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<i>Full page, full year</i>	<i>£260</i>	<i>Full page, one month</i>	<i>£38</i>
<i>Half page, full year</i>	<i>£160</i>	<i>Half page, one month</i>	<i>£22</i>
<i>Third page, full year</i>	<i>£120</i>	<i>Third page, one month</i>	<i>£16</i>
<i>Quarter page, full year</i>	<i>£98</i>	<i>Quarter page, one month</i>	<i>£13</i>
<i>Small-ads, full year</i>	<i>£70</i>	<i>Small-ads, one month</i>	<i>£11</i>

For all advertising enquiries, contact the Editor, details on inside back cover.

The Dates for your Diary section will return in due course, once all our clubs, societies and events are back on track. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we return to some kind of normality.

THE PARISHES of BERE REGIS and AFFPUDDLE **with TURNERSPUDDLE**



Our Vision:

To make Christ's love known in the world today and to live out his teaching

Our Mission:

To encourage awareness of the presence of God through worship music and the arts;

To encourage everyone in the Christian faith through example, learning and spiritual growth;

To make our churches open and welcoming to all, and supportive of those in need;

To challenge injustice at home and abroad and to balance our care for the environment.

A LETTER FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear friends

Spring has sprung

I've always been a bit of a 'hit and miss' gardener and I'm relieved that this Vicarage garden is certainly easier to maintain and smaller than the last two we've had. As I write this we are in the middle of March and this time of year in the garden is always exciting as the long dark, cold, and of course very wet days of winter are now behind us and things are suddenly springing into life again. It never ceases to amaze me that bulbs survive over the winter, no matter what the weather seems to throw at them. It's especially fascinating as we wait to see what new surprises might be hidden in the Vicarage garden this year. Our snowdrops have just about finished and even the daffodils are nearly over, but the primroses are looking lovely, and we might even begin to spy a few bluebells shooting up.

It seems as if this year Spring then on into Summer might be something to celebrate, if we can get the pandemic under control and feel our lives heading towards some sort of 'normal'.

I suppose we could almost compare the season of winter, and the lockdowns we

have endured, with Holy Week, which this year began on 28th March (Palm Sunday), when Christians think about the events that led to Jesus' crucifixion. The brief glimpses of sunlight and warmth that you get in winter were a bit like Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. But as the week goes on winter sets in as Jesus has a last meal with his friends, is arrested whilst praying in the garden at Gethsemane and then endures the pain and torture to come.



It was a dark time, when the leaders of Jerusalem ganged up against Jesus and his closest friends deserted him. For his friends it probably seemed as if nothing would ever be the same again. What hope could they cling to when the man they believed would change everything, was now hanging on a cross.

But, just like the roll out of the vaccine and knowing that spring will return after winter, aren't we fortunate to know that the crucifixion on Good Friday was not the end of the story. Just as the green shoots start springing up in the garden giving us hope that winter is finally over, we too can be filled with the hope of Easter Sunday and Jesus' resurrection. Knowing that we have a God who cares for us and the world so much that he came into it as a human baby and was prepared to endure the very worst that could happen, means that whatever terrible things may happen in our lives, we can always turn to Jesus to be with us and sustain us.

Later on this week, as you break open your Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday morning, perhaps you will think about Jesus and that empty tomb and thank him for the sacrifice he made. Thank him, that after all the sadness and pain came a bigger joy than anyone could possible have imagined.

Jesus, alive again! Jesus, with us always!

Now, if that thought doesn't put 'spring' into our steps, I don't know what will.

A very happy Easter to you all

With blessings, Sandra

CHURCH AND VILLAGE
ACTIVITIES, SOCIETIES, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS and CONTACTS

Association	Contact	Tel	Address	E-mail	Meetings/Info
Mobile Library	Dorset County Council	01305 224440		dorchestermobilelibrary@dorsetcc.gov.uk	Alternate fortnights Car park Mondays 9.20- 9.50 Fridays 10.50 - 12.15
Neighbour Car Scheme	Brenda House	01929 471255		stockleyfarmpartners@gmail.com	Community run transport option
Pop in Place	Alison Bennett	472023	3 Rye Hill Close BH20 7LU	popinplace@gmail.com	Weekly. Drax Hall Monday and Friday mornings 10.00 - 12.00
Bere Regis Pre-School 'Pebbles'		471334	Southbrook Bere Regis BH20 7DB	preschool@bereregis.dorset.sch.uk	Providing care and education for children from 2 to 8 years, including breakfast club from 7.45 a.m. and after-school club until 5 p.m.
Rotary Club of Wareham	David King	01929 471087	Hyde Woods, Hyde Wareham, BH20 7NT	david.king@gbpltd.co.uk www.warehamrotary.co.uk	
Salt and Pepper Lunch Club	Brenda House	471255		stockleyfarmpartners@gmail.com	Monthly, Scout Hut, 3rd Thursday. 12.30p.m.
Twinning Association	Jackie Ahern	07876 577012		Jackie.ahern@hotmail.co.uk	Meetings and events arranged as and when.
W.I. (Bere Regis)	Mrs Dian Pitts	471322		pitts.dian@gmail.com	Monthly, Bere Regis Sports Club 3rd Wednesday @ 7.30 pm
Sanctuary Flower Guild (church flower arrangers)	Mrs Diane Edmonds	472331		edmonds473@btinternet.com	

CHURCH AND VILLAGE ACTIVITIES, SOCIETIES, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS and CONTACTS

