

SPRING 2019

FREE

# SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WINNERS

Charmouth's Shoreline in Winter

1ST - BILL BURN



2ND - GEOFF TOWNSON



3RD - MONIQUE NEWBY



## High Anxiety for Scouts and Explorers - Page 34



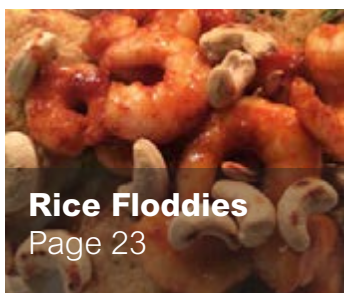
## Childhood Memories Page 10



## Create a Life You Love - Page 21



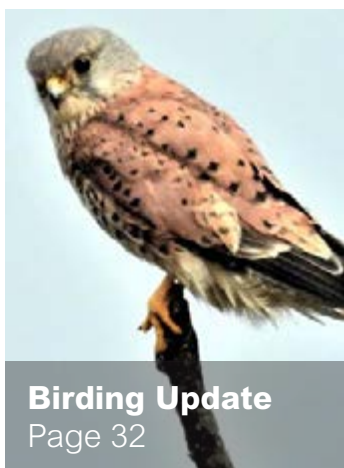
## Rice Floddies Page 23



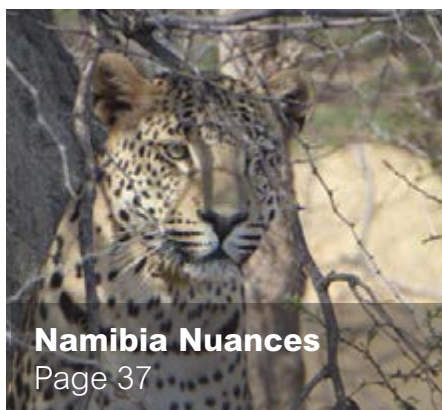
## A History of Portland House - Page 18



## Birding Update Page 32



## Namibia Nuances Page 37



## Distant Shorelines - Texan couple enjoying revelries and Shoreline at New Orleans Mardi Gras



## Charmouth Stores

**We now  
sell co-op  
products**



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	<b>LOTS OF OFFERS</b>	Crisps, Nuts and Snacks
Bean-to-cup Coffee Machine		Part of the Nisa Family

The Street • Charmouth • 01297 560304

## Abode

- The supply and fit of carpets, vinyls and luxury vinyl tiles to all areas of the home
- Professional and courteous fitters
- Furniture moved and old flooring lifted and disposed of
- Leading brands and manufacturers
- Made to measure blinds and curtains
- Always offering beautiful home accessories

THE STREET, CHARMOUTH. 01297 560505



**Friendly Cafe**  
located in the  
centre of the  
Village serving  
breakfast,  
lunch, cakes &  
cream teas.

Traditional homecooked  
Sunday roast (booking  
recommended).

01297 561600

## Advertising around the corner, across the South-West, in Central London and Nationally!

• Our advertising and marketing is primarily local, **Fortnam Smith & Banwell** is based in Charmouth, with sister offices in Lyme Regis & Seaton together with our lettings company, FSB Rentals Ltd.

• Our Regional coverage is through the **Experts in Property** where we link with around 80 other independent agents throughout the South West.

• In our London, Park Lane office, through **The Guild of Property Professionals** all our properties are presented via touch screen as well as our normal brochures.



Judy



Teresa



Beki

• Nationally & internationally all our properties are advertised through the major internet portals, Rightmove, Zoopla and Prime Location amongst others. Plus we are linked with over 800 other independent Guild registered agents,

marketing over 65,000 properties across the UK.

We work hard at offering the best advertising coverage and customer service to our vendors and purchasers.

See & like us now on our new Facebook page.



Find us on

As your Local Independent Estate Agent, we offer free valuations and accompanied viewings 7 days a week. Choose us for our local knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm, for all your purchases or lettings locally or out of area.



**FORTNAM  
SMITH & BANWELL**

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

# Editorial

**Let your light shine,  
Be a source of strength and courage,  
Share your wisdom,  
Radiate Love.**

*Wilfred Peterson*

Congratulations to Bill Burn, the winner of our photographic competition, Charmouth's Shoreline in Winter. He received a voucher kindly donated by Lyme Bay Winery for two bottles of their appropriately named 'Shoreline' wine: a well balanced wine with complex layers and perfect with seafood - trust me! Bill's talent as a photographer did not go unnoticed by the judges of the 2020 Charmouth Calendar, as another of his photos graces its cover. Disappointingly there were no entries for the children's class, despite prompting in various quarters.

Dorset County Unitary Elections will be held on Thursday 2nd May. DCC and WDDC will be combined with other councils to become the new 'unitary authority' known as The Dorset Council.

There will also be elections for Charmouth Parish Council if more than 12 people stand. According to the clerk's office, several nomination packs have been given out, which is encouraging. Four more councillors are needed for a full complement and co-option onto the council can occur at any time, if there are vacancies. You can go to [www.charmouth.com](http://www.charmouth.com) to read the minutes of all the meetings and see for yourself how dedicated the councillors are and also learn more about the complexities of running the parish. So why not get involved, your council needs you.

Michael Thomas's childhood memories of Charmouth in the '30s and '40s on page 8 are absolutely enchanting. It is so lovely to read about all the characters who lived and worked in the village when he was growing up here. Two more instalments will be featured in subsequent issues of the magazine.

Dates for your diary include Party in the Park on Sunday 26th May and Songs for the Spirit on Friday

14th June at St Andrew's Church. See the What's On page for more details.

Happy Easter

*Jane*

## THE SHORELINE TEAM

**Jane Morrow**

Editor

**Lesley Dunlop**

Assistant Editor, Features and Diary

**Neil Charleton**

Advertising Manager and Treasurer

**John Kennedy**

Design and Layout



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

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



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

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SHORELINE DELIVERED OR POSTED TO YOUR DOOR, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR. THE COST IS £8 PER YEAR.

## Shoreline 2019

**SUMMER ISSUE** – Deadline 17th June, in the shops 22nd July.

# Charmouth Events Committee

## Charmouth Traders

**This has been a busy year for Charmouth Traders. As well as coordinating the 2020 Calendar and overseeing the website improvements, we are working with Charmouth Parish Council on a new format Charmouth Guide. The aim is to have a design that shows visitors Charmouth's many attractions in a more visual way. The new guide will be available in April.**

The 2018 Christmas lights featured lamp post lights put up by Torbay Display for the first time. They will put different lights

up each year. The money for the lights comes from sales of the Charmouth Calendar and also from the red collection boxes distributed around the village. So far over £300 has been collected in small change towards the 2019 lights – keep popping your change in!

Another project that the Traders have instigated is the production of a jute shopping bag with a Charmouth design on it. Our aim is to reduce the use of plastic bags in the village. These will be on sale from May at only £5 each.



**Phil Tritton**

## Charmouth Website

**The Charmouth website [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) has recently had a facelift which gives more prominence to village societies and events. These now have tabs on the front page. We want this to be a site for Charmouth villagers as well as helping visitors.**

Can all societies look at their contact information and let Tim Heap know if it needs changing. [tim@logomotion.co.uk](mailto:tim@logomotion.co.uk) Also can any event organisers let Tim know of event dates and locations. He will add these so that more people know of your event.

**Phil Tritton**





**T**he seventh Charmouth Calendar, for 2020, will be on sale in the village from April, in time for the Easter visitors to buy. This year we received 168 photographs from 27 Charmouth photographers and the one chosen for the front cover is 'Charmouth Beach in Winter' taken by Bill Burn.

A couple of tips for those of you thinking of taking photos for the 2021 Calendar:

- We received fewer summer photos than the other seasons so more summer shots please!
- The calendar is A4 format so portrait and panoramic shots do not work.

The 2019 calendar sold out before Christmas and raised over £700 for Charmouth's Christmas lights. We are increasing the print run to 600 this year to hopefully raise a bit more. The selling price will be unchanged for the seventh year at £5.99.

## Charmouth Local History Society

The History Society has been very busy and there are three items of note to tell you about:

- Neil Mattingly has done a stunning job producing the 'Charmouth Old Village' booklet which you can pick up in most village outlets. A number of large posters are also displaying the trail. The booklet is free because Charmouth Traders kindly paid for the print cost.
- The 46th Village Echo will be distributed free of charge to all History Society members in March and will be on sale for £2 in the village. Put together by Neil Mattingly, this is probably the best Echo yet and it is packed with interesting articles and old photos of Charmouth.
- The next History Society talk 'Jane Austen in Charmouth' will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday May 7th. Should be a good one!



Finally, we are short on our committee. Please let me know if you would like to join us in promoting Charmouth's history. Phil. tritton@gmail.com



## Charmouth Events

**T**he film nights in The Community Hall have been poorly attended over the winter, perhaps the cold weather being a deterrent. *Bohemian Rhapsody*, on the other hand, promises to be a sell out and this will be followed on Thursday 11th April by *Widows*, directed by Steve McQueen, which has received terrific reviews.

Our next event will be **The Party in The Park on Sunday 26th May**. Fingers crossed that the weather is as good as last year which was a fantastic night. Our band will be Charlie Miller and the Soul Agents, supported by the Velvetene Vigilantes. This year we are renting Portaloos by public request!

**The August Party in The Park is scheduled for Sunday 25th August and over the weekend of September 27/28/29, the very first Charmouth Folk Festival will take place in several venues in the village.** Richard Digance has already agreed to be one of our headline acts. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Our November firework night is scheduled for Saturday 2nd November, the Christmas Fayre will be on Thursday 5th December and we will round the year off with Fireworks at The Beach on New Year's Eve. Future film nights are yet to be scheduled.

**Phil Tritton**



## Charmouth Pharmacy

Guang and his team helping to care for our community.

*Find all your health needs and holiday essentials in store*

**Tel: 01297 560261**

## 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.



# Parish Council News



**The main thing to focus on this time is the forthcoming elections for YOUR Parish Council.**

Democracy at its best is when there is a contested election and to ensure that, 12 or more people would have to stand in Charmouth.

Many people complain about the way the village is managed and the only way to make a real difference is to join the Parish Council, to understand and be part of how decisions are made.

There is information and a timetable on the Parish Council's website and although nomination papers are handled by Dorset Council, advice can always be obtained by visiting the Parish Office.

Nomination packs are available online at:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections-elections-and-voting/pdfs/may-2019-unitary-and-parish-town-council-elections/may-2019-unitary-council-elections/nomination-pack-for-candidates-standing-for-dorset-council.pdf>

and must be returned by hand to Dorset Council between Monday 18th March and 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2019.



Please consider the future of your community and how you could play a part in it!

Finally, following the recent work carried out internally at the beach café shop to alleviate the ongoing damp issues, it is now proposed following submission of a planning application, to apply larch wood cladding to parts of the southern and western elevations of the building to soften the blow of the sea on the exterior of the building.

**Charmouth Parish Council**  
[www.charmouth.com](http://www.charmouth.com)

## Letters

DEAR PATIENTS OF THE CHARMOUTH MEDICAL PRACTICE,

*I am writing to inform you that from April 1st I will be changing my responsibilities within the Charmouth Medical Practice in order to concentrate on my Good Mood and Food work. I intend to take full retirement from the Partnership in November 2019. Dr Martin Beckers will likewise be retiring from clinical work in June but will remain a partner at least until November.*

*In part, these changes are in order to take the opportunity we have now to engage excellent, enthusiastic GPs who wish to work in our practice and who we feel share the same values of personalised care within modern Family Medicine which led to our ranking of 38th out of more than 7000 practices in England in the 2018 Patient Satisfaction Survey.*

*We believe it is very important to ensure the future sustainability of a service in Charmouth for the wider community, whether or not that service eventually becomes part of a larger practice in the widespread changes encouraged by NHS England and the Dorset CCG. This careful and timely handover of the practice is the best way to ensure the service remains viable and in good hands for the future.*

*Many of you will have already had the pleasure of meeting Dr Alex Warner who has worked with us regularly for the past four years and now we are delighted to welcome Dr Olivia Gill-Carey who has joined us, having provided ad hoc cover for the last two years. They will both be joined by another experienced practitioner in June.*

*It has been my privilege and an honour to have been a GP in Charmouth for the past 30 years. Even though I will not be fully retiring until 10th November, I would like to take this opportunity now to extend my deep-felt thanks and warmest wishes to all my lovely patients for their trust, forbearance and for sharing their lives with me.*

*With very best wishes for your good health*

*Yours sincerely*

**Dr Sue Beckers**

*PS Just a reminder that if you have diabetes or pre-diabetes and wish to be kept informed of the activities of the Good Mood and Food Group, many of whom are already successfully following a Low Carb and Healthy Fat approach to their metabolic problems, then please leave your email address or otherwise a contact number at reception so that I can add your name to our mailing list.*

DEAR EDITOR,

*I wanted to thank you for publishing our article about Charmouth Youth Club in the last issue of Shoreline.*

*We have had a fantastic response from local residents offering their time and expertise to get our drop in youth club nights up and running again. Many thanks to them.*

*Our next mission is to raise funds so we can employ a youth worker who will be supported by volunteers. We receive no funding from district or county council, or from central government so if any readers have expertise in grant applications or youth work and would like to help please get in touch.*

*I strongly believe that the community should support the needs and development of young people and children especially in these times of austerity.*

*Many thanks and best wishes,*

**Pete Wild**

### CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

*Congratulations on yet another excellent publication (Winter 2018). It keeps us in touch with a very vibrant village, the village of my childhood and youth. I was a chorister, bellringer and Sunday School teacher at St Andrew's when Canon Edward Mackie was Rector and I sang at St Mary's Catherston on festive occasions.*

*Neil's article on the History of The George Inn was especially interesting and comprehensive. I can shed light on the photograph of Billy Gear on page 22. Billy stands on the left with my great uncle Frederick White (Landlord) in the middle. The mechanic on the right is Cecil Bugler, whose sister Frances also lived in the village.*

**Michael Thomas**

**Part 1 of Michael's memoirs, Growing Up in Charmouth, can be found on page 10.**



Mentor Kim Sankey of Angel Architecture with three of the four students she is working with under the RIBA scheme. (Students from left: Waldo Olwage, David Johnsey and Matthew Feitelberg.)

## Angel Architecture Mentors Four University Students

**FOUR young architects of the future are being mentored by a Charmouth-based practice specialising in the care and repair of historic buildings.**

Kim Sankey of Angel Architecture is working with four third-year students from UWE Bristol. The mentoring scheme is managed by RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and provides practical preparation for undergraduates in their career and personal development.

Kim said: 'I was honoured when RIBA South West approached me and asked me to be part of their mentoring scheme. I'm very committed to supporting talented young architects.'

The students are David Johnsey, Waldo Olwage, Matthew Feitelberg and Olympia Tinari, two architecture and two architecture and engineering students. Three of them have already visited several buildings that Angel Architecture has worked on, including the former chapel at West Bay, now a visitor centre.

David said: 'I found the intervention at West Bay Chapel particularly interesting. The oak frame insert at the entrance to the chapel and the delicate steel ties that span the width of the building complement the original structure that Kim has sympathetically restored to reflect what was originally there. It was intriguing to see the two different approaches that Kim has taken to regenerate the building and fantastic to see such a great response from the building's new occupants.'

Angel Architecture is the only RIBA Chartered Practice in the area to specialise wholly in old and listed buildings, and those in historic settings. Kim founded the practice in 2014, having spent 30 years working with old buildings in the UK and abroad. For almost ten years she was Head of Design and Conservation at West Dorset District Council.

As principal architect at Angel, Kim provides planning advice, expertise in the repair, alteration, extension and conservation of private houses, commercial premises and community projects across Devon, Dorset and Somerset.

**For more information please contact Kim Sankey on 07742 190490, email [kim@angel-architecture.co.uk](mailto:kim@angel-architecture.co.uk)**

*Angel Architecture are an historic buildings consultancy and RIBA chartered architectural practice based in Charmouth. They have the specialist knowledge needed for carrying out successful repairs and alterations to old and listed buildings, and buildings in historic areas.*

## Lyme Regis and Charmouth Food Bank.

**F**ood banks have become an unfortunate but common sight throughout the nation in the last few years. This beautiful part of the country has been no exception - Bridport, Seaton and Axminster have all had food banks for some time, and since May last year Lyme Regis has joined their ranks with LymeForward launching its own food bank. Operating out of the Hub in Church Street on Wednesday mornings, a team of volunteers gathers and sorts the donations that come from a variety of sources – churches, supermarkets, schools and individuals.

Those in need of the food bank have to be referred by one of, currently, 19 professional organisations serving the area – among them Citizens Advice, the three local GP Practices, Magna Housing and Social Services. (The full list of organisations can be found on the LymeForward website). Referrers accept a responsibility for helping those they refer in order to tackle the causes underlying their need to use the food bank. Once identified as needy they receive a voucher from the organisation which entitles them to six weeks at the food bank, after which they have to get another voucher if necessary. The best indicator of usage is a 'person/week' which is the amount an average person might consume in a modest week. Based on that the food bank has provided over 308 'person/weeks' since May - equal to over 70 families of four people. Another distressing statistic is that 40 percent of the people helped have been children.

Statistics apart, the need is real and ongoing and any donations are always welcome either in the form of food or cash. Cash is particularly useful as it can be used to buy supplies that plug the inevitable 'gaps' in the food donations. Details about how and where to donate are on the LymeForward website - [www.lymeforward.com/foodbank](http://www.lymeforward.com/foodbank). Most of the local churches and schools have donation boxes along with Uplyme Post Office. In addition to those locations in Lyme, Charmouth school collects and we also have a collection box outside Morgans here in Charmouth. (Thanks to David and his staff for their help.)

The increasing use of food banks throughout the country does generate a great deal of debate, but regardless of the reasons people find themselves in this position, no one should go hungry in this day and age. It is not for us to judge but simply to help because we can.

**Neil & Lisa Charleton**

## RSPCA Recycling

**Instead of throwing away biscuit/crisps/snack wrappers and polythene bread wrappers for landfill, there's a brilliant new local initiative that recycles them and, at the same time, raises funds for RSPCA West Dorset. Please take your wrappers to the RSPCA shop at 29 West Street, Bridport where there's a collection box and learn more about the scheme.**

## Rotary's Candles on the Cobb Funds Distribution

The Rotary Club of Lyme Regis has distributed funds collected at the 2018 Candles on the Cobb, 50% of which was given to the Royal British Legion to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. The balance was distributed to local youth causes and three Charmouth groups benefitted, namely: Charmouth Brownies & Rainbows, Charmouth Youth Club and 1st Charmouth Scout Group.

**John McCallum**

## Charmouth Old Village Booklet

**C**harmouth's local historian, Neil Mattingly, has devised a truly impressive information-packed eight-page Charmouth Old Village booklet, which is available free at most village outlets, including caravan sites and hotels. He hopes that it will make both villagers and visitors more aware of Charmouth's wonderful historic past. Many of the featured buildings have links with famous people, including King Charles II, Jane Austen, Florence Nightingale, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Rider Haggard, D. K. Chesterton and many more. The booklet includes a circular route that can be followed from Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. Neil also wants more people to be made aware of Charmouth's Old Village that dates back to the 13th century, which runs parallel to the beach. Charmouth Old Village booklet is published by Charmouth Local History Society and Charmouth Traders Association has sponsored both the leaflet and map.

**Lesley Dunlop**



Neil Mattingly, Phil Tritton, Mary Saunders & Roger Sansom of the Charmouth Local History Committee outside Little Lodge, one of the featured properties

**To advertise in Shoreline  
please contact:  
[neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk)**

## PLASTIC FREE CHARMOUTH SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

As mentioned in the last Shoreline, to gain 'Plastic Free' accreditation for Charmouth, there is a range of targets to achieve, especially for businesses. Despite PFC

(Plastic Free Charmouth) only having been in existence for a few months, several targets have already been met.

