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Magazine

Issue No 409 May 2025



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Front cover: Where in Dorset? Do you know where this Dorset landmark is? Answer on page 23.



We asked all of the members to provide feedback on the previous year and to tell us what worked well and not so well. We have received some very interesting ideas which we will talk about at the next Committee Meeting.

Liz Slee talked about her Ukeldadies group who meet weekly and asked if anyone was interested to join, also Thelma spoke about the monthly Book Club. Susie also spoke about the walking group who again meet monthly and always end up at The Oasis for coffee, and she encouraged anyone to join even if they can only manage to come for coffee.

We have a very interesting new programme of events and speakers for the coming year and anyone is welcome to come as a visitor and pay £2, they may even decide to join!

Val Dawe
 President

Preston and Sutton Poyntz councillor team update

The Rivera has been the most pressing issue for us. We met with the councils cabinet member for planning on site and walked the area to show him the issue. The building is deteriorating but as it's a listed building the owners have a duty to ensure it's safe and in an acceptable condition. The cabinet member has now gone to planning enforcement and the conservation team at the council to take the matter further.

Another issue on Bowleaze Coveyway is the state of some of road markings. We have arranged for keep clear marking near the Rivera to be refreshed and hopefully the yellow lines by the Oasis also. The rest of Sutton Road has now been re-surfaced. The area looks much

better and is partly down to the work of the late Tony Ferrari who pushed for this. Cedar Drive, Willow Crescent as well as Winslow Road and Verlands Road are down to be done next year which is also good news.

Cllrs Joanna and Peter Dickenson recently met with officers from Weymouth town council about the state of benches in Telford Close playpark and will hopefully have an update in due course. We continue to chase up the dredging of the stream along Preston beach road but this is dependent on approval from the Environment agency. Although not in Preston and Sutton Poyntz it does come under mine and Councillor Pete Dickenson's Dorset council ward Littlemoor Road by the new Bincombe Park estate north of Littlemoor remains an issue. It is bumpy and visibly poorer than the rest of the road untouched by recent works. Myself, Cllr Dickenson and Cllr Brian Hayter (Littlemoor town councillor and hardware store owner) have written directly to the developer of the Bincombe Park estate to ask them to rectify the issue caused by works carried out associated with their development.

I would like to add a big thank you to all those who involved in the recent works at the Misson Hall in Sutton Poyntz which has really improved this great and well loved community space. Any issue please get in touch.

Cllr Louie O'Leary Dorset councillor for Littlemoor, Preston and Sutton Poyntz on behalf of the local councillor team. Cllrlouie.oleary@dorset-council.gov.uk 07809905412

News

Preston Village Market And Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th June, St Andrew's Church Rooms, Church Road DT3 6BU, 10.00am-12.30pm.

Please put the date in your diary. We will be raising funds for St Andrew's Church Fund and School in a Bag.

Lots to see and buy. Free Entry. Donations to our chosen charities will be gratefully received.

Sutton Poyntz WI

April is the time for our AGM which was well attended, it's also the time for our three monthly Bring and Buy sale which raises money for The Women's Refuge. Last year we were able to send them over £200.

It was lovely to meet in the newly refurbished Mission Hall and the garden looked beautiful with the Spring flowers and sunshine. As Spring is in the air and everything is new it was the time for us to elect a new President and Treasurer.

Val Dawe gave the Treasurer's report and Susie Marner gave the

Secretary's report, it was very interesting listening to all we had done in the past year, much of which we had forgotten about! Sue Davis then gave her Report and talked about her four years as President from the heart, taking over during Covid, social distancing and Zoom Meetings. We hope we never go back to that! Sue thanked the Committee and members for their support during her time.

The Committee were elected and then Sue Davis resigned as President and Val Dawe was elected, she was presented with the President's Brooch. Jan Wallin was elected as Treasurer and Susie Marner will stay on as Secretary. We then enjoyed a cream tea provided by The Committee and thanks were given to them for all of their hard work.

Val Dawe then restarted the meeting as the new President, she presented a lovely plant and plant pot to Sue, the retiring President, and flowers to Polly Light who had stepped down from the committee. Flowers were also dropped off to Sue Legg who could not attend the meeting.



Photo: Cllr Louie O'Leary & Peter Dickenson on a recently re-surfaced Sutton road

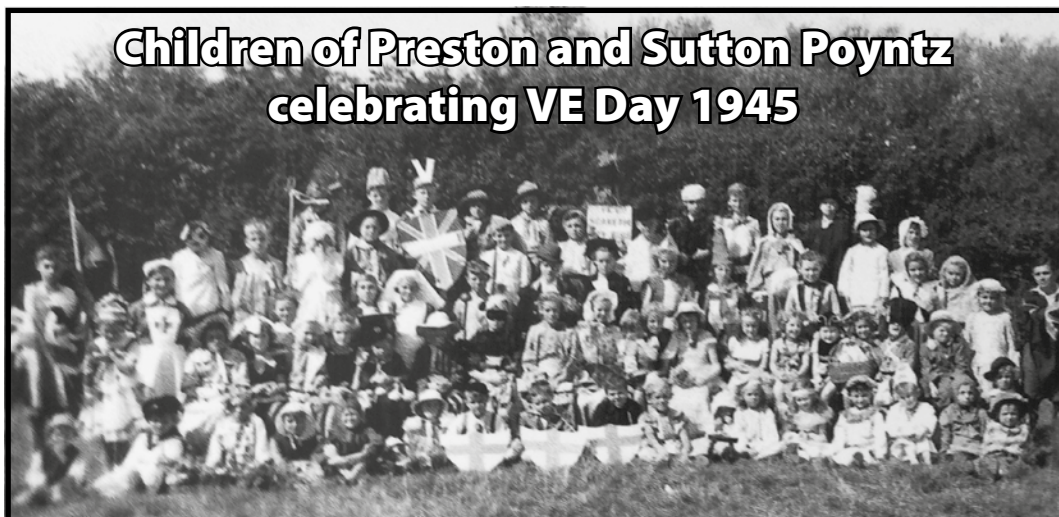
An afternoon of acoustic guitar music with Ken Watkins

Ken Watkins, the ever popular local singer and guitar player, is performing at St Andrews Church Rooms in Preston on Sunday afternoon 11th May starting at 3pm. Since moving to our area over 50 years ago Ken with has been entertaining us with his skilful guitar playing, rich vocals and a unique sense of humour.

Few of us would not have seen him playing in a diverse range of venues that have included; countless pubs, busking in the street and performances at Weymouth Pavilion. Having recently performed to a sell out audience at the Shire Hall in Dorchester with his daughter Lucy and Robbie McIntosh, Ken returns to performing solo at the forthcoming concert at St Andrews Church Rooms. The event will be helping raise much needed funds for St Andrews Church. Geoff Light, Treasurer of the Church, commented '£5,000 a month is needed for the running costs. That includes: heating, lighting, insurance, safety measures and general upkeep.

That's before the costs needed to cover the renovation of the Lychgate, which is a separate funding project.'

Bookings for Ken's concert are priced at £15 that includes tea/coffee and delicious homemade cakes and scones. You are welcome to bring your own drinks but please bring your own glasses. The format follows the same as the hugely successful sell out Carrie Martin concert which took



Children of Preston and Sutton Poyntz celebrating VE Day 1945

We had to assemble at Chalbury Corner, and from there we marched to Guppy's camp or Midhills as it was called in those days, (now of course Weymouth Bay Holiday Park) being led by a huge white shire horse called Noble, he belonged to Mr Saunders who had the farm at Sutton Poyntz. Once there the photograph was taken, and there were then a few games followed by afternoon tea.

Sue Dodge

place last September. We are delighted to announce that Carrie will be returning to play for us at The Church Rooms on Sunday September 7th. Tickets for Ken Watkins concert can be purchased by contacting Shirley Mitchell at the Church Rooms, Preston DT 6BU. Telephone 01305 837147 on weekdays between 10.00am and 2.00pm. Email to weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com. They can be also purchased by telephoning Alex Sissons 07801 820722. Due to limited seating early booking is once again strongly recommended.

Open For Art
Saturday 17th May to Sunday 1st June, All Saints Church will showcase the work of five tal-

ented artists: **Caroline Shaw, Janet Hall, Keith Holdaway, Paul Potheary, and Elaine Harris.**

Visitors can expect a diverse collection of painting, printmaking, and bookbinding in this striking venue.

Karl Stedman of Wooland Gardens will open his studio to the public, presenting a diverse range of painting, printmaking, and mixed media works.

Meanwhile, Silvia Pineda will welcome guests to her studio on Portland Road, where she will exhibit a vibrant mix of painting, sculpture, mixed media, and handcrafted jewellery.

The Wyke Regis Society
Minutes of the bi monthly meeting and AGM held 7pm Tuesday 11th March 2025. At Wyke Regis Working Men's Club, Portland Road.

Chairperson's Report:

Cllr Taylor has put forward the Society proposal for 20mph limit in Wyke Regis lanes without footpaths. Junction of Wyke Road and Portland Road is still dangerous and the scene of two recent accidents. The wall has been repaired with brick, not stone despite this being a Grade I listed building's wall, and therefore should have been repaired to the previous standard.

Continued on page 7

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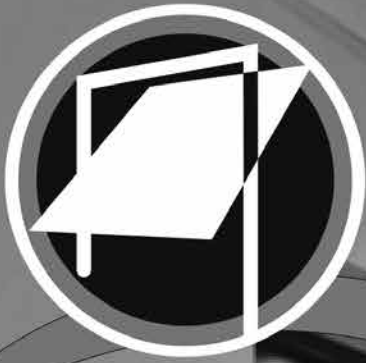


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It is unclear why Weymouth Bay water quality has been compromised as Wessex Water state no serious discharges have taken place. The Rivers Trust map confirms this with the only long term discharges near Puddletown.

Heart of Wessex plans including BCP were turned down by the Government, it is unclear why.

Broadmeadow Road drain clearance, GS contacted Council but first report was no action needed, second that they were investigating.

The High Court Incinerator hearing takes place this week, obviously we are all waiting for the decision in some trepidation.

The announcement that the Parks Department will be cutting down on its activities makes me wonder what exactly they will be doing, as it appears the parks which are well kept are looked after chiefly by volunteers.

Detailed enquiries are ongoing into a series of around seven incidents involving a man reportedly exposing himself in the Wyke Regis area between Friday 13th December 2024 and Saturday 1st March 2025.

