

SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth

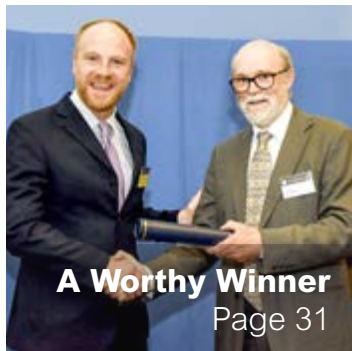
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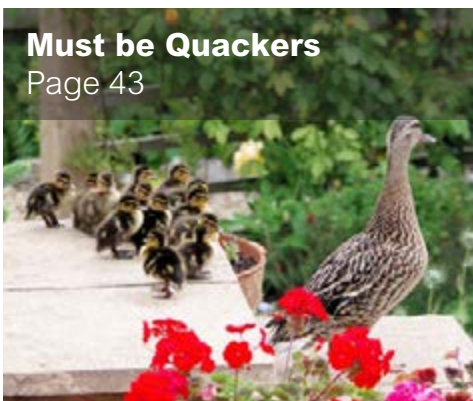


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Shoreline at the Gideon Centre, Ramba, Kadongo, Kenya.



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Editorial

Listen to the wind, it talks. Listen to the silence, it speaks. Listen to your heart, it knows.

Navajo proverb

Welcome to the bumper summer issue of Shoreline, illustrating once again how dynamic our village life is, thanks to the drive and determination of so many community-minded people giving their time, energy, talent, ideas and commitment for the benefit of all.

Wednesday, 15th May was a sad day indeed, the day that our Post Office closed its doors after over two centuries of trading at five different locations in the village. Steve and Gill strove unfailingly to pass it on as a going concern and had been in lengthy discussions with PO Ltd and Phil Tritton for many months, planning to relocate it to Charmouth Stores (ironically its original site in 1806), but all to no avail, as you can read on page 5. Neil Mattingly's history of the Post Office is on page 22.

However, thanks to hard work behind the scenes by Steve, Peter Noel, Bob Hughes and Ros Cole, the PO can now be found at the Servery in the Library

every Thursday between 10.15 and 4pm. The more support it receives, the greater the possibility that it could move elsewhere in the village later in the year. So get in line!

Put on your creative caps as we have not one, but two competitions in this issue, suitable for all ages to have a crack at. Charmouth Changing Spaces needs a logo, the details are on page 16, and the Library has launched a short story competition; find out how to enter on page 20.

It's all change at Charmouth Central! Herringbone has moved down the hill into the old Post Office and South Westerly, a coffee bar and eco shop, is about to open at Langley House. Sea Lily, a jewellery and gift shop, can be found at the Foreshore and we welcome David and Susanna Leach, the new proprietors of Morgans. We wish everyone great success with their latest ventures.

We would like to welcome the Fernhill Hotel, Newlands Holidays and Monkton Wyld as new advertisers to the magazine. Shoreline would not exist without the support of local businesses, so please use the shops, frequent the catering

establishments and utilise the other services advertised within. They all help to keep our wonderful village alive.

The sun is shining, the sea is sparkling and a summer of fun awaits. Enjoy!

Jane

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

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

Shoreline 2019

SUMMER ISSUE – Deadline 5th November, in the shops 1st December.

Artsreach in Charmouth

Artsreach is a registered charity that brings high quality performances of live theatre, music, dance and family shows to the heart of rural communities. Charmouth Events were thrilled to be asked to host Living Spit's new show. Living Spit are professional comedy actors well known for their hilarious, historical (hysterical?) plays. This time they brought us a Living Quiz where every question was acted, sung, mimed or played on instruments by Howard Coggins and Stu Mcloughlin. Armed with just a guitar, a ukulele and some silly wigs, they delivered an exciting quiz that moved on at a cracking pace. Many of the audience already knew of Living Spit and had travelled from as far away as Wareham to see them. Their popularity resulted in the quiz being totally sold out two weeks before the day.



The chilli supper went down very well, with many people having second helpings. The bar was also well frequented throughout the evening. Thank you to all the volunteers, your help is much appreciated.

Our next Artsreach events will be two Children's Summer Workshops. On Tuesday 30th July we welcome the Treehouse Theatre and on Tuesday 6th August we have the wonderful storyteller, Martin Maudsley. Look out for the posters around the village for more information.

Profits from our Artsreach events contribute to the annual donations which are given back to local voluntary organisations in the village.

Maggie Wiscombe

The First Charmouth Folk Festival

September heralds a new venture for Charmouth Events, our first folk festival. After the initial idea was put to us by Dave Sampson (The Wurzel Bush Folk Club), we decided it was worth pursuing. Dave grew up in this area and, after a recent visit, he realised that with Charmouth's many venues and wide range of accommodation, it had the potential to hold a festival....and that is how, over the last weekend in September, we come to be hosting the very first Charmouth Folk Festival.

We are thrilled that Richard Digance, who has his Platinum Tour this year, has agreed to play the opening night for us. Other performers include Keith Christmas (Space Oddity, performed at the first Glastonbury and several more since); Green Diesel, described as being 'more Fairport than Fairport and more Steeleye than Steeleye'; FolkLaw, known as 'one of the most exciting acts to grace the stage'; John Watterson, whose performance is a celebration of the songs of the late, great Jake Thackray); Grant Baynham, four years on That's Life, 'formidable and hilarious at the same time'; Nick Dow, an influential folk singer and collector of traditional Dorset folksongs, recently featured in the Marshwood Vale magazine, and....lots more!

So, if you're interested, look out for more information on the Charmouth Events facebook page and the website, www.charmouthfolkfestival.com.

Friday 27th – Sunday 29th September 2019. Put the dates in your diary now and we will see you there!

Maggie Wiscombe



Parish Council News

Following the non-election in May, seven people stood as Parish Councillors for Charmouth. six were existing Councillors, with one new recruit, Maralyn Hinxman, whom we welcome with open arms! This means that there are still four vacancies to be filled by co-option, so please do come and find out more if you are at all interested in shaping YOUR community for the future.



Due to the short numbers of Councillors at present, the roles of Flood Warden and Deputy are vacant. This is a voluntary role which involves liaising with the local fire service as well as vulnerable residents. The Flood Warden and Deputy would initiate actions within the parish flood plan when alerts are received from the environment agency and co-ordinate the parish's response. If you think you would enjoy being part of this important team within the community please contact the Clerk, Lisa Tuck on 560826 for more information.

The Council is delighted that Unit 1 at Charmouth Foreshore, which became empty at the end of March, should be let by the time you read this and is sure the new business will be an asset to the Foreshore.

The Council has a 10 year contract with a company to manage and eradicate Japanese Knotweed at the Foreshore, including the reed bed. You may have noticed this on-going work to try and keep on top of this problem.

The Parish Council is in dialogue with Dorset Council and LymeForward and has agreed to instruct consulting civil engineers to undertake a geotechnical and structural assessment and to produce a detailed design as the next step towards the construction of the proposed beach ramp.

Funding for this stage of the project is being provided by the Environment Agency. The Parish Council and LymeForward are actively exploring other possible funding streams for the construction works.

The requirement for better access to Charmouth West Beach was one of a number of issues identified in a report commissioned by the Parish Council into options for the Planning & Regeneration of Charmouth's foreshore area. The Parish Council is pursuing other recommendations within the report.

Charmouth Parish Council

Charmouth Local History Society

The 'Jane Austen in Charmouth' talk in May was very well attended and the latest Village Echo is on sale in Morgans and Charmouth Stores.

Our next talk will be in September and is the second part of 'Charmouth in Living Memory'. The provisional date for this is Friday 20th September, but please check notice boards nearer the time in case this date changes.

Good progress is being made on cataloguing our extensive photos, postcards, documents and memorabilia and a new computer is being purchased to record these.

I will be stepping down as chairman at the AGM in September after four enjoyable years and the committee would very much appreciate one or two new members to ensure that the society can continue to thrive. Meetings are only every two months so this is not an onerous commitment but if you are interested in Charmouth's history please come forward!



Phil Tritton

Charmouth Events

Yet another busy few months for the Events Committee which saw a very successful Party in The Park in May, the sell-out Living Spits quiz and monthly film nights.

Still to come this year:

- *Monthly film nights in The Community Hall*
- *Two childrens' Artsreach events*
- *Charmouth's very first Folk Festival*
- *Fireworks at The Beach on Saturday 2nd November*
- *Charmouth Christmas Fayre on Thursday 5th December*
- *New Year's Eve fireworks at Charmouth Beach*



Sadly, we have cancelled the August Party in The Park as the Folk Festival is taking a lot of time to organise. The next one will be in May next year.

Finally, our AGM will be on Thursday 21st October. We have not yet finalised our accounts so do not know how much will be available for local causes. Look out for this on noticeboards and Facebook.

Phil Tritton

Charmouth Calendar

The 2020 calendar is on sale around the village.

Still only £5.99

Charmouth Website.

Don't forget to let Tim Heap know of your local event so that he can add it to the local events page on the website – email: tim@logomotion.co.uk

Phil Tritton



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.



IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE, THANK YOU ALL!

And so it has, for living and working in Charmouth has been an experience that Gill and I have found unique. As we have said many times, we are sorry to have left Charmouth without its Post Office service, but we could not wait forever for individuals to make up their mind, or for Post Office and Government to move the 'goalposts' in our favour.

We hear from many of you that you miss us, and I can say that the feeling is quite mutual. We have indeed been as large a part of this village as this village has been for us, not forgetting the value of our son Matthew to the wellbeing of Charmouth Football Club. We must not forget that Matthew started his schooling in Charmouth, found a love of playing all sports which was nurtured at Woodroffe, and finally came to fruition as a rounded individual and graduate at Winchester University.

As for the Post Office, many of you will have seen both the television segment on 'Spotlight', and will have followed the national news features provided in some depth by the 'Daily Mail'.

Some of you will know that for some years I was the Regional Secretary for the National Federation of Subpostmasters (NFSP), where I covered an area from Southampton to Lands End and as far as Gloucester northwards. Suffice to say I left the NFSP when it was clear that they became a funded arm of Post Office Ltd. How, I kept asking myself, is it that a federation, or union as it used to be, is paid to exist by the company it is challenging on behalf of its membership? I became inactive, but thank goodness we have a free press in the United Kingdom, as the 'Daily Mail' has performed all of the work which should have been promoted by the NFSP.

As for Charmouth Post Office I will try to explain how we came to make up our minds to close and leave. During the early part of this century, Post Office Ltd. went through two stages of reorganisation where a substantial number of Post Offices were closed by discussion with the parent, Post Office Ltd., each closure being cash-compensated to the Subpostmaster. Here you must remember that Subpostmasters are not employed by Post Office Ltd., they have no pension rights, and have no claim on any redundancy payments. The level of compensation was fixed, and this was finalised in or around 2008. However, it was soon seen that these first and second closure rounds were insufficient for Post Office Ltd. which had to modernise to save money as its complete operation was losing money.

The choice was stark, as Post Office Ltd. wanted their costly traditional Post Offices to become 'parasitic' on other outlets such as convenience stores, newsagents or cafes, to name just some, and for the recipient to take a substantial pay cut. If the traditional Post Office was moved under this

scheme called Network Transformation (or NT), the outgoing Subpostmaster would be paid an exit compensation fee, but only if he was in place at the time of the transfer. Signing up to this scheme began in earnest in 2013.

As you can see, that was six years ago and I have now resigned without any compensation fee, as I am no longer in office should transfer take place. This is not for the want of trying, but we have been disappointed several times over these years. The last year has indeed been a difficult one, but as time went on Phil Tritton agreed to take Charmouth Post Office into his business, and senior members of Post Office Ltd, the Chief Executive of the NFSP, and ourselves met in The Elms in February to thrash out a deal. All seemed to be going well, and the senior Post Office official stated

that she would return positively the next week, and we would continue to run the Post Office whilst Phil's paperwork was processed. Mr. Tritton and I were fully aware what losing the Post Office could mean to Charmouth residents and businesses.

We were then surprised that within 36 hours PO Ltd. had visited other businesses in Charmouth, and had chosen Morgan's as their favoured site. This annoyed us as we felt that Phil had undertaken an inordinate amount of work with ourselves to find a solution for Nisa. At a stroke, we were returned to the same status as we were some 12-14 months earlier. Another delay was more than we could take. We were no

longer prepared to rely upon the procrastination of others, and the Post Office site was under offer from elsewhere in the village. At this juncture I resigned.

We now know that Post Office Ltd. have agreed to provide a single weekly PO service in Charmouth, better than none, but shy of reality. We must thank the library for hosting this service, paid or unpaid, and hope that a full-time Post Office follows as soon as it can.

As for Subpostmasters, the 'Daily Mail' has stated that a new deal is being negotiated between the NFSP and Post Office Ltd. following its national campaign. I must add here that the NFSP has never had negotiating rights with Post Office Ltd. The NFSP has had discussion rights only, and has often said "If it wasn't for us (NFSP), the situation would be much worse". If a subpostmaster can't feed his family on his Post Office earnings, and many can't, what's worse?

As for Charmouth, we miss you and love you all. We shall still be around, Gill will run her card franchise from a portion of the 'Old Post Office'. I will try to keep the weeds down in our garden in Bridport, and plant 'astroturf' and concrete. 'Herringbone' will move into the main shop area. We hope you will support Anna's new venture from July.

IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE, THANK YOU ALL!

Steve & Gill Pile





Young Charmouth Ballerina Studies in Paris

10 year old Esme Skevington, a pupil at the Lyme School of Ballet, secured a place at the prestigious Paris Opera Ballet summer school which was held from 8th to 13th July. She had a wonderful week, dancing with children from all over the world. The school is a purpose-built modern building in Nanterre on the outskirts of Paris and Esme attended every day from 9.30 - 5.30pm, enjoying a variety of activities, including mime, history of dance, musical expression and classical ballet, ending with a performance in the school's theatre. It was a fantastic opportunity to see how much the students had learnt and how they were taught. Their teachers were the regular school teachers and so it was a real insight into attending the ballet school. Esme had a very positive experience among like-minded dancers and hopes to audition again next year, which will also give us all time to work harder on our French!

Sophie Skevington

Letters

DEAR EDITOR,

On behalf of the 'Knit and Natter' group, that meet every Thursday afternoon in the Community Hall, I am writing to express our thanks for the great support that members of the Charmouth community give to us when we have our coffee mornings. In April we raised an amazing £436. This money is being used to purchase wool for the knitters and also allows us to make donations to the charities we support to help with transport and other costs. Many thanks to you all.

Our next coffee morning will be on 9th November. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Jan Coleman

THANKS FROM THE FOOD BANK

On behalf Lyme Regis and Charmouth food bank we would just like to thank the people of Charmouth for their donations and ongoing generosity. In particular a big thank you to Pauline Berridge and the members of St Andrews church. Also to Charmouth School, to David and all the staff at Morgans and to Sally and Wendy at the Bank House Café – a really big thank you to you all! The food bank is an all year round operation as, unfortunately, the need for emergency help doesn't go away. So once again thank you to all who have put something in the box- small or large it will always be received with huge appreciation!

Regards

Neil & Lisa Charleton

MICHAEL THOMAS' ARTICLE

It was lovely to see the picture of Doris Thomas in Michael's Thomas' article Childhood Memories of Charmouth. I remember Doris so well when she looked after No. 3 Hillside for the Carpenter Turners..... and us, when we were there! It was sometime after the death of his wife that Bishop Williams came to Charmouth with his housekeeper Miss Maclaren and Gwen Fuller his secretary. When he moved into the main house, Doris cared for both him and the Carpenter Turners who had retained the flat at the rear. The Carpenter Turners sold No. 3 Hillside when Bishop Williams died in 1968. The two ladies returned to Winchester, to an attractive flat specially prepared for them in one of the Cathedral Close properties.

Iris Burford

Charmouth Conservative News

As has happened several times in the past, these notes have been written in difficult times. I have to agree, reluctantly, that Theresa May does not appear to have a cunning master plan. Nevertheless, Charmouth Branch soldiers on, smiling, whistling, eating and drinking, in the face of adversity. We welcome new members, or hungry and thirsty people who would like to join us.

In June, we had a 'Wimbledon Warm-up' party. We had considered a Mock Election evening with people pretending to be candidates, making all sorts of outrageous comments, backstabbing and unbelievable promises. Sadly someone stole our script. Our party was well organised, polite and successful socially and financially; maybe we are needed to help the Party nationally, since their events do not always seem to go as well as ours. Incidentally, the garden we used

had a duck pond, but no duck house; a sign of the times!

On Sunday 4th August we will be holding our Annual Barbecue. Those coming will need to pre-book as we have banned suspicious roll-ups, snorting with derision, or anything else. This is to avoid the need for future apologies from any one attending who may be thinking of a political career. The food will be simple, honest barbecue fare. There will be no half-baked, left-over leadership election candidates. We assume, sadly, that these will be retained and recycled for future use.

Saturday 21st September sees another fundraiser: a 'Dressed to Kill' evening. Fancy dress is optional. It is not true that the Committee have a single person in mind as a possible victim. Clearly it is an individual choice. Whatever the political weather, we plan to enjoy ourselves.

These notes reflect a personal view and do not reflect Party or Committee Policy.

Bob Hughes, Treasurer (560487)

From the Charmouth Practice and the Good Mood and Food Clinic



Happiness and gut bugs

Gut feelings and gut reactions are normal for us all. We know on some level that our guts take an active part in reacting to our lives and emotions and also in conveying that reaction whether it is a 'gut wrenching' feeling 'in the pit of our stomachs', 'a nervous tummy' before a test, or news we receive that is 'hard to digest'. But did you know that so much of this is thanks to a combination of our gut bacteria and our immune system signalling to us and in many ways subconsciously changing our behaviour? Those 10 trillion bacterial cells in our guts contain a fantastic wealth of genes; in fact, 360 genes to every one human gene we have. The genetic fingerprint of this mass of bacteria or gut biome is more unique to each of us than our own human genome. Even identical twins will be completely different in their gut biome of bacteria although it will be influenced by inheritance, birth, environment and diet. These different gut bacteria make different molecules to communicate with us through the wealth of immune cells in the gut and we now know can influence our moods and wellbeing in different ways. In turn our gut bugs are influenced by our moods and wellbeing and by our stress. The traffic is truly two way. We live in a symbiotic relationship with our gut bacteria and we ignore their huge importance to us at our peril.

For example, bacteria can make signalling molecules or neurotransmitters like gamma-aminobutyric acid or GABA, which are mimicked in some of our common anti-anxiety drugs, eg Valium. A bit can be helpful and calming but too much and we lose our mental alertness, which happens for example, in people with liver cirrhosis who have altered gut bacteria which make too much GABA. It has long been known that mental alertness can be improved in these liver patients by giving them antibiotics to change the gut bacteria. Conversely, probiotic yoghurt, full of good bacteria like Bifidobacterium lactis can alter the mood and anxiety levels of women, showing up in experiments using functional MRI scans of their brains. The molecules the good bacteria make, or "metabolites" are having their effect by some combination of reaching the brain, changing the neurotransmitters like serotonin and GABA made in the wall of the gut and signalling via the calming "rest and digest" vagus nerve itself to the central nervous system. We already know that an astonishing 40% of all metabolites in our blood have in fact been made for us by our good gut bacteria, not only helping us digest a huge range of foods but now it is clear they are affecting us and our mental wellbeing too.

In autism the gut is commonly affected with an altered bacterial mix containing more firmicutes bacteria and less bacteroides than average, too much serotonin signalling molecule which is largely made by the gut, leaky gut walls giving gluten and dairy intolerances and characteristic problems with irritable bowel syndrome. In mice it is possible to make autism-like

behaviours disappear by giving mice a specific bacteria called Bacteroides fragilis. In humans, improvements in diet with more fermented foods, greater variety and less processed foods can have a very beneficial effect.

Autism, auto-immune problems, metabolic diseases and neurodegenerative diseases are all on the increase thanks to increased inflammation from the unnatural foods we are encouraged to eat in the name of the so-called "healthy" low-fat diet; those processed foods, sugar in high amounts and inflammatory industrially extracted seed oils (sunflower, safflower, soya-bean and corn oils). Did we realise that that same inflammation appears to be causing widespread depression too?

Depression can show up in the particular mix of bacteria in our guts. In mice, depression can be transferred from mouse to mouse with a faecal transplant. In other words, the poo of a depressed mouse, injected into the bowel of a second mouse who has no gut bacteria (after being given antibiotics), will make that second mouse depressed! In human experiments, Lactobacillus and Bifidobacteria strains of good bacteria given to people in live yoghurts over several weeks can significantly improve their depressed mood. On the other hand, chronic stress will alter our gut bacteria and the metabolites they make and eventually lead to depression. It seems to be after about two years of stress from what I have observed in my own patients. Adrenaline released into the gut does make some bad gut bacteria or "pathogens" stronger and the gut wall leakier and hence we are all at an increased risk of infections when we are low in mood and stressed. From the other direction, inflammation from low grade infection (think gingivitis) can activate inflammation cells called microglial cells in the brain not only predisposing us to Alzheimer's disease, but also a kind of chronic depression which is hard to treat with antidepressants.

The good news is that happiness and affection will release positive mood enhancers like serotonin, dopamine and endorphin into the gut in appropriate amounts, which improve our good bacteria, strengthen the gut and make us healthier.

So how can we help our gut bacteria? Well, a vaginal birth and breastfeeding are undoubtedly excellent starts for babies. Naturally fermented foods such as bio live yoghurt, kefir, kimchi, kombucha, sauerkraut, raw milk cheeses, apple cider vinegar together with a diet of fresh and varied organic local produce is a great way to continue. I would really recommend that anyone with mood or gut issues tries destressing with five deep breaths before meals to stimulate the vagus nerve, eating slowly to allow your gut to prepare itself properly and eating socially and consciously without distractions of screens such as mobile phones and TV and without rushing and "eating on the go".

Our guts and our mental wellbeing are intimately connected and will really respond to our efforts to care for them.

Here's to great mood and food!

Dr Sue Beckers



GOOD MOOD and FOOD Clinic
balanceofbodyfood@gmail.com

The Good Mood and Food Clinic is at Twist and Shout Osteopaths, Bridport.

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Floating Left or Right?

For the last couple of years, if you have been on a beach clean with the Heritage Coast Centre, you will have been asked to separate out any gloves or shoes which look as if they have been washed in. But why?

Do you remember hearing about bath ducks floating in the Pacific Ocean? It was as long ago as 1992 that a container fell off a ship mid-ocean, releasing nearly 30,000 plastic bath toys. A quarter of these were yellow bath ducks. You might also have read about a container-load of trainers going the same way. What happened to them? Turns out that even now, some are still being found, cast up on distant shores.

Anyone who has lived by the sea will probably have thought about finding a message in a bottle. Similar items are professionally cast adrift to study ocean currents. Since the 1970s, oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer has been

researching all sorts of floating things whether natural or unnatural. If the start and end points of any drifting item are known, then one can begin to deduce, or confirm, things like route and speed and patterns of ocean currents, effects of wind and tide, and map the results. He identified ocean gyres such as the 'Great North Pacific Garbage Patch', which accumulate floating materials at the centre.

Things have of course been drifting around the oceans for ever, long before plastic ever existed. Driftwood, logs, and seeds have travelled the oceans, and it seems very likely that where they landed and accumulated would have influenced population settlement in the past.

