

# Wyke Register

Issue No 347 March 2020



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

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## The Wyke Regis Society Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting no 411 held 7pm Tuesday 14th January 2020

Wyke Regis Working Men's Club, Portland Road.  
Contact: Georgina Skipper,  
georgina.skipper@gmail.com  
Web site - wykeregissociety.com

### Planning

Planning issues discussed included planning applications for 96-98 Buxton Road. Ten houses are planned for this site. It was felt that it was overdevelopment of the site, with extra traffic accessing the Buxton Road at a dangerous point in the road. There have been many objections to this planning application. Plans have gone in for the Ferrybridge site, mostly flats. Plans have also been seen for 4 houses at Swallows Rest, Rymead Lane. The Power Fuel site on Portland Port has not been well received. The large lorries that will use Portland Road to access the site, we are told could be about 60 large lorries per day that makes 120 if you take into consideration that the lorries have to travel back again. The site of this incinerator could also cause a lot of problems with fumes.

The safety issues with the Tesco parking area have been brought up again by many local people. This problem has been raised with the local Councillors who are looking into the problem with Highways Department. The two parking spaces outside the Smugglers Hotel will have a parking restriction on them between 7am and 7pm. This will help with the traffic flow; but nothing has happened on that.

The Highways Department has objected to the planning for a junction to service Curtis Fields in the middle the incline on Lanehouse Rocks Road. The plans have now gone in for the junction to be almost on the brow of the hill where the road levels out a little. The Councillor and the Society have put in objections to what we feel will be an even more dangerous junction.

### Church and Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is still suffering from a lot of damp problems, they are trying to rectify this but the building is old and the brickwork very porous. The toilet facilities have been upgraded and redecorated after the vandalism.

### Pirates Lane, Westhill Road

The large shipping container that was on 'field 2' has been removed along with the machinery and the caravan, this land known as 'field 2' has now been sold on. The caravan owners in the first field have lost their appeal and now have 60 days to take the caravans off the site

### Wyke Square

There has been no response from residents regarding maintaining the planters in Wyke Square. The Council is happy to remove them if they are not maintained. It was thought that it would be nice for residents in the

Square to decide on how the planters should look in the future. The Society would be happy to give any resident or residents advice on what is already planted if they would like to take one on. The cut through from the Square to Shrubbery Lane is becoming more of a 'rat run'. It makes it very dangerous for pedestrians.

### Footpaths and Highways

There was no new information on the Jurassic Coast Highway. Portland Road is still suffering from very large lorries using this road. Although Highways keep putting little white marks and numbers on the Portland Road nothing seems to happen. A water leak near the School entrance has been reported.

The coastal path from Camp Road to Ferrybridge has again been reported to the Rangers. They have not responded to the letters or emails. This problem has been given over to the local Councillor to chase up. Funding for coastal paths is very low. All the 'kissing gates' and stiles have been removed also the 'no cycling' signs. It looks like some of this path has been re-routed. The Rangers have been informed of groups of cyclists using the path. One of the biggest problems is the water runoff from the caravans at the Vista holiday camp. This is eroding the footpath and banks going into the Fleet.

The footpath is still closed across All Saints School from Rylands Lane to Sunnyside Road; this is causing a lot of problems for residents. This is an ongoing issue

A large lorry belonging to Weymouth and Portland Council has been parking on the pavement in Gallwey Road on a regular basis; this has been reported to the Council as it takes up the pavement causing residents to walk in the road.

Large caravans and camper vans are causing problems trying to get through Wyke Square, Westhill Road and High street. The Society has contacted Swallows Rest, Rymead Lane they will give their clients better travel information. The gate in the Community Centre is being used by clients with caravans; this has been reported to the Council by residents.

### Any Other Business

The Police held a meeting in Wyke Gardens to explain to residents the problems in the area. Hot spots for trouble seem to be worst outside schools.

There is still no sign of a post box to replace the one taken away from outside McColl's in Portland Road.

Residents have reported a problem with young people hanging around by the small building near the Crab House. This building has had scaffold round it for some time.

Residents in Lodge Way have not contacted the Society with regards to installing a Salt bin for their road. The mild weather this winter has meant there has not been a problem for residents accessing this road.



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Many local people are pleased to see a new Lidel supermarket open on the causeway but no bus stops there for its customers from Portland or Weymouth. We have asked if the No 1 bus can be rerouted. At the moment the bus stops at Ferrybridge and then does not stop again until Victoria Square. Not very user friendly when you have a bag of shopping.\*

Meeting ended 8.30pm  
Next Meeting 17th March 2020, 7pm it will be the AGM.

\*Bus company First have just announced that its Weymouth-Portland services will stop to pick up and drop off passengers outside Lidl on Hamm Beach Road, Osprey Quay, from May.

## Friends of Wyke Regis Library

### Coffee Mornings

We are a small group who help to support the library and we are holding monthly coffee mornings to give people an opportunity to come along for a chat and find out more about the services the library offers. Our Coffee Morning in January was arranged to tie in with an IT and Biscuits session where anyone needing help with IT could come and meet the library's Digital Champion to discuss their problems and either get them resolved on the day or book a session for further help and advice. Some people just came for the coffee and a chat but several wanted IT assistance.

Our Coffee Morning on Friday, 13th March will be attended by representatives from LiveWell Dorset. They will host a 'Pop Up' stand and offer basic health checks and promote the services they offer. Maybe a chance to seek advice on healthier living and see what organisations are out there who could help?

## Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

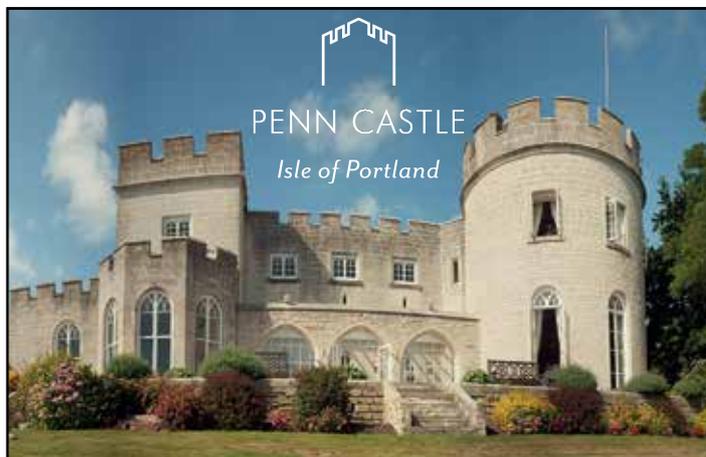
**SPRING! The gardener's busy time: Seeds to sow, potatoes and onions to plant; beds to dig over and prepare. Please be careful not to disturb wildlife - hedgehogs and frogs are stirring, birds nesting and insects hatching.**

Saturday 22nd February at 6.30pm - Quiz Night with supper. Non-members welcome. £6 each.

Saturday 14th March from 2pm - Free Propagation Workshop. Pricking out and potting on. Would you like to help? Training given. Discuss with the General Secretary.

Friday 1st May - coach trip to Toby's Garden Festival at Powderham Castle ([www.tobygardenfest.co.uk](http://www.tobygardenfest.co.uk)). Tickets at £30 include admission. Non-members welcome. Membership is only £5 a year (joining now is valid until March 2021). Opening times at Trading Post in Rylands Lane are Sats 9.30am - 12.30pm and Weds 2 - 4pm. Contact 01305 759668 or [enquiries@wrhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wrhs.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.

News continues on page 4



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Top image: Linus Moran, Left image: Charlie Campney, Right image: Ed Peers



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**Wyke Regis WI**

Our usual Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of the month got our new year off to a good start. All our interest groups are back to their usual meeting times with the poetry group looking at different poets or poems from different eras at their meetings.

The speaker at the January meeting was Sarah Delves who gave an interesting talk on 'Handbags of Glamour'. She brought some bags from her collection ranging from the 18th to 21st century which members were encouraged to examine. We have all had an opportunity to vote for the resolutions proposed for the National Federation to consider at the

Annual Meeting in June. This is part of the process of choosing campaigns for the next year when the WI as a whole can influence decisions which may affect us all, such as bus services and health matters. Amongst other things, there is to be an outing to Dunster in May and plans are afoot for a holiday in June. But first we're looking forward to Pancake Day on 25th February. Why not join us at the WI Hall, Gallwey Road from 11.00am - 12.30pm? You can find out more about Wyke Regis WI and what we do, by contacting us: 07719 312901; secretary@wykeregiswi.org.uk; www.wykeregiswi.org.uk; Facebook- www.facebook.com/wykeregiswi/

**Wyke Regis and Lanehouse Medical Practice  
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From 18th November 2019, GP Surgeries across England are upgrading to the next phase of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) which will mean that almost all our prescriptions will be processed electronically. We will be live with EPS Phase 4 from 24th March 2020. You will receive your prescriptions in the same way as you do now. Please visit our website or social media pages for more information.

