness of Charmouth residents! It will be a weekend of fun and friendship as we endeavour to keep the 'Entente Cordiale' and 'Bonhomie' between our two nations.

We are a lively, friendly group and welcome new members (School French is acceptable). If interested contact 01297 560251. We organise many social events in order to increase our funds for the busy (and expensive!) weekend when we are generous hosts to our French friends. Hosting the French visitors on each alternate year is also a delight – give it a thought and join us; you may even wish to have a lovely weekend away when it is our turn to visit Asnelles.

Our next open Event – Please make a note in your diaries:

General Knowledge quiz Friday 12th October 2018

Peter Bonner, Chairman



Peter Bonner receiving Lifetime President's award at Charmouth Twinning Group's AGM

Photo: Neil Mattingly

Charmouth Central Library and Internet Cafe

Words from the new Chairman, Russell Telfer

I've recently joined the Charmouth Central committee as its Chair. Many of you reading this will have been amongst the number of helpers as volunteers, supporters, donors and providers of the technical and practical skills which keep us going; it was with a view to providing some extra help that I joined, to keep things ticking over.

In a separate article which will appear in a later issue of Shoreline, I'll describe my personal account of the attempted closure of our library and the really quite remarkable achievement of Hazel Robinson and her team in persuading the council to give up the freehold of the building, to allow us to procure the funds to run the library, in effect, re-fashion it.

One of our prime objectives is to remain solvent so that we can go on running the library for our community and providing an enduring public resource. The events listed on this page should prove popular and help us build up a useful surplus. There is a wonderful spirit of camaraderie in the team: we're here because we believe in what we're doing. Books are an essential backdrop to civilised life. If we just ran the library on its own, we would not acquire the funds to maintain the building, i.e. pay its essential overheads and offer additional services. As it is, we provide a venue for groups in the community at a very competitive rate. We provide a coffee bar and meeting place. Visitors from abroad make us their first choice for tourist information. At times our library staff give useful advice on diverse subjects, especially local matters. We can stage culinary events such as food and wine tastings because we have the necessary entertainments licence. We are always being given books - too many sometimes! - and we can sell these back to our visitors and make small increments to our revenues which help to provide the revenue to keep the roof over our heads.



Our village needs its non-profit sector, its public services – the Post Office! - as well as its shops and commercial undertakings. We trade in knowledge, and offer it freely. One thing we are blessed with is a dedicated work force who are motivated by good will, not money. Who else, apart from the charity shops, can say that? We have been fortunate in finding volunteers to staff the library and make our skills available to our customers.

I hope we can reach out, through the good offices of Shoreline to inspire a few more volunteers and helpers to join our ranks and give us their support.

Russell Telfer



Charmouth Library is planning:

- *More 'In Conversation' evenings.*
- *A cocktails and canapes (lunch or evening event) where we provide cocktails and canapes, with demonstrations of how they're made.*
- *We are proposing a cold two course lunch demo and meal with wine, again for 20/25 persons.*
- *Three or four book sales on the Foreshore during holidays and high summer (subject to PC permission).*

All dates will be circulated in good time. Please tune into the library's current website for more info and put this web page in your Favourites or Bookmarks:

https://charmouth.org/charmouth_village/library/

Russell Telfer

Charmouth Library... so far so good

The Ex Chairman's Report

Sometimes its good to be the bearer of good news! Having just completed three years of being 'Acting Chairman' I looked back at our statistics for my time.

They make interesting reading, but as you read remember any improvement is down to the dedication and friendliness of our volunteers. Where there have been dips, then as with the railways, it is entirely due to adverse weather conditions making it well nigh impossible for people to make it up the hill!

Over the last four years the numbers coming through our doors in search of information or take out/return books has been fairly constant with a low of 4900 and a high of 5400. Last year we had just over 5200, so about in the middle. As our statistics are collected manually, our figures are always likely

to err on the low side particularly if we stop to say hello before noting you down.

Our book issues 2014/5 were just under 7400, this dropped following national trends and the dreaded 'Kindle' to 6550, the following year, before making a recovery to 7100 last year. Because we get statistics from Dorset County Council (DCC) I can tell you that this recovery put us in third position for the percentage improvement in the twenty Community and smaller DCC run Branch libraries.

Financially we are also keeping our heads above water. We had never expected to show a surplus based on Library fines! We needed to cover our running costs through Friends Subscriptions, fundraising events and profits from lettings etc, in The Servery behind the Library. Because of fantastic support from Friends of the Library all three sources have held up well. I shivered every time we lost a friend, or booking in the Servery, but replacements have kept coming thanks to the hard work of the committee.

Two years ago we had a surplus of £2300, last year this dropped to £300. However, we had invested in additional shelving which accounted for most of the drop and we are never intending to pay tax, dividends and bonuses, just over breaking even is a comfortable, but not complacent place to be.

I have handed over to Russell an organisation the village can be proud of, but if you would like to volunteer, run a group using our Servery space, attend our events, you are assured of a welcome

Bob Hughes, Ex Chair

In April we have someone whose experience is from half a world away. Terry Coverdale, textile art, photographic and just art, will be answering questions, amongst other topics, on learning Chinese quickly having been appointed to work as one of very few westerners in deepest China.

**Thursday 19th April, 7.00 for 7.30pm
Entrance £3 and there will be a bar**

Charmouth Primary School

This term at Charmouth Primary School has seen several changes. I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Headteacher and we have a new Chair of Governors, Ray Dyer. I have been made very welcome by all members of the school community and the many members of the wider community I have met.

Highlights this term, so far, include the trip Sharks and Turtles classes took to the Eden Project, a visit from the hearing bus and, of course, the snow! Children in Sharks and Turtles classes had a long day when they visited the Eden Project, leaving school at 7:45am and arriving back at 6pm. It was wonderful to see their faces when they returned – full of the excitement and adventures of the day. The Hearing Bus visited the school at the end of February. This was to promote awareness of hearing impairment, as well as to boost the confidence of those children with hearing difficulties. Children from schools across the area were invited to visit the bus and we were able to enjoy informative assemblies from the presenters. We were even lucky enough to have a deaf Olympian as part of the bus crew. They were really inspirational for us all.

The heavy snowfall led to two days of school closure. We were disappointed to have to close, but our priority has to be the safety of all children and staff. It is clear that the snow was enjoyed by all and an experience that our families will remember. Several black eyes were sustained, but, thankfully, no broken limbs!

As we are ever looking to provide the best possible opportunities for our children to learn and grow, we will be reviewing our curriculum over the next term or so. Our position in Charmouth and on the Jurassic coast is amazing and provides so many opportunities – we want to explore these further, ensuring our children love their learning and our beautiful area. We are very fortunate to have several volunteers who regularly support us in school. Particularly with ever decreasing budgets, we are very grateful to all those who give up their time for our children. We are in the process of updating our policies for volunteers, but would be happy to hear from anyone who can regularly offer support in school – reading, maths games, offering a lunchtime or after-school club.



Looking forward, our wonderful PTFA are again organising the Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run on Saturday 7th July. This is a huge fundraiser for the school and, with so many already signed up, we are sure that it will be another success. We are exploring how to make the most of the opportunity as

we are not able to run the fair at the same time as we have previously done. We hope we will be able to work with the wider community to bring success to the runners, the school and Charmouth.

June will see the 25th birthday of the school building. This will be a great learning opportunity, but also an excuse for a party! If you have any stories about the school and its history, we would love to hear them. Likewise, if you have information about how the village and coastline have changed over this time, please do let us know so we can build an exciting week of learning and celebration. Already I am looking forward to all our adventures next term and will be sure to capture examples on the camera in order to be able to share more of what we are doing via Shoreline.

Happy birthday Shoreline and congratulations to all those who continue to make it such a success.

Laura Cornish, Headteacher



Two students have been working to complete their qualifications for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Those of you who visit the library on a Saturday morning may be aware of two young people volunteering as part of their participation in the Scheme, organised by their respective schools. They are both currently in year 9 and have chosen to work with us for an hour each week, one for a six-month period and one for three months. Due to their age, they cannot have access to any confidential information, but so far we have managed to keep them busy working in the café

and arranging displays of books, both for borrowing and those for sale to assist with fundraising, as well as looking for items requested by other libraries in our hub and re-shelving returned ones. It is a delight to be able to engage with young people in the library, and it is hoped that the news might spread to their peers that we have something to offer all age groups, even in this age of the internet and social media.

There is no doubt that the DoE provides young people with a wide range of challenges that require considerable dedication, courage and perseverance. Our current DoE students are not the first we have mentored – we hope more will volunteer to experience the work of such a significant project, run for the community by the community.

Penny Collins with Sheila Coulson

Neil Mattingly

We are fortunate that over the years Neil Mattingly, Charmouth's own local historian, has researched and written a wealth of interesting articles about the village's fascinating past for Shoreline. On this occasion, we have turned the tables and Neil has agreed to talk to us about his own past.

Neil, When did you first become interested in local history and what sparked that interest?

Moving to Margate in 1964, aged 15, marked the beginning of my fascination with local history. I was fortunate that my parents had chosen to live there. Margate was a popular resort in the Georgian era, from where visitors would take home views of the town, as they do today. I had long collected stamps and admired those from the Victorian era. The same method of reproduction on a larger scale was applied to topographical views which depicted the countryside before photography. The famous artist J.M.W. Turner visited his mistress, Mrs Booth, there and at the same time recorded the wonderful views of the harbour. I was able to buy some of these and compare his romanticised views with those of today. I slowly built up a collection of prints and books and visited the local library with its magnificent collection to research my finds. Since my days in Margate I have always delved into the history of wherever I live. It is a passion that I continue to enjoy now I live in Charmouth.

What is your favourite aspect of local history research?

After university I wanted to start my own business, so I decided to sell whatever I had of value, including my stamp collection, for capital. I was shocked at how little I was offered by a local stamp shop and decided that I would try Exchange & Mart and placed an advert in the magazine. I had 10 replies and quickly realised there was a market for them. Through a friend, I met a dealer who went to London stamp auctions. Initially I bought the lots through him and, in time, went to the auctions myself. As it became my living from then on, I studied everything about Great Britain stamps and their history. I did very well, as it was the beginning of a boom in collectibles. I was then able to pursue my passion for local history and build up a collection of topographical prints, maps, postcards, books and ephemera. In time I got married and moved to a large house in Wingham, Kent, where we opened a gift shop in an historic building in St. Peter's Street, Canterbury. It was owned by a Mrs. Pond, who had been the brawn maker for King George III. We were fortunate in that the shop next to us came up for sale soon afterwards and we were able to purchase it. Although it had a Victorian brick frontage it was the oldest house in the city, with a history back to the 13th century and was owned by a William Cockyn. Through owning these buildings and restoring them, my passion for local history grew. I mounted a large exhibition which was very popular and every week my old views of the city would appear on the back page of the local paper. I would then sell the reproductions in the shop. I have been very fortunate in owning a number of historic houses which I have restored over the years and each has provided me with the opportunity of tracing its history. I have traced my own family history directly back to 1736, and, on a wider scale, to the times of the Domesday Book when my descendants originated in a Hampshire village that was actually called Mattingly after them. Most were 'Agricultural Labourers'. To counteract that loss, I find that so many historic buildings have a wealth of illustrious forbears to study. Building up a knowledge as far back as I can, using every means available either in archives or online, is very rewarding and is definitely my favourite aspect of historic research.

What was the first local history book you published and what reaction did you receive?

My first book was published when I ran my initial shop in Canterbury. I had built up a large collection of old postcards and photographs of the city; many were unique and revealed views that had changed radically over the century. I teamed up with a local printer and we produced a colourful look back, titled 'Day Trip to Canterbury'. We had good publicity and

sold a fair number through the local book shops. Then Southern Television contacted us as they wanted to do a news item on the book. I remember being interviewed by Paul Davis, who is still on television today, standing in front of a number of featured places, relating their history. After the programme went out, the book was the fastest seller ever in Canterbury and I believe 8,000 were sold.

When you came to live in Charmouth, what spurred you on to record the village's history?

When I bought Thalatta, it did not strike me as particularly old or historic and at that time I just viewed Charmouth as a relatively modern village. It was a chance visit to the Record Office in Dorchester that was to change my opinion. I asked if they had

anything on Charmouth, expecting very little. Instead, I was in for a surprise when they produced a huge album of postcards of the village. I flicked through it and was amazed to see one of the house I had just bought soon after it was built in 1923. The card was entitled 'Bungalows in Charmouth' and was a real photograph by Claud Hider. I quickly took an image of it to study later and was excited to see that it was one of 20 albums deposited by Reginald Pavey back in 1968. Soon after moving here, I bought a series of the Village Echo, produced by the Pavey Group. Reading them opened my eyes as to how historic Charmouth was. It was Peter Press, then chairman, who fired me with enthusiasm and in time I joined the committee and did my first talk about The Street with him.

Which (a) building; (b) person; (c) event in Charmouth's past would you rate as the most fascinating and why?

I would have to say one night in 1651, for all of these. It was 22nd September when King Charles II stayed one night in the Abbots House, then called the Queens Armes. The building is definitely the most important, apart from the church, on a number of counts, not least because of its age. It was owned by the last Abbot of Forde. Thomas Chard had his brother as steward here and rebuilt it as the fine house we see today. As a record of this he had his initials 'T.C.' carved on a shield above the entrance, still to be seen today. A later survey of the village carried out by Sir William Petre in 1564, describes it as "the fairest house in the town and built by the last Abbot of Forde". Later, the non-conformist minister would live there. Initially they lived in peril of their lives if they were caught in a service and a secret door led to it. In time, a chapel which we see today was built alongside the house.

The most fascinating person would have to be William Ellesdon a Captain on the Royalist side during the Civil War, who is famous as the gentleman who nearly succeeded in helping King Charles II escape from these shores to France in 1651. He had already achieved fame in assisting Lord Berkley in his escape and had carefully organised the King's departure. Unfortunately, the wife of Stephen Limbry, owner of the boat, had found out about it and was scared for her husband's life if he was caught, and locked him in their house to prevent the meeting with the King. William Ellesdon later gave a detailed



account to Lord Clarendon of the chain of events and his part in it. Although he did not succeed, and the King finally escaped from Shoreham, he was highly regarded by him, so much so that after his restoration in 1660 he visited Ellesdon at Charmouth and presented him with two silver candlesticks, a miniature painting by Samuel Cooper and a medal surrounded by diamonds with the inscription 'Faithfull to the Horns of the Altar'. Even more astonishing was a pension of £300 a year for him and two successive heirs. William had bought the Manor of Charmouth in 1648 and lived with his family in the Manor House opposite the church. Our only memorial to him is a marble baroque plaque high above his son's impressive memorial. His son, Anthony, lived there for 79 years. Educated at Oxford, he trained as a lawyer in the Inns of Court in London. He was very generous, and we still have a record of this in a large stone carving in the church, recording how he re-edified the church in 1732. He also presented a silver goblet and communion plate, still used today.

