

# SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth



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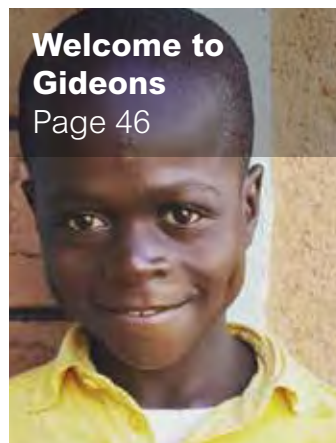
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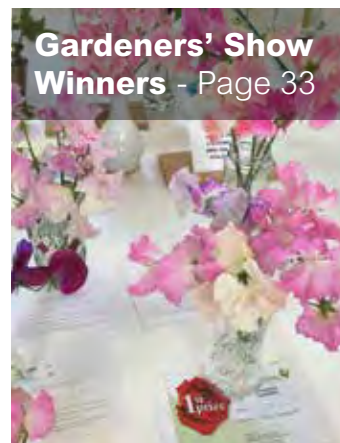
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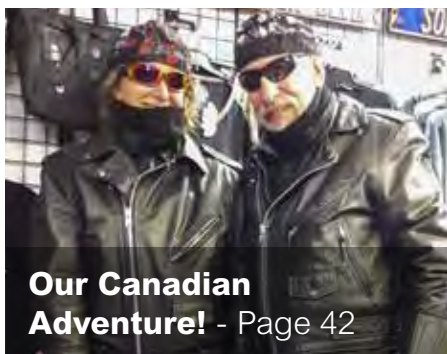
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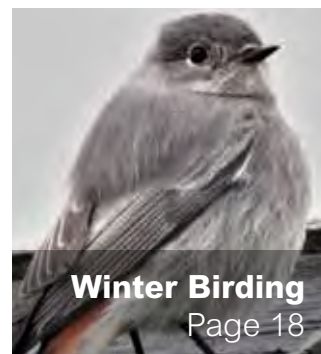
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**Showing a ghoulish interest in Shoreline at Halloween in Tucson, Arizona**



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# Editorial

## Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.

*Eckhart Tolle*

The exciting news from St Andrew's is that after a year of interregnum since Stephen Skinner retired, the Rev. Chris Martin has been appointed as Rector of Charmouth and The Golden Cap Benefice. He and his family will move into the Rectory in January. Those of us on the Changing Spaces Committee welcome this announcement as it will hopefully allow us to move forward with the goal of restoring the church building so it can be used for many more community activities in the future. For details of the projects planned, see Roger Sansom's article on page 15.

Ted Whatmore's wonderful memories of his life in Charmouth, on page 22, span nearly 90 years and are a most entertaining read. He

describes his youthful escapades, of which there are many, in such an amusing way and with the delightful irreverence he still possesses to this day! Both he and Mike Thomas, whose final instalment of his childhood memories is on page 10, allow us a fascinating glimpse into how uncomplicated yet fully rounded life was in the village back then. Many thanks to them both.

A Birder or a Twitcher? is the question posed by Richard Phillips in his latest article on page 18. He lists the many lovely birds to look out for over the winter months in Charmouth and his idea of creating a wildlife sanctuary in the village is inspired. Let's do it!

On behalf of the Shoreline team, I would like to wish our readers, contributors and advertisers a peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy and harmonious 2020.

*Jane*

## THE SHORELINE TEAM

**Jane Morrow**

Editor

**Lesley Dunlop**

Assistant Editor, Features and Diary

**Neil Charleton**

Advertising Manager and Treasurer

**John Kennedy**

Design and Layout



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

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



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

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

**Shoreline 2020**

**SPRING ISSUE** – Deadline 4th March, in the shops 1st April.

## New Firefighters Celebrate Achievements at Pass Out Parade



James Lathey, Ben Perry & George Skewes

**D**orset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service held its third pass out parade for new firefighters at Salisbury fire station earlier this month. Thirteen firefighters, who have successfully passed their Firefighter Acquisition Training Courses, received certificates from Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell in front of their families, friends, colleagues and distinguished guests. During the parade, the group held a training display which simulated a property fire and included the use of an aerial ladder platform and two fire engines. Three of the recruits taking part in the parade are based at Charmouth Fire Station. Firefighter James Lathey said: "I joined the Service in April 2016

and completed my final competency assessment in June 2019. The application process was fairly quick, taking four months from applying on-line to my first drill night. Being part of the Fire and Rescue service is great; it gives me a real sense of helping in our small community and increases the social aspect that I may not have got working for myself in my day job." Firefighter Ben Perry said: "I joined the Fire and Rescue Service as I wanted to do something worthwhile and beneficial for my community. The crew on station have helped me to find the correct balance between my full-time job and being on-call. I have seen the positive impact first-hand that our station can provide to emergency incidents, and working for DWFRS has been far more rewarding than I had expected. Individually, and as a member of a crew, I feel like I'm making a real difference." Firefighter George Skewes joined the Service to learn new skills and do something worthwhile for the community. Since joining, he has become more capable and more versatile which has benefited him personally. He enjoys most working with great individuals as part of a team.

Head of Learning and Organisational Development Area Manager, Kathy Collis, said "Our pass out parade is a significant milestone in the firefighter development process. It is also a great occasion for family and friends to be able to celebrate the achievements of our new firefighters and see first-hand what they have learnt. My congratulations go to them all, and I hope they all have long and enjoyable careers with us." If you would like to find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter, please visit [www.dwfire.org.uk/on-call-firefighters](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/on-call-firefighters)

**Louise Knox**



*Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers*



# Charmouth Community Christmas Night



On Thursday, December 5th Charmouth's Christmas Fayre in the village centre will be followed by Community Curry and Carols in The Community Hall.

## CHARMOUTH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The village centre shops will be providing attractions and there will be stalls with various attractions and a quiz aimed at children who collect clues. Santa's Grotto will be in Breeze this year.

The Grand Christmas Raffle tickets are already on sale in Morgans, Charmouth Stores and other outlets and with a first prize of £50 and many other prizes the investment of only 50p a ticket is well worth-while.



### GIVING MONEY TO THE COMMUNITY

*"It's not how much we spend, it's how much we show we care"*

**All money raised at the Christmas Fayre and at Community Curry and Carols goes to local causes**

### PROGRAMME

5pm Christmas Fayre begins

5 - 6.30pm Lots of activities up and down The Street

5.15-6.30 Santa's Grotto - in Breeze

6.45 Grand Raffle drawn at Fortnam, Smith & Banwell

7pm Community Curry and Carols in The Community Hall

## COMMUNITY CURRY AND CAROLS

Starting at 7pm in The Community Hall, the evening features

- \* **Fantastic curries** \* **Making Merry!**
- \* **Well known Carols** \* **Bar**
- \* **A good old fashioned singsong!**



**Tickets on sale at FSB and The Pharmacy.**  
**Adults £10, Children Free**

**PLUS** - Bring along donations for the local food banks - any non-perishable items are welcome, also toiletries and household goods

### A FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS GIFT

the 2020 Charmouth calendar in the shops and still only £5.99!



## Shoebox Appeal

Karen Sands would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the shoebox appeal this year. Over 300 boxes are being collected to be sent to children aged one to 15 in Eastern European countries. This is an amazing effort from Charmouth and the surrounding area. A huge thank you to all who have donated, including Tesco Stores, Neil Mattingly and everyone who has made up boxes. We are grateful for all your support.

Jan Plummer

## CHARMOUTH ALMSHOUSE CHARITY... YOU MAY KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO NEEDS ASSISTANCE...

PERHAPS THE ALMSHOUSE CHARITY CAN HELP...

### ITS AIMS:

1. To assist with students' books, equipment and travelling expenses where they are a necessary part of the course.
2. To help those who are in financial difficulties due to theft, loss of job, accident, desertion or a death.
3. To pay towards travelling expenses to hospital, funeral expenses.
4. Annually to issue grocery vouchers or similar to those deemed in need.
5. School uniform grants for students leaving primary and going on to senior school. Also for students starting in Reception.

To be eligible for help, beneficiaries must live within the Charmouth Parish boundary.

### Charmouth Almshouse Charity

The Charity was founded in 1642 by Robert Salter who left £300 for the purchase of land for the poor. Over the years there have been several other endowments for the village all operated and accounted for separately until 1921 when on amalgamation they became Charmouth United Charities. In 1994, on the advice of The Commissioners for Charities, the name was changed to The Almshouse Charity (the largest of all the endowments), thus simplifying accounting and records.

The Charity is overseen by a group of nine Trustees headed by the Chairman, Mr Richard Wyatt and Secretary, Mrs Anthea Gillings. Two of the Trustees are members of the Charmouth Parish Council. **For further information please contact the Secretary: 01297 560465**



## Letters

### GOLDEN CAP POEM

In August I returned from my annual holiday to Charmouth and while there I read the latest summer issue of Shoreline. I just love everything about it, especially the Poetry Corner. In one of last year's issues there was a poem called Golden Cap, which my grandchildren had started to learn by heart. Well, you can guess what happened. Somebody lost it!!!..... Is there any chance you could send me a copy? We have booked a seasonal caravan pitch at Manor Farm for next year, so will be spending more time in Charmouth than ever before. Can't wait for the season to begin.

Best wishes to you all - keep up the good work.

With kind regards, Elizabeth Brown

(We gave Elizabeth the e-link to Shoreline where she can find the Golden Cap poem and many more. Ed)

### PAUL RAYMER

We like Shoreline very much and have it sent to us in Downley, Buckinghamshire. It helps keep us in touch with what's going on in Charmouth which, after going down there for 46 years, we regard as our second home.

We heard the sad news that Paul Raymer passed away after suffering a heart attack. I know that he wrote articles for Shoreline under his real name and also under his alter ego 'The Mouse'. Paul was born and grew up in Oxford, surrounded by all the museums and libraries. He picked up many interests, learning about wildlife, photography, local history and his greatest passion: bird watching. Paul then moved to Dorset with his then partner Mary; first to Bridport, which is where they were living when my brother Alan and I first met him out on the far side of 'Dead Mans' on Black Ven beach. We were fossil hunting and he was bird watching, stopping to have a chat as you do, then we split up and carried on. But I think our little conversation lit a spark in Paul and he gained another interest because the next time we saw him, only three weeks later (Alan, Colin and I were coming to Charmouth nine or ten times a year back then), Paul had a hammer and a little rucksack. A few weeks after that, he had a framed rucksack and a spade. He had caught the fossil hunting bug. Paul and Mary moved to Lyme Regis and then on to Swanage so we didn't get to see them often. Paul and Mary were so passionate about birds and animals that they would go on protests to protect their habitats being destroyed. They especially liked going to the Lyme fossil show and first introduced us to our good friend Martin Foster who sadly died back in 2007. His funeral was the last time we saw Paul. Alan and I lost our mother back in 2012 and have been caring for our father since then, but Paul and I kept in touch with letters, swapping stories and information and, of course, Christmas cards. It was a sad day when Mary rang up to tell us of Paul's passing.

Keith Woodbridge

The Three Musketeers, Alan, Colin & Keith Downley, High Wycombe



## 2019 CHARMOUTH CHRISTMAS DAY SWIM



It's time to start planning your Christmas day swim outfit!

Come and enjoy taking part, or watch participants brave the waves on Christmas morning and help raise funds for the Lyme Regis and Charmouth lifeboat.

Join us and the lifeboat crew on the beach from 10.30 am on Christmas morning when the swim (dip) will be started by the Lyme Regis Town Crier at 11.00 am sharp.

As in previous years the event is sponsored by The ROYAL OAK who will be providing free mulled wine for all the brave souls who take to the sea. Mulled wine will also be available to buy.

Thanks in advance too to all the collectors on the day who will be grateful for any and all donations.

Let's make it bigger and better!

**Lyme Regis & Charmouth  
Lifeboat Supporters,  
Charmouth Representatives**

**Clare & Colin Evans**  
01297 561477



**Lifeboats**

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A WEATHER DEPENDENT EVENT AND MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO POOR SEA CONDITIONS

## Charmouth Events

**A**s reported at this year's AGM, we had another successful year putting on Party in the Park, the inaugural Charmouth Folk Festival, a year long programme of films (supported by Moviola), live events (supported by Artsreach), and fireworks. This was more than we have ever done before. We raised enough money to make money grants to 11 groups needing support in the village. Thanks go

to Phil Tritton and Ian Simpson for their support over the years and we wish Phil greater enjoyment of his retirement and Ian our best wishes for his new life in Exeter. However, this leaves us with a pressing need for help. Whether you are willing to commit to putting up and clearing away the chairs for Moviola on the 3rd Thursday of nine months a year, flip burgers at the Party in the Park, or mind the gate, help at the six or so Artsreach events, or are willing to help more widely with the Events Team (which meets once a month),

please volunteer to Andy Peters 07765 770313 or Allan Gore 07778 389477. If we do not enlarge the team, we are in danger of not being able to put on the full range of events we currently support. In this age of austerity, village groups and services depend more and more on our support, and we can honestly say it is very enjoyable and not overly onerous to provide it.

Allan Gore



## Parish Council News

**T**he Parish Council has co-opted one new Councillor, Jane Bremner. Many of you will remember Jane as she served as a Parish Councillor for eight years from 2007-2015 and she is welcomed back with open arms. Unfortunately, however, at the same time, Judy Fellingham resigned her position as a Councillor for personal reasons which means that there are still four vacancies to be filled by co-option. Please do come and find out more if you are at all interested in shaping YOUR community for the future.

- Good news! Gerry Bearpark has taken on the role of Flood Warden which only leaves a Deputy required. These are both voluntary roles which involve 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 has received several comments (both for and against) about the cutting of the grass and brambles on west cliff. The Parish Council has a Beach Management Plan which has been endorsed by Natural England and is available to view on the Council's website. More recent advice, specific to cutting of the brambles, has been sought from Natural England and their response was as follows:

*"...the areas along the West Dorset Coast SSSI at Charmouth are legally notified for its range of geological features including Coastal Geomorphology, mass movement, Jurassic – Cretaceous Reptilia; Mesozoic – Tertiary Fish/Amphibia; Palaeoentomology; and biological features including Vegetated sea cliffs of Atlantic and Baltic coasts;*

*The Joint Nature Conservation Committee describes the general site character of this area to be composed of Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (1%); Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (54.2%); Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (29.8%); and Dry grassland, Steppes (15%).*

*Your first query related to the cutting of brambles encroaching into the open grassland areas. The cliffs, undercliffs and more flat plateau areas make for a complicated mixture of vegetation types present with the effects of underlying rock type obscured by the many mud slides and other landslips. The range of plant communities is wide, from mature woodland to pioneer communities on bare sand or clay.*

*We would encourage the management of bramble and other scrub that aims to regulate the encroachment on the existing open grassland areas. This management practice will help maintain a range of mosaic habitat conditions.*

*You also asked what the advice should be in terms of management of the ant hills on site. Natural England would advise that management is directed to protect and enhance the ant hills present. Ant hills are an important part of grassland ecosystems and support many invertebrates including blue butterflies."*

- Finally, we are sure you will all agree that the Poppies on the lamp posts look fantastic again this year and the Council applauds Linda Bearpark and her team for organising this magnificent display of Remembrance.



**Charmouth Parish Council**

## Charmouth Weather

MAY TO OCTOBER 2019

	Max °C	Min °C	Av °C	Precip mm
May	19	0	12	25
June	28	5	15	72
July	24	8	17	27
Aug	25	7	17	60
Sept	21	6	15	145
Oct	18	3	12	165

**T**he middle section of the year started with a very dry May, the one day of heavy rain on the 8th kindly avoiding both Bank Holidays. June started with some showery days which kept the gardeners happy but then temperatures rose towards the end of the month, with the 28th being the hottest day of the year at 28°C.



The pleasantly warm weather continued through July with most days getting to over 20°C but then temperatures dipped down through much of August when there were several showery days in the second week. But once again the sun came out and temperatures rose for the August Bank Holiday, with the beach being packed with holidaymakers (and a lot of locals) enjoying the 25°C heat.



Charmouth Beach - August Bank Holiday 2019

The period September into October was particularly wet, with only two dry days in the four weeks between 22nd Sept and 20th October. In those two months, over a foot (310mm) of rain fell. (Thanks once again to Peter Bonner for the rainfall data.)

So it's been a mixed bag of weather but at least, living here, we can choose how to make the most of both the glorious sunny days and the wonderfully wild and windy ones too.

**Bill Burn**

### Charmouth Parking Refund Scheme

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





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



## Mitochondria, The Powerhouses of Life

**I**n 'The Phantom Menace', Anakin Skywalker learns how he can 'feel the force', and this, he is told, is because of the 'midi-chlorians'. George Lucas was clearly modelling his fictional, vital and all-knowing parts of our beings on the essential power houses we actually do have in abundance in our cells, namely, our mitochondria. As we dig ever deeper into the mysteries of our metabolisms which are the sum total of all the chemical reactions taking place in our bodies, the more we learn about the startling origins of life and of our own existence. To look after this part of us is vitally important and yet few people have even heard of mitochondria.

In his book, 'Mitochondria and the Future of Medicine', Lee Know gives a very readable over-view. Mitochondria, appearing as rod-like structures, exist in almost every cell, sometimes in their thousands. They account for 10% of our body weight and by cellular respiration they burn the fuel we eat with the oxygen we breathe to provide us with all the energy we need to live and survive. Astonishingly they have their own DNA, only inherited through the maternal line, and this appears to be important to prevent conflicting sets of genes interfering with an absolute and complete control over the vital energy-making processes which they guard. Mitochondria are the reason why multi-celled organisms can make enough energy to exist and yet it must have been by a complete freak of nature that in the beginnings of life on earth, a single bacteria consumed another and instead of destroying it, the two lived harmoniously with the inside cell producing energy and the outer cell providing the food and protection. Relying on amino acids which we know have been found on meteorites and PQQ found in interstellar dust, the ability to make energy is gifted from the stars and is what separates living from non-living beings, with a power that should not be underestimated. In a similar way, power for weight, a bacterium called *Azotobacter* has been calculated to outperform the sun by a factor of fifty million.

The mitochondria have a folded inner membrane on which the energy is made by transferring electrons down a chain of molecules called the Electron Transport Chain. The space in the middle of this membrane contains the enzymes of the TCA, Citric Acid or Krebs's Cycle which exists to make the energy molecules (NADH and FADH<sub>2</sub>) from either glucose or fat. These energy molecules are then transferred to the Electron Transport Chain where they donate their electrons down the chain and at each step, energy is released to pump protons out (like pumping water up into a dam). As the protons flow back in, they drive turbines (like hydroelectric power) which make the ATP packages of energy that can be sent out wherever they are needed to give our bodies energy.

Smooth running of the electron transport chain is vital to our well-being. We need a smooth and replenished supply of energy to feel well. Any blockages with toxins, heavy metals, organophosphate pesticides or damage by viruses can cause serious pile-ups of the electrons which leak out and wreak havoc as reactive oxygen species. Post viral fatigue lasting several weeks is one example. Damage leading to inflammation or cancers are others. A lack of the proper molecules needed to hand the electrons down the chain can also cause problems and co-enzyme

Q10 and magnesium are key components. Unfortunately, statins interfere with co-enzyme Q10 manufacture which declines anyway with age. Co-enzyme Q10 is so important to smooth energy-making that it would have been considered a vitamin if it were not that we make adequate amounts when we are young. It is possible to try to supplement it with an easy to absorb form such as Quinolol, but there is no point taking any supplements in my opinion unless you are clear after a month or so that they do make a difference. Good sources of magnesium include green leafy veg, whole grains, nuts, seeds and sea food, so a generally fresh whole food diet wins again. Bathing in Epsom salts is a great way to get more magnesium in and it also helps with cramps and tension (because, believe it or not it takes more energy to relax than to contract, and hence the onset of rigor mortis when the energy stops.)

Transporting energy across membranes in the mitochondria relies on L-Carnitine, which, as its name implies, is found in abundance in meat. The best source is mutton and we are lucky to live where sheep are grass-fed and happy roaming the Dorset hills.

Normal levels of B3 or Niacinamide are vital for making the energy molecule NADH and liver, chicken breast, salmon and other meats are rich sources. I'm not advocating we eat large amounts of meat but small quantities of quality meat from good husbandry sources are important sources of key nutrients to mankind who evolved as an omnivore. B12 is a huge energy multi-tasker, but again is more difficult to obtain on a vegetarian diet. It is also in Brewer's yeast and yeast extract and levels can easily be checked by blood tests.

The five carbon sugar D-Ribose cuts out a problematic step converting glucose to enter the Krebs's cycle and some athletes use it in their coffee or tea three times a day. It is one of the initial supplements Dr Sarah Myhill suggests in her book 'Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Fatigue and Myalgic Encephalitis'. Dr Myhill has successfully helped thousands of sufferers over the years and has clear explanations and advice in her book which is subtitled 'Its mitochondria, not hypochondria'. What is more, she developed the blood tests which can show where and which blockages exist in mitochondrial function tests.

It is so interesting to note that the cleanest, smoothest running of the energy-making apparatus comes when our fuel supply is fat not carbohydrate. We already know that high carbohydrate diets lead to increased inflammation in the body when compared to healthy, naturally available fats and cold pressed oils. As opposed to White carbs (sugar) or Beige carbs (bread, rice, pasta, potatoes and oats), the so called Slow carbohydrates or Green carbs (veg, English fruit, nuts and seeds and beans) as a fuel are less likely to lead to the changes of pre-diabetes which give us carb hunger and spiral us out of control. Slow carbs are full of fibre and phytonutrients and together with unadulterated fats and proteins form a good basis for a healthy diet for clean energy.

And where does exercise come in? Doing little bursts of high intensity interval training, running up the stairs, carrying the shopping, turning the compost heap, trains up the mitochondria and allows them to run their electron transport chains more smoothly, with practiced ease, causing fewer blockages and pile ups and reduced free radical leaks. A reduction in free radical damage means less degeneration and slower aging. This is definitely something we would all want, and now we know what they are, we can achieve more by looking after our mitochondria.

Your good health

**Dr Sue Beckers**



**GOOD MOOD and FOOD Clinic**  
[balanceofbodyfood@gmail.com](mailto:balanceofbodyfood@gmail.com)

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

## Harcombe House

**A visit to nearby Harcombe House Garden comes highly recommended by many in Charmouth who have already enjoyed its beauty. Here's a chance to make a note in your diary of the 2020 open days.**

Set high on Hardown Hill, with fabulous views across the Char Valley and Lyme Bay, Harcombe House is one of the jewels in the National Gardens Scheme's Dorset crown. The main garden was landscaped in the 1930s as a series of gravel paths, stone walls, steps and box hedges, but when we bought it in 2006 it was in a sorry state. Beds and paths were overgrown with weeds and brambles, walls were crumbling and the garden was bereft of both colour and atmosphere.