Figures vary but it is suggested that as many as 1500 shipping containers are lost at sea every year, potentially creating a huge number of unplanned floating objects. That may sound high, but it is many fewer than a few years ago.

Going back to the ducks: they took different routes around the Pacific. Many have been found by beachcombers, but many may still be floating around; some floated into the Arctic Ocean from where, after being trapped in the ice, some ended up in the Atlantic and a few then landed on UK shores! It took 11 years for the first one to reach Scotland. So you never know what you might find on the beach.

Differences in size or shape or buoyancy, even if slight, can affect the way items float. Wind and currents move items such that some beaches around the world may collect certain types of object rather than others. Sometimes

there is so much flotsam of a single type that an area may become known as say Bottle Beach, Log Beach, Toy Beach, or Sandal Beach.

Which brings us on to shoes and gloves. Any pair has two items which are the same in terms of buoyancy, material and size but are mirror-imaged in shape. If you hold your hands palm upwards (or downwards) you can see that a left glove might float differently from a right glove. The wind could catch them, or current or waves push them in slightly different directions. Some beaches have been found to accumulate mainly 'lefts' or 'rights'. So this has become another world research topic.

We wondered, might Charmouth Beach be left- or right-handed (or footed)? So early in 2017 we started to collect and record what was found. That year 29 gloves and 74 shoes (including three which were impossible to

identify as left or right) were picked up by beachcombers and those on beach cleans. Unfortunately, it would seem that from the data we have, the number of lefts is almost the same as the number of rights, for both gloves and shoes. More appear to be washed in at High Water Springs, particularly if there have been storms. However, Curtis Ebbesmeyer has suggested that it is difficult to analyse results unless one gets maybe 100 items every month! So we have a long way to go.

The weather was generally calm in 2018 and many fewer items were collected: so few the numbers are not worth considering. This year has also been rather calm and so far only about 30 items have been collected, but we will keep collecting and see what happens. If you find any stranded gloves or shoes which look as if they have been at sea for a while, not just lost by visitors on the beach, do please bring them in to the Coast Centre to be recorded.

And yes, a few rubber/plastic ducks have drifted in, but none (yet) from the Pacific spill, which are identifiable by a specific maker's mark.

Last but not least, thanks very much indeed to Ali Ferris at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre for maintaining the database and taking photos.

Eden Thomson

PS: it is purely coincidental that the photos are all of lefts!



PLASTIC FREE CHARMOUTH SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE

Good news!

Charmouth has recently met the targets required to gain Plastic Free status as accredited by Surfers Against Sewage. Jo Naylor-Saunders, the Strategic Lead for Plastic Free Charmouth, has submitted the report to Surfers Against Sewage for approval.

With PFC being the local champion for the national water Refill Project (as promoted by Litter Free Coast and Sea), signage is on its way to give out to businesses who have signed up to this. So far, the Library has agreed to be a Refill station and we hope several others will join the scheme. Anywhere showing this logo, will fill your water bottle for you, for free. So watch out for the logo wherever you are in the country.



What about recycling? We should all by now be used to the Council collections, and what to put in which collection bin/box. There are however, other items you can recycle. Here are a few examples:

- **Textiles (clean and bagged), clean metal foil, and ink cartridges can be recycled in St Andrew's Car Park.**
- **Morgans have a battery collection tub; batteries can also be put in the little red bag for Council collection.**
- **Bridport Library has a collection point for pens and pencils, correction fluid tapes and containers, rulers, scissors and ink cartridges.**
- **Also now, thanks to PFC, there will be a collection bin in the entrance to the Charmouth Fish Bar for all the following items which can't go into normal recycling: milk bottle caps; contact lenses and containers; snack pack wrappers from biscuits, cake bars; crisp packets; bread wrappers; empty toothpaste tubes; toothbrushes and their wrappers; Pringles pots; and used writing instruments. The box will have a reminder on the lid of what can be placed inside it.**

The next PFC Beach Clean will be held on Saturday 27th July at 09.30. Meet outside the Heritage Coast Centre as usual.

Remember mention in the last Shoreline of the new Charmouth hessian bags from the Traders? By the time this is published, they should be on sale in the village – hope to see everyone using them!

You can get more information by joining the Plastic Free Charmouth Facebook page, and if you want to become involved, or learn more about 'Plastic Free Charmouth' please contact Jo Naylor-Saunders on plasticfreecharmouth@gmail.com or 07966-056459.

Plastic Free Tip 2 (Watch out for more plastic free tips in future issues of Shoreline)

Being summer we all get thirsty, but this year please try not to buy plastic bottles of water or other drinks. Bring your own in a refillable bottle, or ask one of the organisations/businesses which have signed up to the national Refill Scheme to fill your water bottle. Watch out for the Refill logo shown above.

Similarly, if you like to walk around with your tea or coffee, please make sure you carry a refillable cup as many places will now fill your own cup with tea or coffee, and some places may even give you a discount on the cost.

Eden Thomson



Lyme Regis Lifeboat Week Aims to Break the Records

Organisers of this year's Lyme Regis and Charmouth Lifeboat Week, from 27th July to 2nd August, are hoping for a record-breaking event as the final touches are applied to plans for dozens of attractions for all the family.

Many of the old favourites are in the programme...tug 'o war across the harbour mouth, the bath tub race, sand sports and treasure hunts. And the Army's spectacular Red Devils parachute team are coming back. There's also a grand fireworks display.

And this year the week will be officially opened on Saturday 27th July by actor John Challis, who played Boycie in the hugely popular series Only Fools and Horses.

Last year's event raised in the region of £35,000 for the RNLI, the charity that saves lives at sea. Chairman of the organisers - the Lyme Regis and Charmouth Lifeboat Supporters – Ken Lavery said: "Last year's week was a great success and, of course, we hope for even better this time."

Full details of all the events appear in the official souvenir programme available at £2 from the Lifeboat shop on the Cobb and other outlets throughout Lyme Regis and Charmouth.



Chloe Burdon

Lifeboats

Nick Shannon

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Childhood Memories of Charmouth, Part 2

Michael Thomas has very kindly agreed to share his early childhood memories of the village with us. Here is part II. Part III will appear in the next issue of Shoreline.

A memory which remains and which affected all who lived in Charmouth in 1944, was the June day when the village filled with U.S. soldiers and their transport. Many houses were requisitioned, including Bow House, the home of Miss Angus. We children were very excited by the friendliness extended to us and the chocolate and chewing gum which came our way. The Church Hall was utilised as a canteen, and it seemed that the village would never be the same again; and yet, five days later, they were gone, as though they had never been; disappeared in the night whilst we were asleep. It was only later that we realised this was part of the preparation for the D-Day landings. Our newly-found friends were now in Weymouth and Portland, awaiting imminent embarkation. Miss Angus returned home after the war, having served as an ambulance driver attached to the 8th Army. Her mode of transport was an American army Jeep. I never remember her with any other vehicle.

I stayed in Charmouth until the end of the summer holidays in 1944, by which time Mum had recovered. We were once again a complete family. Dad's work was onerous; not only was he working in the Experimental Station, he also continued with his military duties as Quartermaster Sergeant in Porton Camp, which by then was a transit facility for troops being posted to Europe. Early in 1945, Mum was once again ill with pneumonia. This time I stayed with the family of Sergeant Major Logan. They were Scottish and salted porridge was the daily start to the day, which I grew to like and still make it with salted water. In June 1945, the war in Europe ended and bonfires were lit and in Porton thunder flashes were let off due to the lack of fireworks. These celebrations took place on VE Day, Victory over Europe. As Mum was still in hospital, I returned to Charmouth and was there when VJ Day, Victory over Japan, was celebrated later in the year. Next time I saw my mother, her black hair was white, due to her many illnesses. She had suffered pneumonia three times by 1945.

I grew very close to Granny & Grandad White and felt very much at home with them. Granny braided (made) nets, this being the home industry for many women in the Bridport area and she was under contract with netmakers Gundry Ltd. Whilst living at Firlands, Grandad and I would spend many evenings filling wooden 'needles' for her, drawing twine from the skein on a wooden device known as a Bridport Swift. Seine fishing

nets were her speciality and often the part of the kitchen where she worked was filled with these huge nets, for which she was paid by weight. There is no doubt the chest cough she developed was caused by the dust from the sisal twine. My Mother's chest problems may also have been caused by this, as Granny White was braiding even when Mum was a young girl.

We sat in the relative darkness by the light of the fire and when it was time for bed, the gas lamp would be lit to enable us all to prepare and light our candles to take upstairs. Bath nights at Firlands meant a tin bath in front of the kitchen fire, with me, the eldest child, taking the third bath. Mrs Spurdle, Gran's friend and near neighbour, heard of this arrangement and suggested that I bath with her three young sons in their bathroom. This was luxury. I was sent off with my towel and clean underwear. I was instructed by Gran to ask every time 'if I may have a bath' and, with a copper offering copious amounts of hot water, would wallow, wash and play in the huge bath of water with Peter, David and Roger, and sometimes their cousin Bill Ashley, frequently topping up with hot water using a wooden-handled baler. It was heaven and an hour or so later we would emerge, prune-like, but clean all over.

I had been a chorister since the age of eight, singing in Charmouth Church Choir on Sunday morning and evening, with Sunday School in the afternoon. The Whittington sisters ran the Sunday School with Miss Dolly in charge. It was here that we learned the Catechism to prepare us for confirmation.

I was due to go to Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury in 1947, after passing my 11+. However, this was not to be, as in 1947 Dad was having chest problems. He was discharged from the Army after 17½ years' service in 1946 and was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours List in that same year. We therefore left Porton Down and Camp for good and lived for the next few years with Gran & Grandad White at 2 Firlands. Firlands consisted of six houses, with new landlords Barney & Mrs Hansford and their boys, who became my friends, David and Patrick, on the left next to Bow House. The next house to the right, No.4, was the home of Joe Turner, Maureen & Graham's grandfather. No.3 was occupied by Mrs. Hobbs who was bed-bound, and her daughter Mrs. Sibley. We lived at No.2 and in No.1 lived Jack & Vera Upwards with their son, my friend Melvyn. I would listen to Dick Barton, Special Agent, with Melvyn every evening. In the right-hand house lived the Ballard family and in the ground floor front room was the Charmouth Telephone Exchange, manned by Mrs. Mayne

and Mrs. Matthews. These premises were once used as the Drill Hall for the Charmouth Volunteers. Opposite Firlands was the newsagent run by Mr. Wilfred Gower and his wife. This shop was an Aladdin's cave to us children, for it sold toys, books and delicacies such as lemonade powder and liquorice root off ration. This shop was demolished to widen the entrance to the fire station and relocated to Stanley House. Living in Stow House were Mr. & Mrs. Harper. Mr. Harper took on the responsibility of stopping the traffic to allow clear exit for the fire engine from between Grange House and The Lilacs.

I earned 6d weekly from Mrs. Sibley purchasing paraffin from Braggs, the grocer, and collecting the newly charged accumulator, which powered the wireless, from Mr Elliot at 3 Hillside.

Beyond the telephone exchange was the entrance to Catherston Manor Farm Yard, a working dairy farm in those days run by Farmer Loosemore, with a herd of cows, and a dairy. My job was to collect a quart of milk daily, crossing the yard wearing wellington boots. One day, whilst playing in the yard, I was playfully pushed into the very wet midden. Mum wouldn't let me back into the house so I walked around to the back door and stripped off, whilst Granddad poured buckets of cold water over me, much to the delight of my friends. I did not repeat the exercise.

In 1947 Dad was urgently admitted to Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton for an operation to treat a duodenal ulcer. He nearly died after this dangerous operation and was in hospital recuperating for more than three months. At the same time, he was diagnosed with chest disease of the lungs and from Musgrove Park was immediately sent to Herrison Hospital, south of Dorchester. It was very difficult and expensive for Mum to visit him in both places, but family friend Billy Gear, who owned Gear's Garage, often took us by car. Towards the end of 1948, Dad came home. After recuperation he worked for Billy Gear as petrol pump attendant, taxi driver and, during the summer months, as supervisor of Billy's car park near the beach.

Although I had taken my 11+ exam in Salisbury, the results could not be found, so an interview was arranged with Major Pearn, the Headmaster of Lyme Regis Grammar School. I was approved and started as a day pupil in September 1947, travelling by school bus every day from the bus stop opposite Manor Farm to Lyme Regis Railway Station. The train brought in pupils from Axminster.

Granny White was very generous and paid for my school uniform and sports equipment.

Our school bus had been built pre-war and was so old that with 70+ children on board it would stall going up Fern Hill where we all disembarked and walked to the top of the hill. Going down into Lyme Regis was usually a hair-raising experience, with the driver double declutching down through the gears into first gear, and with squealing brakes we would descend Charmouth Road into Lyme, usually in fear and silence, until reaching the bottom of the hill at the London Inn before entering the town. Several lorries are known to have crashed into the London Inn over the years due to the steep hill, but I knew of no one being badly injured.



With friend Brian Durreal

Lyme Regis Grammar School was affectionately known as The School on the Hill and we had wonderful views over Lyme Bay towards Portland, with Charmouth and Golden Cap in the middle distance. My first year was spent in Form 1B with my friend Brian Durreal. Our form mistress was Mrs. Saunders, who was also head of Biology. Many teachers at the Grammar School seemed quite elderly to us pupils. Most of the masters had served in World War I and were thus exempt from service in WW2 due to age. They mostly travelled to school in cars, usually Austin 7s. Some of the female Mistresses were of a similar age and were mostly spinsters. Four of them lived together in a house on Charmouth Road, namely Miss Mayle, history; Miss Slainey, geography; Miss Gordon, Latin; and Miss Green, mathematics. I showed an aptitude for art, history and geography and although I liked arithmetic and geometry, I could never really master algebra and trigonometry and other such mathematical subjects. This could be because twice weekly I had to walk down to Woodmead Halls for speech therapy with a Mrs Driscoll, to help me overcome my stammering.

My other favourite subjects were woodwork, metal work, and engineering drawing and I loved music, especially singing in the School Choir. I was never very good at French or Latin, for these were subjects I also missed out on, due to speech therapy. I remember well that I had difficulty saying the word 'present' every morning when the register was read out. I did master my stammer eventually and won a book prize on Speech Day 1949 for elocution. In 1949, at the end of the Summer term, I came

top of 3B and the following September I was placed in 4A, having earned another book prize the following Speech Day. Speech Days were special days in the school calendar and held in the Lyme Regent cinema, which was big enough to contain the entire school of 240+ pupils, the teaching staff and our parents. Teachers normally wore well-worn academic gowns during school, but on these occasions they wore smart gowns and mortar boards, no doubt to impress the assembled parents and make us, the pupils, proud. Every Speech Day ended with a half-day holiday granted by Mr. Alban Woodroffe, Chairman of the Board of Governors and a hearty rendering of the school song, composed by Mr Ellis, our art master, and set to music by Major Pearn. I still have a recording of this song on a shellac record.

My Confirmation took place during the winter of 1947 and Brian Durreal and I and others, including Valerie Turner and Rose White from Fern Hill, took instruction and preparation from Canon Mackie. On the day of Confirmation, it snowed heavily. The Service was to be at St. Michael's Church in Lyme Regis, conducted by the Bishop of Sherborne. However, Fern Hill was blocked by snow and our coach was diverted via Corkscrew Hill. Upon arrival, we were told the church heating had failed, but were issued with blankets to keep ourselves warm and given hot cocoa to drink. Our first Communion was the following Sunday.

I had many friends, both boys and girls, at school and in the village. We had much fun, as we had the full run of the countryside, the beach, cliffs and, of course, the sea. I had learnt to swim and enjoyed it, and we swam from April to October. None so brave, however, as Miss Gertrude Evans. She swam every day, summer and winter, wearing a bathing costume from an earlier era. I was invited to tea with her and she showed me a collection of her paintings. She chose one for me to take home, a rural landscape, which I still have. She was a very generous lady and Charmouth has much to thank her for. When she moved from Hammonds Mead to live in what were originally servants' accommodation, on Higher Sea Lane, the Squance family moved into Hammonds Mead. Robert, their son, became a good friend.



Miss Evans' gift, painted by her 'after Morland'

I recall my very first bicycle. Other friends had new ones, but they were hard to come by and expensive. Dad, who at that time was working for Billy Gear, was able to get hold of a second-hand frame and by purchasing all the other parts needed, he built one for me - complete with bell. My bike was not a Raleigh or a BSA, but an ASP (All Spare Parts). I was very proud of that bike and although it had no gears, I could keep up with all my friends when we cycled into the countryside around Charmouth. Freewheeling from Morcombelake to Charmouth down the Bridport Road was an experience to remember, for we must have reached hair-raising speeds in excess of 25mph.

I continued going to church with Gran & Granddad, helping him to push her wheelchair into her place near the pulpit. I was in the choir, which was directed by Mr. Lovatt Turner, with Miss Margery Sloman playing the organ. Charmouth Church had three bells and, for some years, they were rung morning and evening on Sundays by Arnold Burridge, Alf Bowditch and Bill Trevett. They were keen to have six bells installed in the tower but for some reason this never happened and consequently they ceased ringing. My friend David Manuel, son of the village policeman, Don Dampier and I were encouraged to learn to ring the bells. This we did for several years. We did change ringing until five minutes before the start of service when I would take my place in the choir, first as a treble then, as my voice was breaking, as an alto and eventually as a tenor. Mr. Lovatt Turner agreed with the Royal School of Church Music Director, Dr. Sydney Nicholson's theory, that boys with breaking voices should continue singing, albeit gently, until they naturally settle. I am sure this gave me the lifelong ability to sing both alto and tenor, which has stood me in good stead as a chorister. Choir duties at Salisbury Cathedral gave me the opportunity of visiting Mrs. Rita Mackie, widow of Canon Mackie, who lived in an apartment in the 'College of Matrons' situated off the close.

I joined the Explorers, led by Dr. Edith Trimmer, the Cubs and later the Scouts, our leaders being Don Dampier, Len Linthorne and Scoutmaster, Col. Cheverton. I only left the Scouts when the Army Cadet Force was started in Lyme Regis under Lieut. Curtis. Being able to use and fire a rifle seemed far more exciting to David Manuel and myself. About the age of 14, David and I were encouraged by Dr. Taylor, a retired GP, to ring at Lyme Regis and Axminster Parish Churches which both had a peal of eight bells. We mastered both Grandsire and Steadman Triples, two 'methods' of ringing.

The most traumatic event happened when I was 15; the death of Granddad White. It was the first time I had experienced a family death and was very affected by it. I had been very fond of him. He had a lovely nature,



Granddad Lionel White

a sense of humour and was a gentle man. I recall Tommy, my cat, sensing my sadness and cuddling up to me in bed at that time. Granddad White had worked as the groundsman for the Lawn Tennis Courts since January 1905, employed by the Misses Whittington. Another job he had filled since 1906 was caretaker of St. Andrew's Parish Church, a position which involved many and varied duties. He retired in 1946, although he continued to mow the grass in the churchyard regularly. Granny White had been responsible for many years for the catering during the annual tennis tournament and the annual tournament ball in the Church Hall every August. Granddad retired fully on 8th June 1951, suffering from kidney problems and died after an operation on 26th June 1951 in Exeter Hospital. Gran rushed to be by his side in Exeter, driven by Mr. Pavey, but as they reached Honiton, they were stopped by a police car to say that Granddad had already died. They continued the drive, however, as Granny wanted to see him and say farewell. He was aged 76 and had been active until the end of his life. They had been married 55 years, having celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 4th June 1946. Mum and Dad were offered the tenancy of 1 Higher Sea Lane and, with the help of Billy Gear's lorry, we moved in.



Mary Elizabeth & Lionel Golden Wedding on 4 Jun 1946

Granddad Thomas, who lived in Lawrenny, Pembrokeshire, and whom I had never met, offered to travel from Pembroke to Charmouth by train and I was sent by bus to Taunton Station to meet him. He had already arrived and was seated on the platform. I approached him and asked whether he was Mr. Thomas, for although I had never met him, he looked very much like my Dad. He had come to dig over the entire garden for Dad, who was still not in the best of health, and this task he accomplished. He slept in the back bedroom and went to bed with a night light, as he didn't like the dark. When I said goodnight to him, he always answered "Goodnight mon" with his Welsh accent. Mum was not happy because he had forgotten to bring his ration book, and to obtain food off the ration was more difficult then than during the war. He stayed with us for two weeks and I took him back to Taunton Station. I never saw him again, as he died the following year. I would like to have known him better, as he was a musical man and had been Director and Conductor of Pembroke Dock Male Voice Choir. I inherited an inscribed baton that had been presented to him, in appreciation, by the choir.



Granddad David Morris Thomas

We had our four-wheeled carts, which enabled us to collect logs, particularly from Stonebarrow, which we would bring home to saw and burn on the fire, as coal was in short supply and rationed. One particular day, I remember, was Saturday 1st December 1949 when I was 13. We took our carts to the top of Conegar hill, via Catherston and Roughdown Lane, to collect huge fir cones that only grew on that hill in this ancient wood. We gave them to Charmouth School for the pupils to decorate for Christmas. In the spring we walked to the Wootton fields to pick wild daffodils, which grew in profusion and sold them for three pence per bunch, but free, of course, to our relatives. Our needs were not great and the small amount we earned was enough to pool and buy a loaf and sixpenny worth of sausage meat or a can of Scotch broth to take into the fields or the woods to keep us going during Saturdays and school holidays. Nurse Wileman, our district nurse, had supplies of chocolate powder provided free by the Canadians during and after the War, and we discovered that by leaving an empty jam jar on her front doorstep and returning some time later, the jar would be full for us to take away. I

am sure it was meant for families, but we took advantage of the situation and were never challenged. By mixing the powder to a paste using water and purchasing one ounce of wafers from Braggs or Dampiers we would spread the paste between two wafers and imagine we had chocolate ice cream, something unavailable at that time. The first ice creams to become available after the war were Lyons cornets, sold at the Cottage Tea Rooms in Lower Sea Lane.

Holidays for me never meant going away with Mum and Dad, as they would take on extra work during the summer season, Mum working in the George Hotel and Dad as car park attendant. One holiday I remember well was with my good friend Geoffrey Linthorne, when we stayed with his mother's brother, Mr. & Mrs. Fox and family on a farm in Marston Magna near Yeovil, helping with the haymaking. This I also did on Peaches Farm with my friend Andrew Peach. We usually returned to the farmyard on the back of Violet, the cart horse. It was at harvest time when I had my first taste of cider which was left in stone flagons under a tree. It was really meant for the farm workers, but we were tempted and became slightly inebriated. We slept it off, thinking that nobody had realised, however the next day a bottle of watered-down cider was left for us boys and we were told not to drink the other cider, which was for the men.

By the time I was 15, I had a weekend and holiday job working in Charmouth Zoo, a holiday attraction and collection of small animals in Lower Sea Lane, which included a monkey. It was owned and run by Mrs. Sheldon & Miss Lockwood. I took the visitors' money and sold them peanuts with which to feed the animals. I earned 2/6d (12 ½p) per weekend, with a tea of sandwich and cake included.