The most fascinating event has to be the attempted escape by King Charles in 1651, which is so often featured in books and articles. Just recently, Penelope Keith stood outside the Abbots House and recorded the event in her series on the best village. It is an astonishing story which, if all had gone to plan, would have changed our village forever. No doubt, it would have been renamed Charmouth Regis.

Your website: www.freshford.com is remarkable in its in-depth coverage of the history of the village and its people. Have any new topics been generated as a result of your website feedback?

My website has been a smashing way of recording all I find for future reference. It bears the name Freshford after the village I lived in 20 years ago. I was just as passionate about its history and lived in its most historic house, the Manor, which traced its history back to the 14th century. After Freshford, I extended it to other villages and towns I lived in and now Charmouth. Using the built-in search engine, I find it a quick way of getting information about village history. I am always adding new pages, as I feel it is timeless and people in the future will benefit, as it will help them to add to their knowledge of Charmouth. I have reorganised the home page, concentrating on the many historic buildings for a talk on 'Charmouth -Then and Now' later in the year. I am often contacted by owners of houses in the village who wish to learn about their history. This was the case with Hillside and Fernhill. After researching their past, I wrote articles on them which can now be seen on my website.

After the success of your latest book, 'Charmouth, The Church and its People' what are your future research and publishing plans?

My ambition would ultimately be to produce a thorough history of the village when I feel there is not much more to find out. That is a long way off at present as, thanks to websites such as Find My Past and Ancestry, as well as the Dorset Record Office and other Archives, I keep increasing my knowledge and adding new information onto relevant pages on my website. It would be my dream to bring Charmouth's wonderful history to a greater audience, as it has such a wealth of historic records for such a small place.

Lesley Dunlop



As regards your 10-year anniversary, no doubt you have already received lots of glowing comments but we in the Twinning always look forward to reading the next edition and wish Shoreline long-life.

Peter Bonner

Ghostly Goings on... in and around Charmouth

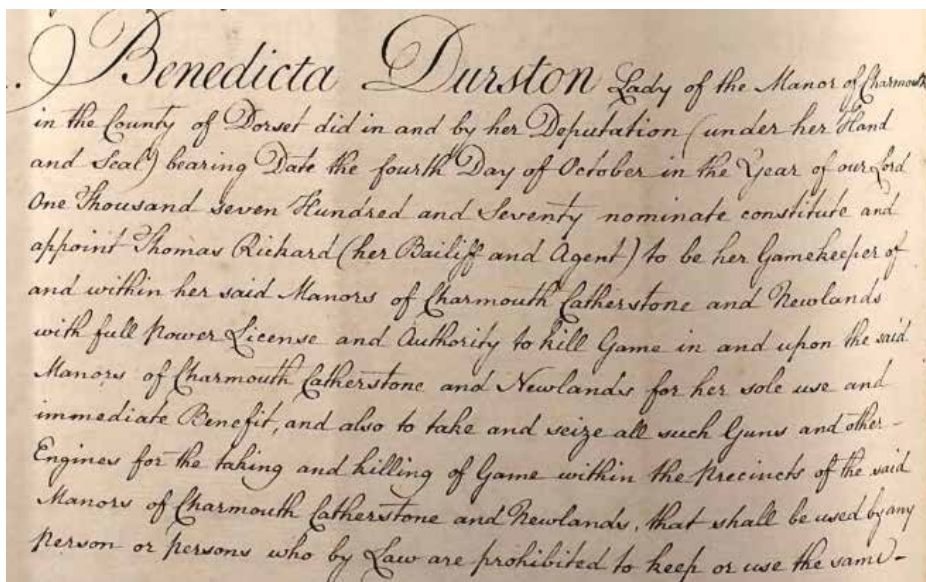
My first experience was during my firm's renovation work at Charmouth Lodge for the nephew of the Miss Whittingtons who had recently inherited the property. On this occasion, I went to check on the progress of one of my masons, Arthur Smith, in the ground floor hall. Suddenly we both heard a distinct knocking on the first floor above us. I asked Arthur if Peter was working upstairs. He told me that no one was upstairs but he had heard the knocking from time to time. I checked upstairs and no one was there. I mentioned this to the nephew and he informed me that there had been previous reports of a white lady occasionally appearing in the house. He went on to say that once, when he was staying there, he was reading a book in the living room and the book was whipped out of his hands and dropped onto the floor. It may be that Arthur had an affinity with ghosts, as we were in the course of a major renovation of the Lyme Regis museum and Arthur was working on a wall in the basement when he turned around and saw what he thought was the ghost of Mary Anning. Afterwards he refused to do further work down there.

Then there was another encounter with what I was told was a poltergeist in the '80s, just after Christmas. I was called out to meet an insurance assessor at the old vicarage in Wootton Fitzpaine. The freezing weather had burst the water pipes in the roof. The subsequent flooding caused damage, bringing some of the ceilings down and the dust and powdered plaster lay thick on all the floors. We met up with the owner in the kitchen, which had suffered very little damage. The assessor started the conversation by saying what a lovely old house it was and, no doubt, because of the age it probably had a ghost, whereupon the owner said: "Strangely enough, we have a poltergeist who moves things around. For example, when we return to the house items on the mantle shelf in the kitchen are often on the floor". I would point out that the owner was an airline pilot for, I think a Saudi airline, and had lived most of the time abroad, so when he and his family returned the first thing they said in the house was "Hello Polly, we are back." This seemed to work and nothing was ever broken. He also said that items on his bedside cabinet would, by morning, be on the floor. One evening a journalist friend stayed with them and they were discussing the poltergeist. The friend said it was a load of nonsense and immediately there was a loud stamping on the floor above them. The owner added that the poltergeist was a child. He took us into the living room; a large room with a central carpet surrounded by polished hardwood flooring, which was covered with a layer of dust. He then took us to one side of the room. There, on the hardwood floor, were the clear footprints of a small child going onto the carpet and reappearing on the other side. He said that there had not been any children in the house since they bought it and the flooring had been regularly polished. He did have a teenage son, but he was too big to leave those prints. I don't know if Polly is still there, but the evidence was quite convincing.

Mike Lake

Thanks to Mary Davis for alerting us to Mike's experiences.

If you have experienced something you cannot explain, we'd love to hear from you!



Benedicta Durston appointing Thomas Rickard as her Steward in 1770

The Building Known as the Rose & Crown/New Inn/Rickards/Wander Inn/Red Bluff & Swiss Cottage

The history of the building that I am attempting to unravel in this article is that of the strangely named Red Bluff/Swiss Cottage. It stands at the bottom of The Street, almost opposite The Abbots House and would seem to the onlooker of recent construction. But, as you will discover, it stands on the site of a much earlier edifice, stretching back to the days when the village was owned by the monks of Forde Abbey. It has gone by the names of Rose & Crown, New Inn, Rickards, Wander Inn, Red Bluff and Swiss Cottage, which makes it very confusing.

The original dwelling would have stood on one of the half-acre Burgage plots along The Street dating from 1295. In that year the Abbot of Forde was to create a borough away from the original village which had stood near the shoreline and whose church was fast being eroded by the sea. The borough was not a great success with the competition from Lyme Regis and Bridport and most of the original plots were amalgamated to become viable. A modern map shows many of these, especially on the north side, stretching back to the original Monks' stone wall. Their control over the village came to an end in 1539 with the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII.

Sir William Petre became the new landlord and in 1564 carried out a thorough survey of the village. Studying the list of tenants, we find that Thomas Bull holds one Burgage and was paying a rent of 6d. We know that this was the gentleman who occupied the building

at that time, as by a miracle the deeds to this property from then until 1754 have survived and can be seen in the Somerset Record Office at Taunton, where they were deposited by a descendant of the family that owned it in the 18th century. I have long known about them as they refer to The Rose and Crown, but as they were incomplete I could not work out where it stood. That was until Ron Dampier lent me the deeds to his house in Lower Sea Lane. Although it is relatively recent, the site it stands on was part of a larger plot known as Pear Close. The Abstract of Title took it back further to when it was bought in 1843 by the Rector of Charmouth at that time, Rev. John Dixon Hales. He had purchased not only Pear Close and the carpenter's shop on the corner, but also the buildings opposite including one that was referred to formerly as The New Inn, which had previously been called The Rose and Crown. I have had great fun joining the two sets of information together. The vital connection was a family called Hodder who proved to be the missing link as they owned it in 1663. They are detailed as owners in 1713 and the later deeds record that it was built by Emmanuel Symes and occupied by John Hodder. With the two sets of record to hand I was able in time to piece the entire history of this property, which is unusual as the early documents rarely survive.



Devonedge & Swiss Cottage c.1910

To return to the first set of deeds, we find that there are a whole series of transactions in 1561. The first document records that John Tye of Plumtree in

Devon sold it to William Borcombe of Wootton Fitzpaine who was a tailor, and that it had previously been rented by a William Cooke. In the same year there is another deed that showed William selling it to Thomas Bull, blacksmith of Norton St. Phillips in Somerset. It states that it stood between the tenements owned by John Wadham, Esq of Catherston and that of Honor Borcombe.

The next deed is for 1629, in which it is described as a tenement on the north side of the Great Street, called The Rose and Crown. The name given to the inn originated with the popular marriage in 1486 of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, which ended the feudal battling between the houses of York and Lancaster. These premises were sold by Nathaniel Bull of Studland, a descendant of Thomas, to Edward Lymbry, senior, a merchant of Charmouth. This gentleman was a member of the leading family in the village and their impressive tomb still stands by the entrance to St. Andrew's Church. He owned the inn only briefly as it was to be part of the marriage settlement in 1639 when his daughter, Joan, married Richard, son of Richard Talbot of Broadmayne in Dorset. This family was again of high standing and owned the Manor there. A further deed showed that William, son and heir of Edward Limbry, later gave a further £15 to the Talbots, which was the residue of the marriage portion.

By 1649 the inn was owned by Joseph Hazzard and in that year he sold it to Judith Miller, his sister, for £50. She in turn conveyed it to Francis Hodder junior of Wootton Fitzpaine in consideration of the intended marriage of her daughter to this gentleman. Confirmation of their ownership can be seen in the Hearth Tax of 1663 for Charmouth, when Judith Miller is shown as paying tax on her two hearths.

There is now a gap in the records, although the other deeds refer to it being occupied by John Hodder, no doubt a descendant of Francis and Judith Hodder. There is also confirmation with the earliest Alehouse List for Dorset in 1718 which shows that Joseph Goring was the licensee for The Fountain Inn, William Kidnor for The George and Elizabeth Hodder for The Rose and Crown.

Again, there is a break in our knowledge of who owned the inn. We can assume that it was bought from the Hodders by Samuel Burrow by 1743. The same set of deeds include a large document relating to a mortgage taken out with Walter Oke, using it as security with a number of other properties and fields in Charmouth. Unfortunately, it was just described as that "Messuage, Tenement or Inn called or known by the name of The Rose and Crown and the curtilage, backside, garden and orchard to the same". He also owned the George Inn, its near neighbour which had almost the same

description. It may well have ceased trading as an inn by then, especially with the closeness to the George, which is still going strong today.



Swiss Cottage c.1910

The Poor Rates for 1754 reveal that Samuel Burrow was paying 3 1/2d for Parsons Estate (The Elms), 4d. for Walters (Walter Oke), Hodders (Rose and a Crown) and the George. He was also paying 2 1/4d for his own house, Burgage and Langmoor. To purchase all these properties he borrowed £320 from Water Oke, a wealthy attorney, living in Axmouth. Unfortunately, he overstretched his finances and is shown as selling his estate to Walter Oke for just £400 in 1760.

It would appear a bargain was had by Walter, but he would not enjoy them for long as he died just three years later, aged 61, with his wife, Frances inheriting his properties in Charmouth until her death long after in 1806. Today this estate would include the George, Rose and Crown (Swiss Cottage and Bluff Cottage), The Elms, Langmoor, Hillside and Fernhill - all for just £400 when purchased by her husband. Frances chose to live at Axmouth and sold some of the properties in due course, keeping the fields. Her daughter, Frances, married Thomas Shute in 1775 and lived at The Elms in Charmouth for many years. There is a fine marble memorial to them in St. Andrew's Church today.

According to Reginald Pavey, the famous historian, The New Inn as it was known by then was bought by Benedicta Durston in 1771. This would make sense as she had just moved back to Charmouth on the death of her husband the Rev. Joseph Durston (1733-1770). She was extremely wealthy as she inherited the Manors of Charmouth, Catherston and Newlands on the death of her father, Richard Henvill, nephew of Anthony Ellesdon in 1744. She lived in the village until she died in 1784, aged 57. Thomas Rickard was employed as her steward to run the estate. He had come to Charmouth in 1753 from his family home in Tredegar, near Boscombe in Cornwall to marry Sarah Bragge. Her father was William, the son of Edward Bragge, the Rector of Charmouth. They were to have at least six children including William (1756), Elizabeth (1757) Mary (1758) Alice (1764) and Thomas. He was employed as an Officer of Excise, a role he was proud of as it was always recorded against his name. The earliest of these is in 1754 when he subscribed to a book on arithmetic by Joseph Thorpe, Rector of

Tredegar, his family home. Amongst the other subscribers are his brother-in-law, Nicholas Bragge, surgeon of Axminster, and Digory Gordge, Village Clerk. The Quarter Sessions book in 1770 clearly describes his role for Benedicta as follows:

"Benedicta Durston, Lady of the Manor of Charmouth in the County of Dorset did and by her deputation in the year 1770 nominate constitute and appoint Thomas Rickard (her Bailiff and Agent) to be her gamekeeper of within the said Manors of Charmouth, Catherston and Newlands with full power and License and authority to kill game in the said Manors for her sole use".

The earliest Land Tax records are 1780 and from these we can follow year by year the progress of both him and his descendants. The days of it being The New Inn were over and it was now referred to as Rickards in later records. They were to live in the house which we are dealing with from 1771 until 1841. They initially paid 1/5d poor rates tax on it, whereas Thomas had to pay £8 a year for his position of Excise Officer. It was no doubt very lucrative, as it was equivalent to that paid by Benedicta for her large estate. He rented lands known as Hurlescroft, Thorns, and Minson Common from her, which had previously been leased by his wife's family (the Bragges).