Dorset Police say 'As we continue to compile evidence in relation to this matter, I would urge any witnesses who have not already spoken to police, or anyone with relevant home CCTV or doorbell camera footage, to please contact us.

The incidents have occurred in the areas of Mandeville Road, Camp Road, Pirates Cove, North Road and the Rodwell Trail and I would ask anyone who witnesses any suspicious activity in these locations to please report it to us.' Weymouth remains a safe place to live and visit. These types of reported offences are rare, and we take them incredibly seriously. The safety of our community is our utmost priority.'

Anyone with information is asked to contact Dorset Police at www.dorset.police.uk or by calling 101, quoting occurrence number 55250030518. Alternatively, independent charity Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously online at Crimestoppers-uk.org or by calling Freephone 0800 555 111.

From Lloyd Hatton MP

Thank you for previously getting in contact with me to raise the issue of water quality in South Dorset.

Whether you are a sea swimmer, dog walker, rower, sailor or other water-user please feel free to contribute a concern, question, plan of action or a desire to be involved in future similar activities. Please contact lloyd.hatton.mp@parliament.uk or you may be interested to know that I am running Advice Surgeries across my constituency. These are ongoing events where I can meet you in person and discuss your concerns in detail. They happen twice a month and are posted on my website: Lloydhatton.co.uk. They are also advertised once a month in the Dorset Echo.

AGM election of officers

The Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary have all stood down at this AGM.

The Chairperson Georgina Skipper has been re-elected into the position.

Proposed by I Cox and seconded by R Lander

The Webmaster, Ian Stansfield, has taken over the membership list in the position of Membership Officer.

The position of Treasurer will be covered by J Hamdorff until a new Treasurer is in position.

The position of Society Secretary is still vacant.

In the event of the positions for Treasurer and Secretary not being filled it is a possibility the Society will be disbanded. It has been suggested that quarterly meetings might be useful with all other information distributed to members via social media and email. The next meeting will be May 11th when the way forward for the Society will be discussed.

Future meetings might contain a speaker to inform the community of items going on in the area. The Dorset Council Resilience Team would be approached to give a talk on Community Resilience. A leaflet drop was also suggested to give residents better information on the Society and meetings.

Councillors' Reports

Cllr Wheller and Cllr Webb attended the meeting and responded to the issues brought up in the meeting.

All Saints Church

The Church will be placing the 'Stations of the Cross' around Wyke in the run up to Easter. The Church gardeners have been busy keeping the garden tidy. The clearing of brambles and ivy from around

the perimeter of the church yard and around head stones is progressing. A new bat box donated by the Chairperson was put in place. The small team of church gardeners meet in the morning on the first Tuesday of the month to maintain the area around All Saints Church. If you feel like a bit of wildlife gardening feel free to come along. If you have any garden tools that you no longer require the church is always in need of them. Three trees have been felled in the Church Yard, these will be replaced with saplings.

Wyke Square

The Wyke Christmas Fayre is starting to take bookings for this year. Money raised last Christmas is going towards The Memorial Hall, The Food Bank and *MS Freedom*. Carols in the Square was another success, but they are looking for a new team to run the event this year.

The Society have been trying to get Highways to install a more robust bollard by the cottage between Wyke Square and Shrubbery Lane. The Wyke Society have offered to pay for a new more robust bollard. Vehicles are recorded going at speed through this gap and Supermarket lorries have got stuck. The cut through is used by

traffic trying to avoid the top of Portland Road and the dangerous junction on Wyke Road. The Society have again contacted Highways to see if there is a solution to this dangerous cut through. Residents also felt that a sign indicating pedestrians would be walking in this cut through would be useful, Highways are looking into this problem again.

The Wyke Society are looking to renew the compost in the planters in the Square this spring and find some new ideas for planting. If you have any good ideas for the sort of plants that would work in this area please contact us. A local window cleaner has offered to help with the watering. It is hoped to get a small working party up in the late Spring to renew the planters.

Parks and Open Spaces

We still have space for one small tree and some wild flowers in the little green off Wyke Square. The new planted hedge is growing well between the green and the car park. The fence is the responsibility of the residents in Lymes Close and the Square. Parks Dept have started to clear the brambles at the playing field at the back of

Continued on page 10

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A Senior Citizen learns, over the course of many long and fruitful years, that what goes around comes around. Meaning that there are very few new ideas, just old ones repackaged.

Recently my attention was drawn to an magazine article about the 'North Coast 500', described as 'a road route of just over 500 miles of stunning coastal scenery in the far north of Scotland and one of the world's most beautiful road trips.'

The route was created in its present form in 2015 and since then many thousands of people from all parts of the world have driven the route in a variety of vehicles – campervans, cars, cars plus caravans and motorcycles. All have thoroughly enjoyed the experience - what's a little rain and a few midges between friends? - and considerably benefitted the local Scottish economy in the process. But this really is a repackaged idea. In the early part of the 1960s I worked in a large department store in Cardiff. Or as some films say 'Cardiff, Wales' to distinguish it from all the hundreds of other cities called Cardiff across the globe. Anyway, Cardiff is, of course, where Welshmen used to play their international Rugby Union Football. Instead, they now sadly imitate headless chickens and run around wondering where the ball is, or was. How are the mighty fallen. But as many Senior Citizens are not concerned with rugby, and to avoid an email from Mrs Barnacle of Wyke complaining about my interest in barbaric activities, it is time to move swiftly on.

Also working in Cardiff at that time were three friends – Mike, Keith, and Tom - and we decided to hire a car between us and set off to explore the world. Strange how I can recall their names after 60 years or more ago but can't remember what I came upstairs to collect two minutes ago. Unfortunately, in those days you had to be wealthy to possess a passport so the choice of where we could go proved to be limited to the UK. The decision was further constrained by our need for low-cost accommodation. Which is where the Youth Hostel Association came into the frame.

This wonderful organisation offered budget beds for the night with all, or most, of the important,

facilities. Even if these latter were down the end of the corridor. This was less important in those days, when the number of nocturnal trips needed to the bathroom was much less than now. In England and Wales only walkers or cyclists were allowed to stay, having expended their own effort to get there. But in Scotland, due to the greater distances between hostels, this was impractical, so you could use a vehicle to travel between them. Hence our decision to tour Scotland.

The route we planned passed through, amongst others, Fort William, the Isle of Skye, and the West Coast. At Cape Wrath, the top left-hand corner, we had to turn right otherwise we would have driven into the sea. Along the top to John O'Groats and another right turn down the East Coast via Wick to Inverness. Much the same as the 'North Coast 500', except that in the early sixties the roads were deserted which is certainly not the case today. But things we take for granted now were not available back then. Only sections of the M6 were completed, and during the long two-day drive north we spent the first night in a lay-by, sleeping in the car – or in my case, under it where it was more comfortable and less noisy.

Our hire car was a brand-new Mark 1 Ford Cortina. Despite being brand new it was of dubious build quality, a trait of British built cars in those days, as Senior Citizens will well remember. Woe betides you if your car was built on a Friday afternoon. The only saving grace was that repairs could be carried out by any half competent mechanic, without needing a degree in IT and the expensive computer equipment that are essential today. There was no bridge onto the Isle of Skye, so we took the ferry from Mallaig early on a Saturday and stayed on the Isle until Monday - no ferries on Sunday.

The hostel was in a beautiful location and full of young ladies – why we never found out - who all seemed to want to be in the kitchen at the same time. They disapproved of our culinary efforts - beans on toast – but commanded all the pots and pans so we could not have cooked anything more exotic even if we had wanted

to. On the Sunday we drove north as far as possible then walked the rest of the way up to the Old Man of Storr, a huge pinnacle of rock on the Trotternish Ridge.

These days this is probably the most famous walk and busiest attraction, on Skye. Evidence of this is the wide clear path leading up to it but even with this wide path the walk today is classed as difficult. In our day there was no path and a map and compass – no smartphones then – were essential, though it is difficult to miss a 170-foot-high pillar. We left Skye via the Kyle of Lochalsh ferry and spent all our days in a photographer's heaven en route north

though wonderful scenery. On the long return journey south, we made a detour to drive along the Golden Mile at Blackpool. A mistake for the crowds, noise and bright lights were an unwelcome contrast to the birdsong, wildlife and glorious views of our recent experiences. The North Coast 500, by whatever name it is known, was then and is now, worth every moment of the journey. But petrol cost us five bob a gallon, or seven pence a litre in today's money. As any Senior Citizen will always tell you, in our youth we had the best of times – even when we didn't. Happy days.

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Broadmeadow Road. It is a concern that residents have been depositing garden waste on this area near the fence. Many residents want more wild areas for wildlife and it is difficult for the Parks Dept to always get it right for everyone. The Society has contacted the War Memorials Trust to see if we can have the memorial cleaned. It has also been suggested that a metal tape attached to the Memorial would hold the wreaths in place. The wrought iron fence could do with a paint in the spring if anyone feels like taking on the challenge in the Spring. The Society will contact the Veterans hub for some help on this.

Planning

Planning for the change of use of the Methodist Hall on Portland Road has gone through. The application is for 6 flats, 4 one bedroom and 2 two bedrooms. There is no parking on site, only a bike store. The Society along with many resi-

dents had rejected this plan on the grounds of no adequate parking and over development of such a small site.

Footpaths and Highways

The footpath across Curtis Fields is now impassable. Councillor Taylor has offered to take up this problem with the footpath officer, there was no news on this at the meeting.

Kerbs and gullies that are in need of maintenance in Broadmeadow Road are being investigated by Highways Dept. The public footpath along Lanehouse Rocks Road has been tidied of weeds and debris making the path much wider. Double yellow lines at the bottom of Lanehouse Rocks Road near Freemantle Road have now been put in place. This has improved the traffic flow. Yellow lines on the corner of Chamberlaine Road and All Saints Road have been renewed. If any residents notice road marking worn or illegible they can contact

the Society or Highways Dept. The Society have reported paving along the top of Portland Road and other areas in Wyke where the weeds and soil are encroaching on the footpath.

Ferrybridge Footpath

Dorset Council legal team remains in discussion with Chesil Vista. These steps were erected by Chesil Vista and the Council want them to remove the wood.

Anti-social behaviour

Dog fouling in the area is a constant nuisance. Please report any person you see not picking up after their dog. Residents not picking up after their dogs on the little green have been noted. Putting out food for seagulls is another problem in the area, please consider your neighbour. A resident has been seen throwing food down for seagulls in Wyke Square. This can be reported to the Environmental Health.