At 16 I worked during the school holidays and at weekends for grocer Arthur Cabell & Son, whose shop was on the corner of Higher Sea Lane, delivering orders to the entire village on the shop bicycle. I earned 2/- (10p) per day, including a tea of bread and jam and a sponge finger, and sometimes a bonus of four ounces of butter. This was indeed a bonus, as butter was still rationed to two-four ounces per person on alternative weeks. I prided myself on learning the prices of most of the items stocked in the shop.

Michael Thomas

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

BIODIVERSITY ON THE A35

I have been working with the countryside officers of three local AONBs, two County Wildlife Trusts and with Sir Oliver Letwin MP to bring a national Plantlife initiative to the A35 in West Dorset and East Devon. The idea is to boost the wild flower presence in our trunk road verges by changing the verge cutting regime and by selective planting. Similar roadside ventures have been accomplished by Dorset County Council but this is new for Highways England in this area. Highways England have given the idea a very positive reception and are ready to fund the proposed improvements.

The latest situation is that the verge cutting regime has indeed been changed, with no full-width cuts taking place until after mid-July to enable re-seeding. This simple change has had an excellent impact with large swathes of verges along the A30/A35 in Devon and Dorset awash with colour from the thriving wildflowers. Highways England are also planning to introduce a cut-and-collect process which will reduce nutrient levels over time favouring diminutive species like orchids. Also, before those full-width cuts, professional species surveys and soil surveys will have been undertaken at several selected sites along the A35. After that, some planting schemes may be considered but in many cases the wild flowers are already there.

As well as enhancing diversity, the new regime includes a boost for the cinnabar moth. An experimental ragwort control process has now been adopted here by Highways England. It involves removing all the flowering heads before the ragwort sets seed but the leaves remain for the cinnabar moth caterpillars to thrive on. Previously the plant was all removed - roots and all. So there are two new roadside activities to watch out for this summer: ragwort flower head picking during the flowering season, and then cut grass collecting at the end of the summer - all in the name of an improved balance between weed control and floral diversity.



One of the hundreds of orchids now being given a chance to thrive on the by-pass

John Calder

Charmouth Tennis Club

Open Days for Shoreline Readers



There are social tennis sessions throughout the week, at all levels of play

Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club celebrated its centenary in 1985 and is the oldest club in Dorset. Being less than 500 yards from the sea, we enjoy wonderful views of the Jurassic Coast.

At the end of the 1800s it was a very select club and only high-ranking service officers, landed gentry, doctors, lawyers and those of independent means were allowed to join! It seems to have remained like this until well after World War II. Our membership, now open to all, has a very different and welcoming atmosphere!

The club is LTA accredited, uses a LTA qualified coach and has a small pavilion with four outdoor carpet courts which are easier on the legs and therefore very popular! Another enjoyable season has started and for the men's and mixed teams in the Yeovil & District Tennis League with match wins against several clubs in the region. Last year one of the men's teams had a good season with an unexpected but hard-fought promotion to a higher division.

Matches are also very sociable affairs during summer evenings and include supper and even the odd alcoholic beverage to celebrate or drown sorrows!

New players wishing to play competitive tennis are always extremely welcome but even if you are a 'rusty racquet' please come to one of our open days at 1.30 pm, every Thursday in August. These are exclusively for Shoreline readers, at whatever level of play.

We are a welcoming, friendly bunch and have several social tennis sessions for all abilities during the week. The club can be found at the top of Lower Sea Lane in Charmouth. A single adult annual subscription is just £120. For more information please contact Dan Burke on 01297 442800 or go to www.dorset-tennis.co.uk

Kevin Clausner

Charmouth Community Library

If there was a 'Village of Culture' award, Charmouth would now be in the running for winning it. Not long ago we had only 'Party in the Park'. A couple of years ago, Changing Spaces introduced what has become a wide range of events, from Kate Adie to Elvis Presley. Now there are monthly musical events from classical music to Sinatra and other fund-raising concerts in St. Andrew's Church. Charmouth Events have continued Party in the Park, Fireworks on Bonfire night and New Year's Eve fireworks, and now introduced their well supported Film Nights and occasional Artsreach events.

This year we have Charmouth's first Folk

Festival in September. So, for the Library it was quite difficult to come up with something new. They had publicised the speaker evenings and health talks last year, but they were clearly itching to come up with something new. Then, one of their newest volunteers came up with an idea: A Short Story Writing Competition. They thought such a competition would remind people that they still existed. However, they also thought it might be attractive to visitors looking for something to do on a rainy day, to schools which might use it as a basis for Creative Writing classes, particularly when their students come back from the summer holidays, or to aspiring writers who might enjoy the challenge. For those who write and enter the competition, there is the chance to win a prize and read out, or have their story read at the Prize Giving night in October.

One of the joys of Charmouth is the wealth of talent around. Within two meetings they had recruited five judges who are successful writers, a talented web-site designer, support from Charmouth School to refine ideas and encourage other local schools, and financial support from Charmouth Traders for printed literature and a sponsor for the prizes.

Whether this is a flash in the pan, or the first step towards a long-lasting event depends on us. Entries are not limited. If you know an aspiring writer, as long as they write in English and pay the £2 entry fee, they are eligible. So whether you have family staying, or have taken Shoreline to Antarctica, or the Great Wall of China, show them the Library page in Shoreline and encourage them to enter.

Bob Hughes

Transported for life – for a crime perpetrated in Charmouth

Some readers may remember an article I wrote for *Shoreline* about Dorset convicts being transported to Australia (Summer 2018). At the time I didn't find any connection with Charmouth but while doing other research in Dorchester Museum Library I came across this notice:

Dorchester Court Lent Assizes March 1829

James Robinson 35 and George Apsey 19 are hereby charged with feloniously stealing a pair of trousers, flannel jacket and a flannel shirt, property of William Gollop of Charmouth.

Sentenced to transportation for 7 years.

I was intrigued and wanted to find out about the criminals and the victim, particularly as I know the Gollop name is well known in Charmouth.

William Gollop of Charmouth – a mysterious man

I had little luck tracing anything about Mr Gollop and turned to our chief local historian, Neil Mattingly, to see if he might have any more success. Neil advised that there are a number of Gollop families which have a Charmouth connection. A wealthy branch of the family had owned properties in Charmouth (including what became Devonedge) in the 17th and 18th centuries but these passed from this family line by the 19th century. The first William Gollop Neil discovered lived in Burton Bradstock and was a mason. This Mr Gollop helped build the bridge in Burton Bradstock and may have helped build the Charmouth bridge for the turnpike linking Axminster and Bridport in 1824 – however he died in 1825. It seems unlikely, if a crime had been committed against this WG, that it would not be brought to trial until 1829.

Another William Gollop (son of Edward Gollop, another mason), was born in Charmouth in 1837 – so he was born too late. Records in the 1820s (and earlier) were often incomplete. Although the census existed, at that time only a household headcount was recorded – more complete records were not taken until the census of 1841. So William Gollop of Charmouth whose clothes were stolen in 1828 or 29 is a man of mystery.

Criminal records

It is quite different for the miscreants. We know that they were indeed transported to Australia and due to this there is quite a bit of reference material available about them. An estimated 162,000 convicts were transported from the United Kingdom to Australia between 1788 and 1868 with the peak years

between 1829 and 1834. Transportation was an important part of getting the new colonies established and of dealing with an explosion of criminal activity in the lee of the Industrial Revolution. It was also an effective way of keeping the prison population in Britain down.

It was an almost industrial endeavour and by keeping detailed records the colonial and prison authorities were able to more effectively manage the large numbers of prisoners. They recorded where convicts came from, what they looked like and where they went. Then whether prisoners reoffended or, if they did their time and avoided trouble, were able to get a 'ticket of leave' and go on, in some cases, to a better life than they might have had back in Britain.

Criminal hulks



After being sentenced in Dorchester in March 1829 George Apsey and James Robinson were put onto a convict hulk to await the ship that would transport them to Australia. Often these convict hulks were unseaworthy vessels that nevertheless provided a secure off-shore gaol. Sometimes they were ships that had seen service in the Napoleonic wars. The prisoners would have been inspected and issued with basic items of clothing and eating utensils; they also had key details recorded about them.

Hulk records on George Apsey and James Robinson

George Apsey

Born 1809 Plymouth

Aged 21 when boarded in 1830

5'9"

Labourer



Detailed records: pale complexion; round head and visage; light brown hair and whiskers; grey eyes; nose and chin medium length; mouth medium width

Remarks: scar on right cheek

Tattoos right arm: anchor, crucifix, crown, flying angel

Tattoos left arm: sun, moon, 7 stars, mermaid, flower and globe

James Robinson

Born 1794 Fifeshire

Aged 36 in 1830

5'8"

Labourer

Detailed records: dark complexion; long face and oval visage; wrinkled forehead; black hair and whiskers; hazel eyes; large nostrils

Remarks: scar on left arm; several freckles

Presbyterian

Can read and write

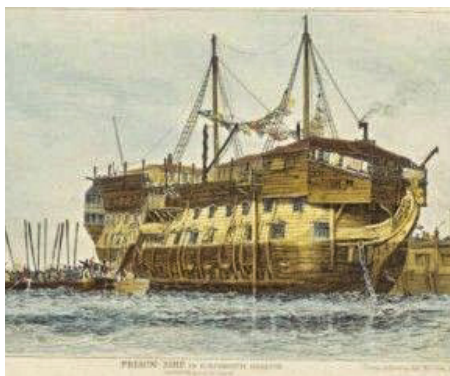
Can plough

The records tell us that the two men were not local to the Charmouth area. James is particularly interesting as he was lowland Scottish and could read, write and plough. While life for people in rural communities in much of England was tough, in Scotland it was especially harsh. Waves of people left Scotland from the 17th to well into the 20th centuries looking for better economic opportunities than could then be found at home. It is interesting to conjecture how George and James together ended up stealing clothes from William Gollop in Charmouth.

While stationed on the convict hulk, they would have been assigned as forced labour on public works such as river clearance and damming. With 158 other convicts they eventually left on 1st April 1830 on the convict ship 'Sir Charles Forbes'. This arrived on 27th July 1830 in Van Dieman's Land (now known as Tasmania).

The tale of George Apsey

George was evidently put to work to help establish the capital, Hobart. Although he was a young man of 21, sadly he was not one of those convicts who was able to turn his life around. Within two years he had died. He was charged with drunkenness in 30th March 1831 but although sentenced to 21 days in a treadwheel this was suspended. A few months later he was charged again with 'drunkenness in the streets of Hobart Town on Saturday last' and this time he had to do seven days in a treadwheel. Evidently this was no great deterrent



as by August 1831 he was drunk and 'fighting with the inn-keeper at Walfords Public House in Hobart'. For this he endured 25 lashes. By the summer of 1832 he was charged with insolence against his overseer and in July George was sentenced to six months' hard labour on a road party gang. He died in August 1832.

The tale of James Robinson



The older man, James, meanwhile was assigned to the town of Oatlands. This was in a strategically important location between Hobart and the second largest town, Launceston. Hundreds of convicts were assigned there working on buildings and roads. Oatlands is now historically significant as having the largest number of colonial era sandstone buildings of any town in Australia. These included the courthouse, the gaol and the hospital. Records show that James spent time in each of these, which he may have helped to build, and he eventually died in the Oatlands hospital in 1849 aged 54.

While conditions of transportation seems harsh by our standards, judges at that time could have levied a death sentence even for minor offences such as this one. Magistrates no doubt were mindful that able-bodied people were required for work in the colonies. Despite the tragic final circumstances of George and James, many of those transported were able to forge successful new lives.

Many thanks to Neil Mattingly for his invaluable help in researching more about the various Gollop families.

Jo Seaman

Wikipedia and convictrecords.com.au were useful resources

Pudding or Dessert?

The definition of the word dessert is a sweet course that is served at the end of a meal. It is usually made up of sweet foods, but can also contain other items, such as herbs and cheeses. The term 'pudding' has become synonymous with the term 'dessert' in the United Kingdom and a few surrounding countries. However, pudding itself is a dessert dish as well as a savoury dish that is part of a meal.

Suet puddings with steak and kidney or mushroom and leek are typical examples.

The word pudding is believed to come from the French boudin, originally from the Latin botellus, meaning "small sausage", referring to encased meats used in Medieval European puddings.

Though not always admitted, some people prefer to use the term dessert as against pudding as this has connotations of class. Using 'dessert' is thought to be posher than a homely pudding. This distinction has changed with more traditional recipes making a fashionable comeback in recent times - such as spotted dick, bread and butter pudding and the timeless trifle!

This 'pudding' or 'dessert' gives a twist on the original summer pudding.



Brioche Summer Pudding with an Iced Custard Filling

Prep time: 20 minutes, plus overnight in fridge and freezer

Cook time: 10 minutes

Total time: 30 minutes

Serves 1

Ingredients for each individual pudding using a small ramekin.

SUMMER PUDDING

60g strawberries, halved or quartered if large

60g raspberries

60g blackcurrant jam

1 tbsp crème de cassis or ribena

3 slices brioche loaf

Custard

100ml whole milk

5g castor sugar

7g custard powder

40g double cream

1/2 tsp vanilla essence

METHOD

1. Place all the fruits, jam and cassis in a saucepan and cook gently over a medium heat for about 4 minutes, until softened but still holding their shape or in a bowl for 2 minutes on medium in a microwave.

2. Drain over a bowl, reserving the juice and allow to cool slightly.

3. Cut 2 large rounds from the brioche slices and 3 strips to line the bowl. Dip 1 brioche round into the juice, soak well and use to line the base of a small basin. Dip the strips into the juice and line the sides of the bowl. Fill with the fruit and place the remaining soaked round on top.

4. Cover with clingfilm and place a saucer with a weight, such as a food can, on top and put in the fridge for 4 hours or overnight.

5. 40 minutes before serving, score a small circle of brioche from the top of the summer pudding, put to one side, and remove a large teaspoonful of the fruit. Pop a cube of iced custard into the hole and replace the brioche.

6. Invert the pudding onto a plate and spoon the summer fruit on the top.

7. Place extra cubes of iced custard around the edge. Leave for 40 minutes at room temperature.

TO MAKE ICED CUSTARD

In a bowl mix together the custard powder and sugar adding the milk slowly to make a smooth mix. Heat gently in a pan or in a microwave to make a smooth custard.

Remove from the heat and whisk well. Stir in the cream and vanilla if used and whisk again.

Pour into an ice cube tray. Cover with cling film and put in the fridge.

When completely chilled, place in the freezer for a couple of hours.

Sheila Gilbey Blog: Sheilaspantry.com

News from St. Andrew's Church



After supporting the Cupboard Love foodbank in Bridport for nearly three years, I was asked if we would be interested in supporting the Charmouth and Lyme Regis Food bank. At our AGM in April at St. Andrew's Church, it was agreed by all present that we should support this worthy cause, as there are people in Charmouth who use this food bank. There will be baskets in the church for collection of goods donated and as a village and church we should help our neighbours in need. My thanks go to everyone who has given food in the past and we look forward to a successful collection. Many thanks.

Pauline Berridge Church Warden

Changing Spaces

Diana Leaves Audience Wanting More!

A very appreciative audience attended the concert at St. Andrew's church, Charmouth on Friday 17th May when Diana Chrisman, an international singer and actress, was the star performer.

During the first half of the concert Diana sang several of her favourite numbers from musicals. Songs including 'The Rose' by Bette Midler and 'Not That Girl' from Wicked, were sung very sensitively and her training as an actor shone through with much tenderness. Other songs including 'Memory' from Cats and 'I Cain't Say No' from Oklahoma! showed the other extreme of her range of capabilities and, coupled with the acoustics of St. Andrew's, allowed her to demonstrate the strength of her voice very effectively.



After the interval Diana spoke about her career from drama school, through musical performances, cruise entertainment, voice-overs, commercials and filming. The talk was delivered by 'Diana the actress', rather than 'Diana the singer' and was both humorous and informative. Her very broad range of performance skills were demonstrated to perfection.

Following the talk, Diana invited questions from the audience. One questioner asked if she would sing another song to end the evening. Although Diana had not intended to do so, ever the professional, she was well prepared, so the audience was treated to a powerful rendition of 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' from Evita to close the show.

There is a famous expression from the British theatre – 'always leave the stage with the audience wanting more'. Diana managed this with great success! A thoroughly good time was had by all and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Diana for offering to help in our fund-raising efforts and to generously donate her time to the cause.

"... a bubbly, vibrant personality... superb acting skills, Diana really knows how to convey the meaning and sentiment of a song, very expressive, excellent understanding of dynamics, she obviously has a passion for what she does and engages with the audience so that we share her joy." **Maria**

"Diana's performance was special. A young woman who has clearly amassed an impressive portfolio of acting, musical, commercial and charity experience. Diana's passion for singing was so evident. In her talk, she gave us an honest and rare

insight into what it is like to be a part of the entertainment industry; few would wish to do that and Diana delivered!" **Chris**

"Who would have thought that, following such wonderful singing, Diana's revelations about her career from the earliest days, could be so fascinating?... a sweet, warm person with a glorious voice." **Mary**

"We really enjoyed Diana's concert. She has a wonderful voice, very well suited to songs from the musicals. It was also interesting to hear the background to her career. ... she obviously has the talent, personality and tenacity to make a successful career." **Malcolm & Maralyn**

"A very enjoyable performance from Diana; a nicely varied selection of songs from a lady with a wonderful voice." **Martin**

"It was a lovely evening, only spoiled by it ending all too soon. Superb, my spine is tingling when remembering that beautiful voice." **Linda**

"I really enjoyed listening to Diana singing and performing; she seemed to be able to get into 'role' for each song. The range of her voice was wonderful. Such a lovely warm and friendly person as well. Perhaps she might come again next year." **Anne**

The evening raised £500 for the Charmouth Changing Spaces project to repair the fabric of the church and additionally to renovate the interior for both worship and development into a community hub. For more information contact info@charmouthchangingspaces.org or visit the Charmouth Changing Spaces website at charmouthchangingspaces.org.

Roger Sansom

CHARMOUTH CHANGING SPACES It's Competition Time!

We've got the website; we are making progress with the building, but we need a logo!

This is to represent putting the church at the heart of the community and the community at the heart of the church. Please can you put your artistic thinking caps on and design something that we can use to represent our project on everything we do from applications for grants through to publicity posters etc.?

Please submit your designs to Alisonctaylor@aol.com or Firlands House, The Street, Charmouth, DT6 6QH by 31st August. There will be a prize of £50 for the winning entry.

Charmouth Changing Spaces Team (CCS) Project

The Work Begins!

The builders moved in and work began on the restoration of the North Porch on 1st May with an anticipated completion date of mid-July. 'One small step' in the overall restoration of St. Andrew's, but 'one giant leap' for the determination of the Charmouth Changing Spaces team to succeed.

As previously reported, 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 open automatically to facilitate access for those with disabilities. The 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. Internally the walls and ceilings will be redecorated. Electrical improvements will include new wiring in special conduits and updated pendant light and external lantern light.

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

The next stage will be back to the 'drawing board' to plan out future elements of the restoration work. Detailed, prioritised plans now need to be prepared in order to gain diocese permissions, access to further Erskine Muton grant drawdowns and for new submissions to other grant-making bodies.

The CCS website (<https://www.charmouthchangingspaces.org>) will continue to document progress and provide more details of the planned future work. The website is designed to keep the village informed about what the CCS project is all about and the progress being made. Please make use of the 'Contact Us' page to make enquiries, which we will endeavour to answer.

As we move into the 'doing' phases, other skills or advice may be useful to the team: building, architectural, project management,

landscaping, event management, heating/lighting, etc. If anyone wishes to assist the team as a volunteer in any way, please get in touch through the website.



Meanwhile the 2019 Lunchtime Concert season is well under way. At 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.

As usual, all concerts will be performed in St. Andrew's Church, Charmouth starting at 12.30pm with refreshments available from 12.00 midday. There will be no charge for entry, although donations will be appreciated in support of the Charmouth Changing Spaces project.

Roger Sansom



A Piano Called 'Ed'

On 13th June 2019 the 'new' piano for St. Andrew's, generously restored and given on permanent loan by Edward Jacobs, was delivered and set up in the church. Edward's gesture was made after he saw how much music was being introduced by the Charmouth Changing Spaces team, following his previous gift of an upright piano a few years ago. The grand piano will enable the Charmouth Changing Spaces team to invite a wider range of performers to come to Charmouth for future events.

Many members of the public will be familiar with the names of the piano makers Steinway and Bechstein, and even Yamaha which is now considered a maker of high-quality performance pianos. But Ed Seiler is not a make that is that well-known to the general public. However, a little research came up with the following information that may be of interest to visitors to St. Andrew's, particularly those who attend concerts at which the piano is featured:



Bill Young (L) and Edward Jacobs

Eduard Seiler, the company's founder, began making pianos in 1849, in Liegnitz, Silesia, then part of Prussia. By 1923 the company had grown to over 435 employees, was producing up to 3,000 pianos per year and was the largest piano manufacturer in Eastern Europe. In 1945 when Liegnitz became part of Poland, the plant was nationalised by the

Polish Communist government and the Seiler family left their native homeland. In 1954 the company was re-established in Copenhagen by Steffan Seiler under the fourth generation of family ownership. The company was moved to Bavaria in 1962 where it resides today and now makes about 1000 pianos annually, with nine foot concert grands having a price tag of more than \$200,000!

The pedigree of Ed Seiler pianos is therefore well established. The total restoration that has just been undertaken by Bill Young, at considerable cost to Edward Jacobs, has provided us with a piano that St. Andrew's and the Charmouth Changing Spaces team are very proud to be able to use. We all look forward to being able to enjoy wonderful music with the help of 'Ed' in the future.

Roger Sansom



Melodie Watts, Bridport Home Library Service volunteer, delivering books to a client.

Calling all book lovers!

A popular home library service, run by Royal Voluntary Service, the national volunteering organisation, is looking to grow its service for housebound readers in the Bridport and Lyme Regis area. The service is also provided from Charmouth Community Library, and we have two dedicated volunteers who deliver books and visit people in Charmouth and its surroundings.

The Home Library Service brings books to people who can no longer get to a library. It operates from most libraries in

Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth. Volunteers deliver books and share their love of reading with the people they visit. They are a friendly face and a regular visitor to those whose mobility and social interactions are limited, and they provide a useful check on the safety and well-being of their readers, too. One of our readers commented: "It's an excellent service and a real delight when it is hard to get to the library oneself. The volunteer is so friendly; they may be the only person I see all day."

Maria Jacobson, Service Manager for Dorset Home Library Service, says, "For people who enjoy reading or listening to an audio recording but find getting out of the house challenging, this service offers a vital link to the local library. The service enables them to carry on doing something they've always enjoyed and helps alleviate feelings of isolation and loneliness."



The Home Library Service is delivered free of charge; it is not only for older people, but for anybody who finds getting to the library difficult, including carers.

To find out more or to request the service please contact the Royal Voluntary Service office on 01305 236666, or e-mail Maria on maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk. Alternatively you can speak to staff at your local library.

Maria Jacobson

Volunteering

On 18th June I spent a pleasant time with over 35 volunteers and their families from across the National Trust's Somerset Properties (Montacute House, Barrington Court, Tintinhull and Lytes Cary) all because we were receiving Volunteering Awards and a lovely cream tea! I received my certificate and badge for volunteering at Barrington Court for the last five years. I was one of the babies receiving an award, as some were receiving awards for 10, 15 and 20 years. There was even a volunteer from Montacute who has been volunteering for over 30 years.