Association	Contact	Tel	Address	E-mail	Meetings/Info
Bere Regis Scout Group (Beavers)	Liz Teather	01929 471216		lizteather@hotmail.com	Wednesdays 6 - 7 pm 5½ - 8 years Scout Hut, Elder Road
Bere Regis Scout Group (Scouts)	Neal Unitt-Jones	01929 472273			Mondays 7.30 - 9 pm 10½ or 11 to 14 years Scout Hut, Elder Road
General or group enquiries	Chris Gall	01305 772634			
Bere Regis Scout Group (Cubs)	Kate Willis	01929 472787			Thursdays 6.30 - 8 pm 8- 10½ or 11 years Scout Hut, Elder Road
Kingsbere Explorer Scout Unit	Helen Unitt-Jones	01929 472273			Tuesdays 7.30 pm-9.30 pm. 14-18 years, male and female. Scout Hut, Elder Road
Briantspuddle Book Let	Angie Talbot	472483	19 Bladen Valley	angie@ptalbot.plus.com	2nd Saturday 10 - 12 noon Briantspuddle Village Hall, in conjunction with Coffee Shop
Chapel Toddlers Group	Suzie Gee	472484	Rose Cottage, Butt Land	suziegtitus3v4@talktalk.net	Tuesdays - 9.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. at the Congregational Chapel, Butt Lane
Cyril Wood Court Monthly Coffee Stop					1st Saturday of every month from 10.00 - 12.00
Drax Hall (hire)	Lyn Simmonds	471528			
Dorset Councillor	Peter Wharf	472246	The Old Vicarage West Street	peterwharf@hotmail.com	
Kingsbere Quilters	Mrs Diane Edmonds	472331	10 Boswell's Close BH20 7JE		Monthly Scout Hut 1st Wednesday 9.30 am - 12.30p.m.
Milborne St Andrew Allotment Society	Secretary: Sue Gould (28 Stieham Bank, MSA DT11 0LE)	01258 837575	Lane End, Milborne St Andrew.	Msa.allotments@yahoo.co.uk	A new allotment site adjacent to the Sports Club in the village, whole plot £30, half plot £20 per year.



The West Purbeck Benefice – Service Rota

Holy Rood Wool, St John the Baptist Bere Regis, St Laurence Affpuddle, St Andrew's East Lulworth, Holy Trinity West Lulworth, St Christopher's Winfrith Newburgh and St Nicholas Chaldon Herring

April Services

	Streamed	Church	Church	1 st Reading	Gospel
Maundy Thursday 1 st April	7pm Holy Communion				
Good Friday 2 nd April	2pm An Hour at the Cross				
Sun 4 th April Easter Day <i>White</i>	10:45am Holy Communion Common Worship	9am Holy Communion West Lulworth	9am Holy Communion Wool 9:30am Holy Communion Bere Regis	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
Sun 11 th April Easter 2 <i>White</i>	No streamed service	9am Holy Communion Chaldon Herring	10:30am Benefice Holy Communion with Archdeacon Bere Regis	Acts 4:32-35	John 20: 19-end
Wed 14 th April	10am Holy Communion				
Sun 18 th April Easter 3 <i>White</i>	10:45am All Age Worship	9am Holy Communion West Lulworth	9am Holy Communion Wool	Acts 3:12-19	Luke 24:36b-48
Sun 25 th April Easter 4 <i>White</i>	10:45am Holy Communion Common Worship	9am Holy Communion Chaldon Herring	9am Holy Communion Affpuddle	Acts 4:5-12	John 10:11-18
Wed 28 th April	10am Holy Communion				

Log on for Sunday morning Streamed Worship from 10:30am, please email westpurbeckoffice@gmail.com for the link.

Important information about attending Services

Please note that the requirements of social distancing mean that the number who can attend the church services in person at this time is restricted. You must let the Churchwarden of the church you plan to attend know in advance and only attend if he/she has said that there will be space for you and your family.

NB Face coverings should be worn by all those attending inside a place of worship. These will be available at the church for those who need them.

Live services will only take place in accordance with the Government COVID regulations prevailing on the day. Changes at short notice will be notified via email, social media and posters.

Parish and Benefice News

I'm pleased to say that we will be starting to have services in our churches again, please see the worship rota, here are the plans for

Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday – 1st April - 7pm online Holy Communion

Good Friday – 2nd April

10:30am Bere Regis Churchyard & 12noon Affpuddle Churchyard – Reflections at the foot of the Cross, a short reflective outdoor service.

2pm online – An hour at the Cross

Easter Day – 4th April

9:30am Holy Communion in St John the Baptist Church

Social distancing will still be in place and face coverings inside will still be required, please let a Church Warden know in advance that you intend to come.

For families

See the advert for Messy Church and book your places by 18th April.

The Annual Church Meetings will be held in May, more details next time.

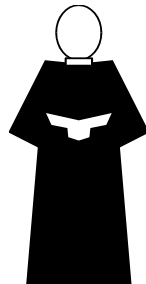
As ever, please do get in touch by phone or email if you would like to chat about anything or have prayer requests.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

Associated with St John the Baptist

10th March Wendy Bennett (Poole Crematorium)



CHURCH AND VILLAGE

ACTIVITIES, SOCIETIES, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS and CONTACTS

Association	Contact	Tel	Address	E-mail	Meetings/Info
Ancient Order of Foresters Court Prospect 6575	Andrew Jones		19 Louise Road, Dorchester, DT1 2LT	andrew@joneser.freeserve.co.uk	Monthly Turberville Court 1st Monday - 7.30 pm
Autumn Leaves	Sylvia Bayliss	472697		sbayliss194@outlook.com	Monthly - Scout Hut 2nd Wednesday @ 2.30 pm
Bere Regis Bell Ringers	Adrian Standfield Jenny Clifford	471774			Normal practice night - Wednesdays 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Bere Regis Book Group	Janet Gilpin	01929 471829			First Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.. Various locations
Bere Regis Primary School and Pre-School	Rachael Brown - Headteacher	471334	Southbrook Bere Regis BH20 7DB	office@bereregis.dorset.sch.uk	Pre-school and Primary School for pupils aged 2+ to 11 years
Bere Regis Floral Group	Sue Stone	472083	97 North Street, Bere Regis, BH20 7LD	susan97stone@gmail.com	2nd Tuesday at Winterborne Kingston village hall
Bere Regis Gardening Club	Sue Stone	472083	97 North Street, Bere Regis, BH20 7LD	susan97stone@gmail.com	Monthly. Drax Hall 1st Tuesday. 7.30 p.m.
Bere Regis Strollers	Lynda Crisford	471180	11 Bitchams Mead BH20 7ND	Michael.crisford@btinternet.com	Every Tuesday 10.30 a.m. Bere Regis Car Park
Bere Regis Junior Church	Pat Wharf	472246	The Old Vicarage, West Street	peterwharf@btinternet.com	Second Sunday of every month in Church 10.00-11.00 a.m.
Bere Regis Parish Council	Ian Ventham Chairman	471480	Wateredge, 5A Shitterton, BH20 7HU		Monthly, Drax Hall 2nd Thursday
Bere Regis Sports Club Cricket Football	Andy Kent Herbie Swann	471079 472812	94 North Street	andy@contact.go-plus.net	Village football and cricket teams for all ages
Bere Regis Swimming club	Bob Holman	01305 848262	Camelot, Affpuddle DT2 7HH	bobdiholman@btinternet.com	5.15 p.m.—7.00 p.m. at the Purbeck Leisure Centre, Wareham
Bere Regis Wildlife Group	Tony Bates Mike Gee	471563 07759 884942	The Beeches, Barrow Hill	tonybates19@gmail.com mike.n.g@outlook.com	Meetings arranged as and when

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Contact Hall Secretary - Lyn
Simmonds
01929 471528

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Claire Myers

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All sessions are now on-
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Contact me for details.