**Hot Clinic**

We have been operating what we refer

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### The Black Swan

*(Cygnus atratus)*

There was an unusual visitor to Lodmoor in early February, black swans have become reasonably common and can be found on almost any body of water. They have similar habitat requirements to mute swans and are often found in the same areas.

Black swans are native to Australia and are the state bird of Western Australia. They were brought to the UK as ornamental birds like peacocks and golden pheasants. Like many other captive birds, they occasionally find their way out into the wild.

They are similar in size to the closely related mute swan and appear all black when swimming, but they have white primary wing feathers, which can be seen in flight. The bill is red with a broad white band on the tip.



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**You might agree with me that it has been a long grey year so far! All the enjoyment of Christmas and the excitement of the New Year are distant memories. There's no sign of a financial recovery from the cost of the festive season, nor even the glimmer of decent weather to allow us to get out and enjoy a (free) walk in the open air.**

When my In-house Adviser and I moved to Weymouth back in 1971 there were many things we enjoyed about living here. One of these was the weather. In Wales it could, and often did, rain for weeks on end. Days and days of light drizzle could soak through the finest raincoat – and that's when there wasn't torrential rain to contend with! If Eskimos have a thousand words for snow, then Welsh people have a similar number to describe rain!

At the end of the last century it never rained for a complete day in Dorset. If the morning was a trifle damp, the afternoon would be lovely, and vice versa. The sun was never far away. Now however Weymouth is more like we remember Wales, with endless days of drizzle and grey cloud. And it's not our fault; we didn't bring the bad weather with us.

There are two possible reasons for this new lack of dryness. Either it's global warming, or my memory is fooling me into thinking that, years ago, everything was just rosy. Most likely the answer is a bit of both. But there could be another reason. A recent academic study suggests that a mid-life crisis occurs to people in their early forties who have noticed their first grey hairs, seen their weight increase and no longer get an unbroken night's sleep. They become more and more miserable and unhappy. Luckily, according to the study, they turn the corner at 47.2 years (approximately?) and from then on begin to feel much happier.

The professor who came up with this theory, David Blanchflower – any relation to Danny Blanchflower, the magnificent Spurs and Northern Ireland footballer, I wonder? My In-house Adviser said I shouldn't ask that because no-one would remember the late, great Danny. Contact me if you do, so I can say smugly 'told you so'.

But I have digressed without even finishing the sentence. Professor David analysed results from 132 different countries to arrive at his startling conclusion. But he obviously didn't speak to any Senior Citizens. We could have told him about the Senior-life crisis which can kick on becoming a bona fide Senior Citizen. The two events are not identical, because, by the time of the later one we have become very used to grey hair, increases in weight and disturbed sleep. We know that these things are of no importance whatsoever when compared with the realisation that 'youngsters' are now trying to run the world, and desperately need our help if they are not going to make a complete

hash of things. It is our duty to advise every 'youngster' on the correct way to maintain the universe to our satisfaction, and for us to give this advice as often as possible.

In my experience 'youngsters' just love the relief from stress that comes from being told what to do. So, it is probably my Senior-life crisis that is making me sad about the weather and lack of disposable income. But one of the cures for being miserable is said to be exercise. Unfortunately, the thought of taking exercise brings me out in a sweat. If you've ever looked through the window of a gym and seen the aching, grimacing tortured bodies working away inside on stationary bikes, rowing machines or weightlifting equipment then you'll know what I mean. However, another Professor, Joseph Devlin, has come to our aid. He's closer to home than Prof David, who works in the America, so is probably more reliable. At the University College of London Prof Joseph has been researching which activities are most efficient in keeping us fit, and which could, I suggest, also help to delay the onset of the Senior-life crisis. Apparently, he suggests that a trip to the cinema to watch a film, preferably a comedy, is as good, possibly better, than a light form of cardio exercise. There is no doubt in my mind that watching Laurel and Hardy is a much better way of helping my heart than subjecting it to an hour of plodding along on the running – or walking - machine in a 'health' club. The worse thing about them is just as you realise that you are too tired to continue, you can't find the slow down button and get squirted off the belt onto the floor. Very humiliating – or it was, 30 odd years ago, which is why I gave it up. Perhaps eating a large tub of popcorn at the same time as watching the film could also add to the fitness levels. The hand to mouth movement will increase the amount of exercise, and the co-ordination required to find your mouth in the dark will improve concentration and confidence.

So, as you have come to expect, I have a cunning plan. To help banish the Senior-life crisis and wintertime blues, I will set up my own gym for Senior Citizens. It will have a cinema with luxury armchair seating, sub-titles for those that need them, recovery rooms with memory foam mattresses and unlimited supplies of tea and chocolate cake. Incidentally, I went out and bought a piece of this memory foam stuff. It didn't improve my memory at all, but perhaps that's because I kept forgetting where I had left it. But I digress. Providing Government funding becomes available – and it should if Senior Citizens threaten to boycott HS2 – my establishment will be up and running (or more accurately, up and gently strolling) within months and you will all be invited to the opening. Watch out for the posters announcing the date.

## Want to avoid challenges to your Will?



Your Will could be challenged after your death by a disappointed family member, possibly under the Inheritance (Provision for Family & Dependents) Act 1975, or because your Will was incorrectly signed, or if you were 'unduly influenced' or did not have the requisite 'testamentary capacity'.

By having your Will drawn up by a professional significantly reduces the risk of a successful challenge being made against your Will after your death.

In addition to instructing a solicitor to prepare your Will, I would advise that you also prepare a letter setting out your reasons for making your Will as it is. This could explain why you had chosen to not treat your children equally for example. Such a letter is evidence of your testamentary capacity. It can also calm a situation down if a disappointed family member can see your reasons for acting as you did.

Depending on your age and whether you are suffering from particular medical conditions, a solicitor may also advise you to obtain a medical report on your testamentary capacity. It is easier for this to be done at the time, than for your Executors to request this after your death, which could be many years later.

No professional can guarantee that no one will challenge your Will, but the above 'belt and braces' approach will give you the most water tight Will possible.

If you are an Executor or beneficiary of an estate where there is a challenge, then my colleagues in the Dispute Resolution department can advise you.

For more information on Wills and Trusts please contact Christine Butterfield in the Private Client Team on 01305 216205 or [christine.butterfield@battens.co.uk](mailto:christine.butterfield@battens.co.uk). For more information on Inheritance and Probate Disputes please contact Peter Livingstone in the Dispute Resolution department on 01935 846235 or [peter.livingstone@battens.co.uk](mailto:peter.livingstone@battens.co.uk).

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to as Hot and Cold Clinics for some time now. In general the Hot Clinic, which is based at our Lanehouse branch is used for urgent, acute appointments and the Cold Clinics, based at our Wyke Regis and Chickerell branches are used for routine appointments. We understand that it is not possible for all of our patients to travel between our branch sites, we also appreciate that it is important for patients with chronic/complex conditions to see familiar physicians, so we will therefore keep a number of face to face appointments in our Cold Clinics for the Hot Clinic Team to use and we also run approximately 6 Cold Clinic sessions at our Lanehouse branch throughout the week consisting of nursing, GP and chronic disease sessions.

From 1st February 2020 we are changing the way we offer our same day appointments. Any patient requiring urgent or same day care will be added to our Hot Clinic Telephone Triage List, they will then be contacted by telephone by a clinician from the Hot Clinic Team. When patient's make contact with the surgery, receptionist's will ask them some questions to ensure they can pass as much information as possible to the clinical staff who will be returning the call. If the clinician can deal with the problem over the telephone, they will, but if they feel the patient needs to be seen, they will arrange a Face to Face appointment. This appointment may be at the Hot Clinic at Lanehouse or at the Cold Clinic at Wyke, Regis or Chickerell.

The Hot Clinic Team is made up of clinicians including a Duty Doctor, a GP, a paramedic, a Health Care Assistant and a Nurse Practitioner.

## Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council update

Some of you may know my younger sister emigrated to Australia fifty years ago. Although she has come home frequently I have never visited her and her family in her home. Just a couple of weeks ago I decided to spend her 70th birthday with her. I am therefore writing this short update from Sydney, New South Wales. I am aware of the real concerns many of you have about the traffic hazards around the Tesco store and am very pleased to tell you that plans are in hand for improvements. These should be implemented quite quickly.

May I remind you that I sit on the west and southern planning committee. In order to remain impartial in debate I cannot discuss or express an opinion on applications however I am pleased to receive comments from residents and they are helpful. Despite weather the work on repairs to the harbour walls has progressed well. The main work will be complete by the time you read this issue with additional railings added in March. Final decisions on the quayside regeneration scheme will be made shortly with a planning application being sub-

mitted early in the Spring.