Swiss Cottage c. 1950

A 1783 map reference book records the following:

78. Leasehold for Lives, Mr. Bragg's, Mr. Rickard garden plot (10s0d) 20 perches

79. Leasehold for Lives, Mr. Bragg's, Hurles Croft, east of the Mill (£3-1-4d) 1 acre 3 Roods, 27perches.

80. Leasehold for Lives, Mr. Bragg's, Thorns House & 2 plots (£2-18-4d) 1 acre 3 Roods, 12 perches.

195. Thomas Rickard Dwelling House (Rose and Crown).

Thomas was to live for 33 years in the village and on his death in 1786 left a Will in which he gave to his wife, Sarah "all those several Estates, Messuages, Lands and Tenements which were given by her late father's Will bearing the date February 1748 together with my new built stable and garden adjoining and the

interest I have in our house and garden and four fields of land which I now hold by several leases under the hand and seal of Mrs. Durston, then Lady of The Manor of Charmouth. To be at her own free will and disposal. I also give to Thomas Rickard, my son and heir all my messuages, lands and tenements within parishes of Trevalga and Foabury in Cornwall. And now in possession of my said son. To my daughter, Ann Avery - £10, daughter, Elizabeth-£10, son William £1, daughter Mary - £10, daughter Alice - £10, dated 1785, witnessed by Brian Combe, John Bragge and Lucius Bragge.



The Wander Inn c.1970

Sarah went on living in their house until her own death in 1797. Her Will bequeaths to her son, William Rickard, the sum of £130, her daughter, Sarah, wife of John Rickard the sum of £70, to be paid within five years of her decease. During the life of Mr. Nicholas Bragge, surgeon of Axminster, they were to be paid £6 from my leasehold estate called Gerrard's in Whitchurch. All her property and effects were to go to her daughters Elizabeth and Mary Rickard. These daughters were to spend the rest of their lives at the house and receive an income from their inheritance. It would appear by 1796 that they were no longer leasing Hurlescroft, Thorns and Minsons but owned their freeholds. They may have been bought after the death of James Warden in 1792, their previous owner. The Land Tax lists show that their relation, John Bragge, was renting Minsons and William Burnard, sail cloth manufacturer, was renting the other fields, probably for flax, his staple.

There was an interesting development in 1811 when The Stonehouse was being rented by them to a Mrs Ridout. It may have been built by them at this time, as it was not listed before then in the Land Tax returns. In 1831 they sold it to Mrs Liddon, the daughter of James Warden, who no doubt lived in this fine house, opposite The Royal Oak; still called by the same name today. Elizabeth Rickard died in 1827, aged 67 and Mary continued residing at the address until her own death in 1841, aged 85 after a lifetime in the village. Her death marked the end of her family's long occupation of what had once been The New Inn. She never married, and her estate was sold off soon after her death. It was her tenant, William Burnard who bought the properties from the trustees. He lived in

Bow House, next to The George Inn and had no need for her house, and sold it to Rev. John Dixon Hales in 1843. He also sold him Minsons Common and the workshop on the corner of Lower Sea Lane, which was then let to John Carter, a carpenter.



The Wander Inn Cafe c.1975

The Rev. John Dixon Hales was Rector from 1833 until 1839, when he resigned the living. It was during this time that the church was rebuilt. The church has one memorial to the Rev. Hales in the shape of a marble plaque which records the deaths of two of his grandchildren in the First World War. It also records that he went on to be Canon of Rochester Cathedral. Whilst he was here, he bought Pear Close in 1837 which had previously been owned by Rev. Brian Combe and was sold by his nieces. This field was at the centre of the village on the corner of The Street and Lower Sea Lane. It has since been developed into a parade of shops and housing. Another purchase was a field in Lower Sea Lane known as the Potato Plot on which was built a house by the Hunters. The properties were all to stay in the family and on John's death in 1879, his two sons John and Arthur were left them. Arthur Hales died in 1904 and left his share to his wife Maria Frances Hales. They were subsequently bought by Harry Pryer, the stonemason, in 1931 after renting them for many years.

The 1843 purchase by Hales refers to the thatched building which was formerly The New Inn, being divided into two parts which were occupied by Frederick Coles and Martha Gordge. I have traced the tenants back to 1841 when William Gordge, aged 64, rented one part until 1939 when a descendant, Martha vacated it. Records refer to their part as The Cottage. The other part was called Swiss Cottage from at least 1891 when it was rented by Harry Pryer's son. The Gordges were a large family who lived in Charmouth for many centuries. A common name given to the eldest son was Digory and they held the position of church clerk for many years and lived on the corner of Barrs Lane, where the Post Office is today. The 1851 Census reveals that Thomas Gordge, a painter and glazier, then aged 37, was living in the Cottage with his wife, Louisa and children, Elizabeth, Martha and Harry. The family continued to reside there but, by 1881, Louisa was a widow running a lodging house with her

daughter, Martha, aged 30 who was a milliner. The 1901 Census has the widow, Mary Gordge, aged 72, described as a laundress living there with her daughter Martha aged 38 with son-in-law George Grinter and his family. A decade later, Martha, now aged 48, was living with her nephew Ernest Grinter, aged 14, in The Cottage. She finally moved from there to the Alms House in Sea Lane in 1939. It is astonishing that one family could live in the same cottage for almost a century. Between 1928 and 1939 a small extension known as May Cottage was rented to Bessie Gale, whose daughter later described it as follows:

"We only had oil lamps and candles then. No electricity or gas. There was just the sitting room, next was the dining room-cum-kitchen with a range in it, then along the passage to a big backhouse as we called it. Mum did her cooking on a two-burner oil stove and used to put a tin bath of water on it for her laundry of a Monday, and her irons she used to put on top of the range. It used to take a day doing these things. We did the same for our bath water and would carry it to the front of the range. One thing it did have a sink and one tap in there and a flush toilet out in the garden".



The Wander Inn being demolished in 2003

The Census for the village carried out every ten years reveal that the other part known as Swiss Cottage had a number of different tenants including Harry Pidgeon who was there until 1934 and the Baldwins between the years 1935 and 1951. The Hales family ownership of the property and others in the village came to an end after nearly a century with the auction by William Morley & Sons at the Coach and Horses on August 9th, 1921. Amongst the many lots was no. 6 which was described as follows: - Two Pleasantly Situated Freehold Cottages, with Large Productive Garden, adjoining Lot 5, in the occupation of Miss M. Gordon and Mr. H. Pigeon. There are two separate Side Entrances to the above from the drainway. There was an error with Miss M. Gordon as Miss Martha Gordge was definitely living there in that year.

Most of the lots were bought by Harry Pryer, including the Cottage/Swiss Cottage. After his death in 1931 it was bought by Billy Gear who owned the garage opposite. During the 1939-45 war it was a waste paper depot and was used occasionally by the Home Guard.

It was in very bad condition. After the war it was restored, when remains of broken bottles and glass were found, no doubt relating to the days when it was an inn. James and Dorothy Potter were the next owners who transformed it into a cafe, calling it The Wander Inn, which was so successful that they added Swiss Cottage. Their adverts in the official guides informed the reader that they were noted for their Cornish pasties and pies and could offer "Morning Coffee, Lunches, Cream Teas and Steak Suppers."

The last resident in the property was David Hoffler and his father. Local historian, Peter Press, wrote a fascinating article on the final days of the former inn in the Village Echo, Winter 2003 issue. His description of the interior carpentry and thatched roof with thick Cobb rear wall confirm its great age. He writes: "Just after 9am on January 21st 2003, on my way to the Post Office that morning, I was within yards of the building when a great crash and a column of dust with bits of rotten thatch rose into the air as the entire north face of the roof fell into the rear of the building. By the time the debris had been cleared, the wall was leaning towards the street. It was in danger of imminent collapse – it had to come down. It's all gone now".

It was to be replaced with the building we see today, which is similar to its predecessor and goes by the names of Red Bluff (west) and Swiss Cottage (east).

Charmouth lost in 2003 one of its most ancient buildings whose history confirms that it was originally an inn known as The Rose and Crown. It was one of a number of hostleries in the village frequented by travellers on the highway linking Dorchester to Exeter. After its time as an inn, it was to become a residence for the Rickards from 1771 until 1841 and then part of it as home for the Gordges until 1939 – quite astonishing! Later it was the Wander Inn cafe which was very popular in the 1970s. It then went into a period of decline, judging from old photos until its sad demise.

Please go to my freshford.com website if you wish to find out more about this building. I would like to thank Ron & Jean Dampier and Peter Press for their assistance with this article.

Neil Mattingly



Red Bluff & Swiss Cottage today

The Future for Health and Care Services

Do you use local health and care services? May you one day need them? Do you know someone using them? Do you work in one of them? It's time for everyone to take a close interest. Because over the next few months Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be deciding how these services will be provided after 31st January next year. That's the expiry date of the current contract covering all medical services at Lyme Regis Medical Centre, and community health services for registered patients at all three GP surgeries in Lyme and Charmouth. The contract is now held by Virgin Care. The CCG is expected to offer a new contract, for which any recognised health provider may bid.

We might imagine that local health and care needs are the only factor, but in reality powerful financial and commercial forces are at work too. So understanding what's going on, and being eternally vigilant, is essential. The NHS Constitution gives us all 'the right to be involved in the planning of healthcare services, the development of proposals for change, and in decisions affecting the operation of those services.' Fine words: but in practice those rights won't be granted unless we demand them.

For the last nine months the active team of volunteers in LymeForward's Health and Wellbeing Group has been preparing three submissions to the CCG: a detailed collection of facts about how services are provided now; an 18-point analysis of gaps and weaknesses; and a 15-point set of ideas about ways of improving services when the contract is re-tendered. You can find all three documents

at www.lymeforward.com with the quick link to Health & Wellbeing News.

Among those 15 recommendations are the need to retain and develop as many services as possible within the Lyme area, not least the medical practice in Charmouth; to keep provision and contracting simple, coherent and integrated; to deal with the often-irrational barriers to seamless care across the Dorset/Devon border; to face up to the transport conditions that so often make it difficult to access essential services; to recognise some serious under-resourcing; and to prioritise improvements in provision for mental health conditions, young families, the frail elderly, and hospital discharge. Lots of registered patients have contributed ideas, as have many of the excellent professionals who work in health and care. The documents were given to the CCG at a meeting in late January. So what next?

The CCG has promised continuing discussion with LymeForward and Patient Participation Groups, as well as 'public engagement', as it develops the detail of the new contract over the next few months. With your help, LymeForward's group will hold the CCG to this, and will use Lyme-online, the LymeForward website, the press and whatever other means are available to make developments public.

Meanwhile, public understanding, and a readiness to give voice to any concerns, is essential. Please keep alert for news. A member of the LymeForward group will meet with any local group that wishes to find out more. If you have questions or suggestions, email chris@lymeforward.co.uk or phone 01297-442237.

Chris Boothroyd

Charmouth Diabetes Support Group

CDSG is open to anyone suffering from or helping someone with diabetes, either type 1 or 2, meeting informally once a month, sharing our knowledge and offering helpful advice to each other along with mutual support conversation and ideas. The group has been going for one year now and is open to anyone in the area, not just those purely registered at Charmouth Medical Practice who offer support. Membership is free and should you want more information please contact Rick on 07508 516253 or Pat on 01297 792055.

Helen Parker helenparkercharmouth@btinternet.com

Weldmar Hospice Fundraising

In October we had a '50s evening with Charmouth's own Elvis, aka Johnny King. We made a magnificent £1400 for the Weldmar Hospice, due mainly to the fact that our star waived his fee. More than 80 people enjoyed dancing and singing along to old favourites. The Community Hall was buzzing.

Thanks Johnny for your time and energy, and thanks to all those who bought tickets.

Kathy Fereday

On behalf of Weldmar fundraising committee Charmouth.



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From the Charmouth Practice



Insulin, Bears and the FAST Way to Health

Day 10 and all I have imbibed since 10 days ago is multiple drinks of water, tea, herbal tea, coffee and broth, but curiously, I do not feel hungry at all! In fact, I feel well and energetic and am continuing to do almost all the things I normally do in my day. Most people who find out that I am fasting say “No! Really?” And then “But... why??”.

Well. Over Christmas, we had lovely festive food and drinks to enjoy as a family and then in the weeks that followed – it just didn't seem to stop. I mean you can't let that home-made Christmas cake go to waste! How can you leave those special chocolates that were a gift? So, as usual, I came out of the Christmas season with more round my middle, craving carbs and sweets, with an unpleasant sluggishness and a frustration that I had yet again “undone” all the good from months of being healthy before. You too? Well here is the good news...

I now understand that I have been through the equivalent of the bear who forages and feasts to prepare its fat stores for winter hibernation when it will naturally fast. It is a very normal part of our human heritage to feast when the going is good, in order to lay down those important stores we need for the famine or in the bear's case, for when the hibernation sets in. To help us lay down those stores, our bodies release very high levels of insulin which busily stores and locks the food away as fat and also encourages us to go looking for more carbs, grains and fruits in this Autumn-like “season of plenty”.

But hang on....If that is the time of plenty then when is the time of famine? When is our hibernation equivalent? If we feast all year long then when is our time of fasting? If you look it is there in our heritage; in Christian Advent and Lent; in Buddhist Monks not eating after midday and in Muslim fasts all day during Ramadan. The Ancient Greeks advocated fasting as a health cure for all sorts of ill health, but we have forgotten this age-old wisdom at our peril. We have been told to eat three square meals a day and never skip breakfast. We have been seduced by endless supplies of easily accessible sugary, processed, packaged foods and drinks until we were successfully locked into eternal high insulin levels, forever to crave carbs, lay down fat round our middles, but completely unable to burn it off again. Hence we have our modern day scourge.

In order to lose the fat on your body, you need a LOW insulin level. It is the only way you will be allowed to release and burn your fat stores and that is what fasting does for you. It switches you into a fat burning mode. You can do it for several hours or a day at a time with good benefit or with good preparation you can safely just go for a whole week or two. The world record was 382 days by a Scottish 29 year old with a daily multivitamin and mineral supplement. He was slim and healthy at the end but we don't need to go that far. In the past I have advocated 5:2 modified fasting and 16 hours off, eight hours on. I tried a three day fast two months ago and it felt good, so now I am

carefully going for a long fast and the pounds I put on over Christmas are falling away. I'm not a dieter – I don't believe in calorie restriction “diets”. They make people feel awful and hungry and cranky and I don't have the willpower for that, but this feels good and healthy and I am happy and not craving food. Of course, I know some of the weight loss will go back on as I regain the water we store with carbs. However, I can reasonably expect to have lost half a pound of fat a day while fat burning. After the recommended maximum of two weeks I'm going to try keeping my fat burning going with lots of greens and seeds, fish, chicken, any veg growing above ground, avocados, olives, berries, yoghurt and fermented foods and see if I can keep this feeling of wellness, energy and mental clarity going for longer.

The only down side? My attempts to do my normal exercise routine of jogs and cycle rides left me gasping for breath as if I was trekking at altitude in Nepal. I estimate that currently, I am only able to exercise (and sing) at 60% effort. However, keeping the exercise going is important because one of the many wonderful benefits of fasting is that you release growth hormone which helps you build muscle and protects against ageing. You don't lose muscle when you fast. You do when you diet.

Fasting is normal. It is a healthy, historically practised, important part of our human existence. There are people such as pregnant and breast feeding mothers and children and those already thin or weak for whom it is not recommended, but for the rest of us, doctors say that one week of fasting a year will help significantly to protect us all against cancers, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's and allow our bodies to go into healthy recovery and repair.