AOB

An application to turn the unused building in Wyke Gardens into a small art studio has moved on and Cllr Wheller has offered to assist in the handling of this matter.

It has been reported that caravans have been taken onto land at the bottom of Pirates Lane, the Council are aware of this problem.

It has been suggested that providing dog poo bags in a dispenser on the little green and other open areas might help with the problem of residents not picking up after their dogs. The Society will get some more information on these dispensers.

A discussion took place on the large transporter vehicles using our roads. These are coming from Sunseekers on Portland to Poole. While it was thought that the jobs that Sunseeker add to the area were good, it was mentioned that the large boats and frames could be transported by barge to and from Poole. It was felt that an agreement with Sunseekers had been discussed many years back.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday 8th May 2025 at 7pm, all residents welcome.

Contact *Georgina Skipper* georgina.skipper@gmail.com

Wyke Regis WI

The sunny weather drew many people to the monthly coffee morning. As well as the usual coffee and home-made cakes,

visitors were able to visit the courtyard garden and purchase a variety of plant and shrubs.

A Spring Fayre was enjoyed by many who made purchases, tried the Grand Tombola and enjoyed a tasty lunch.

At the recent monthly meeting Josie Hastings from the Murugi Project told how the project supports a disadvantaged community in Kenya, situated in the remote foothills of Mount Kenya, by providing schools and a health centre. The project is in need of school jumpers and we are providing a pattern for those members who would like to knit for the project.

The Theatre Outings group goes from strength to strength with a full programme booked for May. The group is a welcome addition to the activities available for members of the Institute.

Members are now looking forward to the Institute's 102nd birthday celebration and presentation of the Singer's concert 'Travelling Tales'.

A Time to Remember Service of Precious Memories

The Precious Memories gathering this year took place at St Mary's Church, Weymouth on Sunday April 6th at 2.00pm.

We gathered in a spirit of support for all those who have known the experience of the loss of a baby or child, and who may have had the experience of being unable to bear a child.

The service was an opportunity for reflection and prayer for ourselves and the children who have been lost and who might have been. We first held this service in 2010.

There was readings, music, candles to light, time for quiet reflection and posies to take away. Children's names were recorded in a book of remembrance and members of the congregation have the opportunity to stay after the service for refreshments and to chat.

Business as usual at the Fair Trade Shop

It is 8 years since we last did any work on the building, when we were getting it ready to open the shop. Sadly, it is now looking a little weatherworn and so we are about to give it a facelift and make some repairs which means having scaffolding up.

Please bear with us while this is happening but we will be open

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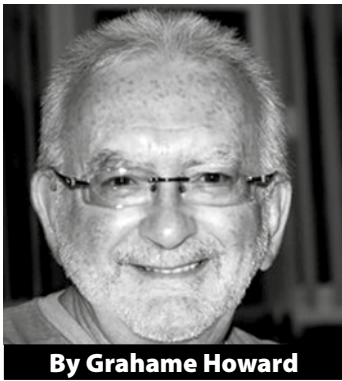
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By Grahame Howard

New Addition To The Family
As you may remember, Henry our cat, died a few months ago and I must admit, it has been lonely without him. Even Charlie our King Charles spaniel has been missing him too. He has been running around the garden crying and barking for Henry to come in for his dinner, obviously that could never be.

Therefore, we decided to do something about it and against all the odds, we managed to buy a British Blue Exotic cat at a very reasonable price. She is 11 months old and very adorable

and will be an indoor cat. She has quickly established her place and after only a few days has firmly decided that she is the boss, not Charlie, much to Charlie's disgust. The only downside to having this kitten is what the CO has decided to name her. She is registered at the vet's as Princess Willow. Can you imagine the embarrassment it will cause when I take her to the vets for treatment, 'Princess Willow, where are you? Come on it's your turn now little girl! I mean, why couldn't the CO have called her Edna or Betty; but no, she had to go one further and call her Princess Willow. By the way, if I you see me in the street and ask how Princess Willow is, I will ignore you, sorry, but that's final. As I type this out on my Mac-Book, she is sitting on my desk examining what I am doing. She is so inquisitive (nosey) like the CO. As I have written this, she has moved somewhere else, where I can't tell. I caught her the other night watching football on the TV. I couldn't resist taking



a photograph of her. Today, we are getting ready to watch AFC Bournemouth play Manchester City on ITV 1. Princess Willow, of course will have the best seat in the house. Poor old Charlie doesn't have a look in. Anyway, I must dash as I have just heard that I'm on the Subs Bench, well that's what I told the CO anyway. She just looked at me and casually said, 'What are you go-

ing to do, be a ball boy, or clean out the dressing rooms when the teams have gone.' She can be so rude.

Anyway, sorry for the short piece this time but I have also got a bad cold and am sneezing everywhere.

See you next time.
Grahame

News

Continued from page 10

for business as usual and apologise in advance for any inconvenience the work may cause. We are hoping that the work will be completed by mid May, ready to welcome the summer and visitors to the town.

Our Big Brew on March 8th was very successful. Several people joined us to enjoy the homemade cakes we had on offer and there was lots of chatter and laughter coming from our upstairs seating area. A big thank you to the volunteers who provided the cakes and to everyone who supported the day. Thanks to their generosity we were able to send £200 to Transform Trade to support their ongoing work with tea farmers. In their letter of thanks they wrote 'Amongst those your generous support will help are tea growers

like Rosina Begum. Rosina who is from Rangpur, in northern Bangladesh, struggled to earn a living from her small plot of land, which was unsuitable for most crops. Now, thanks to support from a project run by Transform Trade, she grows tea, which has transformed her family's future.' Our friends at the Murugi Community Trust have recently returned from a visit to Kenya and have brought back some interesting new designs in bags. We have a few in the shop so do come and let us know what you think. They are always happy for feedback to take back to the lovely ladies who make the bags and jewellery. Our Kenyan earrings have also been restocked so added to the

Continued on page 13

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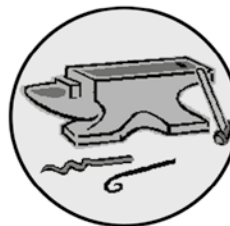


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Royal Manor Theatre

Eighteen artists will be holding an exhibition and sale of their work at the Royal Manor Theatre, Fortuneswell, Portland DT5 1LT – venue 22 - as part of Open for Art organised by Artwey between the 17th May and 1st June.

We will be open every day from 10.00am to 4.00pm and have a pop-up café offering tea, coffee and cakes to visitors, with the takings donated to local charities. We will have the Surreal World as a theme for some of our artwork. Please do come along; we'd love to see you.

www.artwey.co.uk

Royal Manor Theatre; Fortuneswell; Portland DT5 1LT

Family History Society

The next meeting of the South Dorset group of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society will be on Friday 16th May.

The talk is entitled 'The English Civil War-People & Places in Dorset' and will be presented by Neil McLocklin.

As usual the talk will be held at St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW commencing at 2.30pm, preceded by tea or coffee.

Admission is £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

Dorset Home Library Service

Dorset and BCP Home Library Service (HLS) has been awarded one of thirteen High Sheriff Awards at a ceremony in Poundbury recently.

The Dorset and BCP HLS is a service offered by Royal Voluntary Service, a leading charity which helps communities to thrive through the power of volunteering.

High Sheriff Anthony Woodhouse, who presented the award, said:

"Royal Voluntary Service is an exceptional charity that brings the library service to anybody who can no longer reach their local facility. Not only does the Home Library Service enable people to continue to access the joy of reading for longer but also provides an important antidote to feelings of loneliness and isolation."

The award was presented to Maria Jacobson, the service manager for Dorset and BCP Home Library Service, who expressed the organisation's surprise and delight at being chosen for the special award.

Mrs Jacobson said: "I am here representing our 250 volunteers across the area who provide this important service to almost 800 people in our community who are unable to access their local library, choosing and delivering books every month.

"This is a free service, combining the delivery of individually chosen books with a much-anticipated visit by a trusted volunteer. We are not well-known despite our reach, and this special recognition means a lot to us and will no doubt help us to spread the word and reach many more people across Dorset and BCP"

To find out more about the Home Library Service and how to sign up as a reader, please contact Maria Jacobson on 01305 236666 or email maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Citizens Advice Energy Price Cap

Q I read that the Energy Price Cap is due to go up again in April. Does this mean my fuel bills will go up too? I can hardly afford them as it is!

A You're right, the Energy Price Cap will rise by 6% on 1 April 2025. This means a household with typical usage paying by Direct Debit will pay £1,849 a year, compared to £1,738 a year under the current Price Cap. But remember, the cap doesn't limit how much you pay overall, it's a cap on what you pay for each unit of gas and electricity that you use so if you use more, you pay more.

Citizens Advice research shows that nearly seven million people are now living in households that are in debt to their energy supplier. We're particularly concerned about households with children, where more than half of those on low incomes are struggling to af-

ford energy bills.

The government is considering expanding the Warm Home Discount. Scheme, meaning that a million more low income households would get support. These proposals were out for consultation in February and March but at time of writing nothing definite has been decided.

If you are struggling to afford your energy bills, you should speak to your supplier as soon as possible. They are responsible for helping you come to a solution and agreeing a payment plan that works for both of you. If you've fallen behind on your bills, seek advice on managing debt. Energy bill debt is classed as a priority debt, so it's important to get advice from an organisation like Citizens Advice or Stepchange, which offers free debt advice, as soon as you can. Our frontline advisors can also help you understand what financial support you might be eligible for, depending on your situation. Additionally, you can get consumer advice from the Citizens Advice consumer service on 0808 223 1133.

Weymouth Concert Brass

Well, another West of England Brass Band Association finals

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Luxury living

Anning House offers luxurious facilities, including a coffee shop, hair salon, cinema and beautiful landscaped gardens.

Our chef-led kitchen teams are passionate about providing high-quality food and there's always a choice of nutritious and delicious dishes at every meal.

Hear what relatives have to say

We recognise the importance of friends and family staying involved in their loved one's care and lifestyle plan and our regular relative meetings are popular.

event at the Riviera Centre in Torquay has come and gone. This year on 8th March, we managed a very respectable 6th place with 'I Daedelus', our 4th Section Test Piece by British composer Andrea Price.

So no national finals for us this year but an improvement on last year and under MD Dave Ansell's guidance we are well placed to do even better next year!

Our first local public outing of the year is at lunchtime on Saturday 26th April when we will have a small part in the b-side project to rediscover Portlands' High Angle Battery this spring.

