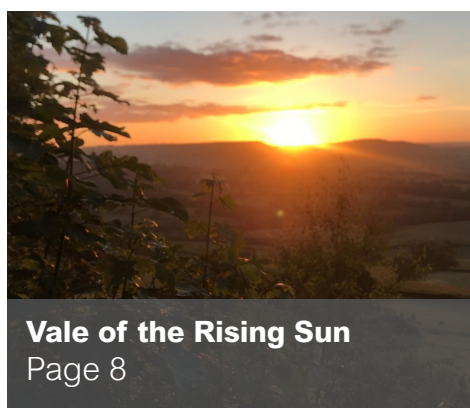


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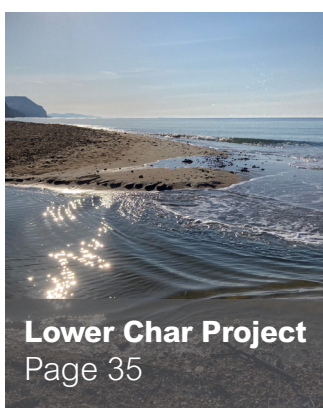
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# SHORELINE

News and Views from Charmouth



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2023

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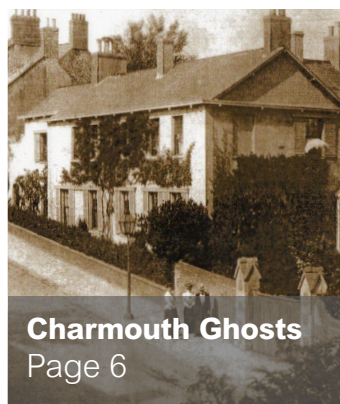
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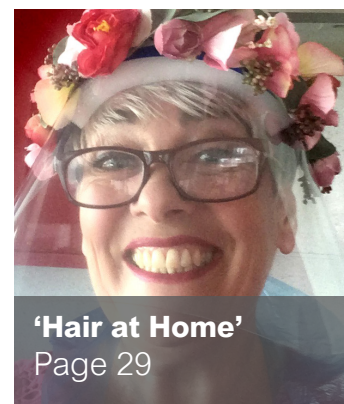
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## Editorial

With the sad death of HM Queen Elizabeth II occurring so soon after Shoreline's Jubilee Special edition celebrating her 70 years' reign, three things came to mind: the seamless transfer of power between her and King Charles III, the succession plan that has been in effect for so many years and the fact that no-one is invincible.

Following the full-colour Jubilee issue marking our personal high-spot in publishing Shoreline, our thoughts are starting to turn to our own succession plan for the future.

When Liz and I took over from the previous four-person team after 12 successful years, we offered to take up the reins almost immediately without any publishing experience.

We have decided that we are unable to continue indefinitely on our own without substantial help in the areas of desk-top publishing (DTP), journalism, graphics design and advertiser liaison.

So, we would like to let readers know that in time we wish to hand over to a new team, whilst there is plenty of time for others to come forward to take up the baton for future issues of Shoreline.

We are currently planning for Issue 50 (the winter 2023 issue) to be our last, after 8 issues and 3 relentless years.

Any readers with experience in the areas mentioned above, particularly the DTP role, who are willing to get involved for the future, are invited to come forward while we can work together for a gradual handover for 2024.

**Roger & Liz**

### It's all in the genes!

My dad worked as a proofreader for most of his life. A rather solitary job requiring a pedantic frame of mind and usually involving the word by word comparison of author's copy against 'galley's of printed type as they came as 'proofs' from the compositors and the hot-metal casting machines.

At times, the mental stress of making sure that the typesetter had accurately transcribed the author's words was occasionally relieved when it was noticed that the author him or herself needed to be corrected! A situation which relied on the years of experience and, occasionally, a reference to 'Rules for Compositors and Readers' or 'Fowler's Modern English Usage'.

I spent a few years doing a holiday job at the printing works undertaking a variety of menial tasks. But I still recall the smell of the ink and the incessant noise of the printing machines. Later, when one of the other readers left to set up a computerised telephone system, I spent some time with him and was duly impressed by the first business computer I had ever seen. But that's another story!

Dad tried to teach me shorthand but, either because of his limited teaching skills or, more likely, my limited learning ability, it never succeeded. But he did buy me my first typewriter and I have liked writing ever since. I quickly developed the reporter's typing style, known in those days as 'hunt and peck' rather than learn touch typing.

Then to everyone's surprise, at the age of 88, he took up a new hobby – writing entertaining letters to the editor of the local paper over a period of 5 years, under the banner of "It occurred to me ...". After his fortieth letter had been published the editor sent a news team round to interview him and featured the resulting article in their next edition.

He told the reporter: "I always wanted to be a writer, but I decided I wasn't cut out to be a reporter as I wasn't nosy enough." The reporter didn't take offence though!

An example of his letter writing, in response to an earlier letter, follows:

**"Touch-typing isn't what it once was**

*"Your correspondent's satisfaction at hearing the click-click of his typewriter reminds me that today's touch-typing isn't what it was.*

*"Thumping out the characters on my old portable presented no problem, but I have great difficulty in controlling my electronic machine. It seems the slightest breath over a key activates it.*

*"Unfortunately, as a nonagenarian I tend to breathe rather heavily after the merest physical exertion!*

*"Leslie Sansom"*

**Roger Sansom**

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**THE SHORELINE TEAM 2022**  
**Roger Sansom**

Editor, Design and Layout

**Liz Sansom**

Assistant Editor, Treasurer

**Vacancy**

Advertising Manager

**Vacancy**

Features and interviews

### Next issue

**Deadline 24th February 2023**

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**editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk**

**The Editor, Shoreline,  
Bracoden, Lower Sea Lane,  
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## Parish Council News

- **Queen's Death** – Following the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II a whole programme of formal civic events commenced at the highest level and cascaded down to the smallest Towns and Parishes. Charmouth Parish Council flew the Union flag at half mast, provided a book of condolence at The Elms as well as a place for tributes to be laid. The Proclamation for His Majesty King Charles III was read by the Chair of the Council outside the Elms on Sunday 11 September and a "Moment of Reflection" was held for the Queen on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, the evening before her state funeral.
- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – As previously reported, the Jubilee was celebrated in style across the country including Charmouth. As a final tribute, included in the fund raising by Linda Bearpark, two roses (The Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth II) will be planted in the Elms garden along with a commemorative plaque.

- **Parish Councillors** – Melanie Harvey, was co-opted as the latest Councillor at the July Full Council meeting and she is warmly welcomed. Melanie will sit on the Foreshore Committee and the Emergency Committee and brings a wealth of experience following her integral involvement in the Covid Volunteers initiative.

The Council now has 8 Councillors of the 11 possible spaces. The current Councillors are a dedicated team and committed to making improvements that benefit parishioners. The Parish Council is a formal, legislated body in the third tier of Local Government and therefore is a bit more restricted than informal organisations. Please don't let this put you off, things may take more time to implement but it is still possible to make changes for the good of the village. If you are interested in finding out more about what being a Parish Councillor entails and would like to shape Charmouth for the future, please contact the Clerk, Lisa Tuck for an informal chat or visit our website to browse what we do [www.charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk). We really look forward to hearing from you!

- **Seasonal Beach Assistant** - The Parish Council was once again, with financial help from Dorset Council, able to appoint a Seasonal Beach Assistant to cover Thursday-Monday evenings at the Foreshore during the main holiday season. George Lugg, a university student who was home in Charmouth for the summer, was appointed to this role and did a fantastic job. We received many compliments about George's work ethic and attitude during his time at the beach and the other Parish Council staff found his contribution a huge help.

All the Council staff deserve a "pat on the back" for their hard work during what has been a very busy summer due to the wonderful weather. The team is dedicated and motivated and this is very much appreciated by the Council as well as the wider community.

- **Emergency Plan** – The formation of a Community Emergency Plan for Charmouth is well underway with advice being received from the Dorset Council Emergency Planning and Resilience Officer. Charmouth's plan will include the current Flood Plan and as flooding is the most likely of incidents, the Flood Warden (Dave Humphrey) and one of the Deputies (Cllr Katie Moore) have attended a local training session. A meeting has also been held with those Covid Volunteers who are willing/able to continue in a coordinating role.
- **Warm Hub** – In response to the current "cost of living crisis" the Council are looking at the possibility of providing a "Warm Hub" at the Elms for a couple of sessions a week. Keep an eye out for more details to follow.....

**Charmouth Parish Council**

## South West in Bloom RHS Silver Gilt Winner



**T**his summer Charmouth entered the South West in Bloom competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society and at the presentation event on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October was awarded silver gilt. This is the second highest category, after gold, which was a pleasing result for an entry submitted at short notice.

The competition assesses communities based on their horticultural quality, environmental sustainability credentials and involvement of the community so it is a fairly holistic approach. Seven village organisations contributed directly to the entry and it is hoped that many more, as well as individuals, will do so in 2023. Details of the portfolio prepared and the judges' comments are available to view on the Parish Council's website, under the 'Good for Charmouth' tab.

Buoyed by this success, planning has already started for 2023 with a first meeting of interested parties held on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Some of the ideas generated were due to be discussed by relevant Committees of the Parish Council in the following week. In particular, opportunity to enhance and add to the information plaques around the village was recognized. Also, residents and visitors could be encouraged to use the iNaturalist app and website which is a social network of naturalists, citizen scientists and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe. While this is global, specific sightings of plants and animals in Charmouth (and other localities) can be viewed.

More tree planting will be encouraged, including the possibility of an orchard and using more planters. Incorporating edible plants into displays might be a theme for the year.

After the drought of 2022, introduction of more water butts will be an aim, with the possibility of using seaweed as a mulch to be explored.

The scope to distribute tree and wildflower seed through the village traders will be investigated while improvements to footpath signage will continue to be pursued. The competition has the facility of an 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category designed to encourage individual streets, or even parts of streets, to enter and use this as a stimulus to co-operate on some visual enhancement which gives everyone a lift.

Communication about the activities being planned in the village will be conveyed through the Council's web site and local publications as well as through the channels of each organization and by email to volunteers engaged with the Parish Council's Environment Group. We hope that everyone will want to add a bit more colour to Charmouth in 2023.

**Charmouth Parish Council Environment Group**



## Environment Day

**A**s part of the Friends of The Earth's Big Green Week, Charmouth Parish Council Environment Group held our first ever Environment Event. Heather Salmon generously supplied all the technical sound equipment and her wealth of expertise. The Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre kindly lent us their projector. Many thanks to Penny Collins for setting up the refreshments and Eden Thompson for helping with them. Many thanks also to Ivor Clist for being the name taker on the door. The event was well attended with about 40 people coming. Future events hope to be able to be more inclusive, perhaps stall based, to enable those who might like to pop in just to gather information happening locally and to include all the local organization working towards helping nature, recycling, reducing bills and so on.

Cllr Andrew Lightfoot opened the day, stressing the important role local action plays in protection of the environment. The first speaker was Dr Chris Lockyear, Chair of Sidmouth Town Council who gave a presentation on Carbon foot-printing. Chris's talk explained how our lifestyle decisions can reduce our carbon generated. It was interesting to see that one of the biggest changes we can make is to buy local, in season food. As part of supporting residents with reducing energy bills, the town council has a thermal imaging camera which can be used to detect warm and cold spots inside and outside houses to identify sources of heat loss. This helps residents to prioritise where to improve insulation. See Charmouth Parish Council's website under Environment group for the presentation.

Ali Ferris from Charmouth Heritage Centre was unable to give her talk on the marine environment due to having Covid. Heather Salmon very kindly stepped in and gave an excellent summary of the Government's Shoreline Management Plan for the Charmouth area. This is a large and complex document dealing with the strategy for planning for potential coastal changes.



Tree planting photo by Janet Barrow

We then had an enjoyable coffee break after which Andrew Lightfoot summarized information on the Charmouth Parish Council Environment Group projects completed to date which include the entry into the South West in Bloom, the trees planted in the Playing Field and cemetery as part of the Queen's Green canopy, the new hedging at the Foreshore and the crocus planting (the latter funded by the Rotary Club). Projects being proposed for discussion are a community garden/orchard, a tree trail and clearer tree protection information, information plaques explaining more about Charmouth's nature, a tree seeds gift and tree nursery, more sustainable planting and differential mowing of public areas.

Julie Leah then gave a talk on Dorset Climate Action Network's great Big Dorset hedge project ([www.DorsetCAN.org/hedge](http://www.DorsetCAN.org/hedge)) which aims to increase understanding of the vital importance of hedgerows.

Andrew Carey then spoke about the River Char Community project ([www.Charvalley.org](http://www.Charvalley.org)) run by Char valley Parish Council in conjunction with Dorset wildlife Trust and the AONB. This was followed by Julie Leah talking about the Lower Char Community project ([www.RiverChar.org](http://www.RiverChar.org)) set up by five Charmouth residents to tackle the issues of sewage pollution and improving the health of our Char.

Andrew Lightfoot referred to Jane Godhall's Book of Hope. It explains that we all need to have hope to be able to take action. We hope that by presenting just a few of the local projects this will give Charmouth residents some information that will help them contribute in their own way and increase their hope that we can make a difference.

**Charmouth Parish Council Environment Group**

## Volunteering - Why?

**T**wo comments stick in my memory, one from a visitor from The Netherlands. He had evidently noticed our volunteer name badges and wondered why he kept seeing the same people doing different jobs. Impressed, he asked me why Charmouth was so full of volunteers. Another comment I heard about was from a person who questioned, in a rather disparaging way, why on earth anyone would want to volunteer for anything.

So, why do so many people volunteer in Charmouth?

Charmouth is a fairly small village but there are lots of jobs to be done. Volunteers provide services for people to enjoy themselves, be involved in local activities, entertain, educate, facilitate and generally make Charmouth a better place to live.

Here are just some examples of the voluntary activities that take place locally. Volunteers make and serve meals for the elderly; take people to essential appointments; plant trees; run the Community Library; keep the Post Office operating; help the Coast Centre welcome and educate many thousands of visitors; deliver books to people who are housebound; take people shopping; run the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Beavers; are involved in church and community activities; edit and produce our excellent Shoreline village magazine!; run sporting activities and community events for the village... and so on.

Without groups of willing people, these services would not run. People give their time, knowledge and energy to help Charmouth be a real community. The community spirit at the beginning of the first COVID lockdown in 2020 was wonderfully impressive. A large number of people, some retired and those who could not go to work, swung into action, shopping for food and prescriptions for those who could not go out, checking that residents were OK (the thumbs up sign in the windows), delivering a fact sheet of useful and relevant information and a friendly face outside the window. These services, all carried out by volunteers, were a real lifeline for many people who would otherwise have struggled. And it all happened as though by magic without any fuss. The pandemic arrived, problems arose, volunteers were organised and all pulled together. They were much appreciated.

Volunteering is not only valuable to those on the receiving end of services and activities. Most people volunteer because they want to be part of their community and to get to know people. They want to have a focus and to keep occupied by doing something useful and interesting. However, it's also about belongingness – that important need we all have for being part of something in which we feel valued. Retirement or loss of a family member could bring loneliness, loss of identity or lack of purpose or routine but volunteering can really help individuals, groups and whole communities by providing structure, activities, friendship and purposeful focus. Charmouth is a fine example of a village where the community spirit is alive and well – long may volunteering continue.

**Rosalind Cole**



**The Post Office is operating in Charmouth on two days only, at the Library on Thursdays between 10:15 - 13:00 and 13:30 - 15:15 each week and we've now managed to open up on Fridays at the Hollands Room 10:15 - 14:00.**

**Steve Smith**

*Sub-Postmaster, Crewkerne Post Office*

# Charmouth Ghosts

**P**eople often ask me if I know of any houses in the village that are haunted. I do not personally know of any and refer them to the articles written by Nick Stapleton in 2001, Peter Press in 2005 and Reginald Pavey in 1961. I have decided to list the properties they mention with their relevant stories as they make fascinating reading. I also have located the most amazing of them in an article written in 1923, by the writer of the Sherlock Holmes novels, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle referring to a building that formerly stood on the corner of Barrs Lane and The Street, where the group of shops is today. This is an extract from it :



*"Now and then I had a psychic experience somewhat outside the general run of such events. One of these occurred when I was at Norwood in 1892 or 1893. I was asked by the Society of Psychic Research whether I would join a small committee to sit in and report upon a haunted house at Charmouth. I went down accordingly together with a Dr. Scott and Mr. Podmore, a man whose name was associated with such investigations. I remember that it took us the whole railway journey from Paddington to read up the evidence as to the senseless noises which had made life unendurable for the occupants, who were tied by a lease and could not get away. We sat up there two nights. On the first nothing occurred. On the second, Dr. Scott left us and I sat up with Mr. Podmore. We had, of course, taken every precaution to checkmate fraud, putting worsted threads across the stairs, and so on.*

*In the middle of the night a fearsome uproar broke out. It was like someone belabouring a resounding table with a heavy cudgel. It was not an accidental creaking of wood, or anything of that sort, but a deafening row. We had all doors open, so we rushed at once into the kitchen, from which the sound had surely come. There was nothing there — outside doors were all locked, windows barred, and threads unbroken. Podmore took away the light and pretended that we had both returned to our sitting room, going off with the young master of the house, while I waited in the dark in the hope of a return of the disturbance. None came — or ever did come. What occasioned it we never knew. It was of the same character as all the other disturbances we had read about, but shorter in time." Here there was a sequel to the story. "Some years later the house was burned down, which may or may not have had a bearing upon the spirits which seemed to haunt it, but a more suggestive thing is that the skeleton of a child about ten years old was dug up in the garden. This I give on the authority of a relation of the family who were so plagued. The suggestion was that the child had been done to death there long ago, and that the subsequent phenomena of which we had one small sample were in some way a sequence to this tragedy. There is a theory that a young life cut*

*short in sudden and unnatural fashion may leave, as it were, a store of unused vitality which may be put to strange uses."*

There were once two thatched cottages on the site of Herringbone, Fortnam Smith, Morgan's and Devonedge. One of these was said to be haunted. The owner was a man named Cornick who was known to be a heavy drinker. Pavey recalls a story told by the village carpenter, Harry Stamp, about his cousin Rose, who as a girl had worked as a housemaid for Cornick. Harry's grandfather was Cornick's gardener. No servants would stay in the house, as the heavy furniture would be mysteriously moved around at night. This was the house Conan Doyle visited with his friends. After the Great Fire of 1894, when the cottages were burnt down, Harry's grandfather, whilst clearing the site, found the skeleton of a baby under the kitchen floor, which confirms the story told by Conan Doyle. It laid under the long garden of the house built by Harry Pryer at the end of Barrs Lane until after his death when the arcade of shops was built in 1932.