Like the bear we can emerge from our fasting slimmer, healthier and able to enjoy the next time of feast, be it celebrations, holidays, or time with friends and family with relish, knowing we can balance it again naturally with some kind of fast.

Interested? Want to know more? Jason Fung is a kidney doctor in Canada who was concerned that so many diabetic patients needed renal dialysis. He set about finding dietary ways to stop their diabetes. He experimented in various successful fatty and fibre diets and fasting regimes of a few hours or days at a time and over five years has helped more than 1000 people with diabetes and obesity come off their medication and regain their health. His book 'The Complete Guide to Fasting' is the best book on the subject I have found. His Intensive Dietary Management Clinic is available on the net and at Toronto's hospital.

To introduce the concept I am holding some Good Mood and Food workshops for our Charmouth practice patients (by invitation only), and am also available at Twist and Shout Osteopathic Health Centre on Thursday mornings in my private practice where I offer Human Givens Counselling.

Maybe see you there! Happy Fasting!

Dr Sue Beckers

Sue Beckers is delighted to announce she will be able to do measurements of BMR and fat burning capacity with a simple 10 minute breathing test from April.

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Peanut Cookies

A really quick and easy cookie recipe, which is gluten-free and can be given several different flavours. You can also drizzle them with chocolate for a 'naughtier' cookie.

Makes approx 24 cookies

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Total time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

250g crunchy peanut butter or a mixture of any nut butters

175g light soft brown sugar

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

1 large egg, lightly beaten

Optional extras -

- 35g dessicated coconut
- 50g dried cranberries
- 50g chocolate chips
- Replace 50g sugar with 2 tbsp maple syrup

Method

Preheat oven to Gas mark 4 / 180C. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper.

Beat together peanut butter and sugar in a large bowl with a mixer or wooden spoon until smooth.

Add beaten egg and bicarbonate of soda to peanut butter mixture and beat until well combined.

Roll 1 teaspoon of dough into a ball and place on baking sheet.

Place 12 balls onto each baking sheet and flatten gently.

Bake for about 10 minutes until slightly puffed and a golden colour.

Cool cookies on baking sheet about 2 minutes and then place on a rack to cool.

Store in an airtight container.

Variations-

Add any of the optional extras after beating the peanut butter and sugar and continue as above.

Sheila Gilbey *The Abbots House*
www.abbotshouse.co.uk Blog: sheilspantry.co.uk

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CONGRATULATIONS SHORELINE

By Peter Crowter

All Charmouth looks forward to Shoreline,
There's so much of interest to read.
It's now been 10 years since it started,
It truly deserved to succeed.

As well as the excellent content,
It's also produced with great skill.
A magazine all should be proud of,
A great job, not run of the mill.

A reminder you'll see in this issue,
Of all who have helped its success.
But ladies have been the prime movers,
And their names are not hard to guess.

The idea was hatched by Jane Morrow,
And Sarah Cooke helped it succeed.
Jane later took on Lesley Dunlop,
An able assistant indeed.

Now this is the 10th year of Shoreline,
Began with a storm so they say,
And that could have been a good omen,
'Cause it's gone like a storm to this day.

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Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club - 50 Years a Member!

I have always loved tennis, playing for my school team and college. So when we moved to Charmouth, imagine how delighted I was to see tennis courts on my doorstep. On 25th April 1968 (after the birth of my second son) I joined as an associate member.

Soon after, I went to the Tennis Club to see Helen Beaumont about joining as a full member and was introduced to some of the team. The following day I received

a letter with a proposal form from the C.L.T.C. In July 1968, I played my first game of tennis with club members, partnering Colin Osborne against Helen Beaumont and partner. We won 6-4. I was accepted to play as a full member, which also allowed me to play on club days.

The Tennis Club celebrated their centenary in June 1985. We had fun dressing up in Edwardian tennis costumes. I helped with the teas,

tombola and taking photos and we had a barbecue that evening.

I have enjoyed 50 years of tennis at Charmouth and intend to keep playing for a few more years! We are so lucky to have four excellent courts in our village.

Mary Davis

Well done, Mary. What an example and what an achievement!



At our local tennis courts in Blackwood, Monmouthshire - 1956



The Bedwelty Grammar School tennis team - 1957. Mary is third left, back row



The centenary at Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club - 1985



Tea and tombola - 1985



A cold morning in February - 2018



A winter warm-up - 2018

Charmouth Local History Society

The Society is in a healthy state and the latest edition of The Village Echo, no. 45, will be on sale in the village at the end of April.

Two talks are planned this year:

On Friday 8th June, the subject will be Sir John Hawkshaw. Sir John was one of our more famous Lords of the Manor and was a famous engineer who almost brought the railway to Charmouth. He owned much of Charmouth and this a fascinating story.

Our AGM will take place on Friday 21st September and the talk will be Charmouth Then and Now. Delving into our archive of old photographs will throw up some great comparisons with modern day Charmouth.

Both events will be held in Charmouth Village Hall and will be free for members.

Following the success of last year's Summer Exhibition, we are planning our 2019 exhibition as Shoreline goes to press. It will feature a selection of the many photographs taken by

the brilliant photographer Claude Hider. Taken in the 1920s and 1930s these capture the era wonderfully.

A recent initiative from Amanda Jones (aka Baber), our treasurer, is proving very successful. Amanda is recording interviews with longstanding Charmouth residents who have many stories to tell of their lives in Charmouth. These will be added to our website in due course for all to listen to. At the time of writing this, four interviews had been recorded and another ten residents are awaiting Amanda's visit. More on this next time.

As I write this our Secretary, Richard Dunn, has resigned due to moving away from the area. Our thanks go to Richard who stepped in when the society was struggling and who has contributed greatly, editing the Village Echo and writing the Charmouth History Trail.

If you are interested in joining our committee please email Phil.tritton@gmail.com. We are a go-ahead team and always open to new ideas - please email me if you have any suggestions.

Phil Tritton, Chairman





SAD TIMES FOR THE WILD FLOWERS ON THE CHARMOUTH BY-PASS

For several years, on the Charmouth by-pass, one end-of-season cut had been the practice. There was the obvious necessity of keeping the signs and the drivers' line-of-sight clear for motorists, but these safety-driven intrusions were so modest as to be undetected. Suddenly, we have seen banks of emerging wild flowers slashed to the ground at the end of April. Then they were assaulted again in the middle of June (although pathetically small patches were left untouched as they contained some of the orchids which survived the first cut). Finally, it has all been flailed to a pulp in the middle of August.

Dorset Wildlife Trust were approached by the contractors at the start of the year for advice on how best to manage the advance of unwanted vegetation while protecting the orchids, specifically. The advice then given was to cut as early as possible (i.e. March or early April) before the leaves which feed the orchid bulbs get going. Then, it was suggested, to do a full cut at the tail-end of the flowering season (i.e. middle or end of July). It was also suggested that the cut material should ideally be removed to minimize the build-up of nutrients which favour vigorous grasses over the more delicate wild flowers. Nick Gray, West Dorset Conservation Officer with Dorset Wildlife Trust, is one of the many local wild flower enthusiasts who are disappointed by the inappropriate verge cutting regime that has been implemented.

At the time, the contractor said that ragwort was high on the list of weeds targeted for suppression. We know that each ragwort plant that is cut down before it seeds will be shaken out of its natural biennial behaviour and will flower again next season. The ragwort problem has just been exacerbated and the rest of the annual wild flower population has been decimated.

It had been suggested that the bank was 'full of weeds, especially ragwort' but in June, Nick Gray and I walked the length of the by-pass and saw many interesting species recovering in abundance from the first cut. This was the list that I made at the time:

Agrimony / Black Knapweed / Birdsfoot Trefoil / Common Centaury / Common Spotted Orchid / Common Vetch / Common Fleabane / Corky-fruited water dropwort / Grass Vetchling / Ox-eye Daisy / Pyramidal Orchid (small numbers) / Yarrow

After that first cut, Lois Wakeman of Uplyme wrote to Highways England as follows:

'I was horrified, when travelling to Bridport last week, to see that contractors were using a gang mower to cut all the grass on the Charmouth bypass right up to the treeline. The northern bank is usually a swathe of oxeye daisies and other pasture wildflowers like teasels and field buttercups, with an especially valuable stand of purple orchids at the eastern end – but as the grass has been all but scalped so late in the spring, I am not confident that there will be any significant recovery.'

'Why on earth are they cutting the grass so far from the road? It will have no positive effect on visibility, and a harmful one on biodiversity. As recently reported, roadside verges are (or would be if properly managed) a vital refuge for many species of plants and insects, as well as small mammals. If this was done for ragwort control, then it's unlikely to be effective since most of the rosettes will be relatively unharmed.'

'I am desperately disappointed that this mindless act has been allowed, and await a response from Highways England on how it will be avoided in future years.'

The reply eventually came back and included the following statement:

'The cutting of the verge is undertaken with two main needs; one the need for forward visibility, to improve safety for the travelling public and two as cyclical maintenance. If left uncut for a long period the verges could become populated with species that are then not easily manageable. Although the first item is cut in the spring on an annual basis and maintained throughout the year the second is not completed annually but usually at a three to five year period. I can confirm the cut you describe was not part of the ragwort prevention. This will be controlled as per South West Highways/ Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services Joint Venture preferred method of assessing the risk in June/July when the plants flowers/ appear and then by hand picking. Since receiving the concerns from yourself and Mr Calder I have spoken with South West Highways/Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services Joint Venture, they are aware of the orchids and have assured me they did not undertake works that would be detrimental to their growth this year.'

I wonder, is Highways England this oblivious to the reality and the impact of this new cutting regime? Must we waste this opportunity to keep a wild flower rich regime alongside Charmouth? How many of us care? Contact John Calder by email at jccalder@gmail.com to voice your views.

John Calder, Charmouth resident

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An Exhausted Outpouring

I've been clearing out junk
From boxes, from trunk;
It's been rising to ceiling from floor.
Each layer hides another,
Plastic bags try to smother
My head, as I make for the door.

But I'm going to chuck it
For when I've kicked the bucket
And it's too late to care anymore,
Others won't take a minute;
One look, and they'll bin it,
Whereas over each item I pore.

I've spent days on this caper,
Sorting piles of old paper –
Why didn't this strike me before?
My new resolution
Is the perfect solution:
A new leisured life I'll explore.
Instead of this muttering
I'll just give up de-cluttering:
I shall live in a tent, on the shore.

(I could go on forever
Without much endeavour –
There really are rhymes galore.
But if we're to stay friends
This must be where it ends,
Before reading it's too big a bore.)

WM

APRIL FOOLERY

My friends they taunted me full sore
And said it wasn't cool
To lag behind computer ways,
So I went back to school;
I bought an iPad and a book,
And followed every rule.

But myPad thinks that it's the boss;
It's lived in by a ghoul
Who tries to tell me how to spell;
I tell it, you're a TOOL.
And now I've switched its spell-check off –
It's on the Dunces' stool.
So iPad, iPad, fol-de-riddle-i-dad
iPad, myPad, you're the April Fool.

OAP



Shoreline's particular value is to open up the wide range of interest groups to wider participation. Unless you spent all your time on The Street interrogating every passer-by, you'd otherwise never get to know what's happening or available locally.

John Calder



SEA OF CHANGE

By Peter Crowter

How come the sea is never the same?
Not even one day to the next.
One day it is flat, like a powder blue mat,
Then next day its muscles are flexed.

The only safe bet, is that it is wet,
Its mood can be anyone's guess.
Sometimes it is choppy, decidedly sloppy,
Maybe it's a victim of stress.

If you see white horses, you know this of course is,
A sign it's a trifle upset,
Best leave it alone, to sulk on its own,
A meeting you may well regret.

But some folk are keen, if the surf's nice and clean,
To float out and catch a big wave.
It's easy to scoff, when we see them fall off,
But we have to admit they are brave.

When it is high tide, not far from the side,
A fisherman stands with his rod,
He stands there for hours, through sea spray and showers,
Hoping he might hook a cod.

Sometimes in a gale, you see a mad male,
Pulled on a board by a kite.
He skims on the water and looks like he oughta,
Leap from the sea and take flight.

We respect the sea, 'cause we know it be,
Not a predictable fellow.
Sometimes it is rough, and acts like a tough,
And sometimes it can be quite mellow.

Because of its wrath, we've lost the odd path,
And even some roads it has taken.
It's not finished yet, of that you can bet
To think so you would be mistaken.

Neighbourhood Plan Moves Forward to the Next Stage

After collecting evidence from surveys, interviews and obtaining specialist help over a period of 20 months, the Neighbourhood Planning team are now starting to write policies that will ultimately go into the Neighbourhood Plan (NHP), following consultation with the Village and Parish Council.

Members of the Planning team gave an extensive presentation to the village at an Open Forum in the Village Hall on 10th March, explaining the progress made to date and, in particular, the comments received from the survey, which was conducted last year. From the 255 completed surveys, there were 2,690 comments in all and these have been compiled into 29 reports, which include the topics: the NHP Vision, Environment, Tourism, Transport, Community Facilities, Housing and Employment. All these reports are available to view in the Library and on the NHP webpage: <https://www.charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk>. Well worth a read. If you made a comment it should be in there somewhere!

Andy Bateman, Chair of the NHP Committee, said "there are some very clear messages coming from the responses we have received from the survey, which will be important in shaping the NHP and formulating planning policies." Perhaps the most important views shared relate to the natural and unspoilt 'charm of Charmouth' and the need to keep it predominantly as it is and not to over-commercialise it. Housing is also an important issue for the residents, where concerns were raised about the possible impact due to expansion and maintaining village life, however there were many others who gave their support in providing affordable housing for young families/young people.

The NHP Planning team commissioned a consultant,

AECOM, to carry out a housing needs analysis for Charmouth and provide a detailed report. This has shown there is a genuine need for a small housing development within Charmouth, particularly for affordable/social rent, including shared ownership/starter homes. Population trends and rising housing costs indicate a need for more smaller (2-3 bedroom) houses. These issues, and many other views, have helped strengthened The Vision statement for the NHP, which is as follows:-

- To further enhance Charmouth as a friendly, vibrant community

- To protect its unique qualities, including its natural beauty, local history and Jurassic coastline

- To maintain its ability to be self-sustaining by supporting retail units, local businesses and amenities in the village

- To keep its village feel but encourage a small affordable housing development, particularly for families

- To continue to attract tourists and visitors and offer good facilities but avoid being over-commercial

- To meet the everyday needs of our residents

From this Vision, and the evidence gathered, formulating the NHP plan enters a new stage with the Planning Team focused on writing policies that underpin these core values. This means there is still a lot of work to be done, so we need more volunteers to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan or to follow up on specific projects that fall outside planning policies. If you would like to get involved, please contact Sarah Edwards c/o Lisa Tuck in the Parish Council or email us at: - charmouthneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

Andy Bateman



Shoreline Magazine is very valuable to the community of Charmouth, it offers interesting and well written articles and keeps you in touch with what's going on in the village. A good sign of its popularity is how quickly copies disappear from the newsstand!