A growing list of local businesses (40 at present) has been compiled and to date Jo Naylor-Saunders (Strategic Lead for PFC) has contacted over a quarter of these. Some had already started cutting back on their use of plastics and of the rest, most are on board, or keen to explore how they can reduce or eliminate single use plastic. This is really good news. Reaching all the businesses will take time, and they will be approached gradually. PFC is now the local champion for the national Refill Project and will be encouraging businesses to be part of that too.

As well as businesses, discussions are being held with community groups and organisations, many of which are already looking at the concept of single-use plastic free, and there are lots of ideas coming forward about what we can all do to help.

Jo Naylor-Saunders had a useful meeting with the Parish Council which has resulted in Kay Solomon becoming the CPC representative on PFC. Having Council support is a prime target achieved.

Over the winter there has been a plastics display in the Heritage Coast Centre, showing some single use plastics and their more permanent alternatives, as well as rubbish washed on to the shore. The display has generated a lot of interest and queries to the volunteers on duty.

A beach clean was held on 20th January in collaboration with the Heritage Coast Centre. An amazing 75 people participated! Many thanks to everyone who helped. Despite mainly working along the west side of the river, everyone was still well occupied as so many of the plastic pieces tend to be small. Several bagfuls were collected, as well as quite a number of lumps of old metal.

Dorset Litter Free Coast & Sea is back with its **30th Annual 'Great Dorset Beach Clean' at the end of April. The beach clean for Charmouth is on Saturday 27th April at 3pm**, meeting as usual at the foot of the Heritage Coast Centre steps. Hope to see you there.



PFC also took over the theatre in the Coast Centre during the Art & Craft Fayre in November, with many visitors coming in to ask what it was all about.

PFC future plans? More of the above, but we are also thinking about fund-raising and a website. If you have ideas, would like your organisation to be involved, or want to know more about 'Plastic Free Charmouth' please contact Jo Naylor-Saunders on 07966-056459.

### **Plastic Free Tip 1 (Watch out for more in future issues of Shoreline)**

Always take your own shopping bag whether going to the supermarket, greengrocer, or anywhere else: avoid accepting plastic bags.

And to help - watch out for the brilliant new jute Charmouth bag which will be available from various outlets in the village very soon! Thanks to the Traders for organising this.

**Eden Thomson**



## A Message from Edward Morello, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Dorset West

**Last weekend I took my one-year-old son to Charmouth beach. It was not his first time on the beach, however now that he can walk it is a whole new experience for him. Casper is our first child and so the last year has been full of all sorts of firsts for us. It is also my first year as your Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate. Between these two things, barely a day has gone by that hasn't brought something new. Watching my son run – albeit a little wobbly! – on the beach at Charmouth was certainly one of my favourites.**

I work in sustainability, helping organisations move to renewable energy sources such as solar. As a resident of Bridport I am blessed with being able to enjoy West Dorset's coastline and countryside every day. It is truly beautiful and I want to make sure it stays that way. I know many of you reading this will also feel this way. Having a child has reinforced how critical it is that we do everything we can to protect our environment.

Whilst at the beach in Charmouth, I took my son around the displays in the Heritage Coast Centre. Nature is truly awesome, however I was also reminded how recent humanity is. Dinosaurs roamed the earth for over 150 million years, yet modern humans have only been around for a fraction of that time. As a species, I wonder what our fate will be. Places like the Heritage Coast Centre are vital to educate people about the importance of the natural world. If we want to preserve West Dorset for future generations - and stand a chance of roaming this planet for as long as the dinosaurs did - then we must do more to become responsible custodians.

I'd like to hear your ideas of what you think should be done to help preserve West Dorset's coast and countryside, so please get in touch at [edward.morello@west-dorset-libdems.org.uk](mailto:edward.morello@west-dorset-libdems.org.uk)

**Edward Morello**

## Charmouth Stitch and Knit

(previously Charmouth Sewing Circle)

**We welcome new participants to our small informal group. Join us to work on joint quilting/patchwork and knitting projects for charitable causes, including Project Linus UK and Weldmar Hospicecare Trust, or enjoy working on your 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.**

Our popular items for sale are on display in the library servery - they can be purchased from library staff during normal opening hours. See also our seasonal window displays in the front window.

Whether maker or purchaser, or just joining us for a chat, we look forward to seeing you! Charmouth Stitch and Knit: Tues. 10.30–12.45, Charmouth Central Library.

**Irena Campion**

## Weldmar Hospicecare Marks 25 Years of Hospicecare Throughout Dorset

**Those who have lived in Dorset for over 25 years may well remember witnessing the build of a brand new hospice in Dorchester, the first of its kind in the county. Now, a quarter of a century later, Weldmar Hospicecare marks 25 years of providing Hospicecare throughout Dorset. On 19th January 1994, the doors of Weldmar's inpatient unit were opened to the first patients, after four years of planning and dedicated fundraising within the county. £3.2M was required to build and furnish the inpatient unit, with an additional £2M to be put in an endowment fund to run the services ongoing.**

Weldmar's services have massively developed since 1994. Weldmar cares and supports patients with any life limiting illness including cancer, Parkinsons, MS and are the specialists in the county for supporting patients with Motor Neurone Disease. Day Services are held weekly in Bridport, Blandford, Dorchester, Shaftesbury and Weymouth, and Weldmar's team of community nurses provide that much needed support in the comfort of patients' own homes. In fact, 80% of Weldmar's care and support is now given in the community.

Weldmar Hospicecare would like to express their sincere gratitude to the three Founders of the hospice, Major John Greener, David Revell and Caroline Nickinson. After officially showing HRH The Prince of Wales around the hospice in June 1994, Major John Greener spent his last days as a patient within the hospice that he had the vision to build. Caroline Nickinson, the only one of the three founders still alive today said "I visited John Greener in the hospice before he died and he said to me 'Caroline, this is good, this is what we wanted to do' and I shall never ever forget that." Weldmar's celebrations continue throughout 2019 and you can view a full timeline of the past 25 years at [www.weld-hospice.org.uk](http://www.weld-hospice.org.uk)

Matt Smith, Director of  
Fundraising & Marketing  
(01305 756933)



**Weldmar Hospicecare**  
Caring for Dorset

**All Shoreline issues can be seen online at  
[www.charmouth.org/charmouth\\_village/shoreline-magazine/](http://www.charmouth.org/charmouth_village/shoreline-magazine/)**

## From the Charmouth Practice and the Good Mood and Food Clinic



### Big Fat Lies

**S**o many people are now finding lasting success with a Slow Carb and Healthy Fat approach to eating. It works especially well without sugar or processed carbs and where the total carbohydrate count for the day is less than 130g and there are occasions in the week, or some parts of days or even whole days of not eating at all. It is better not to constantly cut calories because the body simply reacts to this by slowing down, which is why low-calorie diets are difficult to maintain and why their results don't last. "So," people ask, "If I can't eat beige, starchy carbs and sugar, what can I eat?" The answer is real food and don't be afraid of eating fat. The trouble then is that I constantly come across a popular misconception that somehow eating fat is bad for you. Nothing can be further from the truth!

Of course, it needs to be a healthy kind of fat for our bodies to be able to use it for our cell membranes, our hormones and our brains. Sadly, the hydrogenated vegetable oils and all the pressed seed oils like sunflower, safflower together with corn oil and soya bean oil have been chemically or heat extracted and they are not helpful, causing aldehydes to be released into our bodies when we cook with them and replacing healthy fats in our bodies with poorly functioning stiff unnatural fats. However, butter, ghee, cold pressed rapeseed oil, olive oil, coconut and good old-fashioned lard and dripping are the ancient varieties of fats which have always been available to humans throughout time, without mechanisation and chemicals, and with which the body can work. Indeed, there are cultures who live almost entirely off fat and protein very healthily including Inuit Indians and Masai Tribesmen. Why then have we got a problem with fat?

Everything changed with the 1977 USA nutritional guidelines. Observational evidence had suggested that cholesterol

appeared at places of damage on the artery walls of those with cardiovascular diseases. We now know that this is akin to blaming firefighters at the scene of a fire for starting the blaze. The cholesterol is only there as the sticking plaster repair and the real question is what caused the damage to the walls in the first place? The answer is smoking, high blood pressure, high glucose levels, inflammation of all sorts and interestingly, all these apart from smoking are very often the result of the metabolic syndrome otherwise known as pre-diabetes. It is the constant high insulin due to processed carbohydrate and sugars that change the way our bodies deal with fat. Basically, someone with high insulin is in FAT LOCKDOWN and can't burn their own body fat even when they are fasting. No wonder that they can't lose weight. However, if you eat whole unprocessed foods full of fibre and natural fats, then the insulin level falls and unlocks the fat stores. Now you can lose weight and you can lose it more every time you don't eat for at least 4 hours.

Did they tell us to lower our fat intake due to evidence? No. Many researchers have looked into this astonishing revelation and in 2015, famously, Zoe Harcombe hit the headlines with her PhD exposing a COMPLETE lack of research evidence, in 1977 or now, to say that eating natural fat was in any way bad for heart health or overall mortality. Mechanically extracted seed oils do, however cause problems due to inflammation. In 1977 US Senators questioned whether these guidelines might cause harm, but Senator McGovern claimed they had to "do something" and he pushed through the unfounded guidelines in the USA. History shows that Europe and the World have simply followed suit.

Sadly, many people still have reasons for keeping the world away from tasty natural fats in meat, fish, eggs, dairy and seeds. Many reasons are to do with keeping us eating the processed foods we have to buy from food manufacturers. The reality filters down slowly, but you can find a lot of very good and helpful information on the Public Health Collaboration UK website which is a completely separate organisation from the NHS but is now influencing it strongly.

Fat contains the aromatic oils which make food taste again. Go cook and enjoy!

**Dr Sue Beckers**



**GOOD MOOD and FOOD Clinic**  
*balanceofbodyfood@gmail.com*

### The Court - Charmouth

SMALL BUSINESS OFFICES  
TO LET

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

### Nick Shannon

Furniture maker and restorer

ROADSTEAD FARM, CHIDEOCK

Tel 01297480990 e-mail [njshan5@gmail.com](mailto:njshan5@gmail.com)

Call for quotes on handmade kitchens, tables, shelving, furniture for house and garden, shepherds huts and much more....using environmentally friendly timber.

# Childhood Memories of Charmouth, Part 1

Michael Thomas has very kindly agreed to share his early childhood memories of the village with us. Here is part I. Parts II and III will appear in the subsequent two issues of *Shoreline*.

**How was it that I came to be born in Charmouth is a question which perhaps should be answered first.**

My maternal grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Cheney, eldest daughter of John & Ann Cheney, came to live in Charmouth in the late 1880s after she left school in her home village of Puncknowle, near Litton Cheney, in the Bride Valley. Her great uncle, James Cheney, was the Charmouth policeman living in the village with his wife Jane. Mary lodged with them and worked as a nursemaid at Charmouth Manor House. She met and courted Lionel William White, who lived with his parents William & Hannah and sister Blanche in Primrose Cottage on The Street. Lionel was by then a stone mason working for the Pryor family business at the corner of Lower Sea Lane. He was also a chorister at St. Andrew's Church and a member of the Charmouth Band, playing the tenor tuba. They married in St Mary's Church, Puncknowle on 4th June 1896.



Lionel William White & Mary Elizabeth Cheney, 1896

Lionel & Mary had five children, Frederick born 1897, Blanche 1902, Harold 1905, my mother Hilda 1911, and Charles 1913.

Frederick served in the Royal Navy during World War I and he and his father took joint tenancy of the George Hotel in 1926. Fred married Beatrice Beavis from Lyme Regis and eventually became a seedsman for Sutton Seeds Reading, Berkshire. Blanche became a nursemaid and moved to Bushey, Hertfordshire where she married and had children. Harold worked for the Pavey family for most of his working life and was their gardener at The Wellhead. Olive Duke, whom he subsequently married, was their cook housekeeper. Olive and

Harold cared for Reginald Pavey after his sisters Alice and Margaret died, until his death in 1973 at the age of 91. When The Wellhead was sold, they moved to 'Frensham', a bungalow off Lower Sea Lane. Both Hilda, born 1911, and Charles, 1913, were born in the Manse Cottage.



Blanche, Harold, Hilda & Charles, 1915



Michael David Thomas, 1938

I too - Michael David Thomas - was born in the Manse Cottage at 6.30am on 29th July 1936, to Hilda & Tom Thomas; to give them their full names: Hilda Mary Ethel White and Thomas Wilfred James Thomas. I was born there because, in those and earlier days, it was customary to return to your mother's home to give birth, particularly for the firstborn. Hilda & Tom had been married in Charmouth Parish Church, St. Andrew's, on 17th January 1935. Their wedding photo shows Tom's Army dog between them. At that time, Tom, was in the Royal Artillery at Edinburgh Castle, having enlisted in 1929 at Aldershot. He was to serve 17 years, reaching the rank of Battery Quartermaster Sergeant.



Hilda & Tom's Wedding Day, 17th Jan. 1935



Rev. Ogle with wife Hilda (right) & Mary

Rev. J. Ogle, Minister of the Independent Chapel, lived with his wife in the Manse. The original house had been built by the Abbots of Forde Abbey in the 15th century. It was thought at one time that Catherine of Aragon had stayed there on her way from Plymouth to marry Arthur Tudor, Prince of Wales, but there is no proof of this. King Charles II is known to have stayed on 23rd September 1651 after fleeing from the battle of Worcester during the Civil War, from where he was hoping to escape to France. He did eventually succeed in this venture,

but not from Charmouth, for he and his party were forced to flee further east and embarked for France at Shoreham, Sussex.



The Manse, cottage to the left. The second bedroom window from the left is where we were born

Hilda & Tom were at that time living in a wooden chalet bungalow in an area called Tin Town, off Lower Sea Lane. His Army dog was a retriever trained to retrieve grouse. This lovely dog was accused by a local farmer of worrying sheep and was in danger of being shot. Tom couldn't risk that so had him sent back by train to Edinburgh. The sheep worrying carried on. It was not him after all, but another black dog that was causing the problem.

In 1938 the Manse and Manse Cottage were sold and converted into the Queen's Armes Hotel. Mary & Lionel moved to 2 Firlands, further down The Street, rented from John & Rose Toms; a home that featured in my later childhood.



2 Firlands

On 3rd September 1939 Mary, who had suffered with varicose ulcers, developed gangrene and was forced to have her right leg amputated above the knee. Her other leg also developed ulcers and she was in constant pain throughout the remainder of her life. Hilda & Tom were lucky to be allocated a newly built three-bedroom council house at 4 Bridge Road, a short distance from Firlands, and from 1938 to 1942 this was to be our home.



4 Bridge Road, 2004

Some of my earliest memories were not the most pleasant. I cried when approached by chemist Mr. Herbert in 1939. He was dressed as Father Christmas in the Church Hall, and I was scared. Another memory was of Christmas Eve in 1939 when I woke up Mum and Dad. I could hear a tremendous noise outside and was convinced Father Christmas had arrived. I could actually feel presents at the bottom of my bed. Dad said he had not been yet and told me to go back to sleep. I found out much later that the noise was drunken soldiers banging dustbin lids together on their way back to the searchlight battery station near the beach. A later memory was of taking part in a National Savings rally in Mill Field in 1940. I was standing in line, complete with a placard extolling the virtues of National Savings Stamps and carrying a box around my neck containing my gas mask. I was standing for so long that I wet myself and could feel the warmth getting colder in the wind. The only comfort I got from Mrs. Maggie Farmer, who had charge of us, was that I should have gone before I left home. Cold comfort indeed.



Hilda holding baby Monica, born Jan. 1939, Tom & Michael



Tom holding Michael's hand with John (left) & Len Hunter, sons of Ted & Edith Hunter, Landlords of The George Hotel

Another vague recollection I have is of my sister, Monica Charlotte's birth at Bridge Road, with Dr. Hartley in attendance, assisted by the district nurse and midwife Nurse Wileman, on 8th January 1939. By then, Dad was stationed at Porton Civil Defence Experimental Station (Porton Down) near Salisbury. I recall also, when Monica was two years old, asking my dozing mother if I could cut Monica's hair. She unknowingly said yes, and I made a real mess. My close friends whilst living in Bridge Road were neighbours on either side, Stephanie and Deirdre Woollard at no.5, Graham & Maureen Turner at no.2, Geoffrey & Jill Linthorne at no.3, Ron Dampier at no.6, Bill Ashley at no.7 and David Trevett. We remained friends throughout our childhood and school years. Geoffrey in his early teens became a wireless (radio) buff, having worked with Mr. Dunn who kept a wireless and electrical shop next to what is now Morgans. He eventually married, emigrated and settled in Australia.



Dad with Sgts. Woodhouse & Oliver, with Geoffrey Linthorne, myself & sister Monica

My father's elder sister, Doris, was born and raised in Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire, as he was, and also lived in the village. Dad's first job was footman at Charleston Manor, at that time owned by Col. Bullen. Doris was cook housekeeper to Col. & Mrs. Campbell Little, who lived in Sandford Cottage, now demolished, on the corner of Lower Sea Lane. Mrs. Little died in 1947 and Doris continued looking after the Colonel until his death in the early 1960s. His identical twin brother, Matthew, lived in Vancouver and whenever he visited Charmouth, he and the Colonel attended morning service at Church wearing top hats and frock coats. After Col. Little's death at the age of 91, Doris moved to Beech House lodging with the Mabsons and worked for Bishop



Elizabeth Dorothy (Doris) Thomas

Williams at 2 Hillside. Doris died in 1989, aged 87. The Union Flag covered her coffin in recognition of her work with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal over many years.

My Godmother was Mrs. Pearson who lived with her brother, Charmouth barber, Mr. Fewster. They occupied the left-hand shop in the Parade. Haircuts for me were, of course, free of charge and included having cakes and orange squash afterwards with Mrs. Pearson and her parrot.

I started at Charmouth Infants' School at the beginning of September 1941, Miss Manuel being the infants' teacher. We had named pegs in the cloakroom adjacent to the classroom and the toilets were outside. Whilst Miss Manuel was a very kind and good teacher, the Headmistress, Miss Meade, was quite strict and feared by many of her pupils, particularly those in the senior class, aged 9 - 14 who, in her opinion, were underperforming. I remember Watts' painting of Hope hanging on Miss Mead's classroom wall, in the seemingly hopeless situation of having only one remaining string to her lyre.



George Frederic Watts' painting of 'Hope' © Tate Britain

The following September, I was due to move into Miss Way's class, but that never happened.

During the summer holidays in 1942, Dad had obtained married quarters for us at Porton Camp and we moved into B29, a three-bedroomed terraced house with a front and back garden, the latter where we kept chickens. Our school was a wooden building, protected from air raids on all sides by sandbags piled up to roof level and windows further protected by white adhesive strips. All houses, including our school, had blackout curtains at every window, pulled after dark to ensure no chinks of light could be seen by any enemy aircraft flying overhead, as by 1942 we were halfway through World War II. We had two teachers, the gentler one being Miss Reagan, who lived on the school premises. The other teacher, Mrs. Harvey, was headmistress. She was Scottish and had the title, this being a military establishment, 'King's School Mistress'. She ruled with a rod of iron. I was born left-handed, but she resolved to make me write with my right hand. Whilst I managed to do many things right-handedly, I could not master writing or knitting. If she saw me writing left-handed, she would smack me across the knuckles with the edge of a ruler, which I found very painful. This treatment, I believe, caused me to develop a stammer in my speech which I didn't fully overcome until I became a young adult. One Christmas, whilst living at Porton, Mum and Dad gave me a Triang tricycle which I rode regularly, especially when sent to do shopping at the NAAFI. Although Dad was in the Royal Artillery with his own mare, 'Ladybird', he was also working for the Civil Defence Experimental Establishment, now Porton Down, which was developing poison gases for possible military use. This work affected his chest and probably contributed to his early death in 1960, at the age of 49.

