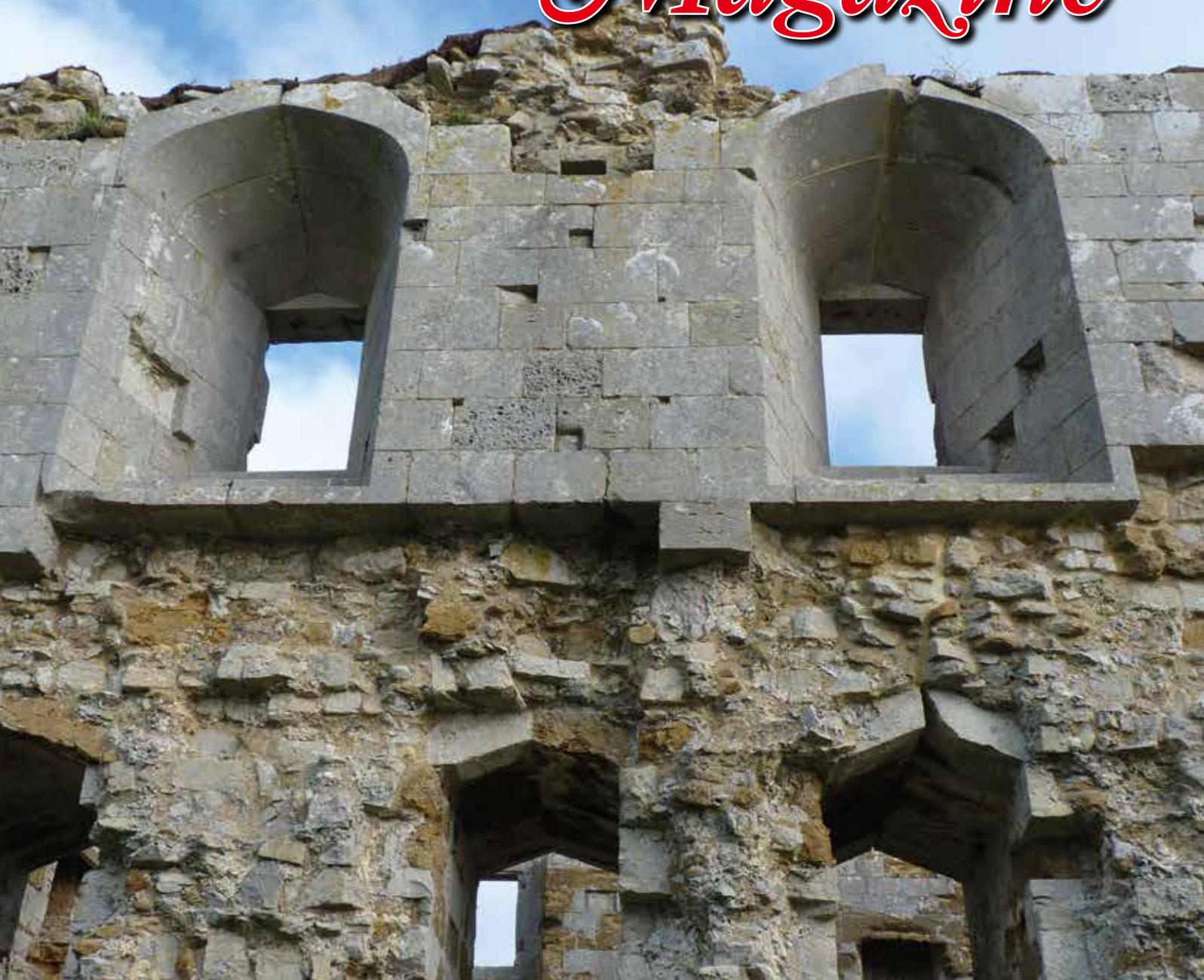


Register

Magazine

Issue No 354 October 2020



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Distributed to: Wyke Regis, Preston, Sutton Poyntz, Osmington and Osmington Mills

Local news

All Saints and St Edmunds church

News from your Parish Church in Wyke Regis; All Saints and St Edmunds churches

The church is starting to reopen and we offer services in line with Government and Church of England requirements. At present St Edmunds Church remains closed for services but will reopen shortly.

All Saints Church on Portland Road, Wyke Regis is open for the following (with participants wearing facemasks and social distancing) Please read carefully as there have been changes. Sundays: 9.15am Holy Communion with organ and small choir. Space for 50 is now available in church and this service will be Livestreamed for others to take part in their homes.

Tuesdays 5pm to 6pm – quiet prayer with a minister.

Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion for the over 70s and previously shielded patients

On the first Wednesday of the month Toddler Praise is normally held. Please check for details on our website or at The Rectory.

Livestream

The main parish service continues to

be a Livestream service at 9.15am on Sunday Mornings which can be accessed from your own home. An order of service is published each week so you can join in with the hymns and prayers. You can connect to the live stream service on the following links: Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/WykeRegisChurch/live> Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/allsaintswyke/> Parish website - <https://www.pari-shofwykeregis.org.uk/live/>

Morning and Evening Prayer can also be accessed live via Facebook at 9am and 5pm Tuesday to Friday. You can also connect with this at anytime if you miss these times.

In addition to the livestream service the parish also runs a live local news programme at 6pm and a quiz at 7.30pm on Saturdays, these can be accessed on the same links as above.

If you would like to make contact with your local church, we can be contacted on 01305 784649

Email info@parishofwykeregis.org.uk

Wyke Regis WI

We've all continued to keep busy in one way or another with some members meeting outdoors in small groups to play ukulele and discuss books. Our secretary has continued to keep everyone in touch with local

and national WI news.

We're now looking to restart some of our usual interest group activities and the hall has been equipped in line with coronavirus guidelines to allow us to do this. Restrictions will be in place as to numbers attending and movement through the building - all groups, including those non-WI groups who hire the hall, will have to abide by those.

There are no plans to restart the full monthly meetings at the moment as we do not have the space under the current guidelines to accommodate the numbers who usually attend.

So, a step towards 'normality' but we still all need to be careful.

You can find out more about Wyke Regis WI and what we do, by contacting us:

07719 312901;

secretary@wykeregiswi.org.uk;

www.wykeregiswi.org.uk;

Facebook- www.facebook.com/wykeregiswi/

Wyke Regis Society

I hope you are all well; in this time of pestilence it's unsurprising that there was not much enthusiasm for our planned meeting on 8th September, so this newsletter was sent out instead. If there is anything you want to bring up, my email remains georgina.s.skipper@gmail.com, phone no 761993.

I wonder if enough people would be interested in joining a WhatsApp group in the meantime? If you have a smartphone, email me your number and I will go about starting one up.

Not a great deal has happened since April; the shore field by Pirates Cove is in safe hands, however, and although plots were being advertised in May by Mr Hunt the Council assures us that 'nothing is being let slide'.

The church clock has been repaired and is striking and chiming again. We did not have enough people at the March meeting to vote to donate to this, so did not contribute.

Highways have been contacted about the poor state of the grass verges in the area and we are hoping to tidy the War Memorial in the next couple of weeks.

I understand the new owners of the NISA store on Portland Road hope to acquire the Post Officer franchise but it is taking a long time to sort out.

The Stop Portland Waste Incinerator group have a fundraising petition to commission an Air Quality report on change.org. For those not shielding, there was a meeting at Victoria Square on Saturday 12th September.

My enquiries regarding air quality on Portland Road have revealed that there are no particulate meters in the area. Particulates are the tiny particles, mostly from road traffic, which can be breathed in and adversely affect our lungs. I was surprised to get this response:

'Whilst vehicles will certainly be a high producer within our area of Dorset, we need to think holistically to other sources, which does include sea spray, salt, ash, soot, barbecues, agricultural activities, And within our homes, we have sources from domestic cleaning

products, deodorisers, heating and cooking. Also this may not be a local source, but a transboundary one.

Environmental Protection have seen a huge increase in the amount of bonfires that residents have been having during the COVID-19 lockdown – this is a very likely local source of particulates at this time. And of course, there will be a significant spike due to the Wareham Forest fire that will have been blown across our county and beyond.'

My point was that we need to control what we can; seaspray obviously being one of those we can't. I also pointed out that the high level registered on my mobile phone app showed up before the Wareham Forest fire took place. I hope that the much vaunted new national line of pollution will push some proactive policies. I am told that the Nox values in 2019 were acceptable, at half the danger level.

Continuing with the subject of the environment, there is a Climate Strategy Draft on this webpage:

<https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2020/07/15/draft-climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy-published-target-date-for-carbon-neutrality-set/>

Other websites you may be interested in - www.cleanjurassiccoast.uk (volunteers doing a sterling job); alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk (online Neighbourhood Watch); the Dorset Council websites and regular emails, oneteam@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and Zoe, which is collecting Covid19 information in all localities, <https://covid.joinzoe.com/data>

Let me know if you have any information/queries to share, Keep well.

Georgina (Chairman)

Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be holding an AGM this year. The Chair's Annual Report and the Accounts can be seen at the Trading Post on a Wednesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm, or a copy can be sent on request.

Onions have arrived; garlic and shallots should be available by the end of September. The Trading Post will continue to open on Weds afternoons only until further notice. The click and collect on Saturdays, paying via bank transfer, is also available.

You must be a Member to make a purchase - it costs £5 a year. For further information, email enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or visit the Trading Post when open. Answerphone 01305 759668.

Happy winner of Rainbow Bench

A beautiful Rainbow bench was delivered recently to the happy winner of the Sitting Spiritually raffle in aid of Dorset County Hospital's Covid-19 Appeal.

Winners Kate Robinson and Chris Case who live in West Dorset were delight-

www.registermagazine.co.uk

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Letters, articles and photographs are always welcome, but views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. We reserve the right to edit submissions if appropriate.

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Contributors: Chris Hubbard,
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shop

We hope to hold our popular Christmas Sing-A-Long in the Gardens on Sunday 13th December at 3pm.