Andy Bateman, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee



Shoreline is a great community magazine which filled a gaping hole 10 years ago and has gone from strength to strength. It is an asset to the community of Charmouth and those involved should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

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Charmouth Gardeners

Dates for your Diary 2018

Thursday 19th April – 2.30pm – Village Hall, Wesley Close.

Mr. Bob Ayers will speak on 'The Rivers of Dorset' – an illustrated talk about the geology and ecology of the rivers, starting in East Dorset and finishing with the river Char.

Saturday 12th May – 10am – Village Hall, Wesley Close.

Plant & Home Produce Sale/Coffee Morning. Lots of lovely plants and food delights. Get there early for the best bargains.

Tuesday 26th June – Coach Visit – am Tyntesfield House and Gardens; pm – Jekka's Herb Farm. *This is limited to 30 people. Coach leaves Old Lyme Road 8.45am, St. Andrew's Car park at 8.55am. Please book early!* Charmouth Gardeners' members have first booking advantage but there may be spare spaces thereafter for non-members. Why not join? Only £5 per annum and lots of advantages. For coach visit or membership details please contact 01297 561625.

Saturday 11th August – 2.30pm both Village Halls. An early reminder of the Annual Village Show.

Like the motto 'Be prepared'... Flowers, Vegetables, Home produce, Handicrafts, Photography, Children's Classes... Please do join us for this fun day. Look at Village Notice boards for more details nearer the day.

Pauline Bonner

Charmouth Bowls Club

Would you like to have a go at bowls?

Of course you would! It's a lot of fun, and anyone can do it!

Good news! We're holding an Open Day, and we want to invite you and your family, friends and neighbours, to join us, meet Club members, and have a go!

SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2pm Barrs Lane Recreation Field – OPEN DAY

Please come! Don't be shy! All welcome!

The bowls club is a fantastic village amenity! Situated at Barrs Lane Recreation Ground, Charmouth Bowls Club is a relaxed, friendly, welcoming environment. We meet Tuesday, Thursday, and Sundays afternoons to play, where we host a pleasant social occasion in which to enjoy a game of bowls and brush up our technique. We are exceptionally keen to expand and enlarge our membership and the number of people making use of the club, and we welcome anyone of any age to come and join us. All equipment is provided, there is no dress-code (other than flat-soled shoes), and you are welcome to attend on any of the days without prior notice – just turn up and join in! Our summer season will commence with the Club's annual Open Day on Sunday 22nd April – we look forward to seeing boys & girls, men & women of all ages at the Open Day and throughout the summer. For details please contact Hon Sec Jackie on 01297 560295.

Mark Gordon-Christopher, *Club Chairman*

KNIT AND NATTER NEWS

Another successful coffee morning was held in November to raise funds for all our knitting projects. As usual, a lovely time was had by all and £442.70 was the end result. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came and supported us or sent a donation. Your money buys the yarn we use to knit for these charities abroad and the UK.

The Baby Bear Project: A UK-based charity which sends layettes to St. Mary's Maternity Hospital in Durban. Some of the people here are so poor that they have to take their newborns home wrapped in newspaper, hence the nickname "the fish and chip babies". We knit a blanket, jumper, hat, booties, mittens and a teddy for each layette, using any colour except white as that is used for mourning in South Africa. In addition, we try to send a donation of money now and then to pay for some of the other items included in each new mother's pack, i.e. nappies, a washcloth, some baby vests and soap. A businessman based in the Midlands pays for the transport out to South Africa so we know that all the layettes do get to St. Mary's.

The Gideon Orphanage: You will no doubt have heard of this as it is supported by Awaken Love for Africa, the charity set up by Nicky, one of the receptionists at Charmouth Surgery. We used to knit jumpers, blankets and hats for the children at this orphanage but as they have gathered support from other countries their needs have changed. Instead of knitting for them, we sponsor one child, a girl named Cynthia, for £15 per month. This money pays for her schooling (we tend to forget that there are places in the world where education is not free) and we also send her small gifts whenever anyone from Charmouth is going out there.

Steps: This charity has a centre near the Iraq/Syria border. It aims to help refugee children, providing them with somewhere safe to play and learn. We send them warm jumpers and blankets and we also knit 'Trauma Teddies' for them. Sometimes it is easier for a child who has been through the heartbreak of losing his or her home and

family to talk to a toy, rather than a human being. We have also sent knitted toys and at present are working on a request for as many hats and gloves as we can manage.

Dorset Women's Refuge: There are two refuges in Dorchester and a secure flat in an undisclosed location which is either for a woman in danger from an ex-partner or for a male victim of domestic abuse. Everyone entering the refuge has a hand-knitted blanket on their bed and, when they are able to move on, they take the blanket with them. This is especially comforting for the children, but even the adults appreciate knowing that somebody cares. We also knit children's jumpers, cardigans, hats, layettes for babies when needed and teddies. Last Christmas we completed 30 lovely warm cowls for the mums and bagged them up individually with a Christmas card. The manager of the refuges told us they were "greeted with joy!"

Bridport Hospital Minor Injuries Unit: We knit teddies from our oddments of yarn and these are given in the MIA to comfort any child in distress.

Cat Protection: Any yarn which is not suitable for any of the above is knitted into blankets for the cats and kittens awaiting re-homing. A constant supply is needed as the blankets go with the cats to their new homes.

As you can imagine, we get through an amazing amount of yarn and it wouldn't be possible without the incredible support we get from the village for which we are very grateful. If you would like to join us, or would like to knit for us in your own home, then please come along to the club room of the Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane between 2pm and 4pm any Thursday. Alternatively you can call either Lynne on 01305 871754 or Jan on 01297 561625.

Lynne Butler, *Treasurer*

Emeritus Professor Brian Fagan

Photo: Lesley Newhart



Brian Fagan BA (Hons) MA PhD internationally renowned Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, lived in Charmouth in his youth.

He is a prolific writer of books on archaeology, anthropology, historical climate change, water and the sea. His first book, 'In the Beginning', was published in 1972 and is now in its 13th edition. Nearly 50 publications later, his most recent book, a history of fishing, was published by Yale University Press in 2017.

Retrospect

My parents, Brian Walter Fagan and Mary Gwendoline (née Moir) bought The Knoll in Higher Sea Lane, Charmouth, as a second home in early 1938. They also purchased another parcel of land upslope of the house and land known as Venn Cottage, which stood at what was once the upper limit of their property. They intended to construct a grass tennis court on the area now occupied by two bungalows. Today the acreage behind the house bears little resemblance to the countryside I knew then.

My father was a very gentle, quiet man who lost a leg at the Somme and became a Captain at the Western Front during World War I. He was awarded a Military Cross, but never spoke about the war. During the school year, my mother stayed with my brother and me in Charmouth, while my father used their flat in London. He was managing director of Edward Arnold & Company, a well-known publisher; now an imprint of a much larger house. His main claim to fame was publishing the novelist E.M. Forster. My father was very proud that he owned some of Forster's woodworking tools, as well as a complete set of the first editions of his novels! He played a grand piano in the sitting room at The Knoll and the organ in St. Andrew's Church in Charmouth. In 1945 he erected a 344² ft. wooden outbuilding in the garden, overlooking Stonebarrow Hill. He used it as his study, and also worked on his stamp collection there. It was a remarkable collection, partly inherited from his grandfather, of Indian and Indian States stamps. It was sold at auction in London for a considerable sum in the

early 1960s. When I was a Cambridge undergraduate, I used to read and work there when I was at home. The building was requisitioned as a pigeon shed during the war, but was demolished nearly 20 years ago. My parents refused to have a car nearer to the house than Higher Sea Lane, so their Austin 7 was kept in a wooden garage that my father sited on The Knoll's south eastern boundary.

In my younger days, I attended Old Malthouse School in Langton Matravers, from age eight to 12, then Rugby School. My brother and I spent all our school holidays in Charmouth, until he went into the Royal Air Force on a short-term commission in 1958 and I went to Cambridge University in 1956. The village was an idyllic place to spend holidays year-round. At a distance of 60 years, I particularly remember the wonderfully huge marrows my parents grew; a legacy from the World War II years. I was too young to remember anything of the war, as I spent most of my time during those years in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

The Charmouth of today is virtually unrecognisable compared with that of the 1950s. Now there's a bypass (thank goodness), but there are many more houses and people. However, the beach is surprisingly little changed except for improved sea defences. When we were boys (my younger brother, alas, died 10 years ago), we bicycled and walked and collected dozens of fossils, as the beds were not picked over as they are today. There were far fewer people around; mainly local villagers born and bred in Charmouth and a strange mixture of upper class retirees, generals and priests, including the Bishop of Winchester. The legendary Miss Evans of Hammonds Mead lived across Higher Sea Lane from us. She was known for donating Evans Cliff on Stonebarrow Hill to the village and saving it from development. I remember her large,

hand-held, primitive box hearing aid that whistled loudly. It was very intimidating, but she was a lovely lady. Her chauffeur taught me to drive in a powder blue Rover 75, which was wonderful, for he knew the art of safe driving. I remember no one else, except that I had heard of Barney Hansford but never met him. I do recall The Knoll's brown linoleum floors and our phone number: Charmouth 56. The only phone in the house was in the dining room, where my parent hung a blackboard so my brother and I would scribble there and not on the walls. My mother held court every afternoon and sat at a large circular tea table in the sitting room bay window, overlooking Stonebarrow Hill. The table was also used for jigsaw puzzles. My parents' ultimate objective was to retire in Charmouth, which they did in the late 1950s. But they left in 1960, as the hills were too much for them in old age. They moved to Tonbridge Wells, where they lived in a flat atop a hotel until they died in the 1970s.

I learnt to sail in an open boat in Lyme Regis, starting at age eight, and many of my teenage summers were spent afloat in small dinghies. We took hair-raising risks in strong winds, but we were young and oblivious. I've been sailing ever since, cruising in boats 40-feet and shorter. Serious cruising was a chapter in my 30s, when I explored European waters and the Mediterranean in my own boat and then, in 1979, a party of four of us crossed the Atlantic under sail in my 43-foot cutter, *Catticus Rex*. We sailed from Falmouth to northern Spain, then on to Madeira, Virgin Islands, Bahamas and Fort Lauderdale. The trans-Atlantic passage took 24 days; the whole shebang two months. It was very hot and often virtually windless but it was a truly memorable experience. I've sailed a lot in California waters, but am not as nimble on deck as I used to be, so I've given up owning boats and am now a member of a co-op yacht club, sailing small boats just for fun.



Mrs Fagan at The Knoll, 1938

I became an archaeologist by accident, partly because I was admitted to Pembroke College, Cambridge, on condition that I didn't read Classics. My father had a passion for Greek and Latin, so I dutifully studied them in my teenage years, with near disastrous results. But the experience gave me a passion for Homer and an ability to write a coherent sentence. I realise now that my father knew what he was talking about, for I came to archaeology with an unconscious grounding in history and the humanities. At the urging of my kind and understanding Pembroke tutor, I went on to take a degree in prehistoric archaeology and anthropology, which got me a job as an archaeologist in the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum in 1959, in what was then Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia.

I stayed in Africa for seven years, the last year in East Africa, before getting a visiting professorship at the University of Illinois in the United States, followed by a permanent faculty position at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1967. I taught there for 36 years and am now happily retired, but busier than I've ever been in my life!

I emigrated to the United States in 1966. When I got to California in 1967, I decided to give up African archaeology, partly because of the unstable political conditions, and decided to write about archaeology for the general public. This has proved to be a fascinating career and I have written both university textbooks and more general volumes, including some for the National Geographic Society. I also lecture around the world on archaeology, history, climate change, water, and other issues.

Dorset is still magic and I come back again and again, just to savour it. The main legacies from my time in the village are an enduring love of the Dorset coast, and a realisation that older people have a great deal to offer. I try and remember this lesson today, now that I am one of the older ones!

Brian Fagan



Shoreline brings back fond memories of my early life in what was then a small village, where my brother and I wandered wild and free between Lyme Regis and Bridport along a still thankfully unspoiled coastline. I acquired my love of the sea and sailing from my childhood in this wonderful place, which is a special part of my childhood memories. I try and visit Dorset as often as I can, but California is a long way away! My congratulations to you all for such a valuable chronicle of village life and history. Shoreline really fills a gap in local history, which can so easily slip away into oblivion.

*Emeritus Professor Brian Fagan BA (Hons)
MA PhD*

The Case for a Chideock Bypass

Have you ever been caught in one of the regular traffic jams on the A35 in the vicinity of Chideock arising from traffic incidents or accidents?? Or do you live in one of the villages that become gridlocked while motorists try and get out of the inevitable traffic jams that follow?

We are the Chideock Bypass Working Group (CBWG) and we are reaching out to all Parish Councils; District Councils and Town Councils in the area to express our position on a possible bypass for our village and to gather your feedback and your opinion on this matter.

The CBWG is a group of registered electors in the Parish of Chideock. It was formed in November 2016 at the instigation of the constituency MP Sir Oliver Letwin (OL) and with the support (at that time) of the Chideock Parish Council (CPC). Its main purpose then was to initiate a village survey to test village opinion for a bypass. This was organised by the CBWG in March 2017 when a questionnaire was delivered to every household in Chideock. The result from the 223 participants was that 80% were in favour of a bypass within the Parish boundary (approximately on the route of the cancelled 1990 s bypass).

There have been several Village surveys and polls over the years attempting to determine the support amongst the village residents for a bypass. They have all been conducted in good faith and have always returned a significant proportion of those that participated IN FAVOUR of a bypass.

We are firmly of the opinion that a bypass is the only practical solution to the problems of safety; air pollution; traffic congestion; noise and vibration arising from the traffic through the village (particularly the ever increasing volume and size of HGVs) and the negative impact on the local economy from the traffic congestion detracting from tourism and making business travel longer and more costly.

The last village poll (held in August 2017) returned 78% of those

participating to be in favour of a Chideock bypass, albeit that the wording of the question specified that the bypass should be located outside of our parish. We believe that in the absence of an alternative route question, this was simply interpreted as being for a bypass anywhere!! We continue to argue AGAINST a route outside of our parish. We consider that proposal to be wrong for three major reasons:

- 1. A Chideock only bypass is our problem and is for us to resolve within our own boundary. It is slightly immoral to expect our problem to be passed onto our neighbours.*
- 2. The additional time required for liaison with neighbouring parishes followed by rounds of public inquiries and consultations are likely to delay any bypass for years, possibly even render it totally impossible.*
- 3. Any route outside of our boundary will be considerably longer than a bypass within our parish making the construction costs higher. Therefore returns on investment will be less also making the cost benefit analysis less attractive (or perhaps non-existent)*

There is a body of thought that one of the ways of dealing with the problem is by introducing a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) for Chideock. While this can be seen as a well-meaning and environmentally friendly solution we believe that it is both naïve and impractical. This will add monetary cost and time to all those whose vehicles do not comply.