My time in Porton outside school was fun and I had many friends. It was there that I learnt, at the age of eight, to catch rabbits with nets and a friend's ferrets. We despatched them with a heavy short stick whilst they were entangled in the net, gutted them with a penknife and took them home. Meat was rationed in those days and rabbits made a good stew or pie and the skin a good pair of fur gloves.

Although the entire military area was surrounded by rolls of barbed wire, we found ways to crawl through and would walk down to Idmiston, an adjacent village. Church on Sundays was either the Garrison Church or Idmiston Parish Church where the Priest was Father Galloway from Porton Village. There we would be served diluted orange juice after Sunday School. There was no contest, the orange juice and Idmiston won, and at Christmas time we had a Sunday School Tea Party

which far excelled the party given by the Sergeants' Mess in the NAAFI Hall. However, we attended both parties, taking with us a tin plate, mug and spoon with which to eat the jelly and custard. Idmiston had a hatched winterbourne (a gated stream, often dry in summer) and below the hatch or water gate (which the water bailiff uses to control the water level by opening or closing it, to provide water for sheep or cattle) was a large pond where we children swam. Running around afterwards made sure we were dry before we got dressed. The air raid shelters, strategically placed around our homes, also provided places to play, although officially they were out of bounds. There were hard times, particularly in winter, as there was much cold weather on Salisbury Plain. We had no central heating and the house was often cold, because coal was rationed. Hot water bottles at night were the norm. Mum's health was affected by the cold weather and she contracted pneumonia. She was transported by Army ambulance to Tidworth Military Hospital and it was six weeks before we saw her again. Monica and I were looked after by neighbours whilst Mum was in hospital. In 1943 the situation was becoming dangerous. An Anti-Aircraft Battery unit was placed close to our home and Mum was ill again and in hospital.

Granny & Grandad White, who sent us food parcels from Charmouth every week of butter or margarine and sugar, wrote to say that I should come down to live with them in Charmouth. They could only manage one of us, as they were already looking after my cousin Edna who had been evacuated from Bushey. Although I was sad to leave family and friends, my father took me by train from Salisbury to Axminster. Throughout the journey I carried Tommy, my tabby cat, in my arms. All was well until we arrived at Axminster. Whilst waiting for a bus to take us to Charmouth, Tommy escaped and my tears alerted an elderly man, who had met somebody off the train. Tommy was nowhere to be found. The elderly man said he would look for him and he took our address in Charmouth. True to his word, he arrived the following morning in a Rolls Royce, complete with cat basket and Tommy, who was delighted to see me. We gave our grateful thanks and the man departed. Tommy soon settled in and Charmouth was to become his permanent home.

**Michael Thomas**

**All Shoreline issues  
can be seen online at  
[www.charmouth.org/charmouth\\_village/shoreline-magazine/](http://www.charmouth.org/charmouth_village/shoreline-magazine/)**

## News from St. Andrew's Church



### Updates from St. Andrew's Church

**"I didn't think it would happen without a rector" – this was a comment made at our Carol Service back in December following Stephen Skinner's departure to take up a well-earned retirement! Well the good news is, our services and events continue unabated. The fact that a church is without a vicar does not mean that things grind to a halt until someone else is installed as 'incumbent'. In fact, this is a time when others in the congregation are able to use their own skills and gifts to continue the life of the church. Being part of the Golden Cap Team of Churches means that we have access to a team of ordained and lay people to lead our services during this time of interregnum. In fact, within**

**St. Andrew's congregation we have several people who are quite able to lead some of our Sunday services.**

We continue to hold a more traditional Communion Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. On the 2nd Sunday we hold a 'Songs of Praise' service which is much more informal and on the 4th Sunday we have a 'Charmouth Praise' service. If there is a 5th Sunday in the month we hold a joint service with our friends from the Charmouth Free Church.

The search for a new rector is underway with ads in The Church Times and the Salisbury Diocese website. A small group representing all the churches in the team came together and produced a detailed profile covering each church. Once a new rector is in place then the search will begin for a new vicar, watch this space!

By the time you read this, we will be approaching a start date for some of the church refurbishment project. There is a report on this and also the continuing activities of Charmouth Changing Spaces in this issue, which highlight the steps being taken to put our church once again at the centre of village life and a welcome space for our many visitors.

**Simon Parsons, Vice-Chair of St. Andrew's PCC**

[www.goldencapteamofchurches.org.uk](http://www.goldencapteamofchurches.org.uk)

## Changing Spaces

### A Grand Piano for St. Andrew's

**E**dward Jacobs is very well known in the village through his work with several choirs and the primary school. Two or three years ago Edward arranged for the upright piano in St. Andrew's to be renovated and gave a concert to raise funds for the restoration. Since that time, the piano has been used frequently, not only to accompany the congregation at church services, but also for the increasing number of events being held in St. Andrew's. These events are all part of the Charmouth Changing Spaces project to restore the church building and use it for many more community purposes.

Seeing how much the restored upright piano had been used, Edward recently made a further extremely generous offer. He owns a grand piano which is in need of some restoration and has agreed to the permanent loan of the piano to the church. As before, he has agreed to give a concert, scheduled for 27th April, to raise funds for the necessary restoration work. The grand piano will replace the existing piano and will enable the Charmouth Changing Spaces team to invite a wider range of performers to come to Charmouth for future events.

**Roger Sansom**



### Preview of Changing Spaces' 2019 Lunchtime Concerts at St. Andrew's

**Following a highly successful series of Lunchtime Concerts organised by the Charmouth Changing Spaces group at St. Andrew's Church in 2018, a new series for 2019 can be announced. Although the April concert is still to be finalised the remaining concerts have been confirmed:**

Local resident Sarah Smith will be giving a piano recital on 28th May.

On 25th June, after her very popular concert of Russian folk songs last year, Maria Beazley will be returning to sing a selection of French songs. As before, she will be accompanied by Jane Gibson.

For the 30th July concert, the jazz trio Mood Indigo, who frequently play in Bridport, have agreed to play piano, saxophone and bass for us.

27th August will see us entertained by James Olsen, cello, from Poole and Nicholas Brown, piano, from Whitchurch.

Finally, on 24th September, there will be a flute/piano recital by Sophie and Peter from Exeter.

All concerts will be performed in St. Andrew's Church, Charmouth, starting at 12.30pm with refreshments available from midday. There will be no charge for entry, although donations will be appreciated in support of the Charmouth Changing Spaces project to restore the church building.

**Roger Sansom**

## Progress on the Charmouth Changing Spaces Team (CCS) Project

**L**ittle obvious progress will have been evident to the village over the Christmas period. But this does not mean that the CCS team spent all their time singing carols, eating mince pies, and drinking prosecco. Just some of the time!

Following the initial 'pause' that was placed on the project by the diocese, waiting for the new incumbent to be appointed, we met with the new Archdeacon of Sherborne, the Ven. Penny Sayer. We presented our case and requested that the delay in appointing the new team rector and team vicar before we were able to make further progress be reviewed. We now await an opportunity to present our new business case to the Erskine Muton Trust who granted us £370,000 in February 2017.

She is very supportive of the project and gave us very useful guidance in the form of a 'road map' we should pursue. She said that the process of obtaining faculties from the diocese to enable us to make progress on the project was likely to be the critical factor. But starting now rather than waiting for the new appointments should save us between six-nine months. She also suggested that, in the absence of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant, we should break the remaining project into sections and prioritise them. In this way we could

apply for grants for these individual sub-projects rather than expect any one organisation to offer us the scale of funds that we applied to receive from (HLF).

There is good news of practical progress on the building project. After completing a competitive tendering, we are now in a position to place a contract with an experienced contractor to undertake the restoration of the North Porch. The works will comprise new fully glazed oak doors from the porch into the main body of the church to replace the old panelled doors. They will be automatically opened to facilitate access for those with disabilities. The existing pair of outer entrance doors will be overhauled and repainted. The porch roof will be stripped to expose the structural timbers for repairs if found necessary and subsequently renewed with new battens, underfelt and Cornish slates. (New cast iron guttering and down pipes are to be fitted and the roof space insulated.) Internally, the walls and ceilings will be redecorated, and the offertory box relocated inside the church. Electrical improvements will include new wiring in special conduits and updated pendant light and external lantern light. The contract is to be supervised by the church architects, Benjamin & Beauchamp of Wedmore and the contractors are Ellis & Co. of Shepton Mallet. Both are specialists in the conservation of historic buildings.

During the renovations the church will remain open as usual, but the access will now be through the north door of the tower and the contractor will ensure ready and unobstructed passage to the tower entrance.

The PCC, the Changing Spaces team and the Erskine Muton Trust are very excited that we have reached this stage and are very keen to move forward as quickly as possible. The project will start on 30th April and will be completed by late spring. This is of course dependent on the weather! More updates to follow in the summer edition of Shoreline.

The other significant advancement is the development of a CCS website (<https://www.charmouthchangingspaces.org>) which readers are encouraged to visit. It is designed to keep the village informed about what the CCS project is all about and the progress being made. As most novels state, any errors are the responsibility of the author, i.e. the web manager and not CCS! Therefore, the web manager would appreciate notification of any error or misleading comments that visitors to the site notice by sending a message through the Contact Us page.

**Roger Sansom & John Smith**



### Beach Bird

While Jo Seaman's three French hens are enjoying the good life (*Shoreline* winter issue), a two-year-old Rhode Island Red is the constant companion of Dave Cox in Destin, Florida. Sammi the hen sits in Dave's truck when he drives to work. She goes to the beach with him, wearing a harness and leash (where we met them by chance), and even swims with him in the sea. Dave travels around the US with Sammi, whose story has achieved fame on the internet. An e-search of 'Sammi chicken' will reveal the whole story.

**Lesley Dunlop**

## Charmouth Bowls Club



**I**ndoor short mat bowling is in full swing every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm at St. Andrew's Hall. The longer days are starting to be noticed and our thoughts are wandering towards the outdoor season ahead, which will start on Sunday 21st April at 2pm at Barrs

Lane Recreation Grounds. Normal roll ups, which are open to all, will be on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until October, except on match days.

Everyone is welcome to come to any of these roll up days and also to try their hand at short mat. Training and bowls can be provided. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes.

We are a small and friendly club, so you will not get ignored. We look forward to seeing you, even if it is just to try the game to see if it is a sport you could play. For further information, phone 01297 560484.

**Mike Jackson-Bass**

## Good Feedback Received from the Open Forum - Charmouth's Neighbourhood Plan

**A**n Open Forum was held in St. Andrew's Hall on 5th January 2019 to inform residents and businesses of the proposed draft policies and progress being made on the Neighbourhood Plan. About 50 people attended and following a presentation there was an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the draft policies, potential projects and local green spaces, which were all displayed on the wall for viewing.



There were over 90 comments made, with the vast majority supporting the policies and some useful questions to consider. One of the questions from the floor was how we were involving 'younger' people from the village. A very good question! Whilst we have used social media (Facebook, Charmouth notice board, etc.) and other means of advertising, to publicise the Neighbourhood Plan and encourage involvement, we have struggled to engage with younger people, particularly in the age range of 25-45. We will try and do better, but if you have any ideas then please let us know! After all, the Plan extends well into the future so it affects our younger people and the future needs of the village.

For those who were unable to attend and would like to see the presentation it's on Charmouth Parish Council website (<https://www.charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk>) under Neighbourhood Plan - 'Latest News and Local Issues'. There are also paper copies to read in the Library. The Steering Group are now preparing the Plan based upon our main aims and objectives which are reflected in the policies that support this.

In the coming months there will be a six week period of formal consultation on the draft Plan with residents of Charmouth; called the pre-submission stage, Regulation 14. Draft copies of the Plan will be available for viewing in the Church, Library and Council Offices. So all residents and businesses in Charmouth will have the opportunity to comment. After this, further amendments will be made and the Plan will then be submitted to the Local Authority for independent examination. The final step will be for villagers to have a final vote on the Plan.

We are always looking for volunteers to help, particularly taking forward the Village Improvement Projects, which include: Affordable Housing; Coastline Community; Parish Nature Conservation; Sports & Recreational; Marketing, Promotion & Information for Visitors; and Transport issues. So, if you would like to get involved, please contact us on our email [charmouthneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com](mailto:charmouthneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com) or through Sarah Edwards, c/o Lisa Tuck in the Parish Council offices.

**Andy Bateman**, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Committee



## Charmouth Village People



**'Come Under Our Umbrella' and enjoy yourself. Charmouth Village People' is the umbrella group name for a number of clubs we run in Charmouth. You are welcome to attend one or all of the clubs; pick and mix, as you please.**

- *There is Kaleidoscope, which is held fortnightly at The Elms on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2.00-4.00p.m. We have regular speakers, refreshments and a chat.*
- *Pop Up Writers meet at The Elms on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday of the month from 2.00-4.00p.m. This is a friendly group where we write our own pieces, read them out and complete writing exercises to sharpen our skills.*
- *We go on coach trips to a diverse range of places. We have been to Winchester Christmas Market, Athelhampton House, Ikea and the Exeter Canal. We always stop for refreshments, and our next trip on the 1st March is to Cribbs Causeway. All welcome.*
- *Theatre trips are also organised for anyone who is interested in attending. We recently met up at Bridport Arts Centre to see the 'Peterloo' film.*
- *We meet up on Fridays at The Bank House on The Street between 2.00-4.00p.m. This is a relaxed, casual affair, where you can drop in for a chat and a coffee.*
- *We have an exciting new venture, which is a Men's Group at the Royal Oak. Please contact Vince Sands on 01297 560474 for a chat to discuss how the new group will develop and the type of activities involved.*

As Charmouth Village People is blossoming and growing, we welcome new volunteers to help us ensure the groups carry on and develop. We wish to continue offering a diverse range of activities and the opportunity for local older people to meet up regularly to socialise.

Volunteers are needed to help with catering, organising speakers, offering a lift to enable members to attend meetings, also to help on trips and join in with the activities.

Please contact us for information about any aspects of Charmouth Village People:

**Jan Gale** (07460 707294) or  
**Judith Howells** (07906 840950).



**Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers**

# Charmouth Central Library and Internet Cafe

**C**harmouth Library's track record, compared with Dorset Library and Community Library branches, based on numbers of library members and books issued, has been satisfactorily high during the last year, though some of us think it's quite extraordinary that a few of the services we offer don't have a larger take up. For instance, there are books sitting in libraries all the way between Minehead and Poole, Weymouth and Bristol that you can borrow at no cost. Sometimes people will tear their hair out in a search for something long out of print. But if you don't look, you won't find. The county libraries you are allowed to borrow from may have the book. Last year I worked through all the novels of Donald Westlake and Stella Rimington for example.



In early February, Charmouth had its first snowfall of 2019. Almost a year ago, we had to close the library for one day because we couldn't open the door for snow. And that was the only time in all our six years of existence!

I think everyone knows by now of our facilities: free Wi-Fi, a living art gallery space above our heads, refreshments, abundant good quality second-hand books, mostly for £1, CDs and craft artefacts for sale. Several village groups regularly meet here and it's easy to book. Just phone the Library on 01297 560640. The Bridge Group meets on Wednesday evenings. Would you like to play?

We have to say, though (we're on the badge), that this facility does not run itself. We have Friends who support us financially, some awesome garden helpers who have transformed the garden during the summer, and we need a few more volunteers to share out the work involved in keeping the library open every day. Even libraries like Bridport can't manage this. We'll hope to report to you at the beginning of 2020 that we are still in good shape, but it doesn't come without hard work. And a bit of luck.

## Here are just a few comments from regular library users:

**Chris Lakeman Fraser:** For me, Charmouth Central Library is a pleasant place to read and write in. The volunteers are friendly and helpful. It's open six days a week for three hours each day, which is more than local council-funded libraries offer. There's an excellent annex with good quality tea, coffee and biscuits available for a modest fee. In addition, this room makes an excellent space for running groups within or outside library hours. Wi-Fi access is available for mobile phones, laptops and the two desktop computers which are linked to a printer. Finally, there's a selection of good-quality, second-hand books and DVDs to purchase cheaply. My only criticism is the limited range and literary quality of books in the library itself. Readers are free to order books from other libraries, but local volunteers do not have a say in the selection of books on the shelves as council-funded libraries choose the stock. Since local authorities are saving money as a result of not having to pay for salaries and premises, this, I feel, is unjustified. However, this is no reflection on the positive atmosphere created by the local volunteers and administration.

**Sally Brain:** On Becoming a New Volunteer. In February 2018, my friend Georgie and I visited the library with a view to finding out about local book clubs. The two volunteers on duty that day were extremely helpful and, before we knew it, we had both completed library membership forms, had a pot of tea in the Servery and browsed the information provided on starting a book club. Before leaving we were also given details about how to become a library volunteer. Impressive service, we thought. Fast forward three months and I find myself becoming Charmouth Library's latest fully-fledged volunteer! Following a further visit to the library for a taster session shortly after that

first experience, I had indeed registered to become a volunteer. Training took place over the next few months during various half-day sessions and I have to say the two Day Team Leaders to whom I had been assigned were extremely kind and patient as I grappled with systems and terminology. One year later, I still don't know it all, but I am confident enough to know what to do and where to look when something unfamiliar crops up. For me, volunteering at the Library keeps the grey matter ticking over and is a very enjoyable way of meeting other village people. By the way, Georgie and I did start our book club, 'The Catherston Castaways', and would welcome new members.

**Rosalind Cole:** Health Resources for Library Users. Charmouth Library is part of the library service which offers health-related materials to library-users. The materials take the form of leaflets and booklets about a variety of health conditions, including cancer, diabetes, arthritis, mental ill-health, avoiding loneliness and many others. Publications also cover issues such as caring for people with chronic problems, help for carers, patient records and complaints about health-related problems. The library has information about help needed in the home and/or garden for those who find their lives difficult to manage; there are also leaflets on home insulation. Most of the publications are kept in the library lobby; you are welcome to browse through everything we have. Our friendly volunteers will help if you would like assistance to find the information you need to keep informed and to make life more comfortable.

**Kevin Marston:** What I like about Charmouth Central Library. It has a good and varied selection of books, including fiction, information, biography, travel, local interest, as well as books for children and teenagers. There are some local magazines, and comfortable seating to use while you are looking at them. If you can't find the books you want, they can be ordered from other libraries and collected from Charmouth Library. The process for taking books out and returning them is very easy and there are always friendly and helpful staff on hand if you need any assistance. The volunteer staff can help with local information about the village and its facilities, as well as some knowledgeable facts about the wider area. There are two computers for free public use, as well as free Wi-Fi to use with phones and tablets. Donations are always gratefully received! For a small charge, printing (both colour and monochrome) can be done, as well as photocopies and scanning. There is a café serving hot and cold drinks as well as a selection of light refreshments. There is a wide range of books for sale, as well as a variety of local arts and crafts. It is a quiet, friendly and comfortable space to work, relax, read, perhaps do a jigsaw, or admire the display of local artwork on the walls. There is a small garden and outside seating area which can be used in the warmer months for reading, refreshment and reflection. From time to time, the library hosts talks and other activities. It is also available to hire for meetings or clubs. What is there not to like!

**Pam Shirley:** Next time you are in the village, walk a little further up the hill and you will find a gem: a superb library and a beautiful modern internet café with specially selected real coffee, various teas, soft drinks and, if you are a little peckish, a selection of snacks. Bring your tablet/ computer and click into the free Wi-Fi whilst meeting with friends or just enjoy peace and quiet. In the evenings, the room is available to hire for a modest sum and you can bring in your own wine. Seating is for 20+.