People choose to 'volunteer' for a variety of reasons. For some, it offers the chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experiences and knowledge. For me, it was to meet people at the property I loved and the last five years have gone by in what seems to have been a few seconds. I have enjoyed every moment at Barrington Court. I have been lucky to have the opportunity to participate in several different roles, from House Welcomer, running Easter Trails, to currently undertaking surveys of the rooms as part of the conservation process.

So if you have any free time and would like to meet people and use your skills or even gain some, at the same time giving something back to the community, do consider volunteering, it is great fun. It doesn't have to be with the National Trust. Just find an organisation that you are passionate about or something that inspires you. There are dozens of reasons to volunteer; you just need to find the one that feels good for you.

I know that Barrington Court is looking for volunteers who don't mind giving up a small part of their weekend. They are also looking for anyone over 17 years who would like some work experience for the summer. For further information about volunteering at Barrington Court, contact Andrea Bartlett Senior Visitor Experience Officer on 01460 243122 or andrea.bartlett@nationaltrust.org.uk

Kim Oatway



Charmouth Village People

This year the groups that are overseen by Charmouth Village People have gone from strength to strength. Kaleidoscope has seen good numbers attending the fortnightly meetings with excellent speakers. Pop Up Writers continue to have a solid group of participants who enjoy their writing and activities. The Friday casual meet-up at the Bank House is always an enjoyable event to attend for a chat and cake. We have been to Bridport to see a number of the newest films on offer and the trips have been a raging success! The last one was an all-day affair, taking in a boat trip from Poole and around Brownsea Island, arriving in Swanage to board the steam train to Corfe Castle. We returned to Swanage and were delighted to watch a dolphin playing around the boat for several minutes before we returned to Poole.

None of these trips could take place without our trusty band of volunteers overseeing things and assisting if needed. This is not an onerous task. We enjoy the trips as much as everyone else, but just assist on and off the coach, direct to where we need to go, and are a point of contact if needed. We are always looking for new volunteers to add to our list to assist with events, trips, collecting people and bringing them to the



groups. At the AGM we thanked our volunteers with a small gift, in recognition of their help, which is much appreciated. The groups stopped for a summer break in early July and will start again in September. Please contact Jan Gale for details about any aspects of CVP, on 07460 707294 or Judith Howells on 07906 840950.



Jan Gale presenting Ann McNair with a small gift in recognition of her support and volunteering with CVP

Judith Howells

Charmouth Primary School



It seems that we are always busy and sometimes we don't take the time to reflect on what we have done and how far we have come. There have been many changes at Charmouth Primary School and taking the opportunity to stop and look at the progress we have made, and continue to make, is truly exciting. We have wonderful staff and children; a recent visitor from the English Hub commented on how every child smiled and said hello as we passed, and every child was happy and engaged in learning as we walked around the school.

We ended the Spring Term with an Everybody Active week. During the week the children were able to try a variety of different sports and activities, including lacrosse, American Football, Y Ball, kin ball, skipping, boxing and yoga. We had really positive feedback from across the school and ended the week with a whole school picnic with families. We had to run with Plan B for the picnic due to rain, but managed to fit everyone into the hall and corridor! While the picnic took place, a cake sale was held to raise awareness of Autism and some of our older children organised a challenge to compare tap and bottled water – they proved very well that tap water is just as good so there is no excuse for those single use plastic bottles!

This term, we have continued to be active with children across the school having access to skipping ropes for active breaks, two classes having swimming lessons at Bridport Leisure Centre and our Year 1 and 2 children enjoying gymnastics coaching at Bridport Leisure Centre. The first half of the summer term ended with a group of children taking part in the West Dorset Schools' Collaboration Swimming Gala; it was our first time taking part in this event and, for many of the children, their first experience of a swimming gala. Over 200 children took part in the event and the Charmouth children are already excited to take part again next year.

Our PTA continues to be active and raises funds to support and enrich learning. In the first half of the Spring Term, they held a very successful Spring Bingo event and are currently organising the Charmouth Challenge and school summer fair. By the time Shoreline is published these events will have taken place, with great support of the local community; thank you to all those who help.

The PTA has funded two story telling days with Martin Maudsley, who captured the imagination of every child, contributed to swimming and gymnastics sessions, funded art sessions with Daryl Wakeman, contributed to trips to Plymouth

Aquarium and Axe Valley Wildlife Park and funded Beach School for every class.

We continue to have lots planned for the rest of the school year, including our annual production, which this year is Glint of Gold, set in Ancient Egypt and linked to the curriculum in Key Stage 2. We also have our sports day, sailing opportunities and transition sessions.

Looking further forward, we are planning to open a nursery (age 3+) cohort as part of an Early Years classroom. At the time of writing, a consultation has begun and we hope to get confirmation before the end of the school year. Details will be available locally as we are able to share information; anyone wanting to know more is welcome to contact the school for more information.

Thank you to everyone in the community who supports us as a school; we really appreciate the support offered. If you would like to support the school in any way, please do get in contact with the school office. Likewise, if we can support local events, please let us know so we can share as appropriate. Have a lovely summer.

Laura Cornish, Headteacher



1964 view of the footpath from Lower Sea Lane to Higher Sea Lane, adjacent to the site of Charmouth School (built 1993)

Iris Burford

Charmouth Community Library and Internet Cafe



Book sales at the Bar

At Christmas we reported that thanks to Sue Harvey and her team, our sales of donated books at The Charmouth Fish Bar had raised £500. We were trying even harder this year, by starting to sell a little earlier – in April for Easter visitors – and by putting up a poster every couple of weeks showing totals sold. (221 books by 15th June, if you were curious.)

So this is my normal commercial asking for books; newish paperbacks sell best. Please drop them off at the Library, or put them on the shelf at the Fish Bar. But there is more! If you are buying Fish and Chips, have a look at the books because even if you don't find one, it might encourage others to walk over and have a look.

Charmouth Community Library and the Post Office

The title sounds like a children's story. Well, I hope it is a short story with a happy ending for the village. By the time you read this, the Post Office should be a regular fixture on Thursdays at the Servery in the Library, running smoothly from 10.15am to 4.00pm.

Thanks are due to the Library Committee for supporting the initial idea and to Steve Pile and the Parish Council who managed discussions with the Post Office. We hope that this will be a short term expedient and the happy ending will be the swift return of a full service. Ongoing thanks are merited to Ros Cole and the Library volunteers who are making the idea work by doing an extra session on Thursday afternoon. Without the volunteers, the Post Office would not open, as they require a second person to be in the building when the Postmaster is present. Please call 01297 560487 if you are thinking about joining our volunteers.

The Library will be staffed by Peter (a semi-retired Postmaster) who already covers several other places in the area (e.g. churches in Marshwood and Kilmington).

We are pleased to make this contribution to village life and eight of our volunteers have agreed to cover the extra responsibilities to enable it to happen. It is possible that the PO will move somewhere else in the village in the autumn, and we'll be taking an interest to see how things develop. Meanwhile, it is up to people in Charmouth and surrounding villages to make good use of this facility to show that we need our Post Office!



A steady stream of customers (92 in total) on the Post Office's inaugural day at Charmouth Community Library

Charmouth Community Library Writing Competition.

Supported by Charmouth School and Charmouth Traders, we are launching an inaugural 50 Word Story-writing Competition. These examples show what it is about.

Conflicting Interests

Organic Watson, the aged, crusty gardener, came with the house minimalist Miss Westbury bought. From the outset, he disapproved of the changes she wrought and the chemicals and various "icides" she made him use. Liver failure (paraquat) caused her demise. Her ashes were scattered on the Japanese garden: how organic. (David H Jackson)

A Moment in Venice

They collided in St Mark's Square. As they apologised, in their different languages, he sensed that something had passed between them. His heart had been touched. In that second, something almost magical had occurred. He watched her vanish amongst the gathering of people and pigeons. She had stolen his wallet. (Paul Talman)

Both stories from The Daily Telegraph Anthology, published by Enitharmon Press.

Entries must be received by 30th September, with judging in October and prizes awarded at the end of October. Two of our judges live in Charmouth. Chris Lakeman-Fraser and Eric Harwood have both written extensively in their careers for print and television. Two of our other judges are journalists and critics with The Times (Ann Treneman and Matthew Parris) Our fifth judge, Jane Littler, worked on the Chris Evans Radio Show, helping to run a similar competition.

Bob Hughes Co-organiser (560487)

Free Computer Help on offer – Charmouth Library

You may have read in *Shoreline* last year about the Superfast Dorset Digital Champion scheme. Digital Champions, or DCs, (experienced volunteers) give their time for free, to help people to get started or to make more use of computers and other devices (laptops, tablets, smart phones). The scheme has proved extremely successful across Dorset and has been running for a little while at Charmouth Library.

Charmouth now has its own resident DC, David Jones. From July, David will be running sessions on Wednesday afternoons at the library, from 2 – 4:30. If you are puzzled, scared of computers, worried about online security and scams or just have difficulty using email, looking things up on the internet or making free online video calls then this help is designed to support you. So, if you would like some free and friendly help to get online, or to extend your internet usage, or simply want some advice and guidance on how to make more use of your computer or tablet, please come along.

Initially these sessions will be run as drop-in sessions, on a first come, first served basis. But more focused 1-1 sessions may subsequently be introduced, depending on demand. In order to manage the sessions effectively, it would be helpful to phone the Library in advance (01297 560640) to secure your place.

David Jones



Charmouth Community Library Art Exhibition

Charmouth Artists continue their mission to keep the walls bright and lively with a selection of their paintings. I am pleased to say the exhibition has been refreshed for the summer.

The artists would be delighted if you would like to purchase one of their paintings. They will happily arrange to take your money, give you the painting and fill in the gap on the wall afterwards. So next time you are in the Library, remember to look heavenwards to appreciate their efforts.

Bob Hughes



JUNIOR OLYMPICS

During the May half term, Charmouth Junior Athletic Club (CJAC), in conjunction with the charity Partners for Progress, delivered two exciting and rewarding Junior Olympic events on the recreational ground in Charmouth.

The two days saw a total of 26 young athletes attend and take part in six hours of Olympic events. A total of 10 activities were delivered including sprinting, discus, hurdles, football, hockey and a junior park run. A total of 26 personal bests were recorded.

In terms of fundraising support, we raised a total of £240 that will help other young people in Kenya and Nepal live more active and healthy lives.

On behalf of Charmouth Junior Athletic Club (CJAC) & Partners for Progress, we would like to thank all the athletes for their efforts, the parents for their support, 1st Charmouth Scouts for the loan of the Scout Hut & Charmouth Parish Council for the use of the recreational ground.

John Smith, *Owner and Head Coach*,
Charlie Portlock, *Director Partners4Progress*.



Charmouth Coasters

Charmouth Coasters continue to go from strength to strength as we enjoy our Tuesday afternoon Line Dancing in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 3.30 pm. This lovely group of ladies and gentlemen extend a warm and encouraging welcome to new members and new friendships have been made. The noise level at 2pm on Tuesdays can be deafening as I strive to make myself heard! We now have a healthy repertoire of dances ranging from Absolute Beginner to Improver Levels and dance to music from Robbie Williams to The Lennerockers! The usual pattern goes: I introduce a new dance which is given a lukewarm response, we then learn it and by the following week said dance is the new favourite! We are a relaxed collaborative group who laugh a lot and cope with good humour when we (inevitably) go wrong and that includes yours truly! I am grateful to this great group of friends who keep me on my toes and engage my brain every week!

Andrea Harfield

A Look Back at Charmouth Post Office



This is how the Mail Coach would have looked as it stopped at the Bradbeer's Post Office at the end of the day to pick up the day's post in 1806.

The Bridport News highlighted the closure of Charmouth's Post Office at the end of May after over two centuries. It has had five locations within the village during this time. The original site still exists and is now Charmouth Stores (Nisa). It was here in 1806 that Joseph Bradbeer opened one of the first Post Offices in the country. The Post Office may well have begun even earlier, as he was also the tenant of The Mail Coach Inn on the opposite side of The Street, which was described as a Post House for the Royal Mail coaches that went between London and Exeter. Holden's directory for Charmouth in the year 1810 describes him as the owner of the Post Office and Landlord of the Inn. The business succeeded and the following year he gave up the lease on the Inn and extended the shop into tea and provisions. He left the Post Office to his wife Lydia on his death in 1821, who later married William Dodson Watts, a local teacher. The marriage was a disaster and William went off with her money and left her having to sell the business. It was bought by village carpenter, John Carter in 1840 and remained in his family until 1864, when a devastating fire swept through this and its neighbours' properties. It was partly rebuilt by Giles Pryer, a builder who owned the adjoining house. The business never fully recovered, and the son sold it to James Hawkins, the following year. He was only there briefly before selling the Post Office in 1871 to George Mortimer, who was to make a great success of it, extending the shop into drapery as well as groceries. He bought the freehold of the shop and

also the other grocers at the top of The Street where Portland House is today. He was to be there for the next 20 years, before moving to London and it was then bought by Edward Vince, who continued expanding the range of goods and also ran a separate shop where Melville House is now.



George Mortimer is seen in the doorway with his staff outside the Post Office in 1880.

In 1896, after 90 years in the same premises, the Post Office was taken over by William Holly and moved further up The Street to Wistaria House, where it was to be run by the father and son, William Jnr. for the next 40 years. When the father died in 1931, the son opened part of it as a stationery shop. There was an annex built which was let to a branch of the Wilts. & Dorset Bank, which was later taken over by Lloyds Bank. William Holly Jnr. finally retired from the Post Office and its next move was to the top of The Street, to Melville House in 1939 where it was run by Ellis and Nora Long. Mr Long was the Post Master and his wife also worked in the Post Office and shop. Their daughter, Elise Miles, remembers that her father did not have a car then



Frederick Chard outside the Grocers he managed for Edward Vince who also owned the Post Office at this time. George Pidgeon who is standing in the doorway was the village Postman. The same shop in Melville House was later to become the Post Office run by Ellis and Nora Long.

but had a bicycle with a huge basket on the front. They took delivery orders over the phone, even for a packet of sugar, and ran several deliveries a day. Postmen filled the Post Office every morning as the building included a sorting office down the side of the shop where all the local mail was sorted by hand. Inside the shop the Post Office was at the end and a grill in the front. Parcels were wrapped in brown paper and string with long pencil seals which melted at the end



William Holly Snr. and William Holly Jnr. outside Wistaria, where the Post Office was sited for over 40 years in 1910.

and sealed the string knots to prevent people tampering with them. Long lines of people came into the Post Office for their pensions. They also took telegrams, with Nora ringing them through on the big black phone; telegrams were not welcome as quite often it was bad news in this era. Most of the villagers came into the shop daily as everything they needed was there. The Post Office ran until Ellis and Nora retired in 1965.



A Post Office van is seen here parked outside the Post Office in 1920. The former Post Office had until recently run as a gift shop called 'Herringbone' and the house renamed 'Langley House'.

The Post Office was again to change sites – this time at the other end of The Street to where the other businesses at that time were clustered on either side. Devonedge had formerly been a large guest house with a bakers below run by the Cole family for many years. The ground floor was later subdivided, and the Post Office rented the left side with a butchers in the other part. This explains why the present-day Post box is in its present position rather than on the corner.



This painting by Claude Muncaster clearly shows the Post Office at that time run by Ellis and Nora Long on the left. It was used as a poster to promote the National Savings Bank and would have been displayed in Post Offices around the country in the 1950s.



The Penny Black was introduced in 1840 as the first postage stamp. This cover would have been specially stamped in Charmouth Post Office by John Carter before dispatch to William Salter, a solicitor in Chard, Somerset.



The Post Office at Melville House in 1940 shortly after Ellis and Nora opened it at the top of The Street.

There was one last move to the corner of Barr's Lane and The Street, when John and Ruth Withers moved a few doors down to its present site. In August 1999, Steve and Gill Pile took over the Post Office. Sadly, after nearly 20 years, their time has come to an end and Charmouth has, after over 200 years, to face a future without a Post Office, which has for so long been the mainstay of village life.



The Post Office is shown here in 1983 when it occupied a shop in Devonedge.



A younger Steve and Gill Pile in August 1999 outside the Post Office which they had just purchased from John and Ruth Withers.



Twenty years on and now with their pet they look back on their time at the centre of village life.

Neil Mattingly

(This article was first published in The Bridport News)

RAISING MONEY FOR THOMAS' FUND

This summer I have roped in unsuspecting members of my family and friends to raise funds for a charity that is very close to us.

As well as a 10k mud run in July, we're aiming to complete a marathon in August, from Weymouth to Charmouth Beach. We will endeavour to complete the 26.2 miles along the undulating cliffs, whether walking, running or crawling. This, of course, includes that very steep, long climb up and back down Golden Cap!

We are doing this long, hilly challenge to raise money for Thomas' Fund, set up in the memory of our cousin Thomas, who sadly passed away from cancer in 2015 aged just 4.

I have had a long association with Charmouth; my parents, grandparents, aunty, uncle, cousins and even great-grandfather have spent many happy times here, and it is where I have made life-long friends. As it is such a special place to us, it seems fitting to set our challenge here.



Thomas was a lively, happy little boy who enjoyed bikes, swimming and going to the beach. However, at just 18 months old it was revealed he had a tumour in his brain and spinal cord. Thomas had 77 doses of chemotherapy and 18 anaesthetics which left him with devastating side effects.

The diagnosis of this type of tumour is notoriously difficult and due to its rarity there has been very little research, with there still being no effective treatments.

Thomas' tissue is the first of its type to be banked, so we hope to help fund more research and help

current treatments to have fewer awful side effects.

Thomas was inseparable from Geoffrey the Giraffe and is remembered for his gorgeous hair (which weirdly didn't fall out), his big blue eyes, and his amazing stubbornness in the face of such adversity.

To sponsor us, please go to: virginmoneygiving.com/Team/TeamThomas5

Holly Broughton

St Andrews Community Hall

We had a successful AGM on Tuesday 4th June 2019 when a new committee was elected by those present.

We said farewell to three of the outgoing committee namely Jane Tait (secretary), Margaret Bowditch and Trish Evans who were thanked for their tireless efforts over

the years and their help to move the hall further forward into the 21st century. They were presented with flowers and cards and we are all really sad to see them go.

The new committee will meet to address matters arising from the AGM and plan for the future.

Over the past 12 months improvements have been made to the washing up area and tea room, the stage has completely been refurbished and the storage area underneath made more accessible. We have also partially replaced old chairs with new and intend to fully replace them all within the year.

Plans for the next 12 months also include sanding and varnishing the main hall floor and reinstating the badminton court

markings. Also we plan to improve the staircase access to the stage to make it more user friendly.



The next project is to improve the committee room to make it more inviting for meetings, groups and casual usage.

As well as regular bookings for local groups eg. Brownies, badminton, winter bowls, art groups, church groups, the luncheon club and many other societies and functions.

There have also been successful Moviola nights. A new venture which is helping to support the hall whilst providing a venue for the Events Committee to utilise. More to follow this year!

The hall is maintained for the use of everyone in the village and if you wish to make a booking you can contact Faye in Abode, in The Street, (01297 560505) who keeps the bookings diary and she can provide you with hire prices etc.

On behalf of the Committee, we hope to see you in the hall soon and thank you all for your continued support.

Nick Beardwood, Vice Chairperson of the Committee

Charmouth 2018/19 Weather

Summer 2018 was one of the hottest on record across the country and although in Charmouth our proximity to the sea helped to moderate temperatures, we still reached 29°C on 2nd July. No rain fell in June and although we had 109mm in the next two months, it fell in short sharp showers on just seven days. Gardeners could only watch as their lawns turned to hay and even some visitors from parched NE Australia said it looked like home.



The rest of the period (June 2018 - May 2019) was generally average with no especially memorable storms or big snowfalls like the year before, although the temperature did fall to -4°C on 31st January. Rainfall levels improved and we had 814mm in total with 15th Dec being the wettest day of a particularly wet month when 42mm of the total 169mm fell. Easter this year was unusually balmy with temperatures reaching 23°C on three days.

Thanks to Peter Bonner for the rainfall figures. My electronic device has been playing up but Peter's diligent recording every morning in all weathers with an essentially old school glass tube and ruler device proved to be more reliable.

Bill Burn

CHARMOUTH WEATHER STATISTICS 2018/19

	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Avg Temp °C	16	18	17	14	11	9	9	5	7	8	9	12
Max °C	27	29	27	22	21	14	13	12	14	14	23	19
Min °C	7	11	6	3	-2	-1	1	-4	-4	1	-1	1
Rain mm	0	44	65	45	57	152	169	41	81	73	62	25
Wind Gust mph	22	36	28	38	40	43	45	35	35	41	43	28

	2018/19	For comparison: 2017/18
Hottest Day:	29°C (2nd July)	28°C (20th June)
Coldest Day:	-4°C (31st Jan)	-6°C (1st March)
Wettest Day:	42mm (15th Dec)	34mm (19th Oct)
Windiest gust:	45mph (18th Dec)	40mph (25th June)
Total rainfall 2017:	814mm	969mm



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Herringbone has relocated!

Charmouth has recently said goodbye to Steve and Gill at the Post Office after many years of service to the community and although, of course they and the Post Office will be sorely missed, it has presented Herringbone with the opportunity to take on the vacant premises and move down the hill into the heart of our village.

We will continue to showcase original work from local artists and offer stylish, unique handmade items which have helped to make Herringbone the much-loved shop it has become over the past five years. We are also proud to offer a small range of tunics and tops designed by us and made locally which are easy to wear and can be dressed up or down.

We are keen upcyclers and recyclers and enjoy bringing new life to old pieces of small furniture, sourcing beautiful items from bygone days as well as offering a rail of quality preloved clothing.

What's so exciting about Herringbone is that we never know what is coming in next, as our artists and makers busy themselves in their studios or at their kitchen tables to bring us something new to delight our customers with! We hope we can find some new fans that have never made it up the hill and that Charmouth will continue to support and cherish all its independent shops.

Anna Kindred

Morgans of Charmouth

In October 2018 we became the new owners of Morgans of Charmouth. Since then, David and I have been busy familiarising ourselves with the business and we are gradually updating and changing Morgan's product offering in line with our customer requirements. Please do let us know if there are products that you would like to see in our store.

Since taking on Morgans we have been really touched by the warm welcome and support we have received from both our customers and the local community. Charmouth really is a very friendly place. Although we are not completely new to the area, having run Lyme Rib Rides in Lyme Regis since 2016, our family has thoroughly enjoyed exploring everything the local area has to offer. It is our intention to relocate our family from Lymington to be closer to our businesses.

It has been wonderful meeting and getting to know our customers over the past few months and we thank you all for your continued loyalty. We are looking forward to meeting many new customers as the busy summer season is nearly upon us.