Fast forward to 2019 and the garden has been rediscovered, restored and replanted. In addition to the original three/four-acre formal garden, there is now a newly-designed wild garden and the woods have been opened up to allow access to the very top of the hill for those intrepid enough to make the climb. Mind you, it hasn't been easy! The hillside is full of springs and greensand, which play their part in dictating the planting. The garden features over 30 hydrangeas and more

than 40 azaleas and rhododendrons, together with an abundance of hostas, all of which enjoy the damp, shady conditions. Thanks to a 12ft. deer fence around the formal garden and the sheltered parts provided by the



terracing, it has been possible to plant many beautiful ornamental shrubs and trees, including Cornus, Amelanchier, Eucryphia and Acers. Because the garden is so large now - extending to

around four acres in total - we have concentrated on planting shrubs and trees, interspersed with perennials and roses for all-year colour. The planting is very natural, to create a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere and very dense to avoid weeding as much as possible! The wild garden has been sown with bluebells and meadow flowers for the last two years and also features a wildlife pond, which now attracts an abundance of darters and dragonflies. Situated by the summerhouse at the foot of the hill, the pond is unstructured and has no liner, which allows it to act as a giant soak-away for the run off from the wells and springs, the levels rising and falling with the weather.

We opened the garden for the first time in 2014 and I cannot think of a more enjoyable way of raising money for good causes. To date, our 1800 visitors have contributed more than £12,000 to the wonderful charities supported by the NGS, which include Macmillan, Marie Curie, Parkinson's and MIND.

2020 Openings: Sun. 24th & Mon. 25th May and Sat. 1st & Sun. 2nd August. By appointment for groups from April - September.

**Jan & Martin Dixon, Harcombe House, Pitmans Lane, Morcombelake DT6 6EB. Tel: 01297 489229**

## Historical Jottings – Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club

**In 1967 Charmouth historian Reginald Pavey wrote a letter to Miss Audrey Buckland, his physiotherapist, on the subject of the 19th century beginnings of the Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club (CLTC). The letter was written at the behest of Mrs. Helen Beaumont, a member of the club since the early 1950s, who recalled that the Whittington sisters always gave the impression they had started the club. She noted that Reginald Pavey was 'most indignant' when he heard that and, to put the record straight, he responded to her as follows:**

*'I have always understood that the tennis club was started by General Eliot and my father sometime in the 1880s. The two courts were not levelled until after the first year, when both croquet and tennis were played. Players of the latter game had to give way if the court was required for croquet. Players came in from Wootton and Morecombelake on two days during the week. Guests could be introduced, but the same guest was allowed to play on a limited number of times only. There was no pavilion or dressing rooms. The only shelter was a covered-in seat holding four people. It was known as 'the tabernacle' and was blown over in a gale. The third court was added a great many years later. The ground was damp and many drains were required when it was turfed, which showed during a dry spell. So it was called 'Clapham Junction'. This was early in 1900. When my father left the village in 1892 Mr. Henry Eliot became secretary and after him Mr. James Schalch. I am afraid that after we went to Clifton (when I was nine years old) we were only annual visitors and I never had anything to do with the management. Reginald Pavey'*



The Tabernacle

her memories of the Whittington sisters and CLTC as follows:

*'I had been roped in to play badminton in the Lyme Church hall and a member of that club was Beryl Whittington. To me (at that time) she seemed to be very aged to be playing any game and I'd never heard of Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club. She was in a great 'tix' because she thought she might miss her bus to Charmouth and as it was raining, I offered to drive her and she dragged me in to meet her three sisters. They had just finished tea and were all sat around the table - they were all there... but Joan was the one who stood out. I suppose that I qualified for their requirements because they asked if I would join CLTC. As the sub was so small (I think 25 shillings (£1.25) for the season) I thought it might just come in handy, so I joined. I was abroad for a while but did become a regular player and was asked to be on the committee. They hardly ever had a meeting as far as I remember and the annual tournament was their great occasion. I think at that time holidays abroad were difficult because there was a stern restriction on the amount of sterling one could take out of the country so there were many regular summer visitors who came to Charmouth just to play in the tournament. One or two well-off families had second homes and came every year. There was a family called Bidwell and their son Hugh (who was about 18 then) who became Lord Mayor of London\*. Dr. Bennet-Hine, a local GP and a contemporary of the Whittingtons, was chairman of the club for many years.'*

With special thanks to Joy Cole.

\*Sir Hugh Bidwell was the 662nd Lord Mayor of London between 1989 and 1990.

**Lesley Dunlop**

In Helen Beaumont's own words, written in January 1994, she described



## T@3 a Resounding Success!



On 12th September the Charmouth fundraising group for 'The Weldmar Hospice Care' held an afternoon tea party (T@3) at St. Andrew's Hall.

Tea and a good selection of homemade cakes were served on vintage china and various craft stalls were available to browse and buy locally made items. The hall was full and a good social time was had by all who came.

This was the first time that committee members were able to wear their new aprons that were very kindly made and donated by Mary Davis.

We are very pleased to say that the afternoon raised a grand total of £618.60 for The Weldmar Hospice Care. We would like to express an enormous thank you to all those who came and supported this valuable cause.

A date for your diary: our next fundraising event will be our infamous annual Christmas Carols & Cheer lunch on 7th December at 12.00 to be held at Charmouth Village Hall, Wesley Close. Please contact Chris Bateman 01297 561024 for your tickets.

Chris Bateman

## Nick Shannon

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## A Huge Thank You for the Anonymous Donation

Many Charmouth people give generously of their time, energy and skills, voluntarily helping and supporting worthwhile causes and charities. People also give generous monetary donations but prefer to remain anonymous. In one case, where monies have been given to our local Summer Show and to the Tuesday Senior Lunch Club, thank you for being kind and thoughtful to the Charmouth community. Happiness is for the giver and receiver. Good Health and Happiness to you all.

Anon

## We Are Back! Come Along to Charmouth Village People

**C**harmouth Village People have relaunched after a summer break with some wonderful speakers at both the fortnightly Kaleidoscope meetings and the Pop Up Writers group. So far we have had the Guide Dogs for the Blind trainee puppies; they were lovely to see and hear about. Pam Ladd also came in to give us a taste of Tai Chi. There are three trips before Christmas, one to see the Downton Abbey film, then visits to Montacute House and the Exeter Christmas Market. At the first Pop Up Writers meeting we had a brilliant session with Gail Aldwin, author and chair of Dorset Writers, talking about how to start your first novel. We are also planning to have a cracking Christmas party with entertainment.

There are major changes within the committee. After setting up and running the group for many years, Jan Gale has decided to pass on the baton to Kath Harper and myself. We are both excited, but decidedly nervous, about taking over as Jan has done such a brilliant job. Also thank you to Liz Simpson for being the group's treasurer. That role will now be filled by Liz Sansom. So a special thank you to Jan for your commitment to the group and we hope to keep your legacy going with gusto. We will continue the same format of alternating Wednesday meetings at The Elms from 2 pm until 4 pm and also the informal Coffee and a Chat at The Bank House on Fridays from 2 pm. Look out for our events on posters and Facebook information on Charmouth Noticeboard, or contact:

Judith Howells on 07906 840950.



Pam Ladd's Tai Chi session.



Author Gail Aldwin who spoke to Pop Up Writers

## Childhood Memories of Charmouth, Part 3

Mike Thomas's fascinating articles, of which this is sadly the last, have stirred the memories of many villagers who remember the people, places and events he has described. Thank you Mike for sharing your wonderful memories with us.

**C**arol singing at Christmas started a few weeks after Guy Fawkes' 'penny for the guy' and would involve groups of children knocking on front doors whilst giving a rendering of one of the more familiar carols. Money collected was usually shared amongst the singers. However, the Church Choir carol singing was an annual, well-organised event. Suitably attired to keep out the cold, holding torches or lanterns and carol books, we would walk up to Thistlegate, sing and be invited in to consume something to keep out the cold, then repeat the same exercise at Cranford and Langmoor Manors, The Wellhead, and Charmouth House, etc. The following evening, we worked our way down The Street. Monies collected always went to a good cause.

Church services at Christmas usually started on the Sunday evening before, with a Service of nine lessons and carols led by the choir, which was always well attended, but the main service was the Midnight Communion at 11pm on Christmas Eve when the church was fully decorated and full to capacity. On Christmas Day there were two Communion Services: one at 7am, the other at 8am, followed by Matins at 11am. The Rector, Canon Mackie, preceded by the Verger, Mr. Percy Bowden JP, in verger's robes and staff of office, processed to the clergy stall at the start of all services.

The Festival of Easter was even more colourful. This followed Lent and Holy Week, when the reredos in the sanctuary was covered with sackcloth and the altar stripped on Good Friday. All was transformed on Easter Sunday in time for 8am Holy Communion when the altar frontal was white and gold and the flowers white lilies. Ladies wore bright colours with hats or bonnets, which made everything look cheerful. For several years, two bishops participated, and sat in the sanctuary, namely Alwyn Williams, former Bishop of Winchester, who lived at 3 Hillside, and Tom Longworth, former Bishop of Hereford, who lived at Catherston. An informal Visitors' Service was held during the summer holidays at 9.30am, which often included a parade of visiting Scouts and Guides led by a band of the Boys' Brigade.

Being both a member of Charmouth Church Choir and the School Choir, there was an opportunity in 1952 to sing, with other choirs in the district, the oratorio 'Handel's Messiah'. We rehearsed at school under the leadership of our Music Master, Mr. Rupert Thackeray with his

wife, a concert pianist, accompanying us. Our first performance was at Wimborne Minster and when volunteers were asked, who knew the oratorio well enough to lead the massed choirs from the choir stalls, I rather cheekily put up my hand. It was an experience I shall always remember, although I did get lost once during the singing of the Amen Chorus. We sang the work again the following weeks in the Grammar School and in Charmouth Church, and I have sung it many times since. It still remains my favourite oratorio.

Although living at 1 Higher Sea Lane, I still made regular visits to my Gran at Firlands to run errands for her and Mrs. Sibley and Mrs. Hobbs next door. When I had sufficient money in my pocket, my friends and I would catch the bus to Lyme Regis to see a film at the Regent Theatre. If we walked back home afterwards along Old Lyme Road, we could save the bus fare and treat ourselves to an ice cream. This old road had subsided in a cliff fall and land slip in the 1920s and no vehicular traffic could use it, but walkers could negotiate across the gap in the road during the dry weather and gain the top of Old Lyme Hill by the Devil's Bellows and into Charmouth, a walk of about two miles; shorter than the bus route on the new road by about a mile. The alternative route, if the tide was right, was along the beach which was even shorter, but if the blue lias clay got onto your clothes or shoes, it would cause ructions when you got home. Later, when money was available, we would go dancing at Seaton, boys and girls travelling together in the minibus. We had to be home within 10 minutes of being dropped off at Charmouth House, particularly if escorting girlfriends home. PC Manuel, who met us, would report us the following day to our parents if we were seen after the 10 minute curfew.



1953. I am the tall Lance Corporal leading the right-hand side of the column. We are passing Sandford Cottage, then home of Col. William Campbell Little, pulled down when Lower Sea Lane was widened.

I was in the Lyme Regis detachment of the Dorset Army Cadets in 1953 and both David Manuel and I were selected to represent the county at Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in June 1953. We travelled by train in uniform the day before from Axminster to Waterloo and

were met by Army transport and taken to our billets which were the territorial barracks at White City. The great day dawned and we were woken up at some unearthly hour, took our ablutions and were given breakfast and a packed lunch which needed to last us the whole day. We were marched in formation to Hammersmith underground station and took the train to Green Park. There we formed up and were marched to the Victoria Memorial outside, facing Buckingham Palace. We arrived at 6am and were reminded to wear our greatcoats as rain was expected. We saw the young Prince Charles standing at the window around 8am and were amazed to watch great numbers of military personnel from around the world lining up to march past in the seemingly unending procession. Carriages began leaving the palace but because of the rain, which fell as predicted, most of them were closed. I recognised Winston Churchill, who waved in our direction, but the open carriage which surprised us was the one taking Queen Salote of Tonga. She insisted on remaining uncovered the whole way to Westminster Abbey and must have been soaked, but she received great adulation from the assembled crowds. We were standing behind a line of Guardsmen who were ordered periodically to remove their bearskins and shake them, as the rain was making them very heavy.

The time came for the Coronation coach containing the Queen and Prince Phillip to appear. We stood to attention when the National Anthem was played and were thrilled to be part of such a tremendous occasion. We were very aware that the television cameras were directly behind us and Gran, who was watching her first television experience in Charmouth Church Hall, was proud because she saw David and me several times as we turned around to face the cameras. Although we could see no television screen, we could hear the commentary throughout the entire proceedings, including the Coronation service in the Abbey. I must have stood to attention 100 times that day because every time we heard the National Anthem through the tannoy loudspeakers we, along with the Guardsmen in front, would respond.

As soon as the Coronation coach arrived back at the palace after the ceremony, we were whisked away to Green Park and from thence back to barracks at White City, where we were fed but confined to barracks during the evening celebrations. The authorities did not want us getting lost in the melee because, for most of us, this was our first time in London. I remember eating a good supper and then retiring early to bed ready to travel back home early the following morning. As part of the celebrations in Charmouth to mark the



occasion, David and I, both in uniform, ceremonially planted two trees in the playing fields, David carrying the Union flag and me the spade. We felt so proud, particularly when our exploits and photos appeared in the local newspapers.



1953. I am the Lance Corporal in the foreground of the tree planting by Fire Station officer George Bastin.

Another story which was published in both the national and local newspapers, was one that we witnessed and it related to the removal of the Stone of Scone by some Scottish students who, it was reported, intended to take it back to Scotland. Rumours circulated locally that it would be coming through Charmouth, which seemed an unlikely route. However, two stalwart and eccentric village ladies, Miss Brennan and the Hon. Miss Fitzalan-Howard, took it as their responsibility to stand on Charmouth Bridge with their disagreeable dog, Freddie, and a drawn sword stick, stopping every vehicle and demanding to search the boot to look for the stone. Locals drawn to the action cheered them on until the arrival of PC Manuel, who threatened to arrest them for disturbing the peace and brandishing a weapon. Peace was eventually restored, much to our disappointment. Luckily the number of vehicles on the road was far fewer in the 1950s. The stone was eventually discovered and returned to Westminster Abbey in time for the Coronation.



Bridport Pageant 1953

Another big event in 1954 which involved many of Charmouth's younger generation was the Bridport Pageant, which commemorated the 700th anniversary

of the granting of the Royal Charter. Princess Margaret attended as a guest on the opening night. The episode that featured village residents was the escape of Charles II, when he managed to evade capture in Bridport during the Civil War, after the Battle of Worcester. Many of the costumes, particularly of the ladies and girls, were made in the village. I played a Roundhead soldier and my friend, George Restorick, a Roundhead officer, riding his horse. Visitors to Charmouth seemed slightly bemused by the large cast dressed in period costume walking around the village.

Dad was ill and money was short, therefore I needed to leave school in order to earn a living and help with family finances. My ambition had been to carry on my schooling in the sixth form in order to take a degree in Agriculture at Exeter University. I had been persuaded to go to Africa to teach agriculture and would be sponsored by the Church Missionary Society. This however was not to be.

I left school in July 1953 and remember the closing assembly at the end of term. We sang the hymn 'Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing, Those Who Here Will Meet No More' and I was close to tears. I bade farewell to my friends and remember walking down the school path towards the railway station to wait for the school bus, knowing that this would be the last time. I left with the option of working for Westland in Yeovil in their drawing office, but I was not really that keen.

My Uncle and Aunt, Charles & Nora, invited me for a holiday in Whipton, Exeter, and I had three lovely weeks exploring Exeter and the South Devon area. Several days out were spent cycling through villages down towards the Exe estuary to Exmouth on Nora's three-gear ladies' cycle, complete with picnic in the handlebar basket. After exploring the area, crossing by the Starcross ferry, I cycled back to Exeter on the west bank. All too soon, the holiday came to an end and it was time to take the Devon General bus back home and start looking for a job to earn a living, as any thought of further education was completely out of the question at that time. My thoughts were, perhaps, to make a career in the Army, but until I was old enough to join up, I needed to work. Several of the bigger houses needed gardeners and I was approached, but although I liked gardening at home I was not interested.

F.W. Woolworth in Bridport were looking for a stockroom manager, so Dad and I took the bus for an interview with the manager. I was accepted and started work on 1st September 1953, travelling daily by the 8.20am bus. The Woolworth ethic was 'start at the bottom and work up', for although I was accepted as a company trainee manager, I had to start by managing the stockroom, which involved receiving, unpacking and sorting all deliveries, with the assistance

of two stockroom ladies. I enjoyed the work, which was physically hard but interesting and varied. After learning this routine, I was told to bring a suit to work and during the staggered lunch breaks I was instructed in the duties of a floorwalker, supervising the staff and making sure customers were served and all was running smoothly. It seemed strange at first to be called Mr. Thomas, but this was normal practice. All staff were known by their surnames, as Christian names were never used. The manager was Mr. Douglas Guest and the Staff Supervisor was Mrs. Buick. My duties also included lighting and stoking the coke-fired boiler in the basement to heat the store. Monday mornings in the winter months were the worst, as the boiler which was usually kept going through the week nights, went out at the weekends and it took time to rake out, relight the fire and coax it into a good blaze to heat the radiators. The floor needed to be swept twice daily and oiled every other weekend with vegetable oil, using a bucket and squeegee. The following Monday morning, feldspar grit was spread on the floor to soak up the excess oil to make sure nobody slipped. Most of the staff were girls and older women. Girls had always been part of my childhood and school life and I was relaxed around them and enjoyed many innocent girlfriend relationships. Some of them have remained lifelong friends. I continued this work until I received my call up papers, instructing me to report to Dorchester Barracks to do my National Service in the Dorset Regiment, part of the Wessex Brigade, which formed part of the 7th Armoured Division, Eighth Army, formerly the Desert Rats. We wore the insignia on our right arm. On 6th January, after receiving much good advice from Dad and a severe haircut from our neighbour, Mr. Bartlett, I set off by bus for Dorchester to the Depot of the Dorset Regiment, where some 40 of us were kitted out with all the uniform and paraphernalia required by every fresh recruit of her Majesty's Armed Forces. Another quite unnecessary haircut was given and we were allocated quarters in a barrack room on the first floor of a Victorian barrack block. Our windows overlooked the square, Officers' Mess and gymnasium, with the gate to the Castle Keep to the right. We were instructed to muster in the adjacent hall where those who could write were asked to raise our hands. This I did, expecting everyone else to do the same. Quite a few didn't, having left school without this ability and had become farm labourers before joining up. Those of us who were literate were asked to assist them to write letters home to tell their parents they had arrived safely. I wrote three such letters, one to Mum & Dad and two to other parents. We were then introduced to our platoon sergeant, a loud-mouthed Staff Sergeant Pollock, who we found out later had a bark far worse than his bite. He had a corporal to assist him, who spoke with a broad east Devon accent. Their job was to mould us into a team, and by the

end of our 10 weeks' basic training this was achieved.

Our worst experience during this period was an exercise held on the tank training ground at Bovingdon, HQ of the Royal Tank Corps. Towards the end of basic training we were to stay overnight camped in cramped two-men bivouacs. The weather was appalling and rain poured down. In the dark, whilst attempting to take a distant hill from the 'enemy', we stumbled and fell into rain-filled tank traps, some over five feet deep. At the end, cold and wet through, we were given our dinner of stew and rice pudding, both tainted with the taste of kerosene and tasted foul. Turning in for bed, we stripped off our wet clothes, boots and socks, pushed them to the bottom of the bivouac and wrapped ourselves in blankets. Unfortunately, the weather turned to clear skies during the night and the temperatures fell, causing a frost, which meant that our clothes and socks froze solid. Having dressed and feeling very cold and uncomfortable, at 5am we commenced our march back 12 miles to Dorchester. I developed a very bad raw heel and arrived back in time for breakfast, feeling definitely the worse for wear.

My experience with the Dorset Army Cadets had really stood me in good stead and I was told later in the day that I had earned the Certificate of Merit for being the best recruit of the intake. I was due to receive this at the Passing Out parade in front of guests, including Mum & Dad. But the soaking from the exercise had given me a chill and three days before this auspicious occasion I succumbed to influenza and was admitted to the military hospital. I insisted that I must be there at my presentation and was duly dosed up with penicillin, so much so that I have been allergic to it ever since. I was told by Sergeant Pollock that another, earlier occasion also helped me to gain this award and this was due to being on guard duty one night whilst suffering

from a poisoned finger. I stopped a car, carrying a pick helve, and demanded to know who was entering the barracks. It turned out to be the Commanding Officer and some minutes later the RSM arrived asking who had stopped the CO's car. I admitted culpability and was told I was on CO's orders in the morning. I spent a rotten night thinking the worst and duly lined up with other delinquents on the parade ground ready to be marched before the CO. Hats Off was ordered which I obeyed. Not you, I was told. You will see the CO first. I was marched into the office, saluted and faced the CO who congratulated me for stopping his car and asked why I was wearing a rather grubby bandage on my finger. I explained the situation and was again congratulated for carrying out my duty in spite of my 'injury' and for achieving the level of marksman in both rifle and Bren gun, and for my smartness and demeanour.



Receiving the Certificate of Merit for the best recruit of the intake from the inspecting General

The day of the Passing Out parade arrived and although I was still under the weather, I was determined not to miss out. How I managed to march up to receive the Certificate from the General, about turn and march back to the ranks, I shall never know as my head was spinning and I felt giddy and sick. I duly went home for a week's leave and spent most of it in bed recovering, receiving home visits from Dr. Chamberlain and the Rector, Canon Mackie.



With Grannie White & Monica 1955

My childhood was now well and truly over and after discharge from the Army, I never again lived permanently in Charmouth, as my transfer with F.W. Woolworth was to Weymouth. I left Woolworth's employ in 1963 and, until retirement in 1994, had a successful career with Burmah Castrol.

#### Mike Thomas

*With thanks to Neil Mattingly for locating the photos of Mike as a young Lance Corporal.*



Michael Thomas 2019

## St Andrew's Community Hall

**S**t. Andrew's Hall in Lower Sea Lane has, of course, been a fixture in Charmouth for the last 100 years or so and continues to be a wonderful asset to the community. As is often the way in things of this nature, the hall is administered by a team of volunteers who are responsible for everything from structural repairs to toilet roll holders, whilst fundraising enough money to ensure the hall is able to accommodate a wide variety of functions.