Charmouth Central Library is open Mon - Wed 2pm - 4pm, Thurs Friday 10 - 1pm and Sat 10:30-12:30pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Russell Telfer**

# Charmouth Primary School



**It is hard to believe that I have now been at Charmouth Primary School for over a year. The time has really flown by; every day continuing to present new challenges and opportunities. We are always busy and always planning more!**

Before Christmas, we had a wonderful Christmas Fair in the school organised by our PTA. Many parents, children, grandparents and friends led games, stalls and activities raising much-needed funds for the school. We also had a Christmas Jumper Day, with children and staff bringing in a donation for the food bank; we now have a drop off box in the entrance for the school. Our busiest Christmas activities were the Carol Concert and end of topic assemblies. The church was packed for the Carol Concert, with standing room only, while the children sang in classes, as a whole school and as the choir. During our end of topic assemblies, each class shared some of their learning and our youngest children told the story of the nativity.

This term our whole school topic has been 'What a Wonderful World'. Classes started the topic exploring polar climates, with the snow fitting in very well with the topic! Later in the term, warmer climates, climate change and sustainability and our oceans have been focus areas. Beach school has started up again this term with links to the curriculum. Our wonderful location allows this unique opportunity to learn in a different and active way out on the beach. The children love these sessions and we have had some really positive feedback from parents.

Special days this term have included World Book Day and NSPCC Number Day. The theme of this year's World Book Day was sharing stories so we spent some time sharing stories in different classes; a lovely opportunity for staff to share some of their favourite books with different classes and groups of

children. We ended the week with everyone dressing as book characters – what a colourful day! For Number Day, children dressed creatively to wear something including numbers – this included carefully planned home decorated tops, football shirts and Leavers Hoodies. Junk modelling was a key factor throughout the school on this day, with model robots appearing in almost every room!

When our children reach the end of their primary education, the majority move onto Woodroffe. This term, we have been able to provide PE lessons for our older pupils taught by one of the PE teachers from Woodroffe. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to start to prepare for secondary school as well as for Mr Snowling to work with younger children.

We also work with schools from a wider local area through the West Dorset Schools Collaboration; a group of ten schools working to improve outcomes and opportunities for all our children. This year, we are taking part in a lesson study; with our teachers linking up with teachers from across the collaboration to observe and improve teaching. We have welcomed teachers to Charmouth and our teachers have visited Sticklands, Broadwindsor, Symondsbury, Parrett and Axe and Salway Ash Primary Schools.

Change is always a part of school life and we have had a number of changes since the last issue. Part of our February INSET day was spent changing some of the rooms and filling a skip! Our meeting room has been moved to near the entrance of the school, allowing us to hire out the space for groups requiring a meeting room, helping to bring in additional funding to the school. We are continuing to develop some of the other rooms in the school, including our library. We are very grateful to a group of parents who are volunteering their time to support the organisation of the library space.

Later this term, classes will be going on school trips and we are also planning trips for the summer term. We are preparing for an Everybody Active week at the start of April, when our children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of different activities to promote an active and healthy lifestyle. Our PTA continues to plan different events to enrich the curriculum as well as fundraise for the school. A group within the PTA are overseeing the organisation of the Charmouth Challenge; we are looking forward to another successful event.

**Laura Cornish, Headteacher**

## New Pond and Garden

**CHILDREN from Charmouth Primary School have been enjoying their new pond and garden thanks to funding from the local village shop, Charmouth Stores - part of the Nisa group of independent convenience stores - funded the pond through its Making a Difference Locally fund and the charge for plastic bags, which allows the shop to give something back to the community.**

Store manager Maria Tritton designed the pond and garden to replace an overgrown area at the front of the school. She recruited several parents to help her clear the area over the summer holidays and Oaklands Garden Services were then able to

create the new pond and garden.

Maria commented: "Oaklands were amazing to slot into our timeframe to have it all done before the children returned to school after the summer holidays. Aston actually gave a lot of his time for free to get the project finished."

Mrs Tritton also thanked Westcrete of Axminster, which offered discounted products, Bradfords and all the parents for their hard work. Maria visited the school last week, where she was presented with a handmade thank you card from every child in the school.

There are now fish living in the pond and the children regularly enjoy feeding them. Headteacher Laura Cornish said they are developing how to incorporate the pond more into their learning.

She added: "School funding means projects like this would not be possible without the support of the local community. Thank you to Charmouth Stores and all those who helped."

**Francesca Evans**



## A History of Portland House, Charmouth



**Garden Cottage, 1 and 2 Portland House today**

**A**t the top of The Street opposite Charmouth House, at the junction of Higher Sea Lane, is a terrace of houses with a number of doors and windows. It is the first of these which is now called Garden Cottage and 1 and 2 Portland House that I wish to cover in this article. If you could go back in time, this would have been one large thatched cottage which had been a village shop for over 100 years.

As with many properties on the north side of The Street, the plot of land on which it stood would have been one of the half-acre burgages created between 1290 and 1297 when the Abbot of Forde at that time created a Borough here. The original stone wall still stands along the northern boundary along much of the length. The plot on which Portland House is today has been subdivided over the years and would have no doubt included the land on which the adjoining Saybrook, Berwick and Bayville Cottages now stand. The owners of the next property above, now known as Granville House, have a set of deeds going back to the 17th century. A later deed of 1732 describes the house bounded to the north by lands belonging to Anthony Ellesdon, Lord of the Manor who died in that year, and a cottage to the west occupied by Mary New and one to the east by Benjamin Paine. Another indenture dated 1814 again describes the boundaries as lands to the north formerly belonging to Benedicta Durston and afterwards to George Webber, being a field called 'Little Grange' whereon buildings were some time erected. It goes on to record a dwelling house of Benjamin Paine, deceased and afterwards of William Hudd on the east. Granville House was at that time occupied by Benjamin Diment and John Hunter, his tenant. I found this information



very important in tracing back the history of both Bayville Cottage and Portland House, as the Poor Rates and Land Tax lists are virtually complete for Charmouth from 1780 until 1832.

Again, I was very fortunate to meet the present owners of Garden Cottage, David & Sheena Mandy, who are the proud possessors of the title deeds that go back to a large indenture in 1836. This was a revelation, as within it was the following: *'All that messuage dwelling or tenement with the orchard and garden thereunto belonging opposite to a dwelling house or Inn called the Fountain Inn formerly in the possession of John Anning'*. The record had to be before 1811 when Thomas Gordon



bought the inn and closed it soon after. It would appear that John Anning was living in Charmouth when he married local girl, Sarah Samson in 1746. An earlier Quarter session describes him as a yeoman in 1741 and as Apprenticing Benjamin Pope in 1758. He was shown to have been a carpenter and may well with his skills have built the original house in the mid-18th century. He died in 1770 and was buried in Charmouth Church. This would be about the time George Webber bought the property that was to be Portland House, as he later appeared in the 1780 Land Tax list as its owner. The rest of their deeds helped fill in many of



Part of the 1841 Tithe Map for Charmouth showing no.76 (Little Grange) where Askew House is today and no.71 (Portland House)



the gaps that eluded me as I only had limited information to go on before the 1841 census and Tithe Map. Both of these are invaluable as you can pinpoint with a degree of accuracy where villagers lived in that year. With censuses appearing every 10 years, you get a snapshot which brings you up to 1911 when the last one was made available to the public.

In the case of Portland House, the 1841 Tithe Map reveals that it was no.71 and was owned by Sarah Knight and rented by Joseph Cozens. The plot of land behind it contained 22 perches and was bounded by the Monastic Wall. Sarah Knight also owned tithe nos.76 (house, yard and gardens she rented to Joseph Dirk -18 perches) 77 (a field just over ½ acre rented by John Dirk again) and 153 (a house yard and field which was rented by Thomas Gordon) who lived in Charmouth House. She would have been 65 in that year, living in a fine house on The Street in Chideock, with three of her six children. It was her late husband Robert who had inherited the properties on the death of George Webber's wife, Sarah, in 1816. The Webbers were to have no children and George stipulated in his Will that his estate was to go to Robert Knight on the death of his wife. The family tree for the Knights/Webbers show that the two wives were related. Sarah Knight and her children were to derive an income from Portland House until its sale in 1881.



Askew House seen here on the site of 'Little Grange'

George Webber would have no doubt lived in Portland House with his wife after the death of John Anning in 1770. He also owned a house and field known as 'Little Grange', where Askew House stands, and had a long lease on a field at the junction of Higher Sea Lane and The Street where 'Knapp Cottages' and the council houses now stand.



The interior of a sailcloth workshop by Francis Newberry

He operated a sail cloth manufactory from here and would have employed a number of villagers. Flax was grown on fields around which was the staple that he would have used. There was a boom at the end of the 18th century for sail cloth as a result of the wars with America and France and it was centred on Bridport and the surrounding villages. He was born in Charmouth in 1742 and married Hope Palmer in 1772. She was sadly to die young in 1798 and he later remarried Sarah. Both Little Grange and Portland House were originally owned by the Lords of the Manor which was initially Forde Abbey until 1539 and the dissolution. The Webbers had long lived in the village and a Poor Rates list for 1754 has Anthony Edwards Leasing a house described as 'Webber's'. In 1783 Richard Phipps Hervill commissioned a detailed map of the village by Upjohn of



George Webber's Will for 1810

Shaftesbury. Unfortunately, the map has been lost, but the accompanying record book was copied by the famous historian George Pavey and from it we can see that George had a house and orchard with an area of 33 roods in that year and was to increase his holdings by the time of his death in 1810.

On the death of his wife, Sarah, six years later the estate passed to his wife's brother in law - Robert Knight who ensured they had a fine stone tomb which still can be seen at the side of St.



The stone grave of George & Sarah Webber at St. Andrew's

Church today. He was to rent the various properties and the records of these can be seen in the Land Tax and Poor Rates list. A census carried out of the village in 1813 shows Mrs. Harriet Edmonds was living there with her two daughters. Another record of a tenant is that of James & Mary Collier,

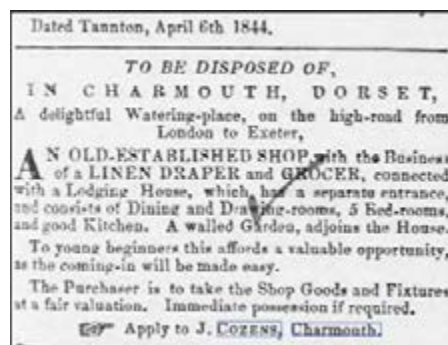


whose fine marble memorial can be seen today inside St. Andrew's. They were there from 1819 until 1823, when sadly his wife died. It was in that

year that the building was transformed into a shop, when Joseph Cozens, aged just 22, took on the lease. The family had been long established in the village and he was born here and married a local

girl, Mary, and brought up five children. On the opposite side of The Street was a large farm stretching almost to the beach and as far as Old Lyme Hill called Foxley, which he was also farming when he took on the shop. Records of the time show it to be a grocers and drapers. It is astonishing to think that in Pigot's Directory of 1830 there is an advert for a similar shop run by Lydia Bradbeer, which is of course is still operating as Nisa, two centuries on. In the 1841 census he is described as a farmer aged 40, married to Mary with five children living in Portland House. He appears regularly on the Jury Lists as a grocer and a Directory for 1844 describes him as a 'Grocer and Tea Dealer'. This was the year when he decided to sell the business and fortunately the advert has survived and gives us valuable information about the property. It reads as follows:

*'To be disposed of in Charmouth, Dorset. A delightful Watering place on the high road from London to Exeter. An Old Established Shop with the business of a Linen Draper and Grocer, connected with a Lodging House, which has a separate entrance, and consists of a Dining and Drawing rooms, a 5 bed rooms, and good Kitchen. A walled Garden adjoins the House. To young beginners this affords a valuable opportunity, as the coming in will be made easy. The purchaser is to take the Shop Goods and Fixtures at a fair valuation. Immediate possession if required. Apply to J. Cozens, Charmouth. 1844 April 6th Taunton Courier.'*



Edward Lamb answered the advert and took on the business as both grocer and draper. The 1851 census shows him, aged 51, living in the house with his wife Sarah aged 50 and his sister-law Caroline Payne, aged 45, a shop assistant. An advert was published in the 'Beauties of Lyme Regis and Charmouth' in 1856 which describes him as a 'Draper, Grocer, and Lodging House



Keeper'. He was no doubt making good use of the five bedrooms that went with the property. Sadly, the 1861 census reveals him as a widower, living with his sister-in-law. His own death was to come



Edward Lamb is seen here standing in his doorway in 1865

just four years later, and the business was once more up for sale. We do have an amazing record of Edward that has come down to us in a rare photograph taken of him standing outside his shop before 1865. We can date it from the fact that the earlier building where The Court stands today can be seen lower down The Street and this was demolished in that year.

John Stevens aged just 26 from Beaminstor next took on running the business and again we have a record of how his shop looked as I recently purchased a beautiful watercolour of the



A watercolour of John Stevens' shop c1870

village with his shop at the top, which is seen here. His name is emblazoned above the front and no doubt the wagon is delivering supplies to him. The 1871 census has him and his wife, Elizabeth, living with three step children in Portland House. An advert from the time has him running a 'Family Boarding and Lodging House, replete with every comfort' from the premises. His was not to be a happy life there, as he died soon after and left us this sad epitaph:

*As to my worldly goods, I have in store  
I leave all to my dear Wife hers for evermore*

*I freely give, I no limits fix*

*This is my will & she my Executrix*

*John Stevens June 7 1878*

An Advert appeared soon after 'For sale Mahogany atop a counter, Grocers Coffee Mill, set of drawers, will suit a grocers. Apply Portland House, Charmouth'. Without seeing the deeds, I would have missed out completely the emergence of George Mortimer's part in the story of the house. It would appear that he took on the lease of the shop

soon after the death of John Stevens. He had already purchased the freehold of its competition – Charmouth Stores (now Nisa) in 1876 and for a while ran both enterprises. His opportunity arose in 1881 to buy the freehold of Portland House from the Knights. On the death of Sarah Knight in 1851, aged 75, it had been inherited by her son, Matthew, who continued to live in their house in Chideock. He died in 1881 and left it to his brother, Edward, who soon after placed it for sale when it was bought by Mortimer for £420. He was there only briefly and sold it to Thomas Tarr for £450, making a small profit and moved from the district to Earls Court in London where he set up a larger grocery store.

Thomas Tarr was living in Melbourne House at the time, which is on the opposite side. He had been valet to Squire Gordon of Middleton Court, Somerset and was afterwards in service with his nieces, Misses Short who inherited Charmouth House. He bought Portland House with the intention of retiring there and employing his two unmarried daughters in the shop as dressmakers. The 1881 census records that he was aged 66 and living there with his wife, Ann aged 64 and daughters Elizabeth, aged 29 and Jane aged 27. Twenty years later, Elizabeth is now living with Miss Alice Enoch, aged 24, an assistant school mistress. We are very lucky as we can see how they looked



Miss Enoch on the left and Miss Tarr outside the shop in 1900

as a photograph of their time there has come down to us with them standing proudly outside Portland House. You will also see that the shop front had been reduced by then, no doubt to add a further door to allow access to the back. When her younger sister died, Miss Elizabeth Tarr changed the business to newsagents and fancy toy shop. Elizabeth was to spend over 60 years at Portland House and Reginald Pavey mentions that after her death in 1939 he



The Whittington sisters standing outside Miss Tarr's shop c1900

had the job of sorting it out and found stacks of old newspapers piled high there which were never returned.

I always find it difficult to record the more recent history of a building as the people who occupy them are more mobile nowadays and the only way of finding out is through the Electoral Rolls, which are very difficult to access. Fortunately, this was not the case with Portland House, as David & Sheena Mandy had an almost complete record until they purchased it in 1982. From these I have been able to bring the story of the house almost up to date.

After Elizabeth Tarr died in Chamouth in 1939, aged 89, it was the famous historian Reginald Pavey who was the trustee of her estate and sold it to a local builder, Charlie How. He paid £775 for the freehold and a portion of this went to the bank, as Elizabeth had a large mortgage

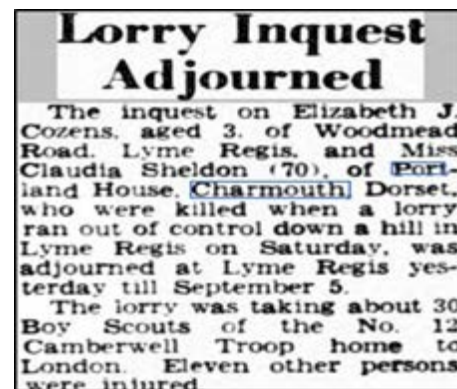


on it. The original plans that he submitted to the council have survived and reveal a number of alterations and additions to the house. The most prominent was the reduction of the shop front to incorporate a door to Garden Cottage. He and his wife lived in The Chalet in Lower Sea Lane and rented out the house. He left the building to his daughter, Joyce Pincot, who was described as a hairdresser living there. She divorced and in 1951 remarried Samuel Symes, a farmer from Whitchurch. Soon after, the house was put up for sale and bought by Marjorie Denton, Phyllis Sheldon and Claudia Sheldon from Warrington, who paid £3500 for it. Tragically, Claudia Sheldon, aged 70, was killed when a runaway lorry crushed her in Lyme Regis. No doubt as a result of their loss, the others place the building once more up for sale.

Andrew and Christine Askwith were to pay £5300 for it and open a highly original shop on the premises selling stock which they had amassed on their annual trips to the continent, called



Mediterranea gift shop in Portland House c1965



'Mediterranea' and their annual adverts in the village guide explain what they were able to offer:

*'Visit the Mediterranean in Dorset, Mediterranean Charmouth, Telephone 507. On the hill in Charmouth (A35 road) Good Parking 50 yards down Higher Sea Lane - opposite Shop. Mediterranean specialises in colourful and unusual Mediterranean wear and wares including clothes, hats, leather work, furniture, furnishings, basketry, wrought iron, rugs, pottery, glass, jewellery, musical toys - from all around the Mediterranean, including Greece, Italy, Malta, Morocco and Spain. For the benefit of country lovers and visitors, Mediterranean also include on their premises a country ways display with information, maps, brochures, etc., of Local Walks, Golden Cap Estate, National Trust properties, Country Interests.'*

Unfortunately, Andrew was to die in 1968 and Christine carried on for a while before selling it four years later to Walter & Florence Faima, who were to pay £14,000 for it. They let the shop as a hairdressers called 'Suzannes' and had



Suzanne's Hairdressers after its closure in the 1980s

two holiday flats within it. Finally, in 1982, David & Sheena Mandy bought Portland House and in 1996 sold the two flats off and continue to live in Garden Cottage at the rear of the property.

I wish to thank David & Sheena Mandy and Peter Crowter who live in the house today for their invaluable assistance in supplying information about their house. If you wish to find out more about Portland House and other properties in Charmouth, please go to my freshford.com website and use the search engine.

**Neil Mattingly**



## Create a Life You Love

**That's my company over there – Jurassic SUP Fitness Ltd – it still makes me proud saying that! I am a Personal Trainer, Paddle Board Instructor and thought I would give you a little background on me to give you an insight into the passion behind the brand.**

My grandparents had a house in Uplyme when I was a child, so I used to spend lots of holidays here, but as I got older, I would come back at any opportunity I had. It always felt special somehow. There is a point between Dorchester and Axminster – driving across the rolling countryside, where I get this overwhelming feeling of peace and my whole body relaxes. It suddenly dawned on me that even though I was born and raised in London, it never felt like home. I guess Lyme, Charmouth and the surrounding area has always been my happy place – what a home should be!

Up until two years ago, I worked full time in high-end event delivery as a logistics director. I got to work with some amazing brands and travel the world, but as I got older it became less fulfilling and more exhausting. I realized life was passing me by. To the shock of my friends and family, I put my flat in London on the market, put a business plan together (or rather made sure I would have enough funds not to go bankrupt) found a house, which I instantly fell in love with and once everything completed, I quit my job and moved.