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Helen Rigler

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April 2021

Online



**Sunday 25th April
at 4pm**

**The Empty Tomb
Where's Jesus?**



live on Zoom

rsvp: email Pat Wharf
patswiftwharf@outlook.com
for activity bags and zoom link
by Sunday 18th April.



Last month's Messy Church crafts

Thank you to Amy, Eloise, Annette, Sharon and Lauren



Parish Council contact details			
Name	Email	Phone (home)	Phone (mobile)
Anna Bendall (Clerk)	clerk@briantspuddle.info affpuddleandturnerspuddleclerk@outlook.com	01305 849596	07921 334258
Graham Lightfoot	glightfoot@glightfoot.plus.com		07760 202858
Emily Hall	emilyahall121@gmail.com		07551 007880
Andrew J Monro	amonro@symondsandsampson.co.uk	01929 472047	07867 555838
Charles Barter	charlesbarter5@gmail.com		07795 343171
Lizzie Guinn	lizzieguinn@hotmail.com		07711 280976
Sue Jones	Sue.Jones@silversands.co.uk	01929 471375	
Stuart Chorley	schorley30@gmail.com	01929 472869	
Trevor Poole	trevorpoole100@hotmail.com	01929 471496	

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the social care commitment



Dorset Council is considering how road closures could be publicised further afield in the hope that tourists will find an alternative destination for day trips when the Lulworth area is closed to vehicles. The situation will have to be monitored and any issues reported to the Police and Dorset Council.

Pop-up campsites

The Parish Council is aware of pop-up campsite planned in the parish this year.

It was agreed at the meeting that The Parish Council will attempt to establish communications with the landowner to suggest some ideas to limit the effect on the Parish of such a large influx of visitors.

By way of example a one-way system will help to mitigate some of the impact on the local community but will also help campers to travel safely and more easily to and from the site.

Dorset Local Plan

The Parish Council has submitted a response to the draft Dorset Local Plan consultation. Concerns were raised about the impact on roads in the parish arising from an allocation of 600 houses at Crossways. The Parish Council response also seeks to gain protection to land in the parish owned by the Erica Trust and raises concerns about plans to allocate land to the north of the parish for a large wind farm and the suitability of the B3390 for larger vehicles and heavy traffic.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 14th April 2021. Please check the Parish Council section of the Community Website nearer the time for the agenda and information about how to join the meeting which will be held remotely. Members of the public wishing to raise issues or make representation in respect of any agenda item will have an opportunity to do so at the meeting. Alternatively, anyone who wishes to may contact the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting. Ideally correspondence should be received at least a week in advance as it will not be possible to add items to the agenda once it has been set.

BISHOP'S LETTER

This Joyful Eastertide

What a long journey it has been to Easter! It has felt like the longest Lent ever, not 40 days but over a year since the first lockdown. In that time a lot of our worship has been online. Where we have been able to worship together in person we have got used to being socially distanced. Coming out of lockdown, still distanced and Covid-safe, worship doesn't feel so familiar or so easy. Someone told me that they cried when they received the sacrament for the first time in months.



The Church of England has tried to do its best through the pandemic but there have been murmurings, as there were about Moses among the people of Israel in the wilderness on the journey from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the promised land. The pandemic has been really hard work. Some of what the churches have been doing has been outstanding – worship online, community care, seeking out those most in need, schools open for the most vulnerable and the children of key workers and so on. Some of it has been less good – and you can make your own list here – but I'll own up for myself that I have been less than perfect. Most people know their inadequacies and we also know the relief as we begin to see new life emerging.

The Easter Gospel stories include John's epilogue of chapter 21, with 7 of the disciples gathered again by the Sea of Tiberias. 5 of them are named, and in various ways they had let Jesus down. Yet here they are back where he first called the fisherman. They are feeling perplexed but getting on with life when the risen Lord came among them. John is telling us that Jesus accepted their failures and restored them as a community of the resurrection.

However the pandemic has been for you and us, the task this Easter is to allow God to recall us and put us back together as a Christian community. It will take weeks and months and years. There's a big job to do. If we have been attentive we will have learned lessons about what is a person, what makes a worthwhile life and how we live together in God's creation. We don't want it to be the same as it was before. We want it to be different. We can do better in response to the God who loves us, sustains us, renews us this joyful Eastertide.

+Nicholas Sarum

OTHER CHURCHES NEWS

BERE REGIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sundays 10.30am Morning Service taken each week by visiting preachers.

Mondays at 7pm STS (Search the Scriptures) Youth meeting

Tuesdays at 7.30pm Bible Study and Prayer

Chapel Toddler Group. Sadly this group is closed for the foreseeable future.

Currently we are able to meet for our Sunday morning services, although they are also shown live on you tube. Our Youth meeting and Bible study are held via zoom, with others joining us, a number of whom live too far away to ever be able to join us in person. God has brought good out of the current situation, via modern technology.

Easter is Here. Jesus is Alive

How lovely, that after the cold and darkness of winter, spring is here! The days are longer, the sun is getting warmer, and all nature is bursting into new life. What a joy it is to see the lambs frolicking in the fields. I am always so grateful to live in such a beautiful part of the country, and to be able to get out into the fields for a walk most days. How hard lock-down has been for people living in towns and cities surrounded by concrete.



Most importantly it is Easter, when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the heart of our Christian faith, that Jesus died for us, taking the penalty for our sin so that we can be forgiven, and that He rose again from the dead to give us new life in Him.

There were many people involved in the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. One was a man named Malchus. His name is mentioned just once in the Bible, (John 18:10) although what happened to him is recorded in all four Gospels. Malchus was servant to the High Priest, who was the most important religious leader at the time. He was ordered to join the soldiers who were going late at night to arrest Jesus. When the soldiers reached the olive grove where Jesus was with His

everything you could want from your village hall is in the best possible shape to be enjoyed by us all.