As ever, the band is always keen to hear from prospective new players. We normally meet once a week on Thursday evenings at St Edmund's Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road.

To get in touch or for further information contact us at weymouthconcertbrass@gmail.com or find us on Facebook or X.

The Boyz Live Music

The boys are back - again! For all lovers of live music then the night of Friday 25th April promises to be yet another one not to be missed, when an array of local

Continued on page 16



In our recent relative survey, 92% of families were impressed with how Staff treating their relative with kindness, dignity and respect ^ and 93% were happy that they were made to feel involved and valued by the home. ^

Trust us to care

Anning House care home in Weymouth is part of Care UK, the country's most awarded large care provider. We've been delivering high-quality, person-centred care for over 40 years. That's why over 8,000 families trust us to care for their older loved ones.

To find out more about Anning House call 01305 896 970

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^Care UK relative survey April & September 2024. Study operated by QRS Market Research, an independent survey agency.

The Ridgeway Churches

† Holy Trinity, Bincombe; † St Nicholas, Broadwey; † St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers; † St Francis, Littlemoor; † St Osmund, Osmington; † St Andrew, Preston; † St Laurence, Upwey.

Serving Bincombe, Broadwey, Buckland Ripers, Littlemoor, Nottingham, Osmington, Overcombe, Preston, Poxwell, Ringstead, Sutton Poyntz, & Upwey
Worship and information is available at www.weymouthridgeway.org.uk

The Weymouth Ridgeway Team offers a wide range of services and a warm welcome to all.

Normal Sunday worship in church

8.00am St Osmund's, Osmington (3rd)
9.00am Holy Trinity, Bincombe
9.00am St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers (1st, 3rd)
9.15am St Andrew's, Preston (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th)
9.15am St Andrew's Church Rooms (1st)
10.30am St Nicholas, Broadwey
10.30am St Francis, Littlemoor
10.30am St Osmund's, Osmington (1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th)
10.30am St Laurence, Upwey
4.00pm St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers (2nd, 4th)
6.30pm St Francis, Littlemoor (4th) Celtic Prayer

Weekday Worship

7.30pm Mon Evening Prayer/Compline St Francis'
7.00pm Tues Together on Tuesday St Francis' Church
7.30pm Tues Candlelight Service St Andrew's
12.45pm Tues Prayer Meeting St Francis'
8.00am Thurs Morning Prayer St Francis'
12.00pm Fri Prayer Meeting St Andrew's
(For weekday services at St Nicholas see separate paragraph)

STACES to grow in faith

Tue 10.00am Ridgeway Bible Study Group [fortnightly] Preston (01305) 834604

Who's Who

Team Rector

Rev'd James Menzies - The Vicarage, 2 Primula Close, Littlemoor, Weymouth. DT3 6SL (01305) 835921 revjamesmenzies@outlook.com (day of rest Monday)

Team Vicar

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

Team Administrator

Shirley Mitchell, The Team Office, 4 Church Rd, Preston, Weymouth. DT3 6BU (01305) 837147 weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

Community Angels

A volunteer service offering companionship, errands, home visits, lifts to appointments, activities, shopping etc (01305) 834866 standrewsangels@hotmail.co.uk

Hall Hire

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston,
Shirley Mitchell (01305) 837147 sachurchrooms4@gmail.com

St Francis' Community Room, Littlemoor
Anne Field (01305) 832532 anne_field@talk21.com

Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz
Maureen Morris (01305) 835533.

Preston Village Hall

Julie Witt, Booking Secretary, Preston Village Hall, Weymouth, Dorset prestonvillagehallweymouth@gmail.com. 07742 636511.

New Weymouth Ridgeway Team Ministry Newsletter
If you would like to receive news and information about what is hap-

pening in our churches please contact me on: weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com or 01305 837147.

Ridgeway Churches Diary

Thursday 1st May
Little Lambs Baby & Toddler Group 9.30am-11.30am
Every Thursday
St Francis' Church, Littlemoor
£1.50

Tuesday 6th May

Knit & Natter
St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston
Every 1st Tuesday
10.00am - 12.00pm
St Francis' Church, Littlemoor
Every Tuesday 10.30am-12.00pm

Saturday 10th May

Coffee, Cake & Chat
10.00am-12.00pm
Every 2nd Saturday £3 per head
St Osmund's Church, Osmington

Monday 12th May

Angel's Lunch Club 12.30pm
Every 2nd Monday
St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston. (suggested donation of £7 per head)
Contact 01305 834866

Friday 16th May

Osmington Lunch Club 12.15pm for 12.30pm
Every 3rd Friday
Osmington Village Hall, Shortlake Lane, Osmington
Contact: francesgroves@btinternet.com

Special Events

Saturday 10th May 2.30pm

Free Afternoon Tea
To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day
St Nicholas Church, Broadwey
Scones & cakes with musical entertainment.

For more information & to book contact:
susanamalik@yahoo.com
07944 617553

Sunday 11th May 3.00pm-5.00pm

Ken Watkins
Enjoy his inimitable mix of skilful guitar playing, beautiful vocals, and gentle humour
St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston. DT3 6BU
Tickets: £15 contact weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com 01305 837147
or call Alex Sissons 07801 820722

Friday 30th May 7.00pm

Quiz Night
St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston
£7 per person (max 8 in a team)
Light supper provided. Soft drinks available, please bring your own alcohol.
Contact: Carole Anders 01305 833431

All Saints & St Edmunds Churches

Rector. Rev'd John Mackenzie.

www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk

You will find a warm welcome at our friendly and inclusive churches. All Saints, Portland Road, and St Edmund's, Lanehouse Rocks Road.

All Saints Church DT4 9ES

The church is open daily for visitors and private prayer from 9.00am.

Regular church services

Sundays
8.00am Holy Communion BCP (said).
First Sunday of the month 9.30am Café Church, with refreshments beforehand.
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays 9.30am Sung Holy Communion, followed by refreshments.
5th Sundays Joint Service with St Edmund's, location alternates between All Saints and St Edmunds churches.

Morning Prayer

9.00am Tuesday - Friday.
9.30am Saturday.

Fridays

10.30am Holy Communion (said), followed by refreshments.

Coffee Mornings

10.00am - midday, third Saturday of the month (please see dates below).

Livestream

Our 9.30am Sunday Holy Communion services are also livestreamed. An order of service is published each week so you can join in with the hymns and prayers. Connect via any of the following links.
YouTube - [youtube.com/user/WykeRegisChurch/live](https://www.youtube.com/user/WykeRegisChurch/live)
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintswykeregis>
Parish website - parishofwykeregis.org.uk/live

St Edmund's Church DT4 9HZ

Sundays
11.00am Holy Communion with hymns, occasionally alternating with

www.registermagazine.co.uk

Service of the Word.
5th Sunday joint service with All Saints.

Thursdays

1.00pm-3.00pm Little Saints Baby and Toddlers Group, during term time. Bring along your children, grandchildren or Godchildren and meet up with others. All welcome. Contact Amy on 07397 805124 if you are interested and would like to know more.

Coffee Mornings

10.00am – midday, last Saturday of each month (please see dates below). Wyke Regis Parish works in our schools, as well as local charities and other organisations. We offer many opportunities for people of all ages to come together, such as Men's Breakfasts, walking groups, craft groups, in addition to opportunities to learn to sing and ring the bells, all of which help towards combatting loneliness and isolation.

Live Local News

In addition to the livestream services at All Saints Church, the parish also runs a live local news programme at 6.00pm on Saturdays and a quiz at 7.30pm the same evening. These can be accessed using the livestream links above.

If you want to get in touch, the parish contact number is 01305 784649 or email info@parishofwykeregis.org.uk

Regular parish activities

All welcome. Get in touch beforehand, or just come along and join in!

Art Groups. Contact Janet Hall on 01305 839737.

Bell Ringing – weekly practices for ringers of all ages. Contact Michael Dilstone on 01305 784902.

Choir Practice – All Saints, 6.00pm on Friday. Contact Derek Griffin on 01305 772873.

Circle of Friends Lunch – Lynch Lane Garden Centre. 12.00, 1st Wednesday in the month.

Craft Group - 10.00am on Thursdays at All Saints, fortnightly

Walking Group – meets at Bingleaves Green on Mondays at 10.00am

Singing for Fun - 3rd Tuesday in the month, 2.00pm, All Saints Church

Book Group - once a quarter – Next meeting Tuesday 6th May.

Gardening days: All Saints- 1st Tuesday in the month, St. Edmunds- 3rd Tuesday in the month. If you're inter-

ested, go along, armed with gardening gloves and wellies.

Men's Breakfast at St Edmund's Church Hall

Fancy a chat over a full English Breakfast? (other options available) Every 2nd Saturday in the month 9.00am to 11.00am, next on 10th May. For more information and to book a place contact: info@parishofwykeregis.org.uk

Coming Events at All Saints An Evening to Remember: VE Day 80 at All Saints

All Saints Church, from 6.00pm Thursday 8th May
Beacon lighting
Live music
Fish and chip supper
VE Day documentary
Church bells
A celebration of 80 years of peace in Europe since the end of World War II. VE Day 80 is a tribute to those who fought for freedom and a powerful reminder of the nation's resilience and unity during the war years.
Entry £10 including supper, £6.50 without (under 16s £5/£2.50). Book online at <https://www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk/events>, or contact Alison on 07984 370737. Please note that the deadline for meal choices for this event is Saturday 3rd May.

Concert: Head North All Saints Church 7.00pm Saturday 31st May

Head North return to All Saints next month for another evening of traditional and progressive Celtic music. Expect a mix of songs in beautiful three part harmony, reels, and jigs, all with some Transatlantic additions. Doors open at 6.30pm. Cash bar.
Tickets £6.50. Book online at <https://www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk/events>, or contact Jeff Thomas on 07710 096174.

Coffee Mornings 10.00am-midday Saturday 19th April & 17th May.

All are welcome to join us for coffee, tea, home-made cakes, Fairtrade stall, books, music and for a catch up with friends old and new. Gluten free available.

Coming Events at St Edmund's Church.

St Edmunds Coffee Morning. Saturday 26th April & 31st May

All are welcome to join us between 10.00am and 12noon.

Teas, coffees and home-made gluten-free cakes. Books, CD's, jigsaw puzzles, and a chance to catch up with old friends and welcome new ones.