This is a bit of a Forth Bridge situation as in a building of this age it is a constant battle to keep things up to date and shipshape. Whilst this article is not an appeal for funding, it is a reminder to everyone in the village of the fantastic



facilities the hall has to offer. With new chairs, new heating and space for up to 150 guests or 100 seated it can accommodate indoor sports, wedding parties, birthday parties, cinema nights with a separate, heated clubroom for any smaller functions. It also boasts not one but two kitchens, the larger has a commercial cooker and preparation equipment. All in all, St. Andrew's Hall is a very special, unique facility in this village and will hopefully enjoy another 100 years of service to the community of Charmouth.

Thank you for your continued support – if you require any further information or to make a booking please ring 01297 560505 or go to the website <http://standrewscommunityhallcharmouth.co.uk>

**Many thanks**  
St. Andrew's Hall committee



# Lyme Regis Detachment of Dorset ACF visit Arnhem

**L**yme Regis Detachment of Dorset Army Cadet Force began in January 2019 after the closure of the Combined Cadet Force at Woodroffe School.

Dorset Army Cadet Force under the command of Colonel Richard Taylor stepped in along with Oliver Letwin and helped Lyme Regis Councillor Cheryl Reynolds to set up our local detachment at The Tunnel Sports Centre near Lyme Regis and Charmouth with the kind assistance of Richard Clist, owner of The Tunnel.

Regimental Sergeant Major Instructor (RSMI) Owen Wells helped us to run the detachment until our volunteers were trained. We couldn't have done this without the help of Richard Clist, Colonel Taylor, RSMI Owen Wells, Oliver Letwin and Lyme Regis Town Council.

It has enabled us to set up a group of wonderful young people who are a credit to us all. In September 2019, four of our cadets went to Arnhem for the Arnhem March. This was organised by RSMI Owen Wells. It was a once in a lifetime experience and honour that none of them will forget.

The four cadets from the Lyme Regis Detachment, including Ellie Reddaway from Charmouth, spoke about the trip and said that the accommodation was wonderful, the food was excellent and that it was indeed a great privilege. They all agreed that when they visited the Arnhem Bridge it was really overwhelming.

It is here I want to say the opportunities that Dorset ACF afford our cadets is amazing. I have seen them grow, I have seen them flourish and I am honoured to have been just a small part of watching these youngsters in the whole of the detachment bring a future to Lyme Regis that we all should be so proud of. Thank you Dorset ACF.

## **The visit to Arnhem was as follows:**

### **3rd September 2019**

Cadets from Dorset ACF have today embarked on a poignant trip to The Arnhem Airborne March in the Netherlands. After a long journey they arrived, set up camp, before getting to know the local area.

The Airborne March is the annual Dutch commemorative event in remembrance of the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944, which began in 1947 and always takes place on the first Saturday in September at Oosterbeek near Arnhem in the Netherlands.

The march is one of several events attended by veterans, living relatives, soldiers and British army cadets plus RAF and air cadets from the UK together with Dutch military, police and civilians to commemorate the 1,750 British and Polish soldiers and airmen who lost their lives at the Battle of Arnhem during the Second World War and who are buried at the Airborne Cemetery at Oosterbeek.

The march is also meant to remind one and all, especially the post-war generations, of the sacrifices man was ready to make for the restoration of democracy.

### **5th September 2019 Arnhem March Update 2019**

Dorset Cadets on the 2019 Arnhem March trip took part in the famous Menin Gate Ceremony in Ypres Belgium. Since the end of the First World War a ceremony has been held every night with the last post being sounded at 8pm. The Menin Gate has the names of over 54,000 men lost in the area during the Great War who have no graves. Brigadier N.W. Tak of the Royal Netherlands Army also taking part in the ceremony complemented the Cadets on their turn out and bearing at the ceremony.

Today the Cadets left Ypres and started their onward journey towards Arnhem stopping along the way at the Overloon War Museum located in Overloon, Netherlands. The museum was opened on 25th May 1946, making it one of the oldest museums in Europe dedicated to the Second World War.

### **6th September 2019**

The first visit of the day was to the Arnhem Cemetery to pay respect to the fallen. This started with a talk from Major Stockford and CSMI Joynes to give the history of the battle. Cadets were given a handout with information on three Victoria Cross recipients, two of whom were from Dorset. They then had the task of finding the graves and giving a small presentation to the group.

Final visit of the day was the Cadets heading down to Arnhem stopping to pay a visit to the Dorset Memorial before stopping to see the famous John Frost Bridge named after Major General John Dutton Frost (1912–1993), who commanded the British Forces that reached and defended the bridge during the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944.

### **7th September 2019**

Today the Dorset Cadets took part in the world's largest one-day commemorative walk covering a distance of 15km. The March started with the Last Post being played at 11 am followed by a one minute silence before the parade stepped off with a salute being given to 10 survivors of the battle of Arnhem.

In the last six days cadets have visited four countries, two War cemeteries, four battlefields, four museums, done two parades, laid one wreath, done a 15km march and covered 1,200 Miles.

A big thank you was given from all the cadets and adults to RSMI Wells for all his hard work in organising this trip.

## **About the Army Cadet Force**

For action and adventure, fun and friendship, the Army Cadet Force is hard to beat. With nearly 39,000 cadets (aged 12-18) and 9,000 adults in over 1,600 locations in every corner of the United Kingdom, the ACF is one of the country's largest voluntary youth organisations. It is also one of the oldest, tracing its history back to 1859.

Many young people are missing out on the challenges and adventures that could transform their lives but joining the Army Cadets can change that. We welcome boys and girls (aged over 12 and in at least year eight at school) of all abilities and backgrounds. When they join us we encourage them to learn more, do more and try more. We inspire them to aim high and pursue their goals, no matter what they aim to do in life.

Some of our activities have a military theme, others have more of a community focus but they all inspire young people to challenge their limits, become more independent, confident and able to step up to any challenge.

The Army Cadet Force is one of four cadet organisations sponsored and supported by the Ministry of Defence, the others being the Combined Cadet Force, the Sea Cadet Corps, and the Air Training Corps. Although they are sponsored by the Ministry of Defence there is no obligation on cadets to join the Armed Forces. For more information please access the web site below

<https://armycadets.com/county/dorset-acf/>

**Cheryl Reynolds**

## News from St. Andrew's Church



**T**he Bishop of Sherborne, The Rt. Revd. Karen Gorham attended St. Andrew's Church on 6th October to dedicate the renewed North Porch entrance to the church. The Bishop commended all who had been involved in the project including the Parochial Church Council and the Changing Spaces group. At the doorway the Bishop prayed this prayer:

Lord, God Hear our prayers as we dedicate this new porch to the glory of your name and the welcoming hospitality of your love. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We thank you for all those involved in its creation - builders, contractors, architects, donors, fundraisers and congregation. Lord God, bless this church that in it there may be joy and gladness, peace and love, health and goodness, and thanksgiving always to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and bless all those who worship within, now and ever. Amen

On Sunday 3rd November, the congregation received some exciting news: "The Bishop of Sherborne and the Bishop of Salisbury are pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Chris Martin to the position of Rector of Charmouth & The Golden Cap Benefice."

Rev. Chris Martin comes to us from a mission community in the diocese of Exeter; he is married with three daughters. Chris will be licensed to the benefice in the New Year and will be resident in Charmouth. The PCC and members of the congregation look forward to welcoming Chris to Charmouth and no doubt in time he will make his own contributions to Shoreline.

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

### LUNCHTIME CONCERT REVIEW – ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH – 24TH SEPTEMBER

#### Sophie Brewer

**Sophie Brewer entertained around 45 people on 24th September with a sublime recital of flute music. Yet again the acoustic qualities of St. Andrew's were shown off to their full advantage with the soaring flute filling the church with sound.**

Sophie had been expected to have a piano accompaniment but, in the event, her pianist was unable to come. Nevertheless, Sophie put together a wonderful selection of solo flute music

and this was greatly appreciated by those in the audience.

This was the last Lunchtime Concert of the season and programming for next year's season has begun. We will try to vary the concerts once more, as well as bringing back some that have been specifically asked for by the audience. Watch out for details in the New Year.

We would like to thank the loyal members of the audience during the 2019 season and report that through their generosity more than £1500 in donations for the Changing Spaces project has been raised during the year.

**Roger Sansom**



## REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

**The Remembrance Day Parade for Charmouth, organised by the Parish Council, was extremely well attended on Sunday 10 November.**

Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial on behalf of the Parish Council, the Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, Dorset Constabulary, the Royal British Legion, the Royal Voluntary Service, and the 1st Charmouth Scout and Cub Groups. The last post was played on the bugle by local resident, Richard Fereday.

The Parade then marched to St Andrew's Church for the main Remembrance Day Service.

**Lisa Tuck**



Remembrance Day Photos Bill Burn



# Charmouth Changing Spaces

## What does Changing Spaces do?

I've heard of it but don't know what it does or how it fits into the village.



**To start with, it may be worthwhile to state our 'mission statement' that has been developed for our constitution: 'Charmouth Changing Spaces assists in the preservation and enhancement of the fabric of St. Andrew's Church, Charmouth, Dorset and its environs, encourages its use for community activities, organizes fund-raising events and promotes awareness and knowledge of the church's history and heritage for the benefit of the local and wider community'.**

In 2015, following the disclosure that the church was in a seriously bad condition, a few volunteers set up the Charmouth Changing Spaces (CCS) group with one aim in mind – to create a more modern and comfortable place of worship, whilst at the same time having the flexibility of using the internal space for various other community events. It should be stressed that the group comprises regular church members and those with a more secular interest. Since that time much progress has been made investigating and applying for grant funding and holding many village events. Many will know of the free Lunchtime Concerts which have just completed their second annual season as the CCS group concentrates on organising musical events to demonstrate the wonderful acoustic qualities of the building.

Coming right up to date, the first visible expression of the long journey towards full restoration of the church was the completion of the new North Porch, dedicated by Bishop Karen of Sherborne on 6th October. During her dedication she acknowledged the work of the

Charmouth Changing Spaces group and wished the group well for the future of the project.

The plans that the CCS group have are currently on display as an illustrated exhibition based on a great deal of research that previously went into the application for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Any resident or visitor interested in future plans for the church is invited to visit the exhibition whilst it is on display. Any comments or questions can be passed on to the CCS group via the website: <https://charmouthchangingspaces.org/>

The exhibition comprises six illustrated display boards under the headings of:

### 1. The work begins – the North Porch

This phase marked the start of the restoration of St. Andrew's, thanks to the grant awarded by the Erskine Muton Trust in 2017. The goal of this phase was to make it an inviting and accessible point of entry for the villagers and its visitors to enjoy the services and the regular events that take place.

- Roof and stonework repairs
- Redecoration
- New lighting
- New drainage
- Installation of automated internal glass doors

### 2. What Next?

The remainder of the restoration comprises several other phases. The first area to concentrate on is work to the Nave:

- Weatherproof/repair roof/walls
- Repair internal memorials
- New heating and sound system
- Remove pews and replace with chairs
- Decorate

Followed by the Tower and the Churchyard.

### 3. Space layouts after removal of fixed pews

Once the fixed pews have been removed various configurations are possible, with examples shown:

- Church layout
- Concert layout

- Theatre-in-the-round
- Café/classroom layout
- Exhibition layout
- Dining layout
- Open space

### 4. The Tower

The Tower is in need of urgent restoration but work will be subsidiary to the work on the Nave. The Tower phase includes:

- Weatherproof/repair
- Reinstatement of balcony
- Renovate the organ
- Renovate the bells and clock
- Decorate tower and install historical exhibition

### 5. The Churchyard

There will be a new landscape plan for the churchyard which will include:

- Better use of green space by improving access
- Prune/remove the yew trees to lighten the space
- Relaying paths
- Installing lighting
- Installing a fixed wheelchair ramp
- Adding benches and tables
- Heritage trail between church and car park

### 6. How you can help...

Apart from cash donations, we need skills to realise our dreams to make St. Andrew's the heart of village life once more. The balance of the Erskine Muton Trust grant will allow us to progress the next phase, but more help will be needed to complete the project. There are many ways to help us:

- By making donations, with Gift Aid where appropriate
- By volunteering your time and skills
- By supporting events
- By spreading the word

Visit the website for latest information and to contact us: [CharmouthChangingSpaces.org](https://CharmouthChangingSpaces.org)

**Roger Sansom**



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

# Charmouth Primary School



Nursery



Active in the classroom



Beach clean



Charmouth Challenge

**A**s always, it doesn't seem long since the last issue of *Shoreline* but it is a real pleasure to reflect on what we have done and achieved over the last few months as well as to look forward to the next few.

For the first time in many years, the school has the same staffing two Septembers in a row. This is providing much greater stability for us all and giving us a wonderful opportunity to build on the progress that was made last year. We look forward to seeing continued impact of this stability on the academic as well as pastoral development of our children. During our first INSET of the year, we attended sessions with the West Dorset Schools Collaboration on Trauma Informed Schools, an opportunity to consider many factors that can impact on the wellbeing of our children, as well as to consider how to support our children emotionally and pastorally. The afternoon was a little lighter, with a session from Laughology, giving us the opportunity to laugh and consider how our attitude and emotions impact on all of our learning. We continue to develop ourselves as professionals, modelling to the children that we are all learners.

This term we have had the absolute delight of welcoming three year olds to the school for the first time. Our nursery cohort is part of our early years class, which includes children in both reception and nursery. All children have settled very well into school life and are happily engaging in meaningful play throughout the school day. We have had reports of tears on the days that some of our nursery children are not coming to school, as they are enjoying it so much! Our older children are also enjoying the opportunity to support and encourage these younger members of the school community.

We are continuing to promote being active in school. Different classes are using different ways to promote activity, from using dance and movement programmes on our interactive screens in the classrooms to balance bikes and skipping in the playground. We continue to provide a range of opportunities through PE, with weekly sessions this term being led by FitAgain on boxing and health related fitness. After school clubs are offering further opportunities and we are looking forward to some upcoming fixtures, including football, netball and boccia.

Our busy start to the school year has included many activities and a whole school topic 'The day after tomorrow'. In key stage two, children have been looking at natural disasters and are looking forward to studying the Romans during the second half of the term. We have had a whole variety of volcanoes arriving at school and have even set off some impressive eruptions. In key stage one, children have used texts to think about different parts of the world, including looking at volcanic areas; they will be moving on to studying the Great Fire of London. Starfish class, our early years class, are exploring the world around them, learning about routines and structures and how to cooperate, play and learn with their peers.

A few weeks ago, a group of year 5 children spent the day in Weymouth exploring how to support their peers and promote

active play at play and lunch times. Along with the year 6 children who did the training in school last year, they are already developing routines and supporting their peers as they work towards Bronze Ambassador awards. It is such a great opportunity for our children to develop their own confidence and leadership skills.

On Thursday 10th October, we held our Harvest Assemblies. We welcomed over 80 parents and family members, with every child taking part in sharing information about harvest and food supplies around the world. The generous contributions from our families were then donated to the Lyme Regis Food Bank to support any members of the local community needing support.

On the date of the most recent climate strikes, which also coincided with the weekend of the Great British Beach Clean, we organised a beach clean involving children from year 1 to year 6. We were supported by several parents and the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. Each class only had a limited time on the beach, but the children found that the more they looked, the more they saw. They are very keen to continue with beach and local area cleans.

The children from year 6 last year have all moved up to Woodroffe and we have heard that they have settled well. Although they suffered from inconsistency through their time at Charmouth Primary School, they made huge progress in their learning during their final year and we were very proud of how they faced their SATs tests in the summer term. They were fantastic in the end of year production, which included all children in years 3-6, with the year 6 children taking on the leading roles; it was a real pleasure to see them shining on stage. The production, *A Glint of Gold*, was linked to the Ancient Egyptian topic in key stage two; the children impressed the museum staff at the Tutankhamun exhibition in Dorchester when they recited lines to show their knowledge! They were joined with many of the staff and other pupils for a dip in the sea fully clothed in their uniform after they finished on the last day of their time at Charmouth Primary School.

Our PTA continues to work hard to raise money for the school and ensure our children have access to additional resources and experiences to enrich their learning. The greatest income for the PTA is the Charmouth Challenge and we all appreciate the wonderful support from the whole Charmouth community. The team is already preparing for the 2020 Challenge. Last year, the funds supported beach school, school trips, visitors to the school, books, swimming and gymnastics. We look forward to more activities this year.

The run up to Christmas will be busy - we are planning assemblies, a nativity, a carol service and a Christmas Fair - so it will be here before we know it! We would like to wish all of the *Shoreline* readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Laura Cornish,**  
Headteacher

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



## CHARMOUTH'S FIRST FOLK FESTIVAL

**The last weekend in September brought with it a yellow weather warning and the start of Charmouth's first Folk Festival. Despite the wet and windy weather, people travelled from far and wide to be here.**

The well known folk singer Richard Digance opened the festival for us. Currently on his Platinum UK tour this year, he wowed the audience with his comic songs, stories and guitar solos. Richard's supporting act was Kelly Oliver, a young, award-winning, singer songwriter with a truly beautiful voice.

On Saturday, John Watterson performed the witty and satirical songs of the late, great Jake Thackray in St. Andrew's and delighted the audience. Gary and Vera Aspey, a well-known folk duo, who have played internationally for over 40 years with many radio and TV appearances, sang at several venues over the weekend.

Saturday night gave us a very energetic and lively gig by Green Diesel who really got the audience moving and 'brought the house down' in the Community Hall.

On Sunday we welcomed Grant Baynham, an exceptional guitarist and songwriter, well known from his four years with Esther Rantzen on *That's Life*, who had us laughing out loud with his funny songs and comic timing. He also ran a guitar workshop which was attended by several of the other musicians amongst others, who hold his expertise in high esteem.

The brilliant band FolkLaw gave an amazingly lively performance, enjoyed by a large audience in the church and whose appreciation was apparent by the loud applause.

The wonderful Nick Dow, renowned songwriter and collector of ancient Dorset folk songs, regaled us with stories and traditional folk songs. One fan travelled hundreds of miles from Kent just to take part in Nick's songwriting workshop.

Other musicians included the ten-piece Spa Strummers, a fun ukelele group, who attracted good audiences, and

Broomdasher, a six-part A Capella group who entertained us at The George. Plans for them to be strolling minstrels through the village were scuppered by the atrocious weather so they did a second gig in the pub. Thanks, Dean, for your support and encouragement.

John Mosedale, sang his original, funny songs at both the Library and The Royal Oak, and had great feedback.

On both days we provided community 'Big Breakfast' fundraisers. Many thanks to Awaken Love for Africa and the 1st Charmouth Scout Group for organising these events and fundraising for your charities. There's nothing like a 'Full Monty' fry up to set everyone up for the day!

There were three children's dancing workshops organised but sadly these were not well supported. Thank you to Mrs Cornish for use of the school hall and to Tony Sparkes for his help.

The Folk Festival ended with a performance by Keith Christmas. After fifty years in the music business, playing with David Bowie and many other great names, he has returned to his folk roots. He played at the first Glastonbury Festival (and several more since) so we were very pleased to have him play at the very first Charmouth Folk Festival too. Keith sang songs from his new album, 'Life, Life'. Very bluegrass in feel, this was a wonderful end to the festival.

Thanks go to all the venues who took part, to the Library volunteers, to Changing

Spaces for running the events in the church, to the many people who hosted performers in their homes, to Jane and David Clifford who organised the real ale and ran the bar for all the Community Hall events, to Norma for her enthusiasm and for spreading the word so far and wide and to Al at Charmouth Stores for his continued support with supplies. A special thank you goes to Heather for her amazing technical knowledge of sound systems, and without whom we would have really struggled. Thanks also to the volunteers and the members of the Events team for their hard work and, yes, as usual, we definitely needed more help.

The Events team aimed to have a small, friendly festival with high quality musicians and for people to have an enjoyable experience... And that is exactly what we had!!

**Maggie Wiscombe**



Maggie Wiscombe & Keith Christmas

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**COFFEE BAR**  
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### ADVERTORIAL

## South Westerly

**South Westerly opened in August this year. Situated on The Street between the Charmouth Practice and the library (formerly Herringbone's position), it offers a small informal coffee bar, select second-hand and vintage clothing, vinyl records and an array of gifts from chocolates to original art - an eclectic mix with a strong eco-friendly conscience.**

The atmosphere is sociable and relaxed, and often interesting conversations brew! We serve hot drinks and delicious cakes and take great pride in our high quality Sumatran coffee which is free trade and organic. A takeout service is available and you get a discount if you bring your own cups or containers. Customers are encouraged to browse, try on clothes, choose records to play or just stop and chat. The clothing is always changing, so if we haven't got what you'd like then try again another time and always let us know so we can look out for items for you.

**Our opening hours in December are Tuesday - Friday 9.30 - 4.00 and Saturday 10.00 - 5.00.**

**Magda Perrett**

# Birding Update - About Birds, Birding and Twitchers



Pocket size with wonderful colour illustrations

**I think it was my father's interest in the birds on the bird table in our suburban garden that got me started - that and this wonderful little book, 'The Observer's Book of Birds'. How many of you remember it, I wonder?**

I re-found my well-thumbed copy a few months ago and was somewhat intrigued to see that my boyhood-self had been sufficiently organised and interested to neatly underline some of the species in that wonderful introductory guide. So maybe the need to list and record has always been there or maybe it's a boy thing if we are still allowed to utter such words in today's PC world. Fast forward to 2019 and because of family and city work commitments it is only latterly that I have been in the fortunate position to be able to pick up on my boyhood interest. And so, since retirement, I've replaced a desk and stuffy office in central London with the fantastic coastal scenery and bracing, changeable weather of our local neighbourhood. And I go out and find those little brown jobs (LBJs) in the Observer's guidebook.

When out Birding I travel fairly light. A pair of decent boots, binoculars (of course), a bridge camera, fleece or waterproof as needed, hat - maybe a bottle of water if I'm going to be out for a few hours. I meet a lot of people: dog walkers, hikers, villagers and visitors alike. Most on the footpaths and cliffs are walking their dogs. And most I would have to say are in a hurry. My pace is much slower. On one such outing in a village, not far away, I had found a Spotted Flycatcher in a farm orchard and was concentrating so hard on trying to get a photograph that I was oblivious to the horse and rider who had come around the corner of the field. So intent was I looking through the camera viewfinder, that they had both seen me long before I was aware. And the horse was not happy at the sight of this motionless figure. The rider was struggling to control the spooked creature. And so the friendly farmer called out to me "Can you move a bit or do something! He needs to know you're a human being!" I did and the horse settled. The farmer chatted for a few minutes about the birds she'd been seeing on her farm and then they moved on.