We'll keep you posted here in the parish magazine as well as on the community website and general posters as to what we can do and what is available for you to join in with as things progress and although we will all have to learn how to live with covid all around us it does feel like things may really be on the up soon.

In the meantime the hall continues to be open on a daily basis for you to queue for the village shop, purchase jams and various other things from time to time as well as to collect your daily papers. As a community we've done really well dealing with the various regulations and the social hardships covid has brought about so let's hang on in there as we see this through to a point when relative normality is resumed.

Stuart Chorley

Chairman of Briantspuddle Village Hall Trustees

Contact me on my mobile 07818078191 or by email at schorley30@gmail.com

AFFPUDDLE AND TURNERSPUDDLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting on 10th March was once again held remotely to comply with Government social distancing guidance. Until restrictions around movement and public gatherings are lifted, the Parish Council will be holding all meetings remotely.

West Lulworth Area Operational Plan

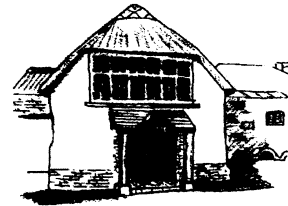
The Parish Council previously commented on the plan which aims to prevent the problems experienced last summer when the number of visitors to the area caused issues with anti-social behaviour and litter, as well as parking and traffic on roads across the Purbeck area. The Parish Council asked Dorset Councillor Laura Miller to attend the Parish Council meeting to discuss concerns.

It was reassuring to hear that as well as the operational plan, which will close the Lulworth area to traffic when it reaches capacity, Dorset Council is working with other organisations to increase litter bins and collections and train enforcement officers for the area who will have body cameras and the power to issue fines. Parking options are being considered which could help to keep traffic flowing steadily and tow-away zones are to be introduced.

BRIANTSPUDDLE AND AFFPUDDLE NEWS

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Spring is starting to show its irrepressible head as winter gives way and snowdrops and daffodils flower and blossom starts to appear on our trees and so hopefully in the words of Boris we are well on our way down the one way route out of lockdown.



We at the village hall are preparing things so that life can start again as soon as possible. We have the odd glimmer that we will be welcoming people back to use the hall again as the year progresses and the first of those is that if everything carries on the way it is going at the moment the café will be allowed to re open by the middle of April, albeit weather dependant as we will only be allowed to seat people outside, but by then we will be able to meet people from other households and with certain procedures in place like table service and not moving from table to table, abiding by hands face and space guidelines. That is

using sanitiser, wearing masks when moving around and maintaining social distancing we will actually be able to spend time with our friends and neighbours again and we look forward to being able to do that over a cup of coffee, a bacon roll and or a slice of cake. Simple pleasures that mean so much to all of us. Hopefully it won't be long after that that we will see small



groups of people enjoying other activities at the hall.

We now have our new dishwasher installed, thank you to the Jenny's and their jam selling which raised £500 towards the cost and to the parish council who by various means including the grant scheme contributed a further £500 meaning we could afford to replace the old dishwasher when it finally gave out, and so the kitchen will be able to be fully operational for hiring and as you'll remember in earlier lockdowns the hall has been completely redecorated inside and so

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle website: www.briantspuddle.info

disciples, Judas was waiting for them, ready to betray Jesus with a kiss. When Simon Peter saw the soldiers he took his sword and attacked the person nearest to him – Malchus – cutting off his right ear. Jesus saw what had happened and told Peter to put his sword down, then he healed Malchus.

It is good to imagine what it must have been like for Malchus. He probably didn't want to be with the soldiers, but he had to obey orders, then even before Jesus was arrested, he was attacked! Imagine the searing pain as his ear was amputated, and probably his face slashed as well, the blood flowing down onto his clothes, the awful realisation that his ear was missing. In the darkness maybe the other soldiers didn't even know what had happened and ignored his cries. **But Jesus knew.** Malchus felt the soothing warmth of a hand covering his blood stained face and head. The pain ceased, and when Malchus put his hand up to feel the gap where his ear had been, there was no gap, he had a new ear! How like Jesus, who at the point of His own deepest need, was still concerned for others.

As Jesus was marched to the High Priest's house, Malchus was bewildered, wondering if he had really been wounded and then healed. When the soldiers started to beat Jesus, Malchus kept away from what was going on. How could he attack the man who had just healed him. That incident changed Malchus' life. He later saw how Jesus was nailed to the cross, the agony that He endured, and how Jesus forgave His enemies for what they had done to Him. How glad he was when he heard that three days later Jesus had risen from the dead. I'm sure that Malchus would have become a follower of Jesus for the rest of his life.

As we come to this Easter time, let's remember it's true meaning, may we see afresh what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross and then rose from the dead. Remember too that Jesus knows all about **you**, and your situation. He waits to hear our prayers, and will help us, comfort and encourage us.

We wish you a very God blessed Easter. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

Just a Smile

From a host of true gems quoted from claim forms submitted to the 'Sun Alliance'

To avoid a collision I ran into a car

I knocked over a man but he admitted it was his fault as he had been knocked over before

Coming home I drove into the wrong house colliding with a tree I haven't got

The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him

Joyce Healey

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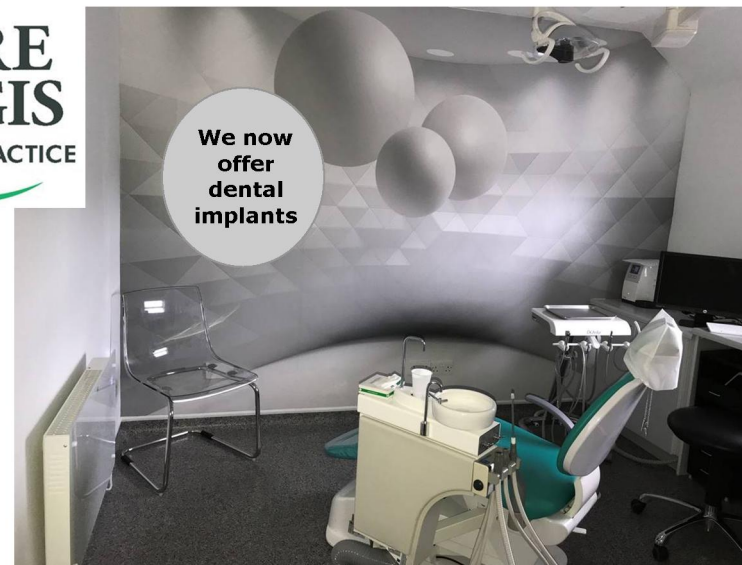

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My owner reckons she is suffering from Lockdown inertia. She can't be bothered to do anything. She read an article about this and it recommended one should go for walks. We have been for a few walks. Another recommendation, was that one should stop watching television. Well England's performance in the cricket over the last two tests was woeful At least the last Tests finished in less than three days. "Pooch Perfect" has finished, but I am worried, she has bought some dog whitening shampoo from Healthy Pets. I hope she doesn't intend to give me a bath and brush up. I'd rather she just watch television but not that dreadful drag race.