I had been paddle boarding for years and often helped friends with support teaching as favours, I also trained people in my spare time, but never considered a career in either – they were hobbies and you make peanuts. Don't get me wrong, this is seasonal work, and I have to freelance in my old job in the winter months, but I get to do what I love, and live in the most amazing place the majority of the year.

Everyone that knew me thought I was having a midlife crisis, but they are all eating their words now. I am a different person thanks to life in Charmouth.. I am happier than I have ever been, I get to spend a large majority of the year outside in the most beautiful scenery, there is an incredible community, everyone looks out for each other, greets each other, gives way for other drivers, does favours for neighbours (unlike anonymous, frantic, London life).

My lifestyle has completely changed and I live a simple life, but I love taking people out on the water, teaching them new skills and showing them what this fabulous area has to offer. Not many people get to view the rugged, colourful cliffs and beaches from the water, or work out on the beach, rather than in a gym. I love what I do, and I honestly believe I am making other people happy. I have time to do things like beach cleans or help someone who needs some first aid at the beach, I'm educating people on water safety and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

I am looking forward to showing you all what this amazing place has to offer! It's the best place in the world.

**Esther Wyatt**

## Jurassic SUP & Fitness Ltd

Charmouth & Lyme Regis Activities

### Get your bounce back in 2019!

Guided SUP (paddle boarding) tours & lessons, personal training and organised activities like hiking adventures along the beautiful Dorset coastline. Fully qualified instructors offering safe, relaxed & fun activities for all ages & abilities. Get in touch to plan your next adventure!

[www.jurassicSUPfitness.com](http://www.jurassicSUPfitness.com)  
[jurassicupfitness@gmail.com](mailto:jurassicupfitness@gmail.com)  
+44 (0) 771 347 0000

Check out our reviews on TripAdvisor & follow us on Instagram

## BYMEAD HOUSE

### Nursing & Residential Home



Bymead House is a medium sized Nursing and Residential family run home in the picturesque seaside village of Charmouth. Our philosophy focuses on personal choice, individual freedom and comprehensive care which is shared by all our staff and is reflected in the home's calm and friendly atmosphere. At Bymeal quality care and a home from home is truly embraced. We offer a highly professional and exclusive care service for the elderly with a personal touch.

Recently awarded GOOD following our CQC Inspection under the new regulations.

For further details or to arrange a visit please contact the Registered Manager Amy Blacklock on 01297 560620.

Bymead House, Axminster Road, Charmouth, DT6 6BS.

[bymealhouse@gmail.com](mailto:bymealhouse@gmail.com)

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

**Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers**

## Call Chris

Your local dependable handyman offering practical help for your home and garden.

callchris@yahoo.com



## Need a good CV? Not sure where to start?



We can rapidly re-write your Curriculum Vitae and give you top tips on job-hunting.

Contact Jo today to find out about our deals!

Griffin Development Management Ltd

griffdevCV@gmail.com



## FOR FANTASTIC HAIR IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE SALON.

From a Traditional Shampoo & Set or Perm to a Fresh Cut & Colour or even a Skin Fade or Full Shave with our barber, we can do it all.

**THROUGHOUT APRIL WE ARE OFFERING 10% OFF ANY CUTTING SERVICE WITH HARRY, VICKI OR JANE OR 15% OFF ANY CUT & COLOUR SERVICE WITH VICKI OR JANE FOR ALL NEW CLIENTS WITH THIS ADVERT.**

### OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 9.00-5.30, Wednesday 9.00-5.00,  
Thursday 9.00-5.30, Friday 9.00-7.00,  
Saturday 8.30-1.30

Check us out on Facebook or Instagram @The Salon Charmouth

**Shetland House, The Street, Charmouth  
01297 560221**

## AXMINSTER PRINTING CO. LTD.

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

Email: keith or jane @axminsterprinting.co.uk

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

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

## Geoff Townson - Dorset Landscapes in Oils & Acrylics Happy to discuss Commissions and Tuition

Phone 01297 561337 Mobile 07748 752927  
[www.geofftownson.co.uk](http://www.geofftownson.co.uk)



Jane Townson  
Scarves, Hats &  
Throws  
Hand Knit & Crochet

For sale at  
Herringbone  
The Street, Charmouth

Visit our studios at  
7 Hammonds Mead, Charmouth DT6 6QX

Browse Original work, Reproductions & Cards  
Cards also for sale at Herringbone, Breeze, Charmouth  
Heritage Coast Centre and Lyme Regis Museum

Jillian  
Hunt



Seamstress

soft furnishings  
alterations to  
clothes & curtains

01297 561173

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

**Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers**



## Rice Floddies

A delicious and simple way to use any leftover rice. Quick and versatile, they can be topped with a variety of ingredients and you can make several small ones or two big ones, like a pancake.

Always take care to chill your rice immediately after cooking.

### Serves 2

#### INGREDIENTS:

4 tbsp cooked rice - brown, basmati or long grain

2 eggs

2 spring onions

1 clove crushed garlic

1 tsp crushed root ginger

Pinch black pepper

1 tbsp olive or coconut oil

50g mature cheddar cheese, grated, optional

#### METHOD:

1. Whisk eggs well in a bowl and add the rice, mixing well.

2. Chop the spring onions into 1 cm pieces and add to the mixture with the garlic, ginger and pepper. Add the cheese if using.

3. Heat the oil in a frying pan and when starting to sizzle, drop a heaped tablespoon into the pan. Press down lightly.

4. Repeat with the rest of the mixture.

5. Cook on a moderate heat on each side until golden brown - about 5 minutes each side.

6. Serve immediately with your choice of topping or just as they are - especially tasty if you have added cheese!

#### SUGGESTED TOPPINGS:

Cooked Prawns in a Sweet and Sour sauce topped with roasted Cashew Nuts

Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese

Vegetarian Chilli topped with Soured Cream

Crispy Bacon and Sautéed Mushrooms

Slow-Roasted Tomatoes and Diced Feta Cheese

**Sheila Gilbey** *The Abbots House* [www.abbotshouse.co.uk](http://www.abbotshouse.co.uk)

## KOMIT KOMPOST BEAMINSTER

Based on farmyard manure. Free of unpleasant odours.  
Feeds and conditions. Suppresses weeds.

**30 litre bags, bulk bags or loose bulk**

Delivered or  
cash and carry




**COMPOSTED MANURE  
MULCH  
POTTING COMPOST  
TOPSOIL  
and WOODCHIP**

**Telephone: 01308 863054 or 07974 943411**  
Email: [komitkompost@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:komitkompost@hotmail.co.uk) Website: [www.komitkompost.co.uk](http://www.komitkompost.co.uk)

**Rebecca Loader MCSP**  
*Chartered Physiotherapist*  
*Registered with the Health Professions Council*

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

**Tel: 01297 561425**  
**Email: [rebeccaloaderphysio@outlook.com](mailto:rebeccaloaderphysio@outlook.com)**



Member of The Organisation of Chartered Physiotherapists in Private Practice

**Charlie Kennerley**

## Chimney Sweep Stove installer

**Stove installations and chimney lining**

- Work to fireplaces and hearths laid
- Stove maintenance
- Traditional and power sweeping
- Cows / bird guards fitted
- CCTV flue surveys • All work certificated • Fully insured

**M: 07771 770769**  
**E: [info@charliekennerley.com](mailto:info@charliekennerley.com)**  
**[www.charliekennerley.com](http://www.charliekennerley.com)**






**We carry out all forms of work...**

- | Extensions |
- | Renovations |
- | New Build |

**Otters Holt, Weycroft, Axminster EX13 7LN**  
**Tel 01297 561060**  
**Email: [charlie@crosby-builders.com](mailto:charlie@crosby-builders.com)**  
**[www.crosby-builders.com](http://www.crosby-builders.com)**

**Jim Allen**  
Roofing and Building Contractor








**No job too big or too small**

Tel: 01308 863809 Mobile: 07976 372045  
E-mail: alljm996@aol.com Website: www.jimallenbuilding.co.uk

## Bridport Leisure Centre

Has so much to offer...



- © 25m Swimming Pool & Learner Pool
  - © State of the art Fitness Suite
  - © Over 90 Fitness Classes every week
  - © Badminton and Squash Courts
  - © Big Splash Fun Inflatable Sessions
  - © Gymnastics, Trampolining, Swimming Lessons and so much more!
- Call us today on 01308 427464**



### Bridport Leisure Centre,

Brewery Fields, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5LN

Tel: 01308 427464 Email: info@bridportleisure.com

www.bridportleisure.com

facebook.com/bridportleisurecentre twitter.com/bridportleisure

Registered Charity Number 267781



## SB Plumbing & Heating

From Ballcocks to Boilers



- Natural Gas & LPG boilers installed, serviced and repair
- General plumbing & Central Heating system installation, upgrades, maintenance & repair
- Landlord Safety Checks
- Central Heating systems Powerflushed

**Tel: 01297 23321 / 07764 193184**

Based in  
Charmouth!



- Professional Mobile Vehicle Valeting
- Window Cleaning
- Gutter Cleaning
- Roof Moss Removal
- Solar Panel Cleaning
- Pressure Washing

Covering West Dorset, East Devon and South Somerset



01297 441225

07825 868004

vantage-valetingandproperty@hotmail.com



**10% off**

**All Gutter Cleans**  
Quote 'Shoreline' when booking  
Commercial and Domestic Customers  
Terms and Conditions apply



## Clean Living

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

01297 561505 / 07970 060449

jeff@cleanliving-sw.co.uk

First Class Service – First Class Results

- Free Survey with no obligation
- Safe cleaning of both wool and synthetic carpets
- Upholstery cleaning
- Stain-guarding of carpets and upholstery
- Stain-guarding natural fibre flooring e.g. Coir, Sea-grass and Sisal.
- Leather cleaning
- Oriental Carpets a speciality
- Turbo drying of carpets and upholstery
- Insect/moth/flea infestation treatment
- All work is properly insured
- Full member of the NCCA



## Clearwater

Plumbing Charmouth

Bathroom/Kitchen refits.

General maintenance.

Tiling.

No Job too small.

**07973 931804**



**All Shoreline issues can be seen online at**  
[www.charmouth.org/charmouth\\_village/shoreline-magazine/](http://www.charmouth.org/charmouth_village/shoreline-magazine/)

# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



and we are running our Beach Clean on Saturday 27th April 3-4.30pm, in conjunction with Plastic Free Charmouth. Meet us at the bottom of the Heritage Centre steps.

We will be busy in May at both the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival and the National Trust Spring Tide Festival in Burton Bradstock. We will be in Lyme Regis on 4th-5th May and in Burton Bradstock on 18th-19th May.

We are holding a free open evening for the village and local traders on Wednesday 12th June 4-6.00pm. If you live in Charmouth and have not visited us before or not for a long time, this is your opportunity to come and see our displays after hours and find out more about what we do. We have made many new displays in recent years, as well as scheduled a variety of new FREE community-based events. Come down and meet the Wardens and volunteers over a slice of cake.

**Ali Ferris,**  
*Deputy Senior Warden*



**W**e had our busiest year in 2018 with 150,000 visitors! This may have been due to the fantastic summer weather or to the David Attenborough and Beach Live programmes. We had a small part in Channel 5's 'Celebrity 5 Go Camping', screened in January this year. Ali took five celebrities: Bobby Davro, Michelle Collins, Stephen Bailey, Tim Vincent and Cheryl Baker onto Charmouth Beach during Storm Ali in September. They were all friendly and had a good time, having never been fossil hunting before. I managed to get a couple of them soaked by the waves, but found a few lovely little fools' gold ammonites.

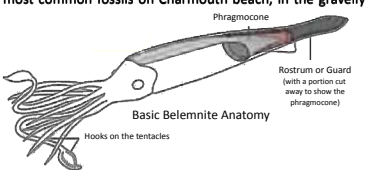
Chris Moore has let us keep the Attenborough Sea Dragon for 2019, and we have added a new feature. You can now listen to the speech given by Sir David Attenborough when he unveiled the Ichthyosaur in January 2018.

Collector Andy Cowap has kindly loaned us a selection of his fossils for display. They are a little bit different, in that they come from Marston Magna in Somerset and Burton Bradstock. The age of the rocks in Marston is the same as in Charmouth, so Andy's fossils are from the same Jurassic layers. Andy is one of the best fossil preparators in the world, so we recommend coming to view his work while the fossils are with us.

Over Easter we are running fossil walks and rock pool rambles. We are also running children's activities in the Centre, so check out the website calendar to see what's on. The Great Dorset Beach Clean happens over the weekend of 27th-28th April

**Belemnites** ("bell-M-nights") are extinct marine creatures belonging to the same group of animals as Cuttlefish, Squid and Octopus (Cephalopod Molluscs). They had a solid internal shell called a **Rostrum** or **Guard**. These bullet-shaped guards are the most common fossils on Charmouth beach, in the gravelly areas away from the cliffs.

The **Phragmocone** was a conical segmented flotation chamber which fitted into the blunt end of the rostrum. These are sometimes found preserved in Fools Gold (iron pyrite)

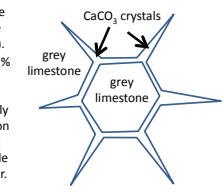


## Septarian nodules or concretions

The word comes from the Latin word *septum* = "partition" (not *septem* = seven)



Sliced & polished Septarian nodule showing calcite crystals filling the shrinkage cracks (calcite =  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). The brown colour is due to a small % of iron (ferroan calcite).



The cracks formed when these Early Jurassic rocks (deposited 190 million years ago) were stretched during burial to 1 - 2km, during the Middle Jurassic some 20 million years later.



By Geoff Townson

## Shoreline Creatures - Some Members of the Whelk Family



**O** rder a 'plat de fruits de mer' in a restaurant and you will probably find some whelks along with various marine creatures, including other types of Mollusc. Molluscs are a wide-ranging group including many that are well-known in gardens, on beaches or in the sea. They range from large octopus and squid to the smaller slugs, snails and bivalves. Many, particularly the edible marine ones, form an important part of our economy.

Marine snails (gastropods) are an interesting class of Molluscs and include whelks, dog whelks, netted dog whelks and the sting winkle (also called a 'drill'), all of which can be found on Charmouth beach. Two of these are predators and the name 'drill' is related to the animal's behaviour which really does mean drilling through the shells of their unfortunate prey - other molluscs. As humans are aware, these are highly nutritious!

The common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) and the netted dog whelk (*Nassarius reticulatus*) are not predators and their shells can sometimes be found on the beach. Very often groups of whelk egg cases are found which, when dry, are blown along the beach by the wind. Each parchment-like 'cell' would have housed an egg which, when hatched, would be dispersed if not eaten beforehand by its siblings.

Whelks live on the shallow parts of shores in sand and mud; they move around on a fleshy foot and lubrication by mucus from a special gland allows friction to be reduced to allow easier movement through sediment. A hard operculum, like a sort of trap door at the end of the foot, ensures safe withdrawal

into the shell in case of harm or drying out. A fleshy siphon, a tubular structure, draws water over the gills to provide oxygen. It can be held aloft to keep it free of sediment. The siphon is moved about to pick up 'scents' which pass over a specialised organ (the osphradium) at its base. Scents (chemicals) released from rotting matter such as recently dead animals or other bits of debris allow the whelk to locate and move towards food sources. This sensitive response to chemicals in the sea water is called chemoreception. Another structure, the proboscis, connected to the gut, can be poked out to take in food and retracted when not in use. Near its tip it has a radula bearing tooth-like structures to rasp food.

Nassarius, the netted dog whelk, is an attractive mollusc with a net-like pattern on the shell. It is smaller than the common whelk and inhabits crevices as well as being found under pebbles, on sand or mud or in rock pools. It can be found from the shallow waters to the lower shore and feed in a similar way to their larger cousins. Searching for food is an active process and these creatures can be seen with their siphon held vertically until, using chemoreception, they can orientate and then home-in on the food source.

A rapacious predator in the whelk family is *Ocenebra erinacea*, the 'drill' (or oyster drill), also known as a sting winkle. Despite the latter name it is nothing to do with other molluscs called winkles. The drill will mainly attack bivalves; after boring a hole in the shell, it secretes enzymes which start to digest the prey so the resulting 'soup' can be sucked out. These aptly named drills can be found among small pebbles, sand and rocks in the deeper water of 100m or so. You can tell if a mollusc has been attacked by a drill because of the neat hole (1 mm or so) with a bevelled edge. You don't need much imagination to appreciate the damage that could be caused if many drills lived, fed and bred in commercial mussel or oyster farms.

The whelk family is diverse and includes the beautiful spiny Murex shells found in warmer climes. Unlike gastropods such as top shells, there is no mother-of-pearl lining inside the shells. However, the shell ornamentation is attractive and the 'siphonal groove' under the mouth of the shell adds to the interesting shapes formed as shell is secreted. In general, gastropod shells are really just coiled tubes but the variations in colours, textures, patterns and shapes formed are truly fascinating.

Whelks illustrated are: Common whelk (about 8 mm long), netted dog whelk (about 3.5 mm) and sting winkle or drill (about 5 mm long).

Rosalind Cole

**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.**



**To advertise in Shoreline please contact: [neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk)**

# National Coastwatch - Lyme Bay (QAVS)

## EYES ALONG THE COAST



A visit by our volunteers to HM Coastguard Operations Centre at Fareham.

## How to train to be a Watchkeeper?



**We are often asked when on duty, what qualifications do I need to become a volunteer Watchkeeper with the National Coastwatch? The simple answer is no previous experience is required except a degree of common sense – the NCI will take care of the rest!**

At the same time we do need some basics: the ability to see clearly (with glasses, if required); able to hear and monitor radio traffic; communicate clearly and write clear log book entries. The actual training to become a Watchkeeper is on-the-job and classroom based, including refresher presentations for trainees and experienced Watchkeepers alike. The majority of training is actually undertaken working alongside an experienced Watchkeeper.

A trainee will eventually have to demonstrate competency in a number of subject areas ranging from opening and closing procedures; dealing with incidents; how to record and report weather; chart and map work; VHF radio procedures, etc. Once a trainee has demonstrated that they are competent in the required areas they undertake an assessment overseen by a delegated Watchkeeper. If successful, the trainee becomes a Watchkeeper, who will be deemed suitable to run a watch on their own and who will be able to mentor other trainees. Such assessments ensure that NCI Watchkeepers work to an acceptable standard; this is required as part of us belonging to UK's Search and Rescue organisation and also for our co-operation with HM Coastguard.

The skills we learn are essentially to enable us to "spot, plot and report" incidents or potential vulnerabilities involving vessels and people along the coast. When we see something, we need to take bearings and estimate the range of the casualty in order to plot co-ordinates on a nautical chart or Ordinance Survey map. We then pass this information, including weather and sea conditions, to HM Coastguard as soon as possible so appropriate action can be taken. We also receive reports from members of the public and can pick up radio distress messages which need to be reported accurately to HM Coastguard.

The training is not particularly difficult. There is no fixed time in which a trainee has to qualify to become Watchkeeper and

we try to ensure volunteers work at their own pace. Some may come to us with prior experience of the sea e.g. ex-Royal Navy or someone who owned a boat, and elements of the training may already be familiar. Most of our volunteers, however, come from various walks of life without any nautical experience whatsoever. Some may qualify in a few months and others may take a year. Some may decide not to become Watchkeepers and are content with taking the rank of Assistant Watchkeeper, which means they cannot run a watch alone. The qualification assessments we run are mostly "open book" i.e. a trainee should know where to find the answer in our lookout reference books

Even when someone has qualified as a Watchkeeper we expect our volunteers to keep up skills by attending lectures on meteorology, chart-work as well as by expert visitors from local Coastguard Rescue Teams and other emergency services. We also organise visits to agencies with which we work i.e. RNLI stations and the HM Coastguard Operations Centres.