Holy Trinity with St Nicholas Weymouth

The Harbourside Church Trinity Road Weymouth DT4 8TJ

Holy Trinity church seeks to:
Enrich lives by helping people to discover the Christian faith
To be an inclusive church who welcomes everyone
Accept all whatever their journey
Reach out to our community in the service of others
Be a spiritual support to those in need, sickness, difficulty and grief
Encourage Christian learning for all
Conserve our heritage for future generations
Ours is a faith that is vibrant, exciting and challenging as we continue to discover Gods kingdom and grow the Church.
We are members of the Inclusive Church Network:
We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

Wednesdays 10.00am Said Eucharist

Sunday 8am - Said Communion service (in the Lady Chapel)
Sunday 10am - Sung Communion service (in the main space)
1st Sunday at 6.00pm - Open Table - Inclusive service for LGBTQIA+ friends, families and allies (in the main space)

Weekday Services at St Nicholas Church, Broadwey

Tuesdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey.
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Broadwey
	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Upwey
Wednesdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer with Communion	Broadwey
Thursdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Broadwey
	10.00am	The Holy Eucharist	Broadwey
	10.45am	Coffee Morning	Broadwey
Fridays	8.45am	The Angelus with Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer with communion	Broadwey
Saturdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Broadwey

Methodist Churches in Weymouth

Minister: Rev Ruth Lownsbrough
Tel: 01305 820489
email: ruthlownsbrough59@hotmail.co.uk

Churches are available for baptisms, marriages (including same sex marriages at Weymouth Bay) and funerals.

Sunday Morning Services

10.30am Chickerell, North Square, DT3 4DX

10.30am Lanehouse, Lynch Lane, DT4 9DL

10.30am Weymouth Bay, 32 Melcombe Avenue, DT4 7TH

Sunday Evening Services
6.30pm Weymouth Bay, normally 2nd Sunday in month.

Worship information in available at www.dsw.church

Church Activities

Chickerell
Craft and Chat – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2.00pm
Craft and Sew – 2nd and 4th Fridays at 7.00pm

Coffee Morning – last Saturday in the month at 10.00am
chickerellmethodist@gmail.com

Weymouth Bay Wednesday

10.00am Coffee Morning – all welcome, tea, coffee, cakes, books and jigsaws to borrow or swap
10.30am Grace Notes, informal singing group for all abilities
2.00pm CAMEO, women's group meets fortnightly
5.00pm Miscellany Band for anyone who plays a musical instrument

Thursday

2.00pm Bible study Group

First Friday in the month

2.00pm Dementia Café for people with dementia and their carers

Last Saturday in the month

9.00am Garden Gang
Rooms are available for hire, all enquiries to weybay@yahoo.com or 01305 457510

Weymouth Family Church

14 Westham Road, Weymouth DT4 8NP. <http://weymouthfamilychurch.org.uk/>

Weymouth Family Church is a loving, Christian fellowship that seeks to welcome all people into an environment where they can find out about Jesus.

We welcome everyone, irrespective of their background, life experience and stage in their faith journey. We believe the bible is the Word of God and that all are in need of the love, forgiveness and salvation that only Jesus can give. We provide bible study opportunities mid-week and also help to the local community through spiritual support, provision of meals and hosting various support groups. Church is not the building but the people, and we meet each week as

follows:

Sunday 10.30am-12.00 Main meeting. At least twice a month, we share in the Lord's Supper, remembering what Jesus did for us on the cross and declaring it until He comes again, deepening our union with Him.

Monday 10.30am-12.00 Coffee morning with the opportunity to learn Makaton sign language, open to all.

Tuesday 7.00pm – 9.00pm. Craft evening. Join us for some craft activity and enjoy a chat and a cuppa.

Thursday 10.30am-12.00. Coffee morning, open to all.

News

Continued from page 10

talent will once again be playing at The Centenary Club in Weymouth.

It follows a series of hugely successful performances that have been arranged at the venue organised by The Boyz. This next evening's entertainment has four superb groups performing; Replay, The Katz, Violin Shoppe and Nick Capaldi with friends.

Tickets for the evening are priced at just £10 with all proceeds once again going to support local charities. Due to the huge success of previous evenings this has enabled thousands of pounds to be raised. Amongst the charities that have benefited are the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, Weldmar Hospice, Munsty's, A Stars, Parkinson's, Veterans Hub, The Lantern Trust, the Dorset County Hospital MRI Cancer appeal, Chickerell Primary School and Young Minds.

There will also be a raffle on the evening with a star prize of £100.

The Centenary Club has proved to be an ideal venue for the gigs. It also is able to provide cheap club priced alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks. Hot dogs will also be available on the night. The entertainment starts at 6.45pm until late!

Tickets can be obtained by calling at the Centenary Club or by telephoning 01305 839310. Chris Dean has also set up a Facebook page that he hopes will be of interest to many locals and musicians. It's called Reunion of local bands in and around Weymouth in the 60s, 70s and 80s. You are invited to join it and add your memories and pictures.

Preston Village Market And Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th June

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Church Road DT3 6BU. 10am -12.30. Please put in your diary. We will be raising funds for St Andrew's Church Fund and School in a Bag. Lots to see and buy. Free Entry. Donations to our chosen charities will be gratefully received.

Wessex Folk Festival

Two incredible acts are set to take the stage at this year's festival on 31st May and 1st June, and we hope that you can join us for the weekend.

See below for more details - we promise, you won't want to miss this!

Man the Lifeboats

Get ready for an electrifying performance as Man the Lifeboats bring their high-energy folk-punk sound to the Wessex Folk Festival 2025! This dynamic band blends raucous melodies, foot-stomping rhythms, and heartfelt storytelling, creating a live experience that is both exhilarating and unforgettable.

With influences ranging from The Pogues and Bellowhead to Frank Turner, their music is packed with passion, humor, and anthemic choruses that will have you singing along in no time. Expect a mix of original songs and riotous folk-infused tunes that celebrate life, love, and everything in between.

Don't miss Man the Lifeboats as they take to the stage—grab a drink, join the crowd, and let the music carry you away!

Martin Harley

For over two decades, Martin Harley has been captivating audiences around the world with his rich, roots-driven sound. Blending blues, slide guitar, and a deep connection to storytelling, his music has never felt more grounded. The Guardian described his style as 'spellbinding,' and with eight albums under his belt—four recorded in the UK and four across the Atlantic in Texas and Nashville—his journey continues to evolve.

Join Our Festival Crew – Be a Volunteer!

The Wessex Folk Festival wouldn't be the same without its amazing volunteers! Every year, a dedicated team gives their time to help make the festival a success—and we'd love for you to be part of it.

From welcoming festival-goers and manning the information desk to moving seating, collecting donations, compering, and more, there's a role for everyone. Plus, you'll be surrounded by great company, soaking up the fantastic festival atmosphere! If you can spare some time to help, we'd love to hear from you. Sign up today by sending us your details!

Let's make this year's festival unforgettable—together!

We will soon be announcing more great acts that will feature at the Wessex Folk Festival 2025, so do watch out for our next newsletter. info@wessexfolkfestival.com

Radio partner announced for SummerFest 2025

Weymouth and Portland Round Table is excited to announce that Air107.2 is the official radio station of SummerFest 2025 at Redlands Leisure and Community Park on 7th June.

The volunteer-run community radio station will broadcast live from the event with music, interviews and behind the scenes exclusives throughout the day from 10.00am to 10.00pm.

Weymouth and Portland Round Table 2025 Chairman Kyle Holmes said:

'We're delighted to welcome Air107.2 to SummerFest 2025. Their community ethos is a perfect match with Weymouth and

Portland Round Table and Summerfest's status as south Dorset's favourite family festival.'

Now in its third year the roundtable organised Summerfest 2025 will support two fantastic local causes – Weldmar Hospicecare and The Front Skatepark.

Air107.2 is Weymouth and Portland's community radio station, broadcasting 24/7 and run entirely by volunteers.

Air107.2 Director Sharon Stone said:

'Air107.2 will be a fantastic addition to what is shaping up to be another exceptional SummerFest this summer. We are so happy to be involved and will bring plenty of fun and energy to the event and are looking forward to helping to raise lots of money for good causes.'

Visitors to SummerFest 2025 can look forward to a packed day of fun things to see and do for the whole family including fairground attractions, live music, food and drink vendors, independent traders, fantastic fireworks finale and much more.

The festival boasts an amazing line-up of live music with acts confirmed including The Leggomen, Weymouth Rock Choir, Hustle, That Britpop Band, Modern Disciples, a leading Oasis tribute band as well as talent from the local DJ scene.

Summerfest has donated thousands of pounds to local good causes over the past two years, including Weymouth Lifeboat Station and Dorset Air Ambulance.

For the latest updates please check the Weymouth and Portland Round Table Facebook and donate at a JustGiving page to support their fundraising goals for two great local causes.

National Trust South Dorset Association

Thursday 24th April at 2.30 pm 'Nursing in Dorset during the First World War' a talk by Luke Moulard.

Presented by the National Trust South Dorset Association. St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth, DT3 5EW. NTSDA members £4 Non-NTSDA members £5 (includes refreshments/no need to book in advance).

Thursday 8th May at 2.30pm "The Wild Woodbury Nature Reserve and Rewilding" a talk by Daisy

Meadowcroft, Ranger, Dorset Wildlife Trust

Presented by the National Trust South Dorset Association.
 Brownsword Hall, Pummery Square, Poundbury, DT1 3GW
 NTSDA members £4 Non-NTSDA members £5 (includes refreshments/no need to book in advance)

Dorset Council area who would like to help us promote the national Friends Against Scams scheme by becoming 'Scamchampions' and encouraging others to become 'Friends'.

Today, more than 1 in every 100 people living in Dorset are a Friend with Friends Against Scams.

Friends learn how to spot the signs of a scam and can then use that learning to help other people. By having simple everyday conversations Friends can help to keep others safe, whether family, friends, work colleagues, in fact anyone a Friend might meet. Friends also know where to report a

Become a Trading Standards volunteer

Do you have spare time, and would you like to help others stay safe from scams and similar types of fraud?

If so, we're looking for people in the *Continued on page 18*



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The Boys are Back!

Reuniting local bands that played in the Weymouth area in the 1960s, 70s and 80s

Weymouth Centenary Club
Friday 25th April

6.45pm until late

Featuring four live bands

★ Violin Shoppe ★ Replay ★ The Katz
★ Nick Capaldi and friends

Tickets just £10 with all profits going to support local charities

Obtainable from the Centenary Club, Weymouth

Good Friends, Good Times, Good People

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Tel: 01305 839310

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Abigail Langstone - Wring

BSc, FETC, MAR.