On the subject of odd things, dressing up, I hear we are to have an Easter Scarecrow competition maybe we will do a drag one.

She has been bought back off furlough and has gone back to work at the Shell garage this week. She is on early shifts, which means I will not get my first walk until after nine in the morning. I am left home alone. At least I can lie in. She tells me I mustn't complain as she needs to pay my drugs bills at the vets.

We have collected the Lawn mower from its service at OHE Garden Machinery. It was a bit of a struggle getting me and the Lawnmower in the back of the car. The grass has been cut once. The weather has been sunny, windy, cold and foggy. In other words, it is a typical March.

I have had another letter from Honey the cat. She loved being featured in last months Magazine. It is interesting her owner and mine are both suffering from lockdown inertia, this strange inability to get on and do anything. Vaccine talk has stopped as most people, they know, have had their first dose. Her owner is also frustrated at the performance of the English cricket team and the rugby team in the six nations. Honey's owner has also cut grass and started gardening. They live near a school and Honey tells me they can hear the children playing happily nearby. They feed the birds in their garden. I think we should feed birds. I could bark at them. They also have rooks starting to nest nearby so spring is on the way.

Things will change soon, there is talk of the shop being sold and it may not be a Spar, and the Royal Oak may open in April under new Management. There are plans to reconfigure the layout at the garage so it will be closed for three months while they do the work. It is still a long time until middle of April, when we can meet up for coffee in the Car park of the Pub and eat outside with friends. The good news is that infection rates are falling. British summer Time has arrived things can only get better.

Jenny Stone



NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

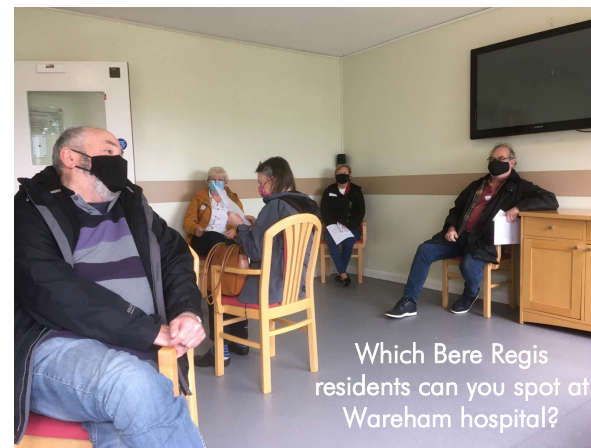
We are now well into spring, and I hope you have been enjoying the sunshine as much as I have. I know that the National Restrictions from January to March have been difficult, particularly during the cold winter months.

Early last month the Prime Minister announced the "roadmap" – the gradual re-opening of our country, including the easing of restrictions on travel and businesses. As I write, our schools are re-opening to all pupils, with regular testing for both those in school and for people at home. Our local schools and teachers have adapted brilliantly over the last year, changing to online teaching, as well as teaching vulnerable children and keyworkers' children in school. Testing centres have been set up in our secondary schools, with staff, parents & volunteers all getting involved. I want to say a big thank you to all those involved in education who have made this return to school possible.

As restrictions are eased, more and more businesses are able to re-start. Full details of what can open when can be found online here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021> From the end of March you may now meet friends and family outside – up to 6 people at once or 2 families. This is to enable larger families to meet up. Outdoor sport and leisure can restart, as can outdoor children's activities. If infections continue to fall, in mid-April, people may stay away from home in self-contained accommodation, and more businesses like personal care and all shops may open. More indoor facilities can open, like libraries and gyms, and hospitality may restart outdoors. This is positive news and a hugely welcome step forward, but of course all of this

is dependent upon infections continuing to fall, so we must all continue to social distance, wear masks when appropriate, and wash our hands.

I also want to thank all those involved in the vaccinations. I recently visited several of the GP-led vaccination centres, to see for myself the process and to thank the staff and volunteers. The centres are progressing quickly through



the age ranges, so do look out for communications inviting you for your turn. Some surgeries are using text messages, others are writing to patients, but when your age group is next, you may also be able to book through the NHS link. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> Through this link you can book one of the national led centres. If you prefer, you can wait for your GP to get in touch.



On 6th May the Police and Crime Commissioner elections will be happening. The role of the PCC is to hold the police to account, and ensure an effective police force across Dorset. If you prefer you can choose to vote by post. You will need to register this preference with your local council, and you can find details of how to do that on my website.

Please do get in touch if you help or support. As my staff are

all working from home, it is best to get in touch by email michael.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk . I send out a regular email update – you can sign up on my website www.michaeltomlinson.org.uk where you can also find links to the latest coronavirus advice. Follow me on twitter @michael4MDNP or find me on facebook www.facebook.com/michael4MDNP

Michael.

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Michael Tomlinson MP holds regular surgeries in the constituency. For details of forthcoming surgeries or to make an appointment, please contact his office.

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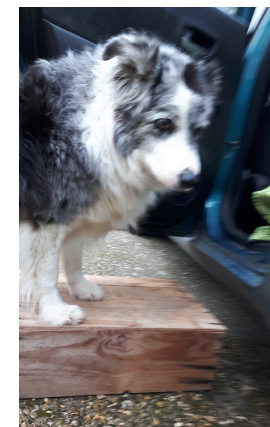
DOG BLOG

Back to the rule of six!

By the time you read this we should be back to the rule of six meeting outside. This will mean walks for me. Trouble is I was 12 years old last month (84 in dog years) and much as the spirit is willing the old arthritic bones are letting me know it is time for this old dog to slow down and take it easy.

I was taken by the dog walker up to the quarry on Black hill where there is a pool in the old gravel pit where I went swimming. I was very tired when I got back. Two days later I was still feeling the after effects. These problems were compounded when I found a bone and ate it. There were some rather unpleasant results. I suffered and my owner was also not impressed.