**The Court** (as told by Nick Stapleton). *"In 1969 my parents bought The Court Hotel from the Kohrings, who had bought it a year previously from Mrs Buck. It had been run as a private hotel, a number of the guests being elderly people in permanent residence. At the time we took over, the residents had gone, but there remained a feeling that nothing had changed for a long time.*

*"The house was large, dark, and decorated in an old-fashioned style. Almost all the woodwork was painted dark brown and even the woodworm had difficulty finding their way around. Late at night, when all was still, strange creaks could be heard.*

*"When we took over the hotel, we inherited a number of long-serving staff who were a great help in showing us the ropes. They told us that at times, when the hotel was empty, singing could be heard from upstairs and sometimes also the sound of footsteps passing in the corridors above. It was certainly a spooky place. After redecoration the house was much brighter, but a certain atmosphere was still present. In the depths of winter the hotel was closed. Late at night there was no traffic, even in those pre-bypass days. On one such evening everyone else had gone to bed, and I was alone in the bar, reading. All was silent. Getting up from my chair to get a drink, the hairs on the back of my neck rose as I heard the unmistakable sound of someone, whom I knew could not be there, settling into my seat behind me! Turning slowly, terrified at the apparition I was about to see, I realised with relief that the sound came from the cushion that I had been sitting on, rising after being released from my weight! With great relief, I went to bed.*

*"Over the years I became somewhat sceptical despite the tale one guest related to my father. She came down to breakfast one morning somewhat flustered. During the night, for reasons never fully explained, she had come downstairs intent on entering the dining-room, only to have her way barred by "several of them, at least two or three...". Other than establishing that 'they would not let me pass', we never found out quite what she had seen. I, meanwhile, was busying myself with what I thought was going to be a sensation to rival Conan Doyle's fairy pictures. Having got hold of an old box Brownie camera and a large quantity of papier-mâché, my sister and I set about taking ghost pictures. Wearing a hideous mask and an old sheet I posed while my sister took a doubly-exposed photo of the 'ghost' in the garden. Unfortunately they fooled no-one but brought a great deal of laughter into the lives of everyone who saw them. There were however two less earthly occurrences while we were there. One day, my sister was alone in the garden. Glancing up, she saw a man standing at the other end of the lawn. Her first thought was that this was one of our guests, but even as she looked away it occurred to her that his appearance was a little strange. Wearing a gabardine raincoat, he was dressed as one from the Thirties or Forties. This caused her to look at him again, only to find that in the split-second since her first glimpse, he had vanished! He may have been the man that one of our guests saw.*

*"Arriving at the hotel, one entered through a long hallway, into a bar/lounge area (the room with my haunted cushion!). Half of this room occupied the full height of the building. Stairs on the right side led up to the first floor, which formed an extended landing ahead and around the left-hand side. Bedrooms opened off this landing, which also ran on out of sight in both directions to the rest of the upstairs area.*

*"One of our regular guests, who had stayed with us on several occasions, was sitting in the bar, waiting to be shown up to her room. My father walked along the landing, needing to attend to something in one of the rooms before greeting her. On coming downstairs, he apologised for leaving her waiting. She said that she quite understood, having seen that he was showing another guest to their room, and had been quite happy to wait. The only thing was that my father had been entirely alone! The lady described a man in a brown suit, carrying a suitcase. He had followed my father around the landing. She had seen him quite clearly, and had noted nothing unusual about his appearance. They were in view for several seconds, and she was quite adamant about what she had seen, even when she was assured that no-one had been there."*

In 1984 the Hotel was sold, to become an old people's home. This, in its turn, has now closed. I do wonder, though, if the man in the brown suit is still in residence!

**Luttrell House** In the 1880s Luttrell House was haunted by the ghost of a lady and the sound of her silk dress sweeping across the floor could be heard in the bedroom overlooking the Street. The visits of the lady were so disturbing that Colonel Little, who was living there at the time, determined to lay the ghost. One wild night when the





rain was beating against the window and the wind howling round the house, the swish of the lady's skirt became unbearable, so Colonel Little slipped out of the bed and crawled along the floor hoping to catch her. He could hear her distinctly just ahead and he thrust out his hand, but instead of grasping a silken skirt his hand went through a Japanese parasol which was ornamenting the fireplace and damaged it beyond repair. The lady was never seen again.

The same house has experienced other mysterious phenomena. Some years after the episode of the Japanese parasol, another bedroom had to be exorcised before it could be used, owing to certain alarming manifestations. On two occasions dogs refused to go near a certain part of the garden, although the owner could never see or feel anything out of the ordinary.



**Sea Horse House** (rebuilt as apartments) Some years ago a lady went to "Sea Horse House" to keep a temporary caretaker company and was left alone in the house reading. She was startled by a banging on the underside of the table at which she was sitting, so she moved over to the other side of the table, when the banging was repeated. When the caretaker came home she found her friend lying in a faint. The phenomenon did not recur.

The experience of a lady, now resident in the village, is related by her when she was staying not far from the Sea Horse House in 1897.

*"I used to go to a small sitting-room on the second floor and sit in the window seat, facing the sea, to read. On one occasion I fancied someone came into the room although I could see no one. I knew it was a woman - her presence was so vivid. Anyway I spoke to her but she did not answer. On another afternoon she came again and I could not understand so I left the room and never entered it again. When I returned to London I told my mother about this episode and to my amazement she said that both she and my grandmother had experienced the same thing. I often wondered why my grandmother cut short her visit to us at Charmouth but I realise it now."*

**Bow House.** Until quite recently it had been a guesthouse. The former proprietor was one of the few haunted householders in the village prepared to admit publicly to something unaccountable in his



house. He and his family had all experienced the smell of pipe smoke on occasions in the oldest part of the house. None of them smoked. On telling the pipe smoke story to a guest, the owner regretted the fact that the smell had not been detected for a long time. Upon which the guest said "No wonder - since I was here last you've put up No Smoking signs".

**The Coachman's Cottage** (behind Bow House). A previous tenant said that manifestations had occurred quite frequently in the past. There were noises and voices in the roof and occasionally, there were sudden chilling sensations as if someone had opened a door.



**Albury House.** There is a well recorded 'disembodiment' living here. She was known as Annie, a truly benign presence. The house was bought by the Bowyer-Smythes in 1910 after they returned from Australia. Of their many children, one was in delicate health - Annie. She is remembered as 'Greasy Granny' a bedridden, very old lady who was always in a room at the front of the house, wearing a grey-green sun visor. She remained in the house after her parents' deaths and passed to another realm, dying at 96 in 1957. Guests and the family have reported indistinct conversations in adjacent rooms, and the sensation of someone else being in the room.



**The Abbots House.** In the room where Charles II slept in 1652, there were reports of guests unaccountably tumbling out of bed in the early hours. This, so the landlord said, was Charley's ghost showing his displeasure that someone should have slept in the royal bed. The landlord enjoyed telling this story in the hope of generating the odd goose bump among the guests.

He admitted much later that the tumble had only been reported by one guest and this, the landlord said, was due to the underside of a mattress being made of a new material called nylon. He enjoyed telling his story.

**The Elms.** Although there is very little sign of its antiquity, the Elms is of Tudor origin. There is some evidence to support the belief that a supernatural presence still exists in the building and further evidence suggests that it is not a happy one. Strange noises emanate from the rooms at the top.



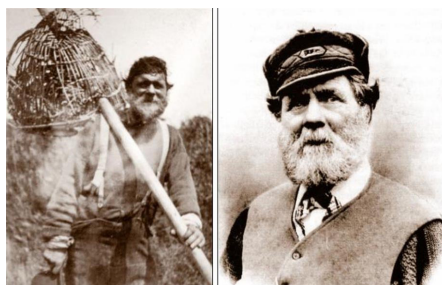
**Charmouth House.** There are two stories from the Pavey Papers that could be considered 'odd'. In 1897 a guest sat reading in a little sitting room on the second floor of the hotel when someone came in. The guest could see no one. It was a very vivid impression. She spoke aloud to the presence but it did not answer. The same thing occurred a day or so later: she spoke again, and again there was no response. She never went into that room again. The guest returned home to London and on telling her mother of the ghostly incident, learned to her astonishment that her mother and her grandmother had had identical experiences in that same room. The other tale was of a man in 1937 who was awakened by a fearful yell. At the window he saw "a horribly fiendish face - the devil incarnate". At breakfast the next morning there was a telephone call from Germany - his only brother had died that night!



**The Limes (Charmouth Lodge)** was built in 1830 on the ancient site, it is believed, of a convent or nunnery. Ghosts abound! Ellis Long, a prominent citizen of the village, interviewed Joan Whittington for the Dorset Evening News in 1974, who told him of the frequent appearances of a young lady in white. Another was of a grey-clad monk always seen walking slowly from the house, through walls and into the garden. This apparition was always to be seen on Halloween. This spectre has been verified on two occasions by other residents of the house as recently as 1999. The Whittington family in Charmouth consisted of the mother and five daughters. They were the last of a very famous line, their great ancestor being none other than Richard (Dick) Whittington, perhaps the most famous Lord Mayor of London. As recorders of the Supernatural, their credibility could be trusted. Joan Whittington told of the 'White Lady' as she became known, who would appear at least once a year and was seen to walk through walls as



recently as 1979. She was said to be a sad young presence but did not disturb the family in the least. There was one dramatic exception to her behaviour reported. In the 1950s, the Reverend J. Robinson, a relative of the Whittingtons, was playing the piano by candlelight one night when the White Lady entered the room and laid cold hands upon him, clutching him about the throat. He stopped playing. It is told that the reverend gentleman never entered that room again. Something of the possible origin of these 'hauntings' was revealed to Ellis Long by Joan Whittington. She told him of a damp smell in the drawing room. Bert Smith, a local builder, was called and found dry rot in the boards. Under the floor an ancient well was discovered with the skeleton of a young woman upon it. This was thought to be the remains of the White Lady and an explanation of her presence in the house. In an attempt to avoid the obvious publicity that would arise from the discovery, the rector's advice was sought and very discreetly the remains were taken at night and buried in a secret spot in the churchyard. It was said that the White Lady was never seen again. However, John Farrell's dog would never pass the house without straining at the leash to cross to the other side of the road.



**The Hunters.** Isaac Hunter and his son Harold were both fishermen. Once, Isaac and Harold with Harry Hodges, after a day in West Bay, returned to Charmouth in his rowing boat. Isaac and Harry went to sleep in the bottom of the boat and left Harold to do the rowing. Off Cains Folly Harold decided that he had had enough and rowed to shore. He shoved the boat back into the sea with the other two asleep in the bottom and walked home. When they awoke they were mystified by the absence of Harold and relieved to find him safely at home.

Isaac is famous for his dream caused by anxiety for his lobster pots one stormy night in 1872, which sent him along the beach in the teeth of

a gale. Somewhere off St. Gabriel's he found a French ship in distress and was able to rouse the coastguard and effect the rescue of the ship's crew.

His elder brother Robert was once nearly caught by the Press Gang, but escaped by hiding in the roof. A Charmouth neighbour of his, one Pippin, was also caught, but managed to persuade his captors that he was of no use to the Navy, so they returned him to Charmouth. Robert was once out fishing with a companion when he sighted a ship on fire and sailed towards her, finally hailing her. She answered that she was bound for the Irish mountains with Devil Darby aboard. Devil Darby of Lyme, a notorious bad character, had died that night.

I hope that this article addresses the question as to there being any ghosts in Charmouth. I have yet to see one here myself!

For more information about Isaac Hunter please visit my website at [Freshford.com](http://Freshford.com) and search for Isaac Hunter.

**Neil Mattingly**

All images courtesy [Freshford.com](http://Freshford.com)

## Marshwood - The Vale of the Rising Sun



Photograph: Stan Dolan

It is a 'universal truth' that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. In fact, just as Jane Austen's famous 'truth universally acknowledged' is not to be taken literally, neither is this generalisation about the daily journey of the sun.

This photograph, taken from Coney's Castle at first light, shows the sun just emerging 'from' Pilsdon Pen. Close inspection of the map of the Marshwood Vale area reveals something that surprises many people.

The photograph shows the sun rising in the north-east and not in the east.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, the Charmouth Local History Society presented two fascinating talks focusing on the glorious Marshwood Vale. The second of the talks was presented by Dr. Stan Dolan and considered the Vale as a natural solar observatory.

Looking down from Coney's Castle, the Vale is framed by hills on both sides. On the day of the summer solstice the sun rises (at roughly 5:00am) on the left of the Vale as in the photograph. As the year progresses, the position of the sun's rising gradually moves to the right. At the autumn equinox, which this year is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the sun will indeed rise in the east.

On subsequent days the sun will continue to rise further and further to the south until 21<sup>st</sup> December, when it will ascend in the south-east, emerging from behind the hills on the right-hand side of the Vale.

The editor will warmly welcome receiving photographs of the sunrise taken from Coney's Castle on the winter solstice.



# Stonebarrow Pottery

**"I didn't know we had a ceramicist in the village"** - a comment from a local customer in Sea Lily, the shop located below the Heritage Coast Centre, suggested it may be a good idea to share my story locally.

*Lee Mace, my neighbour and friend, mentioned this to me and I thought it would be a great idea to tell Shoreline readers about her wonderful pottery through an informal interview.*

## **When did you first learn the skill of pottery?**

I have always been interested in pottery and collected many pieces during our holidays at home and abroad; this inspired me to want to try making some myself. The first opportunity to learn pottery was in 2002 when my husband, Graham and I lived in Bonn, Germany. A Japanese lady pottery teacher (Sensei) gave me my first lessons on the wheel. She didn't speak English, I didn't speak Japanese and our German wasn't brilliant so it was all by demonstration – somehow it worked!

When we moved to Australia in 2006, I started a weekly class as a hobby. Our teacher only allowed us to use one or two pounds of clay for whatever we were throwing, whether it was a dish or a vase. At the time this could be frustrating but what it did teach us was how to throw efficiently and create consistent pieces. These classes led to the opportunity to support pottery activities with school students at the Geelong Grammar School (where our now King Charles III attended in his youth). This included some long weekend and overnight firings in outdoor wood fired kilns (Anagama method – Japanese word for cave kiln).



After 6 years we returned to the UK and I started as a student to master potters Alan Parris and Mark "Billy" Byles based at Aylesford Pottery in the grounds of the historic Aylesford Priory. I loved learning how to throw large pieces on the wheel (so pleasing to no longer have a restriction on how much clay I could throw!). I learnt many new skills and techniques from these master potters which I could practice in my own home studio.

Once we moved to Dorset I found a local pottery to attend, 'New House Pottery', near Shave Cross, run by Miles and Fenella, they offer friendly classes in both hand building and throwing for anyone interested in learning the art of ceramics.

## **What sort of clay do you use for your ceramics and what is the range of your pots?**

I use a variety of clay types depending on what I am making and how big the piece is, from very fine clay, Royal porcelain, used to make delicate decorative Christmas pieces, to heavily grogged Stoneware clay to make my larger pieces. Where possible I also like my pottery to be functional rather than just something to look at, so all my pots and dishes in my fossil range are fired to Stoneware and using non-lead based glazes. This means they are not only food safe but also safe to use in the oven, dishwasher and frost proof. Firing to high Stoneware temperatures takes the clay into its fully vitrified state, this ensures the non-glazed areas on my pottery designs are non-porous and will not stain.

I develop my skills by constant practice to find the correct type of clay for a variety of pots. Some of my work that you might see at the Heritage Coast Centre Christmas Fayres is made from Terracotta. This is a deep reddish brown colour when fired and ideal for plant pots and kitchen ware that is not intended to be used in the oven.

My function Fossil range includes various size dishes, mixing pots, mugs and vases mostly decorated with hand relief fossil designs, I never use any transfers on my pots! As well as my white glazed pieces I have also developed a range of coloured ware using my own glaze recipes, these include functional cheese and cutting stones and some decorative pieces used in wall art and hangers.

I get a lot of inspiration from the fossils found on Charmouth beach. In many of my pieces the local iron pyrite fossils are used to make impressions in the clay. My absolute favourite part of doing pottery is throwing large pieces on the wheel, which is very challenging but also very satisfying when you see the finished pot.