Susanna Leach

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CHARMOUTH GARDENERS

Summer Village Show
Saturday 10th August 2019

2.30pm – both Village Halls

**Entrance £1 adults (covers both halls)
– children free.**

Please do join us on the day: beautiful displays of flowers, fruit, vegetables, home produce (cakes, pastries, bread, jams, marmalades and 'men only' classes). Plus, a Handicraft section (knitting, needlework, woodwork, craftwork or painting). 2019 painting subjects are 'Doorways' and 'Seaside'. With a new Drawing only entry, the subject of either Doorways OR Seaside. Photographs are a very popular area; this year's subjects are 'Shadows' 'Trunk/s'; 'Best Friends'; 'The Colour Blue'; 'Games' and 'Garden Creatures'. The Children's sections would always welcome more entrants! There is a children's cup, to take home and keep, which will be awarded to the best overall child's exhibit. There are many more classes, too numerous to mention, particularly in the flowers and vegetables, so please do remember the date OR... Better still, **Please join in and enter an item of your own**; this is a friendly village show (not highly competitive) and the more entries we receive, the better the displays and enjoyment for all.

A free programme/schedule /entrance form listing all the categories can be collected from 'Fortnam Smith & Banwell' The Street, Charmouth from Wednesday 10th July with details for return by Wednesday 7th August. Gardening Club members will have the schedule delivered as usual.

There are prize certificates and cups to be won but, for most of us, that is not the aim of the day; it is just for fun! **It is free entry to all classes** and really lovely to see everyone's efforts so, if you have never entered, please do try this year. Otherwise, we hope to welcome you to view on the day...

Refreshments and lovely home-cooked cakes available during the afternoon.

Pauline Bonner,
Show Secretary



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Fernhill Hotel, Charmouth

There is always a good reason to visit the Fernhill. Nestled peacefully in the woodland, it is a real suntrap in the summer, with breath-taking views over the rolling Dorset countryside of the Marshwood Vale.

With a strong sense of environmental responsibility, Fernhill has held a GTBS, Gold award for Green Tourism since 2009 – the first hotel in the region to achieve it. “We minimise our impact on the environment wherever we can, We reduce, reuse and recycle, and use local suppliers and employ local people, so that our guests can relax and enjoy quality service and food knowing they have made a good choice for our planet at the same time” said Rob Illingworth. Jo is also a Plastic Free Charmouth committee member, helping the group by sharing her knowledge and supporting the village in its environmental goals.

Food is sourced locally and cooked from scratch, with a kitchen team who delight in bringing interesting dishes such as Israeli salad (roasted fennel, chicory, orange, date, green apple harissa), seafood macaroni and cheese, and salmon papillote, alongside eternal favourites like their home-made beer battered fish and chips, 6oz burger and house veggie burger.

The staff are local with a passion for making sure their guests feel well taken care of. And that is one of the lasting memories for all who visit – nothing is too much trouble and the warm welcome makes sure each guest leaves relaxed and refreshed.

Gluten -free, dairy-free and vegan dishes always feature, making it a relaxed dining experience even for those with special dietary requirements. Many make a special trip for their vegan brownie, home- made Dorset apple cake or shortbread. Afternoon tea is a popular pastime – with a range of options from simple (£11.95) to luxury (£19.95) to suit the occasion, the perfect way to while away a few hours with hand-made morsels of indulgence.

Much has been changing at Fernhill with the legendary crazy golf course disappearing earlier this year, and a new Brasserie menu. A visit is recommended to experience for yourself the relaxed hospitality on your doorstep!

Owners Rob and Jo Illingworth have been at Fernhill for 12 years, and still have so much energy for the business. “We love this building and everything it represents to so many people - who have married here, celebrated significant events here and worked here”.

Jo Illingworth



Charmouth Free Church

'When two or three gather in his name' -Matt 18.20



It's 2 ½ years since our fellowship was born from the sale of the chapel on The Street. We formed to keep together our church family and also for there to be witness in Charmouth for those both visiting or looking for an alternative to our parish church.

When I walk up the hill to the shops and see the latest restoration stone on the chapel building, which has been beautifully done, it is with a wry smile rather than a heavy heart. Why you may ask? We are free from the financial burden of running such a building which has enabled us to sponsor two children every month at the Gideon Centre in Kenya, make contributions to the Axminster food bank and the Pilsdon community and generally lend our support wherever it may be needed.

Our family has grown though others have become too frail to attend on a regular basis. We share meals together once a quarter to which there is an open invitation to all who may wish to join us. When there is fifth Sunday in the month we join together with our good friends at St Andrew's in worship together.

At times it feels a huge responsibility and before each service I walk my dog Archie on the beach just to remind myself of the beauty of God's creation and how privileged I am to live here in Charmouth. One Sunday recently I arrived at the club room to put out the chairs, etc. only to discover that a number of our regular worshippers were not going to be present that Sunday. In fact it looked like there may only be literally two or three others gathered in his name but then, feeling slightly disheartened, God reminded me of those words in Matthew's gospel as a stranger walked in who had meant to leave Charmouth three days earlier but had seen our notice on the board outside and decided to stay to join us in worship. Then a couple arrived who belonged to a house church on the Isle of Wight and who were staying at Wood Farm. After that four more people arrived who were just running late...

Humbling, as ever, God showed his hand.

Alison Taylor



Distant Shorelines-Kathy Hunt scaling the heights of the O2 in London with Shoreline

'A Tale of Two Villages – in Verse'

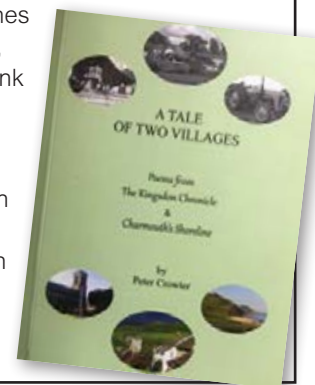
Shoreline's dedicated Poet Laureate, Peter Crowter, has recently published a compilation of his poems that first appeared in the Kingsdon Chronicle and Shoreline, entitled 'A Tale of Two Villages – in Verse'.

The early, autobiographical poems, written by Peter in the south Somerset village of Kingsdon, cover the war years from 1940 when his family moved to the village after his father joined the Navy and was stationed at Yeovilton. They span the years to 1960 and include the decade he spent working on Cooks Cary Farm in Kingsdon. More than three decades later, after a career in farm management, Peter

and his wife Anne retired to Charmouth. Since then, he has continued to write stories and poems and has been a much appreciated and regular contributor to Shoreline since its inception. His love of the village shines through his often humorous verses, which never fail to raise a smile. Thank you and very well done, Peter.

'A Tale of Two Villages – in Verse' is available at Morgans and Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre for £9.75. Profits will go to St. Andrew's Church renovation fund.

Lesley Dunlop



Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

It must have been 1960/61... Having just reached the top of The Street, I met Mrs. Brown coming out of Higher Sea Lane; I think she lived in Five Acres at the time. As we chatted she enquired had I heard about the little boy at the school? I assumed she meant Charmouth Village School, and then went on to tell me how apparently one morning in class, the children were asked "Where does God live?" It seemed all the children knew where God lived, but after they had put down their hands, one little boy was determined to be heard. "Yes, Johnnie, thank you, we're all agreed where God lives." But Johnnie persisted, still holding his hand high above his head! So the teacher asked him what had he to say: "Please Miss!" he spluttered, "God lives in our bathroom." As calmly as possible the teacher asked him, "And what makes you think God lives in your bathroom, Johnnie?" "Well Miss. Every morning, my dad bangs on our bathroom door and shouts, "God! You still in there? !!"

Iris Burford



Lorraine Parkins, Elaine Phillips, Irena Campion & Pat Keogh

Charmouth Stitch and Knit

Our group started in the new Charmouth Central Sundry in 2013 and initially focussed on providing items for the building and its users, such as tea cosies and cushions in the building's signature colours of orange, pink and turquoise, and playmats for the Babies and Toddlers' Group. We have continued to contribute to the library by donating a percentage of the proceeds from our items for sale in the Sundry. The rest of our revenue is reinvested in our group's main projects, which are providing quilts and other items for Weldmar Hospicecare Trust and for Project Linus UK.

We recently had our latest quilts on show in the Library under our new name of Charmouth Stitch and Knit. Over the years our group has encompassed many skills, including cross stitch, blackwork, knitting, crochet, tatting, fabric painting, embroidery and Dorset button-making, but the name Sewing Circle did not reflect the fact that we welcomed a range of textile crafters - anyone, in fact, whose work was portable and did not require special facilities. We sometimes work on joint projects (which often use donated materials that would otherwise go for scrap or to landfill), or concentrate on our own items for a time. Our aim is to work for worthwhile causes, while relaxing and having fun. If this sounds like you, please get in touch via the Library or drop by on a Tuesday from 10am to 12.30pm.

Irena Campion

Charmouth Bowls Club



Charmouth Bowls Club's Open Day was well attended this year and the club is happy to announce that several new members joined as a result. The weather was fantastic on the day and a great time was had by all those present. Ivan Marks, the Club President, bowled the first ball of the season before proceedings commenced.

There is still plenty of space for beginners or those on holiday to come along and play. This year we are not playing against any other clubs, so feel free to turn up any Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday between 14:00 and 17:00. Alternatively, please contact me on 01297 560484 for details or more information.

Mike Jackson-Bass

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



We are very pleased to announce that Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre has won The Geological Society RH Worth Award for achievements in public engagement, outreach and education. We thank Jim Rose for the nomination. Senior Warden Phil Davidson received the award on behalf of the Centre on 6th June at the Geological Society in London. With our new outreach programme launched this year, we couldn't be happier to receive the award. CHCC Patron and former recipient of the award, Prof Denys Brunsden, had this to say: "Well done on the RH Worth Award from the Geological Society. As a fellow holder of this award and as your Patron, I am particularly pleased. All your hard work well rewarded".

We have been busy with public engagements at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival and Spring Tide Festival in Burton Bradstock both in May. We have now launched our schools outreach programme, where we visit schools and groups unable to visit the Centre. We have visited a few schools and centres across Devon. Our free Citizen Science projects have been doing well, including our beach cleans. The Great Dorset Beach Clean in April saw 70 people attend. We have since

been crabbing, recording species for the Sea Change Project, with another seashore crab survey coming up over the summer. We also hosted a free screening of 'Rubber Jellyfish' on World Oceans Day on 8th June. Keep an eye out on our website events list for other FREE events coming up this year.

Our fish tanks have many residents this year, including spider crabs and a rare Montague crab, which is primarily a nocturnal species, Dover Sole and many other species of fish. They will stay with us until the end of the season, when they will go back to the sea and rockpools. The summer holidays will see us busy with fossil walks, rockpool rambles, citizen science events and children's activities. We can sometimes put on last minute events, so it is always best to check our website calendar to see what we have on: <https://charmouth.org/chcc/events-calendar/>

Looking toward the end of the year, we have our Jurassic Art & Craft Fayre on Saturday 16th November, 10am-5pm. There will be lots of locally-made arts and crafts, ideal for Christmas presents. We will, as always, have the raffle and a chance to buy locally-made cakes and preserves. Proceeds from both go to supporting the charity.

Ali Ferris,
Deputy Senior Warden

The Mineral Pyrite, or Iron Pyrite, is Iron Sulphide (FeS₂)

When pure, it occurs as pale brass-yellow cubic crystals with a metallic lustre. The superficial resemblance to gold is why it is called 'Fool's Gold'.

Organic matter in the Lower Jurassic clays at Charmouth was deposited on a stagnant seabed (anoxic, reducing conditions). Bacteria converted sulphate ions in seawater to sulphide, producing hydrogen sulphide in solution. This reacted with iron molecules in the seabed to produce pyrite, especially where organic matter was concentrated, e.g. in dead animal remains such as ammonites.

The bacterial action can sometimes totally cover these fossils in pyrite so only 'bubbly' shapes remain. When exposed to air, the pyrite weathers to iron oxide - a dull bronze or rust-red colour. 'Fools Gold ammonites' can deteriorate (different bacteria), so wash off any salt, soak in a bactericide, dry them well, then add 2-3 thin coats of varnish.

Much of the pyrite in these rocks is not associated with fossils at all so don't try breaking the very hard pyrite nodules, just look for the ammonites loose on the beach.

Geoff Townson



Ammonites from Charmouth beach can be preserved in pyrite in great detail or they can be "over-pyritised" to be almost unrecognisable.



Shoreline Creatures



When is a backbone not a backbone?

At the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, a conversation at the information desk can go something like this: “There are lots of these pencil- or bullet-shaped things on the beach – what are they?” The answer is that they are belemnites – the hard part (guard), the back end of the internal shell of a squid-like animal that lived in the Jurassic seas. On giving this answer to the person asking, they often respond: “Oh, so this is the backbone.” Then follows an explanation along the lines: “These creatures didn’t have backbones but they did have structures that served some of the same purposes”. So: when is a backbone not a backbone?

The majority of creatures found on the beach, whether alive, recently living animals or ancient fossils, are invertebrates – animals without backbones. The invertebrates include sea anemones, worms, crabs and lobsters, molluscs (including marine snails, squid and cuttlefish), sponges, barnacles, sea urchins and starfish.

On the other hand, creatures that do have backbones include fish, reptiles, birds and mammals. They all have a spine made up from individual vertebrae. Sometimes skeletons or various parts of vertebrates may be found on the beach e.g. a whole fish or just a fish head; a dead bird such as a herring gull; a carcass from a larger animal such as a porpoise. Most of these relatively large items are likely to be eaten by birds and mammals that scavenge bits of dead animal on the beach.

Backbones (spines) are very important to vertebrates as they act as attachment points for the skull, limbs and muscles and as well as being flexible and controlling posture. Spines also protect important parts of the nervous system which carry information from all parts of the body to the brain (sensory nerves) and from the brain to the limbs or other parts (motor nerves). The spinal cord and its attachment to the brain are protected by specialised areas of the vertebrae.

Finding fossils from vertebrates is always exciting: a single vertebra or a group of vertebrae from the spine of an ichthyosaur or other creature with a backbone can tell us a great deal about the animal and its habits. Some excellent examples can be found among the displays at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre (CHCC).

Invertebrates (animals without backbones) often have hard parts that help to maintain the shape of the animal. An example would be a crab which has an exoskeleton - a hard, external

shell. This provides areas of attachment for muscles as well as being protective to soft internal organs; crabs have to cast off their shells from time to time to accommodate growth. Other animals without backbones include barnacles which secrete a chalky structure in which to live, a small ‘trapdoor’ in the top allowing the animal to feed. The hard, chalky ‘test’ of a sea urchin protects the internal organs and a series of small holes allow fleshy tube feet to protrude so the animal can move about and feed. Some invertebrates such as sea anemones do not have any hard parts but instead have a ‘hydrostatic’ skeleton; it remains under pressure from fluids inside the body and so maintains shape and structure.

Most molluscs have hard external shells, some of which can be found on beaches e.g. limpets, whelks, periwinkles and bivalves such as mussels or scallops. These accommodate all the internal organs, provide attachment for muscles and give protection from predators as well as preventing drying out when exposed at low tide. Next time you eat a scallop, you are actually eating the large muscle which tightly holds the two shells together!

Also in the Mollusc phylum, Cephalopods have the shell on the inside of the body; examples are cuttlefish (not fish, but molluscs) whose white internal shells can often be found on the strandline. Although they are often referred to as ‘cuttlebones’, they are not made of bone but of shell and are very light due to thousands of gas pockets providing buoyancy.

A relative, the fossil belemnite (squid-like animal), also had an internal shell consisting of three parts: the hard bullet-shaped guard at the tail end of the body; a middle section (the phragmocone) which had buoyancy properties and a very fragile part towards the head end of the body which only rarely becomes fossilised. This three-part structure was the internal shell, important to counter-balance to the heavy head as well as providing a degree of buoyancy, protection of internal organs and maintenance of a streamlined shape. Guards, being made of calcite (calcium carbonate), have good potential for fossilisation and are frequently found on the beach. The phragmocone is less common but it’s good to find one nicely preserved in iron pyrite (fool’s gold). The CHCC has examples on display.

Finding marine organisms and fossils on the beach, whether invertebrates or vertebrates, is an interesting way of learning about animals, habitats and the relationship between structure, function and the marine environment in which they live (or used to live in the distant past).

Rosalind Cole

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National Coastwatch - Lyme Bay (QAVS)

EYES ALONG THE COAST



A Volunteer's Perspective



The following is a contribution from one of our Watchkeepers, Alec Crawford, who is a regular at the Charmouth lookout.

The NCI Charmouth Lookout is but one of 53 around the coast of the UK where volunteers fulfil the NCI motto 'Eyes Along the Coast'. Established 25 years ago this year, NCI has more

than 2,500 volunteers providing a public service to assist the UK Coastguard and other elements of the national search and rescue organization in keeping the users of our seas, coastline and beaches safe.

Having spent my working life in the maritime industry both in the UK and in the Far East and being a keen sailor in both small and larger boats, joining NCI in 2015 gave me a chance to contribute to NCI in performing the service that, perhaps, so many people take for granted. The sea, whether rough or calm, is a fascinating environment and I would never tire from looking at it!



Alec Crawford

The Charmouth Lookout, which is a satellite station of the Burton Bradstock Hive Beach station, was opened in May 2016 and located in the Grade 2 listed Napoleonic era circular building just up the path to the west of the Heritage Centre. With views to Lyme Regis to the west and Portland to the east and, from just outside the door, excellent views of both the East and West beaches, Watchkeepers on duty are well placed to keep their 'Eyes along the coast' as well as to watch for both pleasure and commercial vessels on the water up to some eight miles out in good visibility.

Both beaches at Charmouth in good weather are very popular with paddle boarders, surf boarders, wind surfers, kayakers, swimmers and holiday makers just enjoying the beach or searching for fossils. With the beach being relatively flat for some considerable distance off shore, at low tide there is a very wide expanse of sand or pebbles and also, in places, rock pools and outcrops. However when the tide is rising the water comes in surprisingly fast and people on the beaches need to keep a wary eye on the rising tide in order to avoid finding themselves some way from the beach with the water rising rapidly.

When on watch at Charmouth there is hardly a dull moment! If it is a fine day with lots of people on the beach and, probably, numerous sailing boats and other pleasure craft on the water the Watchkeeper is continuously monitoring the scene. This is to ensure that if there is any incident on the beach or in the

water when a person, or boat, may appear to be in difficulty, a call can be made to UK Coastguard and appropriate action taken by them, which could include by calling out the RNLI lifeboat at Lyme Regis, the Coastguard Coastal Rescue Team at West Bay or Lyme Regis or a Coastguard Rescue Helicopter.

The Watchkeeper is happy to give advice to members of the public concerning such matters as the expected weather, the times of high and low tides, the advisability of walking to Lyme Regis or to West Bay along the beach or by the coastal path etc. Members of the public would be strongly discouraged from climbing up the cliffs from the beach in search of fossils. Both east and west of the Lookout the cliffs can be very unstable even at lower levels where, particularly after rainfall, there are areas of mud that could trap the unwary.

The NCI Hive Beach and Charmouth Lookouts are part of the nationwide Search and Rescue organisation with the remit to assist in keeping our beaches and inshore waters safe and taking appropriate action

if members of the public, or boats, appear to be in trouble. In the last few months there have been a number of occasions on which the Charmouth Lookout has had to call the Coastguard in respect of people in difficulty as a result of which they have all been brought to safety without serious injury.

As a Watchkeeper at the Charmouth Lookout one is assured of an interesting watch doing a very worthwhile job in helping to ensure the safety of those using the sea and beaches in the area.

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: Judy Clarke Station Manager,
Email: lyme.bay@nci.org.uk Tel: 07786 354403

NCI (national) website: <http://www.nci.org.uk/>

Donations: Graeme Gemmill Treasurer
Email: lyme.bay.treasurer@nci.org.uk Tel: 01308 482178



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.



The Gardener

A SHORT STORY BY JANE BEAN

'One of the most enchanting things about a garden is the anticipation it brings.' How true, Gerald mused... the joy of watching all the hard work of digging and planting finally coming to fruition. All those hours in the greenhouse, watering, pricking out...

He wasn't addressing anybody in particular. In fact he was quite alone. He exhaled a sigh of satisfaction and took another sip of Pimms before settling back in his sun lounger. The large purple fronds of buddleia, as they moved lazily in the breeze, shaded him from the afternoon sun. Through half-closed eyes he could see the red admirals fluttering about, undecided on which frond to alight. Fluttering and landing... fluttering and landing... seeking out the fragrant nectar. The air was heavy with it. He could feel his eyes closing.

Yes... there was always plenty to look forward to in the garden. It was all in the planning, of course. The wisteria, planted some years ago – and so painstakingly encouraged to grow up and around the metal archways – had finished blooming, but the bank of hydrangeas was just beginning to take its place, arranged as a long hedge separating the formal areas from the kitchen garden. Gerald relished the artistry involved in getting the colours to blend – from the whites to the pale and darker blues, through the purples and pinks and then back to the whites again. Of course, there was effort involved in keeping it that way, the soil in his garden being so alkaline. But it was worth it. They were by far his favourite plants. The fragile lace caps and the brazen mop heads always reminded him of seaside holidays with their aunt on the south coast in times long gone, when he and Rupert were children...

He settled his bulky form even deeper into the sun lounger, stretching his legs out to their full length. He deserved this bit of relaxation. With eyes still closed, he listened to the buzzing of the bees. He languidly flicked one aside before concentrating on the chatter of a bird. An unfamiliar sound... and very insistent. He would check it out later on the CD of birdsong that had come free with this week's copy of *The Times*. A smile spread across his fleshy lips and he breaks into a laugh. Failing that, he could consult his friends on their next 'ornithological' weekend away.

And he would check out that quotation that had sprung to mind earlier... 'One of the most enchanting... or was it delightful... things...' He'd definitely read it somewhere. He may not have quoted it exactly, but the sentiment was there. He mentally scanned the pages of the book of famous gardening quotes that Rupert had given him last Christmas. Yes, that was the fellow! W E Johns, the chap who had written the Biggles books.

He was floating back to his boyhood days. Back from boarding school, and together once more in the school holidays, he and Rupert were huddled in their beds, safe under the sloping ceiling of their shared bedroom, separated only by the bedside table on which stood the lamp, recently switched off with great aplomb, by their mother. 'It's your turn to read,' he would whisper each night, handing his younger brother the torch and the latest Biggles adventure. 'But best keep your voice down. You don't want to get into trouble.'

This deliciously illicit pursuit must have influenced Rupert in his choice of career. Not a fighter pilot like Biggles and his creator – both wars were long over when he and Rupert had started to make their way in the world. But his brother's job of test pilot had sounded more than a tad stimulating for Gerald's

fancy. The tales of Biggles had certainly not prompted him to action. Excitement was a dish best eaten cold and served up via the derring-do of others. Gerald was the cerebral one, the planner... although, on reflection, he had not much liked his job in the city. But good old pater had come to his rescue with his old-fashioned ideas on primogeniture... although Gerald's legacy had been greatly curtailed by the old goat's profligacy. Neither had the house or grounds been passed to him in their now pristine condition. Their state of disrepair had not been to his wife Susan's satisfaction at all. Gerald wilted at the thought of the work that this had entailed. Decades of wallpaper had needed to be stripped, mouldering skirtings had required replacing and, in Susan's opinion, redecoration needed to be an annual event. But he mustn't allow the thought of all that to disturb this much needed bit of relaxation.

The sun was moving further to the west, burning his skin as it escaped the dappled shade of the buddleia. He was not one of those souls whose skin tanned easily. He knew he should move but, of course... he wouldn't. Now that the Scots pine had undergone tree surgery, there was little shade anywhere in the garden at this time of day. His muscles tightened at the memory of that undertaking. In fact he had needed to do the unthinkable and employ extra help – a specialist, no less. But he hadn't begrudged the extra expense... not where the garden was involved. Fortunately, they had never required extra help in the house. Good old Susan was prepared to do all the household chores unaided.