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The Mindful Gardener

I am a keen albeit amateur gardener that derives a great deal of pleasure and dare I say therapeutic benefit from my gardening endeavours. I would like to share the following information that I gathered with the purpose of supporting a GP practice funding application to create a therapeutic space for patients to meet and engage with nature through creating and managing a small garden.

We all acknowledge the wonderful healing power of nature and Sir Muir Grey, an internationally renowned authority on health-

care systems famously said that everyone needs a 'Natural Health Service' as well as a NHS. As with any funding application proposal there needs to be a rationale, a justification for the project supported by research evidence. In 2016 a research meta-analysis (Soga, Gaston and Yamaura) of health effects of gardening and horticulture revealed a wide range of health benefits including reduction in mass body index and increases in life satisfaction, quality of life and self-esteem. More recently the Royal Horticultural Society's RHS own research 'Why gardening makes us feel better-and how to make the most of it' showed that those who garden everyday have wellbeing scores 6.6% higher and stress levels 4.2% lower than people who don't garden at all. The research also found that 30 mins of gar-

dening is comparable to playing badminton, volleyball or practicing Yoga.

The mental and emotional benefits of gardening were highlighted in a Public Health study published in 2020 entitled Community Gardening: Stress, wellbeing and resilience potentials, that found community gardeners reported higher levels of resilience and optimism than the non-gardening control group. These results indicate some potential for mental health benefits in urban environments specifically in terms of subjective wellbeing and resilience. A 2022 study (Ainamani et al NIH.gov) endorsed gardening further as a therapeutic intervention that benefits high quality of life, sleep improvement increased hope, happiness, reduction of symptoms of depression, stress and anxiety.

The final piece was a Kings Fund 'Gardens and Health' report on the health benefits of gardening, findings were broad and diverse with research studies showing significant reductions in depression and anxiety and improved social functioning. In summing up the studies showed gardening to be truly holistic in approach and delivery and emphasized the impact of preventative practices that benefit patients being supported by reported positive outcomes for the mental, physical, emotional and social wellbeing of participants. With an aging population and healthcare costs rising preventative healthcare has become a topic of conversation with a renewed importance. The holistic principles and methods of delivery of Complementary Therapy modalities are underpinned by the concept of preventative practices.....in other words keeping the population both physically and mentally well.

Inviting the professionally experienced complementary therapists to join the conversation and to utilize their skills in the process of educating and supporting patients should be considered by decision makers when addressing the health needs of patients going forward.

It is worth pointing out that just as seeking and maintaining good mental and physical wellbeing is not confined to the older generation neither are the benefits of gardening. Being able to grow and consume home grown vegetables, using simple to grow herbs to flavour dishes that may help your digestive system and you to feel better is good energy. I encourage the very young and not so young in my family to get involved. The pleasure the little ones get from measuring the growth of their sunflowers or picking and eating their peas are wonderful moments in time = good memory making. If you would like some ideas on which herbs to grow for health, get in touch.

Please be aware certain herbs and 'natural' supplements are contraindicated with some GP prescribed medications check with your pharmacist before engaging in eating or drinking homemade infusions or 'teas' made from herbs. Gardening is perfectly harmless, however if you suffer an aching back from doing too much consider some reflexology again perfectly harmless it can only help. I am fully qualified, insured and DBS checked with over 30yrs professional experience specializing in Clinical Reflexology, Nutritional Therapy, Homoeopathy and Counselling Contact Tel 01305784986 abigailwring@btinternet.com www.dorsetclinicalreflexology.co.uk

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Head Style

Opening Times

- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 9.00 - 5.00
- Wednesday 9.00 - 5.00
- Thursday 9.00 - 6.00
- Friday 9.00 - 6.00
- Saturday 8.30 - 1.30

Chalbury Corner,
Preston, Weymouth

Telephone 01305 834647

News

Continued from page 17

scam and where to go to get help. It's very easy to become a Friend. Anyone can. Just visit www.friend-sagainstscams.org.uk and take the 20-minute online training at a time to suit you. If you don't have a computer, then ask at your local library how to access the training from a public access computer.

If you are part of a group and would like face to face training for a larger number of people, then please contact Trading Standards on the email below.

Volunteers with Dorset Council Trading Standards become 'Scam-

champions' who encourage others to become Friends in a more structured way. Examples include attending partnership events with Trading Standards staff, having face to face conversations with people in libraries, getting involved with informal coffee morning group discussions, and for some people who are confident in doing it, giving presentations.

We are always happy to hear from people who would like to talk about what they can offer to a volunteering role. We are led by you in terms of your skills and how much you'd like to be involved.

To find out more about our Trading Standards volunteering opportunities, please get in touch with us at tradingstandards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Mayor's Community Awards

Wanted! Unsung heroes to receive Mayor's Community Awards.

The Mayor of Weymouth, Cllr Jon Orrell is launching the 2025 Mayor's Community Awards and is looking for unsung heroes to be nominated.

If you know someone who goes the extra mile to help others in your community, you can nominate them today to be considered for an award from the Mayor.

Contact your Councillor and tell them who you would like to nominate and why you are nominating them. Nominations are open until 12pm on Wednesday 30th April.

Visit our website to find contact details for your Councillor, and get nominating today! The recipients will be selected after the closing date and be announced at a meeting of Weymouth Town Council's Full Council in May.

Cllr Jon Orrell, Mayor of Weymouth, said: 'I'm delighted to announce that nominations for the 2025 Mayor's Community Awards are now open. During my term as Mayor I have met many inspirational people doing tireless work across the town. I'm sure there are many more community-spirited individuals out there who deserve recognition for what they do. Please get your nominations in by the closing date of Wednesday 30th April. Best of luck to everyone!'

Winners will be invited to receive their award from the Mayor.

Nomination Criteria

Nominee to live within the Weymouth Town Council boundary.

Nominee, whether an individual or group, need to be providing support within the Weymouth boundary.

Nominee cannot be a serving Councillor or staff member of Weymouth Town Council.

Nominee/group does not receive financial recompense regarding this nomination i.e. they volunteer.

If nominee is an individual under 18 years of age, then permission must be sought from their parent/guardian.

Nominations must be received



St Nicholas Lunch Club
Second Tuesday of every month at
St Nicholas Church, DT3 5DN
11.30am - 2.30pm (Lunch served at 12)
Please join us for a home cooked meal and make new friends

Board games and puzzles available
Donations towards costs welcome

For catering purposes and dietary requirements, please book in advance by contacting
Susana on 07944617553
 or emailing susanamalik@yahoo.com

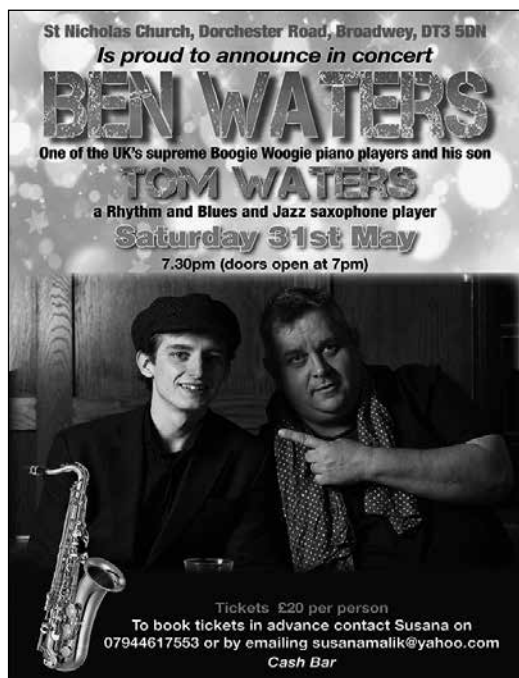
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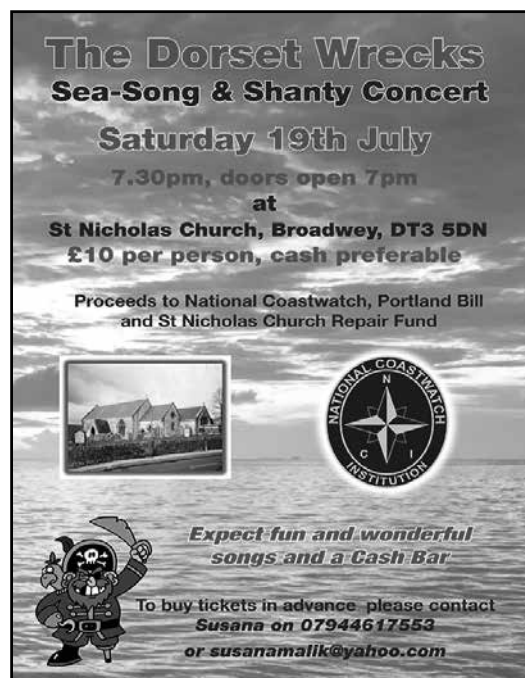
Live at
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Wyke Regis
7:00 pm Saturday 31st May 2025
Tickets: £6.50 from parishofwykeregis.org.uk/events

or contact Jeff Thomason 07710 096174
 Cash Bar



St Nicholas Church, Dorchester Road, Broadway, DT3 5DN
Is proud to announce in concert
BEN WATERS
 One of the UK's supreme Boogie Woogie piano players and his son
TOM WATERS
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Saturday 31st May
 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Tickets £20 per person
 To book tickets in advance contact Susana on 07944617553 or by emailing susanamalik@yahoo.com
 Cash Bar



The Dorset Wrecks
Sea-Song & Shanty Concert
Saturday 19th July
 7.30pm, doors open 7pm
 at
St Nicholas Church, Broadway, DT3 5DN
£10 per person, cash preferable

Proceeds to National Coastwatch, Portland Bill and St Nicholas Church Repair Fund

Expect fun and wonderful songs and a Cash Bar

To buy tickets in advance please contact
Susana on 07944617553
 or susanamalik@yahoo.com



An Evening to Remember...
80 VE DAY
 80TH ANNIVERSARY
 A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
 8 MAY 2025

At
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Wyke Regis

- VE Day documentary
- Fish and Chip supper
- Live musical entertainment
- Church Bells
- Beacon lighting at 9:30 pm
- Cash Bar

Commences 6:00 pm. Entry £10* per person from parishofwykeregis.org.uk/events
 or contact Jeff Thomason 07710 096174
 *includes supper / £6.50 without supper



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COMMUNITY FUND
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 WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Continued on page 23



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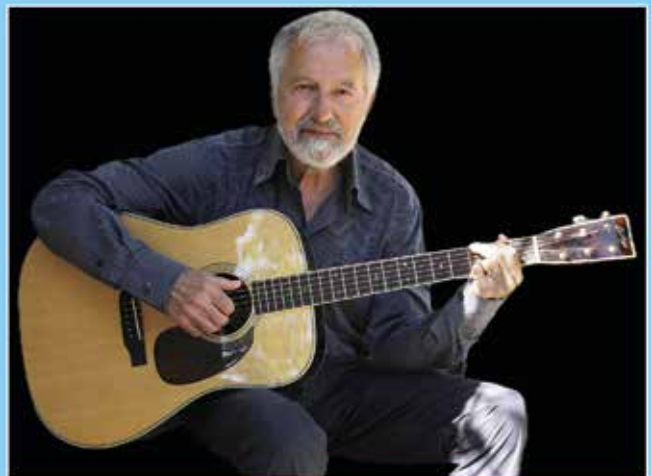
An afternoon of acoustic music with

Ken Watkins

St Andrews Church Rooms, Preston

Sunday 11th May

starting at 3pm raising funds for St Andrews Church



Tickets £15 including tea /coffee and a slice of homemade cake or scones

For anything else bring your own drinks and glasses

Early booking recommended, due to limited seating

Advance bookings only.