## **When did you decide to move to Charmouth?**

Having had many lovely holidays in Dorset hunting fossils on beaches, we finally made the decision to move to the region in 2017 and bought our small cottage on Stonebarrow Lane, Charmouth. We wanted to live by a rugged coast, which reminded us of happy times in Australia. Charmouth delivered this and more, being such a friendly village and the surrounding area is such a beautiful place to live and explore. I am fortunate to be able to make all my pottery in my garden studio with views over the village and sometimes if you see a light on up Stonebarrow Lane in the middle of the night it might be me getting up to check that the kiln is firing properly!



## **When did making pots become more than a hobby?**

Pottery was only ever going to be my hobby until meeting Bronwen Cound at one of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre Christmas Fayres, where I had a stall to support the Centre. I am now a volunteer there. Bronwen had just opened Sea Lily, and asked if I would make some pieces for her to sell. Sea Lily is the exclusive outlet for my fossil inspired work.

I am kept very busy as it takes around two to three weeks to complete a piece from start to finish, from initially preparing the clay by wedging to remove any air bubbles, to getting the finished piece out of the kiln (with lots of stages in-between!).

For me I find it very humbling when someone buys a piece of my pottery especially when they tell me they are sending it to friends or relatives across the world, even as far as New Zealand.

That was the start of my pottery becoming more than a hobby!

*Lee seems to be in her studio full time these days, and when I knock on her door she dashes out of the studio, often covered in clay and very grubby. A few years ago she helped run a Lyme Regis U3A pottery group and brought them fresh ideas. She sparkles in her enthusiasm for her pottery and is obviously extremely gifted. When she comes in our garden she will pick up a leaf or a pine cone and say "oh, this will give me inspiration for a new design!"*

**Penny Rose**

## News from St. Andrew's Church



In case we needed any reminding, the sad news of the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth showed once again the importance of the local church as the sacred space in the community, the place where people from all walks of life were able to bring their shock, their sadness, their gratitude, to say a prayer or sit and reflect, to sign a book of condolence or light a candle.

As well as making our church buildings ready for those wishing to pay their respects, on the Sundays after her death was announced, those leading Sunday services included special prayers, thanksgivings and blessings as part of our Sunday worship offering and this was appreciated by the many regular and occasional visitors who came to our church services.

Across the Benefice, we also held two Special Commemorative services to mark the death of Her Late Majesty; many came and much gratitude was expressed for the opportunity to join

with others, to pause, to sing, to entrust our beloved Queen into God's safekeeping and to pray for our new King.

It is heartening to see just how appreciated our churches are, and the important role they play in our communities; and not just at times of national mourning. As we move through Advent and into Christmas, and are reminded again of how God in Christ stepped into the mess and muddle of our lives, the church will again be a visible symbol of God's presence here, in this place, in this community; it points upwards and reminds us that we are not alone, that there is something greater than ourselves that came before us and will remain after us. It is also heartening to report on the good progress being made to repair and renovate the exterior of the building – then it will be just the inside to go!

One person who appreciated the church in Charmouth more than most was dear old Ted Whatmore whose unexpected death in October left us shocked and saddened. After so many years of loyal and devoted service, his fingerprints are quite literally all over St Andrew's. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers will be with his family in the days ahead.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful, *peace-full* Christmas.

**Revd Chris Martin (Team Rector)**

## Changing Spaces

The 2022 Lunchtime Concert series concluded in October with a rousing and popular event when Richard Fereday sang songs by Gershwin.



Katarina Kovac

This was preceded by a concert in August, when we were entertained by the Whitchurch Trio comprising James Olsen on the cello, with Nick Brown, piano and Steven Mingay, clarinet.

Then in September we were pleased to welcome the return of Katerina Kovac who gave a piano recital comprising 19 classical and popular pieces.

The 2023 season is now being planned, and we hope to provide a further six varied concerts to make the most of the church's unique acoustics.



Concerts were given for the church restoration funds.

**Roger Sansom**

Further Free eXchange Café events were held in August and November and, as usual, they were both well-attended. The exchange of items that people donated, to others who could provide a good home to them, was complemented by the free pastries and hot drinks. Generous donations for this and the Lunchtime

## Repair and Renovation Project Commences

Five years after receiving one of the largest grants that the Erskine Muton Trust has ever awarded to renovate churches in Dorset, St Andrew's welcomed the commencement of a 18 week repair and renovation project - phase 2a on the 30<sup>th</sup> August by our appointed Conservation Contractor - Crowstep.

The goal of this phase of this major project is to address the critical areas at risk in the building where water ingress is deteriorating & damaging the interior of the building. The task is tedious, time consuming and needs great skill to replace the 1950s cement-based material with a lime-based material which is more appropriate and in keeping with this type of grade 2 listed building.

This work coupled with other areas of stonework repair & replacement of rusted guttering and downpipes will help sustain the church for years to come. It's only through the generous support of the Erskine Muton grant that we are now in a position to correct this situation and ensure the future sustainability of the church for years to come. The project is due to be completed in early in 2023.

With this phase underway, early development work is underway with the next & exciting phase - phase 2b, of this major project with the goal delivering a more flexible and inclusive space for the village and its visitors.

**John Smith  
Project Manager**





# Charmouth Community Library

## Farewell to Ros Cole



photo by Penny Rose

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, Volunteers and Friends of Charmouth library gathered to say goodbye to Ros Cole. She was one of those instrumental in the development of Charmouth Community Library which was set up to replace the county-funded service that closed in 2012.

As time went on, Ros became one of our main trainers of new volunteer librarians, was a Team Leader responsible for daily shifts, and took a hand in just about everything that was needed. She gave talks on mental health and provided

specialist literature to help with some of the practical problems created by the Covid Pandemic. She was an expert proofreader, which ensured that printed materials produced by the library didn't generally let us down.

She was a great naturalist with a wide interest in marine life. She was a stalwart also of the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre and Chair of the Centre for many years. They will miss her too.

She has gone to the Leicester area to be near other members of her family and we wish her the very best for this new phase of her life.

## Other News

After many years of successful operation Charmouth Community Library has lost a number of its stalwarts through retirement, relocations and accidents. The Covid Months became a watershed which sent many of us in new directions.

One of the services we provide is providing volunteers to enable the Post Office to function on Thursdays. If we can't provide the cover for this we might have to reduce the availability of the PO service in the library. We are therefore looking for individuals who would be willing to help volunteer for those shifts (sessions are usually an hour or two hours) on Thursdays.

If you are interested please contact the library: 01297 560640, and leave your name and phone number. We will contact within the week. Many thanks.

The Annual General Meeting of the Library will be at 4.30 pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. All are welcome (subject to available seating) and if you would like more information please contact me on [RussellGTelfer@netscape.net](mailto:RussellGTelfer@netscape.net)

**Russell Telfer, Chair, Charmouth Community Library**



photo by Penny Rose

## Pickleball

@ St Andrews Community Hall

**Every Thursday from 7pm.**

£4 per person to cover the hall hire and use of the equipment.

Do come along and have a go...you may like it but, more likely, you'll love it!



### What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, over a net.



**DORSET HOME LIBRARY SERVICE**

**DOORSTEP DELIVERIES**



We are now providing a non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service across the county to those who cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term.

Our volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. Books are chosen by staff at each library, based on individual preferences, and made ready for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to our clients' front doors.

The volunteers will not enter the house at this stage, and they will keep a safe distance at all times; they can also pick up books and return them to the library. This service is entirely free and is available across Dorset/BCP areas.

We are keen to let more people know that it is available to them if they find themselves unable to get to the library. To find out more please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, on 01305 236666 or 07786 635154, or e-mail [maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)

## Artful Memories of Brenda Brigers

I left school at 15 years of age, and my father decided there was only one thing I was any good at, and that was drawing and painting. He contacted Mr. Burt, who was the principal of the, then, Somerset College of Art in Corporation Street, Taunton, and I was duly invited over for an interview.

The building was impressive and still stands unaltered, as it is a Grade II listed building. Although, it is now the home of a restaurant/bistro, while the college itself, later moved to Wellington Road in 1974 where it merged with Taunton Technical College to become the Somerset College of Arts and Technology. At the interview, I was given a simple test, which only took about ten minutes, to see if I was capable of joining a small number of students for the beginning of the Autumn Term for the National Diploma in Design (NDD). I was, to say the least, quite surprised when we heard quite soon that I had been accepted. Even more surprised was my Dad!

The Somerset College of Art, at that time in the early 1950s just after the Second World War, only had a small intake of students. They seemed very clever and mature, and I thought they were much older than me – but, of course, they were not. I remember a couple of war veterans in wheelchairs. They were, probably, in their late twenties.

The three-year course was quite daunting. We had to first learn about the human body. I was terribly embarrassed, to begin with, being in a class of about a dozen other young people and having to draw naked bodies – including men! We also had to study a large, rather frightening skeleton in order to learn the name of every bone in the body.

Even at such a young age, I was amazed at the high quality of the teaching. The tutor of the life drawing class was a really clever artist and a wonderful teacher. He would sit down beside me and just simply draw a couple of lines on my easel paper in such a way that was so expressive of his genius. I remember his name was Mr. Thomas – and tall, blond and handsome!

Mr. Thomas also taught painting and composition, and we had a great time studying the Impressionist artists of which he made all so fascinating. Another good teacher showed us the art of screen printing on fabric of which I loved the designs. Pottery was a great favourite of mine too, as was architecture. The teacher of the latter was quite a well known architect and historian, at that time, and historic houses were an interest of mine.

All this was a long time ago and I have difficulty remembering, but I do recall quite a few of my fellow students and I made some very good friends. My best girlfriend was Pauline, and we had lots of fun arranging parties in the common room of the college and fancy dress balls at the County Hotel (now M&S). They were all talented young people and we kept in touch for a long time afterwards. Sadly, Pauline died just last year.

In order to get through the first-year intermediate exam, we had to supply a sketchbook of drawings out and about in Taunton. We would all go out together, walking along the River Tone to the weir and sit in the sunshine to draw whatever we thought would make an impression. This was a fun time, as we would lie in the grass and have a laugh between sketching. Nevertheless, this sketchbook would be an important contribution to a pass in the final exam, and so we did take it quite seriously.

After successfully achieving our certificates for the intermediate exam, we had to choose a subject we would go ahead and study for the completion of the NDD. Pauline and I, along with about a dozen of the other girls, decided on fashion design and dressmaking. To us, this two-year course probably sounded quite easy. Again, it certainly was not. Although, we were very lucky

to have a brand new tutor. Her name was Iris, if I recall correctly, and she was a well-known writer on historical fashion. On this course, we had to learn all about the history of fashion from recent years to the Tudor times.

Although this course was very difficult at times, I found it fascinating and loved the fashion world. A few of the girls dropped out, and so there were only about ten of us left to complete the last two years. We went on to have fashion shows around Taunton, which were fun, but hard work.

However, although Mr. Burt, wrote to my father saying I was talented and ready to go on for another year to take my finals for the NDD, my father, who was a businessman and worked very hard to build up his business in the newly developing and fast growing TV and radio retail industry, believed it to be a waste of time for me to continue, thinking he had spent enough money on me, and so decided I could be more useful to him in his business. I was sad, to say the least, as I knew the fashion world was a very difficult field to get into, and so I went freelance, for a while, designing and making wedding dresses and other fashion accessories. Then, of course, I got married, which took me into a completely different life.

But, nevertheless, I still continue to design, paint and draw to this day!

### Brenda Brigers - (edited by Alex Brigers)

*Readers may remember the wonderful designs Brenda created in the 50s and which were featured in issue 46 of Shoreline, the Jubilee Special edition.*



### Dorset Councillor 'surgeries'

Dorset Councillor 'surgeries' in Charmouth library are usually the last Monday of the month from 2pm to 4pm – the next one is:

- December's will probably be Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Alternatively, I'm in the Community Café at the Hub in Church Street, Lyme Regis from 10am to 12pm on:

- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Please feel free to contact me if there are any Dorset Council matters you wish to discuss on Tel: 01305 216511

Email: [cllrbelinda.bawden@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrbelinda.bawden@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Many thanks,

**Belinda Bawden**

Green Party Dorset Councillor for Lyme Regis and Charmouth

ALL SHORELINE ISSUES CAN BE SEEN ONLINE AT  
[WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH\\_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/](http://WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/)



## Tripudio in Charmouth



**T**ripudio classes are aimed at people unable to take part in strenuous forms of exercise and have been designed to be taught to groups, individuals and bespoke classes. All ages and all abilities are welcome.

Has your health been affected by Covid? Perhaps you are not as mobile as you used to be. Do you have chronic illness or chronic pain? Do your ankles swell, or would you just like to keep moving in a fun and friendly environment? If you can answer, yes, to any of the questions, then Tripudio movement classes may be just right for you. People who have conditions such as multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia or lymphoedema should exercise and keep moving, but the nature of these conditions often prohibit strenuous forms of exercise.

Tripudio, however, is within the reach of those who cannot even stand safely and comfortably for any length of time as the movements can be performed either standing, seated or a bit of both. No Tripudio movement involves lying or sitting on the floor. Tripudio stretches focus on releasing tension fascia and scar tissue, which are thought to inhibit lymphatic health.



Using music throughout the class adds a fun dimension to the concept. The aim is to build a strong core whilst strengthening the legs and upper body. The movements are non-weight bearing and low impact to avoid fatigue and overexertion of the venous system. Classes start and end with a gentle warm up and relaxing cool down sequence called "the flow".

Tripudio movements also focus on the postural muscles of the spine and core strength postural muscles of the neck and shoulders. Exercises designed to improve balance and gait are part of the session. Memory games come in the guise of learning sequences and remembering dance moves. There is the bonus of social interaction within the group. Plenty of fun, and the opportunity to meet new people. This time of movement, music and laughter nurtures the health and well-being of each individual.



Some pupil comments. Kath G: "I can't pinpoint what it does for me, I just feel so jolly good afterwards. My pelvic floor has most definitely improved." Elsa: "I have lymphoedema and was nervous about joining a class as I am not able to move easily. It has made such a difference to me, it's very inclusive, whatever your ability." Jenny C: "it is a lot of fun, always lots of laughter and I feel so much better." Julie M: "I really look so forward to coming to classes." Gail: "my balance has improved greatly and the hand exercises definitely help with my arthritis."

**Charmouth:** Tuesday 9:30am & 10:45am. Midday: One to one pupil, one to two pupils, or bespoke classes.

**Lyme Regis:** Monday & Thursday various morning classes.

Evening classes are available and ZOOM classes are also available for people unable to get out.

Booking is essential as some classes have limited space.

**Patricia Williams 0744 3945 121. Email: patricia.williams.tms@gmail.com**

## RNLI Lifeboats

### RNLI volunteers make the difficult decision to withdraw from the Charmouth Christmas Day 'dip'



RNLI volunteers have decided they can no longer organise the Christmas Day fancy dress dip in the sea at Charmouth due to the additional requirements needed to ensure the event can run safely.

Members of the Lyme Regis and Charmouth Lifeboat Supporters reluctantly reached their decision after being informed of new rules for such events introduced by the RNLI.

The event has been held every year for some fifty years. Originally the dip was organised by residents of Charmouth. The RNLI volunteers have been organising the event, raising funds for the life-saving charity, for the past ten years.

Chairman of the lifeboat supporters group, Ken Lavery, said: "It is with much sadness that we feel we cannot continue to play the major role in organising the event.

"We understand this will be disappointing for many, and the decision was not an easy one to make. The annual dip has been a part of Charmouth Christmas tradition for many years, and as many of the charity's volunteers are local to Charmouth and the surrounding area, it has been a huge part of their Christmas long before the RNLI became involved.

"As a lifesaving organisation, the safety of participants is paramount and the procedures required by the charity for an event to be safely managed and properly insured include producing a risk assessment, safety plans, and a formal registration system.

"The RNLI is not alone in requiring these safety procedures to be in place for its organised mass participation events, but unfortunately for the small group of volunteers involved with the Lyme Regis and Charmouth Lifeboat Supporters, the amount of work needed to meet these requirements has become too great, both in the run up to, but especially on, Christmas Day itself.

An RNLI spokesperson said: "We appreciate that people will be disappointed by the decision, but the safety of participants is essential and it is not felt the organisation can offer the level of safety required. We would also like to give our dedicated volunteers the opportunity to enjoy Christmas Day with their families."

Ken Lavery added: "The supporters group are sad that their fund-raising association with this long running event has come to an end. However, our members felt they had no choice.

"We wish to give as much notice as possible to everyone as we know how popular the Charmouth dip was and how disappointed many spectators and participants will be."



In recent years the Charmouth dip regularly raised donations in the region of £2,000.

# CHRISTMAS ANGEL



**C**harlie shuffled across the bedroom, brushing the carpet with his size ten slippers. His body ached. He likened his bones to the sound of a creaking door in a horror movie. Sometimes, he wondered if he should stay in bed and wait for the light through the dark tunnel to beckon him. Would she be there waiting? He wondered.

The clock in the hallway striking on the hour and half hour seemed the only point of reference in his life, except when daylight

filtered through the narrow slit in the curtains. He didn't draw them back anymore. The light went out when his Josephine departed. He wished he had gone first; she would have coped better without him than he without her.

She had slipped away without any real sign that anything could have been wrong with her. When Charlie woke up in the morning, he felt her cold body next to his. He had held her in his arms for a while, then released her to call 999. Something inside died then. Josephine would have lived on if they had had children.

One morning, a chink of light stirred Charlie's thoughts. He drew back the curtains and opened the windows. Josephine had aired the house every day, but this had ceased since she passed. By keeping them shut, he felt he could contain something of her essence in their home.

He had sensed her presence many times before, but today he could hear her softly whispering.

"Come on, my Charlie, you must make a life for yourself. Remember the man you used to be."