I attended a very interesting event on the potential for aquaculture along the Dorset coast in January and hope to do some more work on that topic. I was favourably impressed by a recent treasury management report, DC officers have been very effective with the counties in investments.

It is again budget setting time, you will have read much of this in the Echo. It is never easy but we are hopeful that the new budget together with some changes to processes will secure services to our residents.

I continue to post in my Cllr Kate Wheller FB page and welcome your comments however if you require a quick answer to a problem do please email me:- cllrkate.wheller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or phone on 07850 060947, or 01305 839747.

## Choral and Organ Concert at All Saints Church

**All Saints Church, Wyke Regis are the hosts to a superb group of singers on Sunday 23rd February at 5.30pm.**

The Nota Bene Singers, who are led by John Holloway, formerly Musical Director at Wellington College, and Simon Dinsdale - Organ, have performed in the past at various locations including Lullworth Castle and are well worth hearing. They will be singing Choral works by John Rutter, Vivaldi and Bach among other composers.

Come for concert and supper £15 (Students £12) or concert only £10 (Students £7).

Proceeds towards church funds and its charitable causes.

Tickets and further information from Janet Hall (Tel: 01305839737) or www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk

## Royal Manor Theatre

**It's all happening at the Royal Manor Theatre in Fortuneswell, with March being no exception. Thanks to an amazing pantomime in February, we've seen a great start to the year. With so many people coming to see and enjoy our performances, there has never been a better time to get involved.**

We're looking forward to welcoming the 'The Pink Pippos of Portland' to the stage. The Pink Pippos of Portland is an adaptation of Sandra

Fretwell's children's book; a family-friendly story of the magical creatures; the Pippos, who keep Chesil beach tidy and the pebbles graded, according to their proper size! Some folk may recall reading these delightful stories to their children when they were younger. Well, it'll become reality when the characters appear before your very eyes. It's a super fun, colourful production (with songs and puppets!). It will be under an hour long, so ideal for smaller children. The plan is to have eight performances at the theatre. These are the 17th, 18th &

19th and the 24th, 25th & 26th of July. 11 rehearsals, starting the 14th June; every Sunday and Monday. Look out for details as they're released.

Ever fancied having a go at acting? Or perhaps just want to see how a play comes together? It all starts with a play reading! Come along to one of our play readings. They're on the first Wednesday of the month, all in good company. For details, call Elfrida, on: 01305 834120.

Handy with a paint brush? Good with wood? We're looking for people who can 'drop-in' on a Wednesday afternoon from 1pm - 4pm, to lend a hand. With so much to do, and so little time in which to get it all done, you'll be welcomed with good humour and expertise. Pop-in to find out more.

There's so much more happening and much more news to hear. For details of everything we're up to, please visit us at: [www.royalmanortheatre.co.uk](http://www.royalmanortheatre.co.uk), or pop-in on a Tuesday evening or Wednesday afternoon to meet us. So, as you can see, it's onwards and upwards for Portland's very own theatre. See you soon.

## Friends of Weymouth Library

Talk from John Stockley, Part 2 of *My Life as an African American child in Dorset*, on Saturday 29th February at 10.30am at Weymouth Library £2 FOWL members, £3 visitors inc refreshments. Booking Essential Tickets from Library Desk or enquiries 01305 750557.

## Twinning Society

**The Weymouth & Holzwicked Twinning Society AGM was held on the 21st January at the Crown Hotel. Our President Mayor Graham Winter and his wife Mayoress Mary Winter were present, after the various reports took the chair for the election of the committee for the coming year.**

The previous committee was re-elected plus three new members. We look forward to the New Year with new inspiration.

On completion of the AGM we had our Annual Dinner which was most enjoyable and we thank the Crown Hotel for their excellent service.

We next meet at St Andrews Church Hall Preston at 2.00pm on 21st February to hear a talk by Mark Owen. Mark is a paralytic from the waist down and has set up a charity for others like him. He builds go karts and adapts them to race at the Clay Pigeons Raceway. He will also tell us how he encourages other paralytics with his own story and positive attitude. Admission £3.50 to

include Tea/Coffee and Cake. All are welcome.

Our March meeting will be a Beetle Drive which will be great fun and all are welcome. Details from Chris on 832694.

## Weymouth Golf Club

**Weymouth Golf Club enters a forth decade of fund raising.**

Over the past three decades Weymouth Golf Club has raised well over £200,000 for a wide ranging number of local causes, including formal charities and individuals with particular needs.

The Club has announced their programme for the Club's 31st Annual Charity Week commencing on Saturday August 15th with a Men's Charity 4BBB the week continues with a Mixed Charity Event on the Sunday, a Ladies Charity Scramble on the Monday and an Open Charity Medal on Thursday 20th. The week finishes on Friday August 21st with an Open Charity Scram-

ble.

Entry for any of these Charity Week golf events may be booked by calling the Club on 01305 750831 or downloading an entry form from [weymouthgolfclub.co.uk](http://weymouthgolfclub.co.uk) or via [www.golfempire.co.uk/golf-clubs/weymouth-golf-club.htm](http://www.golfempire.co.uk/golf-clubs/weymouth-golf-club.htm)

## Diabetes UK is looking for swimmers

**Diabetes UK is looking for people from Dorset to take on the swimming challenge of the year, Swim22, between 22nd February and 22nd May.**

Swim22 participants will cover an incredible 22 miles - the equivalent of crossing the English Channel. People taking on the challenge can swim in their local pool alone or, better still, with family, friends or colleagues.

There are an estimated 4.7 million

*Continued on page 11*



# Wyke Regis Working Men's Club



56 Portland Road in the centre of the village

[www.wykeworkies.com](http://www.wykeworkies.com)



**A warm welcome awaits you at the 'Workies'**



Internet connected

## February Entertainments

**Friday 21st - John Ramon**

**Saturday 22nd - Ocean Drive**

**Friday 28th - Charity Race Night**

**Saturday 29th - Sound Star Entertainments**

## March Entertainments

**Friday 6th March - Shauna & Nicky**

**Saturday 7th March - Rock Waves**

**Friday 13th March - Ricky Solo**

**Saturday 14th March - Brass Monkeys**

**Friday 20th March - Hazzard**

**Saturday 21st March - Old Dogz New Trix**

**Friday 27th March - TBC**

**Saturday 28th March - Hank Marvin/Shadows Tribute**

Macgregor Catering will be happy to welcome you to their Sunday Carvery. Kevin uses local suppliers and all meat is sourced from Jurassic Coast Meats at Winfrith, who rear their own Aberdeen Angus beef and their other meats are supplied from farms throughout Dorset. You can find full details on his Facebook page.

The club has function rooms available to suit various types of group bookings and to complete your night, our in house Disco is available too, all at very reasonable rates. To book please ring 01305 786867

### Wyke Regis Working Mens Club

Run by WRWMC for the benefit of its members

**BIG Cash Prize Quiz EVERY Tuesday at 8pm**

**Win up to £200 in cash ON THE NIGHT**

ANY team, whether you're the winner or a loser, could win the bonus jackpot prize

1) Entry fee of £1 per person, teams: maximum of 6 people.

2) ALL money in...money out in cash prizes ON THE NIGHT.

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**Sunday Lunchtime Meat and Spirit Draw**

**Plus the Jackpot Draw - 'got to be in it to win it'**

*Food available every lunchtime (except Mondays) and evenings.*

**Kitchen closed on Tuesdays**

**Sunday Carvery 12.00 till 3.30pm guests welcome**

**• Good bands every Saturday night • Club prices and a great atmosphere • Membership is now open • Members and Guests welcome at all times • No under 14s in the main bar on Saturday nights, Family Room available**

**Full details at the Club or contact the Secretary on 786867**



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people living with diabetes in the UK – a condition where there is too much glucose in the blood because the body cannot use it properly. If not managed well, both type 1 and type 2 diabetes can lead to devastating complications, including sight loss, amputation, kidney failure and stroke. There is currently no known cure for any type of diabetes.

Phaedra Perry, Diabetes UK South West Regional Head, said:

"Swimming is a fantastic way to help you get fit and healthy, have fun and set yourself a challenge. Whether you're an absolute beginner or a seasoned swimmer, our team will be on hand to offer swimming tips and fundraising advice.

'Every length you complete and every pound you raise brings us closer to our vision of a world where diabetes can do no harm. So sign up and make a splash!'

To register, visit [www.diabetes.org.uk/swim22](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/swim22). There is no registration fee and no minimum sponsorship.