Please contact Shirley Mitchell, The Church Rooms, Preston DT3 6BU.

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Shrub or Tree?

Hazel

Corylus avellana

The sight of hazel catkins dancing in the wind gives hope that spring is near, and the long dreary days of winter almost over. Whilst information on the hazel can be found in most reference books on trees, it is generally considered as a shrub since, unlike a tree, which has been described as 'a tall woody plant with a single, usually stout stem,' a shrub is considered as a 'woody plant with several fairly stout stems from a single root stock....'*

Throughout the winter, the hazel, although leafless and seemingly lifeless too, will reveal, on closer inspection, minute grey male catkins forming near the tips of its twigs. Around February, these catkins begin to expand into brownish-pink 'tails' that bear clusters of tiny flowers. These are the male flowers, and they turn gradually to yellow as they produce a fine dust-like powder called pollen. Close by, and also on the twigs, are the small and almost insignificant female flowers that look like tiny buds with a cluster of small red hairs at their tip. The spring breezes assist the release of pollen from the male catkins, and any that lands on the female buds sets pollination into action. This act of pollination initiates germination and sets up the development and

growth of the hazel nut, or cob nut as it is sometimes called. This nut develops throughout the summer months, and is fully ripe by the autumn.

Hazel nuts generally grow in small clusters of about two to four, and are a favourite food for squirrels, mice, pheasants, pigeons and jays as well as human beings. Grey squirrels usually take the nuts before they ripen, and those they don't eat are buried for later in the winter. Many times they forget where they buried them which is fortunate for the hazel since it can then develop into an adult plant! Years ago it was the custom amongst human beings to gather the nuts in autumn, and place them in a dry tin ready for a treat at Christmas.

Throughout the summer months, the kernel, which is the soft inner and edible part of the nut, slowly develops inside its woody case. Around each individual nut is a green and leaf-like cup or husk. At first, the nuts are soft and white but gradually harden and turn brown as summer passes.

The hazel can reach a height of 6-7 metres, and is deciduous. The bark on its multiplicity of stems is a reddish-brown, and generally smooth but peels as the shrub ages. Close inspection may reveal tiny breathing pores in the bark. Oval or rounded, and downy, the leaves have with toothed edges



that terminate in minute points.

A native not only to Britain, the hazel can also be found in North Africa, Europe and Asia too. Preferring a heavy but well-drained soil, it is not prone to serious pests or diseases, and can survive the severest of winters. It is tolerant of shade but can be damaged by deer and rabbits during the early stages of its regrowth after coppicing. 'Coppicing' occurs every seven to fifteen years when, in order to ensure a continuous supply of hazel stems, or 'rods' as they are normally called, these stems are cut back to ground level and then left to grow again.

As far back as pre-historic times, the stems of the hazel were cut and woven into various articles, some of which are still made today. Three thousand years ago, Welsh fishermen wove a basket-like frame from hazel rods. These round frames were then covered with animal hides to render them waterproof, and were known as coracles, ie small fishing boats used on rivers being both guided and propelled by a simple paddle. Coracles are still made but are covered nowadays with canvas.



underground, and although hazel is rarely used as timber, is it acceptable in the production of paper pulp, charcoal and fibre board. Today's vernacular name, 'hazel' had developed from an Old English word 'haesel'. Its Latin name is *Corylus avellana*. 'Corylus', its generic name, is derived from the Greek word 'korys' which translates as a 'helmet' since the leaf-like structure that encases the developing hazel nut was said to



Hazel rods are still used in basket work, and woven into panels to make portable sheep pen hurdles. Similar panels were also used in building, and these 'wattles', when placed between posts and covered with a mixture of mud and straw, formed the framework of our early houses. This system was known as 'wattle and daub'. Hazel rods are still used today as pea and bean sticks to support the plants as they grow tall. They have also been used as clothes props and kindling sticks too, as well as bent into a large hairpin shape that is pushed into thatching on roofs to hold the straw or reeds firmly in place. Water diviners normally use hazel rods in their search for water

resemble a helmet in shape. 'Avel-lana', its species term, commemorates a town in Italy where hazel nuts were once cultivated.

There are several hazel 'trees' to be found around in the area and it will be interesting to see how many nuts actually reach maturity!

**The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe: Fitter, Fitter & Blamey*

**Forest and Woodland Trees in Britain: John White*

Organisations - part

Accordion Club

Every Tuesday 7.30pm. St Ann's Schoolroom, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. £3.00 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information please email or call Graham. gacrow1907@googlemail.com. 07733367065.

Aquafit

Exercise in the water with a smile. Tuesday & Thursday mornings at Osprey Leisure Centre. All abilities welcome. Margaret on 01305832944 or 07977191547.

Beachview Community Centre,

Beachview Close, Wyke Regis, DT4 9JA. My Place Dorset run a lunch club, every Friday from 12.00. Please call Michelle Wilson to pre book on 07920 428039.

Baby and Toddler Group

0-4 years. St Edmunds Church Hall, Lanehouse Rocks Road, DT4 9HZ. 1.00pm-3.00pm during term time. Free fun, singing, crafts. Please contact Amy on 07397 805124 if you are interested.

Blind & Partially Sighted

Wednesdays 1.30pm - 4.00pm Weymouth Community Safety Centre, Radipole Lane. Bingo/Excursions - Jeny Cliff . 01305 787065.

Breathe Well Weymouth

A support group for people with lung problems. Meet 2nd Wednesday of the month. 2.30pm - 4.30pm at The New Fire and Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. Mike on 07792846463 or 01305 814600.

Busy Bees

Friendly stitch and craft group meets alternate Thursday 2.00pm-4.00pm in Upwey. For more information contact Joy on 0774 230 5841.

Community Angels

Volunteer Support- Do you need neighbourly help or could you volunteer to help someone? Please 'phone 01305 834866 for more information.

The Cygnet Group

Third Saturday in the month, St Paul's Church Hall, Abbotsbury Road, 10.00am-12 noon. For more details Eve Hanney 01305 787220 or Joan Savage 01305 820668.

C'Siders - Cancer Support Group

Regular meetings, activities and events for anyone affected by cancer. Find out more at csiders.org, search csiderswp on Facebook, email info@csiders.org or ring on 07392 935064..

Dorchester and Weymouth Branch of Epilepsy Action

Coffee and Chat Meetings, Jacksons' Gallery in Fortunswell, Portland every second Thursday 10.30 - 11.30am. Suttons' Coffee Shop, St Albans St, Weymouth. On the 4th Thursday each month

Dorset Kidney Fund

Support for Renal Patients through

out Dorset and South Somerset. For help and information please call Diana Crowder on 01305 834954 or Sue Bithell on 01305 269293.

Friends of Lodmoor Country Park

Aim to protect, maintain and improve the Park for all to enjoy. We have tree trails, gym equipment, a children's playground all free and we hold events such as Sparkle in the Park, table top sales and Pic-a-Book-Nic. Contact 01305 770772

Friends of Weymouth Library

Supports and promotes our Library. Talks, socials, book sales, knit & natter and quizzes all raise money for Library activities. Membership £6 pa. Secretary 0781 213 9114. Library 01305 762410. friendsofweymouthlibrary.org.uk

Hardy Quilters and Stickers

Meet on the second Monday of the month (not July or August) 9.30am to 12.30pm, St Francis of Assisi Hall Merredin Close Littlemoor DT3 6SB. Contact. chantaldavid1@gmail.com

Island Voices Community Choir

Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm (in term-time. Peter Trim Hall, St George's Centre, Reforne, Portland. The first session is free and then £6 per week. Contact Anne for information linkusup9@gmail.com or 01305776328.

Ladies Keep Fit

Exercise to music classes for the mature mover. We have a few vacancies at the Southill Community centre on Thursday mornings 9.45am till 10.45am. Please contact Linda 889119. Try the first class free.

Ladies Social Badminton

Players needed for ladies badminton group. Friendly group, social games, not league. Meet Tuesdays at Redlands Sports Hub. Details Rosemary 01305 832456

Lip Reading and Communication Skills

Mondays in school term time, 2pm - 3.30pm at the Frank Reynolds Community Centre, Dorchester Road, Weymouth, DT3 5BY (Broadwey). Email. elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com

Littlemoor Library

Tues 9.30am - 1.00pm.
2.00pm - 5.00pm.
Wednesday 2.00pm-5.00pm.
Thursday 2.00pm - 6.30pm.
Friday 2.00pm - 5.00pm.
Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm
The library holds the following.

Writing Group every Monday at 10.00am.

Library Gets Lively Every Tuesday 11.15 - 12.00 noon.

Reading Group on the second Wednesday in the month 10.30am - 11.30am.

Mulberry Bush Pre-school

At St Andrew's School. Children. 2 years 9 months to school age. Contact jjonas@standrews.dsat.org.uk

Osmington Archery Club

We meet one afternoon a week in the Village Hall throughout the year. Sometimes in better weather in the summer we shoot on private ground at Milborne St Andrew. Please phone 01305 833460 for further details.

Osmington Art Group

We meet each Thursday afternoon in term time at Osmington Village Hall from 2.00pm till 4.00pm. Bring your own art, whatever it is, and draw, paint, collage, in a relaxed atmosphere and pause for tea and cake or biscuits (and a natter), at half time. Phone Sheila 01305833150 or email sheilaedmonds@hotmail.com.