We ask you to seriously consider our situation, to investigate our proposals further through our website www.chideockbypass.co.uk and if you are in favour of a Chideock bypass to support our Government petition either via the homepage of our website or directly via <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/202521>

We thank you for taking the time to consider all this and hope that you may find time to respond to us with your comments, and hopefully your support.

George Dunn
For CBWG

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



We had a fantastic year rounding off 2017, with over 117,000 people visiting us! This meant another record-breaking year in terms of visitor numbers and just when we thought things would become quiet over the winter, Sir David Attenborough's Sea Dragon arrived. The ichthyosaur, found by local collector Chris Moore, was featured on the BBC documentary 'Attenborough and the Sea Dragon' in early January. Chris, along with surprise guest Sir David Attenborough, officially unveiled the Sea dragon on 13th January and it is to stay at the Heritage Centre until January 2019, so plenty of time for everyone to visit.

The Sea Dragon was splashed across the TV screens on various BBC channels which was great publicity for the Centre and Charmouth. We also featured on Channel 4 'Village of the Year', when Deputy Senior Warden Ali Ferris took Penelope Keith out fossil hunting.

Not surprisingly, our visitor numbers for January have been double what we usually expect, so we welcomed our seasonal wardens earlier this year. We are delighted to be joined by Will Fisher and Anna Holbrook who will see us through the season until the end of October.

With Dippy the Diplodocus arriving at Dorchester Museum, we hosted our own Dippy Day at the Centre with a 3D printed replica of Dippy's head during half-term. We welcomed over 1200 people on that day, which is outstanding for February half-term. Deputy Senior Warden Ali dressed up like a dinosaur and talked to our visitors about Dippy and Charmouth's own dinosaur, the Scelidosaur.

During half-term we hosted Heritage Centre patron and TV personality Professor Iain Stewart at the Village Hall. Iain delivered his lecture 'Underground Britain - Communicating the Science of the Subsurface', which was so popular that tickets sold out within a week. As Iain was in demand, we are hoping he will return with another lecture in the future.

We held a successful nurdle hunt in February half-term, with approximately 6650 nurdles being collected. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended from the village. We have a new nurdle tube in the Centre, so if you are out on a nurdle hunt, please drop them into us and help fill it up! Our next beach clean is Saturday 21st April at 3pm; meet us at the Centre and equipment is provided.

We are now looking forward to the peak season and we will have some brand-new displays in our education room from mid-March, to be completed by the summer holidays. The Lyme

Regis Fossil Festival also looms on the first May bank holiday. We will as ever be splitting ourselves between the Centre and Lyme, delivering fossil walks and art and craft activities.

Ali Ferris, Deputy Senior Warden

"Spending an evening in Charmouth was wonderful. It is too easy to whiz by (hopefully not excessively) en route from Plymouth to London, and it has been many years since I have led undergraduate students to fossil forage on the shore. So the warm, bustling evening in the Village Hall was a delight. As expected, lots of tricky questions about how best to communicate geological science, but all delivered with good humour and not a small amount of knowledge. As I left, I chided myself about not spending enough time at the Visitor Centre. As a patron I'll try to do that. Honest."

Prof Iain Stewart

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre - Volunteering



The CHCC is an interesting and attractive focus for locals and visitors to our village with its fossils, rocks, minerals and objects of marine biological interest. The arrival of Attenborough's Sea Dragon in January is an added draw for visitors. The Wardens do an amazing job but, with so many visitors each year, we need plenty of super volunteers for a variety of tasks.

Voluntary work can be on the desk: providing information and advice, selling goods and telling visitors about buses, toilets, cash dispensers and local pubs. Volunteers can also assist on fossil hunting walks and rock pooling, as well as other activities. You may have an interest in geology, geography or marine flora and fauna, but even if you have other interests, please do make contact; you will be made very welcome and training will be provided.

Apart from the voluntary work in the Centre or on the beach, Friends of the Coast Centre form an important social group within the village and surrounding area. Social activities are organised during quieter times of the year.

If you are happy multi-tasking, working with large numbers of visitors and would like to volunteer at the Coast Centre, just telephone 560772 to arrange to see one of the Wardens who will give you information about the possibilities.

Rosalind Cole, Trustee and Chairman of the CHCC Friends.

'Attenborough and the Sea Dragon' – Chris Moore

"I think the documentary worked really well and brought across the right messages about fossil collection. It emphasised the dangers and how necessary it is to obtain permission and have health and safety in place. Natural England were pleased with it. I discussed with Producer Sally Thomson how I found the ichthyosaur paddles on the beach and the bones of the body in the cliff, going in a different direction – torn apart; how I got permission; and how I started to dig... but the fossil governed the story. It is a species new to science that had a thin film of skin preserved on the bones, making the identification of the skin colour possible. The film conveyed the importance of saving fossils by collecting them and not allowing them to slip into the sea, where they are lost to science forever. As for the missing head, I will keep looking. It has got to be out there somewhere!

The whole film experience has been very positive and has raised the profile of the area. I recently attended a fossil exhibition in the US; so many people there had watched the film and they all commented positively. The wife of the producer of the new 'Jurassic Park' and 'Bourne Identity' films visited here recently and indicated that her husband wants to come. I also received an email from a couple in South Korea, saying they had watched the show and are going to visit. I understand that it was watched by



6.4 million viewers over the 10 day period when it was first broadcast."

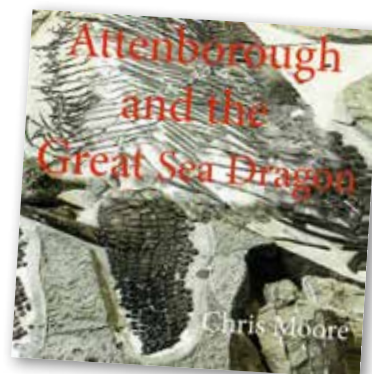
Charmouth. Please contact me on chris@chrismoorefossils.com

Chris has also published an illustrated booklet entitled 'Attenborough and the Great Sea Dragon', which is available from his fossil shop on The Street and Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, price £3.95.

Lesley Dunlop

Chris Moore has serious ambitions for Charmouth, in terms of palaeontology. In his own words:

"I'm appealing to any entrepreneurs out there who may be interested in supporting a future world-class fossil museum and centre of excellence for fossil preparation and display near



Remember Nurdles?

Last summer in Shoreline, I wrote about these little pellets, the raw material for making plastics. The article has raised a lot of interest, and visitors to the Heritage Coast Centre often ask questions about the pot of nurdles on the desk. Various people, including the Junior Rangers, have been out collecting nurdles over the past months. Then CHCC asked for volunteers to

join the 'Great Charmouth Nurdle Hunt' on Saturday 17th February, as part of the Great Nurdle Hunt, a national project. Thirty people arrived, and collected a total of 6650 nurdles in an hour-and-a-half! A beach clean in miniature! As you can see, this type of beach clean involves much concentration on small patches of beach.

All the nurdles so far collected are on display in a special tube in the Heritage Coast Centre. Nurdles collected in the future will be added to the tube (once they have been cleaned – we don't want the tube to fester!) to see just how many we can collect! So if you collect any, please do bring them to the Centre. Just remember not to touch them with your fingers as the plastic absorbs pollutants and can become quite toxic.

You can see our total of 6650 on the map on the Great Nurdle website, along with many other figures collected around the coast. Well done and thank you very much to the 30 folk who collected nurdles on the 17th.

Eden Thomson



Shoreline is a great local magazine. It emphasises the importance of palaeontology and fossil collecting in the area to villagers and tourists alike and is one of the outlets for fossil news in Charmouth and West Dorset.

Chris Moore, Palaeontologist

The Joy of Re-Found fossils

I had a great Christmas on the fossil front as I found, or rather re-found, lots of really nice ammonites originally from Charmouth in the tidy-up of my man cave workshop! I knew that there were a few bits and pieces in there somewhere, along with a monster block propped up in the corner of the garage, but I was not ready for topstone nodules crammed with ammonites washed up against fossil wood together with lovely woodstone and flatsone Asties (Astroceras), all in various stages of preparation, from none or even broken to partially picked at and given up on. These are common fossils but I am unlikely to find many more until we have a big new landslide right through the best beds.

Back in the early 1990s, we did not have the luxury of assistant summer wardens at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre; it was just me and Ben Totterdell or Jeremy Rowe. The result was that we had to work pretty much flat out in the summer, freeing up time in the winter to rescue fossils as they were washed from the landslides. And those landslides were so much better then; much more productive than at present. As the fossil warden, you need to really live the life in order to be that enthusiastic, experienced and an authentic expert for the school and public walks, and I am glad to see that the present wardens, notably young Phil, are doing the same, even though they are also competition!

I have to thank Chris Moore for the many, many hours I must have spent in his workshop, using his tools and learning from his experience. But despite the time, some of these blocks never got started or finished. Now I have the tools for the job, and the time, and here are some of the results; I hope you enjoy them!

All we need now is a space where we can put on display these sorts of fossils, along with the really rare and spectacular discoveries made here and that form a core value of the World Heritage Site designation. The recent BBC documentary 'Attenborough and the Sea Dragon' provided a glimpse of what this Site really has to offer, above and beyond the very good work delivered by places such as the CHCC. The display of this specimen has drawn large numbers of people down here and the Centre is to be congratulated for making the effort to showcase what the collectors recover, and in doing so, demonstrating the unrealised potential of the World Heritage Site in West Dorset. Well done!

Richard Edmonds



Epophioceras block with at least 150 ammonites within it and at least six different species. This was such a big job. It just sat in the garage, challenging me for the last 25 years until I started on it last year. I must have spent at least 150 hours cleaning it. The Epophioceras limestone is a very strange bed found occasionally in just one spot on the front of the Black Ven landslide.



Topstone nodule with Xiphoceras, Promicroceras and Cymbites washed up against a piece of knotted wood.



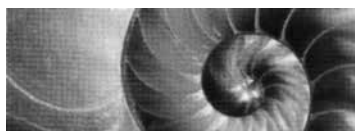
Topstone nodule packed with Promicroceras, some with opalescence, fossilised mother of pearl, (which has not come out well in the image) and one Xiphoceras. These are also concentrated around a piece of wood that is heavily recrystallized.



Woodstone Astroceras complete with a piece of wood. This ammonite was 'sticky', meaning that the shell did not pop off the calcite-filled chambers easily, so we are looking at about 20 hours of preparation. No doubt some of the professionals can work faster and better than me.



Peachy flatstone Promicroceras. Time to fess up; I used to give Chris Moore all of the smaller ammonites in exchange for using his workshop but, err, well sorry Chris, I appear to have kept the best ones for myself!



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I first read Shoreline a day or so after arriving in Charmouth in mid-2011 and was very impressed that a small village had such a professional publication. Thanks to that issue, I started volunteering at the Heritage Coast Centre and became involved with what was going to happen to the library. Because of those articles, and consequent activities, I made friends and quickly felt 'part of' the village. Thank you.

Eden Thomson



CONGRATULATIONS Shoreline from all at the Charmouth Medical Practice! Ten years of brilliant local reporting, keeping us informed and connected and entertained. What a wonderful asset for the village and the surrounding area - well done and thank you!

Dr Sue Beckers

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



Plastic and Pink Sea Fans

Doing a bit of beach cleaning last December, I picked up this bundle of orange plastic netting/line and was about to pull off the 'twigs' when I realised that these were in fact five Pink Sea Fans which had been entangled in the plastic and wrenched off the sea floor!

But what are Pink Sea Fans and why is this important?

Despite looking like twigs, these are not plants, but are marine animals related to anemones, corals and jellyfish. Each pink sea fan is not a single animal but a colony of tiny anemone-like polyps with stinging tentacles, a bit like tiny sea anemones. A fan, i.e. a colony, can grow more than 50cm high and 75cm across, but are more often up to 25cm high/across. Those found entangled and in the photograph are only about 10cm. Colonies are slow-growing, perhaps 10mm per year although this varies, so the largest colonies may be up to 50 years old.

Being so slow-growing means that the fans are very vulnerable to damage, with the main threats being dredging for scallops, some trawling, and boat anchoring, and sometimes entanglement in plastic netting or twine. But did you know that there is a Lyme Bay Marine Reserve - a large area of water and sea bed protected for nature conservation reasons? Pink Sea Fans, and therefore many other species are better protected

here than they might be elsewhere. However, storms can rip them from the sea bed as well. Bad weather probably detached this one from the sea floor.

The fan-shaped colonies are easily recognised as they have lots of branches. These are usually, but not always, all in one plane i.e. the fan will lie flat on a surface. They tend to grow between 4 metres and 50 metres below sea level, and at right angles to the prevailing currents. This means that the largest possible surface area faces the current, and their tentacles catch zooplankton as they are washed past by the current. Dogfish may attach their eggcases, often called mermaid's purses, to the fans.

The Pink Sea Fan *Eunicella verrucosa* is an important and scarce species, protected under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in the UK and classed as globally vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Few of us will ever see one, but Lyme Bay is a good location to find them, with East Tennants Reef (three miles south of Seatown) supporting some of the largest colonies. Despite their name, they vary in colour from dark pink to white, possibly even yellow or orange.

If interested, the entangled fans should be available to see at the desk in the Heritage Coast Centre.

Eden Thomson

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.*



Shoreline Organisms



Lichens following wood grain on the walkway to West beach



Bridge over River Char



Gabions next to bridge/river

Photos: Rosalind Cole

Lichens in the Landscape

Against the landscape of a rural area, a bright new roof or wall can appear very stark but after a while, small splodges of colour begin to show. These are usually greenish or orange-brown and they grow very slowly, allowing the structure to gradually meld with the more muted colours of the surrounding countryside.

So what might be seen on a roof or wall? Apart from algae and mosses, there are other organisms which are not plants – they are lichens. Lichens are formed from the combination of an alga and a fungus which develop a mutually beneficial relationship. As the 'body' of the lichen, the fungus forms a protective layer around the alga which, being greenish, can photosynthesise and so produce food – simple sugars. Lichens need protection as they have many environmental changes to contend with: freezing cold to excessively hot temperatures; variations in moisture and salinity resulting from rain water or sea spray; drying out; wave action and other factors such as UV light, pollutants and bird droppings. Lichens are remarkably tolerant.

Outside Charmouth Primary School, along the seaward end of the fence and on twiggy parts of the hedge, lichens may be seen as splodges of orange perhaps with a yellow or greenish tinge. In the hot, dry days of summer they almost disappear but in damp weather they grow with a radiant glow of orange. On the bridge over the River Char lichens grace the wooden rails, flattish encrusting types on the top and leafy or trailing growths lower down. They survive well in places where there is plenty of moisture at the bases of wooden posts and edges of planks, often following the pattern of the wood grain. Some species are renowned for growing in areas where the air is clear and unpolluted while others tolerate certain levels and types of pollution.