To be honest I have been struggling ever since and she keeps threatening me with another visit to the vet. I even have to have a box to assist me in getting into the car. We are still going for short outings. Mainly on to Wareham forest on the Sherford Road where I lie on the tracks while my owner cuts and picks up heather and grass and puts it in plastic sacks. Probably illegal!



Why? You may well ask? My owner's sister's pony Romeo has been really ill. It nearly died last year of a puncture injury to its foot. After more veterinary bills it recovered and then started to suffer from chronic diarrhea. The antibiotics had destroyed its gut biome. This time nothing seemed to work and it looked like the end for this little pony. Touch wood it is now slowly getting better and the woody stems of the heather and gorse and yellow grass seem to be helping so we go on this little mercy mission several times a week . I think there is enough heather to go round. Who would begrudge a sick pony a bit of heather?



The Barnes Night was a great success. There were about fifteen of us on zoom all waving our Dorset Flags, reciting Barnes poems, eating BlueVinny cheese and singing Dorset is Beautiful. Taylors of Wool must have sold a lot of Blue Vinny that weekend and very good it was too. I did get some venison Casserole for my birthday though I never understand why humans have to mix in carrots red wine cloves and shallots. I'm sure it would taste better without those additions. Next year the plan is to do another one possibly at the folk club where everyone can meet up in the flesh so to speak.

Ode from A Dog

I love to go chasing squirrels,
 It's really quite a lark.
 When I see them up a tree,
 I stand at the bottom and bark,
 And bark and bark and bark and bark,
 And bark and bark and bark.



Un-locked

As the hair on your head starts to thin,
 Via fifty shades of grey,
 You recall, "old age doesn't come
 alone",
 As something, your mother would say.
 Don't think of yourself as dis-tressed,
 If these things you have clocked.
 Grass doesn't grow on a busy street.
 Just think of yourself as un-locked.

If you're guilty of repetition,
 Try to be circumspect,
 By saying, the reason you repeat
 yourself,
 Is for emphasis and effect.
 You can say what you want in your
 dotage.
 Don't be mortally wounded or shocked.
 Grass doesn't grow on a busy street.
 Just think of yourself as un-locked.

Paul J Openshaw (February 2021)

It can be a gradual process,
 And you can put it down to age,
 As you while away a moment or two,
 Waiting for your brain to engage.
 Be open to all possibilities,
 Which, up until now have been
 blocked.
 Grass doesn't grow on a busy street.
 Just think of yourself as un-locked.

DORSET COUNCIL- WEST PURBECK REPORT

Community Governance Review

During the last few months, the Council has received a number of queries from Parish Councils asking how they can change their governance arrangements, all of which can be considered as part of the forthcoming Community Governance Review (CGR) , this will cover



- ◆ Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes (grouping or de-grouping parishes)
- ◆ Increasing or decreasing the number of Councillors
- ◆ Creating ward boundaries or changing existing Warding arrangements
- ◆ Changes to Parish names
- ◆ Correcting minor boundary anomalies.
- ◆ Changing a parish council into a parish meeting

The responsibility of undertaking CGRs falls to the principal council (Dorset Council in this case) The legislation that covers CGRs requires any Review to be completed within 12 months of DC publishing its Terms of Reference which is the document that sets the process running. Please note, any changes to governance arrangements agreed as part of the Review cannot take effect until the next scheduled elections in May 2024.

The process that DC will follow will be:

Publication of Terms of reference that sets out what will be covered – in this case it will be a review of all parishes that sit within the Dorset Council area (July 2021).

Public consultation for 12 weeks seeking proposals/initial submissions. (5 August to 28 October 2021)

Consideration of consultation responses and preparation of draft recommendations. (to be agreed by Full Council - December 2021)

Public consultation on draft recommendations. (20 December 2021 – 28 February 2022)

Consideration of further responses and then publication of final recommendations. (to be agreed by Full Council – April 2022)

The considerations that DC will need to apply that are set out in the guidance namely: -

The need to secure that community governance within the area under review:

- reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- is effective and convenient.

The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

The impact on electorate size of future development within the next 5 years.

Any changes will be set out in a Reorganisation Order – the Order will include a detailed map of any boundary changes with any changes taking effect at the next scheduled elections i.e. May 2024.

Obviously, if the parishes are content that their governance arrangements are working well, they do not need to make any submission. Parishes that do make a submission must achieve electoral equality – i.e. each Councillor will represent roughly the same number of electors. Obviously, this only applies where Councils are split into some form of warding which does not apply in West Purbeck. If parishes are proposing changes, DC will ask them to provide information about how this will ensure community cohesion e.g. what are the links within the community that leads them to recommend that certain areas should be linked together e.g. in the same ward or parish.

If parishes are seeking a change to the boundaries of the parish, we suggest that they start talking to the other parishes affected. Decisions are much more straight forward if there is community agreement beforehand.

Empty Homes

We estimate there are 400 long-term empty properties in Dorset. Each one is a wasted home. Demand for housing in the Dorset Council area is extremely high, with over 6000 people looking for a suitable home on the housing register. Empty homes also have the potential to damage communities by becoming derelict, overgrown or by attracting anti-social behaviour.



POETRY CORNER

Suddenly it's Spring

Suddenly it's Spring, now Winter storms
are past

Suddenly there's sunshine for you are
home at last

Winter's been so long, her skies were
dark and grey

Cold winds felt unfriendly when you
were far away.

When your heart is lonely

Grey skies add to your pain

But when Winter's days are over

Suddenly there's sunshine again.

Suddenly it's Spring, snowdrops for all
to see

Suddenly there's birdsong now you
are home with me

Now that skies are blue and my heart
starts to sing
Everyone is happy, suddenly it's Spring.

When your heart is aching and Winter
seems so long

Quite suddenly you're home again
and Spring begins her song

Suddenly it's Spring, crocus start to
bloom

All the leaves are bursting, chasing
Winter's gloom.

Daffodils in flower
Joys that April can bring

Everything is waking
Suddenly it's Spring.

Eileen Richardson

The Run of the Mill

I'd like to be a miller

And live by an old water wheel

I'd like to relive the olden times

And recapture the old fashioned feel.

I guess I'm just a dreamer

Of modern things I've had my fill

I'd like to go back in time

And hear the water in the run of the
mill.