"I let you down Josephine," he said aloud. "I've been wallowing in self-pity since you've gone."

"It's Christmas in a few days," Josephine murmured. "Promise me, my love, that you'll buy a tree and decorate it as we used to."

Charlie had lived like a hermit, only shopping when the feeling of hunger proved too much. It seemed time stood still. Even the book Josephine had been reading in the lounge remained open, covered in dust on the small table next to the armchair that still held the creases where she had sat.

Charlie hadn't cleaned the kitchen in months, only rinsing off his mug, cutlery and saucepan. He started to tidy up, whistling *Skyboat*. He thought he could hear Josephine singing, "Sing me a song of a lass that is gone - Say, could that lass be I?"

My Josephine always maintained the purity of heart, untampered by regrets. She was remarkable, nursing her ailing mother. She yearned to be a nurse but then became a seamstress.

Charlie smiled, remembering Josephine pinching his cheek as he licked the Christmas cake mixture in the bowl with his finger like a cheeky boy.

"I want to make you proud again, Josephine," he said.

As he cleaned, he forgot about his aches and pains. He even felt comforted using the vacuum cleaner, which roared through the house like a lion left too long in its cage.

In a week, the house was light and airy again.

One morning Charlie rose earlier than usual. He showered and shaved, then put on his favourite green corduroy trousers. It surprised him when he had to pull his belt a notch. He also polished the black shoes he had worn when he and Josephine went ballroom dancing.

They had met at a tea dance. How beautiful she looked in her silky crimson dress. She always had such a tiny waist that never seemed to alter through the years.

Josephine often told him how handsome he was. Charlie had a slight, stooped posture which he had developed hunched back for hours over chemistry essays.

The clock struck ten, by which time Charlie was ready to go. The shopping arcade was only a short walk away. How light he felt on his feet.

When he got there, he was lucky to find a few Christmas trees still on sale and chose the one Josephine would have wanted, small but ample.

When he reached home, he bounced up the stairs to the attic, amazed at his renewed agility. He retrieved a box full of tinsel and baubles, then set the tree on a stand in a corner near the red sofa as it used to be. He finished decorating it and rested a Christmas angel on top. Then he heard Josephine whispering:

"Charlie you make me happy."

He smiled.

"I've another request. Promise me to call our friend Rachel. She always insists on being alone at Christmas because she doesn't want to burden her friends. So why don't you invite her? We've been best of friends for years."

Standing by the Christmas tree, Charlie suddenly saw it light up. "How come, I haven't even pushed the plug into the socket", he cried. The sun was streaming through the window, illuminating it. Was it a message from Josephine to make the call to Rachel?

When he walked into the lounge the following day, Charlie was dumbfounded. He was adamant he had switched the lights off before turning in. The Christmas tree was all lit up.

Charlie thought this must be his prompt.

He grabbed Josephine's phone book, picked up his mobile and dialled Rachel's landline number.

"Hi, Rachel, this is Charlie. How are you keeping these days?"

"Well, a ghost from the past," she replied cheerfully. "Yes, I am well Charlie. And you?"

"I'm alright. I was calling you to ask if you'd like to spend Christmas Day with me, that is if you haven't got anything else arranged?" There was a pause. Charlie felt his pulse quickening. Had he been too hopeful?

"You've taken me by surprise, but it's a nice one." Rachel said. "Yes, Charlie, I'd love to come."

**Monique Newby**

**S**ince the Changing Spaces Team was set up in 2014 to raise funds for the St Andrew's restoration fund, the following events have been organised:

- 19 Lunchtime Concerts
- 7 Free eXchange Cafés
- 6 Talks (including celebrities Kate Adie, Paul Atterbury and Eric Harwood)
- 4 evening Classical Music Concerts
- 2 3-day Art Exhibitions
- 2 Rock Concerts
- 2 Choir Concerts
- 1 Christmas Fayre
- 1 'Auction of Promises'

More volunteers for the Changing Spaces Team will always be welcomed to help with the organisation of future events. Please get in touch with the editor@charmouth-shoreline.co.uk in the first instance if you would be willing to help out occasionally, find out more about the project, or make a donation to the restoration fund.

**Roger Sansom**



# The Friday Cure Radio Show



I had known Neil for a good few years but not well enough to warrant the suggestion of spending a lot more time with him. I think he was attracted by my choice of dog and my resolute lack of style, both in attire and conversation.

We hit it off because in him I found a father figure, a natural

listener and, at last, someone who was prepared to laugh at my sense of frustration with the world and myself.

Neil had been involved with Lyme Bay Radio for quite some time and he had been the co-creator of an earlier Friday afternoon show as well as Bay Lives on Saturday mornings.

Sadly Covid19 hit and live radio had to close down for almost a year and with it went the Friday show. In the interim, Neil and I got chatting during dog walks and we reminisced about the bad old days and how I was constantly under the cosh with work. I felt I needed something creative to stir the juices but felt I could not afford the time away from my business. However, we did a 2 hour Christmas Special with Simon Farrington and in complete contrast to the listeners, I really enjoyed it.

Actually the show had rave reviews and within another four months The Friday Cure was born.

We had for a long time discussed our desire for a live show with guests, chat, local news and some humour interspersed with some music.

The first show went out on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and went down very well. Our guests for that first show were Fascinating Aida who were on tour at the time. Since then we have chatted with Michaela Strachan live from South Africa but mainly we have focused on local luminaries such as Natalie Allen, Roy Gregory, restaurateurs, and representatives from Nordic walkers, Arts week, Lifeboat week, sport, local politics and those genuine interesting people who make life in the area so much more fun and inclusive for everyone.

We are now seven months in and we have not felt the need to hide in a fridge or under a desk as yet.

The show goes out every Friday 4-6pm and is repeated every Monday morning 10-12. The shows are also on a Podcast format you can access through a website called Mix-cloud.

We would love to have more guests on the show either publicising their events or just to talk about what interests them or doesn't! So please do contact us at: [neil@lymebayradio.com](mailto:neil@lymebayradio.com)

So, do tune in and make your weekend just that little bit more relaxed.



As many of you will know I have been involved with Lyme Bay radio since it first hit the airwaves in 2020. I say airwaves but, of course, Lyme Bay radio is in fact an internet station meaning that you don't tune into a frequency but instead search [www.lymebayradio.com](http://www.lymebayradio.com) on the internet where you will find a "Listen Live" button – press it and you will be listening to Lyme Bay radio.

This means you can listen to it anywhere!

I have done a few shows over the time including an early version of the Friday show. Obviously, like everyone else the station struggled during the pandemic with the studio being closed for large moments of time. However it is now in full swing and is constantly looking for new shows and presenters.

Being a community radio station (your community!) it operates with an extremely limited budget and is, of course, run entirely by volunteers!

I first came across Nick whilst pulling pints in the George where most of the mid-week clientele was made up of skittle teams. Impressed by a particularly erudite, gracious, eloquent and rather witty team member I was introduced to Nick but of course, at that point Lyme Bay radio was not even a twinkle.

Fast forward several years and a Christmas special which seemed to hit the spot and, following a reappraisal of Nick's work life balance, The Friday Cure was born.

It's hard to pigeon-hole the show but we think it is worth a listen and we do laugh quite a lot (often at our own jokes to be fair) so have a listen if you haven't already – 4pm on Friday afternoons – nothing to lose except your sanity (join the club!)

REMEMBER find: [www.lymebayradio.com](http://www.lymebayradio.com) then click on "Listen Live".

Thanks for reading and listening!

**Nick & Neil**

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# 40th Anniversary Charmouth Challenge and Fun Run



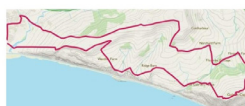
The unseasonal weather may have been providing a more than adequate cooling system for athletes, spectators and volunteers alike, but the heart of the Charmouth Challenge was beating warmly as runners braved the bracing winds on the Jurassic Coast for the first time since 2019.

It might have been our first event as race organisers, but this traditional village event was first organised in 1983 by the Charmouth Primary School PTFA, and with the exception of 2020 and 2021, has been raising funds for generations of local children ever since. It was a daunting prospect, but we were ably supported by the previous race organiser, Mei Wood, who thankfully made herself available for every query.

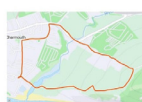
Months of preparation and social media activity began to pay off as entries increased week on week. An army of enthusiastic volunteers made themselves available for course clearing, marking out, water station management, marshalling and registration. There was huge excitement when Paralympic Triathlete David Hill visited the school and announced to the children during assembly that he'd love to join us for the run. Road closure applications caused race organiser, Janna McDonald, headache after headache, but finally the day came and before we knew it the school hall was full and runners were arriving from far and wide to take part.



## THE COURSE



**8 MILE FELL RUN CHALLENGE**



**2 MILE FUN RUN**

Last minute worry came in the form of the number of uncollected race bibs, 30% of entries, but we were reassured by the chip timing providers, Timing Monkey, that this has become standard of late. In addition to this, there was still a herd of young bullocks on the course of the shorter 2-mile fun run until moments before the runners arrived! Thank goodness for understanding and helpful local farmers.

Over 200 intrepid fell runners were started by the town crier, and dashed across the stunning multi-terrain course, taking in the finest coastal scenery in the South West on Dorset's beautiful Jurassic Coast, overlooking Charmouth's famous fossil hunting beaches in sight of historic Lyme Regis.



After 4 miles the panoramic views are the reward after the ascent of Golden Cap, which is the highest point on the South Coast of England at 191 metres, outstanding even on a grey and blustery day.

It didn't put off our winners, with 11-year-old George House winning the Fun Run in 12 minutes and 1 second, and Jacek Cieluszecki taking the Challenge top spot in 52 minutes and 13 seconds. Congratulations to them both and to all our amazing entrants. The voluntary Charmouth Firefighters were well positioned in the school playground to douse any hot runners with a refreshing hose down afterwards and specially designed medals for the 40th anniversary were presented to every entrant.



Many of our volunteers were new to marshalling and were astounded by the number of runners who paused to thank them and comment on the brilliant and enjoyable route.

David Hill and his running mate clearly had lots of fun on the course; marshals commented that they were laughing and joking all the way around. Thank you to each and every one of you. New volunteers are always welcome; if you would like to get involved please contact organiser@charmouthchallenge.co.uk



Between the fell run, fun run and summer fair nearly £5000 was made for Charmouth Primary School. As organisers, we have learned so much in the space of a few months, and are eagerly taking on any comments, criticisms and suggestions for the future.

A huge thank you must go to our fabulous sponsors: Byemead House, Lyme Bay Holidays, Creative Solutions, West Dorset Leisure Holidays, Fortnam Smith & Banwell, Manor Farm Bar and Takeaway, Dorset Leisure Centre Ltd, D&S Symonds Ltd Master Thatchers and The Royal Oak, Charmouth. Their generosity ensured that this event could take place.



Race organiser Janna McDonald with David Hill GB Paralympic Athlete who is presenting Thea Whatmore with her prize for winning the female under 5 category

Work has already commenced on planning the next event so please mark your diaries for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023!

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

**Vicky Whatmore**



## CHALLENGE FELL RUN 2022 LEADERBOARD (Chip Time)

Male Open	Jacek Cieluszecki	52:11
Female Open	Sarah Rollins	1:07:25
Male 50+	Mark Packer	1:00:46
Female 50+	Helen Antram	1:12:44
Male 60+	Anthony Lock	1:05:07
Female 60+	Eleanor Wood	1:12:27
Male 70+	Ron Seward	1:19:28
Female 70+	Lesley Nesbitt	1:45:32



## FUN RUN 2022 LEADERBOARD (Chip Time)

Male up to 5	Henry Harvey	20:07
Female up to 5	Thea Whatmore	25:48
Male 6-7	Tom Miles	16:48
Female 6-7	Elin Lathey	24:18
Male 8-9	Eli Emmett	13:52
Female 8-9	Lucy Miles	14:55
Male 10-11	George House	12:00
Female 10-11	Chloe Cornish	19:34
Male 12-13	Noah Miles	14:09
Female 12-13	Lyra Webb	13:18

For those of you who might like to take a little longer over the Charmouth Challenge course, Stan Dolan's guide can be seen on the next page.



# The Charmouth Challenge for Walkers (8 miles)

The Charmouth Challenge is an annual fell run. This walk follows the course of the race which the faster runners complete in under an hour.

Some walkers may wish to use the coastal path at the start of the walk rather than walking up Stonebarrow Lane. The challenge of the walk can be significantly reduced by starting from the car park at the far end of Stonebarrow.

Walk down the Street and, where the main road swings left, fork right up Stonebarrow Lane. Follow the lane up (and up) Stonebarrow Hill and at the top continue in the same direction through the car park. The gravel road ends at a further car park with a gate in the right-hand corner.

Go through this gate and then turn left. Follow the clear grassy path along the top of the hill with a vale far below, on your right. Maintaining the same elevation, follow the path as it turns right around the eastern end of the vale. At a brideway finger post pause to look at the views left to Golden Cap and right to Lyme Regis before following the path as it descends steeply to a lane.

Turn left onto this lane and follow it through Upcot Farm where it turns left. Continue along this lane past a staggered cross-roads. Then, just after a short but steep descent, the lane levels out at a house called Norchard. Here you turn right, crossing a plank over a ditch and going through a kissing gate.

Follow the clear path through a field to a double stile. Cross the second field to a gate and footbridge over a stream. The path then goes through a small meadow with a pond on your left. At the far end of the meadow another footbridge and gate leads to a woodland track.

Turn left onto this track (immediately passing through a gate) and follow it until a farm gate is reached. Go through the gate and leave the track (which turns left) and walk uphill on the right-hand side of the field. Continue in the same direction up a second field and go through a farm gate.

Turn right onto a lane which turns into a grassy path. Golden Cap is soon seen ahead and the path leads across fields to the left-hand edge of the hill. The coastal path is reached at the foot of Golden Cap which is then climbed by just under seventy steps.

After admiring the views and perhaps having a drink or picnic, head down the hill in the direction of Charmouth and Lyme Regis.



At the foot of the steps, pass through a gate and fork right down a steep slope. At the bottom, turn left onto a path which goes past a derelict 13th century chapel to Stanton St Gabriel. This was once a thriving hamlet, based upon fishing and farming, and dates back to at least the 11th century.



Go through a farm gate into woodland. Follow the path past an old sheep dip. It then bears left and becomes a grassy path leading to the coastal path. Turn right onto the coast path and follow it until a fork is reached where there is a finger post signed Charmouth 1 1/2 and Stonebarrow Hill 1/2.

Take the right-hand fork to Westhay Farm. Go past the farm onto a lane. Go up this lane and, at the top of an incline, turn right with the lane. After about 250 metres take a sharp left on a clear grassy path and follow the line of this path until you meet the coastal path again.

Follow the coastal path down into Charmouth.

Congratulations, you have completed the Charmouth Challenge!

Stan Dolan

## Ramblings ...

### The Char river system and surrounding hills

When walking in the Marshwood Vale one comes across many brooks and streams whose names are not given on Ordnance Survey maps. Most of these are tributaries of the River Char and the only one whose name still appears to be in common usage is the Gwyle.

Many of the tributaries are, however, named in the writings of the well-known local geologist W.D. Lang.

These named tributaries and a few other rivers are shown on the map on the right. The unshaded area shows the Lias clays that are drained by the local rivers.

#### KEY to Map

A,B,C,D,E and F are, respectively, the rivers Buddle, Ridge Water, Westhay Water, St. Gabriel's Water, Winniford and Simene.

1,2,3 and 4 are all stretches of the River Char, named respectively as the Char tidal, Char river, Char stream and Char brook.

5,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 are, respectively, the Gwyle, Monkton Wyld brook, Wootton stream, Carde Mill brook, Marshwood brook, Middle brook and Peace brook.



It would be a shame if these names were lost to posterity. The Charmouth Local History Society would be delighted to hear from local residents about what they remember of names for the different streams and brooks. Please feel free to disagree with the names used by Lang if they do not agree with your memories!

Stan Dolan (stan@standolan.co.uk)



## Poppy Dyer talks to Garth Pearce

**P**aul McCartney, Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Caine – journalist Garth Pearce has met them all. From touring the world with ABBA to swimming in Florida with The Who's Roger Daltrey, it's fair to say he's rubbed shoulders with quite a few of the biggest celebrities of our time. But how did he earn himself these opportunities? It began when he was just eighteen years of age. He'd always had a love of writing, and it was at this point in his life that he decided to pursue it as a career.

Regularly visiting Charmouth for most of the year and a contributor of *Shoreline*, Garth is a freelance film and entertainment writer, who first kick-started his career by training with the *Walsall Observer* newspaper via the Birmingham Post and Mail Training Scheme. The course took three years, and once he'd passed the only exam – a Proficiency Test – he was free to find himself a fixed occupation. He started off with local writing jobs, working as a chief reporter for the *West Bromwich News*, and as a district reporter for the *Birmingham Post*, until he moved to Bristol and worked for the *Western Daily Press*. Earning himself an award as Young Journalist of the West led to a job working as a News Reporter for the *Daily Express*, which at the time was a broadsheet selling 3.3 million copies a day.

After leaving the *Daily Express*, Garth saw the opportunity to become a freelance. He became the UK Entertainment Reporter for the *New York Times*, as well as writing for *The Sunday Times* and *The Australian* for over twenty years. Within 5 years, he'd written for every broadsheet national newspaper and glossy magazine in the UK, as well as over one hundred publications internationally.