However it is dependent on the latest Government Guidelines at the time concerning outside gatherings. Please check the events page on our website on the day to see if the event is definitely on!

Thanks for your Support.
<http://www.greenhill-gardens.co.uk>

News from Cllr Tony Ferrari, Cllr Louie O'Leary

Summer has almost passed, although weather forecasters are predicting it to return later in September and Autumn is approaching fast and what an interesting Autumn it is shaping up to be.

On the 3rd of September myself and fellow Dorset Councillor for Littlemoor and Preston Ward, Cllr Tony Ferrari, attended Dorset Council's Annual General Meeting. At this meeting we were officially appointed to our Committee seats. I am very honoured to have been selected to continue to serve on the Southern & Western Planning Committee, and Dorset Council's Harbour Committee. In addition I was also selected to serve on the Appeals Committee. Cllr Tony Ferrari has been appointed to the Cabinet role of Economic Development Member with a

ed to receive the bench which was assembled for them in their garden, despite the pouring rain.

The DCH Covid-19 Appeal continues to support the ongoing wellbeing and resilience of staff at Dorset County Hospital. For more information and to make a donation visit: www.justgiving.com/campaign/DCHCOVID-19Appeal. Financial donations may also be sent to: DCH COVID-19 Appeal, DCH Charity, Williams Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2JY.

Please do not bring financial donations in to the hospital at this time. To contact the Charity for further information ring 01305 253215 or email Charity@dchft.nhs.uk

Greenhill Gardens

We now have a range of Cards, Gifts and Souvenirs of Greenhill Gardens that can be purchased in time for Christmas.

Fantastic new Posters of the Gardens, Weymouth Bay and Portland Lighthouse are available.

Check out our website and ordering is easy!

<http://www.greenhill-gardens.co.uk/> *Continued on page 5*

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ps: I like strong tea with two sugars, please



Friary Care has extended its service to support people in the community of Weymouth.

Our highly trained staff are now available in Weymouth to provide a home care service built around health, well-being and companionship, for more details please contact Peter on Weymouth 787811, thank you.

Friary Home Care is a service tailored to support people living independently at home

The service is led by Peter Fry, the owner of Friary Care and Friary Home Care. Peter has over twenty years in the care sector and has created this new service to support independent living at home.

Peter believes wellbeing is the state of being comfortable, healthy, and happy and that to attain this, the right sort of support can make a huge difference to daily life. Aside from his role as proprietor, Peter is a very accomplished cook and believes good nutrition to be a key component of wellbeing.

Friary Home Care provides two dedicated services in the community: -

- **Shopping plus**, a shopping, health watch, nutritional support, and companionship service
- **Meals plus**, a daily meal service together with personal care, home independence, home support, and home recovery.

Both these services are provided by existing full-time members of the Friary Care team who have been with the company for several years, we never use agency staff.

With **Shopping Plus**, we will visit you twice per week, shop for you, using your shopping list, deliver it to your home and help put it away and

advise you on items and menus that can help to maintain good health and support you with the same range of regular health checks enjoyed by those who have made our care homes, their home.

Meals Plus provides a service of three meals per day, prepared in our own kitchens and delivered at pre-agreed times to your home. Our service not only provides the meal, but also allows time for us to undertake both personal and home care in accordance with a programme we will develop together.

With both these services seek to provide ongoing companionship and share time together to support your interests at home. We use the latest monitoring protocols to record our time with you and can allow family members to view your progress if this is something you would feel is reassuring to them.

During these times when Coronavirus is still with us, we all wear full PPE all staff are tested for Coronavirus every week and we use strict hygiene protocols, to ensure your safety, if you would like to learn more about preserving your independence, whilst accessing real support please call Peter Fry on Weymouth 787811. Thank you.

special responsibility for re-generation in Weymouth – so vital for all Weymouth residents. I am looking forward to my committee assignments in the next year especially the Harbour Committee. Under its new leadership and, after some membership changes, it has an exciting future ahead working with our fishing, diving, and commercial operators to develop a strategy to push all our harbours in the right direction.

We also voted on whether Councillors should receive an increase of £500 to their annual allowance. Thankfully this was overwhelmingly voted down by Councillors, with myself and Cllr Tony Ferrari both voting against this rise.

On a local level we have been dealing with flooding on Bodkin Lane and the Highways Department are currently investigating this. We had a similar problem on Bayard Road in Littlemoor where we arranged for sandbags to be deployed. The island leading to Chalbury Close have just been repaired af-

ter some long term damage. We are also working with Highways Department to see if something can be done about the bus route on Seven Acres where buses are getting stuck due to parking of cars. This is not an easy fix and will take a good deal of time talking to both Dorset Council and First Buses as well as with the residents. Another thing we are looking into is weed spraying around the Ward and to help I did get a spade out to clear some stubborn weeds in one street.

Littlemoor Food Bank closed on 4th September which has allowed the volunteers to have a well-earned break. However a new satellite foodbank will be opening under the Weymouth Food Bank umbrella at St Francis Church later this month I am currently arranging for all our stock to be transferred there. I would like to thank everyone who donated whether it be money, time or

Continued on page 8



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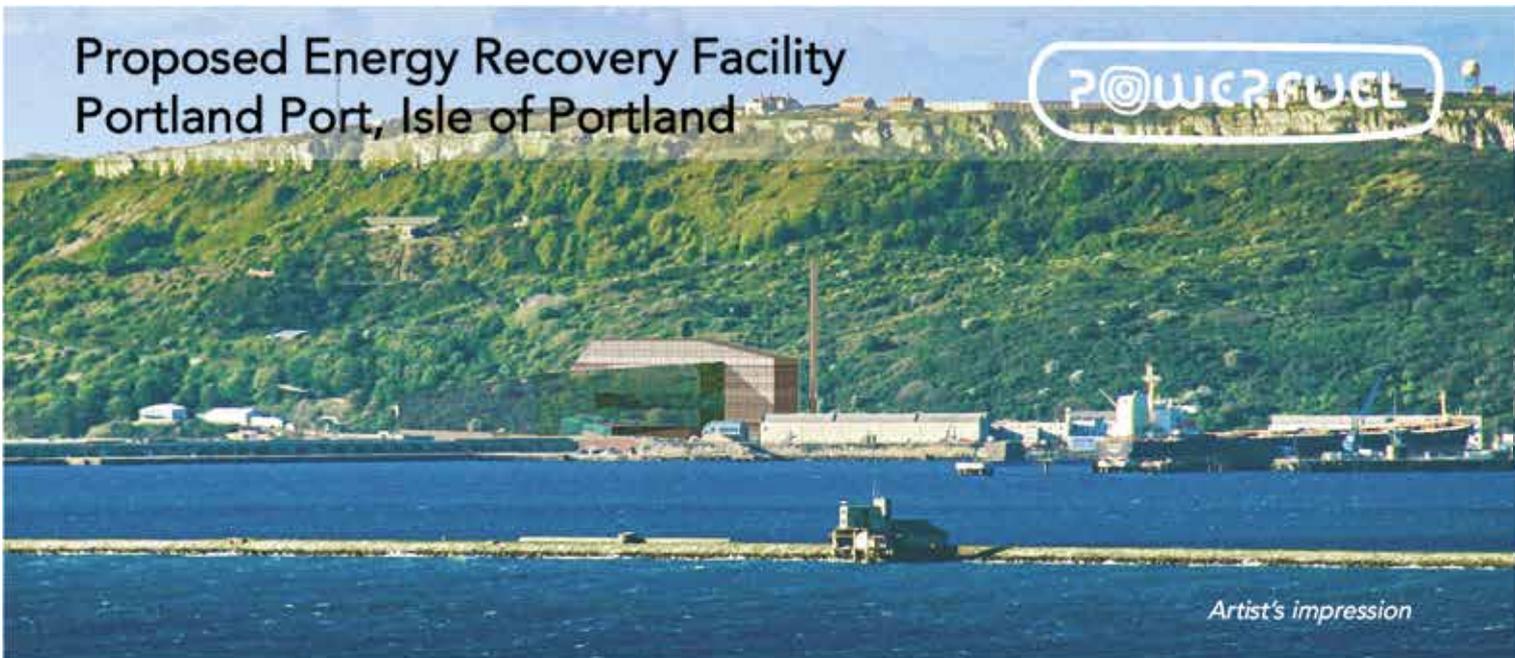
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Proposed Energy Recovery Facility Portland Port, Isle of Portland



Artist's impression

Powerfuel Portland has submitted a planning application to Dorset Council for the development of an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at Portland Port, that will use waste as a fuel to deliver 15MW of low carbon electricity.

Powerfuel appreciates that there have been some concerns about the project raised by some people, along with some misinformation about the ERF. The application clarifies that:

- The site of the ERF is a brownfield site within an industrial port
- Merchant facilities such as the proposed ERF do not reduce recycling rates
- The maximum increase in traffic to service the ERF amounts to just 0.4% of current daily traffic movements
- There is under-capacity in the UK for ERFs, with circa 3 million tonnes of waste exported to the EU every year and 14.5 million tonnes still being sent to landfill
- The Portland ERF will be a net-zero carbon project. Any net carbon produced will be verifiably offset
- The Portland facility will be one of a new generation of ERFs constructed to comply with the latest, most stringent, guidance and best available techniques, capturing 99.9% of particulates
- ERFs are carefully regulated by the Environment Agency in design and operation. There are more than 40 other established facilities operating every day in the UK, safely processing our waste
- Powerfuel has increased the height of the stack to ensure any potential effects on human health or ecology are deemed insignificant
- The heat from the ERF will be available for local businesses and community venues for heating
- Powerfuel will maximise employment opportunities at the ERF for local people, and is in discussions with Weymouth College to establish a training and apprenticeship scheme

The application will now be validated by Dorset Council before being subject to a period of consultation

To find out more visit: www.powerfuelportland.co.uk

Proposed Energy Recovery Facility Portland Port, Isle of Portland

POWERFUEL

PROJECT BENEFITS

15MW
low carbon
energy
generated

Enough energy to
power
30,000
homes



Up to **202,000 tonnes** of waste
diverted from landfill each year

Recyclable materials
removed prior to
treatment



Strictly monitored by
the Environment
Agency and will
comply with all
relevant legislation

Pledged to be a
Net-zero Carbon
energy recovery facility

Maximum increase in traffic amounts
to just **0.4%** additional
vehicle movements



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Offer training and
apprenticeships

**Powerfuel
Portland
will...**

Improve local
electricity
efficiency

Supply local
district
heating



Potential saving to
Dorset Council of
several **£million**
per year

PORT BENEFITS

The facility will be
located on an existing
brownfield site in a
working industrial port

The project will help sustain
Portland Port by paying
rent.