I'd like to hear the roar of the water

The music in the foam and the swish

I'd like to see the water wheel turning

To live there would be my greatest
wish.

I'd like to hear the rushing torrent

To look in the pond so deep and still

I'd like to dream by the pool side

If I lived by the water wheel.

You could say I'm so ordinary

In fact I'm sure most people will

But when I seem to be dreaming

I'm listening to the run of the mill.

You could say I'm a dreamer

As I gaze from my modern window sill

But I dream I can hear the music

The song of the run of the mill.

Eileen Richardson

A CAUTIONARY TALE

To all those of a certain age (old) who are perhaps moving into a Care Home or other home in the sky I offer this invaluable advice! From personal experience I and my daughter have been helping my nephew clear my sister's bungalow ready for it to be sold as she is now in a Care Home and unfortunately I think I will not be far behind!!!

Do you REALLY NEED the following items:

- ◆ 2 large wardrobes of clothes - mostly too big due to weight loss
- ◆ 15 pairs of new or nearly new Hotter shoes all in boxes (size 4) Any offers?
- ◆ 20 packets of doilies and 10 packets of paper napkins.
- ◆ 30 toilet rolls
- ◆ 12 packets of cereals
- ◆ 4 boxes of washing powder
- ◆ 20 bars of Dove hand soap plus numerous fancy soaps
- ◆ 200 large books - nearly all history or art - but no paperbacks!
- ◆ 40 drinking mugs
- ◆ 3 canteens of cutlery
- ◆ 20 pairs of scissors
- ◆ 7 umbrellas
- ◆ 2 brand new Kettles - she liked the old one better!
- ◆ About 50 glass plates or ornaments.
- ◆ 5 vases of silk flowers - the daffodils are really realistic!
- ◆ 3 black plastic bags of miscellaneous papers dating back to the 1950's which have duly been burnt.
- ◆ Need I go on - does this sound like your house?



My sister was an avid collector of stamps, silk cards from the first world war, books marks, and postcards which all have to be disposed of - it is heart braking for my nephew but Care Homes are not cheap.

I hope nobody will be offended by this but it has made me think and start tidying up my own house!

Enid

The Housing Team is urging people to come forward to report or seek help to deal with a long-term empty property. DC employs a dedicated Empty Homes Officer to investigate cases, help us identify the worst properties and then take the most appropriate action. We always start by offering owners of empty properties advice and assistance about how they can bring a property back into use. Loans of up to £25,000 are also available from Lendology Community Interest Company to help carry out repairs to bring the property back into use. Owners of properties that have been empty for two years or more may be able to claim a reduced rate of VAT on renovation or alteration works.

If offers of help and assistance haven't worked and a property is affecting the local community, robust enforcement action will be considered to bring the property back into use. This can include compulsory purchase or taking over the property by an Empty Dwelling Management Order. We are now actively working on over 30 of the worst empty properties where such action is either being progressed or considered. From April this year, houses which have been empty for 10 years or more will be charged 400% or quadruple Council Tax. This will mean an increase from £2,000 to £8,000 a year for a typical band 'D' empty home.

Laptops

Pupils across Dorset have benefitted from more than 4,500 laptops and tablets to date, as the government hits an important milestone in its roll-out of devices to support disadvantaged young people. More than 1 million devices have now been delivered to schools and local authorities across England as part of a £400million investment that will support schools and young people for years to come.



A total of 31,147 devices have been delivered across the South West, including 4,521 in Dorset. This comprises 2,769 in the DC area and 1,752 in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The figures don't include devices delivered directly to multi-academy trusts.

Children returning to school

97% of Dorset children returned to school on March 8th.

Plans are again in place to manage any cases of Covid 19 and all education providers will continue to work closely with public health. If cases occur, Dorset

Council and Public Health teams will work closely with schools and colleges to communicate any necessary actions to staff, parents, carers and students. School Transport will run as normal. Everyone can help by following the guidance outside of school and college, which can be found at gov.uk/coronavirus

PPE for Carers

Unpaid carers in the DC area can now request free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for when they are carrying out their caring responsibilities. Following an announcement from the Department for Health & Social Care, unpaid carers in the DC area can now request free PPE for when they are carrying out their caring responsibilities. There is a particular focus on extra-resident carers (those who live outside of the household of the cared for person). Dorset Council will be the first point of contact for enquiries and will register carers' PPE needs.

Virtual meetings

With emergency rules allowing councils and communities to meet online expiring on May 7, fears are growing that local decisions will grind to a halt. The Lawyers in Local Government group and Association of Democratic Services Officers are seeking a High Court ruling to keep council meetings going virtually without the need for primary legislation.

This is going to cause a major problem if this is not resolved and we are currently working with our MPs to ensure adequate legislation is enacted to allow virtual meetings along with some opportunity for face to face meeting as well, this is sometimes called hybrid meetings.

Free Parking Policy

To support local economy, Dorset Council will give a total of 6 free parking days in Dorset Council car parks each year. This is made up of the following:

At the request of the Town or Parish Council free parking in all Dorset Council car parks for four days each year, for events which generate valuable footfall for that town. These four days cannot be used in December but can be used on Sundays.

At the request of the Town or Parish Council free parking in all Dorset Council Town Centre car parks for that town on one weekday in December.

Free parking in all Dorset Council Town Centre car parks on Small Business Saturday in December.

No other days in December will be considered unless the Town Council or Local

nearing Gold Point and that meant half way! If this tide kept up we'd be there in good time. Another mile passed and I felt physically and mentally great. We'd done 3 hours now and I was certain that I'd walk up that beach triumphant.

Bump. The safety boat ran aground just as we entered the south channel behind Brownsea Island. We knew it was shallow here having both swum round Brownsea a couple of times before (RLSS swim) but we'd got here a little later than planned. The few metres off course had put the boat aground. This was no danger as the boat is designed to take the bottom. However, the tide was falling still and we had to act fast. I got back on the boat (it's my boat!) and eased her back off the mud bank and located the channel. Bob continued to swim/ crawl in the general direction of Shell Bay. Occasionally he'd stand up, hands on hips and take a look around evidently thinking, "Where's the water gone!". With an average depth of just 0.3 metres, the shallower side of Poole Harbour was now ever present.