Whilst working for the *Daily Express*, new editor Roy Wright offered Garth the chance to travel the world as a show business reporter, which he happily accepted. Two weeks later, he was touring Europe with The Rolling Stones. Notwithstanding the lack of enthusiasm from the band at having a reporter with them on tour, all went well, and a week later he received an offer from Bill Curbishley – manager of The Who – to do the same with them in America.

Just as Garth thought it couldn't get much better, it did. It was from this point that he began to work with even more well-known artists: Paul McCartney, Electric Light Orchestra, The Police, ABBA, the list goes on. As well as interviewing celebrities, he also began covering film sets, his first being *Star Wars* in 1976. He says his judgement at the time was that "it was such an absolute mess it would be a flop". However, he was proved wrong when it became the biggest box office film of 1977. He also took part in writing about several of the Bond sets. At one point, he was able to boast that he'd interviewed virtually every star.

Working as a journalist in the early years involved eight-hour shifts each day, in addition to three working nights a week, and weekend work. Garth has absolutely no regrets in taking up journalism. He finds inspiration in having the ability to write about and share something about someone that nobody knew before.

Garth is invited regularly by film companies, managers, and agents to interview their clients. However, he has to be picky when choosing who to write about, as with so many requests coming in, it would be impossible to fulfil them all. So he has a simple way of choosing which ones to write about, merely by asking himself, "Can I make money out of this?", as every interview comes with the costs of flights, accommodation and any additional forms of travel.

As well as writing as a journalist, Garth has published several books – eight in total – with various publishers. However, his writing days have ended with the arrival of the global pandemic and COVID-19. And after travelling and working in over 35 different countries, the world's fashions and moods have dramatically changed, as has journalism. However, Garth still has no regrets on choosing a career in writing and would recommend it to anyone.




Poppy Dyer



Clockwise from bottom left: Garth with Lena Horne, Sean Connery, Pierce Brosnan, Michael Caine, Anthony Hopkins and Timothy Dalton.




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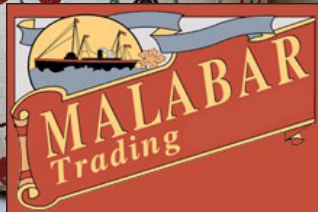
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[editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk](mailto:editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk)

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## Sing out for Joy ...

with the Jurassic Coast Inspirational Choir!

What sums up celebrating Christmas to you? Is it mince pies, making plans to meet up with friends and family, eating far too much, pondering what gifts to buy or getting that valued slot for your festive online shop?

As members of Charmouth's very own Jurassic Coast Inspirational Choir we've been 'thinking' Christmas since mid-September as we prepare to entertain anyone who would like to join us in a celebration of song and community at St Andrew's Church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

The programme will be a lively mix of old favourites (get ready for some community carols) as well as popular songs which span a range of genres, so something for everyone! For more details, please see our concert advert below.

Perhaps you may even be inspired to join us; ticking off that New Year resolution to 'try something new'. Whether you sing in the shower, are part of another choir, or just sing because it makes you happy, you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome by us all. We work hard but a good sing (and lots of laughter) under the directorship of Edward Jacobs is a real tonic for the rest of the week ... ask any of the choir members!

Our Christmas concert is part of a year-round series of performances. In May the choir joined with professional musicians and choirs led by Edward in an impromptu 'Musical Marathon' concert to raise funds for Ukraine, raising £3,000 and smashing the original target three times over! This proves how the power of singing can be infectious and have a profound impact far bigger than our individual voices. So, at a time of increasing turmoil and uncertainty, join us this Christmas as we sing 'Let there be peace on Earth and Let it begin with me'.

For further details about our choir, please contact either Jan Coleman on (01297) 561625 or Edward Jacobs on (01297) 552143.

Jenny Warren



*Presents ...*

*An evening of popular & Christmas music*

**Musical Director: Edward Jacobs**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**St Andrew's Church, Charmouth**

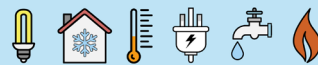
Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

***Tickets £10.00*** including drink

Available from the Charmouth branch of:  
**Fortnam, Smith and Banwell, Estate Agents**  
or by contacting Jan Coleman on:  
**Charmouth (01297) 561625**

## #SaveSafely this winter

**Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service**



**Remember to #SaveSafely  
when cutting costs**



With living costs rising all the time, everyone is looking for ways to save some money, so Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is highlighting some areas where a saving could be a false economy – and a fire risk.

The Service is asking people to #SaveSafely, and there is a wealth of information about staying safe at home and on the roads at [www.dwfire.org.uk/save-safely](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/save-safely). This includes energy saving tips, cooking safely advice, how to stay warm safely, staying safe when cutting costs, cutting the costs of driving, and signposting to financial help.

Some top tips include:

- Pulling something like electric heaters or electric blankets out of the loft, that haven't been used for years, can be risky. Watch for signs of dangerous or loose wiring, such as scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that often blow, or circuit breakers that trip for no obvious reasons.
- If you are drying clothes indoors and not using a tumble dryer, keep them well away from any heat source so they can't catch fire.
- Air fryers and microwave ovens are great at saving energy when cooking, but please read the manufacturer's instructions and clean them between uses.
- Getting chimneys swept when you have a woodburner or open fire is essential to reduce the risk of chimney fires. Also be careful of what you burn; green (unseasoned) wood may seem cheap, but it doesn't give out much heat and creates a residue that can easily catch alight within the chimney.
- Get your boiler serviced – a well-maintained boiler is more efficient and reduces the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Only use the correct charger for mobile devices. Although it can be cheaper to buy imported and unofficial chargers, fake ones are often made with poor quality components that fail to meet UK safety regulations. This means they can cause injury, electric shocks and even fires.
- Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions when using wheat bags – don't heat them for too long, or at too high a temperature.

The Fire and Rescue Service offers free Safe & Well advice, which can include a home visit and the provision of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. To request this for yourself, a family member or a vulnerable person, please call 0800 038 2323 or visit [www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits)

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[WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH\\_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/](http://WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/)**

## Parallel Lines - Part 2

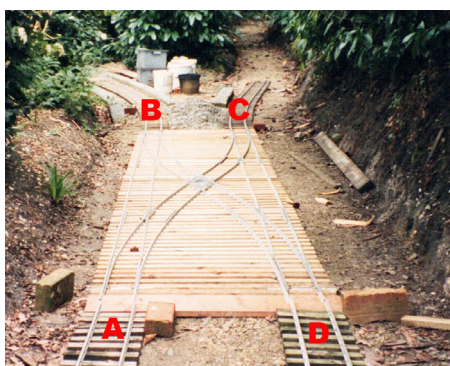
At the end of my previous article in the Jubilee Special issue of Shoreline I had almost reached the end of my railway interests, leaving readers in suspense for details of my final project – the 'Thirsk Garden Railway.' This time I will relate my time spent planning, building and running this project which took most of my time over a period of around 10 years.



### PLANNING & DESIGN

My key design concepts for this 1-acre triangular site were to minimise gradients through the use of cuttings and timber bridges (just like the real thing); to maximise curve radii and to minimise numbers of points, which are complicated to build and usually need manual control levers. A track gauge of 5" was to be used – the minimum for a ground-level passenger-carrying railway.

Apart from access into the engine sheds at the beginning and end of the day there were no manually operated points in the layout design. The key to continuous travel over the whole circuit, in both directions, was the automatic control by a spring-bladed double crossover – a rather satisfying piece of design! With only one train on the circuit at any given time no safety issues were involved. See the photograph below and note that between A & D there is a small loop of track whilst between B & C there is a larger loop.



When approaching the crossover from direction A the train continues to B. After going round the large loop the train approaches the crossover at C, the

sprung point blade causing the train to go across to A, the blade then springing back to its normal position.

From A the train reappears at D after going round the small loop, and continues straight to C and when it reappears at B for the second time the sprung point blade causes the train to go across to D. The blade then springs back to its normal position, the train finally appearing once more at A, after going round the small loop for the second time, and the circuit starts again!

### CONSTRUCTION

Although at first sight the plot was reasonably level, once the ground was surveyed a difference in level of 2 metres was measured. In the northeast corner of the plot this necessitated a one metre cutting excavated with a mini-digger. At the opposite end of the plot several timber trestle bridges were needed. The rest of the track bed was prepared, again with the digger, to prepare for the base level of scalplings.



Next came the track itself, which comprised about 130 16ft lengths of extruded aluminium rail, a load of tanalised roofing battens (cut into approximately 5000 10" lengths and soaked in creosote over 24 hours), and what seemed to be a never-ending supply of galvanised staples.

A custom-made jig allowed two pairs of galvanised staples to be partially pressed into each sleeper at an appropriate distance to allow the rails to be held exactly 5" apart. Once the sleepers had been 'stapled', a second 16ft long jig was built to allow an average of 80 equally spaced-out sleepers to be arranged such that a 16ft length of rail could be dropped into the spaces between the pairs of staples. Finally, the heads of each pair of staples were hammered over, one each side, to secure the foot of the rail to the sleeper. Around 65 track panels later it was time to work on the points and curves!

One engine shed was an existing garden building with a concrete floor and lengths of rail embedded to allow vehicles to run off the circuit straight into the shed. Just outside, a custom-built turntable was constructed using the bearing from a washing machine. The second, 40 ft long engine shed was constructed as for a trestle bridge and was used to store the Inter-City train. Two platforms were also built, each with passing loops.

### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Apart from the double crossover described above, a number of other sets of points had to be made for access to the engine sheds and passing loops. One-directional points were sprung as for the crossover but bi-directional points in and out of the engine sheds needed manual levers.

The track panels were then laid roughly in position, curves created to suit and adjacent track panels held together with extra-long fishplates screwed to extra-wide sleepers which provided support to the ends of the rails.



Ballast was then used to fill in the spaces between the sleepers and at each side of the track panels which helped hold the panels in position. Cast concrete edges were needed both sides of the track bed to constrain the ballast. Over the timber trestle bridges the rail was laid directly onto the timber surface, giving careful attention to the gauge between the rails.



The final touch was the unexpected acquisition of a 'real' signal post and blade discovered in a local garden. It was originally sited on Christchurch station and was technically known as the 'Christchurch down' signal. This would have been the signal that drivers would have waited for before departing the station. Once renovated it added a nice bit of authentic decoration to the garden railway, although it wasn't operational.



## LOCOS and ROLLING STOCK



My first locomotive was a Polly II built by me from a pre-machined kit followed by a paint job. I never developed the skill of model engineering so a kit where I just needed to bolt it together with a few finishing touches was ideal. The help from a more experienced friend ensured an easy-to-steam engine – a really nice loco to build and drive.



'Leslie' being driven by Leslie

The second locomotive, called 'Leslie' named for my dad, was built for me. A battery electric model was really just some coach building cleverly hiding a car battery which provided the motive power. Unlike Polly which needed an hour or so to steam up and get ready to drive, 'Leslie' just had to be switched on and off we went!

Flushed with the success of Polly, I bought a main-line passenger locomotive kit, Britannia – and found myself with a completely different challenge. The confidence inspiring description of 'no machining required' was all I needed to place the order. What a mistake!

The kit arrived, one stage a month over 12 months. The instructions for assembly were very detailed, so even I would be able to cope wouldn't I?



The first few kits were fine with the 'no machining required' promise fulfilled but gradually I began to receive kit stages which required just a bit of machining: the

odd hole that wasn't drilled deep enough and occasionally holes that were not drilled at all. Fortunately, a friend who was a model engineer came to the rescue.

But as time went on the kit stages were clearly not 'no machining required'. I made a number of complaints and actually gained an admission from the company that 'it was the first time that this particular kit had been sold'. I then claimed my money back under the warranty about dissatisfaction with the description of the kit.

Embarrassment on their part led to their agreeing with my claim but suggesting that, as they 'did not like to have dissatisfied customers' (coupled with the prospect of bad publicity no doubt), they would arrange to collect all the kit stages and get the complete locomotive assembled professionally. This would, 'of course', include a professional paint job – a significant challenge I was not looking forward to doing in any case. Clearly a 'no brainer', so I agreed. In due course I visited their factory and collected a fully-assembled and painted miniature steam locomotive named 'Britannia'.



On one occasion I visited Parry People Movers, a West Midlands company I mentioned in part one of this article. I discovered that, as part of their tram testing project, they had removed a 10" gauge 4-car InterCity train set from a local public park, which had been piled up in one of their outbuildings.



I agreed with the CEO that I could have the trainset for the cost of a new paint job and a set of new roof sections. A few weeks later a couple of friends and I visited the company and loaded the train set into a small van and delivered it to my railway in Poole. The bogies were re-gauged to 5" to match my layout and the petrol engine changed to electric traction



(based on two second-hand Sinclair C5 motors). While this was being done, I had to build a 40ft engine shed for it at the far end of the railway. One new set of points to connect into the existing track work and there was my fourth locomotive safely under cover, albeit somewhat larger than all the others put together!

To complete my rolling stock, I purchased four bogies and made the bodywork necessary for two ride-on carriages. They took the form of open wagons but had 'plug-in' upholstered seats each of which could comfortably accommodate two passengers when linked to either to Leslie, Britannia or Polly.



Then, of course I needed a level crossing to warn the 'gardener' when it was safe to visit the greenhouse!



Finally, the 'brown sign' was put up!



Eventually, the need for regular maintenance of the track took up more and more of my time and, as with many of my most challenging projects, once it came to a natural conclusion I moved on to other things. I managed to sell all the rolling stock and trackwork, and followed ultimately, by a move to Charmouth and new opportunities.

Readers interested in seeing more detailed parts of the project may wish to view some YouTube videos which will also show the scale of the project:

See the InterCity in action:  
<https://youtu.be/lhX1lIDuqos>

See the complete circuit:  
<https://youtu.be/p3drkQERcCo>

See Britannia (Polar Star) in steam:  
<https://youtu.be/kLXanHG38g4>

**Roger Sansom**



## View from the Bench



In 1959 Barrett Strong sang in 'Money (That's what I want)':

*"The best things in life are free  
But you can give them to the birds and bees*

*I need money  
That's what I want  
That's what I want  
That's what I want*

*Your love give me such a thrill  
But your love don't pay my bills*

...

*Money don't get everything it's true  
What it don't get I can't use*

..."

Nothing much had changed, as in 1987 ABBA (not be my taste) sang in 'Money Money Money':

*"I work all night, I work all day, to pay the bills I have to pay  
Ain't it sad?  
And still, there never seems to be a single penny left for me  
That's too bad"*

There were recessions in the UK in 1956 and 1990. Fast forward to 2022 and at the time of writing it is widely accepted that we have entered another recession. This time it is coupled with rampant inflation of 10% per annum at the moment. Our editor rightly asks this columnist to write with more of a focus on Charmouth and so I asked myself: what has all of this to do with Charmouth? I got the answer via the Dorset Echo<sup>1</sup> who tell me the following:

- Average wages in the county have risen by less than inflation and less than the national average rate
- Median<sup>2</sup> pay in Dorset was £1,903 per month in August – up from £1,777 a year before
- That represents a rise of 7.1% in the last 12 months.

Meanwhile, the March 2022 release of figures by the Office of National Statistics reports<sup>3</sup> median household disposable income in the UK as £31,400 for the financial year ending 2021 (this is more than a year ago).

It does not stretch my arithmetic to calculate that:

- Median pay in Dorset is  $12 \times £1,903 = £22,836$
- If national income has increased at the same rate as Dorset pay, median national pay would be  $£31,400 + 7\% = £33,598$ .
- Therefore, median Dorset pay is only 68% of the national average.

We are a county of low pay and high inflation. Housing costs are increasing at rates exceeding inflation (that is true of both mortgage costs and domestic rents, the latter having risen by more than 8% in 2021). And we all know what is happening to energy costs, even though the 'smoke and mirrors' notion of 'cap' does not enable us to know or calculate what we will actually be paying from 1<sup>st</sup> October, but only that the increase (for that is what it will be) will not be greater than what would put the cost of the average household (whatever that is) above £2,500.

So, what is the protection we are offered against all of this which is completely beyond our control? The household, if 'average', will pay more for energy except it will not be more than £2,500, irrespective of income (the grants already being made are towards the cost increases already announced, and therefore do not count towards the increases from October 1<sup>st</sup>). That same household, if on median income, will be saved 1.5% National Insurance Contributions (NIC) but only on the difference between the Lower Earnings Limit below which no NICs are payable, and gross pay. The saving in Dorset is  $£22,836 - £12,576 \times 1.5\% = £153.90$  a year. Then there is 'jam tomorrow' in the form of an income tax cut of 1p per £ but only from April 2023. That again is only on the difference between the Tax Free Allowance below which no income tax is payable, and gross pay. The saving in Dorset is  $£22,836 - £12,576 \times 1\% = £102.60$  a year. The median earner in Dorset therefore will save £20 a month or about 1% of gross pay. My unit charge for electricity has gone up 24%, payable in full because my annual bill is less than £2,500. Price inflation is running at 10%. Readers can make the fairness comparison to Dorset residents. A conservative estimate is that the median earner will be significantly worse off. What help is a 1% increase in net pay against 25% increase in energy costs, 10% rise in prices excluding housing costs, and expected rises in both rent and mortgage costs?

Pink Floyd had it right in 1973 when in Money, they sang:

*"Money, it's a crime  
Share it fairly, but don't take a slice of my pie  
Money, so they say  
Is the root of all evil today  
But if you ask for a rise, it's no surprise  
That they're giving none away"*

And why is this relevant to Charmouth? Government compiles a so-called Index of Deprivation. The latest<sup>4</sup> shows that Dorset, excluding Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole is ranked 197 out of 317 of the most deprived local council areas in England. The narrative derived from that and published on Dorset Council's web site also asserts that "14 neighbourhoods in Dorset are in the most deprived 20% nationally for employment".<sup>5</sup>

Much is hidden in our green and pleasant land at the bottom of the Char Valley. Perhaps we can make it more pleasant in these hard times.