Some lichens are commonly found in marine environments, particularly on stable beaches in the UK; rocks present for many decades or longer can be successfully colonised by lichens that survive close to the sea. One species looking as black as tar commonly grows on rocks on the upper shore, while an orange species grows in the splash zone; another specialises in growing on barnacles. By contrast, the Charmouth coast is most unstable, changing all the time. Cliffs fall, mud slides, boulders and cobbles tumble around, and lichens have little chance of growing successfully on the beach itself. The best places to look for lichens locally are stable structures such as the bridge, gabions, wooden walkway to the west beach and the upper parts of the rocky sea defences.

After wild weather, lichens commonly on tree twigs and bark can be found near the mouth of the River Char. These are dislodged from trees overhanging the river higher up the valley but will not generally grow on the beach. However, they have interesting structures. Using a hand lens or magnifying glass, it is fascinating to carefully examine lichens. The orange *Xanthoria* can be seen with its rounded leafy structures radiating outwards and sometimes developing small, flattish, round yellow to brown structures like mini jam tarts about 0.5 – 1 mm across. These are the lichen's fruiting bodies from which spores will develop and disperse to form new lichens. However, lichens can also reproduce from small pieces that break off and start a new growth elsewhere, perhaps after being carried by the wind.

To identify lichens on coastal features, fences, walls, tree bark, twigs and other structures, there are some excellent, beautifully-illustrated (and waterproof) field guides produced by the Field Studies Council; a key authority is Frank Dobson. See also the British Lichen Society website: www.britishlichensociety.org.uk

Rosalind Cole



10 years!!!! That long? I must be nearing retirement. It's great for amateur and professional alike, and although dominated by local events, notices and advertisements, the inclusion of other 'features' adds interest and it has become a 'worldwide' read.

Steve Pile, Charmouth Postmaster



Shoreline is a quality village magazine which is special thanks to its local contributors and excellent editorial team. It keeps us well informed about village activities in relation to our beautiful and interesting environment.

Rosalind Cole

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Charmouth Birding Update

The last six months have seen some fantastic birding highlights in and around Charmouth.

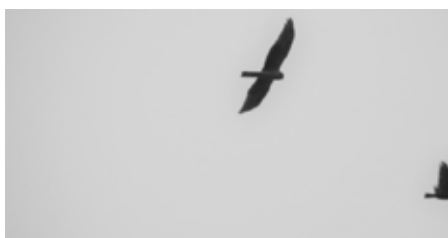
The first Pallid Harrier since 1938, seen in Charmouth on 26th October 2017.

Just too late to include in the last Shoreline, I found a PALLID HARRIER flying over Black Ven cliffs. I knew it was rare but I've since found out that this is the first sighting of this magnificent bird in Dorset for 79 years. AND I saw it over our village of Charmouth!

Early one autumn morning last year, I was walking on West Cliff in Charmouth, near the golf course, when I heard a noisy group of four or five Carrion Crows flying high along the cliff line in the direction of Lyme Regis. What was the reason for the commotion? Looking up and scanning the group with my binoculars, I saw that they were perturbed by the presence of a raptor and were doing their best to distract and mob it, so that it would quickly pass away from their territory. On closer inspection, I realised that the focus of their attention (and now mine!) was a species of Harrier. I could clearly see the white rump and slender wings, but I was too far away to be positive about its identification through the binoculars. Could it be a Hen Harrier (a very good sighting for Charmouth)? Or the rarer Montague's Harrier (which I've seen recently at Seaton wetlands) or the much, much rarer Pallid Harrier. My camera has a powerful zoom lens and I quickly fired off a few hasty record photos before the bird was pushed higher into low cloud and drifted westwards out of sight. To cut a long story short, I emailed the photos off to one of my birding chums who came back almost immediately with "It's a Pallid Harrier!" and a fantastic record for Dorset. Now, this is a big deal and I've sent my photos and field notes of the sighting to the Dorset Bird Recorder for inclusion in the Annual County Report. It's only the second ever Dorset record, with the last Pallid Harrier seen as long ago in 1938. With a breeding range to the north of the Black and Caspian Seas in Asia, this is a very rare vagrant bird. Here are a couple of my photos taken on 26th October 2017.



Juvenile Pallid Harrier gracing the skies above Charmouth – 26th October 2017



The long, slender wings of the Pallid Harrier with one of the attendant, 'mobbing' Crows

Winter Finches

It's been a good few months for wintering finches. Lambert's Castle has played host to large mixed flocks of Brambling and Chaffinches. They could be seen feeding on the ground on a fallen beech mast near the National Trust Car Park. They're quite well camouflaged amongst the leaf litter, but are nervous and, when approached, fly up into the bushes and trees so it's difficult to get close views in the woods. On one visit, on 17th November, I saw at least 60 Bramblings in a mixed flock containing Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Tree Creeper and Nuthatch. Nice to see, but 2017/18 will be long remembered as a 'Hawfinch winter'. Or possibly THE Hawfinch winter hereabouts. So, another highlight for me has been seeing one of our larger finches – the impressive Hawfinch – at several local sights. Hawfinches are normally quite illusive and uncommon in the south west. One would have to travel to Haldon Forest in Devon or to the Forest of Dean to get reliable sightings of this, our biggest finch. But not this winter. Slightly larger than the ubiquitous Chaffinch, it breeds high up in deciduous and mixed woodland, is usually secretive and easily disturbed and hence very difficult to see. Its range extends across Europe and into central and eastern Europe and last autumn (probably as a result of crop failure in Eastern Europe) many, many more Hawfinches than usual have arrived on these shores.



Eye ball to eye ball with a Hawfinch in Shute Churchyard

They started appearing locally from the middle of November onwards, favouring particularly the Yew trees to be found in the churchyards of the local villages of Shute, Colyton, Musbury, Uplyme and Symondsburys. The Shute Hawfinches were first found by local birder James McCarthy on 13th November. In January, I was lucky enough to find a male and a female Hawfinch at Uplyme Church

and then, a few days later, four more at Symondsburys Churchyard. As well as the Yew, Hawfinches favour, in particular, the seeds of Hornbeam, Field Maple, Beech and even Sloes. Checkout the size of the bill in these photos – a bill that is so strong it can crack open cherry stones! A wonderful bird and this winter was probably a once-in-a-lifetime chance to gain such fantastic close views of these magnificent birds at sites local to Charmouth.



Hawfinch – checkout the size of that massive bill

And just to finish, the bad weather at the beginning of March associated with the 'Beast from the East' resulted in this unusual 'bookend' of two of these winter visiting finches – a Hawfinch and a Brambling (the northern cousin of our Chaffinches), photographed together on a garden bird table. Brilliant!



Looking forward, look out for the first returning spring migrants - Sand Martin, Wheatear and Chiffchaffs down by the river. All three are possible in the last week of March/ first week of April, just as Shoreline is published.

Happy Spring Birding!

Richard Phillips

All photos in this article have been taken by ©Richard Phillips, with the exception of the photo of the Brambling and Hawfinch taken together on a bird table by ©Roger, and included with thanks.

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



Everyone who makes everything happen for Charmouth Village People and all those who support us, attend our events and make all the things we do such fun, would like to wish Shoreline a big Happy 10th Anniversary.

Amanda Baber, Charmouth Village People

Charmouth Scout News

Can you help me get to the 24th World Scout Jamboree 2019

My name is Freya Southcott and I am an Explorer Scout with 1st Charmouth Seagulls. I am 16 and studying for my GCSEs at Woodroffe School.

In my spare time, I volunteer as a Young Leader helping at Beavers. I am a member of Marshwood Young Farmers, play badminton and love art and photography. Back in October half-term I went on a selection camp (on the coldest weekend ever!) with over 150 scouts from all over Dorset. Sixty were selected and will make up part of the UK Contingent going to the 24th World Scout Jamboree 22nd July to 2nd August 2019 in the United States.

The event itself will see 60,000 scouts from all over the world converging on a purpose-built campsite in West Virginia. We also get to complete sight-seeing tours of a couple of major US cities and a stay for a week in another country which, for the British contingency, looks like being somewhere in Canada. Each Scout is expected to raise the £3,600 needed to go by organising and taking part in numerous fundraising events, with the idea that it will give us new skills and build confidence prior to the event. Some of this amount goes towards enabling less fortunate scouts from other countries to also attend the Jamboree.



I have already been busy with my fundraising efforts. With two other girls who have been selected locally we went bag packing at Waitrose, which raised £200. I have helped at my village hall vintage tea event, with the proceeds donated to my fund and have been collecting unwanted clothes to raise more. I have more events planned over the next few months.

This trip will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me, especially coming from a rural community, to meet kids from all over the world. I will learn new skills, learn about other cultures, learn to cope away from home and I will get the chance to take part in numerous adventurous activities. We also have to take part in volunteering in the communities we visit (hopefully in Canada). I am very proud to have been selected and be able to represent 1st Charmouth Explorers at this amazing event.

If you are planning a Spring Clean, one of my fund raising events is to collect unwanted clothes (no towels or bedlinen). I am planning a drop-in at the Youth Club Hall on Sunday 6th May from 10am to 12 noon. Please join us for a cup of tea or cake refreshments.

If you would like to support me, please visit www.gofundme.com/Freya-s-Dream and make a donation, however small, as it will all help me reach my goal.

Beaver News

We continue to run an exciting programme for our Beaver colony, which is currently 18 strong (6 to 8 year old boys and girls). We meet on Mondays at the Scout Hut, 5:30pm – 6.45pm (term time)

This term our programme has included learning what makes plants grow and planting sweet pea seeds that our Young Leader Freya hopes to sell on a gardening stall for her Jamboree fundraising, but also as part of our gardening badge.

We have tried bouldering... A version of rock climbing but a bit more horizontal than vertical!



We completed our emergency first aid badge with the help of a visit from an ambulance technician. We took a trip to the West Bay Coastguard to learn about beach/cliff safety and got to look over all their kit and try on their uniforms! We celebrated Chinese New Year of the Dog by making and decorating dragons and lanterns and tasting Chinese food. We learnt how to wish each other Happy New Year in Chinese (Guo Nian Hao!).



We continued with our celebrations by cooking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday in preparation for Ash Wednesday and Lent. Topped of course with lots of whipped cream, chocolate and bananas!

We have a couple of craft nights organised for Mother's Day Gifts and for Easter decorations which we have been invited to display at the Morcombelake Spring Flower Show. We plan an evening learning how to be a bee keeper and the importance of bees to the world! Next term, the goal will be to spend more time outdoors exploring our wonderful coastline, woods and countryside, even trying our hand at geo-caching and, of course, toasting marshmallows over a fire.

1st Charmouth Beaver Leaders
Karen Southcott (Raccoon)
& **Giles Smallwood** (Coyote)

To join our waiting list please contact karen.southcott@btinternet.com



Charmouth Seagulls Trip to Dartmoor by Freya Southcott

On the Thursday evening at the start of our February half-term, 10 intrepid Explorers and I headed to Lower Aish, Dartmoor for a few days' hiking. Even hardened outdoor types like ourselves were relieved to see we were staying in a purpose-built barn and not outside in tents. We unpacked, prepared dinner and played board games and cards during the evening.

We got up on Friday, made breakfast, packed our lunches and hiked for 10 miles from over Hameldown and Grimspound Tor. We must have been mad as it was freezing, with a biting cold wind and snow on the ground!

We made it back to base camp, and after dinner were given the challenge to prepare a one-minute speech. Mine was 50 ways to procrastinate which I have had much practice in, trying to find many ways to avoid my GCSE revision! Of course girls can't go without a shower for three days, so we washed our hair whilst playing loud music which was drowned out by our terrible singing which probably terrified the nocturnal wildlife for miles around! With the weather deteriorating, we decided to come home early on Saturday and after packing up we headed back to balmy Charmouth and more revision!

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

Charmouth Guides

We are delighted to be able to contribute to the 10th anniversary edition of Shoreline. We have written before and find it a great way to remind people that we are still running after many years and have taken part in some exciting things and have many more lined up. Since September we had a sleepover near Taunton on the Scout campsite. We did some climbing, aerial runway, campfire cooking and singsong. We had the usual talent show and used woodland craft skills, which everyone enjoyed as it is not very often you get to use a power tool when you are

a young lady! For our Christmas party we went bowling at Freshwater. Since the New Year we have been doing the Cupcake challenge, been camel racing and visited various countries whilst looking at the Guides' Thinking Day celebrations (22nd Feb). Coming up, we hope to join another guide troop for a sing song, we will be having a cook out, where the girls will be cooking a two-course meal over open fires in a field. This is usually an event to rival 'Come Dine With Me'! We have a weekend camp planned with Dorset Guides, as well as many more activities.

If you are between the ages of 10 and 14 or older and want to get involved, please get in touch with Davina Pennels on 01297 560965.

Debbie Thatcher

Collection of old coins and banknotes for Dorset and West

DORSET DISTRICT SCOUTS

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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. We have raised over £50 for Charmouth Scouts since the last issue – Thank you. Drop off point – 16, Double Common, Charmouth.

Many thanks,

Melanie Harvey, Explorer Scout Leader (Charmouth Seagulls)



Shoreline has played a pivotal role in the Scout Group's growth and development over the last seven years. Regular, positive coverage has spread the word about our activities and encouraged young people of all ages to come along and find out what modern Scouting is all about. Thanks for your help!

Kevin Payne, Group Leader, Charmouth Scouts



Shoreline provides an opportunity to showcase what we are doing in Scouts. I enjoy the short articles that give information about activities in the village. I find the directory of activities and numbers very useful!

Melanie Harvey, Explorer Scout Leader

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



Clare Mackenney, Ian Simpson and the team

Master Chefs meet the real Master Chef

Scouts from 1st Charmouth won the District Cooking Comp for the first time in January. The team comprising: Lucy and Annabel Mackenney, Minnie Harvey and Annabelle Roberts went four places better than last year with their Nepalese Dumplings; Christmas Dinner on a kebab stick and key lime pie – scrummy or what!

Prior to representing the District in the County Final, the team had a final practice and asked Ian Simpson, Chef at the renowned White House Hotel, to come along and give them a few tips. Overall, he was very impressed with all three courses – so much so that he consumed all three courses and awarded the team a Michelin tyre!

The advice obviously paid off as the team came runners up in the County Final and now have to travel to Gloucestershire in April to carry the flag in the Regional Final!



Scouts and leaders enjoy a sausage cooked on their fire at Monkton Wyld

I'm a Scout Get Me Out Of Here!

Thick mud, drizzly rain plus a few snow flurries couldn't stop 10 older Scouts from having a great deal of fun trying to avoid the leaders while getting back to the HQ from Wootton Hill prior to half term.

After collecting points on a daylight/dusk orienteering course, and exchanging them for equipment they thought they might need, they then faced four challenges, including: catching

mouse traps with black rats as bait; lighting a fire with only one cotton wool ball; and building a wheelbarrow from poles and a cable drum.