## Folk/Acoustic Sessions

For each of the following please contact Gill 01305 783950 or text 07866757821 for further information.

First Friday of the month at Victoria Inn (Knights In The Bottom), Chickerell, at 8pm.

First Tuesday in the month at Wyke Smugglers, Portland Road, Wyke Regis, 8pm.

Fourth Tuesday in the month also at Wyke Smugglers, 8pm.

Come and sing a song, play a tune, join in with others, or just sit back and enjoy the music.

(Please note: there are no sessions at Pilgrim House anymore)

Other sessions in the area:

Every Wednesday at the Sailor's Return.

Third Sunday at the Old Town Hall.

## C'Siders - Cancer Support Group

C'Siders is a friendly and informal group which meets on the first and third Monday of each month at the Wyke Smugglers in Wyke Regis, supporting anyone in our local area who has been affected by cancer.

Members enjoy chatting with one another, listening to talks on a wide range of topics and taking part in trips, visits and activities. As well as the regular meetings, C'Siders offers weekly C'Fit Cancer Rehabilitation Exercise classes at the Osprey Leisure Centre. These take place on Wednesdays at 11.15am. Anyone with a cancer diagnosis can join this programme on any date. These are weekly hour-long sessions; all you need is an exercise referral from your GP or other health professional. Our weekly table tennis sessions are at 1pm on Mondays at the Wyke Regis Sports Club, Ryemead Lane, Wyke Regis. All of our members are most welcome at these free sessions.

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

C'Siders welcomes new members; for all details of news and events, please visit our website at [csiders.org](http://csiders.org), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/csiderswp](http://www.facebook.com/csiderswp), e-mail [info@csiders.org](mailto:info@csiders.org) or contact us on 07430 695462. C'Siders meet on the first and third Mondays of the month from 7.30pm - 9.00pm at the Wyke Smugglers, 76 Portland Road, DT4 9AB.

## Diabetes Survey

We know that diabetes technology, like Flash glucose monitoring, continuous glucose monitoring and insulin pumps can greatly improve people's health and quality of life. But too many people still don't have access to the technology they need to best manage their condition.

Shockingly, in some areas of the UK, only 5% of people with type 1 diabetes can access Flash, compared with more than 70% in other areas. What's more, we're seeing growing numbers of people with type 2 diabetes self-funding Flash because the technology isn't available to them on the NHS.

People with and affected by diabetes have told us they want to see better access to diabetes technology. And we agree. But now we want to hear about your experiences.

So talk to us. Our survey at [smartsurvey.co.uk/s/diabetestech](http://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/diabetestech) – is now live, and is open until 1 March. Whether your experiences have been positive or negative, whether you want to talk about yourself, or about someone you care for, your views will help shape our work in this vital area.

With your help, we can ensure that everyone who could benefit from diabetes technology can access it.

Phaedra Perry,  
Diabetes UK South West Regional Head

## National Trust South Dorset Association

Tuesday 3rd March at 2.30pm 'Battle of Britain Over Dorset, 1940' by John Smith

St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth, DT3 5EW.

Presented by the National Trust South Dorset Association.

Members £3 Non-members £4 including tea and biscuits. No need to book. [www.southdorsetnt.org.uk](http://www.southdorsetnt.org.uk)

## New President for Weymouth Probus Club

John Cruickshank of The Nothe has taken office as this year's President of Weymouth Probus Club, replacing Dr Carl Whitehouse who retires after a busy year. John spent most of his professional life with BP and served with them in London, Paris and Brussels.

He retired to Weymouth more than ten years ago and in retirement he has been very much involved in com-



John Cruickshank (left) and Dr Carl Whitehouse at the hand-over ceremony.

munity service, especially with Age UK where he is an advisor on benefits entitlements.

Carl, from Preston, was a GP for over thirty years before becoming Professor of Teaching Medicine in the Community at Manchester University. He has been pleased to welcome a number of new members to the club during his year as President.

The Probus Club is a long-established and successful club which provides social contact and companionship for retired men from any occupational background. It meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Crown Hotel (near the Town Bridge) for informal get-togethers over coffee, followed by absorbing talks on wide-

ranging subjects of local or topical interest given by well-known speakers. The club also runs events such as lunches, dinners and outings etc, and looks after the welfare and social interests of its members.

New members and guests are always very welcome and if you are interested in coming along please contact Michael White on 01305 771822. You can also find us on [weymouthprobus.org](http://weymouthprobus.org)

## The value of reporting to Trading Standards

In the last full financial year local Trading Standards services together:

- Received around 500,000 complaints, and undertook 43,000 investigations
- Visited over 30,000 businesses to help them understand business law and trade fairly
- Prevented £26 million pounds being handed over to doorstep criminals
- Provided advice and support to 11,000 people affected by scams
- Found over 3,000 businesses that were supplying food that was misdescribed, had undeclared allergens, contained illegal ingredients, or was involved in food fraud
- Tested 6,000 retailers and found a quarter illegally selling alcohol, tobacco and knives
- Detained over 20 million illegal products including tobacco, toys, cosmetics and electrical products, some of which could have caused life chang-

Continued on page 13

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Wednesday 15th	
<b>WINDSOR GREAT PARK and SAVILLE GARDEN SPRING BLOOMS</b>	<b>£49</b>
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Thursday 16th	
<b>The SILVERSTONE EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>£59</b>
New £20 million visitor centre of British motorsport	
Sunday 19th	
<b>CLOVELLY, North Devon coast</b>	<b>£38</b>
Historic cobbled fishing village tumbling down a cliff	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> MAY	
<b>OSBORNE HOUSE, Isle of Wight</b>	<b>£53</b>
Queen Victoria's Palace by the sea. Includes ferry crossing	
Prices include entry fees. Reductions for Seniors/Children	

**For further information and on-line bookings - [www.bluebirdcoaches.com](http://www.bluebirdcoaches.com)**

## Wyke Regis Neighbourhood Policing Team

Your local officers are:



Sgt 2162  
Sam Goom



PC 2456  
Jane Bayliss



PCSO 6875  
Kelly Heath



PCSO 6488  
Matt Barton

### Contact Us

#### Dorset Police: 101

Please only use the number above for non-emergency calls. If a crime is in progress or life is in danger, please dial 999.

**Crimestoppers:** 0800 555 111

### Follow Us

Twitter: @WeyPortPolice

Facebook: Weymouth & Portland Police

### Community Messaging Service

Dorset Police would like to encourage as many people as possible to sign up to our new community messaging system, Dorset Alert. You can print the forms directly from the Dorset Alert website, or ring us for an application form.



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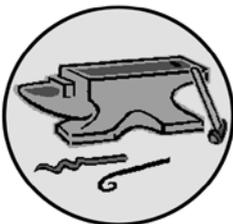
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**WDHS Retirement Fellowship**

The West Dorset Health Service Retirement Fellowship will meet on Thursday 5th March at 2.00pm in the Boys Brigade Hall, Sawmills Lane, Dorchester DT1 2RZ for the AGM which will be followed by a quiz.

The West Dorset Health Service Retirement Fellowship was set up over 35 years ago for retired employees of the Health Service and their partners living in Dorset and meet on the first Thursday of every month except August and December. Subscriptions are now due. New members welcome.

**Spring Tea Party**

Come and Join us for a Spring Tea Party on Saturday 7th March, in St Andrew's Church Rooms, from 3.00 to 5.00pm. Admission £3.00 to include tea.

All proceeds to The Eve Appeal, Research into Ovarian Cancer. Enquiries to Theresa 833739.

**Diabetes UK**

**Diabetes UK is looking for healthcare professionals from Dorset to lead improvements in diabetes care. The charity is searching for healthcare professionals with a special interest in diabetes to take part in its Clinical Champions programme.**

The award-winning initiative launched in 2014, in partnership with Novo Nordisk, is to address the significant variation in patient care and treatment for people living with diabetes in the UK. Since the programme began, 105 clinicians have been recruited to develop their leadership skills and become champions for improving diabetes care. Between them they have trained thousands of other healthcare professionals, developed innovative new clinics, reduced medication errors and increased the number of people getting the appropriate treatment for their diabetes.

The new champions will be selected based on their leadership potential, clinical expertise and a demonstrable passion for transforming care for people with diabetes. They will be supported with two years of training alongside their clinical work, to help them become strong leaders, identify

*Continued on page 15*

**Veeda & Vince**  
Gardens are already needing attention. Whether you'd like your garden maintained or revamped ready for spring.

Do your hedges need trimming/tidying before the birds set up home in them?

Get on top of those weeds, plant those bulbs or a general tidy up to get the garden ready for you to enjoy this coming year.  
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### Supporting NHS DCHFT Oncology Staff Wellbeing with Clinical Reflexology.