In the short term, this could be by supporting

- Coastal Community Cupboard Seaside Store at the Hub in Lyme Regis and Cake 'N' Cuppa in Charmouth;
- Bridport Community Kitchen at the Beacon Church, Priory Street.

*Open to everyone. No charge. Open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for tea, coffee and cake served from 10am. Lunch served from 12pm – 2.30pm. Health care, accommodation advice and assistance available.*

- Lyme Regis Food Bank: Office 2, Business Park, Unit 5 Uplyme Rd, Lyme Regis DT7 3LS, phone: 07955 772314

- Axminster Food Bank: Hanover House Chard Street EX13 5DZ

- Bridport Food banks:

*Bridport Community Fridge operates from the Chapel in the Garden on East Street and is currently open on Tuesdays and Saturdays 10–1.*

*It is also at St Swithun's on Thursdays 9.30–1pm. Surplus food is supplied from local supermarkets and other places.*

*"Cupboard Love" – food is distributed from 11.30am till 1pm on Walk-in-Wednesdays inside St Mary's in South Street.*

In the medium term, I discover that all over the world, and also in several locations in the UK, both urban and rural, there are successful community owned and shared renewable energy schemes (usually solar) that enable local communities to own, and derive energy needs from local infrastructure. May I suggest we lobby both Charmouth and Char Valley Parish Councils<sup>6</sup> to undertake feasibility studies to explore the viability and grant availability/funding options<sup>7</sup> for such schemes.

*[Since this was written, the 1% income tax reduction has been removed and the energy price scheme cut from 2 years to 6 months. Do village pensioners need to worry that the promised triple lock will also be removed?]*

Allan Gore

References see bottom of next page -->



# 1st Charmouth Scout Group and Seagulls Explorers

## Scouts and Explorers Swap Dorset hills for Swiss Alps

For their summer camp this year, thirteen Scouts and nine Explorer Scouts, plus four leaders, swapped the rolling Dorset hills for the stunning Swiss Alps. Here they stayed at the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg. Located 1,200m above sea level, the site was opened in 1923 by Lord Baden-Powell as a centre where Scouts from all over the world could meet each year for mini-Jamborees.



According to Explorer Scout Leader, Clare Mackenney, "It is fondly known as a place 'where you can pitch your tent under the stars, climb mountains with your friends, paddle across lakes and enjoy stunning sunsets at the end of each day'; which is exactly what they spent their time doing."

On the way back home, they paid a visit to Disneyland Paris and took rides on all the most popular attractions.

## Beavers remember a truly inspirational Patron



During their first week under new leadership (thanks John Smith for stepping back in!!), the Beavers paid their respects and remembered the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by making crowns and remembrance candles. These were then displayed in St Andrew's Church where they made a very uplifting spectacle. In addition, the Union flag was removed from its mast in the HQ for a week and all Sections observed a minute's silence for our late Patron.

## Activity Camp lives up to its name

By attending the recent District Activity Weekend Camp at West Bay, eight Scouts had the chance to have a go at: rafting; kayaking; paddle boarding; air rifle shooting; archery and tomahawk throwing. This proved to be very popular and most of the Scouts managed to get at least one axe to stick in the target.

## Cubs make their own rope



To tick off part of their Pioneer Badge, the Pack paid a visit to the Bridport Museum to make their own rope. On hand were some of the Museum's volunteers who showed them how to set up and run their demonstration machine. Since they couldn't all take part at the same time, they were split into two groups with the rest studying the exhibits and doing a bit of dressing up in old costumes.

## Could you be the next Bear Grylls?

Fresh from their expedition to the Swiss Alps, the Explorers are now on a quest to find additional leaders. With numbers on the increase, Clare Mackenney needs some full-time help to plan and implement the Unit's weekly programme. Although a Bear Grylls clone would be ideal, and an interest in the great outdoors a bonus, the only real requirement is a desire to help young people between 14 and 17 develop skills for life. Anyone interested can come along to a weekly meeting to meet the members and see what goes on. For more information, contact Clare on 07932 089602.

# Used Postage Stamps for Weldmar

For some time now there has been a box in Charmouth Community Library for the collection of used stamps which are donated to Weldmar Hospicecare.

The stamps which are collected can be ordinary UK stamps or from around the world and Weldmar get paid for these, per kilo. The foreign stamps do get a slightly higher price.

I collect these from the library on a regular basis and then pass them onto Weldmar Hospicecare who in turn are able to exchange them for cash. This money is added to their funds which allows Weldmar to ensure their patients are comfortable and pain free with Weldmar providing all of their services completely free of charge.

So far, over a period of 2 years, I have collected nearly 4kilos. I took the first

batch to the Weldmar Charity Shop in Bridport at the end of April 2021 and another large batch in July this year.

If possible could you leave a border of approximately 1cm around the stamps. Don't worry if you can't as it is not always possible. Any stamps which are damaged are not accepted unfortunately.

Thank you to all who have donated so far. Hopefully more and more people and businesses will give their used stamps to us, even if it is only a few. Every stamp makes a difference so please keep collecting, taking them to the library and let's see how many kilos we can collect for Weldmar Hospicecare in 2023.

The more people who give, the more money Weldmar can get to help their patients.

**Pauline Murphy** – Library Volunteer

## --> View from the Bench references:

<sup>1</sup><https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/22469421.wages-rising-lower-rate-inflation-across-dorset/>

<sup>2</sup>I use 'median' in its true meaning as distinct from mean or average so that figures are truly comparable

<sup>3</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/bulletins/householddisposableincomeandinequality/financialyearending2021#main-points>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

<sup>5</sup>Admittedly, and for balance, 10 of these are in the former borough of Weymouth & Portland

<sup>6</sup>Charmouth Parish Council Chair of Environment Working Group is Jane Bremner and Chair of Council, and of Finance and General Purposes Committee is Peter Noel (both contactable at The Elms, St Andrews Drive, Charmouth DT6 6LN or via the Clerk Lisa Tuck at the same address or at [clerk@charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk)).

Char Valley Parish Council Chair of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party is Andrew Carey and Chair of the Council is Christopher Noon (both contactable via the Clerk Tamsin Ely at [charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk) or by post to her at 71 Brutton Way, Chard, Somerset TA20 2HB)

<sup>7</sup>For example, The Centre for Sustainable Energy identifies potential sources of grant aid for community schemes at <https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/funding-your-project>

## Poetry Corner



### CHARMOUTH DELIGHTS by Diana Hunt

I had to go to Charmouth  
it isn't very far  
Although it's just three miles away  
I thought I'd go by car.

I parked there in the main street  
and had a wander round  
When I looked around the town  
was amazed at what I found.?

The village store is NISA  
Has stacks of food galore  
Quite a lot of products  
that they've packed into this store.

Further down at Morgans  
this too has loads of stock  
Buckets, bowls and hardware  
I even bought a clock.

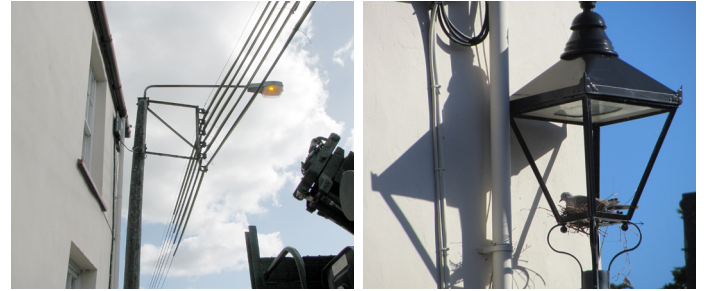
Over in the pharmacy  
the staff are very nice  
Giving you prescriptions  
and professional advice.

The surgery I'm not sure,  
is it going to stay?  
It's merged now with Lyme Medi  
Now it's called Lyme Bay.

If I want a drink  
there's two pubs that I spot,  
one down at the bottom  
the other at the top.

There's also a lending library  
if I should need a book  
I had a spare half hour  
so I went and had a look.

Charmouth has lots to offer  
it's up to us to use it  
Failure to do this simple task  
we possibly could lose it.



### GOODBYE WIRES by Peter Crowter

The power lines all down The Street were not a pretty sight,  
Strung on poles four at a time and something of a blight.  
And from our upstairs sitting room they really spoilt the view,  
Not only from one window but unfortunately two.

One day a lady said to me, 'You know the power lines?  
They're going to put them underground now don't you think that fine?'  
I wonder if she's got this right, can this be really true?  
Will we now from our windows have an unobstructed view?

Her information was spot on and it was not too long,  
Before a gang of men with yellow jackets came along.  
They dug a trench all down The Street to lay the cables in,  
They took down all the wires and poles t'was like they'd never bin.

The poles supported streetlights that all had to be replaced,  
The new ones more attractive were but much more widely spaced.  
The Street before it was bypassed was very brightly lit,  
The new lights more in keeping, I think most would admit.

They are more traditional, a lantern shaped glass dome,  
A collared dove thought to herself, they'll make a cosy home.  
She built her nest inside one, the one outside our house,  
But unfortunately for her she didn't have a spouse.

She sat upon her eggs for days through sunshine and through rain,  
But they were both infertile and so it was all in vain.  
The dove has learned her lesson and has never tried again,  
She thought the lamp a cosy home but it was all in vain,

After her sad experience I think the dove has moved,  
But for all us humans well, The Street is much improved.



## 'Hair at Home' - For 35 years



Trina wearing PPE after lockdown

I was born in 1969 in Fareham Cottage Hospital. I was the nearest baby to be born to Christmas Day, having a birthday on Boxing Day. Apparently, this was very inconvenient to dad as I was being born when the football results were on – he went outside to hear them.

The family, including aunts, uncles and cousins, came to Charmouth in 1973, where all the extended family coming from Fareham came to Newlands and Seadown caravan park. I lived in a large house up Newlands until 1980, having numerous memories of: friends

coming to use the outdoor pool, staying in a static caravan on our own for the weekend in a thunderstorm, Dolphins caravan site being flooded in 1976 and helping collect blankets, towels etc to help them as a lot of people came to Newlands for safety.

Meadow Way was my next home and was very convenient for the village primary as the garden backed onto the the playing field. This is where the love of netball took over and, with a teacher/coach Miss Giles, we went to various tournaments and won most. A lot of the then team are still local, and I still see them socially.

Woodroffe was the next step catching the bus by the church. Netball continued to be enjoyed but not so much the cross-country. Woodroffe opened up new interests in art and even woodwork. Cooking was most definitely not a favourite of mine and still isn't.

I did my work experience at Vincents Hair Design in the village from Woodroffe and once I left did a YTS apprenticeship scheme there. Mondays was Yeovil College day catching a minibus from The Street. After two years I qualified and left immediately to set up 'Hair at Home' by Trina Taylor driving around in my 'Metro'. I built up a clientele base from Crewkerne to Bridport and in between, often working 8am-8pm, meeting some very interesting people along the way including one lady who was a spy in the war.

Some characters will always be memorable: one lady whose hair we dyed purple walked a pure white poodle – she got noticed in the village!

One of my first clients I took on when becoming mobile I still do today: Ingrid Richardson 35 years a friendship and clientele relationship.

Being a hairdresser is a wonderful job and I never regretted going solo, the social side is a huge part of hairdressing and this through Covid had an impact on a lot of people but, being part of the volunteer group throughout that difficult time kept me in touch with them.

To sum it all up my claim to fame was washing Fanny Craddock's hair whilst training.

However, during a morning walk with Ted I bumped into Kate Winslet who was in Charmouth filming 'Ammonite'. I had a chat with her until her security people came to take her away.

Do I have any regrets of becoming a hairdresser and going solo? No. But it does have an impact on your body eventually.

The positives are the friendships that are built that last for ever. The saying that 'your hairdresser is your best friend' sums it up.

The future holds a bit of hairdressing (I can't completely give up the job I've loved for 35 years) and a lot more travel. My 'bucket list' for travelling includes Amsterdam, river cruises and seeing wild life in Scotland.

**Trina Taylor**



# LYME REGIS MUSEUM

BE AT THE HEART OF LYME REGIS  
AND BRING HISTORY TO LIFE!

*If You Love Lyme Regis, History and Conversations  
- Why Not Consider Joining Our Friendly Volunteer  
Team?*

This spring we are looking for new volunteers to join us in welcoming visitors to Lyme and the Museum, to assist with Fossil Walks and Talks, help with Shop Sales and support events and exhibitions.

New Museum Director, Bridget Houseago said:

"As we are a charity, volunteers play a huge part in the success of Lyme Regis Museum. Without their support and encouragement, we would never be able to deliver our amazing programme of fossil walks, events, and exhibitions to over 30,000 visitors a year."

There are lots of benefits to volunteering; it's a great way to meet new people, as well as maintain physical and mental health. We offer lots of support and training, the chance to be part of a friendly and welcoming team, regular social events, a discount in our museum shop, free walks and talks and of course - free entry to the museum!

You don't need to be a history or geology expert; we are looking for friendly people with a general interest in history, geology and art, who like meeting others and would like to help all our visitors have a great day out.

Our volunteers:

- Welcome visitors to the Museum
- Assist with retail and events, including fossil walks, school visits, fossil polishing, talks and family craft activities
- Learn all about the rich history of the town, the museum and the Jurassic Coast
- Develop new skills and friendships
- Play a part in preserving and sharing Lyme's rich heritage
- Join social events, coffee mornings, talks and walks and make new friends

If you have a particular interest or an area of our work where you would like to know more, please do get in touch by emailing [sjones@lymeregismuseum.co.uk](mailto:sjones@lymeregismuseum.co.uk) or popping in to see us. We would be really happy to hear from you.

ALL SHORELINE ISSUES CAN BE SEEN ONLINE AT  
[WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH\\_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/](http://WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/)

## CHARMOUTH HISTORY SOCIETY

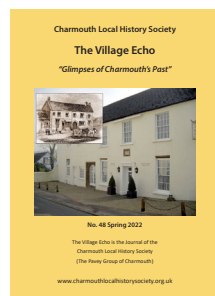
**O**n the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 your local history society's AGM included a talk on *The Street, Charmouth*. This was a well-attended gathering with much chatter and laughter at the intermission along with a much appreciated donated glass of wine and chocolates.

We would like to thank members and traders in Charmouth for their continued support and our membership now surpasses 100. Remember that membership is open to anyone who has an interest in Charmouth. You need not be a resident and membership only costs £6 a year per household.

Three well-attended presentations were staged this year: Dorset's Celtic Past by Stan Dolan, Marshwood Vale by Bob Machin and a presentation to the South West in Bloom judges on the origins of Charmouth, at the request of the Parish Council.



We also managed a day event, Charmouth Celebrates to mark the Royal Jubilee, where we were able to invite other local groups at no cost to their organisations. The resulting profits from Charmouth Celebrates enabled us to donate £25 each to the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre, Knit and Knatter, Charmouth 1st Scouts and Charmouth Community Library. We also staged a photographic display in the Community Library.



Our latest edition of the Echo No 48 proved very popular and a considerable number of back issues were also sold during the summer to visitors in the village. We are always looking for contributors of articles for future issues.

The day to day management of the CLHS continues, archiving, planning events and still we are recovering from our move to a smaller room. We wish to expand our events calendar and invite more guest speakers.

We would like to reach out to schools, colleges, academics and local groups. The committee has remained unchanged with one new member Paul Hunter co-opted to help with our internet and social media presence. We are still looking for someone to come forward and help us with our publications, ideally someone familiar with editorial work and simple desk top publishing with MS Publisher or Adobe InDesign.

The committee has decided that all events should be free entry with request for donations which we feel opens our events to everyone. Also our new website is up and running thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Like all web sites it is not static and will be updated and improved as time moves forward.

**Helen Parker, Chair**

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

Do you have any ideas or skills to help the Charmouth Local History Society with any of the following?

- Writing articles for the Village Echo
- Putting together a presentation
- Organising an exhibition
- Helping to document our archives
- Researching part of Charmouth's history
- Gaining new members and/or donations
- Or generally to help out at talks/exhibitions

If you would like to find out more please get in touch with Helen at: [helenparkerhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:helenparkerhistory@btinternet.com) or via [www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk)

## CHARMOUTH FREE CHURCH



**Ali Taylor**

[alisonctaylor@aol.com](mailto:alisonctaylor@aol.com)

**A view from the pews** - or in our case from around the table in the Club room!

What a year it has been! Across the world there has been tragedy, evil killing, wars, pain, death, destruction, disease, viruses, natural disasters, terrorist attacks all causing suffering, loss, indignity, homelessness, struggle & worry and yet life goes on and the world keeps spinning.

In the UK we are in a state of political confusion - all national services are overwhelmed and underfunded, the care system is shot to pieces. So many people are genuinely worried about how they will afford to put food on the table, while others continue to feed their bank accounts.

In this village alone we have experienced the passing of some of our favourite people, witnessed others struggle with loneliness, physical, mental health or financial issues.

Our hearts will need something to celebrate and of course as the shops are already beginning to show us, Christmas is coming!

In a Children's Address I once asked why we celebrate Christmas? A 7-year-old shouted, "because Jesus was born". Another chimed in "but why? Why was Jesus born on earth?", he insisted. The only thing I could think to say was because God shows up and that he does, he always shows up.

Here's the thing. Soon many of us will gather with friends and family to celebrate Christmas. We will sing songs, give gifts, decorate our homes, watch football, maybe go to the beach and run into the sea in fancy dress and probably eat more food than we will be able to do at any other time of the year.