Osmington Leisure

Table Tennis is held on Wednesday evenings (7.30pm - 9.30pm).

Osmington Lunch Club

The club is now meeting on the third Friday of the month. A two course meal is available with a glass of wine for only £7. Guests arrive at Osmington Village Hall at 12.15 for lunch to be served at 12.30. To book a place phone Fran on 832430 or 07817825527.

Osmington Village Hall

07387 118300 osmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com. www.osmingtonvillagehall.co.uk.

Parish of Wyke Regis, All Saints with St Edmunds

All Saints, Portland Road, 01305 78464 info@parishofwykeregis.org.uk www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk
Every Friday at All Saints. 10.30am Holy Communion followed by coffee.
Sundays at All Saints. Possible 8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Holy Communion. First Sunday in month - Café Church.
St Edmund's, Lane House Rocks Road. Alternate weeks, Holy Communion or Service of the Word. 11am
Mother and Toddlers at St Edmund's. 1pm - 3pm
Please check our block of parish activities elsewhere in magazine.

Pilates classes with Clair Myers

Every Thursday morning St Andrews Church Rooms, Preston 9.00 and 12.30 for beginners and advanced, men and women. cmpilates@live.co.uk

Preston Pre-school

Where learning is fun, in a free flowing environment indoors and outdoors. Children from 2 years. Funded places available.

Monday - Friday 8.45am to 2.45pm
For more information, phone 07826515321, e-mail prestonpre-school@hotmail.co.uk or simply come and visit us during our opening times.

Preston Table Tennis Club

Wednesdays 7.00pm and 9.00pm, Westfield School, Littlemoor Road. Contact Mick Hogan. E-mail. prestonttc@gmail.com

Preston Pantomime Group

Meets every Wednesday, 7.30pm at Preston Village Hall. New members

welcome from age 14 upwards. Contact Julie on 832620.

Portland Gig Rowing Club

Meet Osprey Quay for various rowing sessions during the week and weekends and are open to all from 11yrs and over. For more information, www.portlandgigrowingclub.co.uk

Repair Cafe Weymouth

Volunteers repair broken items in return for a donation. Events are on the second Saturday of the month from 10.30am - 12.30pm, except July and August., The Top Club, Louviers Road, Littlemoor DT3 6AY with free car parking. www.repaircafeweymouth.org or 'Repair Cafe Weymouth' on Facebook. E.repaircafeweymouth@gmail.com.

Scottish Country Dancing

Thursday 7.00pm September - May. New dancers welcome anytime. Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. DT4 9SF. Details from Judy on 833660 .

Social Badminton Players Needed

Friendly groups, non league, Redlands Community and Leisure Centre. Ladies Doubles 10 to 11am Tuesdays Mixed Doubles 9 to 10.30am Fridays Details - Rosemary 01305 832456

South Dorset Caledonian Society

Friendly Scottish Country Dancing including popular Ceilidh dances. Mondays, Preston Village Hall. 3.45pm - 5.45pm £3 inc Tea and Coffee. No partner required, wear soft shoes. Email frank@southdorsetcaledonians.org or phone Frank and Marilyn 01305 835075.

South Dorset Radio Society

We meet on the second Friday of the month, Weymouth West Scout Hall, Granby Close, DT4 0SR from 7.30. www.HamRadioSouthDorset.com, E. stuartvanstone@btinternet.com

South Dorset Ramblers Group

Guided walks for our members throughout Dorset, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Taster walks available.

www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/south-dorset-group

Somerset and Dorset Family History Society

St Aldhelms Church Centre Spa Road on the 3rd Friday of the month talks commence at 2.30 pm, preceded by tea or coffee. John on 01305 776008.

South Dorset Woodcarving Club

South Dorset Woodcarving Club Tuesdays, 7 - 9pm - Upwey Old School Hall, Church Lane, Upwey, DT3 5EQ Contact - Jen & Dave. 01305 771742 or Andy. 07739 020839. Find us on Facebook. email. southdorsetwoodcarvingclub8@gmail.com

Southill Short Mat Bowls Club

Meet at Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Mondays 2.00pm and Wednesdays 2.00pm & 7.00pm. First 3 lessons free, then £4 per session. Tuition given. www.southillsmbc.co.uk

by 12pm on the closing date of Wednesday 30th April.

Nominators must live within our ward boundary.

Report from Cllr Kate Wheller

Rodwell and Wyke Regis (DC) and Wyke Regis North (WTC)

I realised recently that I started writing this column around 2004/05 and I thought surely people are sick of me. In the past week I have met four people from different backgrounds and areas and each has told me how much they enjoy reading my monthly message. So here goes again.

It won't surprise you to hear that this job is often very frustrating. At a recent planning meeting we were asked to approve a small extension to a car park on an industrial site. Nothing contentious. However, in 2023 66 members in a total of 82 voted and agreed a range of measures to combat the effects of climate change. Among those measures was that permeable surfaces would be used on car parks whenever possible, with suitable drainage, soakaways etc in order to mitigate the risks of surface water flooding. This particular car park was to be constructed using tarmac. I asked why, since the land is owned by Dorset Council we were not setting a good example in the design. My Green Party colleague agreed. After a long debate we were told that it had not been discussed and that although we could set conditions on enhanced drainage we probably could not insist upon more climate friendly materials being used. The minutes of the meeting will show the displeasure of members and the subject will be discussed further. It is not enough for us to debate an issue and pass a resolution if we don't then stand by the decision.

I am regularly asked – 'why did you approve this' or 'why didn't you ask for that'

If an issue is not within existing plans, Neighbourhood, Local, or part of an approved policy it is difficult to argue in favour. Completing the Dorset Local Plan is vital in order to create these protections and the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan will feed into that. I have been part of the Executive Advisory Panel (EAP) on the local plan for over 5 years and I am delighted that it is finally taking

shape. Before long a draft will be presented to all residents for consultation. Linked to this, and my experience on planning committees demonstrates the need for stricter and more coherent design. A new EAP is to be established to work on a Design Code for the County, and I have agreed to take part.

One of the charming features of England is how different each county is one from another, driving around it is easy to guess as you move from Dorset to Devon or across into Wiltshire and so on. We notice, often quite jarringly, when a house in an 'alien' vernacular is built, or an extension that does not fit well in the street scene. I hope I will be able to tell you more about this piece of work in coming months.

The Portland and Weymouth Towns of Culture programme has now been launched and there are some exciting events being staged across both towns. Please look out for posters and notices and on-line to find out how you can take part and enjoy cultural topics spanning almost everything you can think of. Music and Art, Dance and live performance, plays, talks, exhibitions and food, and much more.

When Cine World closed there was an outcry from those who said how much they would miss not having a local cinema. I have been in love with film since Saturday morning pictures in the early 50s so I certainly was devastated though not surprised. A multi screen complex needs to be supported by a lot of people. I have regularly sat through a film with a hand full of others. I was so pleased when the Pavilion Community Interest Company announced that they would bring films back to town. After an understandably shaky start new films are now being shown. The screen is large, and I think the sound reproduction is good, the choice of film is varied. Yet despite this I find again that I sit in a theatre with a hand full of other movie goers. Recently, I had a very nice lunch in the piano bar over looking a world class beach and beautiful sea and then watched an award winning film. Life doesn't get much better. You know the saying 'Use it or lose it'

I was pleased to be part of the appointment panel for the new Chief Executive for Dorset Council. There were over 100 applicants all

of whom were screened and the numbers reduced and refined. A small number were finally interviewed and a unanimous decision was made on the appointment. There will have been an announcement in the local press before this issue of the Register.

With continuing challenges in government funding for Local Councils and with ever increasing demands particularly in Adult Social Care and in Children's Services the need for robust transformation in delivery is vital. I shall continue to be part of that work. I am determined that whilst making the very best use of technology we do not reduce access to information and help to those who need it.

I read on Social Media recently very unfair criticism of Weymouth Town Council concerning the palm trees on the Prom. These are not being replaced because they have been neglected and are dying, indeed they have grown so well they have outgrown their location. These large trees will be relocated and more appropriate species grown instead. When they were planted in 2012 those same people told us we were stupid and the trees would die in their first year.

I continue to post on my Councillor Kate Wheller Facebook page however if you wish to contact me please email cllrkateheller@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk, cllr-kate.wheller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or phone 07850 060947; you can leave a message. I do welcome your thoughts and comments and yes even your complaints. I rarely pick up on messenger. You are always likely to find me around the village and town, at the library, on the bus or at home. I will continue to attend the monthly coffee morning at All Saints Church, Portland Road, you will be most welcome to join me there to discuss any residents issues. I also try to attend Holy Trinity Church once a month and am happy to talk to your there.

Kate

Cllr Kate Wheller: Wyke North; Rodwell and Wyke - Leader - Labour Group;

Cllr Mike Sewry: Rodwell - cllrmike-sewry@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Howard Atkinson: Melcombe Regis - cllrhowardatkinson@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Thomas Taylor: Wyke South - cllrthomastaylor@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Kimber: Portland - Dorset

Council - cllrpaul.kimber@dorset-council.gov.uk

You can contact Lloyds office lloyd.hatton.mp@parliament.uk if you don't do emails write to PO Box 9788, Weymouth, DT4 4JH

Community Expo

Weymouth Town Council is preparing for the return of the Community Expo, which will take place on Saturday 17th May at 11am - 2pm at the town's iconic Jubilee Clock on the beautiful seafront.

As well as a variety of stalls showcasing the work of voluntary and community organisations who help various communities in Weymouth, community choirs are also set to perform.

Following the success of last year, the event will follow a similar format and be a twist on the Town Council's annual meeting.

If your organisation would like a stall at the Community Expo 2025, please email charlotteemery@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk by midday on Friday 2nd May.

Where in Dorset?

Grange Arch, Creech Arch or Bond's Folly, since its is known by all three names, is situated on the path as you walk east from the Grange Hill car park from Whiteway Hill, along the inner ridge of the Purbeck Hills,

Grange Arch was built around 1745 by Mr Denis Bond, the owner of Creech Grange, presumably to enhance the view from the house. Creech Grange was built by Sir Oliver Lawrence (an ancestor of America's first president George Washington) in 1539. It was bought by Nathaniel Bond in 1691 and rebuilt in 1846. It changed hands again in 1979 when it was bought by Norman Hayward, who has restored the house and gardens.



Wyke Regis WI



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at
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