The cuisine was interesting too – with the bravest Scouts tucking into: silk worm pupae; meal worms; crickets; and black ants. Oh, and spaghetti bolognese for dinner plus bacon sandwiches for breakfast.



The intrepid box kart riders prior to the day's races

New downhill distance record set at Box Kart Race

Forget the exploits of Lizzy Yarnold in the skeleton bobs, if you want real excitement, you cannot beat the Downhill race in the Scout Box Kart Race. After our first two karts toppled sideways and crashed out, Annabel Mackenney piloted her kart further down the slope than any Charmouth Scout had ever gone before – and led the race for a while. However, it was not enough for a Bronze medal, although we were all convinced she got the third furthest.

No joy either in the Road, Sprint or Cross Country, but the ten Scouts who attended all had an absolutely great time pushing and steering our three karts just short of the medal positions.



Four of the Cubs building their bird boxes

First Aid, bird boxes, butter and dampers

Despite the weather, it's already been a very active term for the Cubs featuring First Aid training and bird box, butter and damper (bread on a stick) making. The latter three activities courtesy Linden, Jo, Jay and Seamus, plus other residents at Monkton Wyld, who kindly gave up their time to pass on their skills.

The bird boxes were made in MW's workshop, using a template drawn up by Linden. But all the sawing, sanding, drilling and nailing was done by the Cubs themselves, under expert supervision. Every Cub left with a new home for the birds in their garden.

After being shown how to light a fire using a striker and a piece of cotton wool, the Cubs used their new found skill to prepare

a fire large enough to cook their dampers. They then prepared the dough, wrapped it round a foil-covered stick and finally made their butter by churning full cream, unpasteurised milk in a jam jar. Then back to the embers to bake their bread and spread their butter.

Luckily during all these activities, none of the Cubs needed the First Aid skills they had also learned – although knowledge of how to deal with hypothermia may have been useful had it been any colder standing around the fire waiting for the dough to rise!

Kevin Payne, *Group Leader, Charmouth Scouts*

Brownies & Rainbows

22nd February, known as World Thinking Day, is a special day in the Girl Guiding calendar as it is the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, our founders. It is celebrated by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all across the world and Charmouth is no exception! We joined over 100 girls from across West Dorset at Bridport Leisure Centre to try activities from around the world. From making paper skiers to Mexican dancing to traditional Indian games, the girls had a jam-packed afternoon!

Before Christmas, Charmouth Brownies and Rainbows enjoyed a trip to the panto: Dick Whittington at the Exeter Northcott Theatre, in addition to visiting Bymead Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols. This has become somewhat of a tradition and the girls, along with Bymead's staff and residents, always have a great time, and not just due to the delicious cake and Santa's visit!



This term we have been busy working on some badges. The Rainbows decided they wanted to complete their unicorn challenge badge. After several weeks of glitter, rainbows and magic, they were declared unicorn experts and earned their badge! The Brownies are currently working towards their cooks badge and so far have enjoyed making pizzas and scones (both delicious) and learning about kitchen hygiene and safety. In addition, at the beginning of term, the girls asked to do a fashion show so we are currently working on some themes and practising our catwalk!

In September, two of our leaders will be going to university, so in order to keep both units running and allowing the maximum number of girls to take part, we need your help! If you have ever wondered what Girl Guiding is all about, or you fancy volunteering once a week, please make yourself known to us!

Any enquiries about Rainbows (girls aged 5-7), Brownies (girls aged 7-10), or volunteering to Caroline Davis on 07525 918796.



Explorer Scouts Plastic Pollution

Plastic has only been around for the last 60 – 70 years but, in that short space of time, it has transformed everything from cooking and catering to product design, engineering and retailing. One of the most substantial advantages of plastic is that it has been designed to last a very long time, which means nearly all the plastic ever made still exists in some form today. The United Nations warns us that "Marine life is facing irreparable damage from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year." It has been declared a planetary crisis... "We are ruining the ecosystems of the ocean". So how can we help to stop plastic pollution getting worse?

Our plastic use is out of control and we need to recognise that, without change, the consequences to our oceans will be catastrophic. However, there are small habits that we can adopt to reduce our plastic usage.



A day's worth of plastic

- *Ditch plastic straws - This doesn't just apply to plastic straws but all single-use plastics. Individuals and businesses are using them so frequently these days without considering where they end up. Single-use plastics are unnecessary items that are costing our planet and oceans, so stopping or reducing our use of them will result in a decrease of plastic pollution.*
- *Give up gum - Gum is made from a synthetic rubber so we are truthfully just chewing on plastic which may also be toxic. The chemicals used to make gum can be very harmful to sea creatures.*
- *Plastic bags - The 5p charge on plastic bags has reduced the number used. But people are still thoughtlessly using them, without considering the fact that just one plastic bag can take 1,000 years to degrade. Instead of using them at the supermarket to bag our fruit and vegetables we can replace them with cotton reusable bags. This will instantly reduce the amount of plastic pollution we are creating.*

What are Explorer Scouts doing about plastic pollution? Over the last few weeks, Explorer Scouts have been researching all about plastic pollution, ways to reduce our use of plastics and how to repair the damage that plastic is causing. We are starting by raising awareness about the environmental impact it is having on our planet, by presenting an assembly at Woodroffe School and planning a joint beach clean with Litter Free Coast and Sea.

To find out more information about plastic pollution visit <https://www.litterfreecoastandsea.co.uk/>

Alex Moorey

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



A Winter Wonderland



*-5.9C - 1. Remove icicles;
2. Scatter birdseed*
Photo: Lesley Dunlop



Distant Shorelines - Maria Beazley in Singapore



Flappers Aplenty as Charmouth Welcomes 2018! Photo: Ann McNair



Hot Chilli at The Bank House - Christmas Fayre 2017



Distant Shorelines - Hannah Trott at Angkor Wat, Cambodia.



Human fruit machine at St. Andrews - Christmas Fayre 2017



As one of the Charmouth Traders we would like to confirm our continued support for Shoreline. The magazine is a valuable tool for us in promoting the Dorset 'way of life' and 'lifestyle' which, apart from many lovely properties and of course our countryside and coast, validates our community spirit and the variety of activities in the village. It helps to support all we say about the village and area in both the written form - and online on the village website when we have run out of printed copies!

Teresa Noel, Fortnam Smith & Banwell



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What's On

The Lyme Regis Fossil Festival

The Lyme Regis Fossil Festival is running over the weekend of the 5th - 6th May, centred around the old town and sea front. The theme this year is Lyme through Time; 200 million years of geological time, 200 years of discovery. The rocks and fossils around Lyme Regis and Charmouth date back to the start of the Jurassic and yet we have only spent the last 200 years unravelling the stories that they contain. Who knows what else there is to be discovered, while ever more powerful technologies enable us to discover more. As with previous events, the Natural History Museum, along with both national and regional science organisations, museums and universities will be displaying their work in the earth sciences and there will be plenty of hands-on activities together with walks and talks. More details can be found at <https://www.fossilfestival.co.uk/>

Richard Edmonds

COME TO THE BEACH CLEAN

Saturday 21st April at 3pm

Meet at the bottom of the steps outside CHCC.

Gloves and equipment provided, but bring your own if you like.

Phone CHCC on 560772 for further information.

Anyone for Croquet?

Lym Valley Croquet is looking for new members from Charmouth! We have two open afternoons (Sunday 29th April and Sunday 10th June). All are invited to come along to Uplyme at 2pm to try their hand at croquet. We play two varieties, one social, short and fun; the other challenging and skilful. Our cunning handicap system allows seasoned and new players to compete on equal terms. Refreshments and all equipment provided. First three sessions free! Call David on 07909 111512 to find out more about this fascinating game. We also have two evening sessions, on Tuesday 15th May and Tuesday 19th June - same applies, but starts at 6pm.

David Brooke-Smith

In Conversation at the Library

Thursday 19th April, 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Terry Coverdale

TEXTILE DESIGNER/MULTI-MEDIA ARTIST

Will talk about her teaching placement in remote parts of China

Entrance £3 and there will be a bar.

HERITAGE COAST U3A



The following talks are all at Woodmead Halls, Lyme Regis DT7 3PG and all on Wednesday mornings, except April. Free to U3A members; donation of £2 suggested for non-members. Contact: Mary Bohane, 01297-444566.

Friday 13th April. Talk at 11.00am, coffee 10.00am - 10.45am

Mr Chips Rides Again: John Bartholomew - John Bartholomew, former Chair of the Heritage Coast U3A, Organiser-in-Chief of U3A theatre and opera visits, and Quizmaster-Extraordinaire, takes a whimsical look at 40 years in the education business. John spent 35 years full-time in secondary education, one third as head of a large comprehensive school and a further seven years, part-time, working as adviser, consultant and reluctant inspector. His talk will mix anecdote with observation in the hope of offering something that will stimulate lots of thought and some merriment.

Wednesday 9th May. Talk at 11.00am, coffee 10.00am - 10.45am

The Grandeur and Art of Tuscany: Christopher Legrand - Last year Christopher gave us a fascinating illustrated talk on 'Vietnam and the Far East'. In May he will be bringing his newest presentation, called 'The Grandeur and Art of Tuscany'. Tuscany is known for its landscapes, traditions, history, artistic legacy, and is regarded as the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. In this demonstration of its beauty and significance, Christopher will take us on visits to some of the historic towns, enjoying aspects of the Tuscan artistic heritage.

Wednesday 13th June. Talk at 11.00am, coffee 10.00am - 10.45am

The Wonderful World of Glass: Dr Francis Burroughes - Last March Francis kept a large audience enthralled and entertained with his insider's understanding (by inheritance, not directly!) of 'The Victorian Head Gardener'. He is also an acknowledged expert on the history of glass, and is often asked to lend pieces and speak about them for various television antiques programmes. From his own personal collection, he will bring historic and valuable items of glass for members of the audience to examine for themselves, illustrating the whole history of glass-making from 3000 B.C. to the present day. Over the last few years this talk has proved to be one of the most popular talks Francis has given, so a treat lies in store.

Wednesday 11th July. 10.00 Talk at 11.00am, coffee 10.00am - 10.45am

Colin Varndell: The Hedgehog Predicament - Most U3A members will be familiar with Colin's spectacular and intimate wildlife photography, and his rare ability to talk about his subject in a way that conveys fascinating information in an entertaining and engaging way. His new presentation covers the natural history of the hedgehog, its decline and the reasons for it, and what we can do as individuals to help hedgehogs. Prepare for a full house!

Chris Boothroyd



Shoreline is a wonderful shop window for the vibrant life of Charmouth! I think it is the best free community magazine I have ever come across. It has been a privilege to contribute to it about the life of St Andrew's Church in every edition since its inception. It is beautifully presented, with substantially informative articles about the many aspects of life in the village that make it so unique. I strongly commend Shoreline to people who I meet in my many travels around the West Country. Well done to a brilliant and professional editorial team!

Revd Stephen Skinner, Team Rector of the Golden Cap Churches

Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers

We Remember

David Newson

1932 – 2018

David was born in 1932, in Walworth, South London. He spent time with his family, living in the North of England in both Southport and Bradford and enjoyed walking the moors with his father. He enjoyed playing cricket, football and hockey, having trials to become professional and he maintained this love of sport throughout his life, albeit as an observer more than a participant.

In 1949, David joined the Navy and thoroughly enjoyed his service career – especially the posting to Malta, during which he met a vivacious Wren who became his wife. Jean and David had five children: Wendy, Simon, Toby, Tracey and Rupert. They had eight grandchildren: Tomiko, Hannah, Matthew, Joby, Rhiannon, Charlotte, Gareth and Caleb and two great-grandchildren: Reuben and Effie.

After leaving the Navy, David joined the Lord Chancellor's Office and spent much of the rest of his working life as a Clerk of the Court, firstly at Knighstbridge Crown Court (during which time the family lived in Cranleigh) and then at Reading Crown Court. With a shared love of theatre, Jean and David became enthusiastic members of Reading's amateur Progress Theatre and David acted in many amateur and professional productions over the years. He worked alongside the then-teenage Kate Winslet and a young Sir Kenneth Branagh.

In retirement, Jean and David sought a seaside home and chanced upon their cottage in Charmouth in 1994. They

immediately became stalwart members of the community. David joined the Heritage Centre as a volunteer and went on to work as a Trustee for 20 years. He became a Parish Councillor in 1996 and, in 1999, was persuaded to stand as an independent District Councillor in West Dorset. For 12 years he worked diligently and conscientiously on behalf of the community. He was considered approachable as a local politician and people took him their concerns, knowing he would do his best for them. He was so well regarded that he stood unopposed during his tenure. After the loss of Jean in 2008, David took great comfort and support from friends and neighbours, as well as from community groups, including the Catherston Leweston Church, the Sunday Lunch Club and the U3A play reading group. He continued to enjoy his love of walking and took holidays worldwide, making new friends wherever he went. He died peacefully at home with his children around him. The family would like to thank the Charmouth community for contributing so much to David's happiness in retirement.



Georgina Newson

David was awarded Honorary Life Membership for services to the CHCC over and above the usual volunteering; he was a Trustee and volunteer for many years - a true friend to the Friends of the Coast Centre.

Rosalind Cole

(Read more about David's life on page 22 of the spring 2013 issue of Shoreline at www.charmouth.org)

Remembering Carole Girling

Carole Girling died suddenly in November last year at the age of 66. She lived in Charmouth for the last 17 years since her retirement. Carole enjoyed both the wonderful environment in which she resided and her community. She loved walking her dog Bella round the village and in particular on Stonebarrow.

Carole will best be remembered for her work with The Neighbourhood Plan, where she was Chairperson. Carole was committed to the community, both as a volunteer with the National Trust and her work with the plan. She will be greatly missed by all, including her brother Larry and me, her lifelong friend.

Mo Cooper



Shoreline provides an interesting take on village activities and provides a link between Abode and the local community.

Kind regards, Andy Morel



Congratulations to all concerned with the publication of Shoreline. It is a wonderful village resource, full of content that is relevant and practical to our community. It has helped Herringbone to launch our business and to keep our customers informed about our intentions and new developments. Here's to another 10 years!

Teresa, Herringbone



Dorset Family Information Service, part of Dorset County Council, offers free advice and assistance for parents, carers and young people. We provide information on childcare funding and how to apply, groups and activities, family services, special educational needs and disability support and much more! We also can provide advice and support with finding childcare to suit your family.

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Visit our website: dorsetforyou.gov.uk/fis
Contact us: familyinfo@dorsetcc.gov.uk*

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)	Wed 5.30 – 7.00pm (term time only)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Caroline Davis 07525 918796
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
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	4th Tuesday of the month 7.30pm	The Elms, The Street	Lisa Tuck 01297 560826
Rainbows (ages 5-7)	Wed 5.30 – 6.30pm (term time only)	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Caroline Davis 07525 918796
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

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	Charmouth Pharmacy, 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 – Cllrg-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
CINEMA	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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