But why? Because Jesus was born and that alone is worth celebrating!

What if Christmas is just one piece of a much bigger puzzle? And what if we miss the complete picture if we stare at just one piece? Because here is the truth, it isn't just that God showed up as a baby in a manger. It's that God always shows up.

It may not always feel that way when you're scared, when you're grieving, when you're hungry. Be brave and just reach out. He'll be there.

Regarding Christmas meals, if you are fortunate enough to be cooking at Christmas, why not invite a couple of people to join you who may be on their own? It avoids food waste, and everyone is much better behaved!

Peace, love & be kind to one another!

**Ali Taylor**

[alisonctaylor@aol.com](mailto:alisonctaylor@aol.com)  
Charmouth Free Church



# Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

**W**e have been busy plugging the seashore environment in Charmouth over the Autumn. We had the Wild Beach Clean with Polly and Jude Wild back in September to help Jude get his Environment Badge from Blue Peter- here's hoping he does, as we had a whopping 70 people turn out to help clean Charmouth beach after a busy summer. We also did our usual Citizen Science and recorded the types of rubbish for the Marine Conservation Society ahead of their Great British Beach Clean! Huge thanks to Polly and Jude for motivating so many in the village to join us, it was great to see so many new faces.



September and October are also the time of year for the Great Global Nurdle Hunt. We have previously collected and recycled over 60,000 nurdles and biobeads at the Centre. We have a tube in the centre which we are aiming to fill with another 60,000. If you find any (6 or 1,000 nurdles) please bring them to the centre and hand them in. We will then clean them and count them before adding them into our display tube. We can also upload how many have been found to the Great Global Nurdle Hunt project.



We purchased a new tablet in October for us to continue with our virtual school sessions. With budget cuts, school trips are likely to suffer, and we have seen a rise in demand for virtual sessions. Huge thanks go to the Charmouth Events Committee and to the Friends of

Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre for donating the money needed to buy the new tablet and stand. We are now even seeing demand from overseas schools, so we are hoping our outreach sessions will remain successful.

We welcomed a new fossil to the Centre, an ichthyosaur found by Mark Linne in 2020. It has taken Rob Moore 100s of hours to prepare the specimen. It is on display in our education room and will remain on display into next year so plenty of time to visit. Our winter opening hours are now in effect. From November until the end of the year the Centre is open Friday-Mondays 10.30am-4.00pm. Please see our website events calendar for Christmas and New Year opening times.

If any of you are out walking on the beaches and scoop up fossils you don't wish to keep, please donate them to our centre 'No Luck' basket. Visitors who haven't found their own can choose a fossil from the basket for a small donation. All donations go to help keep the educational charity running.

Have you thought you might like to volunteer with us? In the New Year we would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer with us. You can help in the visitor centre welcoming our visitors or assist on our fossil walks, seashore safaris, geography sessions and school groups. Or maybe you have some skills we could use behind the scenes, photography, illustration and design, media? Pop into see us at the centre for a chat or send an email to [info@charmouth.org](mailto:info@charmouth.org)

We will be working on renovations while we are closed over the winter and concentrating on our school groups. Fossil walks still run throughout the year, so keep an eye out on our website calendar for dates and times: [www.charmouth.org/chcc](http://www.charmouth.org/chcc)



**Ali Ferris.**  
Manager for Centre Administration,  
Marine and Environmental Interpretation.

## VOLUNTEERING AT CHARMOUTH HERITAGE COAST CENTRE – A Fossil and Marine Centre



A huge welcome to all new residents of Charmouth and its surrounding villages and towns!

We, at Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre [CHCC], are always on the lookout for new volunteers with new ideas and skills to help further the development of our increasingly popular Centre. Our aim is to encourage visitors to learn about the geology, fossils, landforms, tides, marine life, safety on the beach and much more about our World Heritage coastline.



CHCC is a magnet for visitors as it is a fossil and marine Centre which sits on the world-famous fossil beach. We need volunteers to support our expert managers to develop and maintain its interest for visitors from all over the world. The fossils displayed

are often priceless – meticulously cleaned and displayed by the fossil collectors of the area and include finds made by visitors. We also have a marine area explaining the flora and fauna of Lyme Bay and displays explaining the landscape of the coastline.

To keep the Centre thriving and updated we have a small team of volunteers who work on the information and sales desk, meet and greet visitors, assist on fossil and seashore safari walks for schools and the public. They also assist with backroom tasks, such as digital features, artwork and photography, to help the managers keep the Centre welcoming and updated.

We are on the lookout for new talent and new ideas – so if you feel that you have any skills which would be helpful to us, please come to the Centre and talk to the managers. There is no need to know anything about fossils or marine life to join us – all talents are welcome!

The volunteers form a group known as the Friends of CHCC. We have visits, informative newsletters, winter lectures and annually a buffet supper, a cream tea afternoon and a BBQ. There is also an affiliated weekly walking group – all are excellent ways of getting familiar with our community.

The Centre is a small educational charity. Its success is achieved due to a volunteers who work with the skilled academic staff. You could give us as much or as little support as you wish. It all helps!

Do come and visit us – you will be in for a treat. We are very friendly and welcome any help!

[info@charmouth.org](mailto:info@charmouth.org) [www.charmouth.org](http://www.charmouth.org) 01279 560772

**Penny Rose**  
Chair of the Friends of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre



# Charmouth Village Show

After taking time out for covid in 2020 and a tentative relaunch last year, Charmouth's hugely popular traditional Village Show returned to full strength this year.

Despite concerns that the prolonged dry spell would limit entries, 164 people entered a record number of 700 exhibits. Both the Community Hall and the Village Hall were a riot of colour and filled with the aroma of either freshly cooked cakes and bread or the scent of flowers. Despite the parched growing conditions, the villagers made a real effort to produce their best fruit, veg and flowers in an attempt to take home a prize from the array of silver cups and awards. Even the flower arrangers managed to find enough plant material to produce some magnificent displays.

Children from Charmouth school entered over 75 paintings and, not to be left out, the adult artists showed off their abilities too. Knitters, embroiderers and woodworkers demonstrated their skills with some beautiful entries.

Over in Home Produce the array of jams and rows of cakes whetted visitors' appetites. Many chose to sit and have a cup of tea and try some of the homemade cakes that weren't in the competition! Up on the stage the ever-popular Photography section displayed interpretations of themes ranging from 'Sunsets' to 'Odd Couples'.

The success of the show is only made possible by the enormous support of the many volunteers, exhibitors and visitors who came to see the displays, to all of whom we owe a huge thank you.

**Diana Burn, Charmouth Gardeners Show Secretary**



Charmouth Community Hall



Charmouth Village Hall



Cups and Diplomas were awarded as follows:

**RHS Banksian Medal** – Highest points in Horticulture - Ron Dampier

**Wyn Durbridge Bowl** – Best Vase of Garden Flowers - Jan Plummer

**Marcel Clouzy Cup** – Best Floral Arrangement - Arabella Turner Newton

**BD Founders Trophy** – Best Dahlia Exhibit - Sandy Hinton

**Joe Tisshaw Trophy** – Best Exhibit of Sweet Peas - Diana Burn

**The Rose Cup** – Best Exhibit in Rose Classes - Sandra Shaw

**Stan Durbridge Bowl** – Best Pot Plant - Jan Coleman

**Grace Laker Cup** – Most points in Classes 6,27,28,29,30 – Richard Fereday

**Poppleton Cup** – Best Exhibit in Flower Classes - Sue Brunner

**George Cup** – Best Exhibit in Fruit and Vegetables - Penny Rose

**Thalatta Cup** – Best Exhibit in Handicraft Classes - Gerard McKeown

**Childrens Cup** – Most Points in Children's Classes - Alexis Westbury and Ruby Kite

**Mattingley Pudding Plate** – Best Bakewell Tart - Helen Hughes

**Clouzy Cup** – Best Exhibit in Home Produce - Jacqui Polley

**Horton Cup** – Most points in Home Produce - Alan Finch

**Moseley Cup** – Best Photograph - Rob Davis

**Norah Kidd Trophy** – Most points in Photographic Classes - Vicki Dunstan

**Diploma in Horticulture** - Chris East

## Dates for your Diary - 2023

All the following talks will be in the Village Hall, Wesley Close. The talks start at 2.30pm with refreshments available from 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome, there is a charge of £2 for non-members.

New members are always very welcome, we arrange a full programme of outings, talks and social events as well as the Annual Village Show. Annual subscription is £5 per person, contact the Membership Secretary 01297 561625.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January:** Ms Jenny Short from Garden Designs Lyme Regis will give a talk entitled Heaven Scent – Fragrance in the Garden.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February:** Annual General Meeting and a chance to renew subscriptions followed by a short talk on Hesperantha Iris by Mr Martin Young from Nectar Plants Weymouth. After the talk there will be a lighthearted quiz: 30 Mystery Plants.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Mr Francis Burroughs will give an amusing and informative talk on Illegal Immigrants, the plant variety!

Membership cards for 2023-2024 will be ready for collection.



## Coastal Community Cupboard

**A** WEEK IN THE LIFE of The Coastal Community Cupboard (CCC). Based at The Hub in Church Street, Lyme Regis and founded by myself, Lisa Charleton and my friend Mary Ward, the Coastal Community Cupboard operates within the Lyme Regis Development Trust and we now run a total of three community projects. The Seaside Store which opens every Tuesday morning and Cake 'n' Cuppa which is every second week in Charmouth are run by us on an entirely voluntary basis. The third project is the one LRDT originally asked us to get reopened which is the Old Schoolhouse community café which now opens in the Hub every Thursday and Friday from 9.30am -2.00pm. As you might imagine running these events week after week requires an enormous commitment from both of us plus our team of some twenty-seven volunteers without whom, of course, nothing would be possible!

It all kicks off on Mondays when the regular purchase from Fareshare has to be collected from Dorchester by one of our volunteers and transported to the Hub where a team of volunteers unload it all, turning the room into a small supermarket and the Seaside Store is then ready for Tuesday. The following morning is another early start for Mary and I as we head into Lyme to pick up additional donations from Tesco express and the Coop.

At 9.30am the doors open to our customers who have usually been queuing for some time before opening and, as a result, the first hour is normally pretty frantic in the store until the initial rush gradually subsides into a steady stream up until closing time. There are many people in the community who don't use the store but do not want to see food wasted so remaining produce nearing the end of its shelf life is made available to them for a small donation. Each week we regularly help over one hundred and twenty people who find the store invaluable in these hard times. After closing the store the room has to be cleared up as the Hub is in constant use for other groups so it's often two or three o'clock before everything is done.



Officially known as a social supermarket The Seaside Store combines making food affordable whilst reducing some of the eye-watering amount of food that is wasted every year. For a very small cost those who may find themselves struggling financially can access perfectly good, nutritious food.

Cake 'n' Cuppa is a twice monthly event which now takes place in the Club Room of the Community Hall in Charmouth. Originally conceived as a way to encourage some of the older members of the community to socialise following their isolation during the pandemic it became so popular that we decided to continue. Every two weeks along with volunteers from Charmouth we turn the hall into a tea-room where mainly Charmouth residents come along and have a chat with each other whilst enjoying a cup of tea and some delicious homemade cake. It is a simple but effective way of providing a couple of hours to chat to some old friends and meet some new ones!



Our warm and welcoming Old Schoolhouse community café opened its doors in March this year and is a complete re-launch of the pre-pandemic café. Thursdays and Fridays mean another early start for us and the volunteers as we prepare

the café for a 9.30am opening. Running the café entails a lot of regular, weekly jobs such as stock control, constant cleaning and keeping on top of environmental health requirements to mention just a few! Offering a range of coffees and teas, toasted sandwiches, all day breakfasts along with a selection of cakes the café requires a minimum team of three to run efficiently at busy times. And busy times there often are as the café has gained in popularity especially in the community as people now know they can come and have a great café experience, catch up with friends and chat with our volunteers without spending a fortune!

So... there we have it - a week in the life of CCC - always busy running the projects, shopping for the projects, picking up donations, organising rotas for our volunteers, keeping accounts up to date, posting on social media and answering phone enquiries or emails - in truth there are very few days when there is not something to be done. With the ever-increasing pressures on all our lives we believe it will inevitably get busier bringing more challenges for us all. It goes without saying that we are enormously grateful for all our volunteers, all those who have helped in any way and all those who have donated to us - nothing is ever too large or too small. As we head into winter it is going to be hard for lots of people but, with all the help and support this wonderful community have already shown us, we hope our projects will continue to offer a little support!

**Lisa Charleton, Coastal Community Cupboard**

## Cake 'n' Cuppa

**O**n Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July the organisers of the Charmouth Cake 'n' Cuppa community group threw their big summer party for local residents in the Village Hall, Wesley Close. A great turnout saw everyone treated to an afternoon of delicious, homemade food including all manner



of sweet and savoury treats all prepared by our dedicated volunteers. All this was accompanied by several glasses of wine or Pimms and wonderful entertainment supplied by the ever popular Lyme Luggers ukulele group who definitely got the party rocking!

Another highlight of the afternoon was a free prize draw with loads of prizes, many of which were supplied by local businesses including The Royal Oak, The Bank Café and Charmouth Pharmacy. At the end of the party everyone was reluctant to leave after such a successful and really joyful afternoon.

Cake 'n' Cuppa is a fortnightly get-together for local residents, serving up homemade cake, plenty of tea or coffee and a chance to have a good old chat. It is completely free to attend and you can find us in the Club room of the Community Hall every other Wednesday from 2pm-3.30pm.



For the next date and any other information feel free to contact Lisa or Mary on 07835799469 or email [community@lrtd.co.uk](mailto:community@lrtd.co.uk)

# Lyme Bay Nordic Walking



Lyme Bay Nordic Walking offers walks in the Lyme Bay region - in the west from Seaton and to the east around the Bridport area.

Mel Harvey and Juliet Evans, who both live in Charmouth, were regular walkers with Gillian Butcher, the founder of Lyme Bay Nordic Walking and now run the group when Gillian moved to the Lake District last year. Both have completed the instructor training with British Nordic Walking

Juliet states: *"I am passionate about the health benefits of exercising in the outdoors, and, with so much variety of walks on our doorstep we are spoilt for choice; we source coastal and countryside routes that many of our regular walkers didn't even know existed. We cater for everyone with a programme of walks for all abilities. Our walkers tell us that the group is a lifeline socially too - we enjoy coming together regularly as a group, walking and improving our fitness levels week by week motivated by the regular commitment to meet up."*

- Nordic walking originated in Finland, where it was developed as a summer training activity for the Olympic Cross Country Skiing team.
- Nordic walking uses specially designed poles (not trekking poles) with glove style attachments used to enhance natural walking, turning an everyday activity into a whole-body exercise. With good technique, 90 per cent of the body's muscles are used, consequently burning up to 46 per cent more calories than walking without poles.
- The core muscles, triceps (back of arms) and shoulders are activated as walkers push off with the poles and, because the effort is spread over the whole body, Nordic walking is said to feel easier than normal walking, enabling you to walk further and for longer.
- The use of poles reduces strain on the joints, helps improve posture and reduces tension in the neck and shoulders.

Juliet and Mel offer 'Introduction to Nordic Walking' courses where they teach the Nordic walking technique, they also offer regular walks nearly every day of the week including:

**'Health'** walks - of one hour duration, these walks are suitable for those returning to exercise post injury or illness;

**'Stride'** walks - these are 2 hour duration, of mixed intensity, on an undulating route;

**'Fitness'** walks - walks to push our fitness levels further, these walks are a faster pace often with more challenging hills;

and regular 'Events' where we stretch our Nordic walks and combine with something else - e.g. sauna, swim, or just lunch!

If you would like to find out more about joining a free introductory taster session and walk, please email: [hello@lymebaynordicwalking.com](mailto:hello@lymebaynordicwalking.com)

We also recommend a full training session before joining our normal walk calendar.

**Juliet Evans**

## 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.



## Wildflowers at Hogchester.

It's been an unusual summer this year at Hogchester. The ANOB granted Hogchester a wildflower seed harvester to Hoover up the precious seed before it falls to the ground. I've been learning the art of seed collecting, drying, sieving, winnowing, and storing. Winnowing is the most fun and simply refers to the use of wind to blow away chaff and unwanted stalks, whilst the heavier seeds fall onto the mat below. I've also learnt how extraordinarily allergic to the whole process I am, but do not all good things in life come with some cost!?

The seed has not been stored for long. In partnership with the famous Nick Grey and Dorset Wildlife Trust, we have been busy this autumn getting the seed back out onto the land, to seed new local wildflower meadows. We've seeded 8 new sites of varying sizes, creating a patchwork that will, over time, enable wildlife to move more freely across the region, and it will support the recovery of insect populations that gather and breed in these habitats.

There are now 17 acres of established wildflower meadow at Hogchester - we have given over all the suitable land here to that purpose. We look forward to repeating this process over and over through the seasons in the coming years. Hopefully many new meadows will emerge from our endeavours and I still have a few kilograms of seed left if any land owners wish to lay some wildflowers and yellow rattle in some neglected patch of pasture?

## Therapy at Hogchester.

Hogchester is becoming a hub for counselling and psychotherapy. A number of practitioners offer services to young people, adults and couples, offering a range of talking and nature-based approaches. Each of these centres around providing a space in a natural setting where people can off-load and find ways to move forward in life. Details are on our website [www.hogchester.com](http://www.hogchester.com)

## Future events at Hogchester.

**'Folk at the farm'.** On Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2023 we are having an evening of folk music, food and local ciders, up on the hill overlooking the village and the sea. Look out for further details.