Shore power available for
visiting ships, boosting
the local economy and
reducing emissions



ECONOMIC BENEFITS



**30 full time
jobs** + training &
apprenticeships

60+ indirect jobs

300 jobs during construction

£100+ million
investment in Portland

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

The UK currently landfills



**14M
tonnes**

of waste every year

All local landfill disposal options have closed

100% of Dorset waste
is shipped out of the county



The UK exports around
2.7 million tonnes of
RDF to Europe,
representing a **significant
loss** of potential energy
recovery



stock. We have served over 500 people since we opened in March and I have been proud to be part of a wonderful team of volunteers. Thank you so much to everyone. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped in so many other ways with collecting shopping and collecting prescriptions to name just two. We will continue to monitor the need over the coming months and will be ready to help if required. If you have any issues which we can

help with, please contact us via email: Cllrlouie.oleary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or Tel: 07809 905412 or on Facebook at Cllr Louie O'Leary Littlemoor/Preston

Cllr Tony Ferrari, Cllr Louie O'Leary – Dorset Council

Free Benefits Surgeries

Age UK North, South & West Dorset

holds regular surgeries where over 50s can come and ask an expert questions about benefits they may be entitled to receive.

Working in partnership with Dorset Council, these benefit advice sessions are one-to-one surgeries, free and by appointment only. Due to the current situation, these surgeries will go ahead on the planned dates but will be by telephone only.

Sessions will operate on the following date:

Weymouth area – Thursday 8th October

For further details of other ways in which Age UK North, South & West Dorset can help you at this time, please telephone 01305 269444 or look at the website: ageuk.org.uk/northsouthwestdorset/

New exhibition at Gallery on the Square

Dorchester artist Caz Scott exhibits her latest work from October 10 to November 10, 2020.

Her new exhibition at Gallery on the Square will feature her latest work celebrating the beauty of the local landscape inspired by the Jurassic coastline.

'I believe there isn't a place that compares to the one where the world has come alive to you, where you know every rock, every path, and now all these images are held so clearly in my mind,' says Caz, who is currently artist in residence at The Etches Collection, Museum of Jurassic Marine Life,

at Kimmeridge. The gallery is situated in the middle of Poundbury in Queen Mother Square. For more information contact Caz on: Tel. 01305 757096, 07951 611964 Email. cazscott.art@gmail.com Web. www.caz-scott.co.uk

C'Siders - Cancer Support Group

C'Siders Cancer Support Group is still here for anyone in our area who has been affected by cancer- be they a patient, partner, carer or friend. Although all face to face meetings remain on hold at this time, a call to our helpline 07430 695462 can put you in touch with other members or answer any questions you may have.

We are pleased to say our C'Fit Rehabilitation Exercise Classes at the Osprey Leisure Centre have restarted. Full details of what's involved and how to join may be found on our website or by calling Dawn Haigh at Osprey Leisure Centre on 01305 824378.

For the most up to date information about the group and future plans, please visit our website csiders.org, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/csiderswp, e-mail info@csiders.org or contact us on 07430 695462.

Modern Day Slavery

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1818 until 1837. He helped to found the Anti-Slavery Society and successfully campaigned for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire. Unfortunately 200 years later modern day slavery still exists both here and overseas.

The coronavirus pandemic and the spike in cases in Leicester exposed the working conditions in the textile factories there. Workers had been forced to continue working throughout the lockdown in overcrowded conditions for much less than the minimum wage. The Fairtrade movement stands against all forms of modern day slavery. The 10 principles of Fairtrade include no forced labour, no discrimination, fair payment and good working conditions as well as transparency and accountability for all Fairtrade certified companies but there is still much to be achieved. Fortunately, awareness of the problem is growing and in 2015 the Government produced the Modern Slavery Act. This was updated in April this year introducing a provision which requires large businesses to produce a statement setting out the steps they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their own business or their supply chains. Organisations will need to build on what they are doing year on year but hopefully this is a move in the right direction and will eventually apply to all businesses. Traidcraft Exchange is a charity which continually campaigns to improve worker conditions in the third world. Their successful campaign 'Who picked my tea?' targeted tea producers in Assam, India. They persuaded 6 of the UK's biggest tea brands to reveal their suppliers, down to the exact tea estate and are now able to support the workers on those estates in their struggle for better pay and working conditions. One of their current campaigns is entitled Hidden Hands. In India and Pakistan homeworkers, mostly very poor women, are the 'hidden hands' behind many of our products, particularly in the clothing industry, but UK brands often don't know that they have homeworkers in their supply chain. Homeworkers have no job security, no sick pay and no guaranteed income. They are paid a pittance for their work and have to wait to be paid until the manufacturer is paid for the order, often months later. The coronavirus pandemic has made this situation much worse with many High

Street brands cancelling orders and breaking contracts which means workers, at home and in the factories have not been paid for the work they have done. I don't want to 'name and shame' here but the Traidcraft Exchange website makes interesting reading. They have produced a chart showing the companies they have challenged and the answers they have been given.

Ultimately it is us, the consumer, who the businesses are accountable to. We should be asking 'who grew my food?' 'who made my clothes?' 'have you honoured your contracts?' and then choosing to shop with the most ethical companies who can give us the answers.

We can be contacted through our facebook page The Bridge Fair Trade Shop, by email at thebridgefairtrade@gmail.com or by telephone on 01305 772842.

The Bridge Fair Trade Shop, 24 Trinity Road, Weymouth, DT4 8TJ. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Free Benefits Surgeries

Age UK North, South & West Dorset holds regular surgeries where over 50's can come and ask an expert questions about benefits they may be entitled to receive.

Working in partnership with Dorset Council, these benefit advice sessions are one-to-one surgeries, free and by appointment only. Due to the current situation, these surgeries will go ahead on the planned dates but will be by telephone only.

Sessions will operate on the following date:

Weymouth area - Thursday 8th October

Lisa Holmes from Age UK North, South & West Dorset said, "We are working in partnership with Dorset Council and can assist older people to access the benefits they are entitled to such as Attendance Allowance and Pension Credit.

'If anyone is not sure about the benefits they may be able to claim, I would encourage them to make an appointment at one of our surgeries. We are also still offering help to complete benefit forms such as Attendance Allowance forms over the telephone through our welfare benefits team.' To book a telephone appointment for Dorchester, Weymouth or Bridport, please ring Age UK North, South &

West Dorset on 01305 269444 or email Janice: jwebb@ageuknswd.org.uk For further details of other ways in which Age UK North, South & West Dorset can help you at this time, please telephone 01305 269444 or look at the website: ageuk.org.uk/northsouthwestdorset/

Question a legal expert over the phone for free

Age UK North, South & West Dorset, in partnership with local solicitors, is holding a free over the phone service for anyone over 50 to ask an expert questions about wills, power of attorney, property and finances.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, these surgeries will go ahead on pre-planned dates by telephone and will be by appointment only.

Dates for the next surgeries in partnership with Nantes Solicitors are: Weymouth area - Wednesdays 7th October.

Weymouth Golf Club's New Head Greenkeeper

Born and bred in Weymouth, 52 year old Robert (Rob) Mabb is the newly appointed Head Greenkeeper at Weymouth Golf Club.

A talented amateur golfer, Rob first worked part time at the Club as a 16 year old before being taken on as a trainee Greenkeeper in 1985 by the recently retired Head City & Guilds examinations at Kingston Mauwood and

Sparsholt colleges alongside trainee Greenkeepers from some of the most prestigious golf clubs in the country. Rob manages the 120 acres of Weymouth Golf Club with a staff of three full-time and one part-time Greenkeeper. An apprentice Greenkeeper is currently being recruited.



Bridging The Gap Between the Church and the Community With Music

Holy Trinity Church on the town bridge welcomes their new Director of Music James Lloyd Thomas. His role will be to develop and enhance the music with the choir, public events and concerts in this special place.

Holy Trinity is well established and widely regarded as the town's church, being the main focus for Civic occasions, the RNLI and the fisherman's mission. The church has big plans and a forward-thinking vision to re-order the church as a result of the sale of St

Continued on page 10

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Nicholas site on Buxton Road. As part of this process and at the very heart of worship is the quality of music and liturgy. The church has excellent acoustics due to its size and vast space as testified by many visiting choirs and professional musicians. We are very fortunate to recruit someone of Jame's quality and experience.

Previous posts include, Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral Nelson in New Zealand, Director of Music, Harrow International School Hong Kong and Associate Organist, St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong and more recently Director of Music at St Thomas' Stourbridge near Birmingham.

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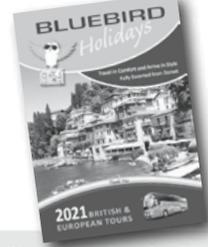
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Haribo Sweets Style Children's Sketch

From the author of the popular Mini Pantos comes another hilarious sketch!

A new sketch where adults play the parts of children, similar to the Haribo sweets television adverts is now available.

As with the Mini Pantos performances, the Children's Sketch need no rehearsals, no line learning, no costumes, involves just four adults and takes about 15 minutes.