If you want to learn more, please drop by our lookout at Charmouth or the main station at Hive Beach or contact the numbers below.

**Mike Seaman,**  
NCI Lyme Bay Deputy Station Manager (Charmouth Sector)

**Contacts:** Volunteering for the NCI is enjoyable and worthwhile and we now have several volunteers from Charmouth and the immediate surrounding area. The NCI exists entirely on public donations, whether from collection days, event sponsorship or direct contributions. Even if you don't want to join us you can support us with a donation. If you want to learn more just look at the websites below. If you, are interested in joining and want an application form or give a donation, please contact:

Volunteering: NCI (national) website: <http://www.nci.org.uk/>  
Donations: Graeme Gemmill Treasurer  
Email: [lymebay.treasurer@nci.org.uk](mailto:lymebay.treasurer@nci.org.uk)  
Tel: 01308 482178  
See also: NCI (national) website: <http://www.nci.org.uk/>



# Jan Gale, Founder of Charmouth Village People...

## ...Talks About Her Life and Aims

**"I was born in Ilford, Essex, in 1950 and taken home to Hampstead Heath. My father wanted to own his own home, so when I was a toddler we moved to Barking, Essex, to live with my grandmother who really brought me up as my parents were working to save for a deposit. I remember vividly attending a street party in 1953, my first, and thinking it was my birthday party, which was the previous day. Of course, it was really the Coronation celebrations. My grandmother was, let's say, a character, and she let me twist her steel grey hair into knots using the old metal curlers of the time! I was treated like a princess.**

I was doing well at school, but at age 14 my parents moved to South Benfleet and I went to The King John School, where the curriculum was totally different and I struggled. It must be said, I enjoyed the semi-rural surroundings and our new, bigger home, and used to go on long walks with our Airedale Terrier, Bonny. My father and my sister could draw and paint, but I did not seem to have the skill. However, The King John School had a dark room where I learned about photography and developed my pictures of the sea. I had taken up sailing and saw many potential compositions which I tried to film. When I left school, my father arranged for me to take up a traineeship with the Central Electricity Generating Board in Southwark, London, where I did well and, on day release, obtained academic and administrative qualifications at Southend College of Technology.

By the time I was 20, I had moved to Northampton and that's when my career in the NHS began. I worked for Northampton Health District and made my way through Management Services, X-Ray, Personnel, and, finally, as Secretary to the Director of Nursing Services (Community), a job I loved, but I then moved to Nottingham and had two children. After 12 years, I moved back to Northampton, where my children grew up and where my son still lives. My younger daughter went to university in Norwich and after obtaining her degree, settled there. I decided to study for a Diploma in Children's Health and Education, which led me to work in Milton Keynes Hospital children's ward, before I decided to relocate to Dorset. I had lived for my children, so that when they both suddenly left home I felt lost.

I had always dreamt of living in the South West, when one of those coincidences in life happened. In 2006 I met Rikey Austin from Alice's Bear Shop in Lyme Regis. I had a small retail unit in a rural farm retail development selling children's clothes and toys and Rikey was looking to expand her sales. We chatted and she painted such a wonderful picture of the area. I arranged to visit her and when I saw the coastline and felt the atmosphere, I knew I wanted to live here. My restlessness had found a focus.

I rented a flat in Lyme for six months, having realised I couldn't afford to buy one in this area, yet I knew there was no going back. I had enjoyed Lyme, but Charmouth suited me much better and I loved it. It was a more intimate place and had everything I wanted. I walked extensively at first, along the coastline, especially to Stonebarrow, Golden Cap, and westwards from Seaton to Beer. I made friends, and it was as if I had grown roots, which I certainly needed to do after many years moving around and never feeling I belonged. In a different life, I might have been a mariner, as I love travelling. I am going to do my family history when I retire from Charmouth Village People and I wouldn't be surprised if some of my ancestors are right here. I decided to look for a job that would take me to the magic retirement age and worked for Phil Tritton

at Charmouth Stores

for three years. It filled in nicely and meant I could stay in what I often describe as 'Paradise'. At that time, I had a number of health problems, one of which culminated in a hip replacement.

I was fortunate to be offered a flat in Bridge Road above the Hollands Room and was encouraged by Magna management to join their residents' involvement program. I mentioned my idea of organising a breakfast club for residents and villagers to enable people to get together in the communal room during winter. It was funded by WDDC and an exciting time followed every Monday morning when we shared good food and friendship with a dedicated group of people, helpers and customers. I was settled in Charmouth, retired from work and my health had improved. I was vice-chair of Magna residents committee and received much encouragement from the Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP).

While on Magna's resident involvement programme in summer 2014, I met a couple of new friends whose great grandson, Bradley Lowery, was diagnosed with

Neuroblastoma at only two years of age. They were fundraising to take him to the U.S. for groundbreaking treatment and I decided to do a paraglide to raise money. It wasn't the best weather and I didn't get very high, but I did get off the ground from Stonebarrow cliffs. Donations achieved about £700 both to me through sponsorship and via the family's page. Bradley went into remission and started school. He was a larger than life, happy little boy with a joyful smile, but the cancer returned and he died in 2017; a great blow to his family and the thousands of friends who followed his story. He had won the heart of footballer Jermain Defoe who was with him throughout his heartbreaking fight against cancer. The Bradley Lowery Foundation releases funds to other children's families suffering the blow of cancer, as Bradley sadly never got to use the money raised to go to the U.S. for treatment.

At this point, I had registered with Hanover for a two-bedroom flat and, as these things often happen, suddenly found myself living in St. Andrew's Drive. I feel this is my permanent home, with a lovely view of the sea and Stonebarrow and plenty of space for a study/spare bedroom for my granddaughter when she comes to stay.

After three years, a team of people took on the breakfast club and I decided to try something new. I still needed to be active within the community and using my skills to introduce something new for older people was exciting. We held an initial meeting in the Hollands Room, then booked the library servery, where we had a twice-monthly meeting for seniors called Memorable Memoirs. It thrived and it was sometimes a squeeze fitting everyone in, so we made a collective decision to move to The Elms and renamed the group Kaleidoscope, to reflect the diversity of speakers and subjects. Two members are 90 years old, and we do our best to include anyone who would like to come.

Keeping my finger on the pulse is challenging, but I have always had a lot of support, and as a committee we make collective decisions and share responsibilities. And so, our voluntary group, Charmouth Village People (CVP), has a committee of three to oversee all our activities. We opened a bank account and local supporters have generously funded us. Pop Up Writers followed, and coach trips, theatre trips, and, more lately, Meet Up at The Bank House. Our newest group, Men Making Friends at the Royal Oak, started at 12.00 noon on 7th February. We have great hopes that this group will grow so



that men can suggest activities to enjoy while meeting together regularly. (Please phone Vince on 01297 560474 for further information.) Each group has a leader and I am very grateful for the work they voluntarily put in, making CVP a success. I would like to say thank you to Liz Simpson, Treasurer, and Judith Howells, Secretary, who have a vision for what we do. We enjoy CVP and want to see it progress.

Although I had an eye for a photograph when I was young, I did not pursue it as a hobby, but I did take thousands of pictures of my children as they were growing up. When I saw the amazing scenery here in Charmouth, and in the local area, I wanted to capture it forever for my children and began taking photographs. I particularly like the surf on the beach and rural scenes. I have taken pictures of places we have visited on coach trips, including ancient buildings; and I also like flowers, natural stone walls, architecture and the sky. They are all valuable to me in a way material things will never be. I put them on my website [www.jangalephotography.co.uk](http://www.jangalephotography.co.uk) so anyone could see them and hopefully be as thrilled as I am.

Charmouth is home, completely and thoroughly. I hope to have many more years here in this cosy flat, surrounded by a diversity of people who all have stories to tell. I suppose the crux of the matter is I missed my vocation. I should have been



a journalist, because I am always interested in people's stories, however many times I've heard them. That is why I endeavoured to bring people together in the beginning, because I like to hear about their lives and want to create an atmosphere of respect and genuine care for neighbours. Charmouth is a place where you don't have to be alone, isolated or friendless. There is something for everyone, and Charmouth Village People is for anyone who wants to join in. I missed my children when they left home and still do, but there is life after children, or trauma, or sadness, and it can certainly be found here.

When Amanda Baber was secretary of CVP she suggested our motto should be 'helping older people enjoy life', and I immediately realised she had summed up our raison d'être. My own motto would be similar - 'do your best to make life better' - which seems to be my daily aim, and that includes everyone, not just myself. We all have our idiosyncrasies and are shaped by our past, but hope is a quality that cannot be underestimated. For 35 years I attended Christian churches and have in the last three years found my place in the Quaker faith. It fits perfectly with my philosophy on life: everyone is equal, love thy neighbour in peace and justice, and be free to pursue a good life."

**Lesley Dunlop**

#### ADVERTORIAL

## Nanny Thornton's Traditional Teas

Nanny Thornton's Traditional Teas is a small, family business with a big passion for making and baking all things delicious! Beth and Kirsten created Nanny Thornton's with a mission to provide a quality experience of food and service, for any event and occasion, in and around the West Dorset/East Devon region.

Beth said, "Family values are at the heart of our business. There's nothing more we love than seeing the happy faces of our customers when we've helped to celebrate that special moment."

Their culinary skills range from providing sumptuous home-made Afternoon Teas to bespoke buffets and hand delivered baked treats and Cream Teas.

*Afternoon Teas ~ Birthdays ~ Funerals ~ Christenings ~ Anniversaries ~ Celebrations ~ Weddings ~ Corporate Events*

**To enquire about an event you may have, please contact Beth and Kirsten on the following:**

**Contact: 07594 164350 email: [nannyteas@gmail.com](mailto:nannyteas@gmail.com)**

**<http://www.nannythorntons.wordpress.com>**



## Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue



Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service needs new on-call recruits to provide fire cover in Charmouth and Lyme Regis. Contracted hours can vary, but on-call personnel usually make themselves available for between 48 and 120 hours per week. Between them, each fire station team will provide cover for weekdays, evenings, nights and weekends.

On-call firefighters receive the same training and development as whole-time colleagues, and we can be called to all manner of emergencies, including fires, road traffic collisions, animal rescues and flooding. The pay does vary, depending on how much cover you give, but it is fantastically rewarding to be a part of your community and in a position to help people. In order to be on-call, you will need to be able to respond to the fire station in around five minutes once your pager goes off. This can be from home or work, and employers can benefit from a firefighter's training – such as first aid, manual handling, a greater understanding of health & safety in the workplace, and enhanced team spirit.

**Crews at both stations train on a Monday night every week from 7pm, so you can pop along to the station and find out what being on-call is all about. Alternatively you can find out more on the website at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/working-for-us/on-call-firefighters>**



## WILDLIFE ON THE STREET

By Peter Crowter

I walk down The Street for my paper,  
The streets by that time are well aired.  
So I was surprised when one morning,  
I met a bold fox who just stared.

He stood on the pavement not caring,  
As if the intruder was me,  
You'd think at the sight of a human,  
The first thing he'd do would be flee.

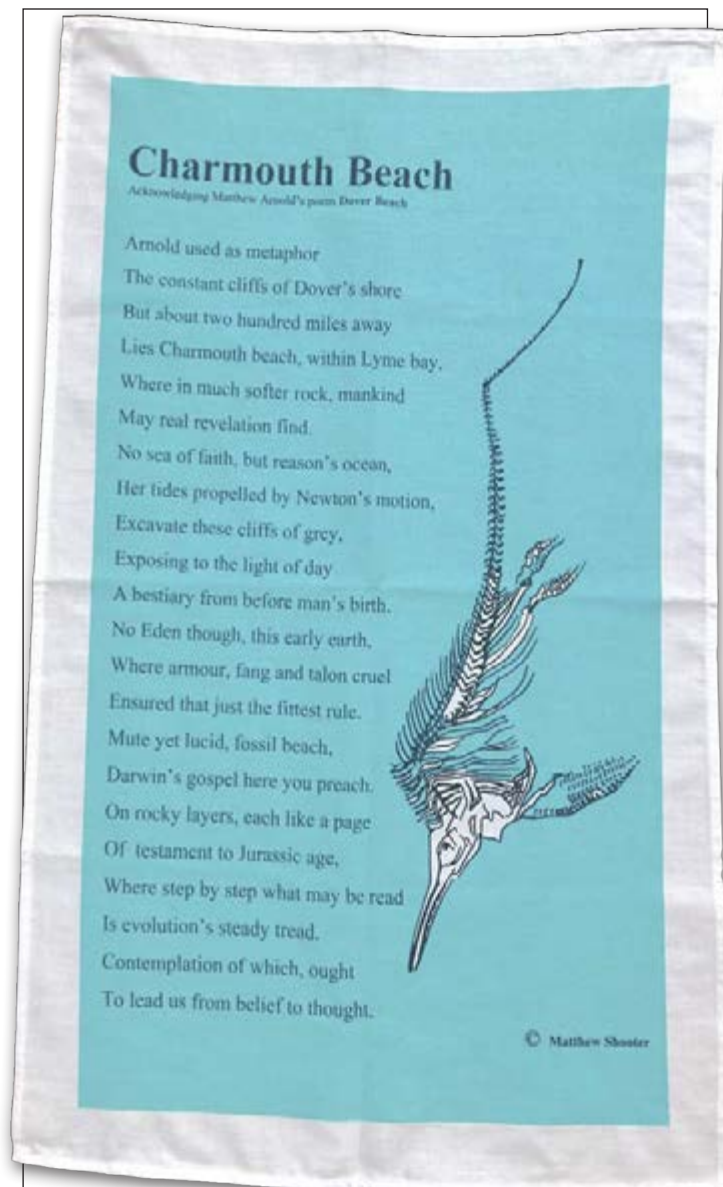
But as I got nearer and nearer,  
He thought it was time that he went.  
Back down the lane he had come from,  
To vanish he was then hell bent.

He's not the first creature I've spotted,  
Trotting along in The Street.  
A very cute one was a weasel,  
Who stopped when he came to my feet.

I saw once when down The Oak drinking,  
A hedgehog was on walkabout.  
He entered The Court for a forage,  
And half an hour later popped out.

I know we get nocturnal creatures  
Stalking our pavements at night.  
They leave little poos on the pavement,  
That look like a small ammonite.

I wonder if I'll see a badger,  
Or maybe a deer on The Street.  
I know they invade people's gardens,  
But so far I've yet one to meet.



## Charmouth Tea Towel

**Combining the practical with the poetic, this Charmouth tea towel is currently on sale at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (and the Post Office) for £7. The poem on it is based on 'Dover Beach' by Matthew Arnold, the sixth most broadcast work on Radio 4's 'Poetry Please'.**

The person behind the tea towel, so to speak, is Matthew Shooter. He states: "Its genesis is a response to Victorian anxiety about the retreat of religion in the face of scientific advance and the Origin of Species, the Sea of Faith withdrawing in a roar of pebbles. Charmouth's fossils played a part in the realisation that earlier worlds than ours existed so long ago that the animals were extinct and had petrified." Matthew mused on these themes and the outcome is his poem 'Charmouth Beach' and the tea towel, which was designed by his wife, the printmaker Jane Rollason.

Matthew remembers staying in the Coastguard Cottages on Lower Sea Lane several times in the late '60s and visiting from his parents' home in Dorset throughout the '70s and '80s. He moved to South Somerset in 1992 to raise a family and his children have been frequent visitors ever since.

**Lesley Dunlop**



## WAITING

**T**he very word conjures up sinister places, dark figures lurking in shadows and other eerie surroundings. There are very few spooky tales where that word does not hide, just waiting to frighten you. Strange shadowy men in trench coats, with the collar turned up to hide their facial features, as they lurk in foggy railway stations, waiting. Waiting for a train to arrive, to board it and escape the law, WAITING, for a certain lady spy, who will step down from the first class compartment of the Pullman train, her fur collar worn high around her face, as she opens her slim handbag to withdraw a cigarette lighter, which, with her long beautiful fingers, delicately flicks to produce a long smooth flame that illuminates her classic facial features, as she lights a cigarette that is firmly fixed at the end of a long cigarette holder. The dark figure in the trench coat and trilby hat, steps out of the shadows where he has been waiting and says "Helga", and as she steps closer to him, replies in a smooth sultry voice, "Oscar, have you been waiting long?" The question remains unanswered as the two melt into the shadows and, as he leans forward to kiss her, she whispers "You have done very well Oscar, but as you now know so much about our group, you are a serious threat to all us, so thank you Oscar and farewell." The noise of a steam train slowly

departing an adjoining platform smothers the sound of a revolver ending a life. A motionless body lies in the shadows as the sinister blonde lady gently eases herself into the soft first class carriage seat and leans back, her face softly illuminated in the flickering effect of the passing platform lights as her train begins to glide away from the station, and she now wears a hint of satisfaction on her beautiful face, which grew from the knowledge of a mission so easily accomplished.

In so many ways, waiting can often prove fatal.

Whilst on the railway station, if you look around, you will notice a facility that railways provided for its customers: The WAITING Room'. This facility has existed on railway stations since railways were invented in the early Victorian era. The public, delighted with the facility, never realised that it was the biggest deception ever invented, yet, in all that time, no one asked the question "Why do you need a waiting room on a station platform, when inside the station there are large posters indicating the exact times the trains will leave the platform, so you should never have to WAIT." Well, since early Victorian times, the public never noticed that trains would rarely leave the platform at the advertised times, so they would always need a WAITING Room.

Today, politically motivated women are obsessed with equality with men, yet they failed to notice that virtually every railway station in the land had, for 100 years or so, had a WAITING ROOM that was strictly reserved for Ladies. The entrance to these special rooms had beautifully engraved glass panels in the entrance doors, long leather settees around the walls, all facing a brightly glowing open fire in the hearth in chilly weather. Yet, no lady has realised that this unique facility, which put them into a much superior class, has disappeared and they must now mix with men in a much poorer WAITING ROOM, for a train that is hours later than advertised.

At least the railways used to care for WAITING ladies, but that does not appear to have happened in the world of Royal Courts. 'Ladies-in-Waiting' has been a career in royal circles for hundreds of years, but nobody seems to know what they have been waiting for. The last public appearance of these very elegant ladies occurred in 1953, when Queen Elizabeth was crowned in Westminster Abbey. They encircled and stood in a multitude of positions around the royal person on that day, but since then I presume they are still 'IN WAITING', placed back into their individual glass cases, their white silk gowns dusted down at various times, but remaining 'IN WAITING' for the next Royal Occasion; what a noble but lonely career. I have covered but a small area where this sinister word appears, but, be aware, it is just beginning to spread and cause mayhem.

A new advance in recent years has created 'WAITING AREAS', usually at airports, (why spend profits on furniture and warm fires), so you will be expected to stand in a designated 'waiting area' to board a late 'plane departure.

The phrase 'WAIT A MINUTE' will, in the future, be banned, as it never was true, (it usually turns out to be at least half-an-hour). Waiters will be banned from being described as 'WAITING AT TABLES,' as they are sometimes waiting at a table in the kitchen, having tea and a chat, as you wait patiently for your soup.

And so, dear reader, my time and paper have dwindled down to a precious few, and I haven't got any more time for this WAITING GAME.