**NGS open meadows.** 24<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. We are open on two dates next year for the National Open Garden scheme charity, which funds medical support charities such as Macmillan. There will be coffee and cakes for sale, and I will be doing a nature walk through Hogchester, talking about the development of the farm over the past 7 years since we arrived.

**Open meadows.** May, June, July 2023. The meadows will be open to visitors during the flowering season from mid-May to July.

**Rob Powell**

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[WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH\\_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/](http://WWW.CHARMOUTH.ORG/CHARMOUTH_VILLAGE/SHORELINE-MAGAZINE/)



## Lower Char Community Project - Update

**W**ater harvesting is underway! Part of our Wessex Water Community Grant has been allocated to the Community Library Garden to help it thrive and bloom, whatever the weather. Last year, the library gardeners achieved the extraordinary task of keeping the garden looking lovely despite the drought. We plan to connect sufficient water butts to the Library to make its water self-sufficient. As water is heavy to heave around in cans, especially in 32 degrees, we will provide pump and hose fittings to help make watering free and easy.

**River Monitoring:** We are sampling water at Charmouth Beach Bridge, Mill Bridge and Newlands Bridge and more spots upstream on the Monkton Wyld tributary. Phosphates, temperature, turbidity and dissolved solids are assessed; we hope to include tests for intestinal bacteria such as E.Coli.

**Plastic Pollution:** South West Water has agreed that the plastic biobeads found at the mouth of the Char match those used historically at their Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works. They have assured us that they have cleaned up the spilled biobeads littering their yard and escaping out to sea. We are now asking them to lead on a Charmouth Beach clean-up next spring, to reduce the amount of micro-plastic pollution in general and their escaped biobeads in particular... it's looking promising.



**Wessex Water.** Our campaign for WW to clean up their act is gathering pace. Like all water companies, they face strict new legal obligations to reduce the amount of untreated sewage they discharge into our rivers and out to sea. So far, they seem very keen to work with us. Whilst we strongly disagree with their assertion that sewage spills pose no threat to human health or the environment, we can agree that we are pulling in the same direction. They have

provided us with all the information we have requested about the Charmouth sewerage network and this has helped us to refine our goals and identify how a small local community and a huge water company can best work together.

We are looking at ways to reduce the volume of rainwater entering the combined sewers. This should reduce the frequency of incidents of emergency screened but untreated sewage releases which can be discharged into the river at Newlands Bridge (just 600 m upstream from the river mouth) and to sea via the long sea pipe. This latter overflows just 1.2 km off our popular and economically important bathing beach.

Both hard and soft (i.e. nature based) engineering solutions are up for discussion. Things are slightly complicated by our local geology but there are some positive local precedents that we have been looking into. If approved, Wessex Water would lead these projects.

**What next?** We can all play our part in cleaning up the Char. Our work with Wessex Water will be complemented by community initiatives, including

- **'Water Wise'.** We'll be promoting easy ways to save, harvest and store water at home and in the garden. We aim to secure more funding from Wessex Water to launch a subsidised water butt scheme.

- **'About a River' Day,** planned for Spring '23, will celebrate the Lower Char; its ecology and geology, its people, its culture, its past life and its present and how we might work together as a community to ensure its sparkling future. Everyone is welcome to contribute ideas — please toss them our way via our website at [www.riverchar.org](http://www.riverchar.org).



All photos by Dana Assinder

Our heartfelt wish is to Clean Up the River Char. We need your help, and we'd value your skills — amateur and professional alike — and your enthusiasm. Please sign up on our website [www.riverchar.org](http://www.riverchar.org), or email [rivercharmonitoring@gmail.com](mailto:rivercharmonitoring@gmail.com), to receive our newsletter, volunteer as a river monitor, contribute your knowledge and experience or just to leave us some feedback. You can also follow our progress and plans on the website and, if the river takes you, you can dive in deeper to view links to more articles on pollution issues and water ways. We hope you will be inspired to join us.




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## We Remember



Edward George Whatmore ('Ted')

**8 November 1931 – 10 October 2022**

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have known Ted, and I know from the dozens of lovely cards and messages that we as a family have received, that so many others felt the same. It is testament to his personable nature that people that we weren't aware that he even knew have got in touch to extend their sympathy and share their memories of Ted. With a ready laugh and a twinkle in his eye, Ted was ready for a chat whenever the opportunity arose, and as a result he always had his finger on the pulse of village life.

Ted was born in Exmouth in 1931, to Lily and Harry, the youngest of three children. His brother John was the eldest, then his sister Joan. They remained close throughout their lives, with John living a stone's throw away at Nutcombe Terrace and Joan a little further afield in Lyme Regis. When Ted was just ten months old, they all moved to Peria in Charmouth, the house in which he and Pat later raised their own family.

Ted attended Charmouth School, where later his youngest son Ben and grandchildren Archie, Rosie, Thea and Jasper became pupils too, and when Archie was studying World War II Ted was able to provide a first-hand account of what life was like for a pupil at the village school during the war years. Archie was able to share his memories with the class - they were particularly interested in lessons only taking place in the morning; the tales of watching dogfights across the bay at night, including seeing planes coming down; and their absolute favourite was the morbid story of the cow that found a landmine on the cliff side field!

In 2019, Ted was thrilled to contribute his memories of Charmouth to Shoreline Magazine, and created a fascinating account of nearly 90 years of village life. His stories showed not only a vast knowledge of village history, but also his mischievous side - he was caned at school for getting into trouble with the London evacuees, drank shandy underage at The Star pub and was bitten by a monkey at the circus after getting his finger too close to the cage.

As a young man, he liked to socialise, often popping over to Lyme Regis on his scooter, although on one memorable occasion he took his car and reversed it all the way down through Broad Street after a fun evening with friends.

St. Andrew's Church was important to Ted throughout his life. He attended Sunday school there, and told us that it was very well attended with four groups of around 25 pupils. As a boy he was in the choir, but this came to an abrupt end after he was bored and playing with his hymn book in the gallery, trying to balance it on the ledge, but dropped it onto a teacher below. Despite this, he continued to sing and many have commented on how much they will miss Ted's strong tenor voice soaring above the congregation, leading the hymns and keeping everyone on track. He was allowed to return to the gallery to pump the organ, and

earned a shilling for this job, but only if it was a wedding. If you look closely, you can see his initials carved into the woodwork up there. Later in life, Ted was the church warden for 21 years, and remained active as vergers and sacristan. He was organised and efficient, and quietly kept everything 'just so', to the point where I know that in the weeks following his passing there has been some confusion about where things are kept and how exactly things are done.

Once Ted left school, he completed a five-year apprenticeship at a shop called Haddon's in Lyme Regis, learning all about linen and dress fabrics. This apprenticeship set him off on a career including buying fabrics, working on furnishings, curtains, upholstery and menswear, which is where his true passion lay. He moved to Fone & Stag in Crewkerne, who sent him on a course at Daks in London specialising in made-to-measure suits, an experience that he loved. He started his own shop in Crewkerne named Edward Gee, where he colour co-ordinated the entire stock, it was an exciting time where the new designs and attitudes to colour for men made this incredibly enjoyable for him. After his shop closed, he worked until his retirement three days a week at Osborne's Big and Tall shop in Beer. He regularly needed a stepladder to measure up some of the men that visited.

While working in Crewkerne, Pat came into Ted's life. They met because they both drove dark red Minis, Pat had caught Ted's eye and he made certain that he parked in the same car park as her. They married at The Church of The Good Shepherd in Hewish in 1971, Ted looking proud and smart in a dark suit with a dashing red lining and Pat beautiful in delicate ivory lace with gold details. Their first dance as a married couple was to 'Lady in Red' by Chris de Burgh. Their son Mark arrived in 1975, and Ben five years later in 1980. By then, they were living in a cottage at Pat's family farm in Hewish, just outside Crewkerne, where Ted learned all about farming - getting hands on with the mucky work, milking cows and driving tractors. For the boys it was an idyllic upbringing. Ted later took on the business side of the farm after his sister-in-law, Christine, passed away and both Pat and Ted remained active in the day-to-day running of the farm until Pat's brother John died in 2010.

In 1985, Ted returned to Peria in Charmouth with his young family after the large house had been divided into three flats, close to his mother Lily, who lived in the flat downstairs for many years.

Ted was a strong sea swimmer, and a figure familiar to many as he swam daily throughout the year at Charmouth beach until he was in his late eighties. He continued to swim during the milder months including a dip or two this summer.

Many people recognise Ted from chats during his regular dog walks, he loved dogs, often borrowing Bynx and Shelby from Ben and Kerry, then proceeding to walk their legs off with Pat, leaving the dogs tired out and curled up with Ted on the chair.

I will be forever grateful that Ted was a true family man who welcomed both Kerry and myself into his family with open arms when we each met his sons, Mark and Ben. We couldn't have asked for a better father-in-law, and such a brilliant Grandpa to our children, we both hold dear memories of him crawling around on the floor with them all despite being over 80 years old, although you would never have guessed his age. He was a caring, reliable and supportive Dad, who set a great example of the benefits of hard work and who offered great advice, both practical and financial. I know that both Pat and Ted, who married a little later than most, never expected to see grandchildren, and have loved watching them grow into the wonderful young people that they are now.

In his own words, Ted led a 'very varied and contented life.' A true pillar of the community, a good friend, a dear Dad, Grandpa and much-loved husband, we will miss him, but always be thankful for his warm presence in our lives.

**Vicky Whatmore**



# Shoreline Charmouth - Village Diary

Adult Art Class	Mon 9.30am-12.30pm (term time only)	Village Hall, Wesley Close	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	Charlie Portlock cmportlock14@outlook.com
Beavers Scout Colony (ages 6-8)	Mondays 5.30 – 6.45pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Karen 07799 500720 karen.southcott@btinternet.com
Bowls Club <i>Summer:</i> <i>Winter Short Mat Bowls:</i>	Sun, Tues, Thurs 2 – 5.00pm Tues 2 – 5.00pm	Playing Field, Barr's Lane Community Hall Lower Sea Lane	Mike Jackson-Bass 01297 560484 mjbass@waitrose.com
Brownies (ages 7-10)	Wed 5.30 – 7.00pm (term time only)	St Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Lorraine Thom 07888 695022 LorrT6@aol.com
Bridge Club (partners can be provided)	Thurs 7.00 – 10.30pm	Charmouth Community Library, The Street	Stephen Penty 07753 493512
Charmouth Local History Society	No regular meetings at present	Phone for information	Helen Parker 561580
Charmouth Twinning Association	No regular meetings at present	Phone for information	Peter Bonner 560251
Charmouth Village People (Fun Activities)	One Wednesday per month. Please call Judith for details	The Village Hall	Judith Howells 07906 840950 or Kath Harper 07803 131757
Charmouth Village People: Meet Ups (Social afternoons)	Every Friday 2-4pm	Bank House Café	Judith Howells 07906 840950 or Kath Harper 07803 131757
Cherubs (Toddler Group 0-4 year old)	Wed 9.30 – 11.30am	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Kerry Whatmore 07858 910086
Cub Scout pack (ages 8-10½)	Thurs 5.30– 6.45pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Morris 07734 321904 morrisevans@hotmail.co.uk or Kevin 07976 534517 payne.kevin@gmail.com
Explorer Unit (ages 14-18)	Wednesday evening 6.30-8.00pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Clare 07932 089602 claremackenney@yahoo.co.uk
Gardeners	Outings, talks and social events	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Penny Rose 561076
Green Group	Email for details		Julie Leah charmouthgreen group@gmail.com
Guides	Email for information	Email for information	Debbie Thatcher 1stcharmouthguides@gmail.com
Knit and Natter group	Thursday 2 – 4pm	St. Andrew's Community Hall	Jan Coleman 561625
Line Dancing	Mon and Tues afternoons from 2.00-3.15pm	Village Hall, Wesley Close	Andrea Harfield 01297 561083
Parish Council Meeting	4th Tuesday of every other month 7.30pm	The Elms, The Street	Lisa Tuck 01297 560826 clerk@charmouthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Rainbows (ages 5-7)	Wed 5.30 – 7.00pm (term time only)	St Andrew's Community Hall, Lower Sea Lane	Lorraine Thom 07888 695022 LorrT6@aol.com
Stitch and Knit	Tuesdays 10.30 – 12.30pm	Charmouth Community Library, The Street	Pat Keogh 01297 489571
Scout Troop (ages 10½-14)	Thurs 6.45– 8.15pm	The Scout Hut, Barr's Lane	Alex 07922 078093 turningstones@talk21.com
Tennis Club		Charmouth Lawn Tennis Club	Kevin Clausner 07860 249443 www.charmouthtennisclub.org
Wyld Morris dancing practice	Wed 7.15pm	Pine Hall, Monkton Wyld Court	Briony Blair 01297 489546

*With apologies for any errors or omissions. Please send any corrections to editor@shoreline-charmouth.co.uk  
Please contact group leaders for the latest information*

# Shoreline Charmouth - Local Contacts

EMERGENCIES POLICE	Police, Fire, Ambulance or HM Coastguard	999 or 112
	PCSO Amanda King 6090 for Community Police issues (ask by name)	101
	Non urgent call number for reporting incidents / enquiries	101
	Bridport Police Station, Tannery Road	101
FIRE and RESCUE	West Dorset Fire and Rescue Service — Group Manager	01305 252600
HM COASTGUARD	Sidmouth Road, Lyme Regis (Not 24 hours)	01297 442852
DOCTORS	The Charmouth Medical Practice, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560872
	The Lyme Practice, Lyme Community Medical Centre, Lyme Regis	01297 445777
	NHS Direct — 24-hour Healthcare Advice and Information Line	0845 4647
HOSPITALS	Dorset County Hospital, Williams Avenue, Dorchester	01305 251150
	Bridport Community Hospital, Hospital Lane, Bridport	01308 426202
DENTISTS	Dorset Dental Helpline	01202 854443
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	National Rail Enquiries — Information on Timetables, Tickets and Train Running Times	08457 484950
	National Traveline — Information on Bus and Bus/Rail Timetables and Tickets	08712 002233
EMERGENCY	Gas	0800 111999
	Electricity (Western Power Distribution)	0800 365900
	Water (Wessex Water)	08456 004600
	Floodline	08459 881188
	Pollution (Environment Agency)	0800 807060
CHEMISTS	Charmouth Pharmacy, Mr Yang, The Street, Charmouth	01297 560261
	Boots the Chemist, 45 Broad Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442026
	Lloyds Pharmacy, Lyme Community Care Centre, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442981
SCHOOLS	Charmouth County Primary, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560591
	The Woodroffe School, Uplyme Road, Lyme Regis	01297 442232
CHURCHES	St Andrew's Parish Church, The Street, Charmouth. Revd Chris Martin	01297 561065
CHARMOUTH HALLS	Village Hall, bookings Gill Savage	01297 560615
	St Andrew's Community Hall, bookings Faye In Abode	01297 560505
	Youth Club Hall, bookings Polly Wild	07890 629117
	Charmouth Library - Clematis Room(up to 20) bookings - Penny Collins	07770 501088
COUNCILS		
CHARMOUTH PARISH	Chairman — Peter Noel	01297 561017
	Clerk — Mrs L Tuck, The Elms, St Andrew's Drive, Charmouth	01297 560826
	Heritage Coast Centre, Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth	01297 560772
	Beach Attendant, Charmouth Beach	01297 560626
DORSET COUNCIL	Councillor — Belinda Bawden- <a href="mailto:cllrbelinda.bawden@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">cllrbelinda.bawden@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>	01297 443739
	County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester — All services	01305 221000
DORSET'S PORTAL FOR COUNTY/DISTRICT/TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com">www.dorsetforyou.com</a>		
LOCAL M.P.	Chris Loder, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA or e-mail <a href="mailto:chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk">chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk</a>	0207 219 3912
CITIZENS' ADVICE	St Michaels Business Centre, Lyme Regis (Wed 10am-3pm)	01297 445325
	45 South Street, Bridport (Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)	01308 456594
POST OFFICES	Thursdays in the Charmouth Community Library 1015 - 1300 and 1330 - 1515.	
	Fridays in the The Hollands Room, Bridge Rd, Charmouth 1015 - 14.00	
LIBRARIES	The Street, Charmouth	01297 560640
	Silver Street, Lyme Regis	01297 443151
	South Street, Bridport	01308 422778
	South Street, Axminster	01297 32693
SWIM / LEISURE	Bridport Leisure Centre, Skilling Hill Road, Bridport	01308 427464
	Flamingo Pool, Lyme Road, Axminster	01297 35800
	Newlands Holiday Park, Charmouth	01297 560259
CINEMA	Electric Palace, 35 South Street, Bridport	01308 424901
THEATRES	Marine Theatre, Church Street, Lyme Regis	01297 442394
	Arts Centre, South Street, Bridport	01308 424204
	Guildhall, West Street, Axminster	01297 33595
TOURIST INFORMATION	Bucky Doo Square, South Street, Bridport	01308 424901



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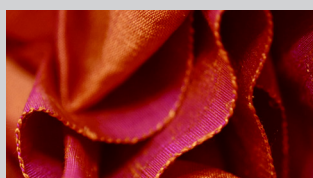
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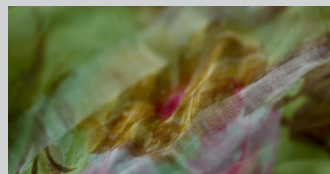


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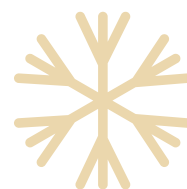
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07792 287701

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