The Sketch is £20 but is being given away free to the first ten people who read the Register Magazine who order. Contact: Iain Campbell

E: iaincampbellgo@yahoo.co.uk
T: 01305 768446

W: www.minipantos.com

Preston Friendship Club

Here we are, well into Autumn, and I'm sure our members are still buoyant and optimistic in spite of everything. I have just seen a headline on TV, 'Is Christmas cancelled?'. Oh no, definitely not, might have to adapt a bit, but the essence of our Christian festival, peace, goodwill, and love, that's indestructible.

I'm not writing about Coronavirus either, we all know about that. Take a break.

In this time of concern it can seem as if there is little over which to rejoice, but there is. Life's simple human joys appear out of nowhere, and we are smiling again.

Here is a story in point.

One of our members was anticipating a few days of fun with her visiting relatives. They have a lovely little holiday home down in the Haven complex, so, sunshine, sandy beach, and sparkling sea, mother, daughter, delightful little granddaughters all together, what could be nicer?

The youngest aged 5 loves the swimming pool and plays happily and confidently in the water, but, understandably the sea seems a little daunting in comparison. However, Mum, wearing her wetsuit, went with her elder daughter, aged 11 into the waves at Bowleaze. It was great. Then suddenly Mum said "ooh, there's something soft down by my feet, is it the sand? . Gosh, it's moving." Suddenly up popped a head beside them. It was Sammy the seal! He was ready to play. 'It was just magical'

Continued on next page



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Tim West's View



Ringing true

I've been listening to some BBC pods on the manufacturing of doubt, a technique to muddy the waters of truth.

Two good examples spring to mind: smoking kills but was not publicly banned in England until 2007 [2005 in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales]; fossil fuels cause global warming but some still don't accept this even now. Active doubt sources have delayed acceptance of truth.



bbc.co.uk

Continued from previous page

she said. He came right up to her chest, face to face, as close as he could be. They looked into each other's eyes, and it was a real communion, instant understanding. He wanted to be friends, to play, to enjoy the company, to have fun. Gently he took her wrist between his lips 'just like our little dog, a Schnoodle does when he wants to make contact and get our attention'. Seals are social animals, they live, survive, play and communicate with one another in social groups. Sammy is no different but he seems to be a lone seal and so he seeks human companionship.

Well, mother, daughter and Sammy played together, swam together, touched and had a sort of conversation. They said that it was an amazing experience encountering such a beautiful,

The new game is rowing back on agreements. Our government has publicly admitted defaulting on Brexit, and condoning 'eye test' behaviour while expecting everyone else to follow Covid 19 etiquette. Jesus had harsh words against any form of hypocrisy or self-righteousness. So what should you and I do?

How about celebrating truth in the way we tell it? There's no such thing as a cantankerous Christian; Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine at a wedding reception. He delighted in celebrating true love. Of course we might be sad or heartbroken by the weight we carry, but God's love seeks our eternal fulfilment. We can delight in the truth that sets us free.

The greatest sermons don't need words! If we ring true that can be far more powerful than grand clever pronouncements. It's not about slick performance, no it's being real that counts.



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We should encourage truth at every level. We should tell it how it is! It belongs to us all, like tax. If someone fiddles their tax return to pay less than they should, they're defrauding you and me. If someone breaks the speed limit [hands up, I have] they are making our roads less safe. Take away truth and our world ceases up. Delighting in the truth is an excellent pastime.

loving, creature who obviously loved being with humans, wanted friends. Maybe she should've signed him up for our Club, special membership. Anyway they swam and frolicked, laughed and played. Sammy wanted it never to end. "It was like swimming with Dolphins in Florida except that here it was communing with the beautiful Sammy in Preston. It was just wonderful. 'Something amazing happened, we really did communicate'.

Finally Sammy got a little boisterous in his enthusiasm so they took a fond farewell. He tried to follow, but then another swimmer appeared, Sammy turned, maybe to find a new companion but she was not like our member's daughter, she wasn't responding. So Sammy swam away.

Apparently, or so it is said, our Sammy on Weymouth bay enjoys 'turfing people

off paddle boards' and 'climbing onto kayaks'. One supposes that it might be a bit alarming for 'townie' holiday makers, unused to such things, but actually that's Sammy, getting attention, trying to make friends, play a few games, swim together cos that's what seals do.

Overall our member's daughter and grandchild had an unexpected experience which they say they will never forget and have shared it with the family and with us as it turns out. It made a profound impression on them that will live with them for the rest of their lives. As this story was told to me I could feel how much it had meant to the family, and I thought what a blessing in this time of worry and confusion to know that it is the sudden, unlooked for pleasures and delights that appear out of the blue, shared with family and friends that lift the gloom and let the light shine in again.

Dorothy Lawrence.

The Green Homes Grant

A government grant for homeowners in England is available from the end of September 2020 to help pay for certain energy efficient home improvements including insulation. All homeowners can apply for funding for at least two thirds of the cost of eligible home improvements, up to a total value of £5,000. Some homeowners will qualify for vouchers covering the total cost of home improvements, costing up to £10,000.

You must install either insulation or low-carbon heating to qualify for the vouchers. These are called 'primary' measures under the scheme and include: Insulation: solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, under-floor insulation, loft insulation, flat roof insulation, room-in-roof insulation, park home insulation, air-source heat pump, ground-source heat pump, solar thermal water heating. You can apply for top-up insulation if you don't already have the maximum recommended amount, but the vouchers can't be used to replace existing insulation or low-carbon heating. To have low-carbon heating installed, your home will need to have cavity or solid wall insulation and loft insulation (where applicable). You can have these installed as part of a package.

If you install one of the improvements in the list above using the scheme, you can then also get vouchers for a 'secondary' energy-saving measure such as double glazing, triple glazing or secondary glazing (only when you're replacing single glazing), energy-efficient doors (only if you are replacing doors fitted before 2002), water tank and appliance thermostats.

Homeowners will need to complete an online application form, which will be available through the government's Simple Energy Advice service when the scheme launches. You'll also be able to apply by post or phone (0800 444202) if you can't access the internet.

The scheme is only open until the end

of January 2021.

To report something to Dorset Council Trading Standards contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> or by calling their new freephone number 0808 223 1133.

News from St Andrew's School, Preston

Welcome Back!

We were delighted to finally open our doors to all pupils at the beginning of September. Whilst some measures have been maintained to ensure everyone's safety, our 'bubbles' have grown to accommodate full classes back at school.

On the first morning, we were overwhelmed to see so many cheerful smiling little faces as the children returned. They were all so pleased to see their friends and their teachers – a fabulous start to the school year.

Things are a little different for us; we still do not have large gatherings so our daily worship takes place virtually. Lunches are eaten in classrooms by KS2 pupils, and we have staggered break times and lunchtimes to keep each bubble separate. We wash our hands regularly and have even taken on our 'handwashing conga' as a new routine, dancing around the room in our lines as we get our hands washed! One of aspiring journalists, Jack Spokes, has written his first piece of 'news' to report back on what it has been like to come back to school.

My first day back

I was very nervous when I woke up. I went downstairs and had breakfast. I got ready and went to school. When I got there, I had to wash my hands. That's when I knew it would be different. When I got on the playground it was covered in tape to show us where we could play. We washed our hands again. Lunch was different as we ate in our classroom but we could still play afterwards. I enjoyed playing with my friends and colouring. My mum picked me up at a different time. It was good to be at school.

We have started the year with a whole school unit based on a lovely book – Here we are.

Following on from this, each pod will then be working on their new themes for the Autumn term. Whilst we can't welcome visitors in just yet, please do let us know if you can lend us any expertise or specialism regarding any of these themes!

Reception – Will you read me a story?
KS1 – 'This is me'
LKS2 – Our green world: The Amazon
UKS2 – Off with her head! : the Tudors

A plea! We hope to further improve our opportunities for learning outside. We are on the look out for milk crates, wooden pallets, guttering and large tyres so we can create a more enticing learning environment for our youngest children.

If you think you can help then please contact Adam Spokes at St.

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Andrew's CE Primary School on 01305 832346. Thank you.

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with what's happening at St Andrew's via our website www.standrewswey.dsat.org.uk, or our social media pages facebook <https://www.facebook.com/standrewswey/> or twitter @StAndrewsWeyPri

Christmas Fayre Cancelled

We are sorry to disappoint the many hundreds of people who join in the fun in Wyke Square each year but due to the ongoing difficulty with physical distancing during corona virus pandemic

Wyke Christmas Street Fayre will not take place this year. We look forward very much to welcoming you to our event again next year. Sunday 5th December 2021.

Your councillor update

Weymouth Town Council (Wyke Regis) and Dorset Council (Rodwell & Wyke Regis)

Each since lockdown brought new government guidelines on the coronavirus. Often not quite as helpful as they might have been because they contradicted the guidance of the day before. This created real challenges. Particularly evident for harbour users, our charter fishing and diving boats were desperate to get back to work. Guidance from DEFRA was slow and often not too clear. National reports would indicate that Dorset Council were among the best in distributing the support grants to local companies but receiving support for our local fishermen was hard work although finally achieved.

The easing of physical distancing for the hospitality industry was especially challenging. Both new councils had said they would always consult residents before actions were taken but that became impossible to achieve when we were required to act so quickly. And the new emergency powers stated that consultation was not required! Nevertheless we did our best to speak to as many residents and businesses as possible as we started to formulate plans for the safe opening of pubs, restaurant and cafes. Sadly, this caused misinformation to fly like wildfire and before we knew it incorrect messages were rife. Again my phone was ringing from early morning until late at night. In hindsight perhaps we should have started a consultation before we knew what the government required us to do, but would that have been wise? It might have created even more confusion?