**Mike Clarke**

*Michael belongs to a writers group that meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 2pm at The Elms. There are spaces, so if you're interested in joining, do go along. It is £2 per session and the first one is free.*



**Martin Taylor  
LANDSCAPE LTD**



- Grass and Hedge Cutting
- Turfing • Patios
- Seeding • Ponds
- Walls • Fencing
- Drives and Paths



**Landscaping and  
Groundworks  
Mini Digger  
Compact Tractor  
For Hire**

[www.martintaylorlandscapeltd.co.uk](http://www.martintaylorlandscapeltd.co.uk)  
[taylor\\_landscapes@sky.com](mailto:taylor_landscapes@sky.com)

**FOR FREE  
ESTIMATES**

**07831714635 01297 560486**



**Marshall Noel**  
your local Accountants for:

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

And general practical help on all  
accountancy matters

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

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

**To advertise in Shoreline please contact: [neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:neil@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk)**

# Birding Update: Raptor Watching Around Charmouth

Here are a few tips to help the reader find and enjoy sightings of Raptors, hopefully with a few pointers towards correctly identifying these beautiful and fairly scarce creatures. To me, a birdwatcher, a RAPTOR is simply a bird of prey, a specialist bird that has adapted to hunt and feed on other animals. However, tap the word Raptor into Google and I was somewhat surprised to see that the name has been adopted in many different ways so that it also conveys a wide variety of definitions. So, sorry to disappoint, but if you were hoping that this article is going to be about the latest military aircraft stealth technology of the USAF Lockheed Martin F-22 RAPTOR or about ancient dinosaur Velociraptors, or even computer programming RAPTOR (software), please look no further!

So where can we watch Raptors around Charmouth? We are fortunate that with a little bit of perseverance we can see a bird of prey on most days. But let's concentrate on the three most commonly reported species: Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Buzzard (leaving aside Owls for a future article).

Well, you may not have to travel very far to have fantastic views of one of these stunning birds. Indeed, the best view I have ever had of a Sparrowhawk was in my own garden when, one day, I inadvertently left the fruit cage door open, only for a beautiful adult male Sparrowhawk to trap itself within. Up close, the plumage is grey blue above with rufous cheek and streaked breast feathers. My usual sightings of this fantastic species are either fleeting or distant. Sparrowhawks are ambush predators, hunting low and fast along hedge lines to surprise and catch smaller birds in mid-air, so it was great to have the opportunity to see the bird up close and study its immaculate plumage. The story ends happily and it eventually re-found the open doorway (with a little help!), flew out and perched on a bare tree to regain its composure before flying off to melt into the neighbourhood. An incredible event witnessed by me and my family which we will all long remember. And I'm sure that others in the village will have had similar 'Close Encounters of the Bird Kind'! But first, a quick run-down of some of the most important ID features.



Sparrowhawk - note long spindly legs

## SPARROWHAWK

A small Raptor with rather short, broad wings and long tail. The broad wings make the bird very manoeuvrable when pursuing small birds in confined or wooded spaces. Often hunts close to the ground, relying on speed and a strategy of ambushing its quarry. Overhead

the flight is typically a few quick wingbeats followed by a short glide. On the ground or when perched, note the comparatively small bill and long thin legs.



Kestrel – reddish brown back contrasting with darker flight feathers

## KESTREL

Typical falcon shape with long, pointed wings and long tail rounded in flight or fanned out when seen hovering over open country, roadside verges, heaths and marshes. Also often perches on poles or branches to look for its food of voles and insects. Separated from Sparrowhawk by continuous flight with much less gliding, by narrower wings which are held more straight out and by frequent hovering.

## COMMON BUZZARD



Photo: Mark Dobinson

Buzzard often seen perching on fence posts

Bigger, medium sized, broad wings, medium length tail. Often seen perched on a roadside pole or tree looking for prey which includes voles, birds, rabbits, amphibians and even earthworms and carrion. Also often seen soaring to a moderate height and with a 'mewing', far reaching call. Much greater wing span of 120cm compared to Sparrowhawk and Kestrel (max 80cm).

## OTHER POSSIBLE RAPTORs TO BE SEEN LOCALLY

We're incredibly lucky here in West Dorset as we are graced with some of the much rarer Raptors too, such as Osprey, Marsh Harrier, Pallid Harrier, Hen Harrier, Red Kite, Hobby or dashing Peregrine Falcons. I've been lucky enough to see all of these species within two or three miles of the village and six of the 10 Raptors mentioned in this article from my own back garden (In Birding terms, six garden ticks!). I'm still hoping for Hobby, Marsh, Hen and Pallid Harrier, which have so far eluded me as garden ticks but I'll keep trying.

So given that Raptors spend so much time

aloft and can cover quite large distances in the search for food, there are many vantage points around Charmouth which lend themselves to spending a couple of hours watching the sky for a Buzzard or a Kestrel or maybe a Sparrowhawk. Here are a couple of local watchpoints which I would recommend (and I'm sure there are many more).

**RAPTOR WATCHPOINT #1:** From the footpath which leads from the layby on the north side of the A35 at Penn Farm. This spot commands a view looking towards Monkton Wyld to the north west round to Coney's Castle and Wootton Fitzpaine to the north east. All three Raptors are possible from here.



Raptor Watchpoint #1 – early morning with my telescope on tripod

**RAPTOR WATCHPOINT #2:** Coney's Castle: There are several safe spots to park on the road from Wootton Cross, which leads north over Coney's Castle. The benefit of this watchpoint is that the land is a 'hog's back', falling away on both sides. To the west you look towards Champenays Woods (and can see viewpoint #1); to the east toward the Marshwood Vale, Colmer's Hill and on a clear day way over towards Chesil Beach and the Isle of Portland. Again all three Raptors should be seen from this location. On warm days, look out for pairs or sometimes triples of Buzzards spiralling high overhead in the same thermal 'kettle'.



Raptor Watchpoint #2 – From Coney's Castle looking towards Colmer's Hill near Symondsburys

Vantage points facing away from the sun I personally find better, to reduce the glare from the bright sky. The countryside views are amazing and if the raptor sightings are a bit slow, I would recommend both Watchpoints for the stunning Dorset scenery alone!

But don't forget to look up and keep a look out from your house and garden. I remember meeting a gentleman who lives on Old Lyme Hill telling me this short anecdote. He had been reading one of my previous articles where he

was surprised to see me mention sightings of Red Kites over the village. By chance, he had come out of his front door that very day, looked up and seen the characteristic forked tail of a Red Kite soaring overhead. Wonderful!



A Red Kite (harassed by a Carrion Crow) - recently photographed over Kilmington

Happy Spring Birding!

**Richard Phillips**

PS. As I write this article on a mild mid-February afternoon, I have just heard a report of the first incredibly early Spring Swallow seen hawking for insects around Lyme Regis harbour. With Birdwatching, it pays to always expect the unexpected.

Blog: [www.charmouthbirding.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.charmouthbirding.blogspot.co.uk) Twitter: @CharmouthBirder

## BUTTERFLY UPDATE

How were butterflies for you last summer? It is strange that despite all that sunshine, the numbers of butterflies in our Charmouth gardens were much fewer than usual. The good news is that this trend was not shown nationally and the Big Butterfly Count recorded that most of the common butterflies were up in numbers. Only the Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell show numbers down from the previous year. I can't explain why we, with so much going for us, should have been the poor man in 2018, but these insects can soon bounce back if conditions are right, due to the large numbers of eggs laid. Let's hope this year will be better: as far as gardens go, butterflies add colour and movement to enliven the scene. Should you be buying plants for your garden, it is best to avoid new varieties on offer, as the plant breeders breed out the nectar that the insects need, in pursuit of blousy flowers in brightest colours. Needing some buddleia a few years ago, I noticed that a neighbour had an ordinary old pale purple buddleia, covered in butterflies. He gladly let me take some cuttings and now I have several bushes. The garden centres often offer more brightly coloured buddleias, but they will not attract many insects. Butterflies are also attracted to old fashioned scented flowers, verbena bonariensis, and shrubs such as lavender, hebe and honeysuckle.

**Geoffrey Sell**



Powerhouse Gospel Choir - raising the roof, lifting the spirits, hallelujah!

## JAZZ JURASSICA - GUTSY, BRASSY AND SASSY

The annual music festival, Jazz Jurassica, returns to Lyme Regis this May with a bumper programme of gutsy gospel, blistering blues and sassy brass.

This year's festival includes a red-hot gospel choir, **Powerhouse Gospel Choir**, for an exuberant and dazzling finale at Marine Theatre.

Blues wizard **Laurence Jones**, dubbed the new Eric Clapton, promises yet another electrifying live show, full of killer riffs and scorching solos.

Meanwhile **Kick Ass Brass** rip it up with hot horns, banging beats and soulful vocals in honour of funk legends Tower of Power, James Brown and Earth Wind and Fire.

In their only UK appearance, Norwegian big band, **Equinor**, celebrate the king of jazz, Duke Ellington, in a concert celebrating his sparky brand of swing.

Festival favourites, **Matt Carter and Leigh Coleman**, will make their big stage debut for "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" their jazzy re-interpretation of the Stevie Wonder songbook.

In addition, the ever-popular BBQ at the Mariners Hotel and a special brunch capturing the effortless cool of Dave Brubeck at The Royal Lion Hotel on Bank Holiday complete this year's line-up.

Organiser, Julie Sheppard, says: "Whether you're into funky brass or cool jazz, you'll find it at the festival. There are also lots of free events featuring top-notch acts over the weekend on the seafront and in venues around town. It's full steam ahead for another great music-packed weekend".



Laurence Jones - jaw-dropping, spine-tingling guitar wizardry

Jazz Jurassica - Friday 24th to Monday 27th May - Lyme Regis. More information and tickets: [www.jazzjurassica.co.uk](http://www.jazzjurassica.co.uk) and in the free printed programme from Lyme Tourist Information Centre.

**Contact: Julie Sheppard**  
email: [lymejazz@gmail.com](mailto:lymejazz@gmail.com) or 07884 473195

## Charmouth Scout News



### High Anxiety

Older Scouts and younger Explorers spent an evening checking the new Treetops High Ropes Course at The Tunnel. They now all want to go back and do it in the dark!



Despite having a number of practice sessions, with Daniel Trenholm attending in case a reserve was needed at short notice, and serving up and presenting food of a very high quality, the Troop could not repeat its winning performance of last year. However, everyone enjoyed sampling their food, which is always a good sign!

### Winter Olympics With No Snow

Once again, the Scouts took part in their own version of the Winter Olympics. However, without the benefit of snow or an ice rink, they had to be a little creative with their disciplines. So, it was wooden floor ice hockey, indoor curling with plastic plates and Frisbees, skeleton bob pursuit racing (two Scouts pulling a third round who had wrapped him or herself in a blanket - very exciting!) and indoor bobsleigh manoeuvring (Scouts lying on the 'hungry hippo' boards). Get fun was had by all, and no one got frostbite!

**Kevin Payne**



### Box Kart Defies the Drop

An all-black box kart designed, built and steered by female members of the Troop came second in the Downhill Section of the Dorchester & West Dorset District Box Kart Race. Annabel Mackenney volunteered to pilot 'Stealth' down the treacherous slope at the Freshwater Holiday Park, using the experience she gained last year when she came third. By managing to steer an almost straight course, and avoiding the tussocks and hummocks, she was able to coax the kart the second furthest down the slope before running out of steam. 'Stripe', the Troop's red and white second kart, did not fare quite as well, but all eight Scouts who entered the annual event had a great time and escaped unscathed from their downhill, cross country, sprint and tarmac races.

### Scouts Serve Up A Real Treat

This year, the Scout Troop entered two teams in the District Scout Cooking Competition. The theme for the event was 'World Scout Jamborees - past, present and future'. One team, comprising Annabelle Roberts, Isabella Johnson-Hyde, Annabel Mackenney and Joby Stonex, decided to serve hand-rolled sushi as their starter, followed by a 'Bento box', containing freshly-made noodles, omelette and teriyaki chicken,



## Explorer Scouts

**We celebrated the end of the autumn term with a trip to Lasertag in Exeter. This trip was heavily subsidised from a donation by the Charmouth Events Committee – thank you so much.**

A New Year has brought a number of new recruits to the Explorer Scout section. Whilst the weather has not been conducive to outdoor activities, we have undertaken a variety of team building tasks and trust exercises at the Scout Hut. A highlight was a version of Ready Steady Cook, with teams competing to produce the most edible meal from a random selection of ingredients. All teams produced very tasty main courses on a single ring gas stove – I think they will survive university/living away from home.

With warmer weather approaching we are hoping to spend more time outside – wide games in Charmouth Woods; team building at the beach and making our own foil ovens for our version of 'Bake Off'

Explorer Scouts are aged between 14 and 18 years. We meet at the Scout Hut, Barrs Lane, Charmouth on Wednesday evenings between 6.30-8.00pm. For further information, please contact:

**Melanie Harvey** on 01297 560393



## 1st Charmouth Brownies and Rainbows

**O**n Sunday 24th February, 1st Charmouth Brownies and Rainbows joined Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from across West Dorset for the celebration of Thinking Day and Girl Guiding around the world. This year's theme celebrated 110 years of Girl Guiding adventures, with fun activities linked to Guiding's past, present and future.

B sharp music leaders joined us to help the girls think of slogans they could have chanted in 1909 to the boy scout rally at Crystal Palace asking to join in because girls were not allowed to join the scouts at this time. After the rally Robert Baden-Powell and his sister Agnes founded Girl Guiding as something for the girls to join. The girls were encouraged to chant their slogans with 'gusto' as though they were at the rally and the hall was soon ringing out to the sounds of "If boys can do it, girls can too!", "Let the girls in!" and "What do we want? Girl Scouts, When do we want them? NOW!" All accompanied by drums and other percussion instruments. After taking part one of the Brownies told me that "It was even more fun than the parachute games", which is high praise indeed.

Other activities included decorating tardis biscuits and the girls added their ideas for the future to the walls inside a large tardis. Information sheets about what life is like now were also completed which are being buried inside a time capsule along with a photograph of everyone who attended. Who knows who will find the capsule in the future and what they will think about the lives our children lead now.

Charmouth Rainbows meet at St Andrew's Community Hall 5.30 to 6.30/7pm every Wednesday during term time. If your child is aged 5-9 years old and you think they would like to come and have fun with us, please contact Caroline on 07720 985775 to arrange a taster session.

**Lorraine Thom**

## PLANNING A CLEAR OUT?

**We are looking for donations of unwanted clothes, shoes, belts & handbags in good condition. Sorry NO towels/bed linen.**

All proceeds will help fund our Kenya Expedition next Summer (as seen in our Shoreline article).

Please drop any clothes in bags/refuse sacks to 16, Double Common, Charmouth. Leave by the front door. Many thanks.

**Alex Moorey, Alfie Bullmore, Mark Smith, Megan Harvey, Sean Harvey, Charmouth Explorer Scouts.**

**Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers**



On the train from Axminster to Honiton.

## Cubs Report

**We have been exploring the local area in the dark and had a lovely walk through Charmouth woods, the children had to find reflectors and were given glow sticks. We also visited a local farm and saw reindeers from the Scottish Cairngorms. The Cubs have worked on their home badge, making soup and chocolate coated apples and are all able to lay a table, iron and make a cup of tea and I am sure they have been putting these newly learnt tasks to good use at home.**

At Christmas they made some holly wreaths and we visited Bymead for carol singing and were treated to cakes and sweets. We had the Christmas party with swimming and party food at Freshwater and we also had winter Olympics, with ice hockey, curling and human hungry hippos. We travelled to Honiton on the train from Axminster, walked into town and got some chips, which the children enjoyed, and then caught the train back to Axminster. Pecorama came and showed the children a model train set and they all had the opportunity to make little buildings themselves. Finally we made Papier Mache dragons for Chinese New Year, played football and had Mark Bailey from Sporting Chance come and show them some sporting activities

**Tracy Chapman**

## Beaver Report



**We've had a really busy term since Christmas, working on our Animal Friend and Safety Badges. The ethos of scouting is to encourage children to learn life skills alongside having fun through activities and games.**

We kept a diary for a month about the responsibilities of looking after our pets, which also saw us visit Pets At Home to find out more about pet care and cuddle guinea pigs and rabbits.

We spent an evening using our imagination, constructing models with Lego.

As part of our safety badge, we learnt about hazards in the home, water safety, stranger dangers and how to find a 'safe stranger' if we got lost. Lastly, we learnt our Green Cross Code and had a go at using the pedestrian crossing on The Street during one of our sessions.

With the emphasis on fun, we have plans to learn about Shrove Tuesday and cook yummy pancakes next term. We then get crafty for Mother's Day and Easter.

We have been so lucky with two more Assistant Leaders joining the team and a new parent helper. The Beavers got the opportunity to come up with their names, so we now have Wolf, Fox and Badger, as well as Coyote!

Beavers are boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 8. We meet at the Scout Hut on Mondays, 5:30pm to 6:45pm. If you are interested in going on our waiting list, contact

**Karen Southcott** (Raccoon) at [karen.southcott@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.southcott@btinternet.com)

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

**We are asking for money you will not miss.**

- FOREIGN COINS OR NOTES
- OLD BRITISH/IRISH CURRENCY
- FARTHINGS TO OLD 50 PENCE,
- OLD, OBSOLETE OR CURRENT CURRENCY

LITERALLY ANYTHING THAT IS OR WAS ONCE MONEY SHOULD BE COLLECTED.

You can help without really having to put your hand in your pocket by simply sorting out any old foreign notes and coins left over from holidays and business trips.

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

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

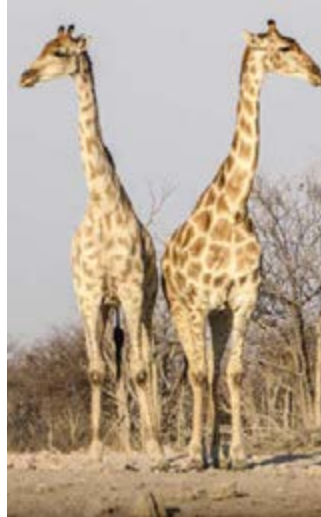
So please take a moment to donate these coins and banknotes and Cash4Coins will buy it all and turn it into a useful donation for **Dorset and West Dorset District Scouts**.

We have raised a further £70 for the Charmouth Explorers since the last issue – Thank you

Drop off point – 16, Double Common, Charmouth. Many thanks.

**Melanie Harvey**  
Explorer Scout Leader Charmouth Seagulls

# Namibia Nuances



Last year we launched ourselves to Namibia as a delayed special birthday trip. Amazingly, it is 44 years since we first set foot in Africa, to start our jobs as a newly married couple in Zambia.

***Although opportunities arose to work in Africa again, the last being Sierra Leone 14 years ago, we embarked this time purely for an adventure, while we still had vim and vigour! Below are extracts from my blog:***

We arrive in Windhoek and in a heat haze join the queue for passport control. Two kiosks open, no automation, we are rushed through in Africa time (1½ hours, hey ho!), pick up our Ford Ranger (a humongous 4x4 double-cab) and find our first hotel. A super-warm welcome, dinner is served to us by Rae. Rae hasn't left Namibia but thinks she should visit some of these nice places the tourists go to. "Maybe I will put a foot on the top of one dune; that will be enough for me!" She wheezes with delighted laughter at the thought. Rae is, to use Mma Ramotswa's words, "of the traditional build". That first night I wake Dr. A. in disorientated panic. There's a green light on the ceiling. I say "It's the air conditioning". He grunts "But we don't have air conditioning. I reply, thinking the Martians had landed. "We're in Namibia", he explains. "Ah". Sometime later, further frantic shaking. "It's spitting out ice cubes" I screech. "Go to sleep". The unit is switched off, we go back to sleep in a soaking, slightly crunchy bed. Africa, high tech!

## Bagatelle Game Lodge

Miles of straight tarmac roads, no pot holes. An eye opener. Fourteen years ago Sierra Leone tarmac roads were driven alongside to avoid the pot holes, unless a child was there to fill them in by hand, for a small sum. At the Game Lodge, embarrassingly, they have run out

of normal accommodation so we are in the honeymoon suite. The bath is set by a picture window and the sun is setting. The lighting is ambient to say the least. Dr. A. wants to know why I'm faffing about in my sunglasses (not having located my prescription specs), naked in the atmospheric bathroom? How else to see the difference between hand cream and shampoo in identical chic brown bottles? Getting older has its disadvantages!