The Fortuneswell Reflexology and Cake Event was set up in the Chemotherapy Unit at Dorchester County Hospital and 23 oncology staff representing the Fortuneswell ward, chemotherapy and radiology departments took full advantage of the event. Fortuneswell Complementary Therapy Team Lorna Spicer, Jane Cruickshank and myself gave up our Saturday to provide the Clinical Reflexology sessions.

Readers are aware I'm sure of the Clinical Reflexology Service my colleagues and I provide for oncology patients attending Dorset County Hospital. The therapeutic and beneficial effects of the therapy are reported and verified by processing patient evaluation feedback forms. Last year over 2,000 Clinical Reflexology treatments were delivered to DCH cancer patients. To support service growth and provide evidence of patient need I pro-

duce Annual Reports that are presented at the AGM of the funder, The Fortuneswell Cancer Trust. Also Included in the annual reports is feedback from annual Staff Engagement Events. These events offer the opportunity for oncology staff to experience the therapeutic and beneficial effects of Clinical Reflexology first 'hand' or should I say first 'foot'. Being encouraged to relax and 'put your feet up' is bound to enhance a sense of wellbeing. Wellbeing is holistic term reflecting how a person is feeling physically, mentally and emotionally. Resulting in a state of being comfortable, healthy or happy. Detrimental to wellbeing is stress, frequently described as feeling overwhelmed or unable to cope from excessive pressures or demands. One area where stress has been found to have a profound impact is the workplace. The NHS is one of the country's largest employers and the latest NHS annual survey reports over 38% of NHS staff had suffered work-related stress. NHS staff are expected to cope with traumatic circumstances and violent unpredictable patients. Whilst professional training provides the skills to operate to the highest of standards. The lack of funding, unrealistic targets, long and un-social working hours and staff shortages do nothing to promote staff wellbeing. General



job satisfaction and mental health has been reported by staff to be affected by instances of feeling a lack of support or not having a voice or not being informed about changes that affect them. 30% of NHS sickness absence is due to stress and the financial implications are £300-£400 million pound per year.

There is a growing body of research that provides evidence of the safety and efficacy of complementary therapies in clinical settings. Patient Reported Outcome Measures PROMS and Patient Reported Experience Measures PREMS are tools that are helping shape CAM research studies of the future.

To answer the critics who refute the value of Complementary Therapy use in clinical settings. I would reply that they should be thankful that we have such a forward thinking and inclusive NHS hospital such

as Dorset County Hospital on our doorstep. From 2014 the oncology staff at DCH has embraced the Clinical Reflexology Service. Funding for the Complementary Therapy/Clinical Reflexology Service is entirely due to the invaluable support of the Fortuneswell Cancer Trust FCT a local charity that raises funds to enhance the DCH cancer patient experience. Without the FCT the service would not exist.

Patient feedback has supported the sustained development of the service which now provides Clinical Reflexology Mon-Fri at DCH. Staff Feedback comments from the Reflexology and Cake Wellbeing Event included:- Amazing, relaxing experience. Interesting and informative as to how our feet reflect the rest of the body. Therapeutic and Beneficial. Certainly does help wellbeing. © AW2020 Caution: Not all reflexologists are Clinical Reflexologists and trained to a standard to support cancer patients.

Contact Tel 01305 784986. abigailwring@btinternet.com www.dorsetclinicalreflexology.co.uk

PCR 2020 Training dates: Saturday 18th April FULL Saturday 13th June; Saturday 8th August.

Abigail is fully qualified, insured and DBS checked with over 25 years professional experience specialising in Clinical Reflexology, Allergy Testing, Nutrition and Counselling. Author of 'Holistic Health Tips' available from Buena Vista Gypsy Lane Weymouth Dorset DT4 0BZ. £9.00 incl p&p

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**Tel: Lucy 07884 316063**



slimmingworld.co.uk  
0344 897 8000

### What a difference Slimming World makes!

**My name is Georgina and I feel like I've struggled with my weight most of my life.**

Despite numerous health complications exaggerated by being obese whilst pregnant for the third time and up until my son reached his 1st birthday I continued to gain another two stone.

In January 2019 I was at my heaviest and my asthma and mental health was suffering, also, hating what I saw in the mirror and the realization the effect my unhealthy lifestyle and negativity about my body was having on my two young daughters who were then only 5 and 6 years old.

I started making excuses not to take them to the park as my anxiety increased.

I knew my unhealthy eating habits were starting to rub off on them and I knew I had to change, I had to become a better role model for my children.

I went along and joined Slimming World and soon discovered that their food plan food optimising gave me the confidence and nutritious meals my family so deserved, even on a budget! Our favorite family meal is spaghetti Bolognese, you can pack it full of lots of lovely vegetables even pleasing a fussy toddler! All three children often ask for more.

I've always been an emotional eater and would regularly turn to crisps and chocolate for comfort which wouldn't help with my mood, but now I can choose from so many unlimited free food choices, my favourite snack is grapes.

Before I joined Slimming World I hated any form of exercise, I loved dancing as a child but felt far too unfit to do it. I began to challenge myself by using the



Wii fit doing just 10 minutes of dancing once a week which was exhausting and wondering if I could ever manage more, soon once a week became 10 minutes every day, as the weight came off I felt so much fitter, I slowly started doing more. I started parking further away from the school to get more walking in and before I knew it I was doing my first 5K park run! If anyone had said I would be attempting to walk 5K let alone run I would have thought they were crazy! Yet here I was enjoying every minute.

In less than a year I went from hating exercise to dancing and running my way to my body magic platinum award which I picked up in group.

Having achieved a five stone weight loss and reached my target weight I now have a much healthier attitude to life and my asthma has improved where I rarely need my inhalers now and my anxiety just continues to get better and better and I now have the confidence to run alone along the main road!

For more information go to [slimming-world.com](http://slimming-world.com).

improvements and drive vital change in diabetes services in their local areas. Phaedra Perry, Diabetes UK South West Regional Head, said:

"Diabetes is the most devastating and fastest growing health crisis of our time, affecting 4.7 million people. When diabetes is not well managed, it is associated with serious complications including amputation, sight loss, stroke and kidney failure.

'The Clinical Champions programme is not about parachuting in external experts who don't understand local needs, but about empowering clinicians in the local area to lead on delivering the best possible care for people living with diabetes. This is the sixth year of the programme and we are looking to expand our reach further to recruit the diabetes leaders of the future to transform the care and lives of people living with diabetes.'

For more information or to apply to become a Clinical Champion for 2020-2022 please contact clinicalchampions@diabetes.org.uk or call 020 7424 1052.

## Family History Group

The March meeting of the South Dorset branch of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society will take place on Friday March 20th and will begin with a short Annual Business Meeting.

This will be followed with a talk by John Tanner and John Damon on the

society's future 'Photographic Project'. As usual, we will be at The St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Radipole, starting with tea or coffee at 2pm and the meeting 2.30. Admission for this meeting is free. For more information call John on 01305 776008.

## Better Broadband Scheme

Homes and businesses better off thanks to the Better Broadband Scheme.

A government broadband scheme set up to provide a faster broadband service helped to make over 600 connections benefiting Dorset businesses and residents.

The national Better Broadband Voucher Scheme was created by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in December 2015 as a solution for those located in some of the hardest to reach areas. It provided up to £350 to those unable to access a broadband service with a download speed of at least 2 Megabits per second (Mbps) and were unable to benefit from the superfast broadband roll out.

Industry experts are now urging homes and businesses in need of faster connections to consider taking

Continued on page 16

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up one of the two other government grant schemes. Dugald Lockhart, Programme Manager, Superfast Dorset said: "You can look at our website to find out if you qualify and how to apply for the two other government grant schemes still running.

'If you are interested in a voucher then discuss this with your neighbours, our experience is they work best when communities pull together. The good news is you don't need to worry about which scheme is right for you. Just register your interest now with your chosen supplier and they will check which scheme is best suited to you and your neighbours and then start the process to get you connected.'

Groups of homes and businesses can

benefit from the Rural Gigabit Connectivity Scheme where those who qualify come together and claim up to £3,500 per business and £1,500 per home towards a gigabit-capable (1,000 Mbps) broadband connection, using these vouchers requires a service of at least 30Mbps to be taken.

The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme is also available, where businesses can claim up to £2,500 against the cost of gigabit-capable internet connections, residents can benefit from a £500 voucher on this scheme too if they are part of a group project which also includes businesses.

How do the vouchers work?

Find a registered supplier and sign up for a gigabit capable connection.

Your supplier requests a voucher from

government. They check you are happy to go ahead by email.

Your supplier gets to work to deliver your new connection.

Connected! Your supplier lets government know the work is done.

Government checks with you by email that the service is live and working.

Government will sometimes make further checks before they pay your supplier.