It was strange the way their life together had evolved. Gerald, with his fair and freckly skin, had control of the garden, whereas Susan, with her ruddy complexion that resembled seasoned leather at the first hint of summer, spent all her free time indoors. Imagining the effort she expended there quite enervated him. But he did paint the ceilings. Being all of six foot three in his socks, he was quite willing to help her in this respect. The roller glided easily over the surface without even the need for steps.

Gerald yawned. Rupert and his wife would be arriving in a couple of hours. No doubt they would already be fighting their way through the weekend traffic on the North Circular from their bungalow in Dollis Hill. And Rupert's nerves would be frazzled by the time they arrived. He had always been impatient. Unlike him, Rupert had never learnt the art of sitting still.

They would eat outside on the terrace and enjoy the view of the garden. Susan was a wonderful cook, thanks to the excellent produce emanating from his kitchen garden. He salivated at the thought of her raspberry Pavlova and Eton mess, her gooseberry fool and rhubarb crumble. The globe artichokes had already been lifted and taken inside for her to prepare. Such sensuous vegetables, artichokes... the way each leaf, like items of clothing, had to be removed from the outside in. The way the teeth had to tease out the flesh, until one finally reached the soft and yielding centre... rather like that scene in D H Lawrence's *Women in Love*, describing the more vulgar way to consume a ripe fig...

'Gerald? Are you asleep? Gerald!' His delicious reverie was eroded by the ever growing fractiousness of Susan's voice. Like Rupert, she should really learn to relax. 'Rupert and Angela will be over shortly. Had you forgotten?'

Angela? Whatever had happened to the lovely Maria? Oh yes... divorced. Rupert had been very careless in his treatment of such a prize. He recalled her velvety skin, plump like a peach. Unlike Susan's, Maria's hands did not carry the rasp of sandpaper as she explored his body. Her fingers did not sport the cracks and fissures gained from constantly rubbing down woodwork or preparing vegetables. With her persistent desire for perfection, Susan had been pared down to resemble a handful of *al dente* julienne carrots. Whereas sinking into

Maria's arms had been to lose oneself in the folds of a well upholstered sofa...

'The grass, Gerald! It needs cutting before they get here. It won't happen with you sitting here. And Con has been here all day.'

'Yes, dear.' He reluctantly obeyed her, moving his lounge up the few steps to the terrace.

'Sorry to disturb you, sir, but the missus is expecting me home for tea.'

Good old Cornelius! Of course, he had made the man what he was today. When Gerald had first taken him on, all those years ago, he was nothing but a general handyman. He had known nothing about gardening. To him, all plants were either brambles or briars and had to be disposed of accordingly. But with the loan of Gerald's library of gardening books, the man had become a real asset. In fact, he had become indispensable.

Con had started up the lawnmower's engine and was proceeding to cut neat velvety swathes in the lawn. He raised his voice as he passed close to Gerald, recumbent once more.

'I've pruned the espalier trees, sir, and next week I'll make a start on the...'

But Gerald was no longer listening. His mind was wandering over the, as yet, uncharted hills and valleys of... Angela.

Although Jane Bean enjoys writing short stories, she also writes novels.

Harry Flashman, Tom Ripley and Bryce Walker meet in a backwater town in the Wye Valley and morph into a teenager called Darren.

The Main Man Trilogy is a series of contemporary novels aimed at the 16+/adult market. They depict friendship and misplaced loyalty, coercion, deceit, jealousy and... revenge. With a Nature or Nurture theme, they also include a sprinkling of suspense and black humour –together with an antihero who you will love to hate.

Books 1 and 2 are available on Amazon in both paperback and eBook formats, or you can contact the author for a copy by emailing via her website www.janebean.co.uk

Book 1 His Willing Marionettes: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07PBKTZMF

Book 2 Tightening His Grip: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07SS999VK



Book Review



Who would join a book group? Not I. With foreboding, I eventually succumbed and what fun! We have read, enjoyed and discussed many books; a very brief precis on one will follow, but if you have spare time, enjoy reading and have ever considered joining a book group, please do; it is usually a fun evening with friends and not at all stuffy!

Our last book was the latest from Kate Atkinson entitled 'Transcription'. (Our book group take turns in suggesting a 'good read'). It had mixed reviews:

I Loved it, for the beautiful words plus the excitement and intrigue of a spy story mixed in with a wartime, and sometimes mundane life style. - **Pauline Bonner**

I was not so keen, although I liked the main character, Juliet; tender in her memories of her mother and past 'real life' and normal in her attraction to Perry (misguided though it was!) She was clearly very intelligent and her under-played 'gutsiness' was an essential trait for her job. However, her ability to 'be' anyone she wanted and lie so blatantly was her true gift to the Secret Service. The other characters were well drawn; any of them could have been Philby et al, but I got confused whether people were double agents or not. I wanted Juliet to be genuine and wondered how she came to be back in London in the '80s. What had happened in the interim? I wasn't sure whether Kate Atkinson's discussion of who people really were worked for me. It wasn't the page turner I expected.

We score each book at the end of the session and to date (if you are looking for a good read) our favourite, was 'Black Water Lilies' by Michel Bussi. It was a very close decision, as we have liked many of the choices. - **Liz Scott**

Although opinions of the book were mixed, this made for a good discussion. The people who enjoyed it most had not read any other of Kate Atkinson's books – the others feeling that it wasn't her best. However, our average scores out of 10 were:

Pleased to have read: 7.7, Enjoyed: 6.7, Learnt: 6.6, giving an overall score of 7. A pretty good recommendation, I feel.

Jane Bean

Happy reading from the 'Cover to Cover Girls'.

Although we're not looking for new members, there are several more book groups in Charmouth. Or why not start one yourself?

Poetry Corner

CHARMOUTH'S CHEAPER TOO

By Peter Crowter

Holidays in Greece or Spain,
Means hopping on an aeroplane.
And they may call it easyJet,
But I've not found it easy yet.

Greece and Spain are lots of fun,
Warm sea and sand and lots of sun.
But getting there can be a pain,
Especially that aeroplane.

Airport car parks cost a bomb,
A bus will take you to and from.
You hope the bus stop will be near,
You have to lug a load of gear.

The buzz-word after that is queue,
'Cause that is all you seem to do.
You stand in line to dump your bags,
The lady sticks on paper tags.

Next to another queue you go.
That you're secure they like to know.
You must remove your shoes and belt,
And then you'll get your body felt

And after this a lengthy wait,
Then walk a mile to find the gate,
Oh no, and then we queue again,
To get aboard the flipping plane.

Much more of this is hard to face.
And Dorset's such a lovely place.
By now you wish you'd stayed at home,
Charmouth's charming, so why roam?

DO I KNOW YOU?

What happened to the woman I knew so well?

Legs up to her armpits, just like a gazelle.

My face now wrinkled and somewhat lined

When formerly it glowed, so smooth and defined.

Hair once so shiny, a vivid red..

Now covered in silver, just like a fine thread.

I had a great appetite for good food and wine

But now live on Gaviscon most of the time!

Well known for stilettos and designer hats

Now sporting a beret and comfortable flats.

In my handbag I carried posh perfume for thrills

It's now crammed to the brim with all sorts of pills!

Along with free coupons and various passes

Not to mention bi-focals and prescription sunglasses.

I count my blessings as I can still get about

I'm not stuck indoors or suffering from gout.

Growing old disgracefully is now my main aim,

I'm immaturing with age... I'm a feisty old dame!

Kath Kingsley, Charmouth



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Birding Update - Focus on Spring Migration

I love the sights and sounds of spring migration here on the Lyme Bay coast. It's been a very busy time and Charmouth beach has played host to some very nice wading birds which have stopped off to rest and refuel on their way north to their breeding grounds. So I thought I would describe some of the spring birding highlights which it's been my privilege to witness on the local patch.

Two Whimbrel (smaller but similar in appearance to the Curlew) visited the outflow to the river on the morning of 6th May. They didn't stay long but left flying high over the beach car park heading north over the village whistling goodbye with their distinctive call of six or seven fluty notes and reminding me of its old country name of 'Seven Whistler'. Four more Whimbrel touched down at low tide on the 9th. Amazing to think that these birds travel such huge distances from their wintering grounds in Africa, flying over Western Europe, with some continuing over the north Atlantic to breed as far away as Iceland.

Two Turnstones and a Ringed Plover were seen on the beach on 14th May. There was another (or the same) Ringed Plover present for four days from 17 - 20th May. Favouring the area of beach around the high tide mark in front of the blue beach huts, it spent a lot of time feeding with 30 or 40 Pied Wagtails. The photo below shows this lovely little bird.



Ringed Plover showing its smart head pattern from which it gets its name

Plovers tend to feed in a characteristic unhurried way with frequent pauses interspersed with several quick steps forward to catch prey items. And it's when this individual was stationary that it 'disappeared' into its stony surroundings, presumably a very successful survival technique! Feeding on sand hoppers and flies in its deliberate way, it seemed relatively unconcerned by the proximity of the busy car park, only 30 or so metres distant and with all the consequent bustle and activity. It was great to observe this bird at such close quarters. Although strikingly marked (see photo), the banded plumage to its head and neck surprisingly help it to blend in very well with the shingle and rounded pebbles on our stony beach. So at first glance it was often very difficult to find. And it was only when it moved that it became more visible.

Two days later, on 22nd May, I recorded my highest count to date of another lovely small wader when 17 Sanderling paid a visit to the west beach. Smaller flocks were present in the following few days, with 14 on 24th, seven

on 25th and 10 on 31st – a really good spring passage for this bird species. If Plovers as a group feed in the slow deliberate fashion I've just described, then the Sanderling's technique is very different. It's all action, rushing to and fro, running backwards and forwards as each wave breaks over the wet sand and seaweed to peck at tiny food morsels. Most of these small flocks were very flighty, frequently taking fright to fly out over the waves, before returning as a group to a quieter area of the beach. One group, however, were very confiding and approached fairly close to where I was sitting quietly on the beach. I was quite pleased with how this photo turned out. It shows a beautiful adult Sanderling in breeding plumage complete with lovely red eye-patch.



Sanderling showing rufous tones of its summer plumage – on its way to the high Arctic

Just along the coast at Lyme Regis the regular flock of Purple Sandpipers and the immature male Eider Duck which have been around for most of the winter months were still showing until late May.

Away from the coast, two Nightjars were seen and heard 'churring' at Trinity Hill on 13th May. A day later I was delighted to get a report that those aerial masters, the Swifts had returned to their regular nesting site in a house on the west side of the village.

So there's been plenty to see birding-wise in our local area this spring. But what, for me, was the highlight? There have been quite a few! Maybe it was the first Wheatear arriving in/off the sea and landing on a rock next to me on the beach. Or maybe, after the long winter months, it was seeing the first Swallow hawking for insects around some farm buildings? Or maybe that moment in early May, as dusk settles, hearing the eerie 'churring' of the first returning Nightjar? To the Birder, the arrival of these birds are all a sign that spring has truly arrived and the warm summer months will soon be upon us. All these are great moments in the birding calendar and which, for me, encapsulate our birds' spirit, energy and determination to leave their wintering grounds and fly northwards to seek out new, rich habitats, a nesting site and a mate so that they may successfully pass on their genes to the next generation.

But there was one other highlight for me this spring. My best birding moment of spring 2019 came unexpectedly on 16th May when I witnessed part of a strong passage of Pomarine Skuas here in Charmouth. Talk to most birders and they will say that yes,

Skuas in general are very special birds indeed. And Pom Skuas, although regularly seen on passage, are extra special. They are hunters and predators wintering off the coast of West Africa and breeding on the Arctic tundra. In spring, like so many birds, they are compelled to track northwards. Earlier in the season I'd been fortunate to see a Great Skua and a few Arctic Skuas flying past Portland Bill, Dorset. But on 16th the reports I was getting on the birding grapevine had added spice! That day there had been sightings of Skuas all along the Sussex and Kent coast of the English Channel. From Selsey to Dungeness reports were coming in to say that Pomarine Skuas were also on the move travelling in small flocks of up to nine or 10 individuals. If there are Skuas about, then count me in! Although here in Dorset we are many miles to the west of these earlier reports, I thought I would have a go at seawatching. So that evening I took up station at the seafont on the bench down by the Coastwatch lookout. Despite these encouraging reports, I settled without much expectation into my evening seawatch, binoculars and telescope at the ready. After all, this is not the Faroe Islands; this is a quiet corner of the English Channel tucked away at the top of Lyme Bay. Have to say it was a bit slow in the first hour with only a few gulls, one or two cormorants and 22 distant Manx Shearwaters to show for my efforts. Still it was a pleasant evening. Why not give it another hour or so?

And my intuition and persistence was rewarded when, at 18.05, checking a group of gulls flying midway between Charmouth and Lyme, suddenly there they were, four Pomarine Skuas complete with long tail 'spoons'.



Pomarine Skua ©RSPB

Unmistakeable! Superstar birds on their way up from the southern Atlantic Ocean and flying in a small flock passed our village. A quick check with the telescope and the binoculars and then they were gone. And that was it, a few fleeting seconds to admire their powerful and graceful beauty. These are rare migratory birds and, as luck would have it, I was in the right place at the right time to experience one of the wonders of the birding world. A very special moment indeed. And hopefully next year I'll be lucky enough to see them again, however fleetingly. Brilliant birds, showing that migratory drive, pushing them close by and flying past our village on their way to breed and complete the circle of renewal. Spring migration! Can't wait for the autumn, but first the long summer months.

Happy Summer Birding!

Richard Phillips Twitter: @CharmouthBirder

Charmouth Scout Group News

New Fund Ensures 'No Barriers to 'Skills for Life'

If your son or daughter wants to join Beavers, Cubs or Scouts but you are worried about the cost, then here is some great news. The 1st Charmouth Scout Group has been awarded a grant by The Dorset Community Foundation & Wessex Water to ensure there are no barriers to 'Skills for Life' (the new slogan adopted by the Scouts to describe the benefits derived by its members).

So, if cost of the termly subscription or uniform means your son/daughter missing out, then contact Kevin Payne, Group Scout Leader on 07976 534517. Age ranges: Beavers 6 & 7 years; Cubs 8 - 10; Scouts 10 - 14; Explorers 14 - 17.

Cubs



Duct tape to the rescue

The uses for duct tape seem to be endless. In this case the Cubs used it, in conjunction with some metal tent poles, to make emergency stretchers. Much to their amazement, the tape was more than strong enough to support a fully grown Cub. To test their casualty handling skills 'in the field', each Six loaded their stretcher up with a heavy tent (safer than using a living specimen) and manoeuvred it around the climbing frames, bridges and slides in the recreation ground. Bearing in mind the tent fell out on numerous occasions, I think the Cubs will wait for a proper ambulance crew if they ever get badly injured!



Moguls prove no problem for box karters

In addition to sprint and slalom races, the Cubs tested their box karting prowess by tackling the fearsome mogul mounds at the far end of the Barrs Lane recreation ground. Although most of the teams managed to steer their kart around the correct course, some managed to slide off the side and incur a variety of time penalties. But, after a few laps of practice, most were speeding over the mounds, tackling the bends and giving their drivers a really scary time!

Scouts



Back to basics at East Lulworth

Prior to Easter, the Scouts spent a weekend in East Lulworth and tried their hands at a bit of 'back to basics' camping. All three Patrols cooked meals on wood - using pots and pans to prepare breakfast and dinner, and aluminium foil and old metal biscuit tins for their lunchtime toasted sandwiches and pizzas. They also made 'camp dressers' to hold their washing-up bowls and draining racks and undertook a five-mile night hike. For their summer camp, the Scouts are off to a site near Barnstaple, where they have access to climbing and bouldering walls, caving tunnels, archery and air rifle shooting ranges, pioneering and an assault course.

To complete their Astronomy badges, six Scouts visited the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth. After a presentation about the solar system, during which the Scouts were able to answer the host's questions based on their previous badge work, it was off to the planetarium for an introduction to the signs of the Zodiac. A bit of night-time navigation was thrown in as well, with a guide to how to find the North Star in Ursa Major. Luckily, it was a very clear night so the Scouts were able to see mountains and craters on the moon in fantastic detail, courtesy of the observatory's most powerful telescope.



Stars in their eyes

Suitably impressed, the Scouts returned to HQ for hot chocolate, biscuits and a sleepover.

Kevin Payne

Charmouth Guides

It's been another busy term, with the introduction of the new Guide program. There has been first aid, photography and we had a life coach in to show the girls mindfulness and fitness. We have also been building fires, learning knots and preparing for camp in the summer. We went on a weekend 'Ugly Safari Camp' to Dudsbury with Dorset Guides, which was thoroughly enjoyable. We took part in many activities and made some new friends.

Coming up we have our annual cookout at a local farm, where the girls cook outside over open fires which they have prepared and set alight. There is usually a competition to see who can cook the most interesting starter, main and pudding. We are having a weekend at Charmouth Tunnel Pods, with various crafts, cooking and other activities taking place. We are also having a party as two of our older guides have completed

the Baden Powell Award which is one of the hardest awards to obtain. They have had to do many tasks and badges over the last 12 months to get the award, including some time on Brownsea Island, so not many girls can achieve it. We are all very proud of them and what they have done. Our Division Commissioner is coming over to award the badges.

In the summer holidays we are going to Foxlease in Hampshire for a camp with other guides from our Division. If you are between the ages of 10 and 14 or older and want to get involved, please get in touch with Davina Pennells on 01297 560965.

Debbie Thatcher



Beavers News



A fun-packed spring term saw us continue at full strength with 18 beavers. As the oldest move up to Cubs, they have been replaced with new Beavers eager to start. We have been very lucky with support from many of our parents, either helping on an ad hoc basis or joining us as adult helpers or Assistant Leaders. My daughter Freya still helps as a Young Leader.

We have been very busy with activities, with several craft nights, creating lovely gifts for Easter and Mother's Day. We celebrated the 70th anniversary of Commonwealth Day by learning facts about Scouts from different Commonwealth countries around the world. And we cooked pancakes for Pancake Day!

We have made the most of the outdoors this term, going on a hike round the Symondsbur Estate, taking part in archery, javelin and hurdles as part of our Mini Olympics, learning about the importance of exercise and fitness, and testing our pulses before and after racing our box carts round the playing fields. We ran so fast we got our pulses from 60 to 110 and earned us our Health & Fitness Badge!

The highlight was our celebration of all things Irish for St Patrick's Day. We learnt about the shamrock and the significance of the colours on the flag. We all wore green and danced and sang our hearts out to Michael Finnegan!

This term we have a talk by a RNLI Lifeguard about beach safety, and will be building bird boxes, rock pooling and finishing the term with a beach party.

We are very proud of all our Beavers' achievements, especially those who have been awarded their BRONZE awards (the highest accolade awarded to a Beaver Scout). At Easter, our District Commissioner personally came to award the most recent ones.

Beavers are boys and girls aged 6 to 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 Raccoon at karen.southcott@btinternet.com

Karen Southcott



Explorers

SPAIN, APRIL 2019

Over the Easter holidays a group of Explorers embarked on an exciting adventure to the Sierra Nevada, Southern Spain, completely oblivious to the excitement that the week ahead would bring. On the first day we awoke to the sight of mountains covered in a thick coat of snow, which couldn't have been more different to the hot sunny weather most of us were hoping for. Nonetheless, we got ourselves all wrapped up and ready to face the freezing temperatures and bitter winds. After about two hours of walking there was no sign of any snow and the sun was getting warmer by the hour. By the end of the day we were all having a fantastic time.

Each day we trekked over 20km of dusty tracks, steep mountains and often through beautiful tranquil villages. The weather continued to improve over the week as we climbed up to the tops of mountains to be rewarded with the most stunning views and often a breeze which would cool us down.

In the evenings, although tired from the day's walking, we laughed, chatted, played games and enjoyed fantastic food which fuelled us for each and every day of our walks. By the final day of walking, most people were aching and the thought of the finishing point was exciting. The challenge we embarked on had enabled friendships to grow and the Explorers were able to share a strong memory of a great trip and an amazing achievement.

On the last day, we packed our bags and headed to Malaga where we made the most of every second of sunshine we could, lying on the beach for a couple of hours before our flight, even some of the daring and brave going for a quick dip in the sea, although it wasn't very warm at all. We finally headed to the airport, wishing that we could stay in the warm sun for just a little longer. Although the trip had come to an end, the memories of the incredible time we had remained with us.

Alex Moorey Explorer Scout

Explorer Scouts

With more new recruits, we have focused on team building activities and games, plus the usual favourites of fires and cooking. We welcomed Judge Allan Gore to talk to us about how the law works and his job. More recently we visited Woodhayes Stables and went Stand-up Paddle-Boarding in Portland.

This summer Freya will be joining 45,000 other Scouts at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in the USA. It is believed she is the first Charmouth Scout to attend such a prestigious event. Also in July, Alex, Alfie, Mark, Megan and Sean are off to Kenya where they will be undertaking community work projects such as: developing Baragu Health Centre, improving houses for needy families and repairing school classrooms. Each has raised £2,200 to fund their expedition and community work.

Lucy and her sister, Annabelle will be visiting Tanzania in 2020 to conduct similar community work projects. They both have to raise £3,500.

*Explorer Scouts are aged between 14 and 18 years. We meet at the Scout Hut, Barrs Lane, Charmouth on a Wednesday evening between 6.30 and 8.00pm. For further information, please contact **Melanie Harvey** 01297 560393*

THE KITCHEN GARDEN CHARMOUTH

The setting up of a market garden has been something we have been thinking about for many years. Six years ago Nicola and I were living in a rented house on the top of Dartmoor. We had a small garden, but nothing we could do anything with. Luckily my parents allowed us the use of a paddock on which to put up a poly tunnel and create a vegetable garden. The garden was very productive, and kept us amply supplied with vegetables and fruit, as well as allowing us to sell some salad bags locally. This garden, though, was predominantly about supplying our own needs. The only downside was that it was a 20 minute drive away and not outside our own back door.

We were very lucky to find our house in Charmouth with such a good size garden, which has allowed us to create that vegetable garden outside the back door, as well as keeping some goats, chickens and bees. It also rekindled thoughts of starting a market garden, but again there was the problem of land. After some enquiries however, we were very fortunate to be given the use of a two acre field in Charmouth. This was in November last year, and since then a lot of work has gone in to creating a vegetable garden from waist-high pasture. I have initially concentrated on 0.15 of an acre, putting up a poly tunnel, creating outside beds and digging an irrigation pond fed by a spring.

Despite the initial focus being on the infrastructure and forming the beds, the garden has started to be productive,



and we have been having a stall most Saturdays in the Village Hall, Wesley Close, 10.00am – 12.30pm. My aim has always been to sell the produce within the village where it is grown, as long as there is the appetite for it, and judging by many of your positive comments, there is. In a world that seems to be moving increasingly away from local production and consumption, this was important to me.

Thank you to all those who have supported us thus far, and as I have mentioned to many of you, this being the first year there may be times when the crops come in fits and starts, and some of my best laid plans don't work out. However given time, I hope to create a market garden here in Charmouth to provide a regular supply of fresh vegetables, fruit and cut flowers grown without chemicals for the community.