A couple of days later, in the same village, I drove up a lane to the vineyard, realised my mistake and was turning the car when a different villager stopped to chat through my open window. Usual pleasantries, "Are you lost? Can I help you? Etc." "Eh, no, I'm just out, exploring, doing a bit of Birding, looking for autumn migrant birds". "Oh!" she said "you must be the Twitcher. Pleased to meet you. My friend said there was a Twitcher about." Word gets around quickly in a village!



Spotted Flycatcher

So what am I? It got me thinking. Am I a Birder or a Twitcher? I've always thought of myself as a Birder but this exchange got me wondering. As I say, I usually go out locally and find my own birds. Regular readers of this column will have probably built up a fairly accurate picture of my birding pastime. But for those who have not, perhaps I should try to explain the difference between the two, if you'll bear with me. So what is the difference? Well Twitching is the pursuit of a previously located rare bird. The term Twitcher, sometimes misapplied as a synonym for Birder describes those who travel long distances to see a rare bird that would then be ticked, or counted on a list. Birdwatching or Birding is a form of wildlife observation in which the observation of birds is a recreational activity or citizen science. It can be done with the naked eye, through binoculars/telescope (I have both), by listening for bird sounds or by watching public webcams. It's different to ornithology which uses formal scientific methods, but there's probably a bit of an overlap here.

So we've already established that I recorded the things I saw back in my youth. But do I still? And do I keep a list? To be truthful, those lines in my bird book don't really paint a picture of the 'how many' or the 'what time of the year' or even the 'where was it seen'. So as a snapshot of how our wildlife was doing at that time, it's not much use as a historical record.

Well I do now have a birding diary notebook. To be honest, until recently I've been a bit of a casual lister. But spurred on by a good friend of mine (who is somewhat more organised than I) who sent me the complete list of the birds likely to be sighted in the UK, I have paid a bit more attention to the what, the where and the when. And so for what it's worth here's what I found out. In the UK the total number of bird species is in the region of 650. Not that many really! Of those 650 in 2019, I've seen less than a third; 205 to be exact. And I've had to work pretty hard to 'achieve' that 'score'. And since I have been birding our immediate local area or 'patch', I've managed to record 155 different species of birds - my patch

list. Incidentally, the corresponding totals for dragonflies in U.K. are even fewer at 56 and for butterflies 60. But I don't systematically record my sightings so I don't have my personal numbers for 2019 and the patch. Which perhaps should be a challenge for me in the future?

So am I a Twitcher then, as the lady asked? Well No and Yes! She seemed pretty reassured that I was ONLY a Twitcher mooching about the local highways, byways and footpaths pursuing their hobby. And from her viewpoint I gathered that she seemed to have a fairly tolerant and positive attitude to the hobby. But in the strict sense, as I don't drop everything to zoom off to the other end of the country to see some stranded rare feathered waif, I can't really claim to be a Twitcher in the true sense of the word. So I think it's a no. But just to confuse the reader even more, I have been known (on occasions) to jump in the car and drive three hours down the A30 road towards Land's End to twitch an American vagrant bird or two (Grey Catbird and White rumped Sandpiper). So it's a definite No... and Yes!

## Recent Local Patch Sightings

What birds have I found on the local patch and what should the reader be looking out for in the coming winter months? Well I can report that October 2019 has been a fantastic month bird-wise with some terrific sightings in the village as follows:



21st October - Scandinavian Rock Pipit (Ring Number A94), feeding well on Charmouth Beach, 21/10/19, ringed in Norway



25th October - Two Turnstones, sheltering from the storm, Charmouth Beach, 25/10/2019





26th October - Grey Phalarope, River Char at Footbridge. Brilliant views and a fantastic record for Charmouth!



31st October - One of a record six Black Redstarts fly-catching around beach huts green above West Beach, Charmouth. Brilliant to watch.

### Birds to look out for over winter months

Garden and woods: Siskins, Redpolls, Bramblings, Chaffinches and also winter Thrushes, Redwings and Fieldfares will come into the garden to feed on any left-over windfall apples or berries they can find. Foreshore and Beach Huts Green: Rock Pipits, Black Redstarts. On the sea and beaches, look out for Turnstones, Purple Sandpipers, Oyster Catchers, Dunlin, Brent Geese, Gannets, Auks, Ducks (Mallard, Eider, Scoter) and Divers. Overhead: Buzzards, Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Ravens. Fields and Cliffs: Stonechat, Meadow Pipits, Linnets.

### Post Script

But what struck me recently is that although I'm switched on to birding, there's so much more out there in the natural realm. I see such a diversity of nature; land and sea birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies, moths, insects, bees, dragonflies, sea creatures, and fish. It's all still there. On our doorstep. You just have to go out and look. Sad to say not in the numbers I remember as that boy growing up in the '50s and '60s, but it IS still out there. When was the last time you saw a flock of Yellowhammers, or had a good view of a Hare or a Blue butterfly? We need to cherish what we have. Wouldn't it be great if we could have an area set aside for wildlife, flowers, trees and fungi? A small wildlife sanctuary area would build on what we have already in our beautiful village.

Happy Winter Birding!

**Richard Phillips**

Follow me on Twitter where I post regular updates with photos: @CharmouthBirder

Or read my Blog: [www.charmouthbirding.blogspot.com](http://www.charmouthbirding.blogspot.com)

## Strange Encounters of the Birding Kind...

**H**aving been a keen birdwatcher now for well over 60 years (that's KEEN rather than GOOD), I find I can no longer be a birdwatcher, but a twitcher or a birder. That raises an interesting question. Does a train spotter now become a trainer?! I have often wondered if stories about bird watching could follow a similar pattern like stories about the TV series, 'The Yorkshire Vet'...

I was standing just off the pathway on a bird reserve when, going past me at quite a pace, was a scruffy elderly gent with a very unkempt beard, pushing a pram. I became suspicious and hastened after him. I did check first, and no, it wasn't Bill Oddie. Close enough to see, thankfully, it wasn't a kidnapped baby in the pram but a very large telescope and an equally large camera. As I walked on, with some relief, to where I was going I thought to myself 'wow that would be a great job to get, a bird watcher's caddy!'

Before moving to Charmouth, we lived in a village in Surrey. Adjoining the bottom of our garden was a large area of waste land which was snapped up by builders and, soon after, houses were built. At the bottom of our garden there were some tall shrubs and one day I was thrilled to see a flock of Linnets perched on them. These are lovely little birds of the finch family and often travel together with Goldfinches, although no Goldfinches this time. With my binoculars intensely focused on them, I watched for some time until I became aware of something moving a good way beyond and well out of focus. Adjusting my binoculars, I was horrified to see a woman leaning out of a bedroom window of one of the new houses, shaking her fist at me. How could I ever prove that she was well out of my focus range and I wasn't not looking at her? Just an innocent birdwatcher!

On a bird reserve somewhere I met a man coming towards me. He was tall, quite thin and elderly with a rather serious face and binoculars around his neck. "Anything about?" he asked in a deep authoritative voice. This is a normal question with bird watchers and simply means 'is there anything unusual or noteworthy'. "Not much" I replied. "But there was a spotted blackbird just down the path". He

looked at me for quite some time with a poker face then, with the same authoritative voice, said "there is no such thing as a spotted blackbird." "Yes there is" I replied. "There's a blackbird down there and I just spotted it". He looked at me in silence for quite some time then walked off, clearly saddened that he should be sharing this part of the planet with an idiot.

At Radipole bird reserve in Weymouth, where I often go, there was quite a buzz at the centre. Bearded Tits were nesting at the far end. Although these birds are not that rare you are not likely to see them in your back garden unless you have a substantial reed bed in it! They are also badly named as their facial markings suggest a moustache rather than a beard. On my way I met a couple who had gone to see these Bearded Tits; sadly they did not see them this time and neither did I. The lady showed me some wonderful pictures though, which she had taken on another occasion.

On our way home, my wife wanted to go into the local supermarket. As we went around the shop, amazingly, I saw the same couple I'd been talking to at Radipole. The lady was browsing in the freezer section. I sidled up to her close enough for her to, thankfully, oh how thankfully, turn and look at me. Uh-oh, mistaken identity, it wasn't her! I just casually nodded and briskly walked away. I still wonder what this dear lady, innocently shopping, would have said or done when a complete stranger came up to her and said, as I was intending, 'there are no Bearded Tits in there'. Close call that. I wonder if you have had any strange encounters of the birding kind?

**Tony English**



**Please Support Shoreline's Advertisers**

# Charmouth Community Library and Internet Cafe



**Charmouth Community Library's AGM will be on Thursday 28th November at 6.00pm in the Library. Villagers and users of the library are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available after the meeting. AGMs are generally concluded within an hour.**

The library has had a successful year, although we can't be complacent. I was told just this last week that two residents (who'd lived in the village for well over a decade) had recently discovered that the village did have a library and what's more that if you wanted Post Office services you could get those too if you came on the right day of the week (Thursday). So, perhaps we could do with a publicity officer!

Recently we hosted a writing competition which attracted a large number of entrants. Bob Hughes will be telling you about that.

We believe we still provide a very useful service: people in the know and who have their free library card can order best sellers (the books everyone else wants to read) through our system, and they're free too. You may have to wait a little while, but libraries make a point of buying books people want to read.

A word about the Post Office. At present we are hosting the P.O. for their Thursday opening in the library and this is based on Charmouth Parish Council kindly providing some financial support for the service. (The Post Office itself no longer pays for its premises in the village.) After March, however, there is not yet a decision on whether this relationship can continue although the Library Committee has said it will continue to host the P.O., providing the Council can support us. It is worth bearing in mind that, when the P.O. is in the Library, we lose income from our Served as well as some sales of items; there is additional wear and tear and it can only open with the presence of volunteers. We do appreciate that having the P.O. in the Library is a valuable community service. We'll hope to have confirmation about this situation for you in our next bulletin.

By the way, although the Post Office service is available on Thursdays (10.15am – 1.00pm and 1.30 to 4.00 pm), the library itself closes at 1.00 pm. If you would like more information or would like to join the library, please ask one of our volunteers. Do come to our AGM if you would like to show your support, join our group of Friends or help us in any way.

I would like to thank Bob Hughes and Ros Cole for their hard work in enabling the Post Office to remain in the village - for the benefit of all of us.

**Russell Telfer**



## YOU BOUGHT THE BOOK, NOW SEE THE FILM

**Thanks to the generosity of donors and the active support of management and staff at Charmouth Fish Bar, we have sold over 660 books this year to their customers. A big thank you to everyone concerned.**

Now it's cooler and wetter, our books would deteriorate if they were to be left on the display shelf, so, having had a collection of over 150 DVDs given to us, we will replace the books with films, still selling at a £1 each and change the display each week... just like the cinema!

**Bob Hughes** Treasurer (560487)

## Charmouth Post Office Service

**Charmouth outreach services are our newest addition to the several other outreaches we do within South Somerset and Dorset.**

Our welcome within the community as a Post Office is always met with smiles and thank yous, but for the residents of Charmouth, it always means so much more. This is mainly down to the fact that the previous postmaster (Steve Pile) has built a great relationship locally. And so we carry on that presence and commitment to the services in the same manner. We visit Charmouth once a week, and we very much hope that we can keep the service on indefinitely. Post Office HQ still treat this as a temporary service, but we can continue to renew it if circumstances allow.

I think we all have this common aim. Saving services is how I started our own Post Office in Crewkerne, so it's something that I believe is very important to us and everyone.

Thank you, Shoreline, for your interest in this and keep up the good work.

**Steve Smith**, Crewkerne Post Office

**And a big thank you, Steve and Peter the Post Master, from everyone in Charmouth!**

## Charmouth Community Library Talks

A couple of years ago we ran a successful series of talks on a variety of Health issues. We are looking to do something similar in February, March and April. We have a talk arranged for 27th February on the Alexander Relaxation technique. It has been suggested that a talk on Tai Chi might be interesting too. Then we have had a couple of darker suggestions: a solicitor to talk to us about getting our affairs in order, the need for Powers of Attorney and what you should put in them, probably coupled with thoughts on writing, or updating your wills, and the benefits and pitfalls of doing it all yourself! Even darker, we have been asked to consider asking a local undertaker to talk about the lighter side of his job, planning your own funeral arrangements, and what the undertaker does at a time of bereavement. So fun packed and practical advice! As you can see, any suggestions for talks would be welcomed.

**Bob Hughes** Treasurer (560487)

## Free Computer Help on offer – Charmouth Library

**The Superfast Dorset team at Dorset Council have two Digital Champions who are based in Charmouth Community Library. They are part of an army of volunteers who are helping people all around Dorset to improve their digital skills. Please feel free to drop in and see them:**



Tony Dix at 10.00-12.00 on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month and David Jones at 2.00-5.00 on Wednesdays.

**Sam McLaren**, Superfast Dorset, Dorset Council  
01258 484363 [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



# Short Story Writing Competition

## OCTOBER 2019

Sansom for designing a web site which everyone found easy to negotiate successfully.

**Bob Hughes** *Treasurer*

**I**t was a dark and stormy night, over 50 people huddled together in the Community Hall. Tell us a yarn, they cried. Where to start? We had over 120 entries. The standard was high. Judges had judged, producing: longlists, shortlists, finalists. Video Assisted Review (VAR) - not quite true, but there were some tricky decisions, which had to be re-examined.

Leading entries were read out in each class. The audience laughed and sighed as appropriate. Prizes were presented to the winners who were present. (If anyone knows Lisa Meriadri, we would be grateful, as she has yet to claim her prize.)

Prizewinning entries are shown below. Particular thanks are due to our judges (Chris Lakeman Fraser, Jane Littler and Eric Harwood from Charmouth, and Mathew Parris and Ann Treneman who write for The Times). We are grateful to Charmouth Traders for sponsorship, to Charmouth School for encouragement when we most needed it at the start and Roger



### WINNERS UNDER 12 CLASS

#### Joint First Prize - The Murder of Mr. Jones

*I was called in to investigate the murder of Mr Jones.*

*"Good evening detective!" said the police officer guarding the door.*

*I rushed inside to examine the body. I knelt down and discovered a blade in the base of his neck.*

*"I said I'd get you back Jones" I whispered.*

Copyright Poppy Dyer

#### Joint First Prize - Short and Tweet

*The little bird hops and pecks, searching for juicy worms.*

*Delicate wings flutter; she tweets joyfully showing no signs of weariness. Agile as a snowflake she moves.*

*As she nears the final sweep of her wings, the key on her back dwindles to a stop. She is quiet and still.*

Copyright Esme Skevington

#### Third Prize - Nature's Gift

*Nature has given us this wonderful gift, but we are being ruff with it.*

*We've filled it with plastic, choked it with fumes, and wrecked its beautiful habitats.*

*The other animals look after it well, this gift we share.*

*So why can't we?*

*I wish we were like apes!*

Copyright Esme Skevington

### Winners 12 TO 18 CLASS

#### First Prize - Pluto

*It was inevitable. They all hated me.*

*Everything revolves around sun.*

*Uranus always acted cold towards me.*

*Jupiter was gigantic; I'm insignificant to him. Mercury was just glad it wasn't her.*

*I thought Earth would save me.*

*But, I was banished from the family.*

Copyright Daisy Saint

#### Second Prize - The Richness of a Book

*It was raining.*

*A lonely homeless man wandered in the streets holding nothing more than a book. He stopped under an arcade, sat on the damp floor.*

*He started reading. 'The sun is shining, bird songs blow in the wind...'*

*He got into it smiling, those dusty pages were his life.*

Copyright Lisa Meriadri

#### Third Prize - Fleeting Strangers

*Ears prick and noses quiver as both strangers notice their counterparts.*

*Tongues hang sloppily over their mouths, as they both gallop in uncontrollable excitement.*

*Leads strain and owners lurch forward as the two entangle gaily.*

*A requited sniff of the posterior later both are on their way, regretting their decision.*

Copyright Nat Merrell

### WINNERS - OPEN CLASS

#### First Prize - Heading for a Colourful End

*"I'm painting the bedroom" she says, "need a change. How about 'Forever Rosy'?"*

*"Really?"*

*"Melting moments?"*

*"Too bold."*

*"Passion Fruit?"*

*"Makes me nauseous."*

*"Baby's Breath?"*

*"Definitely not!"*

*"You choose then."*

*He picks 'Truly Beige'. Later he finds the colour chart. 'Sunshine' is circled, in front of which is written, 'Goodbye'*

Copyright Marianne Ashurst

#### Second Prize - A Paleo-oddity

*One misty dawn, Charmouth's intrepid fossil hunter, Eamonn Knight, stumbled upon the skull of his first ichthyosaurs. Alas, his wrong-footed fervour towards this Jurassic jewel brought no less than a fatal tumble.*

*The irony was lost on the saurios palaeontologist who delighted in espying Eamonn's petrified cranium some millennia hence.*

Copyright Alex Brigers

#### Third Prize - Old Sins Cast Long Shadows

*Waiting excitedly to greet daughter Bex and her new husband, straight off the plane.*

*Strange they met over there. Memories flood over her: pain; baby adopted; aching empty arms.*

*"Mum!" Frantic hugs after so long apart.*

*"This is Alex!" Blood drains as she confronts the image of her baby's father.*

Copyright Eve Wilson

#### Plastic Free Charmouth Environmental Story Award [sponsored by PFC] - Floe

*She was exhausted, helpless and alone. Except for what little was left of her home her world was blue, entirely blue. Her grasp into the softening floor was slipping away. Now unconscious, she slipped quietly down into her watery grave below. God wept. We had left it far too late.*

Copyright Keith Richards

# Ted Whatmore Remembers

*Ted Whatmore, a true village worthy, is known to so many of us in Charmouth. His memories of the village and those who have lived here span nearly 90 years. Here is his story:*

**"I was born in Exmouth and came to Charmouth with my parents, Lily and Harry, and my brother John and sister Joan when I was 10 months old. We moved in with my grandparents who were then living in Peria on The Street. My grandmother, Maria Hitchcock, had previously been installed as a cook at No. 10 Downing Street before coming to Charmouth as Landlord of the Royal Oak.**

Peria is a very big house, some 13 or 14 rooms altogether, so my grandparents let part of it. We lived there quite comfortably opposite the Mann family at Littlehurst, now the doctors' surgery. We used to look out of our front door, right across The Street to their house. When they had their front door open, you could never have seen anything better. A path overhung by rose-covered arches every six feet and hedges just 18 inches high went right the way down and extended in a line as far south as old Sea Horse House (now Sea Horses flats). It was all garden and there used to be an orchard. I remember the rotating summer house in the garden that you could move with one finger. I would go over to old Mrs. Mann to help her with the weeding and pick apples in the autumn. Always at 11 o'clock sharp, I would have to go with Mrs. Mann into the morning room at Littlehurst, where she would have her sherry and I was given lemonade and linseed cake, brought in by Mrs. Bowden, the housekeeper.



Ted with his brother John at Peria, c1934

My main memories of people on The Street as I was growing up are of the Bucks at The Court, the Saffreys at the Royal Oak and the Hollys at the Post Office and bank (now Langley House) and the Wests next door at Luttrell

House who had a very big garden and sometimes I'd help their gardener, Pigeon. The Barbers at The Elms held summer fetes for the Conservatives, the Carters in thatched Albury Cottage lived there for a long time, then next down at No.2 Hillside were the Measures. They had a daughter who was mad on horses and used to keep one in Lower Sea Lane where the modern detached brick house is now, just down from the Community Hall. Her horse's paddock was where Meadow Way is now.

Then we come further down The Street to the Elliots at No.3 Hillside, who were there as long as I can remember. Next door at No.1 Hillside was Miss Pryer of whom you had to be extremely careful; she was very 'churchy'. Then there was the dairy at Backlands (Hardings). Mrs. Forsey was very good; we used to go down there and get our quart of milk. At Easter she'd always make sure she gave me a very big chicken egg to take to Sunday School. Down again, you'd come across Miss Cummings No.1 Manor House which is being renovated just now. She was very austere. If you put a foot wrong, she'd certainly tell you about it. As we all know, when the Whittingtons arrived they ran the school at The Limes. On the other side of The Street were the Mabsons at Beech House. In later years, Sandford Cottage, the Georgian house on the corner of Lower Sea Lane, was taken down to widen the opening to Lower Sea Lane. In those days you had to know the people so you could keep out of their way.

Right at the top of Axminster Road, Mrs. Gollop ran a little shop at Avery Cottage that sold sweets and sometimes we were given the odd sweet after it fell on the floor. Then down the hill was May Copp, who ran a draper's shop at Highfield, in the fork of Old Lyme Road and Lyme Hill. We always went there at firework time as she also stocked plenty of fireworks. Coming down the hill again, the Spellings lived at Melville House, one of the former Post Office locations, after it was the grocery shop. My brother used to work for them on Saturdays and would go out on a bike with a basket on the front. Further down at Waterloo House was Childs the ironmongers, then next door at Granville House was Hutchings the shoe man. On the other side, at The Knapp, were the Cables, who ran another grocery business. Portland House on the hill was Miss Tarr's stationers' shop, the side passage of which was filled with out of date, unreturned newspapers. Next, it became a hairdresser's shop, run for some time by Yvonne How. After Yvonne left, it became an antique shop run by two sisters and a brother. Unfortunately, one sister was killed at Lyme Regis when a big furniture lorry came crashing down Sidmouth Road. There were Scouts on board with their tents. The lorry crashed

into cars and scraped the shop front where I'd been working. I had just come into the shop moments before, as the lorry came rattling down the road and killed this little lady. Portland House later became Mediterranean gift shop. We used to go Charmouth House to attend bible study once a week at the flat to the rear of Charmouth House in Higher Sea Lane. The owner, Mr. Annear, was a conscientious objector and we were barred by the church from going, but we still went. He was a very good Christian; a marvellous man.



Ted c1936

I missed a lot of school at the Old School in Lower Sea Lane due to ill health and had to rest. Sadly, I took no part in sport at all. Us boys played the teachers up, although I only remember having the cane once. That was when we had the evacuees in Charmouth during the war, which was a different thing altogether. The London children came down and taught us things we'd never done before, getting us into all sorts of trouble. The Elliots at No.3 Hillside had two evacuees. There was always trouble with the evacuees' parents coming to the door of the school, getting the head teacher out and having a barney. Despite the war, our teaching was fairly normal. We were supposed to go out on nature walks with sacks under our arms and had to pick up acorns, or go out and pick rose hips in the hedgerows, and pull flax, which was our effort for the war.