For more information visit: [www.superfastdorset](http://www.superfastdorset)

The Portland-based electrical supplier Combens donated ten large televisions to the Haemodialysis Unit in October last year following enquiries from one of the nurses.

Lyn Woodsford, the Deputy Sister on the Haemodialysis Unit originally approached the company to ask for a discount on a total of 14 televisions. Instead Matthew Jones of Combens came back with a better offer – they would donate ten televisions to the hospital and give a generous discount on four more which were to be purchased by the department which had been fundraising throughout the year to pay for them.

The total value of the donated TVs came to over £2,000 and staff have already noticed significant benefits to their patients. Due to the nature of the

*Continued on page 18*

**Local company TVs Donation**

**Dorset County Hospital's dialysis patients are currently benefitting from the generosity of a local company which made a significant donation to the hospital before Christmas.**

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All of the events that have taken place at the Centenary Club in Weymouth have proved extremely successful. So far our fundraising gigs have raised over £10,000 for many local charities including; Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, DCH Cancer Scanner Appeal, Weldmar Hospice, Muntsy's, A Stars, Parkinson's, Veterans Hub and The Lantern Trust.

**We are asking for your help**

At all of our events we hold a popular raffle helping to support our local charities. We are asking if you would like to help us by donating a prize. If so, would you please contact one of our organisers, Chris Dean on 07774 792736. Your help with kind donations for our raffle prizes will boost our contributions to charities. Our next event is once again at the Centenary Club in Weymouth on 1st May. The line up will feature Abacus, The Brian Cornish Blues Band, Crystal Ship and Lesley Stewart and XS.

Tickets are priced at £10 and are available from the Club by telephoning 01305 839310. It would be great to see you there.

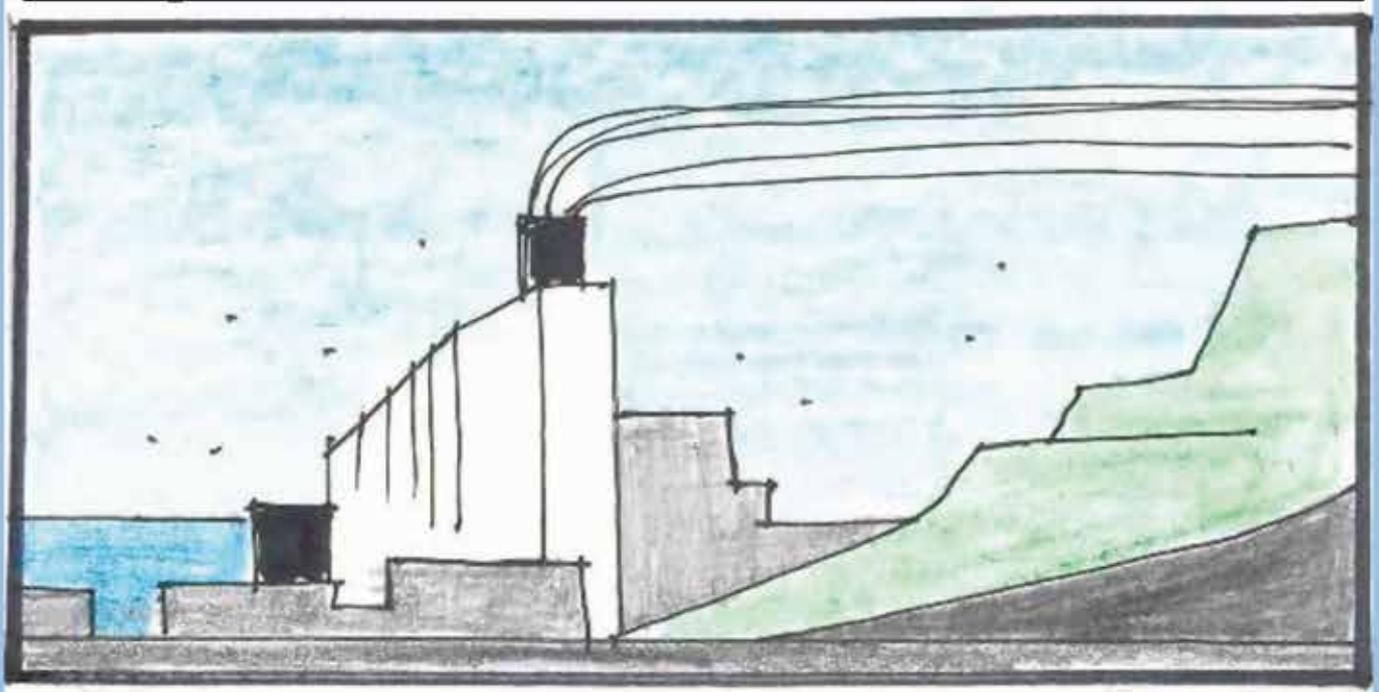
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treatment provided on the Haemodialysis Unit, patients can spend long periods of time there and being able to access their own TV screen makes a huge difference to their experience and time on the ward. Lyn invited Matthew back to see his screens in action after they had been installed.

Matthew Jones said, 'Having a quick visit to the hospital and seeing how the televisions are helping the patients was a real pleasure. Combens have been supported by the community for many years and with the NHS currently under so much pressure it's been an honour to give back to the community.'

Dorset County Hospital Charity continues to work with staff, companies and the local community to raise money to help fund the important extras which make patient care better. If you would like to find out how you can help please contact a member of the Char-

ity team on 01305 253215, or email Charity@dchft.nhs.uk

## Fantastic Musical Events in Greenhill Gardens start in May

**A new season of amazing musical events in Greenhill Gardens, The Esplanade, Weymouth starts in May.**

Check out our events page for full details of the entertainment which goes on every Sunday afternoon till September.

Thank you to all who have booked for the Gala Cruise Quiz Night on 20th March at the Preston Village Hall - the event sold out in November. For those with boarding passes please come dressed for a night at the captain's table, in deck attire or as a member of the

Continued on page 20

## How do you say that?

We often hear words spoken - or written - in the wrong context. It's one of the ways that meaning changes over the years. Two words that have done this are 'silly', which in Saxon times meant 'blessed', then 'innocent', through 'naive'; and 'nice', which once meant 'precise', then 'particular' or 'exacting', then morphed into what was wanted, something desirable.

Like 'silly', 'oblivious' has a long pedigree. The Romans believed that dead souls had to drink, or cross, the waters of oblivion in order to be able to reach the underworld; they had to forget their mortal lives. Nowadays you will often hear 'oblivious' used to mean unaware. But you're really only oblivious if you had been previously been aware of something but had forgotten it; perhaps you briefly forgot that the tube of toothpaste had been muddled up with the moisturiser. Unlike the dead souls, you will immediately realise your mistake.

Similarly, 'enervating' has a different meaning than you might have been told. It doesn't mean 'energising'; in fact, quite the opposite. If you are enervating you drain the energy from others and exhaust them, like The Silence monsters in Doctor Who. In recent months, with never-ending downpours here and fires in Australia, Trumpisms, Brexit and coronavirus, some of us feel our nerves could do with draining!



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Saturday:- 11.30am - 9.30pm

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### Keep an eye on our Facebook page