In the future I hope to have a stall two or three times a week at various venues in the village. People have been kind enough to offer me some options. This would be good, as to my mind, fresh, local produce should not just be a once a week indulgence.

I mentioned earlier our goats and bees, and at some point would like to add our honey and goats milk soap to the stalls.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions. Our Facebook page is 'Kitchen Garden Charmouth,' and I post any information on upcoming stalls on the Charmouth Noticeboard Facebook page and on other village noticeboards. I look forward to seeing you.

Charlie Kennerley



32 day Barn Owlet.



Husband Bob holding Kahn, the Golden x Russian Steppe Eagle with John the falconer.

Hoping and Preying

After several cool and unseasonably wet weeks, we were hoping for good weather during our time at Yarak Birds of Prey at Langford Mill Farm near Cullompton (off Junction 28 of the M5). Fortunately, we were blessed with a warm and sunny day for what was to be an unforgettable experience.

Our group was welcomed by John, the falconer, who has lived and breathed birds of prey since he was seven years of age; Harriet a veterinary student; and Josh, an eminently capable 13-year-old, a young naturalist in the making.

The timing of the visit was fortunate, as we were able to see and stroke fluffy grey barn owlets, hatched 28 to 32 days

previously. In the flying barn we watched Little Tig, a White Faced Scops Owl and Freddie, a barn owl, displaying their flying skills to perfection, trained with care and the greatest of sensitivity by John.

After a good, home-cooked lunch, we headed for the large outdoor flying field where we donned leather gauntlets and experienced literal hands-on encounters with several birds of prey, including Kahn a magnificent Golden x Russian Steppe Eagle – very heavy on one's arm. We were given chicken pieces and, one by one, the smaller birds flew to us to retrieve them.

On our return to the flying barn, we were joined by Buffy, the Bengal Eagle Owl. As we followed John's instructions to extend our arms and then lie down, Buffy flew silently above us, so close that we could feel the draught from her wings. For the finale – a mouse's view of an owl – we stood in pairs at one end of the barn, as Buffy flew directly towards us, settling on a perch just above our heads.

The relaxed pace of the day led by John, the fascinating knowledge he imparted and the variety of activities with the birds was honed to perfection. I cannot praise Yarak and John enough. If you want an experience like no other, phone 01884 277297 or check www.yarakbirdsofprey.co.uk

Lesley Dunlop

With thanks to James & Jessica for a memorable birthday gift choice.

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A Message from Edward Morello

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE FOR DORSET WEST

In April, hundreds of volunteers from across the county took part in the Great Dorset Beach Clean 2019. It was a weekend when groups across Dorset headed to the coast to help clear the beaches from litter and all sorts of unwanted rubbish that gathers on our shorelines. I spent the Saturday helping on Charmouth beach. Together we filled many bags full of rubbish and helped make sure the beach was looking its best for the busy summer ahead.

It hasn't been just on the coastline that people have been taking action to protect the environment. Since the beach clean in April, we have held our first election as a unitary authority and the new Dorset Council's opening act was to declare a climate emergency. In doing so, Dorset joined Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset in recognising the importance of acting now and acting fast to prevent a climate catastrophe. The next step is to put words into action.

As well as each of us 'doing our bit', we may also believe that the big issues such as Climate Change are best dealt with at the highest levels. Unfortunately, history has shown that nations are not very good at working together in a unified fashion, or acting in the interest of others when those interests run contrary to their own. When it comes

to Climate Change, it can feel like those in power are dragging their feet, and some people are tired of waiting for our political leaders to act. This is why once a month, on a Friday morning, young people across Dorset are walking out of their classes as part of 'School Strike 4 Climate'. I've spoken to these young activists and they are passionate. They believe, as I do, that we must act now while we still can.

While we must continue to put increasing pressure on our representatives to take the threat seriously, there is plenty we can be doing locally; from recycling and repurposing, to rewilding. If you have a patch of garden that you can leave to grow wild, you'll be helping support nature and biodiversity.

Planting specifically to help protect our bee population is as important as it is beautiful, from early spring bulbs like Crocus, through to late flowering plants such as Dahlias.

If you want to go one step further, you can even have a go at growing your own food. On our own humble veg patch, we have been able to try unusual varieties that aren't grown commercially. We are currently growing a range of potato and tomato varieties, as well as having a go at growing asparagus and pumpkins for the first time. And if digging and weeding isn't for you, buying local produce dramatically reduces our environmental impact and helps support local businesses at the same.

I'll let you know how we get on with the vegetables and, in the meantime, I'd love to hear from you about what you think we can be doing in Charmouth and the surrounding areas to help fight Climate Change and improve our environment. Please get in touch via email: edward.morello@west-dorset-libdems.org.uk



Charmouth/Asnelles Twinning Association

'Charmouth Twinners' have just enjoyed a splendid weekend over in Asnelles, Normandy. As is customary, we have been wined and dined magnificently, as well as enjoying visits to numerous tourist sights in the surrounding areas. Of course, our hosts are delightful with their warm welcome and the 'elephant in the room' was hardly mentioned... hurrah; although there were a few derogatory comments on poor Macron who is not the 'flavour of the month' in France. A brief resume of the visit is as follows:-

On the first day we visited the Roche d'Oëtre region and the Rouvre gorges (a massive rocky outcrop dominated by the oldest mountain in France), quite a scary climb and view! An exceptional lunch (Normandy cuisine) followed, whilst cruising on a very grand Val d'Orne houseboat on the Rabodanges Lake. Wow; a hard act to follow! Onwards we went (for the cultural part of our visit), first to the beautifully

decorated Church of Saint-Vigor, then on to a beautiful Chateau 'Domaine de Pontécoulant' which we toured, followed by tea in a marquee (not quite Dorset/Devon cream teas, but we were replete from lunch time).

The second day was different for all... individual hosts held a variety of visits, lunch parties and general 'Joie de vivre'. Of course, the D-Day Normandy landing was of great importance at the time of our visit and, as well as the 'vin d'honneur', we attended a wreath laying ceremony in Asnelles. The evening gathering of many Asnelles friends was, as usual, a delightful (if exhausting) wining, dining and dancing occasion.

If any newcomers reading this article wish to join the Charmouth/Asnelles Twinning Association, we would be delighted to welcome you. We spend one weekend in the year in Asnelles, then the following year we host the French Twinners for a weekend here in Charmouth. We hold fund raising occasions in Charmouth in order to cover the expenses of our turn at hosting.

Peter Bonner



Church of Saint-Vigor



Chateau 'Domaine de Pontécoulant



Lunch on the Val d'Orne

Mike Lake's Quarter-Century of Building in Charmouth



Photo: Neil Mattingly

Mike Lake knows Charmouth and its houses well. Very well in fact. During his 26 years as a builder in the village, he designed, developed, built, renovated or maintained the majority of them. Recently he came across a pile of file folders containing his notes on insulation materials and photographs of the houses he built. Looking through them, his memories began to flow.

Mike's connection with Charmouth started when his friend Derek Shuttleworth invited him to stay in the village at his father's holiday bungalow in Higher Sea Lane. The bungalow had been built by Dennis Bowditch who then owned Childs & Son. Derek's father, Fred Shuttleworth, director of a large timber merchants in Uxbridge, had joined forces with Dennis Bowditch and established an ironmongery business at Morgans. Their builders' yard, at the rear of Devonedge, comprised an office, several stone store buildings, a large joinery workshop and a sizeable area for heavy material storage.

Mike's career as a quantity surveyor progressed to a directorship of a building company in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Several years later, he and Derek, by then director of a large timber merchants in Slough and Maidenhead, became business partners and formed a development company which they named Kidmore Construction Company. If you're wondering whether Mike had anything to do with Kidmore Close, you're absolutely right.

Mike's early projects in Charmouth included the purchase at auction of Stow House on The Street, which Childs & Son renovated, the extension of a cottage at Stonebarrow House for Dr. Vellacot and a development of five houses at Overton Close, off Timber Hill in Lyme Regis. At that time, Childs & Son was a contractor to Kidmore Construction Company and now under Mike's ownership, Mike having purchased the business in 1974 together with the builders' yard, offices and stores. He came to live in Charmouth with his wife Diane and young son Simon.

Mike and Derek, under the direction of Kidmore Construction Company, purchased part of the site off St. Andrew's Drive that became Kidmore Close from the then-owner of Littlehurst (now the doctors' surgery) on The Street and the southern end from Len Elliot,

who owned Sea Horse Hotel (Sea House) on Higher Sea Lane. Due to Derek's timber trade connections, the first nine houses in Kidmore Close were based on a modular wooden frame. "M.F. Lake Ltd. was contracted to Kidmore Construction to execute infrastructure works for the road, paths, drainage, etc. along with the erection of the outer walls, roofing and internal finishes.



Newly built houses in Kidmore Close

"The beauty of development in the '70s and '80s was that if a site came up in Charmouth, I would phone the bank manager who lived in Lyme Regis and mention the location. He'd know exactly where it was and would say "go ahead and buy it", and I was able to make an immediate purchase." But in later years the banks demanded full details of the schemes, viability schedules and by the time an approval for the overdraft to enable the project to proceed, the site would have been sold. Not only that, but instead of enabling an overdraft to purchase the site immediately, it became necessary to put up front 50% of the costs. I had great visions for the development of Hammonds Mead with Georgian houses and terraces of cottages replicating those in The Street", says Mike.

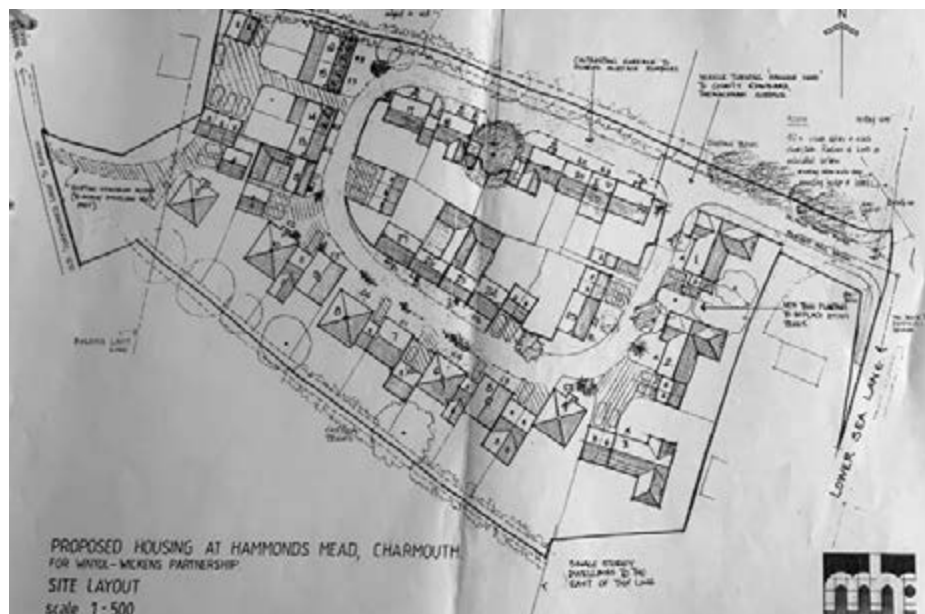
Amongst the houses that Mike built in Charmouth are The Tallett, Hazelwood House, Lakestone, Counos, Raj Medvedu, The Old Orchard, Brock House and the small detached house adjacent to the former Council office in Charmouth. Mike undertook renovation work on St. Michael's Church in Lyme Regis, Lyme Regis Council Offices at the Guildhall and the old West Bay railway station. "The major roof and restoration work on Lyme Regis Museum

proved a challenge for our carpenters, but they were brilliant. One was Keith Waterson; he had great input" remarks Mike, who employed a direct labour force of 12. His most memorable renovation was the full-size rear extension to Umbrella Cottage in Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis, which mirrors to perfection the original building.

"Realising that most purchasers coming to this area were seeking a house more suited to their retirement needs, I designed and built a few chalet bungalows to provide full accommodation on the ground floor with two bedrooms and a bathroom above for guests or family visitors. Rightly or wrongly, I used reconstituted stone for the walls to make the properties viable as building land was becoming limited and the demand high. Later on, I designed several traditional buildings, based on the attractive Georgian and Victorian houses on The Street. I was always busy."

Over the years, Mike built 20 houses in Charmouth, 19 in Lyme Regis, three each in Chideock, Kilmington and Uplyme and one each in Hawkchurch and Wootton Fitzpaine and a Pottin timber frame house in Woodhouse Hill in Lyme Regis, as well as the cricket pavilions in Uplyme and Kilmington. He purchased the rectory in Hawkchurch, designed and built by the author Thomas Hardy, and put in a planning application for land alongside, on which he built a house in Purbeck stone.

Mike organised the renovation of the meeting room at St. Andrew's Church. "I instigated repairs, including the removal of the floor and plaster, relocated the small kitchen area on the north side and created a disabled toilet. I also undertook renovation work at Charmouth Lodge in the days of the Whittington sisters, meeting them and their nephew and on No. 1 Hillside. Repair work on the old Hammonds Mead Hotel turned into a regular job. The roof tiles and vertical exterior tiles were all handmade and were constantly delaminating and falling off."



The 200-year-old Sea Horse Hotel in Higher Sea Lane (Sea House), originally known as Gresham House, had been run as a hotel for some years. The building was in three parts: the main three-storey structure, which was constructed of Blue Lias, mixed with chert stone from the beach, which was delaminating and developing fractures; a two-storey addition at the north end; and a flat-roofed extension at the south end. For many years, it was the only house on Rockett's Lane (later Higher Sea Lane). But time took its toll and one morning in the mid-'80s the owners, Howard and Geraldine Wickes, phoned and in urgent tones asked Mike to come across. A guest in the dining room had been drinking grapefruit juice at breakfast and realised that the level of his drink was increasing by the minute. Looking upwards, he realised that water was

dripping through the ceiling and filling his glass. A pivotal moment, no doubt, which led to Mike's private purchase of Sea Horse Hotel. He had no difficulty securing planning permission to demolish it, being aided by the local Parish Council Chairwoman who backed the application, since the building was deemed unstable. Mike designed the replacement building, the 12 Sea Horse flats, and sub-contracted the work in 1987.

Mike moved office and yard to an industrial unit in the old station yard in Lyme Regis, at the same time moving family and house to Lyme. When in Lyme, he renovated/converted the electricity stores to what is now an art studio and micro-brewery, also forming the bridge and steps between the Mill and the car park at the bottom of Lyme's Broad Street.

Mike retired in 2001 and again in 2012 when his son Simon emigrated to Australia where he works for a family civil engineering company.

"I would like to add my gratitude to all the local tradesmen who worked for me and who gave such loyal service and produced such quality work that gave the firm a sound reputation. I do not like to mention names as I might accidentally miss some and thereby offend them, but they know who they are and without them it would not have been the same."

Lesley Dunlop

With thanks to Neil Mattingly for suggesting the article on Mike and initiating a joint meeting.

MUST BE QUACKERS

Having moved here from Aylesbury, I suppose it was inevitable that at some stage we would be adopted by the local ducks.

Last year we were regularly visited by a female and three male mallards. In April this year the same four ducks (as far as we could tell) returned and soon fell back into the routine of regular feeds of pelleted duck food. If we didn't notice their arrival, one would march into our conservatory and announce their presence with a loud quack and stare at us until food appeared. When not sleeping, bathing or preening they would wander around the garden rooting about amongst the bushes and in May we found out why.

Sitting under the rosemary bush by our patio door we noticed a freshly laid egg. Its colour, duck egg blue, revealed its origins. A quick internet search turned us into instant experts on what to expect and sure enough, every day for the next fortnight, another egg or two appeared in the nest which also filled with fluffy down feathers. The female paid little attention to the nest until one day she took up full time residence. For the next 28 days, apart from the odd hour's break when she'd have a wash and brush up and fly off down to the river, she remained seated on the nest.

Over breakfast on Spring Bank Holiday Sunday, the sound of cheeping ducklings caused a bit of a stir in our household. Mother duck appeared on the patio and soon three little ducklings had launched themselves off the twelve inch drop to join her. Gradually more and more appeared until mum had gathered an impressive 13 cute bundles of fluff together and proceeded to lead them down the flight of stairs into the garden. They were managing the fall down each step with seemingly no ill effects when mum stopped, cocked her head and marched them back up the stairs. To our surprise, another three ducklings appeared from the nest. Having almost been left behind, they joined their siblings and all 16 headed for our pond.

We were amazed at the resilience of the ducklings. They were incredibly quick, adaptable and brave, launching themselves into the water without hesitation, searching for food and leaping out to preen themselves. What they couldn't be aware of was the gathering circle of hungry crows and

gulls on the surrounding roof tops that had spotted them.

We left them to it. We knew it would be six weeks before they fledged and expected Mother Nature to take its course but hoped one or two might survive. When we checked 30 minutes later, they were no longer in the pond. They had moved downhill and were gathered by the gate. We could only assume they were trying to walk the three quarters of a mile from Higher Sea Lane down to the river.



We opened the gate and guided them past the houses and cars but they kept trying to head downhill and into people's fenced gardens where we knew they would get stuck. The only possible route would involve them going uphill, which they clearly didn't want to do. Should we pick them up and put them in a box to take to the river? Would this scare mum away for ever? A friend, Eden, who had experience with ducks was called. In the meantime our ducklings had tried to walk across a drain in the road and one had fallen in. We managed to prise the grid up and rescue it.

As the ducks sought respite under a bush, Eden arrived and we decided we had to pick the ducklings up. Mum stayed around, quacking vociferously, but we like to think that the trust we had built up over the weeks of feeding meant she somehow knew we meant no harm.

With all 16 ducklings secured, we headed off through the village, watched by bemused villagers and visitors, while mum quacked along behind us. She launched herself into the middle Lower Sea Lane but fortunately the cars stopped and we made our way safely to Wesley Close and into Seadown, mum walking along with us. At the river mum dived expectantly into the river and within

moments we had gently decanted the ducklings out of the box to join her.

The ducklings seemed none the worse for our intervention and we left knowing we had given them the best chance of survival. Last we heard, a week or so later, six of the ducklings still survived. We wonder how many will turn up on our doorstep next year?

More photos and videos of this little adventure can be seen at <https://youtu.be/YFWb-vf0Z8U>

Bill & Diana Burn



The top of The Street, 1874

The Well Head

The Well Head stands on the south side at top of The Street with a frontage that dates back to the 1930s. Behind it is a much older building, the history of which I will attempt to reveal in this article. The famous historian, Reginald Pavey, who did so much in his life to record the village's history lived in this house from 1926 until 1973. It is him I have to thank for providing the framework for the article. For he had the original deeds and in one of his notebooks listed them back to 1683 when it was owned by William Balston's widow. Unfortunately, they have since been lost in time, but I have tracked down all the information I can from old deeds, documents and records to fill in the gaps.

I am confident that, as with many other ancient houses in the village, there was a building on this site dating back to 1290 when the Abbot of Forde created a Borough in the village. This gave the opportunity for villagers to have their houses with half-acre plots behind on both sides of The Street. In time, many were amalgamated into acre holdings, as this was more viable. After the dissolution of the Abbey, the village came into the hands of the wealthy Sir William Petre. He carried out a detailed survey in 1564, which can still be seen in the Devon Record Office. It lists all the properties and his tenants in that year and is invaluable in tracing their history back. It shows that 'John Balston (dead) holds one burgage and his son, Anthony Balston, was now the tenant paying 6d rent a year.' This earlier house may still be incorporated into the property, as the original walls are very thick. The Balstons were an important family and in 1575 Anne Balston's will of 1575 lists a number of bequests to her family and friends. In 1642 William Balston appears on the Protestation List for the village. It is this gentleman who on his death in 1671 provided us with a link to the original deeds. For the first record in 1683 shows that his widow had inherited the property and sold it to George Mantle in that year. He was only there briefly and three years later sold it to William Hodder for £106. This gentleman was to die in 1695 and left the house to his wife, Mary, who soon after took out a mortgage of £14 on it.

The deeds reveal that she took further mortgages out in 1700 and 1708. She finally sold the property in 1711 to John Minson of Eype for £58, almost half of what her husband had originally paid for it.

In 1735 John had earlier purchased from Anthony Ellesdon 'all that cottage called Guppy's tenement, consisting of a messuage, garden and meadow called Commin Close containing an acre and common pasture in a common called Langmoor with the appurtenances formerly in the possession of George Mantle.' Guppy's Tenement was the adjoining house (now Melbourne House), whose land was later bisected by Old Lyme Road. He died in 1744, leaving the house to his wife, Anne. His will can still be seen in the Dorset Record Office. He is described as a Husbandman (free tenant farmer) and it was witnessed by Edward Bragge (Rector), John Keeth of Charmouth, William Chappell (Yeoman), John Goreing, (inn holder) and William Walter, who was to later purchase the property from his son Robert Minson for £71 in 1747.



The top of The Street showing The Well Head

William Walter, described as a mariner in the deeds, took out a mortgage with Benjamin Follett of Lyme Regis, a Lawyer and Town Clerk. He is shown as marrying Mary Thorne of Charmouth in 1740. He is only there briefly and sold the house to the local blacksmith, Samuel Burrow, in 1751. William remains in the village and his death is recorded in the parish records in 1759.

Samuel Burrow lived in a house where Nos.1-3 Hillside are today and although described as a blacksmith, he seems to have been somewhat of a developer and bought a number of properties in the village. These include what are today The Elms, The George Inn, Fernhill, Swiss and Bluff Cottages. To finance these, he borrows from the wealthy Walter Oke of Axmouth with a large mortgage. The original document regarding this is in the Dorset Record Office (DD/AL 29/8) and is very descriptive. An abstract is as follows: 'Walter Oke, the elder of Pinney, on the one part and Samuel Burrow of Charmouth, blacksmith of the other part and Nicholas Warren of Mincombe in the parish of Sidbury in Devon of the third part did mortgage in 1743 into the said Walter Oke, the elder all that said tenement by payment of £200 and interest. Now due £208, in the consideration of £104 paid to them by the said Nicholas Warren and

all that dwelling house, garden and orchard hereunto belonging containing by estimation one acre or more thereabouts formerly in the possession of Mary Hodder, widow afterwards of John Minson, since of Ann Minson, his widow, then of Robert Monson and late of William Walter, mariner. Premises are situated in Charmouth aforesaid and are now in the possession of Samuel Burrows.' This document is important in this article, as it confirms the progress of the house through various hands as revealed in the original lost deeds.



Melbourne House and The Well Head c1900

Amongst the entries in the 1754 Poor Rates for Charmouth is that for Samuel Burrows, Parsons Estate (Elms); Walters (Well Head); Hodders (Swiss and Bluff Cottages); and the George (George Inn), House (1-3 Hillside), Burgage and Langmore (Fernhill). He wasn't to keep them long and by 1758 they were in the hands of Walter Oke. He in turn sold The Well Head to Matthew Palmer of Plymouth, and in the same year it went from Samuel Palmer to his sister Mary Palmer. She was to live there until in 1770, when she sold it to John Adcock from London for £105. Again, the deeds are useful as they reveal that he leased it to Hurst Timberlake the following year. The Land Tax lists do not start for the village until 1780 and it is the following year that Lieutenant James Warden is shown as renting it from John Adcock.