Peter Rowland, Bill Spurdle, Sid Smith and I were allowed to plym up Percy Smith's boat on Sunday mornings, a lot of water inside and out, but we had experience of rowing. We finished the morning by visiting The Star pub, where the landlady used to give us shandy, under age.

Then there was the trend of hob nail boots and we all had to have them to be in the fashion. We used to go to Hutchings, the shoe man, and get him to



put hobnails on the soles of our boots. We used to wear them to school and crash about all over the place, driving the teachers mad – but they could do nothing about it. Mrs. Pass, from the Manor at Wootton, used to bring her projector with large square slides, which she would show us. They were quite interesting. As it was a church school, we had to abide by the church rules and always went to the main services at St. Andrew's. The teacher would walk as far as she could to the back of the church whilst we were at the other end. She had to hear us read clearly, without a microphone, of course. It got us into reading and we read very well. We had to. I was always very good at spelling and poetry, and loved singing; it was my main interest. We used to have a little band: Peter, Bill, Sid and me – four mates together. They lived at the bottom of the village and I was half way up, a bit marooned, but I always made my way to the bottom.

We used to mess about – even at 11 and 12 we were still children. We would go out into the fields, climb trees, make rope swings, all that sort of thing. There was no TV then. We had a great time; usually someone would produce a pack of five Woodbines. When I was 11, I used to go to Boyers, a farm at the top of the hill, and got to know a land girl there. I first learnt to milk a cow at Lily Farm. In those days, the farm stretched down to the cliff edge. I'd walk down to the cliffs with the cows and bring them up again; sometimes I had to milk them. One cow would not move back very often, so I had to milk her there on the cliff and get the milk back to the farm without spilling it. A cat used to sit by me whilst I was milking and would open her mouth so I could squirt some milk in. Mr. Smith delivered the milk by horse and cart.

We used to visit Wood Farm when they were pressing apples for cider. I remember getting milk from Smiths of Hogchester delivered by a horse and seeing horses being shod at Childs, now The Old Forge Fossil Shop, and seeing a hand-operated piano, complete with live monkey. When the mackerel were inshore, Percy Smith and Jake Farrant would surround the shoal and dragnet them in; they would sell them for about a half-penny each. There was always a circus and fair at Mill Field where I remember putting my finger too close to the monkey's cage and having it bitten.

During the war we were never allowed go out on the beach because it was manned by the army. They planted mines on the top of the cliff. We didn't know this until a cow from Loosemore's wandered across and got blown up. Then there was the radio location on the top of the cliff. They were told not to put it there but they did and within a month it had slipped down the cliff. Bits are still there now. There was also a two-man lookout post half-way up the cliff on the Lyme side, which was a

square brick construction. Lookout post volunteers would man it to site foreign ships.

Then we had a brilliant home guard. They knew nothing but pretended to know everything. I remember going out on the playing fields and seeing them being shown what a butterfly bomb was like. They were absolutely foxed. They didn't know how to deal with it. It was one of those sticky bombs that adhered to things. Then we had Captain Cook from Lower Sea Lane running about like mad blowing on a whistle to warn us of air raids. But by the time he got to Charmouth Stores he was out of breath and couldn't blow any more. So we never really knew when there was going to be an air raid. But eventually we got an air raid warning siren, which was sited at the old fire station.

My family accommodated eight billeted servicemen and, thanks to them, we never went short of coal during the war. They had one of the front rooms at Peria and we would go in there to keep warm. Those servicemen eventually went and we had a new lot after D-Day. I can say that as a child I experienced the effects of shell shock on soldiers. They slept on the top floor and we were on the first floor, but we were often woken up at night by shouting. One man was badly affected, simply by a chink of light coming through the curtains. People reacted in different ways. At Littlehurst opposite, the Mann's daughter let Little Hedges to an Irish family, who were accused of sending signals and later transported to a detention camp. I had a friend in one of the three houses then built in Meadow Way and sometimes I'd stay with him overnight in a chalet in the garden. We'd hear loud bangs and watched German fighters over Lyme Bay. We even saw a couple of planes come down.

St. Andrew's Church used to be very well attended. On Sundays, we had a 7 o'clock communion, an 8 o'clock communion, a half past nine service, an 11 o'clock service and a half past six service. The services were always busy and there was a choir of around 40 with very good voices. Us boys were up there on one side of the gallery and the girls on the other, with adults in between. Marjorie Sloman played the organ. She used to get so cross with us and Reginald Pavey would come over and tell us where to go. We would get terribly bored so we had fun with our hymn books, putting them as close to the edge of the ledge as we could before they tipped over. We would usually catch them, but once we didn't. A book fell on a London evacuee teacher who was sitting in a pew directly below. From that time on we were not allowed to be in the choir. But I was always in the gallery to pump the organ. I'm not very tall now but I was shorter then and had to stand on a chair. A piece of string with a weight at the end came out of a hole in the side

of the organ and I had to make sure the weight was at the bottom of the string so the organ was full of air. Very often, the weight crept up and poor old Marj didn't have any air to play the organ. Then, as a bit of a joke, we'd pull back the curtain and she'd be cross. We weren't paid to pump the organ, but we were given a shilling to pump it for weddings. We had a very good Sunday School, with four groups of around 25 in each. There was nothing else to do, so you went to church. Each year I seemed to attend every Sunday and each year I received a prize for attendance – my only prizes. I didn't learn much there. Then it came to confirmation and we played up so much that our vicar was sent to distraction. We went because the girls were there; they got us confirmed. We used to go out with the girls in Wootton Fields.



Ted c1945

There were various special events in the village over the years and a number took place at Court Field, behind the war memorial, and other events such as street parties for the VE and VJ celebrations were held on The Street by Gear's Garage. Mrs. Parkins was a great pianist and often played at big social events.

Charmouth was one of those villages in which you grew up knowing exactly who you were and where you were and it was a great place for dinner parties and cocktail parties within the social set. There were people who had what I call 'old money': the Manns, the Wests, the Barbers, Mrs. Bush, the Kennedys at Fernhill, the Coxes. You knew what 'old money' was and you knew that the person you were dealing with was from the old set. Dr. Lillie at Charmouth House had a full-time gardener, as did the Barbers at The Elms and the Manns, whilst the Picks at Langmoor had two gardeners. The Wests at Luttrell House shared a gardener with Dr. Chamberlain at Askew House.

Then of course it came to leaving school. What was I going to do? I couldn't go into building because of my poor old heart.

I couldn't do anything heavy, so I went into a shop at Lyme called Haddon's, into the piece goods department and learnt all about dress fabrics and linen during a five-year apprenticeship. At the end of five years the shop was sold to a lady who took it over. I told her of my five years' experience. "You know absolutely nothing. Your apprenticeship starts now", she retorted - and it did. By that time, I was buying dress fabrics and heavy wool fabrics, furnishings and everything that goes with them. I took such an interest that when they went buying, I would give up my half day holiday and go with them. I learnt an awful lot: how to buy, what to buy, what was in and what was out. It added a lot to my experience. Then I went into the men's department and did some measuring. Before I finished working on furnishings, I went out measuring curtains, suites of furniture and covers. I had to make sure the pattern was in the middle and the pelmets matched the curtains when they were drawn. Then I worked in the men's department, measuring and buying. Sometime later I saw an advertisement for a job at Fone & Stag at Crewkerne, a shop of some reputation. They had a work room where everything that went into cutting and making a suit, including handmade buttonholes, handmade collars; everything was just right. Eventually, the owner sent two of us on a course at Daks, which was making made to measure suits. We were there for a while and could have stayed on, but London was not for me. I had to come back, but all good experience.

I was still living in Charmouth at that time and driving to Crewkerne every day; sometimes to another shop in Sherborne and then to one in Bridport. After the chap retired at Crewkerne I managed the shop, but then I thought I should do something else. I'd always wanted my own business. So, I started one in Crewkerne and colour coordinated the whole stock, so that if you wanted something blue, for example, I could match blue, or another colour, all the way

down to socks. I liked dealing with the new clothing, the new designs and the colours that embraced the new attitude to colour for men. It was great and I was enjoying it.



Ted & Pat's wedding day

In 1971 I married Pat, a farmer's daughter, who lived in Hewish, two-and-a-half miles from Crewkerne and we lived in a cottage there. We met because we both drove dark red Minis and used the same car park in Crewkerne (of which I made certain). Pat worked at Lawrence's Estate Agents and I was at the menswear shop. We had two sons, Mark and Ben, who are both now married, each with two children, Archie, Rosie, Thea and Jasper.

At weekends I learnt a lot about farming because my brother-in-law, John, was a farmer. I helped him on Sunday mornings to clean the cow stall and yard and became used to mucky work. Although we had milking machines, we had to hand milk cows that had just calved, so I did that and enjoyed seeing the new calves. I also drove the tractor, once was enough, and thoroughly enjoyed it all. Then my sister-in-law, Christine, who had done all the paperwork at the farm, died

so I took it on, knowing about it from my business. I did the returns and dealt with invoices, marketing, passports and other documents. It was quite an experience.

Eventually, when I finished with my shop, I did three days a week in Beer at Osbourne's Big and Tall Shop. I'd have to stand on a step ladder to be able to look some men in the eye. With 50" chests and 34" waists, some men were quite difficult to cater for.

I was Church Warden at St. Andrew's for 21 years, attending the meetings, seeing that everything was set out properly for communion services and doing twice-yearly stock takes. Now, as verger and sacristan, I still do those things, as well as the writing up of the books for baptisms, marriages and funerals.

Life used to be much simpler. When I was young, you didn't have any exaggerated ideas of who you were. You knew where you stood in society and school and didn't ever go over the line. And you didn't worry if you didn't have a penny in your pockets. Looking back, I've had a very varied and contented life. And, as for Charmouth, well I couldn't live anywhere else! Could you?"

#### Lesley Dunlop



Ted Whatmore c2000

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## Roasted beetroot and Woolsery goat's cheese tarte tatin

A lot of people say they don't like beetroot... well I can understand a dislike of the vinegary, plastic-wrapped purple balls sold in most supermarkets, but the wonderful sweet and intense flavour of roasted beetroot with its great nutritional values, is a completely different vegetable. For total non-vegetarians sprinkle with some really crispy chopped bacon.

For a tasty variation try roasted sweet potato slices topped with feta cheese.

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour

Total time: 1 hour 15 minutes

### INGREDIENTS:

150g puff pastry

2 medium beetroot

50g butter

25g light soft brown sugar

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

1 teaspoon fresh thyme or basil leaves

50g Woolsery goat's cheese or mature cheddar cheese, finely diced

1 tbsp clear honey

Fresh mint leaves, to serve

### METHOD:

1. Wrap washed beetroot in foil and bake in gas Mark 4 / 180C for 40 minutes - 1 hour until cooked through. Check with a knife. Leave to cool.

2. Melt butter in an ovenproof non-stick 20cm frying pan over a low heat. Add the sugar, vinegar and thyme and season. Stir well

over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved and then turn up the heat until bubbling. Without stirring let the mixture bubble until just beginning to turn a pale gold.

3. Peel the beetroot and slice into 1 cm rings. Arrange over the base of the frying pan, fanning out the slices and completely covering the base.

4. Roll the pastry into a 24cm disc and cover the beetroot tucking in the edges. Prick all over to release steam.

5. Preheat oven gas Mark 5/190C and bake for 25-30 minutes or until puffed and golden.

6. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Turn onto a plate. Top with Woolsery goat's cheese or mature cheddar.

7. Leave to melt the cheese, slightly then drizzle with honey and garnish with mint or basil leaves.

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



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Sat 28th 8.30 - 1.30

Tues 31st Dec New Years Eve 8.30 - 1.30  
Weds 1st Jan New Years Day - Closed  
Thurs 2nd Jan - Closed  
Friday 3rd Jan - Back to normal opening hours.

★  
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## Shoreline in India

**The memories of our visit to historic Charmouth to see our dear friend Mary Saunders were enhanced by the gracious welcome we received as guests at the French Twinning barbecue hosted by Neil Mattingly. Our small group tour was shared with fellow travellers from the UK, the US and Australia, all of whom were fascinated by Jurassic fossil hunting in Charmouth. We found the Dorset coast remarkable for its unique beauty. Soft rolling hills hiding treasures yet to be discovered as they tumble into the sea. Art historian and curator Susan found the Heritage Centre, representing the important palaeontology and marine biology of the area, of particular interest. What a treat to visit!**

It was with great pleasure that we carried Shoreline to India, beginning in Mumbai at The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel overlooking the Arabian Sea, where the photo was taken. A boat trip to Elephanta Island revealed Hindu caves filled with carved statues completed in 550AD. Then we travelled north to the Golden Triangle toward Rajasthan. Arriving in Udaipur at eveningtime, we were taken by boat to stay in the current Maharajah's summer palace on Lake Pichola, built in 1746 on its own island. We were showered with rose petals falling from the roof as we entered this most romantic palace imaginable. Dancing girls performed during cocktails on the terrace. Next it was on to Pushkar for the camel breeder's fair. While riding in our private camel cart we were able to survey camels for sale and discover the unique Indian breed of Marwari horses offered by stud farms. In Jaipur, the Pink City, we stayed in the late Maharajah of Jaipur's Palace built in 1835; now the Rambagh hotel. In Agra our hotel suite overlooked the Taj Mahal. In Khajuraho we visited the 25

remaining Hindu temples covered in erotic art, built between 959 AD and 1050 AD by the warrior Kings of the Chandela dynasty. The next adventure was to Panna National Safari Park in search of tigers.



Understanding the Hindu religion with its principles of non-hurtfulness, the sanctity of all life and the existence of the soul helps to understand daily life in India. Most important to comprehend is the caste system which is still very much alive. These concepts helped us to feel comfortable before experiencing Varanasi where we watched cremations on the Ganges and everyone washing in the sacred Ganges River to wash away their sins. Our last stops were New Delhi and Old Delhi before returning to London. We saw the most extravagant and beautiful and the most impoverished.

As global travellers and sailing circumnavigators on our yacht Escapade, Erick and I have experienced much of the world. Erick, a former executive of Ford and Chrysler, commissioned a custom yacht built in England and we sailed the world for over 73,000 miles, visiting more than 900 ports, 39 countries and 73 islands in 15 years. His book, 'Sail the World: Everything You Need to Know to Circumnavigate', is unique in the information it provides on how to sail the world. Susan has made contributions to the arts and has undertaken humanitarian work to assist children in need of medical assistance and victims of war-torn countries.

**Erick & Lady Susan Reickert**  
*Palm Beach, Florida*

### ADVERTORIAL

## Palette to Palate

**This new monthly workshop caters for artists and foodies in an historic Jurassic Coast setting.**

Do you have an appetite for art? Palette to Palate is a one-day, fully catered art workshop that invites you to explore your creative side in a beautiful West Dorset setting.

Hosted by experienced artist Claire Nuttall and professional chef Sheila Gilbey, this informal workshop pairs fun masterclasses in painting and drawing with a menu of delicious food. Held in an early 16th-century house in Charmouth, you will learn new skills and techniques, feast on a gourmet lunch and homemade refreshments, and meet a community of like-minded artists.

The morning begins with some informal observational drawing exercises, then some expert tips from Claire to give you the confidence and skills to draw or paint a variety of subjects. This is followed by a guided painting session throughout the afternoon. Sheila will feed your passion for art with a fantastic buffet lunch, as well as savoury and sweet treats for morning and afternoon tea.

Designed to be both enjoyable and educational, Palette to Palate is suitable for absolute beginners, as well those who wish to improve their art skills. Every month, this full-day workshop will focus on a different medium or aspect of art. All materials and equipment will be provided.

The art workshop is led by talented artist Claire, whose portfolio includes commissions from Swanage County Council for various community campaigns, as well as artwork, murals and sculptures for London Aquarium, Sea Life Centres, the RSPCA, hotels, museums and private homes. Claire has also painted film sets at Shepperton and Pinewood Studios for movies including Mission Impossible and Elizabeth, and is currently writing and illustrating a series of children's books.

The event is catered for the self-confessed 'foodaholic' and chef Sheila, who hosts a pop-up restaurant at her home and self-catering business, The Abbots House. During the past 40 years, Sheila has been a private chef, commis chef, school cook, food developer for a major cheese company, and restaurant manager; she currently runs an outside catering business.

**Carli Allan**

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

# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



**W**e had another busy season at the Heritage Centre. We saw our 100,000th visitor of the year back in August: 7-year-old Jessica Carter. Jessica was also our 250,000th visitor to the Attenborough Sea Dragon, which was unveiled in January 2018. Jessica wrote to David Attenborough about her visit to the Centre and he kindly

wrote back to her. We presented Jessica with a signed copy of 'Attenborough and the Great Sea Dragon'. The sea dragon will now remain on display in 2020.

In October the Centre had the chance to celebrate the R.H. Worth Award we won from the Geological Society back in June. We had an evening of celebrations for all our volunteers, Friends, Patrons and Trustees. Jim Rose and Phil Davidson prepared speeches and a presentation. We got to hear the speech Phil wrote for the award presentation at the Society and Jim also showed us a video he took of Phil receiving the award on behalf of the Centre. We also got to see Phil in a suit again! Trustee Bill Burn spoke about a new book he has produced and published about the history of the Heritage Centre. The book will be on sale in the Centre gift shop. We then enjoyed a glass of wine and food! The award will be displayed in the Centre, once we have carried out winter renovations. Thanks to Jan Coleman and the Friends for organising the evening. And huge thanks to everyone who helped us achieve this award, from wardens, volunteers and Trustees past and present to our supporters and visitors.

We are now winding down at the Centre and looking ahead to the winter. Our opening hours will be 10.30am-4.30pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Mondays. During the week when we are

closed, we will be carrying out winter repairs and renovations. We are going to develop the marine area in our education room this winter, so by Easter 2020 this should be completed. The Centre will close for Christmas, from Monday 16th December to Monday 6th January. The volunteers are very kindly opening the centre during the Christmas week while the wardens have some much-needed time off. They will open from Boxing Day to New Year's Eve at reduced hours. See our website calendar for all our opening times.



As we enter the New Year, we will be on the lookout for new volunteers to help run the Centre desk. In 2019 a few volunteers stepped down after many years with us and we thank them for all their hard work. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ali at the Centre on 01297 560772 or pop in to have a chat. You don't need any prior experience or fossil knowledge. We carry out several training sessions during the early part of the year. As a volunteer you will receive invitations to several events a year and receive newsletters and updates about our events.



**Ali Ferris,**  
Deputy Senior Warden



## MAJOR AMMONITE FIND

Local palaeontologist Chris Moore of Forge Fossils has recently loaned to Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre a spectacular block of ammonites that he discovered on Monmouth Beach two years ago. It is the finest multiple ammonite slab found here and measures over two metres long. Six hundred hours of preparation by Nick Reese, and Chris and son Alex, went into revealing it. The 200 million year old limestone ammonite bed, with ichthyosaur fragments alongside, is one of Chris' most important finds.

Lesley Dunlop



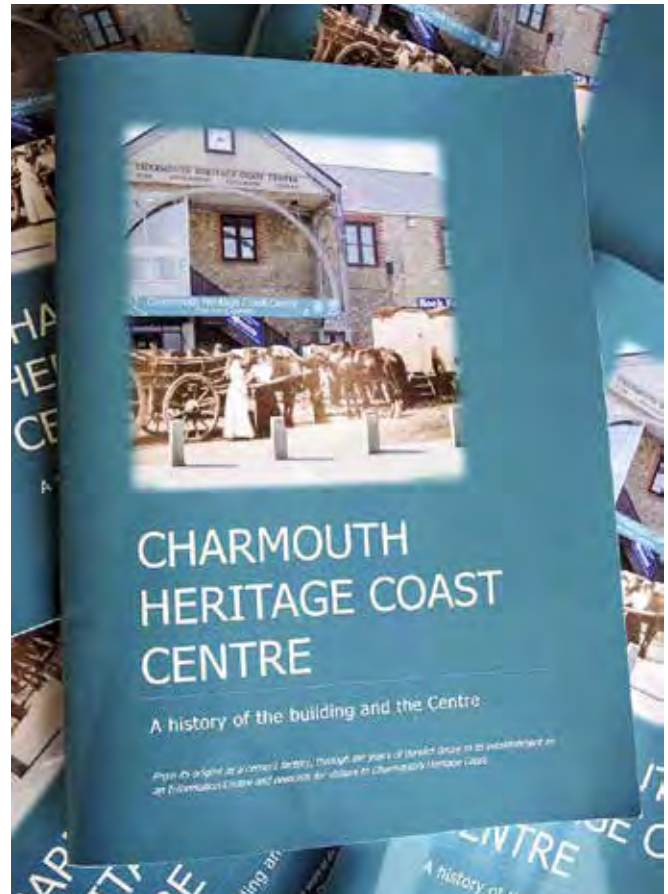
## A History of the Building and the Centre

**H**ave you ever been curious about the origins of the old factory down on the foreshore? Following the discovery of a collection of photographs in the roof of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, a new booklet has been produced which uses these photos to illustrate the fascinating history of the building and the Centre.

Originally built in 1854 as a cement factory, the photos start from around the time the factory closed in the 1870s. They then capture the years of neglect and decay when the building was used by fishermen as a store and even a sleeping barn for the Guides. Following a Public Inquiry into local fossil hunting which identified the need to educate people about safe and responsible fossil collecting, the booklet shows how, in the 1980s, the top floor was developed into the Heritage Coast Centre. The photos come right up to the present day and include the recent visit of Sir David Attenborough.

The 48-page booklet, richly illustrated with over a hundred photos, is a comprehensive history which draws on stories from the archives and memories from the time. It is available for £4.50 from the Heritage Coast Centre's shop. Entry is free (open Friday to Monday during winter) and all profits from the booklet go to the Centre.

**Bill Burn**



## Fossil Sea Shells with two halves

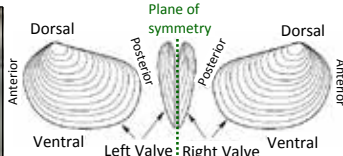
There are two categories (A) Bivalves (B) Brachiopods

The Phylum **Mollusca** includes the **Bivalves** which have a shell consisting of two hinged parts (valves). These are the scallops, clams, cockles, mussels razor shells and piddocks of today's seashore. On Charmouth beach we find fossil bivalves in the grey Lower Jurassic shales and the orange Mid-Cretaceous sandstones and, rarely, in Upper Cretaceous flint.