Finding safe ways to operate, in a picturesque working environment that attracts hundreds of visitors is difficult even in normal circumstances and always requires compromise. Perhaps because every emotion has been heightened in recent months and businesses were really struggling compromise seemed in short supply. Despite that, and despite

some very harsh words being spoken a workable scheme around the harbour and the town centre was implemented. Ward councillors attended a virtual meeting with the cabinet member and officers and were in unanimous agreement on the plans. Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council staff worked tirelessly to achieve this and are to be thanked for the good humour and care they took with every comment and request they received. I am very grateful. Staff have monitored the arrangements and responded quickly to any problems. We now have the time for proper consultation and feed back and if any traffic restriction is implemented again it will be with the knowledge that it has agreement from as many people as possible. Next time there needs to be a much more holistic approach with a full traffic flow assessment.

Many of you are now back at work, I hope that is going well? Many will continue working from home, maybe permanently. I sit on an Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) concerned with ICT and digital working. One thing we all agree is that it is vital for the economy of Dorset for us to have fast, reliable and robust broadband connection across the County. We are told that broadband coverage in Dorset is below national figures and certainly we can all attest to the frequent loss we all experience. This really does need more work. At a recent planning meeting the vice chairman was unable to gain access at all, two other members had problems.

A consultation will begin very soon with the owners of the mast at Wyke Regis and neighbours about 5G. We had problems with noise nuisance from the mast years ago and I have asked that all neighbouring properties have a contact name and number for the future. I have also been assured that the consultation will cover a wider area not just the houses nearby. The EAP for Dorset Council area Local Plan has continued to meet virtually and frequently, we are anxious not to delay the timeline. The plan will soon be ready for the first consultation process. This will probably be on-line initially but as soon as it is safe to do so open meetings will be held. I will continue to sit on the panel. Whilst we learnt how to conduct virtual meetings and awaiting legislation no planning meetings were held. We are now catching up for lost time with meetings covering a full day and being scheduled more frequently. They are hard work and we do not address as many applications as usual so it will still be a little while before the backlog is reduced. However, the meetings are available live on-line so they are able to remain democratic. I am pleased that I retain my sit on the Western and Southern Planning Committee. Cllr Lucy Hamilton chairs the Planning and Licence Committee at Weymouth Town Council, the cttee looks at every application registered across the Borough.

The EAP on climate change has also continued in a virtual format as we are all keen that coronavirus does not slow down the process. I am not a member of

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How do you say that?

A different spelling indicates a different meaning, although not always a different pronunciation. But some spellings are left over from early English; they used to be pronounced differently, but now they sound the same.

We can see the difference between 'fore' and 'for', and they also have different meanings; 'fore', like 'before', indicates the past, in words like 'forebear' (ancestor or predecessor) and 'foregoing' (previous). We sometimes use these nowadays, but we also hear 'forbear' (to resist doing something) and 'forgo' (to give something up). And everyone uses 'forget'.

'For' in these is the same as the 'for' in forget and forbid and originally meant un-. To forget literally means un-get, to give something up. So let's not forget the difference between forebear and forbear!

GS



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Emotional Overload!

Given the exceptional circumstances we have all been experiencing since lockdown in March it is not surprising to learn that GPs are reporting an upsurge of patients reporting anxiety as a major concern.

I can fully appreciate how some may be feeling apprehensive especially when being encouraged to return to work. Feeling confused and frustrated at conflicting and changing advice are common remarks from patients. It is becoming more evident that guidelines need to be flexible and people generally can understand why. However, there is a difference between flexibility of approach as a response to changing situations and the reckless disregard of personal responsibility to others.

I have empathy with the men and women who may feel pressured to

clock in as their children are ushered back to school. Confusion exists through unclear guidelines and mixed messages and frustration stems from there being a lack of a logical order or plain common sense to the plans put forward by policy makers. When I hear decision makers bluster and use glib one liners I'm afraid I tend to switch off... literally. I resort to my TVs trusty remote control.

Like always the British public will as in any crises bunker down and get on with the job. If that means returning to work they will moan a little and then comply. In the belief that it is better for them to try and return to the norm. The problem is there can't be a return to the norm... what we are experiencing now is the new norm...

I too have experienced an up-surge in patients expressing symptoms of anxiety and the following brief case study illustrates a patient experiencing emotional overload.

Mrs S came for reflexology treatment to help with anxiety. She arrived wearing a home-made cotton mask and said she was having great difficulty coping with it. In fact coping with

the whole covid situation. I noticed she was very tense and twitchy, finding it difficult to sit still and relax. I offered her a blue medical paper mask re-assuring her that she would find it easier to breathe with this. I started the reflexology treatment and she began to breathe a little slower. I could see from her eyes that she was calming down and settling. We started discussing the source of her anxiety. As often happens Mrs S began to talk about a series of worries. We identified that she was concerned about how safe she would be returning to the office. She was fearful of infecting her aged mother who she cared for and that her grandchildren might pass on the virus when they visited. I assured her that these fears are quite normal and that there must be hundreds of people having the same worries as her at this time. We discussed the workplace and the value of talking to her line manager and maybe she would feel more confident if she read the risk assessment that would have needed to be carried out. This document identifies risks rates them and provides solutions to reduce the risk. We discussed the pressures associated with being a carer for a high-risk member of the family. The emotional cost and the increased workload for the carer. This

stress might be eased by encouraging other members of the family to become involved, maybe by doing the washing or ironing these simple tasks can seem overwhelming when struggling to cope. Having youngsters visit can be up-lifting for both the cared for and the carer, however in these in these circumstances I'm sure family would understand that a video call or skype with granny can be just as much fun as a visit.

After 45 minutes of reflexology and talking Mrs S said she felt so much better and so relaxed she could fall asleep. She thanked me for helping her put her worries into perspective and that she was going home to make a phone call to her workplace and to some of her family.

Contact Tel 01305 784986. abigailwring@btinternet.com www.dorsetclinicalreflexology.co.uk Abigail is fully qualified, insured and DBS checked with 30 years professional experience specialising in Clinical Reflexology, Allergy Testing, Nutrition and Counselling. Author of 'Holistic Health Tips' available from Buena Vista Gypsy Lane Weymouth Dorset DT4 0BZ. £9.00.inc p&p.

Local news

Continued from page 13

this panel but attend as an observer.

Because virtual meetings require extra staff priorities were given to regulatory and the main scrutiny meetings. Sadly this meant that the most recent Harbours Committee had to be cancelled. I did however keep weekly virtual meetings with harbour masters and senior staff and provided committee members with updates. We were able recently to hold a workshop to discuss the Joint Harbours Strategy, another item that I was anxious remains on target, and the harbours revision order for Lyme Regis and Bridport (West bay). I am assured the next Harbour Committee scheduled for the end of September will take place, it was hoped this might be a hybrid with some attending in person and some online, but with recent changes this will almost certainly be virtual.

As many of you will know committee places are awarded by proportionality and since I do not belong to the majority party I no longer sit on the Harbour Committee.

Dorset Council Full Council early in September became the Annual meeting and was held virtually. It was very well attended. Two new committees were created by splitting Scrutiny from Overview. This is a good idea since the two roles are quite different. You will probably already know that a majority of members voted against accepting a £500 increase in allowances. Basic allowances remain at £13000pa. It is important that allowances remain realistic in order to encourage a more diverse mix of elected members and not exclude those on low incomes who may be disadvantaged by volunteering their time. Fortunately the days of council being made up of elderly, retired gentlemen from the Shires has almost gone. There are still too many

older people and too many men but we are slowly changing the balance. These meetings are all recorded and can be accessed either live or on the Council website later.

Each new week brings new challenges and new ways of working. Dorset Council, for a new council have done well, adult social services have been able to support our care homes with PPE and with advice. I am proud of the service that they have offered the elderly and vulnerable in our community. I am particularly pleased that we have maintained some respite care to many of the most in need. A vital resource for our carers.

Our children's services have also been very stretched but have done a terrific job. I am excited by my new role as Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board. I have taken part in this board before and it is challenging but rewarding work, which I will try to tell you more about in the coming months.

Not everything has been good, the placing of so many homeless and vulnerable people in a small area was not a good idea but since the government had instructed to remove them from the street within 24 hours and no other area was prepared to offer a safe haven I am proud that Weymouth did not turn it's back. Of course, some took advantage but many more were hugely grateful and are now on their way to rehabilitation.

Portland food bank was very busy right from the start of lockdown and we predict that will continue into the New Year. With our older team of volunteers continuing our work was challenging but the management committee were able to devise ways of with dealing with the demand. We are so grateful to all the new younger volunteers and we understand as you return to work you are no longer

available to us. Many wonderful younger volunteers have remained with us and with some returners and new systems we continue to open our doors to those in need twice a week, on Friday and Tuesday mornings. We are so grateful to those of you who although unable to put your

donations in a trolley as you did your own shopping sent us money instead. With food donations down although we are no longer spending £1000 per week on food we are still having to buy a lot

Continued on page 19



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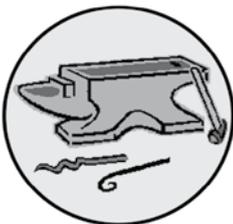
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Over the Hill

With Chris Hubbard

Last month was Part 1 in the two part series entitled 'Confessions of a reluctant Gardener', as you may remember. Or, if you are a true Senior Citizen, you won't remember. In fact you will have absolutely no recollection of what occurred yesterday, never mind a month ago.

But I digress. In last time's cliff hanger ending we had reached the point at which broad beans entered the fray. On the subject of cliff hanger endings, did you ever go to the Saturday morning film shows for kids? Six old pence to get in, with a cartoon, a cowboy film and an adventure serial. In this, the hero and heroine always ended the episode at risk of imminent death at the hands of the arch villain. The following week they escaped with surprising ease from his clutches. Sometimes the episodes were screened in the wrong order which made no difference to our enjoyment.

But I digress again. Back to broad beans. Some time after planting the seeds – just enough in fact to make me think they weren't coming up – small green shoots emerged from the earth. When this happened I became overly protective and wondered how to prevent the slugs making a meal of them. The obvious solution was to scatter some little blue poisonous pellets, but my In-house Adviser pointed out that the birds would then eat the slug remains and be poisoned themselves. Well, I couldn't have that on my conscience. So I googled 'how to stop slugs organically' and was overwhelmed by the horde of ideas that sprang from my computer screen.