James Warden may well have taken on the fine house before then, as this is the earliest year for which we have a record. In 1779 James married Elizabeth Newell Puddicombe Crowcher, who lived Chideock. Both were widowed and comfortably off and chose no doubt to move to the next village, where Elizabeth's family owned Wood Farm. James Warden and his new wife Elizabeth were to continue to live in the house until 1788, when he came into



Reuben Durrant at Foxley Farm c1890

a sizeable inheritance from his aunt, Hannah Parkes, and would go on to buy the Manor of Charmouth and ultimately end his life in a duel in 1792.



Reuben & Amelia Durrant in The Well Head garden c1890

In 1783 James Upjohn of Dorchester surveyed the village and provided for Francis Phipps Henvill, the Lord of the Manor, a fine map. Sadly, this has disappeared in the passage of time, but fortunately Reginald Pavey took detailed notes from the accompanying record book. This shows that John Adcock's house stood on two roods 15 Perches of land. The following year the property was sold to Lucius Bragge of Axminster, who was born in 1739 to Rev. Edward and Martha Bragge, Rector of Charmouth. He was not to own it long as he died in 1786 and the house was inherited by his brother John Bragge who already owned a number of properties in the village. He rented the house, which was then called Adcocks, to a number of distinguished residents including Rev. James Wilson and Samuel Taunton Esq. John on his death in 1807 left Cockwell and Hanscombe Farms in Whitchurch and the house to his son, William, a surgeon from Bristol, who took up that position in the village. He lived at 'The Court' with his wife Hester Mary and a son William John Bragge who is shown living there before his death in 1839. Their gravestone can still be seen today near the altar in the centre aisle of St. Andrew's.

We now come on to the aptly named John Bull who, with his family, were to own the house for over 60 years. In 1808 he paid £600 to Rev. Brian Coombes, the Trustee, for the house, which was a substantial amount at the time and £10 for the fittings. He was described as a 'Gentleman' in a village census carried out in 1813 and was shown to live there until his death in 1820. In his will he left his substantial estate, which included property in Axminster and Whitchurch Canonicorum, to his nieces Elizabeth and Sarah Shiles. They never married and lived in a house on Lyme Street in Axminster. Their father, Henry, a clothier, had married Elizabeth, sister of John Bull at Thorncombe in 1786. It was he who, until his daughters came into their inheritance, appears on the village Poor

Rates List, paying 6 1/2d for the house. He leased it to Henry Lambert and later Mrs. Griffiths. She was the widow of John Griffiths, whose marble memorial can be seen in St. Andrew's. He was a famous surgeon, whose clients included King George III wife, Charlotte. There is a significant change in 1825 when the Poor Rate is doubled to 1s.3d. His daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah, were then owners of what must have been a more substantial property which included a coach house and stables. Early photographs show it with a five-bay Georgian frontage, which must have been carried out in that year. They never lived there and the Poor Rates list a number of different tenants renting the house. The Tithe Map of 1841 is important as it shows the boundaries of the plot which is one rood 30 perches (almost 1/2 acre), which is slightly more than the 1783 survey. It coincides with the census carried out in the same year and from that we see Elizabeth Edwards, aged 92, was renting the house. She is shown as being of Independent Means and was to live there for another 5 years. She died in 1846, aged 97, which is remarkable for those times. The Poor Rates for the following year have William Potter renting the house. He appeared on the 1851 Census as a shoemaker, who later takes on a house across The Street from which to run his business. It is often only from the censuses carried out at the beginning of each decade that it is possible to gain information about a property and in the next census of 1861, it is shown as unoccupied.



The rear of Foxley Farm c1890

In 1863, Miss Elizabeth Shiles died in Axminster, aged 75 and five years later her sister, Sarah, passed away, also aged 75, leaving a substantial estate. This was the end of an era and in due course the house was to be sold by the trustees. The property was renamed 'Bruton House' in the 1871 census when Emilia Bond, a 'widow of independent means', living with her servant, is shown as renting the house. She was only there briefly, as in the same year Mrs. Anne Snowdon took on the lease with her young daughter, after the death of her husband, Thomas, a local Coastguard who had died the previous year aged just 43. She was joined by Captain Henry James Grant of Langmoor. When he died there in 1872, aged 49, he was buried with full naval honours by the Coast Guards in the Churchyard. The Bridport News reported that: 'The funeral was attended

by a large number of people and friends of the deceased, several officers and between 30 and 40 Coast Guardsmen, besides a number of gentlemen and tradesmen from Charmouth and the neighbourhood. The tradesmen of the town closed their shops and the blinds in the private houses were lowered during the whole of the morning as a testimony of esteem towards the deceased. He was buried with full naval honours by the Coast Guards and was buried in the churchyard.' There used to be a large stone anchor on his grave.



The Harrisons in The Well Head garden c1890

Anne Snowdon continued to live at Bruton House as housekeeper to the brother, Charles Grant, who was described in the census as an 'Imbecile'. It is difficult to know exactly how the house got its new name, but when it came up for sale in 1874, both the estate agents and solicitors were based in Bruton. It is described as follows:

'Bruton House. Charmouth. Dorset. To be sold by auction by Mr. T.O. Bennett, junior at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Charmouth, on Tuesday the 21st of July, 1874, at 5 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, the under-mentioned Desirable Property comprising all that convenient and commodious villa residence known as 'Bruton House' together with the small stable, coach house and other outbuildings, and large and productive garden thereto belonging, situated on rising ground in the picturesque and favourite watering place of Charmouth, about two miles from Lyme Regis and seven from Axminster and Bridport, held for the residue of a long term of 1000 years absolute. Bruton House is a pleasant and healthy residence commanding from the garden bold and extensive sea views. It contains five bedrooms with back and front staircase, the roof being well adapted for the fitting up of two roomy attics, dining and drawing rooms, the latter 19 ft. by 14ft. 3ins. With French window opening into the garden, and the usual convenient domestic offices. There is an excellent supply of pure water on the Premises, and the Rates and Taxes are moderate. To view, apply to Mr. W. Hoare, builder, Charmouth. Further particulars may be obtained of Messrs. T. O. Bennett and Son, Land Agents, Bruton, Mr. Charles Russ, Solicitor, Castle Cary, or of Mr. William Bennett, Solicitor, Bruton, Somerset'.



A procession in the 1950s, The Well Head on the left

The 1000-year lease that is referred to is probably one of the many given, when properties in the village were sold by Sir John Petre in 1575, which included The Elms. The annual rent to the Lord of the Manor was just five farthings. The new owner of Bruton House was George Richard Turner of Newlands, who continued leasing the house to Charles Grant, who in the 1881 Census was aged 52, and lived with Ann Snowdon, aged 44, his housekeeper and her daughter, Ethel, aged 17.

After the departure of Charles Grant in 1882, Bruton House was home to Rueben Durrant, aged 48, and his family. He had earlier rented Wood Farm in Charmouth and later leased Foxley Farm. The farmhouse for this was in what is Foxley Cottage and Badgers today. There were 22 acres of land behind it, stretching from Old Lyme Road to Higher Sea Lane. In 1857 he married Amelia Jane Salisbury, whose parents owned Sea Horse House, and they had five children. They seem to have rented Bruton House for the summer months as their name appears regularly as welcoming visitors to their house. There is a marvellous photograph of Mrs. Harrison and Miss Harrison (Mrs. Mann) in the garden when they stayed there before Little Hurst was purchased in 1889.

Reuben Durrant rented both Bruton House and the adjoining Foxley Farm, which came up for sale in 1900 with him as tenant. In 1907 the freehold of the house was offered for sale in auction by Tom Brown and Tom Edward Bennett Brown, with other properties and was sold for £605 to the wealthy Douglas Pass of Wootton Manor.

Reuben died in 1912, aged 80, and his widow stayed in the house until it was leased in 1921 by Francis Harvey and Constance Mary Davies. In 1924 the freehold was offered for sale by Douglas Pass and the particulars describe it as:

'The valuable small residence known as Bruton House situated on the main street of the village in all about 2r 23p, Messrs Rawlence and Squarey are instructed to sell by auction (unless previously sold by private treaty at the Coach and Horses, Charmouth on Wednesday June 25th 1924, at 1pm precisely, vacant possession on completion. It consists of Ground Floor - Hall, Drawing Room, Dining Room

First Floor - four bedrooms, Dressing Room and Lavatory; Second Floor - Attic Bedroom and Box Room; Domestic Offices - Kitchen, Back Kitchen and Larder.

Outhouses - Coach House or Garage for small car, Wash House with copper, Coal Store, Lavatory and Store.'

Finally, on the 30th July 1926, Ellen Adams of the Ship Hotel, Faversham, sold Bruton House to Reginald Pavey of Clifton for £1650. Of this sum, £650 was paid to Alfred Pass of the Manor, Wootton Fitzpaine, to repay a mortgage on the property.

He had been born in the village in 1884 and lived for a while at Charmouth Lodge, then called The Limes. After a time as a teacher at Clifton Preparatory School, he returned and spent the rest of his life here living at The Well Head. He renamed it after a large stone wellhead that was given by his old school as a retirement present. It still can be seen in the garden and has the date of 1926 on it, when he retired at the early age of 42. He lived in the house with his two sisters, Alice and Marguerite Pavey, as well as his mother until the time of her death in 1937.



Reginald Pavey

The Dorset Record Office has plans that were submitted in 1930 for a bathroom and other changes to be carried out by Ernest Gollop of Old Lyme Hill. It was no doubt he who was to reface the building from its Georgian frontage to one more contemporary for that era and incorporate the stables on west side. The other barn on the east side was to become 'Waverley Cottage'. We have him to thank for the marvellous collection of photographs, documents and notes relating to the village which he gave to the Record Office in Dorchester before his death in 1973, aged 89. In one of these he writes as follows:

'The Well Head is an old Jacobean cottage. Originally it had two rooms downstairs, about 12 ft. by 12 ft., and two bedrooms upstairs. The outside walls were between two and three feet thick, built of large beach stones. At some later period, a lean-to room was added on the south and the space between the cottage and that above roofed over. It was thatched and the original tree rafters can be seen in the attic. During the latter part of the 19th century, Reuben Durrant lived here and farmed Foxley. One of the front rooms was the kitchen and the lean-to, the dairy. The stable was between the two houses. There was no garden or railings in front of the house, and it is difficult to judge how much garden Reuben cultivated. At the top was a gateway into his fields, which now does not exist. Early in this century the house was considerably altered. The kitchen had a large window thrown out and became the dining room. The dairy then was turned into a kitchen and a small scullery added. The drawing room was enlarged by an addition of a large window facing the garden. Then it was converted into a passable sitting room, with an entrance from the drawing room. In making alterations, it was discovered how thick the walls were and the great size of the beach stones. The house looks larger than it is; there are only two good bedrooms and a dressing room. An attic runs the whole length of the house.'

After his death, the house was occupied by his gardener, Harold and his wife Vera White, until being sold by the executors to Mike Lake and William Reeves in 1976. They resold the house with a smaller garden to David and Margaret Bettes, the present owners, after keeping back a portion of the field on which part of Downside Close was later built.



The Well Head today

I wish to thank David Bettes for the opportunity to refer to his earlier article on his house in the Village Echo, No.7, 2002. If you wish to find out more about this house and many others in Charmouth, please go to my website: freshford.com and use the search engine on the home page.

Neil Mattingly

We Remember

Winthrop John Eliot Forsey

2nd August 1944 – 27th April 2019

John was born in Charmouth in August 1944 and, apart from a four-year stint in London in his late teens, lived here for his entire life. In fact, he didn't really like travelling outside of Dorset at all. He was very much a man of principle, with a strong sense of fairness, and would stand up for those who were less well-equipped to fight their own battles. Perhaps this stemmed from his own childhood, as his dad died in India during the Second World War and so John never knew him. He was brought up by his mum, Kathy, helped by her sister, Mary – both of whom were deaf. John himself, was great with children and formed a lovely bond with Matthew, the boy who lived next door and who has Down's Syndrome. He collected on behalf of the Gurkhas, whose fight for fair treatment has been well-publicised. And he loved his dogs, who were equally devoted to him. Yes, he could be stubborn and cantankerous at times, but at heart he was a kind and caring person



After primary school in Charmouth, John went to Woodroffe Grammar School, but formal education wasn't necessarily to his liking and, after a visit to the school by the recruiting officer, John headed off to the Metropolitan Police training college at Hendon in north London at the age of 16. After two years of training, John then spent another two years in the job, which included armed duty outside number 10 Downing Street and guarding the royal children.

But he missed his beloved Dorset too much and left the Met to return home. It was not long afterwards that John met Tricia, who herself had been away in Singapore. On the day she came back in early June of 1965, Tricia's sisters were going to meet up with her to go out that evening and, as they already had dates for themselves, they decided to set her up with a date too. The young man in question was a certain John Forsey, and the pair must have hit it off pretty quickly as they were married just over a year later on 8th October 1966 at St. Andrew's Church. Tricia said that the initial attraction was partly down to the fact that, for his age, John had a 'flash' car at the time – a Talbot soft-top.

John and Tricia headed off to Torquay to begin their honeymoon, and then on to Cornwall. It just wasn't Dorset, though, and John hated it in Cornwall, so on the Wednesday they came home.

Over the next few years they were blessed with the arrival of two sons, with Eliot being born in 1969 and then Charlie in 1971. The boys have wonderful memories of time spent with their dad as they grew up. He would take them out on his fishing boat from Charmouth beach and drag them behind the boat on makeshift wake-boards. They learnt to swim when John tossed them overboard whilst he was collecting up the pots. He would take them beating with him on shoots up at Chideock Manor. He took the boys to the Dorset dirt-bike club and they would go riding in Charmouth Forest and on farmland near Dorchester. Charlie continues the tradition and now takes his own boys dirt-biking.

John always made time to do fun things with Eliot and Charlie, despite the fact that he did physical work and must have been tired when he got home.

After leaving the police force, John had done various jobs including working as a chimney sweep and then in the building industry. In 1974 he went out to Canada to work on the construction of a new dam, but there was a big freeze and work had to stop, so John returned home. While working in construction, John learned shuttering carpentry, which involves making bespoke timber moulds for the manufacture of pre-cast concrete. He enjoyed this work and was involved in the installation of the lock gates at West Bay.

John then had his own business for a while, installing PVC guttering, fascias and soffits, and had council contracts to replace old cast iron guttering and wooden fascias. Eliot and Charlie remember helping their dad with some of this work as they got older.

By his mid-40s, John was in the fortunate position to be able to retire and indulge some of his other interests. His main passion was collecting military memorabilia, especially badges, uniforms and knives from the Second World War. It all started in the late 1960s when a friend of John's offered him a tin of military badges to repay a loan. John accepted and it sparked a lifelong interest in World War II memorabilia. He began to buy more items and did a great deal of research to inform his buying decisions. Over time, John built up a huge amount of

knowledge and became something of an authority on what was collectible and the history and value of different artefacts.

Tricia introduced John to computers and, although reluctant initially, he became adept at using the internet to facilitate his research and for buying and selling. Due to his comprehensive research, John bought and sold well and amassed a valuable collection of memorabilia. On one occasion he spotted a waistcoat for sale at around £20 and identified from the photograph that one of the badges on it was alone worth several hundred pounds.

John would also buy old military vehicles and restore them. He would often take one of his jeeps and head off to fayres and fetes to exhibit items from his collection,

always with a box to collect for the Gurkhas. This was one of the few things that would tempt John to travel outside of Dorset and he even went as far afield as Normandy and Luxembourg.

John was also something of an authority on bee-keeping, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who had also kept bees. Tricia bought John a hive for his 60th birthday, from which he produced some extremely tasty honey!

He also loved to be out walking with the dogs, usually either up the triangle hill between Charmouth and Lyme, or Stonebarrow Hill on the Golden Cap side of Charmouth.

John generally enjoyed good health throughout his life and it was only around the middle of last year that there was any sign to the contrary when John suffered a slight collapse after working on one of his vehicles at a friend's workshop in Bridport. In typical fashion, he played it down and even when he began to lose mobility in one of his legs and wondered if he had suffered a minor stroke he refused to go to the doctors. But, by early September, John could hardly walk and Tricia insisted on taking him to hospital. They kept him in for tests and a scan soon revealed that John actually had a brain tumour. Further tests revealed that the cancer was also in his lungs.

Despite this devastating news, John didn't make a fuss, nor did he want any fuss made over him. He was a brave and proud man and faced and fought his illness with dignity. Even as his condition worsened he was determined to remain living at home and did so throughout his treatment, right up to the end, when he died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday 27th April. The loss of John leaves a gap not just in the lives of his family and friends, to whom he meant so much, but also in the community of Charmouth, of which he was such a big part for so many years.

Colin Dunn, Celebrant

John was a major character in the village and council meetings will not be the same in the future. I know John would huff and puff a lot because he cared about Charmouth and wasn't afraid to stand up and say so but he would listen and take on board what you told him. I had many conversations with him and always enjoyed his colourful language but above all he was straight and told you what he thought. I so respected and admired that.

I would love to hear his comments to me if he could read this but, sadly, I have the last word for once. I will miss him.

Peter Noel

We Remember

Raymond Edward Kemp

25th September 1941 – 28th March 2019



On 13th April, St Andrew's Church was full to capacity for a service to celebrate the life of Ray Kemp, one of the village's most popular characters, who died aged 78, after a long illness. It would have been his 55th wedding anniversary.

Ray and his wife Treena retired to Charmouth from Kent 20 years ago, having enjoyed many family holidays in Dorset over the years with their daughters Sarah and Mandy.

Ray had been a professional footballer in his younger days, turning out for Torbridge, Gillingham and Fulham. He was a great sportsman, comfortable in a boxing ring, on a golf course, in a skittle alley (at the George) or with a cricket bat in his hand. He had been known to often bat a century and was soon made chairman of Pembury Cricket Club.

Ray quickly became involved with the village community and was loved and respected by all who knew him. He volunteered at the former Charmouth Fayre, where he would develop his own football games, much to the amusement of the attendees. He always made a good profit

for the event. He loved to play the fool and wasn't shy of public speaking or taking to the stage. He enjoyed entertaining people at the cricket club review, finding any excuse to dress up! He was very popular with a sharp wit and a great sense of fun. He was one of life's gentlemen, always looking on the bright side of life. He was much admired by all who knew him.

A collection after the service raised £600 for the RNLI. The family thanks everyone who kindly donated to this worthy cause.

Sarah Glover

Paul Raymer

Paul Raymer, a regular article contributor to Shoreline, has sadly passed away in Swanage after some years of ill health. He wrote knowledgeably and enthusiastically on the subjects of bird watching, nature and fossil hunting, his great sense of humour never failing to shine through his words. We'll miss you Paul.

Lesley Dunlop

What's On

Jurassic Art & Craft Fayre

Saturday 16th November

10.00 – 5.00

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

one day only

Heritage
Centre
& Gift
Shop
open as
normal



Knitted & stitched gifts
Christmas decorations

Glass
Paintings
Seaside Gifts
Gift Cards
Jewellery
Pottery
Wood

Homemade Cakes
& Preserves
Refreshments

FREE
admission

A great opportunity to buy unique Christmas gifts
by local artists and makers
amid the fascinating displays of the family-friendly
Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

Registered Charity No 110586 (01297 560772)

HERITAGE COAST U3A TALKS



All at Woodmead Halls, Lyme Regis DT7 3PG,
Talks 11.00am-noon, coffee 10.00-10.45am.

Free to U3A members; donation of £2 suggested for non-members

Weds August 14th Speaker: Sir George Somers, a talk by John Dover.

Sir George Somers was born in Lyme Regis in 1554. He was an Elizabethan privateer, merchant trader, M.P., military leader and founder of Bermuda (The Somers Isles), England's first Crown Colony.

Weds 11th September: The Late Flowering Lyricist, a talk by Miranda Pender

You are never too old to try something different! Miranda didn't start playing guitar or writing songs until her mid-50s, but she has more than made up for it since! She has recorded two CDs: 'Petrol Station Flowers' and 'Lifting the Lid', and published a booklet of song lyrics entitled 'Late Flowering Lyricist'. She performs in pubs, folk clubs and at festivals and will talk about her experiences.

Friday October 11th, 10.00am start.

A coffee morning and an opportunity to chat with other members and representatives of the activity groups.

Friday 8th November: Spectacular South African Flora & Fauna, a talk by Rosemary Legrand.

Rosemary is a horticulturist and former nursery owner who comes from a horticultural family. An experienced speaker, her enjoyment of photography and knowledge of and enthusiasm for plants is used to great effect in creating the atmosphere of the gardens she discusses.

To join U3A, check <http://www.lymeregisu3a.org> or phone 01297 444566.

Susie Butter

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Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Badminton Club (experience required)	Mon 8.00 – 10.00pm	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Simon Farrington 07870 662823
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 Pielez 560738
Charmouth Local History Society	Most Mondays 2-4pm or by appointment.	The Youth Club Hall, Wesley Close	Phil Tritton 07887 781348
Charmouth Village People Badminton Club (beginners & returners)	Mondays 2.00pm	The Elms, The Street	Jan Gale 07460 707294
Charmouth Village People: Kaleidoscope (Fun Activities)	1st and 3rd Wednesday each month 2-4pm	The Elms, The Street	Jan Gale 07460 707294
Charmouth Village People: Meet Ups (Social afternoons)	Every Friday 2-4pm	Bank House Café	Jan Gale 07460 707294
Charmouth Village People: Pop Up Writers (Creative writing)	2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday each month 2-4pm	The Elms, The Street	Jan Gale 07460 707294
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
Free Computer Help	Wednesdays 2- 4.30pm	Charmouth Central	David Jones 560640
Gardeners	2nd Wed each month-winter; two outings-summer	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Penny Rose 561076
Guides	Weds. 7-9pm	Phone for information	Davina Pennels 560965
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	Charmouth Central	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 | 01297 561644

Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

EMERGENCIES POLICE	Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard	999 or 112
	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
EMERGENCY	Gas	0800 111999
	Electricity (Western Power Distribution)	0800 365900
	Water (Wessex Water)	08456 004600
	Floodline	08459 881188
	Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 807060
CHEMISTS	Charmouth Pharmacy, Mr Yang, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560261
	Boots the Chemist, 45 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442026
	Lloyds Pharmacy, Lyme Community Care Centre, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442981
SCHOOLS	Charmouth County Primary, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560591
	The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442232
CHURCHES	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Pauline Berridge	01297 560957
CHARMOUTH HALLS	Village Hall, bookings Gill Savage	01297 560615
	St Andrew's Community Hall, bookings Faye In Abode	01297 560505
	Youth Club Hall, bookings Polly Wild	07890 629117
BEFRIENDING	Charmouth	07736 825283
COUNCILS		
CHARMOUTH PARISH	Chairman — Peter Noel	01297 561017
	Clerk — Mrs L Tuck, The Elms, St Andrew's Drive, Charmouth	01297 560826
	Heritage Coast Centre, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560772
	Beach Attendant, Charmouth Beach	01297 560626
DORSET COUNCIL	Councillor — Daryl Turner – clldarylturner@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk	01297 443591
	County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01305 221000
DORSET'S PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES www.dorsetforyou.com		
LOCAL M.P.	Oliver Letwin, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail letwin@parliament.uk	0207 219 3000
CITIZENS' ADVICE	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm)	01297 445325
	45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01308 456594
POST OFFICES	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

Shoreline Summer 2019



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