Lower Jurassic Bivalves

(A)



Bivalves live in or on the sea bed. Some can attach to rocks and floating wood

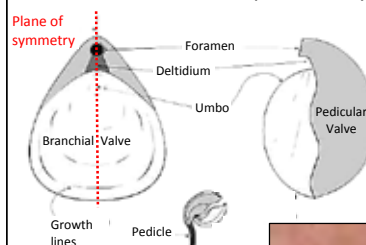


Mid-Cretaceous Bivalve

Upper Cretaceous Bivalve



The Phylum **Brachiopoda** comprises similar animals to Bivalves but are a group of their own. They have shells (valves) on their upper and lower surfaces, unlike the left and right valves of bivalve molluscs. Brachiopod valves are hinged at the rear, while the front opened for feeding or closed for protection. Brachiopods were most common 500-200 million years ago but a few types survived the end-Cretaceous mass extinction to live to the present day



(B)

Brachiopods attached themselves to rocks and some types (Lingulids) today live within the seabed

Lower Jurassic Brachiopods from Charmouth



WGT Feb 2017

**Geoff Townson**

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# Shoreline Features



## The Strandline

**The strandline is an interesting part of the beach; it is a roughly linear part of the upper shore where debris becomes 'stranded' by the highest waves as the tide recedes. It is a temporary and variable ecosystem as it will only last from one high tide to the next one high enough to wash it away and redistribute it.**

On Charmouth beaches a strandline is formed when the highest tide of a cycle leaves many pieces of debris, individually or in piles, near the base of the cliffs or even thrown up onto ledges, whereas a lower high tide will leave debris lower down the shore. Its position will depend on the state of the tides and sea, currents, the wind speed and direction, other aspects of weather, the nature of the shore and the proximity of the river. During stormy weather many species of seaweed, other marine organisms and debris will be carried from lower down the shore and cast up onto the beach, sometimes with great force. This will result in a rich strandline full of interesting things to explore.

What might look like just heaps of debris from afar become interesting when looked at more carefully. The most obvious items are seaweeds of many varieties, detached from their usual places further down the shore, mostly the browns but also reds and a few greens. There may be various kinds of kelp such as 'Oar-weed' (Tangle) or perhaps the 'Sea Belt' (Poor Man's Weather Glass). These robust brown kelps have thick stalks and long, thick leaf-like blades, possibly attached to the knobbly holdfast; kelps are common after storms. The wracks, serrated and bladder wrack (with bladders that one can pop), pretty red sea weeds such as 'Irish Moss' (Caragheen) can be found as well as some green weeds such as *Ulva lactuca* (sea lettuce). As the last name suggests, some seaweeds are edible and the book 'Food for Free' by Richard Mabey gives plenty of information about how they may be used for food either in salads, stir-fried or boiled as vegetables. Seaweeds are an important source of alginates used in the food industry for stabilizing, emulsifying and thickening foods such as ice-cream, for cosmetics and soaps and as a source of iodine.

Some seaweeds are home to other small weeds and to small animals such as sea-mats, tube worms, molluscs and other creatures which attach themselves to the fronds. Looking at the debris with a good hand-lens or under a microscope brings a whole world of tiny creatures such as hydroids into view.

Strandline debris is important to biodiversity because it can act as temporary shelter to free-living creatures such as sand hoppers, crabs, insects and spiders as well other shore animals on which larger predators feed. Because it generally remains relatively damp and provides shelter, some marine creatures stranded by the outgoing tide may often survive until the next tide picks them up and carries them back to lower parts of the shore.

Beach-combing can be exciting for adults and children – there is so much to find: shells, crab carapaces, mermaids' purses (which used to house embryos from the shark family), interesting pebbles or even fossils trapped among the piles of debris, attractive pieces of seaweed, driftwood and many other treasures. If you are lucky there may be some starfish or goose barnacles!

Contrast the varied and interesting strandline on Charmouth's beaches with ones on the Mediterranean, where the difference between high and low tide is very small. In coastal tourist areas there is often a beach-cleaning machine that comes along before sunrise each morning to clean everything from the sand. This leaves a pristine beach for the sand and sun-worshippers, but is devoid of anything interesting and, of course, there is nothing for the usual sea creatures to feed on or shelter under. For the sake of a neat beach, biodiversity is strictly limited.

In summer when it is very hot, and particularly after rough seas, certain beaches can accumulate huge piles of weed and rotting debris; these can become unpleasantly smelly and fly-ridden each day. Tourists would not wish to wade, ankle-deep, through all that. In the holiday season in Swanage for example, several large lorry-loads of weed are removed every morning to keep the beaches reasonably clean. The material is taken to the local tip where it can be turned into useful fertilizer – it is full of nutrients and great for the soil.

Along with natural marine debris, it is unfortunate that the strandline has become home to accumulations of plastics of many different kinds. There are microbeads and microfibrils we are unable to see with the naked eye, nurdles, pieces of polypropylene rope and net, fishing line, bottles, food wrappers, broken pieces of toys and household items as well as products from the sewage industry. Such items are not only unsightly and unpleasant for humans to find but are also immensely damaging to marine wildlife, whether larger creatures such as birds, fish and crabs or small and microscopic creatures that unwittingly feed on our damaging waste. It can kill them in large numbers.

Rosalind Cole

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





# Charmouth Gardeners' Summer Show



**C**harmouth Gardeners' Village Show was held on 10th August 2019. It was once again a great success, with over 600 exhibits and wonderful displays in both halls. Each year seems to bring new entrants, and it is a delight to see new faces receiving the accolades and trophies. As always, the Gardeners' committee wish to thank the many people who help to make the day the joyful occasion it always seems to be. Many hands make light work and that is certainly the case when organising such a busy two-day event. May the sun shine and help to make our gardens fruitful (and if baking or handicrafts is 'your thing'- then happy results to all ladies and men). We hope to see you all next year.

Membership of 'Charmouth Gardeners' is not obligatory when joining in the Show, although our annual membership fee is only £5, with lots of advantages and advance information on visits and speaker dates.

For more membership information, please contact 01297 561076 or 561625. Another plea... after many years of help in the Gardening group, two of our committee members are stepping down, so if anyone would like to join our committee (fresh ideas are always welcome) then please do ring the above numbers.



**Pauline Bonner** (*Show Secretary*)

## Prize and Trophy List – 2019

**RHS Banksian Medal – Highest Points/Prize Certificates/ Money**

Sheila Samuel

**RHS Award of Merit for Young Exhibitors**

Isla Hendry & Caitlin Neale

**Diploma in Horticulture – Worthy Exhibit in Horticulture Sections**

Sheila Samuel & Jan Coleman

**Grace Laker Cup – Highest Points for Fruit & Vegetables**

Sheila Samuel

**Poppleton Cup – Best Floral Exhibit**

Penny Rose

**Wyn Durbridge Bowl – Best Vase Garden Flowers/Shrubs**

Jan Coleman

**Joe Tisshaw Trophy – Best in Sweet Pea class**

Ron Dampier

**Rose Vase Trophy – Best Specimen Rose**

Kathy Fereday

**Rose Cup – Best in Rose classes**

Kathy Fereday

**Stan Durbridge Bowl – Best Pot Plant**

Pauline Bonner

**Marcel Clouzy Cup – Best Exhibit in Floral Arrangement**

Helen Hughes

**Thalatta Cup – Best in Handicrafts**

Gerard McKeown

**Children's Cup**

Caitlin Neale

**George Cup – Best Exhibit in Fruit & Vegetables**

Elizabeth Payne

**Clouzy Cup – Best in Home Produce**

Jan Plummer

**The Horton Cup – Highest Aggregate points in Home Produce**

Mary Davis

**Mattingly Pudding Plate – Best in class 82 – A Special Fruit Tart**

Karen Loader

**Norah Kidd Trophy – Highest Points in Photographic**

Vicki Dunstan

**Cup for Best Photograph**

Dee Butler

## Charmouth Gardeners 2020 Dates for Your Diary

**All Events at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, Wesley Close**

**Thursday 16th January:** Mr. David Boag, a wildlife and natural history photographer, will speak on 'Nature's Garden' showing photographs of wildlife in your garden.

**Thursday 20th February:** AGM – Followed by Ms. Claire Hart from Donyatt will be talking on 'Square metre gardening, with information on the variety of vegetables which can be grown in a small area. Plus an opportunity to renew subscription for 2020 - 2021.

**Thursday 19th March:** Brigit Strawbridge, bee enthusiast and campaigner, will be talking about bees and how to encourage them into your garden. Paid up members may collect programme membership cards for 2020 - 2021, detailing all future programmes.

*All speaker dates are free of charge and we welcome non-member visitors. Refreshments available (nominal charge).*

## An historic find of a Bronze Age Axe Head



**I regularly scout through forthcoming auctions and was intrigued to see that a Bronze Age axe head that had been found in Charmouth was being sold by David Lays Auction at Penzance in Cornwall. It was described as 'Early Bronze Age Looped & Socketed Celt Bronze. Henry Dewey. Charmouth, Dorset' and was one of a number of axe heads from other parts of England. It appeared to have been from a lifetime collection that the elderly owner had decided to sell. There was very little information regarding each lot, apart from the fact that many had originated from the collection of Henry Dewey. I successfully bid for the item online and travelled down to Penzance to collect it. I was pleasantly surprised with my purchase which, at 3½", was smaller than I expected.**

When I returned home, I decided to attempt to discover more about it. I found that Henry Dewey was born in 1876 and died at nearly 90 in 1965 in Newton Abbott, Devon. He was a famous geologist who had written a number of learned papers and books including an important 'Regional Geology of South West England' in 1936, which had been reprinted a number of times. He was



Henry Dewey

Keeper of the Geological Museum, which was later absorbed by the Natural History Museum in Kensington. He was also President of the Geologist Association between 1924 and 1926. The British Museum website records him giving them a large collection of pre-Roman finds that he had excavated, including Bronze Age axe heads. The auction catalogue listed 24 lots associated with him, with brief descriptions of where they had originated, sometimes with dates. Sadly, this was not the case with the Charmouth axe head, which could have been at any time from 1901 to 1905, judging by the other items. A similar lot (no.42) was described as a 'Bronze Age flanged Palstaf - Bronze, found by R. Smith and Henry Dewey at Scarborough in 1901'.

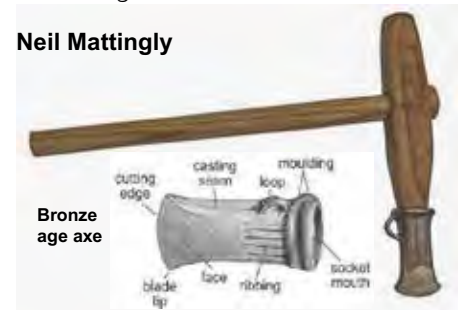
Readers may remember the exciting story of a metal detectorist discovering a horde of 268 similar Bronze Age axe heads in 2007 at a farm near Swanage dating back to about 700 BC, at the end of the Bronze Age. It was believed that as there were so many, it had been a kind of offering to the gods. The Charmouth axe head is very similar and as it is in remarkable condition may have been part of a similar horde that was found by Henry Dewey over 100 years ago. Bronze Age axe heads are of similar size; the design evolved over the centuries and comes in a huge variety of styles. They all had wooden handles that were fitted into a socket at the blunt end of the axe. The axe head was then secured by lashing it in place with twine or binding. The Charmouth head is almost identical to one that was discovered in Somerset that appeared when a large collection was disposed of by Timeline Auctions in 1993. It was described as 'A cast socketed axe head with ribbed collar to the mouth, flared



blade with convex cutting edge and hammer facets; thick lateral loop'.

I have always been interested in Charmouth's fascinating history and knew it was established at the time of Domesday and that the Roman Road linking Dorchester with Exeter ran through it. This new discovery takes it back even further now to a possibility of a Bronze Age settlement within its boundaries. It would be really exciting if, after a century, other items are dug up confirming this in the future.

### Neil Mattingly



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## Working local woods - Prime Coppice

**N**owadays there is increasing support for tree planting which is a good thing, but planting a tree and leaving it alone is not always successful. With over 50% of England woods unmanaged and suffering from a range of pests and diseases it's important to better look after the trees and woodlands we already have. So yes, let's plant trees and lots of them, but also support well managed woodlands that provide for biodiversity, recreational space, sustain our local economies and communities and which provide important woodland products.

One such wood is Prime Coppice in the Marshwood Vale just a few miles up the river Char from Charmouth. With sensitive management and a lot of hard work the wood is

being brought back to life by Kit Vaughan and his wife Dr. Ruth Fuller and their two children with support of many friends and volunteers.

Prime Coppice is a 52-acre woodland located in the beautiful Marshwood Vale in West Dorset. The wood is the last large remaining block of ancient woodland coppice of that size in the West Dorset Area, and is an integral part of this unique Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) landscape. Parts of the woodland are also indicative of what would have been the original Marshwood after which the vale gets its name. The wood was named 'Prime Coppice' after its good quality hazel, ash and some oak coppice.

Coppice woodlands where trees are cut and managed in rotation are a great way to help biodiversity flourish, harvest quality products, especially firewood and help sequester carbon as the coppice stools (living tree stumps) quickly regrow and absorb carbon at a quicker rate than a new tree planting.

Prime Coppice provides sales of quality-seasoned firewood, locally produced timber and coppice products and works with volunteers to support its restoration. They use working heavy horses to extract timber and keep the grazing in check. Their vision is to make Prime Coppice a fully working woodland providing a range of benefits to the local community and helping restore and enhance the beauty of the woodland for generations to come. Kit is passionate about woodlands and quality firewood and is keen for everybody to recognise that burning well dried, sustainably sourced local wood is an excellent renewable energy resource. See [www.primecoppice.com](http://www.primecoppice.com) if you wish to be in touch.

**Kit Vaughan**

## All Change at Charmouth Local History Society (CLHS) at the End of 2019

**2019 ends with the departure of Phil Tritton as Chairperson of the CLHS. He has taken on many posts within the society over the years and sometimes all at the same time. He has undertaken a considerable amount of work for Charmouth and its community and is leaving us in a very healthy state and ready for years to come.**

The new committee is currently sorting and documenting its archive into a handy resource for anyone interested in



Charmouth's history. Similarly, the CLHS website and online links are also in a process of upgrade. Our Oral history programme, Within Living Memory, continues.

In 2020 the Pavey Room will become easily accessible for anyone wishing to view or research anything about Charmouth and its history.

With public talks, publications, posters and leaflets, we hope to continue to promote, preserve and make readily available the history of Charmouth and its surrounding area.

Through our 70+ subscribed members and the continued support of the community, we hope to preserve the amazing historical archive of this wonderful village.

### What is Hiding in Your Cupboard?

Items relating to the history of Charmouth are found in the most unlikely places. From eBay we recently obtained an 8mm film from 1965 of Charmouth. This was an old holiday film but with very interesting shots of The Street and the beach.

A Bronze Age slot axe was purchased at auction, which was originally found in Charmouth.

You may have something lurking and unknown in your cupboard. So please take a look. We would love to know, however mundane it may seem to appear.

**Helen Parker,**  
Chair, Charmouth Local History Society 01297 561580

## Poetry Corner

### I'M SURE IT'S GETTING STEEPER

By Peter Crowter

There was a time when I could climb to top of Old Lyme Hill,  
But now my goal is Portland House and then I've had my fill.  
I think there's been subsidence because now the hill's more steep,  
And where I used to march uphill I find that I now creep.

I buy my paper, leave the shop, the first bit's fairly flat,  
I might pop into Nisa for a loaf and p'haps a chat.

I leave the shop and start my trek, from here the pavement climbs,  
A breather at the bus stop and pretend to check the times.

Then past the three posh houses that all stand back tall and proud,  
With gardens at the front to keep them from the madding crowd.  
The next house looks somewhat forlorn, that is the one that's thatched,  
Resting quietly on its own you could say it's detached.

Opposite, the library that the Dorset Council, used to run,  
Another cut to services but not to be outdone.  
Volunteers now run it and they do a splendid job,  
Giving up their time for us and don't get paid a bob.

Next I reach the doctors' place where we all take our ills,  
They give us bits of paper so we can collect our pills.  
Above them is the Royal Oak our local friendly pub,  
Where locals go to sup their beer or eat some tasty grub.

A few more steps and I have reached the place they call The Court,  
Maybe another breather with a lamp post for support.  
And after that is the Monk's Rest. 'Did they stop here to pray?  
'Dear Lord this blessed hill seems to get steeper every day.'

Thank goodness I am nearly there my pace is getting slow,  
I'm now at Fountain Cottage just a few more steps to go.  
We live in the upstairs flat 'cause Portland House we share  
Now all that there is left to do is climb that blooming stair.



### Roses Down the Barrel of a Gun – Georgia: Love and Revolution

**Chris Lakeman Fraser interviews local author, Jo Seaman, on her recently published memoir of her period as director of the British Council in Georgia promoting cultural relations and educational opportunities in the UK.**

In 2001 Georgia was in a state of political uncertainty and turmoil, having only recently emerged from the shadow of the Soviet Union. Jo describes in graphic detail and humour her growing love for the people and country as she dealt with corrupt officials, facilitated scholarships for young Georgians in the UK and juggled with diplomatic crises, whilst struggling with her own romantic entanglements:

'While it was undoubtedly unstable and often challenging, I found that most Georgians (particularly the young) identified very much with all things European and Western, so we were pushing at an open door. As most of my colleagues were themselves young Georgians we were all highly motivated and did work hard to try to meet the huge demand for what we provided.

'Quite honestly, I was never as terrified as when I had worked in Cairo. I was there for four years and had to take beaten up little taxis to and from work – these were often falling to pieces on the road, held together with bits of string and tape, and invariably when I asked, 'Can you please take me to Sharia Ismail Mohammed?' or wherever, the taxi drivers would answer, 'God Willing' and we'd hurtle across the city in a white-knuckle ride with scant regard for other road-users... that could be terrifying in a very immediate way!

'I was able to pull through some tough personal dilemmas because of my job. I was lucky to be able to work with an outstanding team of colleagues, and I felt, in some way, that what we were doing really could make a positive difference to other people's lives. In spite of the many challenges ordinary people faced, most people I met were hospitable, open-hearted and affectionate, and were very interested in other countries.

'We supported the exit polls in the 2003 election. Had they not happened, while there would probably have been some demonstrations against the contested election in November 2003, these would possibly not have been as cohesive nor as substantial in number. The Rose Revolution may not have happened at all as it is quite probable that the ruling Shevardnadze government would have ignored smaller groups of demonstrators. I think the Exit Polls gave people confidence to protest, in very large numbers, and to challenge what were shown to be fraudulent elections. That the revolution was peaceful was truly remarkable.

'Georgia is a small country with a big personality and there is an extraordinary richness and diversity of culture – truly high-end modern and traditional art, music, theatre, singing and dancing. I loved it then, and I still do!'

***Roses Down the Barrel of a Gun - Georgia: Love and Revolution is available in Herringbone in Charmouth, Serendip in Lyme Regis, and can be ordered online from Amazon, Waterstones, Foyles and other book retailers.***



### Calling All Writers

Would you like to reach more readers with your short stories and poetry? Local authors Martin Dixon and Jane Bean are looking for new voices to promote on the Guest Stories pages of their respective websites. All pieces will be attributed to you, the writer, and will include links to your social media accounts if you wish. Writers of all ages and experience are welcome, including children and young adults. For more details, please visit their websites at [www.martindixonshortstories.com](http://www.martindixonshortstories.com) and [www.janebean.co.uk](http://www.janebean.co.uk)

**Jane Bean**





© CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection

## Turner's Local Watercolour

**D**espite a youth spent reading Jane Austen and John Fowles, it wasn't until many years later, when my friends Jo and Mike Seaman moved to Charmouth, that I finally visited the Jurassic Coast. It was well worth the wait and I spent a wonderful few days enjoying their warm hospitality and exploring the area. To help me get to know Charmouth better, Jo gave me a copy of the excellent brochure on the village's history\*. From this I learned that the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow, where I live, holds a wonderful little J M W Turner watercolour of the view of Lyme Regis from Charmouth. 'I'll go and see that when I get home', I thought. This proved to be more of an adventure than I had anticipated.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is housed in a glorious, much-loved red sandstone building opened in 1901 and partly financed by the proceeds of the 1888 International Exhibition of Science, Art and Industry in Kelvingrove Park where it is located. The exhibition's main aim was to draw international attention to the achievements of the so-called Second City of the Empire and the building reflects that Victorian confidence. It is home to an extraordinary range of treasures; a fitting home for a work by Mr. Turner. I am lucky enough to live 15 minutes' walk away.

I made the mistake of visiting on a Sunday afternoon. The Gallery was packed with tourists, locals and, particularly, children who were there to see Dippy the Diplodocus, on loan from the National History Museum and hanging in glory in the grand hall. Their excitement was infectious but I moved on and headed for the slightly quieter galleries to look for the familiar image of Lyme. To no avail. I scoured British painting and took a side-trip through Italian and Dutch in case Mr. Turner had gone for a wander, but it was nowhere to be found. Finally, I went to the visitors' desk downstairs. Could the staff there help? I know that delicate paintings are sometimes rotated to protect them. The National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh have a wonderful collection of Turner watercolours which are only ever displayed in January when the sun is at its weakest. Alas, the Lyme watercolour was not even on the list of paintings held by the Kelvingrove but not currently on display. I felt deflated but all was not lost. The helpful assistant gave me the phone number and email address of Glasgow Museums Resource Centre. "If we've got it, they'll find it." He was right. I forwarded a photo of the painting to the email address he gave me and the following day I received a reply from Ed Johnson, Assistant Curator - Collections, telling me that the watercolour was in the Resource Centre and asking if I would like to come and see it. Of course I would!

I take the train out to Nitshill where the Resource Centre is located. Nitshill is the sort of bleak suburb most Glaswegians have probably heard of but couldn't quite locate, sadly best known for a mining disaster at Nitshill Colliery in 1851. The walk up from the station is not encouraging, a choice between a short cut across a piece of dingy

wasteland or along a street with an Orange Lodge on one side of the road facing a Catholic primary school on the other. I'm a long way out of my comfort zone. But I follow the excellent directions Ed has provided, turn right at the top of the road and everything changes. There I see a huge, modern building rather like a sports centre with the magic words Glasgow Museums Resource Centre emblazoned on it. Inside I am greeted by a friendly receptionist, "are you a researcher?", and she summons Ed. Ed has already laid the unframed painting out on a desk in a ground floor office so that I can look at it. Rather wonderfully he has also brought out of the store a watercolour of Stirling, painted after Turner's visit to Scotland at around the same time as his visit to Dorset, so that I can compare them. Both watercolours are small, exquisite and share fascinating stylistic similarities.