The first idea was a beer trap, consisting of a plastic cup half buried in the earth containing - as you have probably guessed - beer. Tempted by the smell the slugs are supposed to fall into the cup. This was a non-starter, as who in their right mind is going to waste beer on slugs?

The next suggestion was the use of copper tape. The theory is that the mucus – a disgusting word – secreted by the slugs, reacts with copper and gives the slugs an electric shock. Hence they won't cross the tape. Yeah, right, and you still have to spend money to buy the tape which apparently has to be cleaned regularly with vinegar to remain effective. Sounds like a lot of expense and effort.

Another idea was to encourage animals such as hedgehogs, birds, beetles, frogs, and toads which regard the slugs as a tasty snack. All I had to do was make my garden more appealing to these animals by building a hedgehog shelter, installing a pond and setting up bird feeders. Doing all that seemed to be a full time job of work.

But I liked the fourth choice, which was crushed egg shells. Allegedly slugs prefer not to cross sharp edges, so they avoid the broken shells. A bonus is that

the calcium in the shells enriches the soil, and this method costs nothing. Or in modern speak, you get it 'for free', not a phrase in English as far as I am concerned. Also 'for free' is spreading used coffee grounds around your plants, which slugs are supposed to hate. Neither are they very keen on seaweed, because of its high salt content and there's a lot of seaweed around Weymouth.

So that was enough 'for free' ideas to start with, and I spread the egg shells and coffee grounds liberally around my broad beans; seaweed collecting was too much work. However I suspect that the slugs were avoiding my barricades by parachuting over them onto my beans, because they went on chomping the plants despite my desperate measures to try and stop them.

The final straw was an infestation of blackfly. Don't know where these came from, but the cure was said to be a soapy water spray but that didn't work either. So admitting defeat I pulled up the badly battered beans on the basis that if I couldn't have them, the slugs and blackfly wouldn't have them either. My In-house Adviser said this was vindictive, but feeding pests is not something that comes naturally to me.

The good news is that the runner beans were now right at the top of their pole and had set a lot of flowers. 'Set' is a technical term that Monty Don uses on Gardener's World. I prefer him to Alan Titchmarsh, who lost it for me when he went around redesigning people's gardens when they were away for the day. On return they always expressed surprise and delight at the result of Alan's efforts, but they were hardly likely to say 'I don't like that at all, put it back the way it was' were they?

But I digress once again. So the runner beans have bean (pun intended) a great success, with a lot to pick. But the exploits of my Junior In-house Adviser and her husband Steve have put me to shame. They have installed raised beds from which stream a constant supply of tomatoes, spring onions, chillies, peppers, carrots, peas, potatoes and more. They have a wild flower meadow as lawn, houses for bees plus bird feeders that attract all manner of birds. Whereas my bird feeder is a squirrel and pigeon al fresco restaurant, as they Hoover up the seeds on an industrial scale.

But I take heart that the winter is coming, when it is acceptable to sit inside and watch the garden, rather than be outside trying to tame it. And surfing the net on how to deter pigeons and squirrels, and save up lots of egg shells and coffee grounds. The only trouble is, by the time the spring comes around I will have forgotten all about this year's growing disasters and set out with optimism undaunted to try again. As Scarlett O'Hara says at the end of the film 'Gone with the Wind' - 'After all, there's always tomorrow'. But then, she wasn't trying to grow broad beans.

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	Holy Trinity, Bincombe	Said Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew, Preston	Said Holy Communion
	St Nicholas, Broadwey	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	St Francis, Littlemoor	Lay led worship
11.00am	St Laurence, Upwey	Said Holy Communion
4.00pm	St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers	Said Holy Communion

Who's Who

Team Rector Canon Tim West (normal rest day: Thu) The Rectory, The Weir, Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6BX (01305) 833142 weymouth.ridgeway.rector@gmail.com www.facebook.com/canon.tim.west

For St Andrew, Preston; or St Osmund, Osmington please contact **Administrator** Shirley Mitchell 4 Church Rd., Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6BU (01305) 837147 or weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

Team Vicar for St Francis vacancy. Please contact Churchwardens: Graham Field (01305) 832532, OR Hilary Wareham 07816 448988

Team Vicar for Holy Trinity, Bincombe; St Laurence, Upwey; St Nicholas, Broadwey; St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers Rev'd Philip Elliott (normal rest day: Mon) The Vicarage, 526 Littlemoor Rd., Weymouth, DT3 5PA (01305) 459971 weymouth.west.ridgeway.vicar@gmail.com

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6.30pm	Home Churches [weekly], Littlemoor (01305) 835921
Wed 7.30pm	Home group [1st, 3rd] at St Francis, Littlemoor (01305) 833242
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If you see something of concern, say something

Church noticeboards and www.ridgeway.org.uk give details of who to contact. Each Church has a Parish Safeguarding Officer, and publishes their policy.

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Hall booking secretaries

Frank Reynolds Community Centre, Broadwey: David Moth (01305) 812218
Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz: Maureen Morris (01305) 835533
Osmington Village Hall: 07521 966252 bookingsecretary@gmail.com
Preston Village Hall: Julie Witt (01305) 834232
Scutt Hall, Preston: Betty Hennessy (01305) 833614
St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston: (01305) 837147 sachurchrooms4@gmail.com
St Francis' Community Room, Littlemoor: Anne Field, (01305) 832532 anne_field@talk21.com
Upwey and Broadwey Memorial Hall: Jonathan Harwood (01305) 814940
Upwey Old School: Phil Cooke (01305) 812665.

News and Views

Harvest is an essential thanksgiving particularly this year with weather and Covid 19 making life very difficult for growers, distributors, and retailers. We are amazingly spoilt to have such a robust household supplies with only a few significant short-term shortages: flour, toilet rolls, and eggs.



We can, and we can't do certain things, and the new normal includes abnormality + change. We can take baptisms, weddings, and funerals in church to a maximum of 30. All have to wear masks, use sanitiser, can't sing but can listen to music, and keep distances. We can't take Holy Communion to those who are vulnerable, but they can with appropriate technology and 'bubble' companions watch facebook.com/canon.tim.west for regular acts of worship. Worship has to be short, and we are all getting used to things.

Candlelight worship restarts on Wednesdays in St Andrew, Preston at 7.30pm. These special occasions are being run by Lay Worship Leaders [commissioned or in training], and provide space for reflection using both contemporary and traditional material.

A fantastic wedding took place at St Osmund, Osmington when Simon Jerrard and Kerry-Anne Burt joined hands. The rings were carried in by Lola [pictured below], the bride arrived in an open-topped coach pulled by a pair of shires, and we swayed to 'Hold my hand' by Jess Glynne.

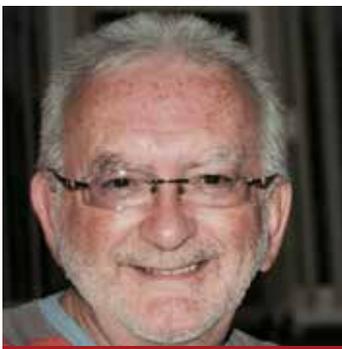


We are looking for a General Assistant at MacPherson House for the hours of 4pm 'til 8pm.

Home to ten elderly people the position would entail preparing and cooking supper, doing laundry and cleaning duties etc.

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If any potential candidates would like to phone the House Manager on 01305 833229 for more details that would be good.



By Grahame Howard

Discrimination and Political Correctness

What about all the malarky about Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory that the BBC producer of the Proms caused? It was totally ridiculous in my opinion, which don't amount to much, I admit. But to not be able to sing the words of these two, infamous songs was taking political correctness to the limit. I was encouraged that two days into his role as Director in General of the Beeb - Tim Davie, ordered a u-turn on this decision and quite rightly so.

Apparently the ban had been instituted because the words were associated with slavery and British Colonialism. I liked what Boris initially said. 'He thought it was 'Wetness'.

But if we want to get discriminate about things that are of equal importance, what about Noddy and Big Ears, not forgetting PC Plod. Surely the term 'Big Ears,' must cause pain to people who may fit into this category, including myself. And the

poor old policemen who have had to suffer being called 'Plod,' over the years. Shouldn't something be done about this? Because of this, I feel that Enid Blyton books should be burnt to free the world from this insult.

Moving on, what about Paddington Bear? He was a Peruvian stowaway who eventually ended up on a railway station patently waiting for someone to offer him a home. What a flipping cheek? He was a refugee, but no-one mentions that fact, do they, no they carefully leave that out. But there is still much debate going on in our world about refugees sailing over the Channel and whether they should send them back. What about Paddington, surely he should be sent back? Anyway, he was a bear. Why was a wild animal allowed to be on a railway station in the first place? And why was he allowed to go to the Brown family home when he should have gone to a zoo at least. I'm wondering if they're contemplating sending refugees home, because they don't like marmalade sandwiches. You may laugh, but it's a valid thought. I think there is certainly a solid case for discrimination here. Paddington, may have been allowed to stay though, if he agreed not to sing the words of Rule Britannia. Probably that BBC producer should be asked that question.

In equal terms of concern, back in 1978, there was a very discriminatory song, sang by Jilted John, called Gordon is a moron. This raises a few questions; who was Gordon, yes we know he was a moron because Jilted John said so, but who was he really? Secondly, who was Jilted John and why was he jilted, or was Jilted

his Christian name? But if so, why aren't other people called this too. As anyone thought of that? And what about the people whose Christian name is Gordon? Are they all morons, after all we don't really know who Jilted John was singing about, do we? It may well have been his father who had grounded him for doing something wrong, or perhaps a teacher. Perhaps this should be investigated. Just think about all the Gordons who have suffered because of this song and they possibly still do if they hear it on the radio. Because of this, whenever they upset someone, they may be called a moron. Surely this is discrimination. But no, Jilted John got away with it but why should he? He was the moron, I think. Perhaps we should all petition the record company. This could bring justice to all the Gordons all over the world, who are known as a moron.