**'The Weymouth Codfathers'** for competitions and offers

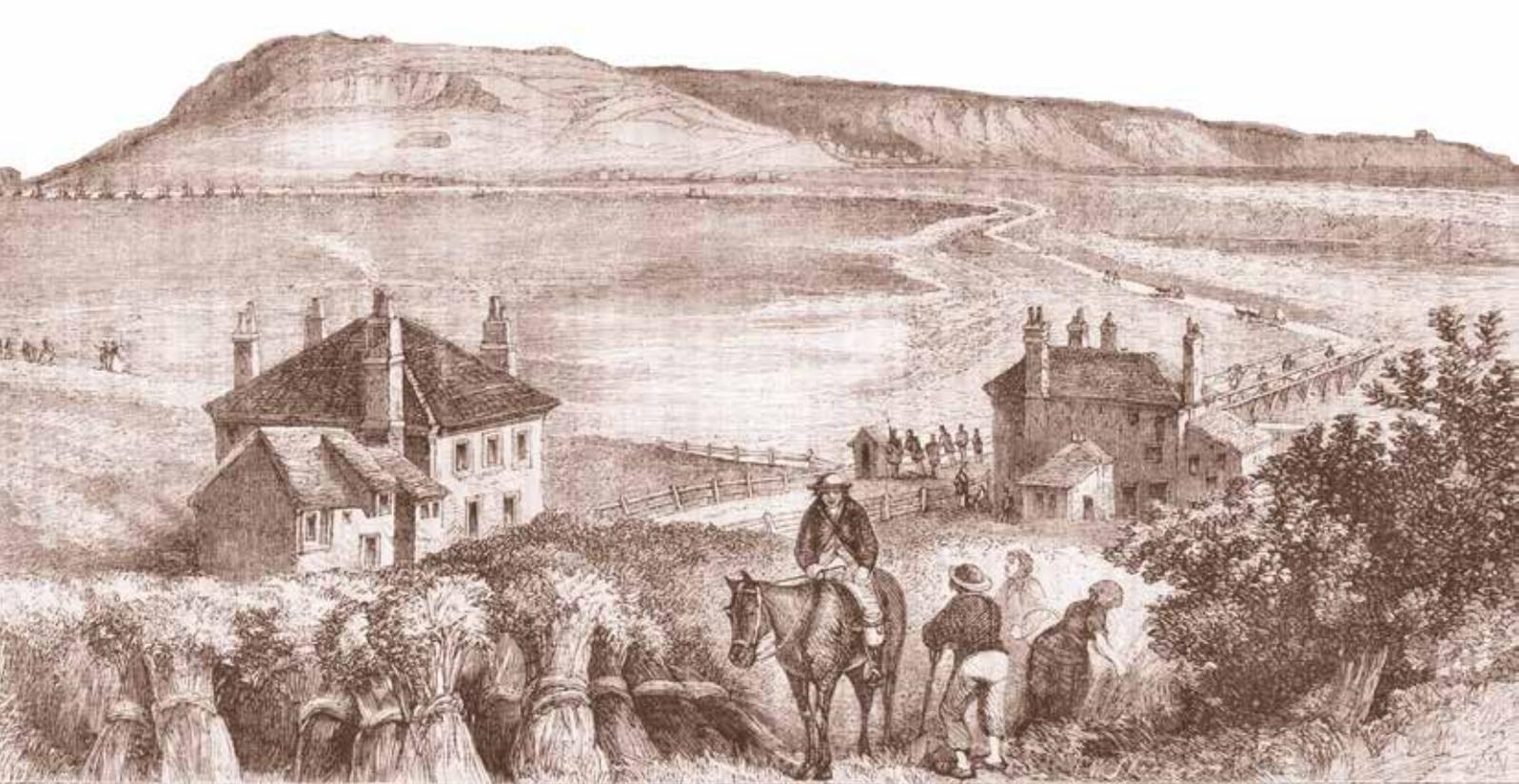
Codfathers have donated 200 meals to the Suspended Meal Scheme which we run in conjunction with Weymouth & Portland food banks. Customers can donate as well by purchasing a suspended meal when they pay for their own meal. We keep a record of the donations, then inform the relevant food bank, who are in charge of issuing the vouchers each week.



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## Ferrybridge c1861

The following is an extract from an article in the journal titled 'Portland and the Portlanders'

...Avoiding the high road for vehicles, a path along the edge of moderately high and verdant downs brought us to Sandsfoot Castle, a complete ruin, and next to the sands themselves to which its name refers, which then showed the greatest breadth, about a quarter of a mile, it being low water.

No finer promenade can be imagined, so smooth and firm, yet springy. Passengers on foot or horseback, or in carriages, move along almost noiselessly as the snowflakes descend through the air. The sands terminate at an inlet of the sea called the Fleet, which nearly insulates Portland, and has the name of Smallmouth at the entrance owing to its narrowness. But if the mouth is small it opens into a tolerably long throat, for the inlet runs up a full ten miles inland...

...In former days the Channel was crossed by means of a tow-boat, as

Leyland testifies:- "The trajectus is by a bote and rope bent over the haven, so that yn the fery-bote they use no ores." The rope vanished long ago, and we were rowed across for a penny. Now there is a timber bridge, six hundred feet long, erected in 1838, at which a sentinel is posted, who scans outgoers from the region of P. P., that is Portland Prison. Passing the sentry, in a few steps the ridge of Chesil Bank is gained, from which the eye overlooks the sea westward to the coast of Devon...

### The Print

Items of interest in the print include the trestle wooden bridge opened in January 1839, but shortened in 1867 to reduce maintenance costs, the toll by foot was one and a half pence (Old money) which was cheaper than the ferry. The name of the Royal Victoria Inn (Laterly the Ferrybridge) can be made out on the wall of the pub, this was built near the site of the Old Passage House.

The large house on the left, is very similar to a house shown on page 55 of the late Doug Hollings' book 'A History of Wyke Regis' which shows the Whitehead factory buildings built in the 1890s. Maybe this building was incorporated into the new factory at that time.

The alignment of the bridge appears to wrong in the print, as the road turns sharp left on the far side, this must have been artistic licence.

Note the group of people far left probably on their way towards Weymouth

on the 'low road'.

The sentry box and a sentry on duty can be seen on the approach to the bridge as mentioned in the text of 1861.

There are a few houses shown at Fortuneswell on Portland, as well as several dockyard buildings and a line of warships are in the harbour.

Within 40 years of this print being published, much would have changed, the above mentioned building of the Whitehead Torpedo Works, the coming of the railway which fully opened to traffic in 1865 and necessitated the building of the railway bridge over Smallmouth and the replacement of the wooden trestle bridge with a new iron bridge in 1896.

The Portland Breakwater and Verne Citadel would have been built by 1861 but they are not shown in this view.

## Local news

Continued from page 19

ship's crew!

The Friends of Greenhill Gardens  
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### Mini Pantos are easy for Groups

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way to inject some Fun into any meeting/dinner/lunch  
Iain Campbell T: 01305 768446 E: iaincampbellgo@yahoo.co.uk www.minipantos.com

### Climate panel – Progress reports and Balloon and Sky Lantern policy

The council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel recently met to hear about the progress being made by the authority in its work to tackle climate change.

The panel were given an update on the

progress of the groups and the intention to develop costed carbon reduction action plans with a zero-carbon target, based on the scale of the work, available resources and funding.

Panel members welcomed the announcement that we will be adopting the Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy

The policy proposes that the intentional outdoor release of balloons and sky lanterns be classed an act of littering to discourage these activities across Dorset and to completely prohibit releases from council-owned land and premises.

Councillors were also presented with initial findings from the ongoing Call for Ideas. A range of suggestions have been put forward – the most common being changes in the way we run planning services, a push for renewable energy production and improvement of the county's wild spaces and roadside

verges.

The Call for Ideas will run until the end of February, with a full summary of the findings due to be published in the Spring.

### Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy 2018

#### 1. Introduction

In recent years outdoor balloon and sky lantern releases have become a more common event at summer fairs, fundraising events, opening of new stores, or part of commemorative and celebratory occasions. However what is less known is what happens once these items have been released and the potentially harmful consequences for wildlife and property that can occur as a result of this form of celebration.

Although others have also undertaken research on this issue The Marine Conservation Society (an internationally

recognized charity for the protection of seas, shores and wildlife) has produced a thorough and detailed Pollution Policy & Position statement on Balloons and Sky Lanterns, asking UK Local Authorities to recognize balloons and sky lanterns as a form of littering and to ban all outdoor releases. This stance is actively supported by the RSPCA, the National Farmers Union and many other public organisations.

## 2. Objective

The objective of this policy is to propose the intentional outdoor release of balloons and sky lanterns ('lanterns') as an act of littering, and thereby to discourage such activities in the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council area and to prohibit releases from Council owned land and premises.

## 3. Parameters/Scope

This policy covers the release of balloons and lanterns within the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council area and the Council's position in relation to the release of balloons and lanterns from Council owned land and premises.

The policy covers all types of balloon and lantern materials. The main types of balloon are latex (rubber) and foil (also known as mylar) can include other materials. Latex balloons, whilst biodegradable, may still persist in the environment for several years and sky lanterns typically contain a metal frame.

## 4. Policy

This Council prohibits the release of balloons and lanterns from Council owned land and buildings. This applies to Council run events and events

run by third parties.

The Council considers the release of balloons and lanterns from any land or buildings as potential littering and will take action when advised to do so under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 where appropriate.

## 5. Litter

Where balloons and lanterns are released intentionally outdoors and are not disposed of responsibly, they litter the environment and as such this could be considered to be a potential offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Where the Council receives evidence of littering through the release of balloons and lanterns which are not disposed of responsibly, the Council may consider exercising its powers under the appropriate legislation.

## 6. Permitted releases

For the avoidance of doubt, piloted hot air balloons are not covered by this policy.

Helium balloons may also be permitted when used for research purposes, for example weather balloons, as long as supporting evidence is provided, identifying any risk and/ or any hazards to the environment and with any appropriate mitigation.