The Charmouth watercolour is exactly five and three quarters by eight and five eighths inches (14.5 x 22cm) in size, with tiny brushstrokes. The location is still fully recognisable from my recent visit. The painting's full title is 'Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire, A Squall' and this makes perfect sense as it is exactly what Turner's sky and sea convey. The more we look at the painting the more we notice the changing light in the sky, the variety of shades used to convey the roughness of the waves and details such as masts and sails in the distance. We marvel at the extraordinary way Turner's use of colour conveys the atmosphere created by the weather. The painted beach is exactly the colour it was the day Jo and I strolled along it.

The painting was completed in 1812. It was later bought by James Donald of Bothwell, Lanarkshire, a manufacturing chemist and keen art collector, probably around 1881. Donald bequeathed it to the Kelvingrove on his death in 1905 as part of a bequest of 19th century Dutch, French and British oil paintings and watercolours which helped form the foundation of the Kelvingrove's collection. Intriguingly for me it transpires that at the time of his death Donald lived in Anerley, an obscure suburb of London which most people have never heard of, but where I lived for four years as a child. I now have an image in my head of Mr. Donald in a stovepipe hat strolling the halls of Dulwich Picture Gallery which is not far away and which Turner is also known to have visited as a student. I go off on a flight of a fancy about them meeting until I remember that the dates don't quite fit.



Glasgow Museums didn't have a note of the date of Turner's visit to Dorset, so Ed is interested to learn this from the Charmouth brochure which I have with me and he notes the date 1811. I give him the brochure to keep in the archive and afterwards, with Jo's help, I put him in touch with Neil Mattingly, Charmouth's local historian, so they can exchange information. Later Ed finds out from Tate Britain that a dated preparatory sketch for this painting is included in the Turner collection there. Ed kindly tells me I can stay and look at the painting for as long as I like and goes off to check his emails on a computer nearby while I drink it in. Eventually I have to tear myself away but before I leave, Ed and a colleague take me on a brief tour of the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, gleefully pulling Titians and other treasures out of sliding drawers and allowing me to peek in on curators and restorers at their detailed work. "Come back any time," they say, "you're a citizen; it all belongs to you."

Without my visit to Charmouth I might never have known about this modern day, climate-controlled palace of treasures. I walk back through the unprepossessing streets of Nitshill and board the train feeling restored and utterly privileged to have spent the morning in this way. Before leaving, I had asked Ed whether Glasgow Museums and Galleries might ever be willing to lend this small treasure. "Of course," was the answer. So perhaps one day there might be an opportunity for 'Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire, A Squall' to be seen and enjoyed in Charmouth where it began its life. I hope so.

**Joan Barry**

*\* Discover Charmouth Old Village brochure published by the Charmouth Local History Society and available free in the village.*

# Charmouth Scout Group News



team had to build the raft on the beach from scratch using four large barrels and seven poles. In the first practice session, in the Scout Hut, the raft frame fell to bits as soon as it was turned over! However, a design modification and improved lashings for the second practice solved the problem. On the day, the raft was still in one piece when it came out of the water after the race! In this, the Scouts battled hard and just managed to secure third place by a whisker.

Summer camp was held on a Scout site near Barnstaple, which offered a lot of on-site activities. These included: caving; bouldering; climbing; an assault course; archery and air pistol shooting. The Scouts also went off-site for a full day at an Activity Centre on Exmoor, where the highlight of the programme was the stream scramble. This sounded tame, but each Scout had to put on a large pair of rubber waders and a waterproof kayaking top - and most came back with the former completely full of water!

## Boating, Rafting, Camping and Shooting - Another Busy Four Months for Charmouth Scouts

**The last four months have been particularly busy and exciting for members of the 1st Charmouth Scout Troop.**

In July, they competed against Uplyme and Axminster Scouts in their annual cardboard boat race. This was run in the outer harbour at Lyme Regis and the Scouts entered four boats of varying degrees of seaworthiness. One fell to bits as soon as it was put in the water, two lasted for about ten minutes, but the fourth stayed afloat long enough to take its place in the race across the harbour and back - and won!

The Scouts visited the outer harbour again in September to take place, as guests, in the East Devon District Raft Race. Here, the



In September, 13 Scouts went off to the annual District Activity Camp at the Litton Cheney fishing lake where they had a go at paddle boarding; kayaking; rafting; axe throwing and archery, to name just a few of the bases.

Just recently, four Scouts and two Explorers attended the National Scout Rifle Championships at Bisley for the first time. Here they shot air rifles, pistols and crossbows - competing against Scouts who practise every week. But, although none of them won any prizes, they all had a great time and learned the benefits of knowing how to erect tents correctly and quickly, since they did not arrive until 9pm and it was both dark and raining!

**Alex Willatt, Scout Leader & Kevin Payne, Group Scout Leader**



## MORE SCOUT LEADERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

**I**t's been six months of change in the leadership teams within the Scout Group. Morris Evans has taken over from Tracy Chapman in the Cubs and Clare Mackenney has switched from being Group Chair to Explorer Scout Leader. I am delighted to say that Melanie Harvey, who

was Explorer Leader, has agreed to work with me as Assistant Group Scout Leader. We are also benefiting from four of our ex-Explorer Scouts, who are now 18, offering to help out in our three younger sections.

However, we really need a second assistant leader for our Beavers (aged 6-7), a second assistant for our Cubs (8-10); a second assistant for our Scouts (10-13) and an assistant Explorer Leader to work with Clare (14-17) - the latter being a key priority.

No experience is necessary - just a desire to help so many young people in the parish develop their full potential. You just have to be 18 and over!!

Or - perhaps you know of a friend or relative who would make a really inspirational leader. Please contact me for further details.

**Kevin Payne, Group Scout Leader**  
[payne.kevin6@gmail.com](mailto:payne.kevin6@gmail.com)





## Charmouth Seagulls are Looking for a New Assistant Leader

**N**igel and Mel set up the Explorer Scout section of Scouting nearly five years ago. We started with a group of six young Explorers, all just going into year 9 at Woodroffe School. These young people are now in their final year at Woodroffe and have had some amazing experiences through Scouts, which have been facilitated by Nigel and myself. For example, we have visited Flybe and had a tour of one of their hangers; had a go in a flight simulator; been bouldering at Rockburn; we have experienced a variety of water sports – paddle boarding, kayaking, raft building and flying kite surf kites. We have also done a range of activities at the Scout Hut such as team building and cooking. We have undertaken long-distance walks – the Wessex Ridgeway, the Tarka trail and a section of the GR7 in Spain.

Having seen this group of Scouts through their Scout journey, we feel it is the right time for us to step down and let others take up this opportunity. It is very rewarding seeing young people develop and mature over time and through different activities. Clare Mackenney is taking on the role as Explorer Scout Leader, but she needs an assistant. The Explorer Unit currently has more than ten members aged between 14 and 16 years. They currently meet on Wednesday evenings in term-time, between 7.00 and 8.30.

**If you are interested, and/or would like more details, please contact me.**

**Melanie Harvey 01297 560393 [melanie@atthecoast.co.uk](mailto:melanie@atthecoast.co.uk)**



## Charmouth Guides

**C**harmouth Guides joined Lyme Guides on a visit to the beach where we made beach art. We had a cook out, but due to the weather we were in a barn but still cooking on open fires. One evening the girls cooked pancakes on tins using a candle. We also looked at science and made our own bubbles.

Charmouth Guides have been looking at the new guiding syllabus, we've had a badge taster evening and are working on first aid, plastic and our planet, star gazing, edible bonfires, craft and have made our own pizzas this term too. We have had a 'bring a friend' to Guides night that was very successful and in the coming weeks leading up to Christmas we will be having some Scouts coming to tell us about their volunteering in Kenya. We will also be discussing knots and making some Christmas decorations and presents. We are also looking to do a trip in the New Year and a sleep over.

**If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Davina Pennells on 01297 560965.**

## My Trip to the 24th World Scout Jamboree



Me and my friends from Mosterton and Bridport Scout Groups



Our Dorset Jurassic contingent

**B**ack in 2017, I was selected for this amazing opportunity, through Scouting, to go on the World Scout Jamboree to North America and after two years of fundraising my trip finally took place this summer. This three-week trip gave me the unbelievable opportunity to see New York and Washington DC. Not to mention staying with a group of Canadian Scouts in Canada and seeing Niagara Falls, also spending a week in West Virginia at the official Scout Jamboree site alongside 40,000 scouts from around the world. It was certainly crazy to be able to walk 100m to a group of Italian Scouts' camp and have dinner alongside them and then throw a ball around with a group of Scouts from Australia. Our nearest neighbours were a small contingent from Mauritius. I learnt a number of life skills which has increased my confidence, especially in public speaking as I have now done a number of talks as part of my fundraising and since I have returned. It has given me an appreciation for what I have, compared to other countries, as well as understanding the different cultures to my own.

**Freya Southcott, Charmouth Seagulls**

## Charmouth 1st Brownies and Rainbows

**W**e have had a busy first couple of months back at Brownies and Rainbows learning about recycling and our community. As a unit we all learnt about what plastics can be replaced, reused or recycled and had a go at making an animal out of used plastic. We gained the 'Future Girl' badge for this! We have also started learning about who helps and what jobs are carried out in our community. The Rainbows have had a go at helping at home as one of their interest badges. The unit are preparing for Christmas and are looking forward to Christmas carols at Bymeard and the annual panto trip - "Oh yes we are!"

We will all be sad to say goodbye to our current Brown Owl, Caroline Davies, who has led the group for 14 fun years. Giving so much time, dedication and effort over the year, she will be tricky to replace! Therefore we are hoping there could be some willing volunteers in the village to help continue the unit.

Charmouth Brownies and Rainbows meet in St. Andrew's Community Hall on Wednesdays from 5.30-6.30/7.00pm. If your child would like to join us for some fun, games and badges or perhaps you would like to volunteer, please give Caroline a call on 07525 918796 until the end of December 2019.

**Natty Owl**





## Beavers News

**A**nother busy summer term for the Beavers saw us out and about in the community. We took part in rock pooling on Charmouth beach, held our sleepover in the hut which included taking the bus into Lyme, getting fish & chips and hiking around town. This is us up in the gardens on our way back to the bus-stop. We had a visit from an RNLI lifeguard who told us how to stay safe on the beach. It was great to ask him lots of questions, mostly around what happens if they think a shark might eat them!

This autumn term has seen us become scientists for an evening; we learnt why we got eggs to float in water, made raisins dance in lemonade and blew up balloons by creating a chemical reaction between vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. Freya (our Young Leader) gave us a talk on her experiences at the World Scout Jamboree and we looked at all her badge swaps from around the world. The Beavers got to learn about International Scouting and facts and flags of some of the countries that attended the Jamboree.

We have got involved with donating gifts and wrapping shoe boxes to make up 13 Christmas Boxes for Karen Sands' Rotary Appeal. The Beavers took part in a discussion on how lucky they are at Christmas and what it would be like not to have family or presents during the Festive period. As we move towards Christmas we have a couple of craft nights, a Spy Night and learning about living with disabilities, all the time earning badges and helping us learn new skills through fun and play.

Beavers are boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 8. We meet at the Scout Hut on Mondays, 5.30pm to 6.45pm. If you would like your child to go onto our waiting list, please email: [karen.southcott@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.southcott@btinternet.com)

**Karen Southcott**, *Charmouth Beaver Leader*



## Cub Report

**W**ater, water everywhere, but no one ended up in the drink. Paddle boarding; kayaking and rafting were all on the agenda when the Cubs visited the National Sailing Academy on Portland. The weather was fine, but windy, so they all had chance to have a 'taster' session on these three activities before lunch and no one fell in! Then it was on to Portland Castle and the D-Day Museum. This was possibly the highlight of the day, since the Cubs were allowed to actually climb over, and get inside, most of the WW2 exhibits!

There was also a great deal of water when the Cubs visited PGL, Osmington, for a weekend of activities. However, on this occasion, it was falling from the sky in the form of heavy rain and blowing a gale. It made the first night's campfire spectacular, with great sheets of embers swirling into the sky. On the Saturday morning we all got drenched while doing various activities, including trampoline basketball (aeroball), trapeze (climbing a pole and jumping off the top, harnessed to a rope), giant swing (again between 2 tall poles), archery, low ropes, and a huge zip wire (all harnessed up with helmets on!). Saturday afternoon, we decided to stay dry, with indoor puzzles, while in the evening the rain abated and we traipsed across the whole site solving Cluedo – Sam the Sailor had stolen the crown, making a getaway in a boat on the lake. Fortunately, the weather was much better on the Sunday, and the Cubs were able to have a go at a couple of the activities they had missed on the Saturday. Even the leaders got involved.

It's also been a busy time inside and outside the HQ, with the Cubs having a great deal of fun completing their Naturalist and Scientist badges. The former involved noting how the trees and bushes changed with the seasons and making posters illustrating the Countryside Code, while the latter included making mini hot air balloons and balloon-powered racing cars, finding out what happens when you add vinegar to bicarbonate of soda and having a go at marshmallow and spaghetti pioneering.

**Morris Evans**,  
*Cub Leader*





## District Expedition to Kenya 2019

17th July – 10th August

**F**ive Explorer Scouts from Charmouth were selected to join a District Expedition of Scouts and Leaders to Kenya. We were required to raise £2200 to cover the cost of the trip, plus purchase items of kit, such as backpacks, sleeping bags plus organise and pay for injections and the necessary medication.

The majority of our time in Kenya was spent involved with community work. This involved us going into local schools to carry out repair work, re-decoration of the classrooms and construction of new parts such as replacing flooring and secure cupboards for computer equipment. This section of the community work allowed us to complete rewarding tasks which made a real difference to the schools. It also gave us the opportunity to meet the children and see how they learn and also play some intense games of football with them at lunch time.

As well as working in schools, we also worked at the local hospital doing some construction there; we spent a day collecting logs and transporting them so we had wood for our projects. We also helped with a sanitary pad project in which the girls from local schools are provided with handmade re-usable sanitary pads and other items such as soaps and new underwear to enable them to stay in schools when they are on their periods.

We were also able to help a family who had lost their father and then their home and were living in a very small wooden hut. A small group of us packed up their minimal belongings and moved them to their new accommodation which had running water, flushable toilets, showers and a vegetable patch so they can grow produce.

This was a very real experience and put into perspective how much small things such as running water can make an impact on a family's life.

After these activities, we travelled to the mountain. Our first camp was at 3,261m, which was called Roadhead. The next day we did an acclimatisation walk around Lake Ellis. Our next day's walk took us to 4,267m and on the final day we were up at 4am to summit Mt. Kenya (4,985m) just after sunrise. Having summited, we returned to base camp at Bandas (2,900m).

After our mountain experience we organized a fun day with children from a local school. The idea of this day was to decide on a fun game or activity to do with a group of about ten students from Wiru School. These groups of children would rotate between the Dorset pairs to experience roughly eight minutes of each activity. Unlike many British kids would be, the children of Wiru were particularly friendly, engaging, interested and polite.



In the evening we planned activities to participate with the local Scout group. Amazingly, most of the children present at the fun day were also in the Scout group. It had been planned that we would camp with these Scouts but this was before we realised that they simply didn't have access to the same resources we do. As a result, they showed us their impressive military style marching and, in return, we showed them how to put up tents, make campfire donuts and sing some classic British campfire songs.

Our next adventure was to go on Safari – we stayed at the Samburu Safari Camp. We had two days of safari and were fortunate enough to see lots of animals in the wild such as, giraffes, elephants, zebras, baboons and even a lioness hunt one morning.

At the end of our Kenyan adventure we visited the grave of the founder and father of Scouting, Baden Powell. As well as being able to visit Baden Powell's grave, we visited his Kenyan house 'Paxtu' which has now been converted into a hotel and museum. We were lucky enough to bump into a Scout group from Kenya who were also visiting the grave and they simply insisted on a group photo with us, reminding all of us that Scouting really is a worldwide movement dedicated to overcoming differences amongst us and getting along.



After a night of camping in an idyllic part of Kenya (which saw giant ants chewing through a Leader's groundsheet and deflating his airbed before finally tucking into him) we were ready for our safety briefing. This was unique to say the least - "If it is a big crocodile, poke it in the eyes"- genuine quote from the safety talk. We jumped into waterfalls, went down sheer water slides backwards and saw all kinds of wildlife. This was a truly appropriate and brilliant ending to a fantastic three and a half weeks.

**Alfie Bullmore, Megan Harvey, Sean Harvey, Alex Moorey, Mark Smith; Charmouth Seagulls**

**Two more Charmouth Scouts are currently raising funds to undertake their African adventure to Tanzania in the summer of 2020. Watch this space for further updates.**



# Our Canadian Adventure!



The Hornblower experience at Niagara

**L**and of bears, mountains, forests and lakes; where maple trees abound and the Mountie always gets his man. A holiday destination I'd longed for over the years and now, nearly a year after booking, Roy and I were finally on our way. On 3rd September, Air Canada blew us into Toronto airport for the start of our 26-day adventure. Niagara was our first port of call and we were thrilled to find ourselves in a hotel room immediately in front of the falls. An amazing sight, displaying the awesome power of water.

On a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake, on the shores of Lake Ontario, we were impressed by the number of wineries along the route. The town itself is almost picture-book perfect, with beautiful floral displays throughout; but beware the eye-watering prices in the shops. We couldn't leave Niagara without going for the Hornblower experience – a boat trip right into the heart of the falls. Wearing our pink plastic ponchos, we recklessly positioned ourselves right at the front of the boat and were rewarded with the full force of the spray and wind as we plunged into the maelstrom of the seething waters. It was thrilling and humbling and left us with a feeling of how puny we are in the face of Nature.

Banff was our next destination, a resort which was created after the discovery of hot sulphur springs in the 19th century. Banff is situated in and gives its name to Canada's oldest and North America's third largest National Park, established in 1885 and encompassing an area of 6641 square kilometres. The town is lively and vibrant and its setting is beyond picturesque, ringed by the Rockies and glaciers and is a mecca for young people, who come to find work, lured by a fantastic outdoor life. A visit to the glacier-fed lakes Louise and Moraine, with their turquoise water, was a must; the former was named after one of Queen Victoria's daughters, who married the governor of Alberta.

Next stop was Jasper, reached by travelling through the Rockies along the Icefield Parkway. Along the highway we were intrigued by constructions which our driver told us were

underpasses and overpasses, created to allow animals to move safely across the highway. When the highways were first built many animals became victims of roadkill; to rectify this the highways were fenced off and loss of animal life was dramatically reduced. Then to enable animals to reach their traditional grazing grounds the passes were constructed, giving animals the choice to cross either over or under the ground. We were deeply impressed by the passion and respect for wildlife shown throughout our trip by tour guides, drivers and the public in general. Equally heartening was the homage paid to the First Nation people of Canada and the admission of periods of dark history in the nation's past.

To date our encounters with wildlife had included ground squirrel, elk and bald eagles but the creature that I'd really hoped to see – a bear, any species would do – was proving elusive, despite being told by numerous guides, "You're now in bear country, so keep looking out!"

The Athabasca Glacier forms part of the Columbia Icefield; it has receded more than 1.5



Lake Moraine

km and lost over half of its volume in the past 125 years. Nevertheless it was thrilling to reach it, inside one of the enormous Ice Explorer vehicles, and be able to step out (very carefully) to explore.

Arriving in Jasper we noted that the train station was just across the road from our hotel, which would prove handy for catching the fabled Rocky Mountaineer train. Jasper we found to be smaller and quieter than Banff but in an equally attractive setting. Tuesday 10th dawned and on our first full day in Jasper it was time to hit the road and enjoy the thrills of a Harley-Davidson tour. Layer upon layer of motorcycle gear and leather was applied before we set out on a two-hour trip. With me perched behind the driver and Roy stretched out in the sidecar, we zoomed along the highway at 90km per hour and headed for Mount Edith Cavell, passing through forests where, once again, we were told to watch out for bears and other animals (none, alas, showed themselves). The adventure was over all too soon but it was an experience I will treasure forever – a strong feeling of being connected to the landscape, so different to travelling inside a vehicle.



On the Athabasca Glacier

Early on the 12th, we made our way across the road to board the Rocky Mountaineer, a real taste of luxury with breath-taking views from our seats up in the glass-domed carriage. Two days of winding through amazing and varied landscapes, with frequent commentaries from our cheerful, attentive crew and delicious breakfasts and lunches, it was utterly fantastic! We saw eagles, big-horned sheep and deer (but still no bears!). On arriving in Vancouver we encountered rain for the first time. We explored the city on a hop-on, hop-off bus, which gave us an overall impression of a large, bustling seaport, ethnically diverse, offering a wealth of leisure pursuits and culture, Stanley Park being particularly impressive.

Sunday 15th – the moment of truth – would I survive a seven-night cruise to Alaska or would my faithful travel sickness pills let me down? Happily I was fine throughout, although the final two days were a real test as the weather was very wet and windy and it wasn't easy to walk a straight line. We had very much wanted to see some of Alaska and this was one of



the easier means of doing so. The scenery didn't disappoint and the Hubbard Glacier was spectacular; North America's largest tidewater glacier, 76 miles long. The ship stopped close to it and an eerie silence was suddenly broken by an initial cracking sound followed by thunderous noise as an enormous chunk of glacier came crashing down into the sea, sending up a huge fountain of spray!



Cool dude bikers

After seven nights at sea and three ports of call we returned to Vancouver, pleased that we had given it a go but agreed that cruising was not for us: far too much temptation at mealtimes and cruising through open water with nothing to see seemed a waste of time, although we enjoyed spotting several whales. After disembarking we made our way to the car rental office and after completing the paperwork were sent to the underground car park to collect our vehicle. A hairy moment ensued, trying to work out how to drive this impressive saloon car without any guidance. Naturally, we went off on the wrong road but with the aid of maps and blessed with little traffic, it being a wet Sunday, my trusty navigator set us in the right direction for our ferry to Vancouver Island.