I'm certainly glad that my name is not Gordon, that's for sure. The CO would have a heyday, although, it must be said that she does call me this quite regularly, along with a few more choice names too. But I take it on the chin, I am thick-skinned so don't start worrying about all this abuse she gives me. I'm used to it now. Actually, thinking about it, she has called me a moron for quite a few years and this is totally out of line because my name is not Gordon, it's Grahame and Grahame is a moron doesn't seem to have the same ringtone, does it? Therefore, I think you agree, she is very much out of line calling me this name, so would you write in saying how you feel that calling me a moron, is the highest form of insult. She probably won't take much notice, but it's worth

a try. You could also petition the Prime Minister if you wish. That may help. Actually, did she know Jilted John? Is that why she calls me a moron. Good gracious, all these years and she has been associating with Jilted John. He definitely is a moron, and anyway, she is too upper class to hang about with Jilted John - I think. If you know otherwise, please let me know. Just mark your letter, 'The CO is a Moron,' I'll know what you mean.

I said that I would remind you, it's nearly CHRISTMAS. I saw Christmas cards in a shop the other day and there are Christmas puddings in the stores already. I bet you can't wait to get into the long queues again, although, the queues have been long during lockdown, so we should be used to it by now. Mind you, I'm getting fed up wearing the masks, aren't you. I use the bandana type, the other ones are making my ears stick out all the more. I do look like Big Ears.

Anyway folks, I wish you well in your Christmas planning. Hopefully by the time we're all ready to hit Seasonal queues, the mask wearing will be over, I doubt it though. I'm thinking of getting one of those Batman masks. I think it would be quite good actually. It would look stupid wearing my glasses over the top, I know. But who cares.

See you next time

Grahame.

Graham David Fellows is an English comedy actor and musician, best known for creating the comedic character John Shuttleworth and one-hit wonder Jilted John.

Local news

Continued from page 15

of basic items. I am continuing to keep a watch on any grant funding available. Microsoft Team briefings and meetings with Dorset Council colleagues continue as do Zoom meetings for Weymouth Town Council. WTC has continued Full Council meetings and committee in this way through out lock down. These are broadcast live too.

Cllr Lucy Hamilton and I have spoken on the telephone regularly and even when we were allowed to do so held a couple of meetings in my garden. There are a number of issues about irresponsible parking that we are currently dealing with and I hope we will come up with a solution. I was very pleased to arrange for a 'SLOW' sign to be painted on Horseford Road heading to the Nothe as well as signs reminding drivers that pedestrians walk in the road there where there is no pavement. I hope that will help but we really need drivers to slow down. We are dealing with requests for rubbish bins and requests for those that exist to be emptied.

The beach at Sandsfoot has been really busy throughout the summer. It is a little

gem. The new owners of the boat park have begun a refurbishment. Cllrs Sutton, Heatley and I have been keeping an eye on this since we are concerned that the area remains safe for the many people using the beach.

DC officers from enforcement, environment and building control are all involved. We have also been working with Highways officers over the road slippage in Old Castle Road. The new owners of the building site have been very proactive and solutions to the problems are being formulated.

The government have directed councils to encourage residents to walk and cycle more. Cllr Heatley and I have been meeting with officers to discuss possible areas where this could be achieved.

Despite lock down and then easing the Summer has been great. Our gardens have certainly benefitted from our extra attention and the sunshine. We are so lucky that we live in such a beautiful place. We rather resent visitors descending on beaches and beauty spots, but

Continued on page 23

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With Sophia Grech

Despite being denied music lessons by her school at the age of eight because it was thought that she had no natural music talent, Sophia has become an internationally acclaimed opera singer. In 2015 she was diagnosed with autism and is now a leading Ambassador of associated organisations alongside her performing career. Here in conversation with John Sissons she talks about her life in music, choosing favourite pieces that have a special meaning to her.

Beethoven's Symphony Number 5

My love of classical music started when I was about 11 when I was living in Portsmouth. My granddad was a massive music lover. He had a music room in his house that was full of LPs complete with an old gramophone. I always enjoyed listening to his music when I went to his house. One day he played Beethoven's Symphony Number 5. I fell in love with the piece straight away and every time I went there he would play it for me. A year later he passed away and my grandmother gave me the record with a note that she had written. It meant a lot to me at the time but not as much as it does now. I've treasured it ever since, together with a letter that she had written still inside it. I wish they had known about my career in music that I was about to have. They would have been extremely proud.

Madame Butterfly (Puccini)

We moved to Weymouth when I was 12. After once listening to a piece of opera I said to my parents "Listen to me. I can sing like that!" They were staggered to find that I could! It just came naturally to me. Over the next few months I became obsessed with singing anything from musical theatre to pop songs. I just wanted to sing. At school though I was struggling to read or write. I couldn't tell the time until I was 12. I went to the Convent School in Dorchester which had literally just appointed a music teacher who was giving singing lessons. I went along and I started to sing with a group. Suddenly he stopped us and asked who it was making that sound. I gingerly put my hand up and said that it was me. He asked me to sing by myself and then asked me how long I had been singing like that, telling me that I had a really powerful voice. After a few lessons with him he told me that he wanted to refer me to the Royal College of Music in London as he didn't know how to teach anyone with a voice like mine. At first they refused because I was too young but he begged them and they reluctantly agreed. When I went to see them the only person that was available was the Head of Singing. After hearing me she asked me if I would like to be an opera singer. I hadn't thought of it to that degree, previously I had visions of being a pop star. She told me

that if I did want to become an opera singer then I had to start my training now and that she would train me. My journey had begun.

Voi Che Sapete from the Marriage of Figaro (Mozart)

After going to London to the Royal College of Music for about 6 months it suddenly dawned on my teacher to ask me if I could read music and what I knew about it. All I could say was that I knew there was a man called Beethoven, there was an opera called the Marriage of Figaro and that a piano was black and white. She was horrified. She told me that I was way behind other students and if I wanted to come to the College full time when I was 18 then I had to be able to read music at the highest level. My London teacher had also told me that I needed to take a singing exam. I asked her what grade I should go for and she told me to try for grade 8, which is the highest grade. I got a distinction in it. I also got 100 percent in my theory exam by me devising a method to get every question right in the exam. At school I was still struggling. I needed though to get academic qualifications. I was told that I stood no chance of passing my RE exam. I went home and learnt the complete gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John word for word from the bible. In the O level exam I got an A grade because I learnt it like a parrot. I also started to learn the dictionary off by heart. I got as far as M when the school wrote to my parents saying it wouldn't help me pass my English exam! I did that for all subjects. I went home and worked my socks off as I knew it was extremely hard to get into the Royal College of Music, they only take a handful of students each year, worldwide, including instrumentalists. Everybody told me that I stood little chance having only started music theory late in my teens, but I went for it anyway. I applied for the top 4 music colleges in the UK and to my delight won scholarships to all of them. I couldn't believe it and my parents were thrilled. I was about to start 4 years training at the Royal College of Music. Voi Che Sapete is a very special piece of music to me, not only is it the first piece of opera that I heard, it is also the aria I sang for my auditions. I have performed it many times since. On "You Tube" you can listen to me performing it with the National Symphony Orchestra of Bulgaria.

Carmen (Bizet)

I had an amazing time at the Royal College where I learnt to sing in many different languages, performing in numerous concerts. It was very hard work though. I had an amazing coach, Robert Sutherland; he had also been the pianist for Maria Callas. I was such a massive fan of her and I fell in love with her version of Carmen. He said to me that I would be perfect to play the role of Carmen. Robert gave me a copy of a programme of Maria Callas's last ever concert on stage. She had signed it and it said "My dearest Robert thank you for everything you have done for me. Working with you has been the best." He said to me that Maria would have loved me singing Carmen and he gave me the programme. It is now on my wall in my home in Preston and it is a treasured possession. I have sung Carmen many times in my career, at the Royal Opera House and numerous other places across the world. It holds a

special place in my heart.

Sea Pictures (Elgar)

I left College 27 years ago and I have been extremely busy ever since with incredible experiences. One of which was when I was giving a concert at the Royal Festival Hall and the Queen Mother was there. Afterwards she came along the line, shook my hand and asked me if I'd ever sang Elgar's Sea Pictures. I replied that I hadn't but I'd make sure that I would. I'm so glad that I did learn it because it is now one of my favourite pieces to perform. I've sung it in many places including at International Festivals. It suits my voice perfectly being a mezzo-soprano and is brilliant to perform either with a full orchestra or just a piano. You can also listen to me on "You Tube" performing with the National Symphony Orchestra of Bulgaria. Every time I sing it now I think of the Queen Mother.

Seven Spanish Folk Songs (Manuel De Falla)

These songs are classical but they are also folk. In my 30's I spent a lot of time touring Spain. I was giving a recital at the Barcelona International Music Festival and I heard a guitarist playing one of these songs. I thought it was brilliant and I wanted to learn them, which I did and that led me to getting a recording contract and touring Spain performing the album. Most recently I have performed them in London with chart-topping guitarist, Milos. I worked in Spain a lot throughout my career; as a result I bought an apartment there.