7. Working with event organisers/ third parties/ lessees/ licensees

Once the Council is notified of potential releases within the area of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council the Council will work with event or-

*Continued on page 23*

## Copy and Distribution Dates 2020

Issue	Copy Date	Distributed from
April	Monday 2 March	Monday 16 March
May	Monday 6 April	Monday 20 April
June	Tuesday 5 May	Monday 18 May
July	Monday 8 June	Monday 22 June
August	Monday 6 July	Monday 20 July
<b>September</b>	<b>Monday 10 August</b>	<b>Monday 24 August</b>
October	Monday 7 September	Monday 21 September
November	Monday 5 October	Monday 19 October
December	Monday 2 November	Monday 16 November
January 2021	Monday 7 December	Monday 21 December
February 2021	Monday 4 January 21	Monday 18 January 21

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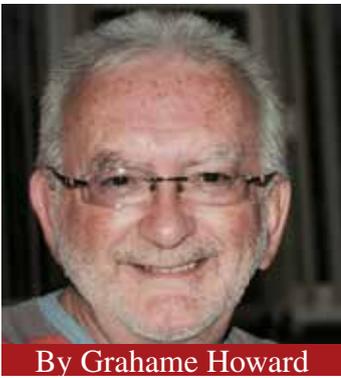
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By Grahame Howard

### Going up in the world

**The day had started so well. We were at the supermarket at 8am, something that we both like to do these days. It helps to avoid the rush of supermarket trolleys, parking problems and empty shelves, and it also allows me time for the endless clipboard of 'Tasks to do today', that the CO likes to place on my desk each morning.**

With shopping bags under my arm, car keys in hand and the CO beside me, we set off to do business. The CO prefers me to drive as it gives her the feeling of being chauffeur driven. As I am a mere servant, on route to a Rest Home when one is available, I must comply.

When we returned home, there was still no sign of our cat Henry. He had gone out the previous evening and as normal, had stayed out all night. For some reason, he likes to do this and no matter what we do, we can't seem to prevent this behaviour. However he is

always there the next morning on the windowsill, meowing at the top of his voice for his breakfast. But this particular morning there was no sign of him. We did the normal, checked the greenhouse, the sheds, under the hedges, neighbours gardens, you name it but all to no avail. We therefore, decided to walk around streets and look for him. As always happens when you go out like this, it started raining - buckets of it. I informed the CO that I should be excused this mission because I had a bit of a cold and didn't want it to become worse. I also didn't relish the idea of walking out getting saturated and felt this was the CO's department - head of cat duties. I didn't voice this, however and off we went in various directions looking for flipping Henry. I met up with the CO a little later and we both had to face the fact that he was nowhere to be seen. 'He's holed up somewhere warm, I think,' said the CO. I had to agree and wished I was with him too, the thought of lying on a soft couch after a hearty breakfast felt good. It certainly was better that rain trickling down my neck and having my teeth chattering with the cold.

As we walked back to our house, the CO started shouting, 'Henry, Henry, come on little boy. Come to Mummy.' I began to feel stupid at this, especially when our neighbour, also called Henry, popped his head out of his shed and called to the CO. 'Hello Mummy, I'll be there in a moment.' We laughed at this, and we explained what had happened. He agreed to keep a lookout for

our furry friend.

After putting a photo of Henry on Facebook and ringing the vets to notify them, there was really nothing else we could do. It was now near to 4pm and we were both a little worried. Just then, the telephone rang and someone told the CO that there was a cat on a roof just round the corner from where we live. We shot round there hoping it was Henry.

It was and he was perched right on the highest pinnacle of this very steep, tiled roof. When he saw us, he started meowing at full pelt. However, he wouldn't come down, probably fearful of the steep descent.

'Henry, what are you doing up there,' shouted the CO. He didn't answer her, as you would expect, I mean he's a cat. Who speaks like that to a cat? The CO does, oh you would too? I must be missing something here. Being helpful, I mentioned to the CO that perhaps he had turned into a cat burglar. She just glared at me.

'Right up you get,' she told me.

'Up? Up where?' I retorted.

'Up on the roof to get Henry down,' she explained.

'You must be joking,' I replied, 'Who do you think I am, Batman?'

This didn't phase the CO and as by now, a crowd had gathered around us, the general feeling was the same - 'get up on the roof and get him.'

I laughed at the thought of it, me on a roof. They must be mad, but no, they were serious because some lovely person bought a ladder out. I hoped that

they were going to make the ascent but I was wrong. Everyone looked at me and started nodding at the ladder. I had no choice; the ladder was placed up the wall facing the tiled roof and I began my ascent. I had tried to persuade the CO that it was really her area but she ignored this. I carried on. After about five minutes, I was three rungs up the ladder and could just see Henry's furry but worried face looking at me. I took two more steps but was still a good ten feet from where he was. I thought, with doom in my mind, that I would have to climb off the ladder onto the tiles and scramble up, but that didn't happen.

Henry all of a sudden, slithered down the tiles, jumped on to the car port, on to a 4 x 4 then the ground before racing off at high speed to our home. He was sitting on the doorstep when we returned.

I felt very heroic because of my bravery. I expected the Echo to ring me for a story, displaying on the front page, Veteran Hero, Rescues Cat. This would then be followed by BBC News interviews, a possible book being published and a film to follow it all up. But there was nothing, nothing at all. I had risked my life to save Henry and he didn't even acknowledge it. But I am not complaining. I suppose the CO will bask in my success as the neighbours talk about it. She must be so proud of me.

Byebye Grahame

## Local news

Continued from page 21

organisers to suggest suitable alternatives to outdoor balloon and lantern releases and/ or to provide advice and guidance on the potential disposal of these items.

8. Monitoring, Assessment & Review  
The Council will inform event organisers of the Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy by means of including relevant information within booking forms and other promotional materials.

The Council will also at its own discretion and where appropriate include details of this policy within any new leases or licences of land and/ or buildings where permitted events take place at those locations.

This Policy will be reviewed in two years time.

### Congratulations to Dorset's newly-elected Youth Parliament Members (MYPs)

Ted Paul and Ellie Davis, have been elected as members and Olly Cullis and Phoebe Crutchley have been elected deputies.

A total of 11 candidates stood for election and 11,962 students voted (61 per cent turn out) after weeks of campaigning. The election is run by Participation People in partnership with Dorset Council.

MYPs represent Dorset on a regional and national basis, helping to engage young people in politics, democracy and citizenship. In partnership with Dorset Youth Council, they deliver a #YouthVoice manifesto to improve the lives of young people.

Ted said: 'I'm quite amazed! I'd like to thank all my supporters, I can't wait to get started.'

Ellie said: 'I've been wanting to run for a long time. I was nervous, but hearing that so many people support what I support is amazing.'

The candidates campaigned on a huge range of issues including improving mental health services, tackling climate change, better skills for life teaching, better jobs and pay for young people, better facilities for disabled young people, reducing stigma for the LGBTQ+ community, better arts and culture opportunities for young people, lower bus fares, equal opportunities for young people in rural areas and reducing litter.

The election results were announced yesterday, Thursday 6 February, at a ceremony at County Hall in Dorchester.

Cllr Andrew Parry, Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Help, said: 'Congratulations to the new Youth Parliament Members and Deputies, who are taking their first steps on the political ladder.'

'Once again, we had a field of very high calibre of candidates from across

Dorset. I'd like to thank all the candidates for campaigning passionately and inspiring thousands of their peers to vote in the Youth Parliament elections.

'Congratulations again to the successful MYPs and their deputies. I am confident they will be a strong voice for young people in Dorset at a local and national level.'

A total of 25 schools took part and hosted the election across Dorset. Last year Dorset's MYPs tackled a range of issues relevant to young people.

### New contract to help people experiencing Domestic Abuse

**The Domestic Abuse (DA) Bill is being introduced to ensure Local Authorities offer help and support to anyone experiencing domestic violence and abuse. The Bill is expected to come in over the next 12 months. Local authorities in Dorset have always been committed to providing advice and support in the community, along with safe accommodation.**  
The DA Bill will make it a statutory duty for all councils to provide such support going forwards.

Following a recent tender process, Dorset Council and The YOU Trust are about to enter into a new contract for the Domestic Violence and Abuse service, lasting for two to five years.

Starting in April 2020, the new service aims to support people earlier and will offer a range of help and advice. Closer-working with partner agencies

and innovative workshops will help people recognise abuse earlier and the service will include better support in the community, safe accommodation and housing, practical, financial and emotional advice. The service aims to increase the safety and protection of people and their families experiencing domestic violence and abuse and to prevent harm, escalation of abuse and risk.

The service will be available to anyone aged 16 and over. This includes male, female and transgender victims with or without children and those living with or separated from the perpetrator.

Anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse can contact You First on 0800 032 5204 or by visiting our <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/your-community/community-safety/domestic-abuse/help-for-those-who-have-experienced-domestic-abuse.aspx>.



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