After dinner we 'fall in' with the owners, having made the mistake of gushingly saying his was the best dinner we'd had in Africa (eat your heart out Madame Possie of Freetown and her 'chicken dis 'n dat'; this is top notch). Sometime later, the owner insists we see the night sky from his observatory. By this time I am seeing stars anyway and don't know which planet we are on, but good manners prevail and we enthusiastically muse on the planet Saturn. I see a blob and a couple of lines that are bouncing around all over the place. I want to go to bed!

## Fish River Canyon Lodge

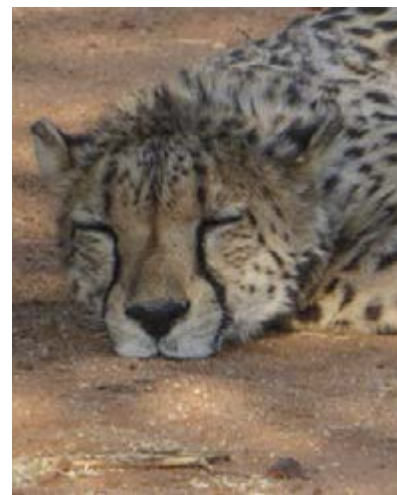
This place is so booked up you can only get in via a travel agent, hence our use of Expert Africa. It is an eco-lodge, perched right on the rim of Fish River Canyon. Views from the lodge are sensational, the peace is serene. Early start for what transpires to be the scariest off-road experience imaginable to 'drive' (read, skid, bump and shudder) down the canyon to the Fish River. On the way we learn of bush craft tricks and admire the iconic Quiver trees, named for making arrow quivers.

Eventually, much shaken up, we arrive at the bottom of the canyon and view the swimming hole. Unfortunately, prior to this trip, I busted my wrist, but have a waterproof cover to keep it dry. I lever myself onto my backside over the steep rocks down to the water, not thinking in my excitement how I would get back up. The swim was amazing, the water going

down 20 refreshingly cold metres at the deepest. The view stretching upwards through the extraordinary geology surrounding us, topped by the bluest of sky and the searing sun, was magical. But climbing out is a problem with only one useful arm. Behind me is a beautiful young Belgian couple. "Can I give you a "poosh from behind", he suggests. "Ooh, yes please! " I trill excitedly and am smartly launched up three feet of sheer rock by his hand on my swimming-costumed backside. Later, I thank my rather serious Belgian Adonis for his help. "Best bit of the day", I enthuse. His gorgeous wife giggles merrily. "That is typical English humour", she says. Her husband looks bewildered. It seems the Belgians aren't used to our 'Double Entendres'.

## The Nest Hotel Luderitz

Dirt, then gravel roads today before the immaculate dead straight tarmac one. We arrive on the west coast in a howling gale, it's Sunday and the place is dead. We are staying in a large 4\* hotel popular with tour groups; not our thing. We do a self-led walking tour and come upon 'Dias' (named after the 15th century Portuguese explorer), an excellent coffee shop and feel better. We book a boat trip to see African penguins on Halifax Island. Luckily the gale abates by morning. An excellent trip on a local white Namibian's boat; he is knowledgeable and passionate about the ferocious coastline. We learn about the penguins, seals, dolphins, the whaling station and stories of shipwrecks on the coast. It isn't called the Skeleton Coast for nothing. He speaks five languages; he has grown up that way. His great grandfather came out to Namibia from Germany in 1907 to farm; a large family party recently celebrated their 100 years here. We visit Kolmanskop, a famous diamond mine, now a ghost town, engulfed by sand, and learn about the Namibian Diamond Rush. A cafe by the harbour provides oysters and crayfish for lunch, costing a mere few quid.



### Helmeringhausen Lodge

'Check in with vouchers between 1400 and 1800' threatens the sign on the desk. The clerk is busy, a young waiter asks if he can help us, we say we are checking in, he gets his phone out, it says 1357, he directs us to the garden to buy a drink till 1400. Notices abound, they will 'NOT' fill our flask with hot or cold water. 'Please do not use our towels to clean your car'. 'If you destroy or remove our towels you will be charged'. There follows a price list of everything we might feel like removing or destroying. 'Typical German hospitality', enthuses the guide book. We are perplexed, maybe they have had some dodgy guests! I suspect we will not find ourselves 'falling in' with this lot!

### Hoodie Desert Lodge

Oh my goodness, this place is wonderful. The main lounge is edgy game lodge-style with jaw-dropping coffee table books. It is from here that we are to visit Sossusvlei and Deadvlei for the phenomenal dunes. All night the wind howls. We get up at 5am and wait for the wind to drop; it doesn't. Meanwhile, our guide helps us to find giant white spiders and a scorpion, and we listen intently to his take on the rather dodgy political situation in Namibia while the sand storm abates. We have a go at climbing a dune. It is like being sand blasted; we are defeated.

### Swakopmund Guest House

Coffee stop at Solitaire, large blob on map, boils down to a petrol station, general store and iconic coffee shop selling world-famous apple pie. It is buzzing, locals trading, independent travellers exchanging experiences, showing photos. We are very glad of our hefty Ford with its huge tyres, many report punctures in remote places. We manage to secure a booking at The Tug restaurant in Swakopmund and even persuade the waiter to exchange our tiny table overlooking the car park for a waterside one; great food.

Next morning a 4x4 trip round Walvis Bay and the dunes, reaching down steeply

into the crashing waves of the Atlantic. More dune photography is required after the sand storm at Sossusvlei. We load into the Toyota Land Cruiser with a delightful German honeymoon couple; this trip is a wedding present from his siblings. We look up to the huge dunes, we see nothing and there is thick fog! Now, Heinrich our guide is Afrikaans and a bit of a lad. We do a whistle-stop tour of Walvis Bay, the lagoon, salt production and head for the dunes. He attacks the dunes at 120kph; they are STEEP. I am in the middle and can only hold on with one hand, due to radius. I will live into my 'core strength', whatever that may be. Heinrich is a maniac, does R&D work for Toyota, takes parties over the desert in vehicle safaris, knows the Top Gear team and worked on the film 'Mad Max'. He had also just come back from moving some marauding lions to a reservation. I think he was trying to give us a thrill to make up for the rather murky sand dune vistas!

### Doro Newas

Endless juddering road, my radius doesn't feel mended, both our necks are in spasm and Dr. A.'s good knee is feeling wonky. We give up on the White Lady painting in the rocks, it is stupefyingly hot and, according to emerging Germans, you only see one painting today because there is an elephant in the way down the path at a watering hole. We save the rock art experience till the next day and judder on to the lodge, co-owned and run by Wilderness travel and the local conservation enterprise. We arrive to a charming singing and dancing welcome by the staff. This is another stunning lodge with views over the bush where we are led to a set-up bush camp supper illuminated by masses of candles in paper bags. We sit opposite a young couple from Luxembourg. We discuss the EU with them and bush craft with one of the guides.

### Ugeb Terrace

We judder to the UNESCO World Heritage site of ancient rock engravings. These bush men really got around; the

engravings feature the African penguin; we are miles from the sea. We are mindful not to deface this sight, otherwise we will be barred from entering any other World Heritage Site in the world (apparently) and we want to be able to return home.

### Etosha Heights Safarihoek Lodge

Private game reserve, modern but without the African chic of some of the previous top of the range lodges. It overlooks a watering hole and at dusk reveals a good supply of game. Elephants taking a bath and giraffes having a drink, among others; we are charmed. After dinner, we 'fall in' with a crowd round the fire pit, a couple from RSA, the rest Germans. We are starting to get feelings of antipathy from politically-minded Germans over our Brexit stance. They are definitely not feeling the love. We get it! However the evening turns out to be a great success. We plump for an early morning game drive and see our first BLACK RHINO!

### 'OK' Camp, Etosha Game Reserve

We were lucky to get in here, Expert Africa did their job, Namibia having become very popular. The camp is Namibia Wildlife-run, basic, busy, the food is grim, but it has an excellent water hole which is much used and illuminated at night. During our three days' exploring the park from the safety and comfort of our air-conditioned vehicle, we are thrilled to see large herds of elephant, zebra - plains and mountain variety - and many kinds of antelopes, more black rhino, several male lions, a female cheetah plus three cubs with a springbok kill, spotted hyena....

### Mushara Outpost

A short tarmac journey and we arrive in paradise: one of the exquisite Mushara group lodges. The 'Outpost' has eight superbly fitted tents. The main lodge has to be top whack in the curation of the interior design. I want to sit in every seat, gaze at every artefact and read every book. I plump for the Michael Polizer



book of African photographs. I decide I need a new camera! I am spell-bound.

### Halali Etosha Game Reserve

We leave Mushara as late as we dare and drive back through Etosha to Halali. The lodge 'sightings book' is helpful, otherwise it is pot luck. We find the hunt exciting, our eyes get tuned, we get quick with the binoculars. Our worries that it would be like driving round a vast county-sized Longleat (6,133sq.km. and the size of Wales to be exact) are totally unfounded. Sometimes we just park up in solitude and take in the enormity of

the Etosha salt pan, the excitement of potentially being in the right place at the right time just round the corner is a real buzz.

### Okonjima Plains Lodge. Africat Foundation

Our last treat. This is where leopards and cheetahs are relocated, having been rescued to avoid being shot by farmers protecting their livestock. The Africat Foundation has worked hard to forge a good relationship with the farmers. Much research goes on here and we, the tourists, benefit from being able

to track, photograph and study quite closely the radio-collared animals living independently in the wild with all the animals one would expect in the area, except lions.

So there we have it, a great holiday revisiting an ever-evolving continent and proving that age has no bars to independent travel.

**Liz Scott**

*Andrew & Liz Scott's October holiday was facilitated by Expert Africa and their agents Wilderness Travel.*

## We Remember

### Cynthia Buckingham

**1927 - 2018**

**C**ynthia was born in 1927, the seventh child of parents who would both be dead before she was three, leaving her and her siblings to be brought up by members of her father's family – one by an aunt and the other six by their grandmother and their Auntie May, who did a wonderful job for them all.



After a private education, she went to work for the Post Office at St Columb, living the life of a typical young person, winning prizes in ballroom dancing and then becoming a youth leader, which led to our meeting on the 28th October 1948, as I had been similarly engaged in Wadebridge. After two years of what we referred to as 'sweetheartery', we were married on 16th December 1950 and moved into a house in Launceston, where my work had taken us.

In early 1953 we took over the Sub-Post Office in Newport, Launceston where we worked together improving the business to the degree that it became possible to move on to fresh fields and start an antiques shop in the ancient Southgate Arch in Launceston.

It was in this more relaxed atmosphere that Cynthia became involved with the Inner Wheel Club of which she was president three times; the Conservative Women's Section of which she was chairman for ten years and the RNLI Committee. As founder chairman she headed what was then called Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund for over ten years. Then, having done all these things, in addition to helping in the running of the business, she won a seat on the Town Council and became

Mayor and Chairman of the Parish Councils Association which was a forum for all the councils in North Cornwall. Unbelievably, she still found time to be a founder member of the Victims Support Group and an associate of the Girl Guides.

All this hectic living carried on until 1993 when we retired and came to Charmouth to pursue our interest in the fossils of the Jurassic Coast. This proved to be insufficient for Cynthia however, and

she soon became involved with the Royal British Legion of which she was chairman for over ten years and the Inner Wheel Club of Lyme Regis where she was president for three years. During the '90s she found the time to join the management committee of the Abbeyfield Society in Axminster and was also its president for a few crucial years. At the same time she was chairman of the Conservative Association for a number of years.

Cynthia sadly became unwell and passed away on Christmas Eve 2018. Ever since about 10.30 on that night of 28th October 1948, when I stole a little kiss on the cheek as we parted, there has been no other person in the world for either of us and the memories from the 70 years which we shared are the only things which make it possible to endure the agony of this cruel separation, and the thought that one day we shall meet in another place and be together again...

...and when all is done together we  
will sail forever on a silver sea  
on a moonlit silvery sea.

**Alan Buckingham**

## What's On

### CHARMOUTH FRIENDS OF WELDMAR HOSPICE

invite you to

#### **Songs for the Spirit**

A compilation of uplifting songs and poetry performed by  
Uplyme Gospel Singers and Friends.

**Friday 14th June 2019**

at

**St Andrew's Church, Charmouth**

**Doors open at 7.00 for a 7.30 start**

• RAFFLE • NIBBLES • LICENSED BAR •

**Tickets £7.50**

available from Chris Bateman 01297 561024



Weldmar Hospicecare  
Caring for Dorset

### CHARMOUTH AND BRIDPORT **POP AND ROCK CHOIR**

present their **Summer Concert**

on Monday 29th July 2019

at

**St Andrew's Church, Charmouth**

**Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start**

*The Choir will present their varied repertoire  
of new songs for your enjoyment*

**Musical Director: Edward Jacobs**

**Tickets £10.00**

to include a drink

may be purchased from the

**Charmouth branch of Fortnam, Smith & Banwell**

**from 1st July**

**or by contacting Jan Coleman on: 01297 561625**

THIS PERFORMANCE WILL AGAIN SUPPORT WELDMAR HOSPICECARE



### **JUNIOR OLYMPICS ARE COMING TO CHARMOUTH!**

Is your son or daughter aged between 8 and 15 years of age? Have they been inspired by the team GB successes at the recent European Indoor Athletics Championships? If the answer is yes or if you just want your child to be active in the holidays then please sign them up for a new and exciting programme of fun physical activities being delivered by the Charmouth Junior Athletics Club (CJAC).

In partnership with a new local charity, Partners for Progress, it will be held during the May half term week on the 29th and 30th May in Charmouth Village. On each action packed morning the CJAC will be putting on two mornings of activities including, football, athletics (running, jumping & throwing activities), hockey, dodgeball and table tennis. Each session will start at 09:30 & finish at 12:30. It will cost £10 per child and will include medals, certificates and refreshments.

All proceeds will be used to support a Charmouth Explorer Scout with his 2019 trip to Kenya to undertake community project work and the Partners for Progress mission to Nepal, supporting physical education in rural schools.

To book your place please contact:  
John Smith, Head Coach and Event Director, at the Charmouth Junior Athletics Club Facebook page or by mobile 07929 621802

### **'Knit and Natter' Table Top Sale**

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

on

**Saturday 13th April**

in the

**Village Hall**

**10.00 – 12.00**

**Raising money to buy wool and to donate to the charities  
we support to help with their costs. We knit for children and  
families in Iraq, South Africa and the UK**

**Tombola • Easter raffle • Cakes**

Knit and Natter group, about 15 of us, meet every  
Thursday afternoon from 2.00 – 4.00 in the  
Club Room at the rear of St. Andrew's Community Hall.

Unsure about your knitting skills? We will help you and provide you with  
wool and patterns, or just come for a natter. All are welcome.

### **CHARMOUTH GARDENERS**

**Thursday 18th April - 2.30pm - Village Hall, Wesley Close.**

*Becky Groves will talk about 'Herbs'. Different varieties and  
how to grow them. She will bring plants for us to buy.*

**Saturday 11th May - 10am - Village Hall, Wesley Close.**

*Plant sale and coffee morning. Plants and seedlings at bargain  
prices!*

**Saturday 10th August - Annual Village Show.**

*More details in the next edition of Shoreline and in posters  
around the village nearer the date.*

Everyone is welcome at all our events. Join us for talks, outings  
and gardening discounts.

**Diana Burn**

# 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	Mike Jackson-Bass 01297 560484 Phil Winstone 01297 561011
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 Pielesz 560738
Charmouth Local History Society	Most Mondays 2-4pm or by appointment.	The Elms, The Street	Phil Tritton 07887 781348
Charmouth Village People: Kaleidoscope (Fun Activities)	1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 2-4pm	The Elms, The Street	Jan Gale 07897 511075
Charmouth Village People: Meet Ups (Social afternoons)	Every Friday 2-4pm	Bank House Café	Jan Gale 07897 511075
Charmouth Village People: Pop Up Writers (Creative writing)	2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday each month 2-4pm	The Elms, The Street	Jan Gale 07897 511075
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
Guides	Weds. 7-9pm	Phone for information	Davina Pennells 560965
Junior Rangers Club (ages 8-12)	2nd Saturday each month 10.30- 12noon	Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre	Alison Ferris 560772
Knit and Natter group	Thursday 2 – 4pm	St. Andrew's Community Hall	Jan Coleman 561625
Library Storytelling & Rhymetime (under 5s)	Monday 9.30 - 10am in term time	Library, The Street	Mandy Harvey 01297 792850
Line Dancing	Tuesday afternoons from 2.00- 3.30pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Andrea Harfield 01297 561083
Parish Council Meeting	4th Tuesday of every other 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
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

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

# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

<b>EMERGENCIES POLICE</b>	<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard</b>	<b>999 or 112</b>
	PCSO Amanda King 6090 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
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>Gas</b>	<b>0800 111999</b>
	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. Pauline Berridge	01297 560957
CHARMOUTH HALLS	Village Hall, bookings Gill Savage	01297 560615
	St Andrew's Community Hall, bookings Leslie Bowditch	01297 560572
BEFRIENDING	Charmouth	07736 825283
<b>COUNCILS</b>		
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 <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com">www.dorsetforyou.com</a>		
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

artwavewest  
CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Morcombelake  
Dorset DT6 6DY  
01297 489746

Open  
Wednesday to  
Saturday  
10am - 4pm

(From May Tuesday to  
Saturday 10am - 5pm)

Changing Exhibitions  
as well as Art Classes  
run throughout  
the year.

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

## Charmouth Bakery

Open 6 days a week  
8am - 4pm

Local supplier of freshly baked bread and cakes

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

No order too big or too small



WE HAVE A LARGE RANGE OF  
NEW CAKES, PASTRIES AND FRESH  
CREAM CAKES.

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR REGULAR UPDATES.

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

Lyme  
Online



*All the local news 24/7*  
[lyme-online.co.uk](http://lyme-online.co.uk)



With flexible levels of service ranging from booking agent to full property management, we pride ourselves on working in partnership with our owners and tailoring our services to provide a professional, personal package to suit all requirements. With a commitment to quality, our portfolio of over 300 properties includes everything from modern seafront apartments to thatched rural cottages.

lyme bay  
holidays

BOOKING AGENT WITH TARGETED MARKETING OF YOUR PROPERTY | HOUSEKEEPING | KEY HANDOUT  
MAINTENANCE, INCLUDING 24 HOUR EMERGENCY COVER | LINEN PROVISION | WELCOME HAMPER

Why not ask us for a free consultation and financial assessment.

[lymebayholidays.co.uk](http://lymebayholidays.co.uk) | 01297 443363





Electrical, Plumbing and Heating

**Domestic, Commercial &  
Industrial Electrical Contractors**

**Heat Pumps & Renewable Energy**

Plumbing and Heating Contractors  
Bathroom and Kitchen Fitting  
Tiling and Gas Safety Checks  
Boiler Servicing and Repairs

Call us today to discuss your  
Air Conditioning Requirements.

**01308 420831**

www.topsparks.com | info@topsparks.biz  
3-5 East Road Business Park, Bridport, DT6 4RZ



# Breeze



Fun and Funky Gifts,  
Jewellery, Accessories  
Fabulous Italian Clothing

There is always something  
new to discover

NEXT TO NISA, THE STREET, CHARMOUTH 01297 560304



*Thinking of letting  
your holiday property?*

Your local holiday cottage specialist is currently looking for properties in the area to add to their ever-growing portfolio in Dorset.

If you are considering letting your holiday home, we offer free, honest, expert advice on how to get the most out of your holiday property and the potential income you could generate.



T: 01297 443550 [www.toadhallcottages.co.uk](http://www.toadhallcottages.co.uk) 44 Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3DA