Vancouver Island is beautiful! No wonder it is the retirement capital for wealthy Canadians. Our hotel was right by the harbour, we enjoyed super views of the city and Fisherman's Wharf and watching the seaplanes arriving and departing. Butchart Gardens were a top priority for us and they didn't disappoint. Begun in 1904, the world-famous gardens covering 55 acres are set in a former limestone quarry, with 900 bedding plant varieties; a real gardener's paradise. As we were driving into the car park we were met by a deer walking along quietly (but no bears). The Butterfly Farm we visited en route to the gardens had very interesting displays of insects and other exotica, as well as the fabulous butterflies and was an added bonus to our excursion.



Butchart Gardens

Our last three nights in Canada were at Ucluelet, a resort roughly half-way up the island on the west coast. A lengthy drive of about five hours gave me ample time to really familiarise myself with the car. The second half of the journey was truly scenic (sadly not for the driver, who had to cope with continuous twists and gradients) as the road passed through forests and alongside rivers. At one point cue a sad face from the driver when Roy happily announced he'd just seen a bear up on a cliff to his right on a section of road where it was impossible to stop. But all was not yet lost, as the next day we were booked onto a bear-watching boat trip. With great excitement we arrived at the boatyard, only to be told

that the trip had been cancelled as the swell from the sea would be too dangerous for the Zodiac. We were rebooked for the next day but when we gazed through the window in the morning disappointment loomed: the sea was rough, the wind strong and cancellation was confirmed. No bears for me.

While I was checking out in the evening (we were leaving very early the next day for the ferry and flight home), I chatted to the receptionist about what a great holiday we'd had and when I mentioned how much I had longed to see a bear he offered me a tip, saying that at Port Alberni, on our route to the ferry, bears can sometimes be seen in the morning along the river and it might be worth a try. The next day we arrived at Port Alberni at 7am, parked and eagerly scanned the river for signs of movement, to no avail. We returned to the car and decided we could stay for half an hour before moving on. After 20 minutes I suddenly noticed a black shape in the distance, leapt out of the car, rushed to the river and... yes! It was a black bear! And then three more appeared! One of them ambled along the shore, caught and ate a fish, then shuffled off into the undergrowth. I was so very happy!

A wonderful ending to a truly fantastic trip. We ran out of superlatives to describe the scenery and exhausted our supply of 'wows'. It really has to be seen to be believed. A huge country with vast stretches of varied landscapes and delightful, friendly people, always willing to engage in conversation or help out when there was a problem. Our only negative experience was on our first morning in Niagara where we encountered the tipping culture of North America: we were aggressively expected to leave a healthy tip for the waitress who had done nothing other than bring us hot drinks. Perhaps the service industry is too poorly paid. But it is certainly a destination that Roy and I would be very happy to return to and perhaps I might be lucky enough to see another bear (or two).

**Maria Beazley**

## Fond Memories

**B**ack in the early 1960s my sister and I came as Girl Guides and stayed on a farm at the bottom of Charmouth village. We had a great time. One of the highlights for us Bletchingley Girl Guides was to walk/climb to Golden Cap. This we have never forgotten. The photo of us at the top on the plinth was taken by my sister with a small Brownie camera.

Well, this year was my sister Sybil's 70th birthday and, as a surprise for her, we decided to go back down memory lane. So, at the end of April, my sister and her husband, along with our younger sister (who was not a Girl Guide), her husband and myself (I am a widow and the oldest sister), came and stayed at The White House. On a wet Friday morning we all set off. We finally reached the plinth on the top of Golden Cap and, although not raining, it was a bit misty. From Golden Cap we walked on to Seatown and had a lovely lunch in The Anchor before walking on up into Chideock to catch the bus back into Charmouth. What a day it had been, filled with so many happy memories. The White House provided lovely accommodation. We visited The Royal

Oak and The Greyhound for excellent meals and great fun and atmosphere. All too soon the three-night stay was over and we came back to Sussex, Kent and Surrey, however my sisters and their husbands came back for two nights recently and stayed again at The White House, as this time they took part in the Primary School Charity run.

We have fond memories of Charmouth and are now looking forward to the winter edition of Shoreline.

**Valerie Bignall**



The five of us on Golden Cap last April: L-R Marion & Trevor Mikelas, Valerie Bignall, Sybil & Graham Edwards.



Bletchingley Guides on Golden Cap c1961. My sister Sybil is on top of the plinth; I am on the left.

# Plastics Free Charmouth - standards reached

The first businesses and organisations have met the standards required for Plastic Free status, as accredited by Surfers Against Sewage, and received their certificates from Plastic Free Charmouth Community. Charmouth Fish Bar, Newlands Holiday Park, the Fernhill Hotel and the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre have led the way into becoming single-use plastic free, and actively champion environmental alternatives.

Charmouth Fish Bar and Pizzeria also received their Plastic Free Champion Award and have managed to eradicate nearly all single use plastic from their business.

Plastic Free Charmouth is the local champion for the national water Refill Project (as promoted by Litter Free Coast and Sea). Signage indicating 'Refill Available' status is on its way to Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, Charmouth Fish Bar and Pizzeria and to the Parish Council for the tap outside the Beach Attendants' office. These join the library in the Refill Project.

Elsewhere in Shoreline you will find a review and results of the Charmouth Community Library Writing Competition. It was agreed that one of the prizes would be for a 50-word story on an environmental theme. Despite there being few entries, quality was high and any of three would have been a worthy winner. The runners up were titled 'The Secret Beachcomber of Charmouth' and 'Nature's Gift', while Keith Richards of Dorchester was surprised and delighted to have written the winning environmental entry 'Floe'.

The main aim of PFC is to remove single-use plastics from Charmouth wherever possible. What can we do? Here are just a few suggestions:

- Plastic carrier bags: swap for re-useable bags, maybe even one of the new Charmouth Traders' hessian bags!
- Plastic cutlery, spoons, food trays or straws: swap for bamboo, plant based or waxed paper items
- Plastic food wrap: try beeswax wrap or store food in old fashioned casserole dishes with lids
- Paper cups with plastic lining (which the vast majority of paper cups are): use paper cups with plant based lining or your own reusable cup or bottle
- Individual sachets of sauce and condiments: use glass bottles or place in china serving pots, and try to refuse sachets when you are eating out.



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 3 (Watch out for more plastic free tips in future issues of Shoreline)

Always consider whether there is a more environmentally-friendly item which could be substituted for a single-use or limited-use plastic item.

**Eden Thomson**



Jo Illingworth receiving the 'Plastic Free Champion' plaque and certificate on behalf of the Fernhill Hotel.



Ali Ferris and Phil Davidson receiving their award on behalf of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.



Dino Dan and friend receiving their Plastic Free Champion plaque and certificate on behalf of Newlands Holiday Park.



Charmouth Fish Bar and Pizzeria also received their Plastic Free Champion Award and have managed to eradicate nearly all single use plastic from their business.



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**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
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## Would you know what to do if there was a fire in your home?

### Do you have working smoke alarms in your home?

**Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service offer FREE Safe and Well advice. Our website has various leaflets, which you can access for advice on topics such as Electrical Safety, Thatched Homes, Kitchen Safety and many more.**

In addition to the advice on our website, why not answer our questions to see if you meet our criteria for a FREE Safe and Well Visit.

During a Safe and Well Visit we will visit you in your home at a convenient time to see what we can do together to make you safer, discussing risks in your home and agreeing an escape plan. We can also fit FREE smoke and heat detectors if your home requires them. We can offer advice to make you and your family safer and healthier in your home. The appointment normally lasts about one hour and covers topics such as:

- Using electricity safely
- Cooking safely
- Making an escape plan
- What to do if there is a fire
- Keeping children safe
- Good practice – night time routine and other points relevant to you

Identifying and discussing any further support you may need if necessary

Remember, smoke alarms save lives.

**To request a free Safe and Well Advice, or to check your eligibility for a visit, please call 0800 038 2323 or alternatively you can go to our website at [www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safety/safe-and-well-visits) to find out more and request one online.**

**Hannah Tompkins**  
Media Officer, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service



## Charmouth's Neighbourhood Plan – We're Getting There!

**A**s reported in the spring edition of *Shoreline*, the Steering Group have been focused on developing the policies for the Plan based upon the vision, objectives and evidence gathered. We have consulted with the Parish Council, Dorset Council and a professional planning consultant on the wording of these policies, ensuring compliance with both national policy and strategic local policy. There are currently 20 draft policies in the Plan covering natural environment, housing, economy, getting around, assets and amenities and heritage and history.

Over the summer period, we have been preparing and reviewing the supporting text that accompanies each of the policies. This has been a time-consuming exercise but an important one to ensure we have a robust Plan. We are now starting to bring together various elements of the Plan into one document, which will take a further few months to complete.

We are aiming to issue the draft Plan early next year (2020), when there will be a six week period of formal consultation with residents and businesses of Charmouth and those who work here, called the pre-submission stage, Regulation 14.

Advanced notice of the availability of the draft Plan will be made known in the next few months and will include where and when it may be viewed, how to make comments and by what date. All residents, businesses and those who work in the village will have the opportunity to comment. After this, any necessary amendments will be made and the Plan will then be submitted to the Local Authority for independent examination. When the Plan passes this scrutiny the final step will be a Referendum for villagers to vote on whether the Plan should be 'made' i.e. comes into force and is used for determining planning applications.

In the Plan there will also be a number of Village Improvement Projects, identified from feedback received from residents and businesses. Volunteers are invited to be part of a project group to put these projects into action.

More information about the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on Charmouth Parish Council website (<https://www.charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk>). You can contact us on our email: [charmouthneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com](mailto:charmouthneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com) or through Sarah Edwards, c/o Lisa Tuck in the Parish Council offices.

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

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

# The Heart of Charmouth Beats in Africa

**A**s we bumped down the lane, deeply rutted with Kenya's red mud, we heard the sound of singing. The cry of "Welcome to Gideons" erupted as hundreds of children spilled through the gates and ran towards us. From toddlers to teens, they sang, clapped and shook our hands – we hadn't even left the car and already the joy of the Gideons' children was clear. Following a three hour drive to Heathrow, flight to Amsterdam, overnight to Nairobi, flight to Kisumu and two hours drive to the orphanage, we should have felt tired but we felt excited, energised and ready to play.



Emily and Aaliyah, our adventurous Charmouth teenagers, cracked open the balloons and soon hundreds of children were squealing with joy as they leapt, ran and played football with the balloons – what a simple gift.

Football is a recurring theme at The Gideons, boys and girls alike are obsessed with the game. Mostly they play with 'balls' made from plastic bags secured with twine, precious footballs are saved for real games against local schools. We had heard about the passion for football so Emily's family approached Exeter Football Club to see if they could help. The club were enormously generous and donated enough kit to dress the Gideon's team. Aaliyah's grandmother donated the footballs.



Many of you will know that local heroes Nicky & Sophie McLachlan have worked with The Gideons founder, Newton, since 2009 to raise funds and build a stable community in this far flung corner of Kenya. Charmouth residents have always given generously, donating bras to the girls, books, soaps and toys to the children. Many people from Charmouth sponsor an individual child, ensuring that they get a solid education and a stronger start in life.



In the last 10 years the orphanage has grown from a handful of children to 360 full time residents and an additional 250 children from local communities being educated at The Gideons school. 570 mouths to feed every day! Forty six of the earlier residents are now attending college and forming a new generation with skills, ambition and an amazing drive to do good in the world. Newton's church is at the heart of the community and daily singing, dancing and thanksgiving is part of what makes The Gideons special.

The 500 plus children have come from abject poverty, physical abuse and parents lost to Aids. Now they are fed daily, have a roof over their head and an enormous Gideons family to grow up with. But life is tough and there is always work to be done. Some of the children are also HIV positive, they need daily medication and a nurse on site. Any minor illness can require costly visits to hospital and little long term hope. We fell in love with gentle David whilst we visited but sadly he passed away this summer.



The orphanage also provides a home for Aids widows by recruiting them to care for the younger children. It was a joy to see the care they took of their new families in a row of 'Widows Houses'. There is an abundance of love but younger children sleep 3-4 to a bed, the two bedroom houses hold up to 20 children and there is no spare money for shoes, clothes, new beds or even extra plates and cups.



This is why our troop of five set off to Kenya with Nicky and Sophie in April 2019 to visit the orphanage. We had been fundraising for a year; bingo nights at The George, a quiz night at The Oak, Curry & Carols at the hall and more raffles than I can remember. In addition to the £6,000



raised by the generous people of Charmouth, the talented Jill Hunt made beautiful dresses for the girls, Pat Holliday knitted headbands and Major Mack managed to fill her 46 kilos of luggage with soap, clothes, toys, pens and an unending stream of goodies.

We brought money with us to have new beds made for the children, to buy paint to decorate the widows' houses and enough plates to ensure that every child has their own plate to get food each day.

Whilst we were there we learnt that the orphanage now acts as a centre of care for many in the community. Every fortnight up to 40 elderly people walk miles to the orphanage to pick up a food pack. Those who are too ill or under-nourished to walk are visited by the older orphans. On our travels to meet the elderly we found the widower Leonard, a badly infected leg meant he couldn't work or walk and he certainly couldn't afford to visit hospital. Norman and Newton carried him a mile to the road and we paid for his visit to hospital and antibiotic treatment – a simple treatment we all take for granted but in this part of Africa it still unavailable to many.



A huge thank you to the many people of Charmouth who attend our fundraising events, donate and make life better for our extended family in Kenya. We intend to return in 2020. If you would like to be part of the team contact us on the numbers below. Alternatively email [awakenlove@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:awakenlove@hotmail.co.uk) to sponsor a child or donate what you can.

We will ensure that the generous heart of Charmouth continues to beat in this corner of Africa.

**Marie Oldham** (01297 560099)  
**& Alison Taylor** (07903 018407)



## We Remember

### Roger William Trotman

**Born 30th July 1948 – Sadly Died 27th June 2019  
after a two year illness**

**R**oger was born in Montacute in Somerset, and lived most of his life there; later he lived in North Dorset after his marriage to Barbara. Sadly, Barbara died in December 2009 and shortly afterwards Roger and I met. He moved down to Charmouth to live, very quickly becoming a valued member of the community. He fitted well into Charmouth life and as a retired electrician was always more than happy to help people out if asked to do so.

Rog was a kind, caring and generous person. He had no children of his own but was a truly wonderful addition to my family; he took it all in his stride and was a supportive presence in their lives. He was a gentleman, a good conversationalist, thoughtful and helpful. He was a practical bloke to have around. He could make anything, fix anything, mend anything and he was never happier than when pottering in his workshop, especially once he had his precious classic car back to tinker with. Motorsport was his passion and he owned several classic cars during his time here; many will remember the MGB in the garage at No 9 Double Common.



Roger was admired by all who knew him for the many qualities he possessed and his last generous gift in donating his body for the benefit of Medical Science is to be commended.

On Friday 25th October, a very wet blustery night, a Memorial Concert with the Three Counties Swing Band was attended by over 100 of Roger's friends and family from Charmouth, Somerset, North Dorset and further afield. There was an introduction by Malcolm Hinxman; reflections on his friendship with Roger, delivered by best friend Mark Pearce; and closing thanks from me. During the evening a slide show entitled Remembering Rog was shown with a soundtrack of his beloved Goodwood Revival. This was expertly put together by Bill Burn. The evening was a great success, the music was fantastic, and £772 was raised to support the London Anatomy Office, Kings College Hospital. I would like to thank everyone for attending; it meant so much to me. Rog would have loved it and I felt he was there with us.

I would also like to express sincere thanks for the support and friendship I have received from everyone in Charmouth over the last two years and particularly the last six months.

"It's impossible to forget someone who gave you so much to remember."

**Jan Plummer**

## The Royal British Legion – What do we offer locally?



Fundraising stall at Uplyme Horticultural show. (Lyme Regis British Legion now covers all the outlying villages, such as Charmouth.)

### We are here to help with:

- *Care and Independent Living, and Support for Carers.*
- *Helping the Armed Forces Live Safely at Home.*
- *Physical and Mental Wellbeing.*
- *Expert Recovery, Rehabilitation and Short Breaks.*
- *Financial and Employment Support.*
- *Specialist Advice.*

'The Legion' quietly goes on supporting and providing information to veterans, their families and dependents across the U.K. There has been a strong 'Legion' presence in Lyme Regis and Charmouth for many years and it still continues. We all know about the Poppy Appeal and its relevance, but the fundraising and work goes on 24/7 throughout the year. In the Lyme Regis and surrounding area, we are developing home and hospital visiting, telephone buddying and on the spot support for local veterans and their families, who have been helped initially by British Legion case workers. We now hold a monthly Drop-in for a chat and a coffee, where we can explain how we might help with questions or issues, or signpost people so they receive relevant assistance. The Drop-in session, is on the first Monday of the month from 10 am until midday, at the Driftwood Rooms of the Baptist Hall in Lyme.

I would like to thank Patricia Forsey and her family, who have represented and supported the Royal British Legion in Charmouth over a long period of time. She has handed over the Poppy Appeal organiser role to myself, and I hope I can do her proud. My only problem so far is the fact the poppy boxes, collection tins and stock, have literally filled my third bedroom!

If you would like any further information, or think that you might like to assist by volunteering, please contact [lymeregis.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:lymeregis.chairman@rbl.community) or [www.rbl.org](http://www.rbl.org)

**Judith Howells**, Branch Community Supporter



## What's On

### CHARMOUTH AND BRIDPORT CHOIR

The Charmouth & Bridport Choir,  
under the direction of Edward Jacobs,  
will be presenting their

*'Winter Musical Extravaganza'*

on Monday 16th December at St. Andrew's Church

An evening of newly arranged songs is promised with some old favourites and Christmas carols included. The evening will begin at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7.00pm. Tickets are £8.00, to include a drink and will be available from Fortnam Smith & Banwell Estate Agents (Charmouth Branch) or by calling Jan Coleman on 01297 561625. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

**Inge Dyson (MSTAT)**  
will give a free talk on the  
**Alexander Technique**

7.00pm on 27th February  
in Charmouth Community Library.

Tea and home-made cake will be available.

01297 489526

### CAROLS IN CHARMOUTH

Listen out for carol singers who will be going  
around the village on Wednesday 18th December.

Or come and join us!

*We'll be meeting outside the Community Hall  
at 6.30pm (weather permitting).*

Song sheets will be provided, just bring a torch.

Any donations will be sent to Crisis at Christmas.

Any queries please contact  
Maria 561405 or Liz 560681

ALL WELCOME!

### CHICAGO BRIDGE

SATURDAY 11th JANUARY 2.00pm



Village Hall, Wesley Close

£5 to include

Delicious afternoon tea

Prizes, raffle.

For tickets ring 01297 560251 or 561405

Charmouth & District Twinning Association

### Charmouth Bowls Club



**Charmouth Bowls Club**  
has completed yet another  
summer season with a healthy  
membership of 20 souls.  
The club is now in its winter  
quarters at St. Andrew's Hall  
every Tuesday and Friday  
afternoons from 2.00 to 4.30pm.

We are always looking for new players, so come along  
if you would like to try your hand at this skilful hobby.  
Equipment can be provided so see you there, no  
excuses.

For details, feel free to contact me on 01297 560484

**Mike Jackson-Bass**, Acting Hon. Sec. & Captain

### Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre Needs Volunteers

**Do you love our coast? Passionate about fossils and/  
or marine life? Newly retired or new to the area with  
time on your hands?**

You may like to consider volunteering at the Charmouth  
Heritage Coast Centre along with a group of like-minded  
Friends. Volunteering about once a month means that  
there is no annual subscription to pay and you will have  
all the social benefits of being a Friend of the CHCC.  
Volunteering can be fun and a good way of meeting  
people; training will be provided and this usually takes  
place in January and/or February. If you are  
interested and would like to find out more,  
please talk to one of the Wardens who  
will explain the possibilities.

**Ros Cole**



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# Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Adult Art Class	Weds 10am-1pm (term time only)	Charmouth Community Library, The Street	Trudi Ochiltree 07812 856823
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 Pielesz 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)	Wednesday evening 7.00-8.30pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Melanie Harvey 01297 560393
Free Computer Help	Wednesdays 2- 4.30pm	Charmouth Central	David Jones 560640
Gardeners	2nd Thursday 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
Moviola Films	3rd Thursday of every month except Jan, Aug and Dec	Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Andy Peters 07765 770313
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 01297 489546

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

# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

<b>EMERGENCIES POLICE</b>	<b>Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard</b>	<b>999 or 112</b>
	PCSO Amanda King 6090 for Community Police issues (ask by name)	101
	Non urgent call number for reporting incidents / enquiries	101
	Bridport Police Station, Tannery Road	101
<b>FIRE and RESCUE</b>	West Dorset Fire and Rescue Service — Group Manager	01305 252600
<b>HM COASTGUARD</b>	Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis (Not 24 hours)	01297 442852
<b>DOCTORS</b>	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
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester	01305 251150
	Bridport Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Bridport	01308 422371
<b>DENTISTS</b>	Dorset Dental Helpline	01202 854443
<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b>	National Rail Enquiries — Information on Timetables, Tickets and Train Running Times	08457 484950
	National Traveline — Information on Bus and Bus/Rail Timetables and Tickets	08712 002233
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	Gas	0800 111999
	Electricity (Western Power Distribution)	0800 365900
	Water (Wessex Water)	08456 004600
	Floodline	08459 881188
	Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 807060
<b>CHEMISTS</b>	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
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	Charmouth County Primary, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560591
	The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442232
<b>CHURCHES</b>	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Pauline Berridge	01297 560957
<b>CHARMOUTH HALLS</b>	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
<b>BEFRIENDING</b>	Charmouth	07736 825283
<b>COUNCILS</b>		
<b>CHARMOUTH PARISH</b>	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
<b>DORSET COUNCIL</b>	Councillor — Daryl Turner – clldarylturner@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk	01297 443591
	County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01305 221000
<b>DORSET'S PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com">www.dorsetforyou.com</a></b>		
<b>LOCAL M.P.</b>	Oliver Letwin, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail letwin@parliament.uk	0207 219 3000
<b>CITIZENS' ADVICE</b>	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm)	01297 445325
	45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01308 456594
<b>POST OFFICES</b>	37 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442836
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	The Street, Charmouth	01297 560640
	Silver Street, Lyme Regis	01297 443151
	South Street, Bridport	01308 422778
	South Street, Axminster	01297 32693
<b>SWIM / LEISURE</b>	Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport	01308 427464
	Flamingo Pool, Lyme Road, Axminster	01297 35800
	Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth	01297 560259
<b>CINEMA</b>	Electric Palace, 35 South Street, Bridport	01308 424901
<b>THEATRES</b>	Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442394
	Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport	01308 424204
	Guildhall, West Street, Axminster	01297 33595
<b>TOURIST INFORMATION</b>	Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442138
	Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport	01308 424901



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