Songs and Dances from Malta (Charles Camilleri)

I have always enjoyed performing in Malta, during one of these trips I had a phone call from the director of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra to say that Charles Camilleri, the famous Maltese composer, wanted to have a meeting about writing some pieces for me. When I was at the Royal College of Music I was a big fan of his especially as I am half Maltese, I couldn't believe it, I was flattered. This was in 2004 and it was the year that Malta joined the European Union. They wanted to produce a CD to present to the world saying "This is our language and this is our music." They wanted to write and produce it especially for me! One big problem was that I didn't speak Maltese! They assured me that I would soon pick it up! I asked the librettist Joe Friggeri to make the words easy for me to understand with a bit on the Italian side! A few months later I received the music score and I found the words in Maltese very complicated. I asked my Maltese Dad for help but it was a long time since he had lived there. The language is similar to Arabic so it is incredibly difficult to learn. I'm used to singing in French, German, Italian and Spanish so this was very different. I was anxious that they wanted to reveal to the CD to the world saying "This is our language" and I couldn't speak it! I spent the next 8 months working hard learning the language as well as I could, whilst still performing all over the world. I returned to Malta and recorded the CD in the studio. About a month later I was asked to return to the country as the recording had been released and they wanted me to come and promote it. It was all very exciting. When I got on the plane I saw that I was in all of the Maltese papers and even on the In Flight magazine. When I arrived I



was met by the Press Officer who gave me my schedule for the next 3 weeks. The premiere was held in Malta's capital, Valetta and it was attended by the Maltese Prime Minister. The Sunday Times newspaper wrote: "In Maltese, Sophia has managed to adapt herself so tactfully in delivering Maltese language songs with a diction of clarity that few can emulate." I went on to give dozens of TV and radio interviews. In 2005 the President of Malta asked me to perform the album at his Palace, which was fantastic. He then became a fan and has come to many of my concerts.

Beethoven's Choral Symphony Number 9

Not only is this a beautiful piece of music that I love singing it also has a hilarious memory for me. I was busy with a recording contract and concert tour in the USA. I was due to fly from Dallas to London but was asked if I would stop off on the way back in Spain because the Malaga Symphony Orchestra was in need of a mezzo-soprano to sing in Beethoven's 9th symphony. I agreed to do it but then I realised that I had never sung it before, I finished learning it on the plane! It is a very popular piece of music even though you might not recognise the title. When I arrived at Malaga I was meant to be collected for the concert. After waiting for a long time I decided to take a taxi. In my worst Spanish I asked the driver to take me to the Malaga Symphony Orchestra. He took me to the theatre and I could hear the orchestra tuning up. I told the security man I was here and he directed to me to a dressing room where my name "Sophia" was above the door. I only had just started to warm up when over the tannoy came the news that rehearsals were about to start. When I got to the stage the conductor asked why I was holding up the score for Beethoven's Symphony number 9 when they were performing Handel's Messiah. At first I thought it was a joke then I realised I was at the wrong venue. It was a big coincidence that Sophia was also the name of their performing soloist. I rushed out and got into another taxi to take me to the right theatre and ran in just in time to join them on stage. Remember if anyone wants to see the Malaga Symphony Orchestra there are two Orchestras. There is also at least two mezzo-soprano's called Sophia!

Let the Bright Seraphim (Handel)

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa was seen and heard around the world in 1981 when she sang this aria at Prince Charles and Lady Diana's wedding. I remember watching it with my parents and think-

ing how much I liked it. Not though as much as my mother who loved it and frequently played Dame Kiri Te Kanawa singing it. On the recording my mother had, Kiri Te Kanawa is accompanied by Crispian Steele-Perkins one of the world's best known trumpet soloists. She also went to see them perform it together. I have since gone on to frequently perform this with Crispian and must have sung this piece with him at least 30 times over the past few years. It saddens me that my mother who is no longer with us never got to see me perform it with him. Every time I sing it I imagine that she's there in the front row with my granddad.

Tonight from West Side Story (Bernstein)

When I was in my 40's I started working with a pianist called Leslie Pearson. It's his 90th birthday next year and I still perform with him. He's brilliant. He worked with Bernstein on West Side Story. He was the keyboard player when it opened in London with Leonard Bernstein conducting; he took over from him as the director. Leslie wrote for me a medley of songs from West Side Story also featuring Crispian Steele-Perkins on the trumpet. We have performed it as a trio in many places over the last 6 years including America. Last November we performed it as a concert at Highgrove House for Prince Charles. He's really nice and I've performed for him previously. He loves his music. Everyone loves West Side Story. I feel so lucky to have worked with Leslie. He's worked with some great people including Benjamin Britten. Crispian, Leslie and I often now appear as a trio. We play a varied programme with something for everyone. It's great fun and makes a

change from singing opera.

O Don Fatale (Verdi)

I have been very fortunate to perform in some amazing venues across the world with very many special memories. One of the more interesting places to perform was when I was asked to go to Spain to help launch an exhibition of artifacts recently discovered in an Egyptian tomb. Everybody was very excited. It was a huge find. One of the pieces was a priceless necklace. The curator asked if I could wear it whilst I sang. It was huge and very beautiful; however I was thinking "Have you seen the film The Mummy?" I imagined wearing it and a Pharaoh coming out and saying "Princess I have been waiting for you." I've been watching too many films! Whilst I was wearing it I had a security guard watching over me the whole time. It was a surreal experience. It's hard to pick favourite concert halls because they're all so different. One of my favourite venues to sing in is the Manoel Theatre in Malta. It is the oldest functioning Opera House in the world. It is their national theatre and it's very beautiful. It's also where my dad and grandfather spent all of their free time watching operas. For me to be able to stand on that stage and sing opera has been amazing.

Paradise (Coldplay)

In 2015 I was diagnosed as having autism. One day I was watching a TV programme on autism and laughingly said that's what I had. My partner told me to my disbelief that he thought I had. My sister also said that she had always thought it but wasn't rude enough to say anything. My partner was more forthright! After a lot of testing his sus-

picions proved to be correct. My first thoughts were that I wasn't going to tell anyone and I was going to keep it a secret. Now looking back I suppose the indications were there from an early age such as my ability to memorise things so quickly and easily yet I struggled to read or write. Also as a child I didn't communicate with people very well. When I sang at the opening of the Autism-Europe International Congress I was talking to some of the autism experts from all over the world that were there and asked them "Do you really think I'm autistic?" They politely laughed and one of them replied "Darling you're 100 percent autistic." Now I understand that I am autistic I'm very comfortable living with it. I'm a lot kinder to myself and I understand myself a lot better. If I don't want to do something then I don't. Because of my career I've had to learn to behave like a Neuro-typical person. I've had dinner with the President of Malta and chatted to Princess Alexandra when she's sat at the end of my bed. I've had to learn to deal with these situations and manage. I've also had to negotiate travelling all over the world and I've never had any problems, yet getting a bus into Weymouth can give me a meltdown! For anybody that thinks they might have autism don't be scared of it. It's not a bad thing and there are a lot of positives. The first port of a call should be your GP and discuss it with them. What also can be helpful is to go online and take an autism test. It doesn't have to hold you back in life. I now go all over the world talking to people in my role as an Ambassador for autism and my career as an opera singer. Paradise by Coldplay sums up how I feel about living in this area by the sea. It is also one of my favourite pieces of

music that I listen to before I perform on stage. It's a world away from being an opera singer! Lockdown has been difficult and it's been nice to spend some time at home doing normal things, but I'm looking forward to performing again. Having been diagnosed with Autism; the diagnosis has been a massive help to my life. A lot of autistic people can have a special talent for one particular thing. Mine is music. I've been incredibly lucky.

Gloria (Vivaldi)

This piece of music was a massive inspiration for my book. Two years ago when I was performing it at the Royal Albert Hall I had also been speaking on the main stage about my life as an opera singer with autism. There were about 50 choirs that had come together from all over the country to sing the chorus numbers in Vivaldi's Gloria. I remember looking at them all and thinking just how much pleasure singing gives to so many people. It was the inspiration for me to finish my book. The idea for it had come years earlier when the President of Malta said to me at his Palace "Oh you're so lucky I wish I could sing." To be able to sing though really is not that difficult! My top tip would be not to sing as you speak. Firstly you need to open your mouth wider and smile! Consider this, how do you let a breeze in if you don't open the door? In my book I have managed to condense what I think are the most effective vocal techniques into really simple and straight forward methods that anyone can follow. All of the tips are in my book along with helpful diagrams and cartoon illustrations to make it fun. If anyone is wondering if they can sing then I'm saying "Yes you can!"

Local news

Continued from page 19

who can blame them? Thank goodness we have some wonderful local people who never go out with out a bag to pick up litter; I am full of thanks and admiration. We are all getting used to carrying a face covering with us at all times and most of us are very diligent in wearing them and keeping our distance. Please keep remembering that, the virus has not gone away and do dispose of your mask safely when you have finished with it. National reports indicate that people are shopping locally, if it is safe for you to do so, do go out and support our local shops, pubs and cafes but please do so responsibly your health and safety is important to us.

I still post on my Cllr Kate Wheller facebook page and welcome your comments. I am aware that not all the ward receives the Register but it is also available on-line so please tell anyone who asks. Please remember; I am very busy and don't always pick up messages on facebook so if you have an urgent issue phone 07850 060947, leave a message if you don't get an answer or email me at cllrkate.wheller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dorset Libraries

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able library. Not all libraries across the LibrariesWest consortium are able to offer this service immediately. We have placed a temporary limit of 10 reservations per library member at any one time to help manage demand. This limit will remain in place until further notice. The pick-up library will notify you when your reserved item becomes available for collection.

Before visiting a library to collect a reserved item we strongly recommend checking the opening hours first as most libraries are operating on revised hours.

Not sure whether you still want to borrow items you have previously requested? Please log on to your library account and cancel anything that you no longer need to help your library service focus resources on items that customers still wish to borrow.

Other Library Changes

From Monday 14th September we have removed the temporary 28-day loan period and reinstating the regular loan periods (eg 21 days for books, 7 or 14 days for DVDs). From the same date we will also be reintroducing overdue charges and hire fees (where relevant). 1000s of e books, e audiobooks, and even magazines, newspapers and comics are available to download for free! visit www.librarieswest.org.uk for more information. We're regularly adding to the collections so there should be plenty to choose from!

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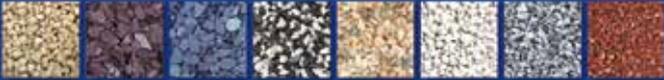
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