Despite being back on course my mind had lost focus. I was mentally only half in the swim now. Getting back in the boat had broken my rhythm. The temptation of the warm cabin and its continuing safe passage kept stealing my focus away from the last 2 miles ahead. "It's equivalent to the usual Sunday morning swim", I kept telling myself. "You can do it – you're nearly there, the boat is fine". I forced myself; arm over arm, breath, arm over arm, breath. "OK, I'm going to make it".

Mud. Just over a mile to go - I could feel it with my hands. Bob was now walking, hunting for the channel. I joined him. The channel returned, arm over arm, breath, arm over arm.....

Tide. The flood tide had arrived. It was now pushing against us. We were still making progress but the goalpost had moved. My mind was now hunting and focus was blurry. It was elsewhere, seeking escape and the end to this good idea. I didn't feel fatigued or even that cold but each stroke seemed ever so apparent, forced even.

Was it still fun? No. I got out. Just under a mile to go.

My thanks go to Bob for sharing my good idea and being a complete inspiration, my wife for her lovely food and smiles alongside from the kayak, to Luke for his positivity and 'go get it' attitude and to Gordon, for driving the boat and keeping us safe from other water users. Thanks also to Poole Harbour Commissioners for their permission, positive input and wishes of success.

Bob Holman & Emile Foote

During the usual post-swim cup of tea in early 2016, our eagerness for to get back in the sea led our minds wondering for a good idea for a swim. We wanted a challenge, something different and something that to our knowledge had not been done before. The 'good idea' was born, 11 miles of changing scenery, calm water and perhaps the lift of an ebb tide to help keep the spirits high – a perfect good idea.

Many good ideas are spontaneous, suggested at a moment of high; a positive plan for the future – a break of monotony perhaps. Many turn out not to be such good ideas! How would ours turn out?

“OK, let's go!” So, accompanied by our safety boat and kayak and loyal support team of three we embarked off down the River Frome. The dense fresh river water and its unfamiliar dark brown, the smoothness on the skin and the relative coldness to the usual sea swims unsettled me slightly at first. “14.3 degrees”, the electronic boat display stated boldly. Oh dear, maybe I should have mirrored Bob and wore my wetsuit? Was this good idea turning into an arduous long reality and possible a very short swim? I'd told myself I would swim for as long as it was fun and enjoyable.

From the very start Bob set off with his usual rhythm, focus and determination. I was a little more distracted. A swan here, a duck there, a boat over there and the 14.3 degree temperature. Still, with the hint of a tidal flow with us I soon found pace and rhythm too, arms turning like clockwork and all concerns soon evaporated. Soon, the first mental milestone of Ridge Yacht Haven sailed past.

Another mile or so and the vastness of Poole Harbour opened up before us. Guided by the safety boat we found ourselves in the Wareham Channel making good progress. Glints of sunlight through the clouds, the water temperature was rising slowly helped immensely. I could feel the warmer salty harbour water just below my body, with my hands, each time I pulled forward. I wanted that warm water at the top. Occasionally I stopped to dangle my legs in the 'heat'. Every now and then the natural flow of the tide would bring the 'warm' water to the top – heaven.

Suddenly, the tide changed. We were no longer being helped but now being hindered. The irregular shape of the harbour and the water sloshing around it (albeit in slow motion) had produced a back flow of tide. Whilst this was predicted it was unwelcome. A brief discussion led us to elect to board the boat, hold station and wait until the unwelcome flood flow ceased. A good chance to have something to eat, catch up each other and the team and prepare for the next few hours. This was one of the good things about our swim. There were no time keepers, no split times, laps or agenda. We were simply swimming for the enjoyment, swimming for fun. 20 minutes later we were back in.

Now we were flying along! Each time I sighted the next channel marker buoy it appeared quicker than anticipated, then the next, then the next. We were

BID is willing to meet the cost of the lost income at an amount to be calculated by the Council's parking team based on average weekend costs for that time of year. Any requests for free use of the six days will be reviewed by the Parking Services Team and a record maintained. Requests should be emailed to parking@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk six weeks prior to the free parking date and you should expect a response within 5 working days. This policy starts from 1/03/2021.

Spring Clean of Dorset Verges

Dorset Council's fight against roadside litter is continuing – with the annual spring clean of verges along some of the county's busiest roads. Following vegetation being cut back; the removal of bushes, shrubs and long grass reveals the full extent of littering by drivers and verges quickly become an eyesore. The council's waste team is working with countryside officers to ensure that litter picking is scheduled following the flailing of roadside verges.



Dorset Council is supporting this year's #LoveYourVerge campaign, which will see 'pop-up' signage on roadsides to celebrate local habitat and the biodiversity across Dorset and encourage residents and visitors to value verges and other open spaces. The campaign is a collaboration between the council's Greenspace Service and Litter Free Dorset. Residents can report litter problems, fly-tipping and rubbish being thrown from a vehicle - online.

Step Up to a career in child and family social work

Social work is a challenging but rewarding career which can make a real difference for children and families. Dorset Council are looking for strong graduates who have experience of working with children, young people and families, and who can demonstrate their maturity and emotional resilience. Step Up to Social Work is a 14-month, full-time programme funded by the Department for Education. It is being delivered locally by a regional partnership including Dorset Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Wiltshire Council and Bournemouth University. The course gives trainees an intensive, hands-on experience of working in a real-life social work role working with children and families within a local authority children's services alongside academic learning.

Those successful in gaining a place will have all their course fees paid and will be

entitled to a bursary of £19,833 tax free for the duration of the course. On completing the programme, students will obtain a Post-Graduate Diploma in Social Work, allowing them to register and practice as a social worker, and to apply for any social worker vacancies available. Online applications are open until 7 April. Students can expect to start the programme in January 2022 and completing their training in March 2023.

Climate Change

Consultation on our proposals concluded on 20 January and we received over 1,500 responses. Thank you to everyone who responded. Time is now being taken to analyse the feedback from those who completed the survey before bringing the Strategy and Action Plan back for approval in April. As stated previously, climate and ecological change is not the only challenge we face, so funding for the delivery of our ambitious programme will need to be prioritised alongside the other key funding pressures, particularly from the demands-based services like social care which the council has a statutory obligation to provide.

However, I am pleased to say that we have recently secured several pots of funding from Government to help with our climate work. Last month we commenced construction of a sustainable travel route in Wimborne and Colehill, made possible from £79 million funding awarded to Dorset Council and BCP Council as part of the Government's Transforming Cities Fund scheme. We also recently received notice that we had been successful in being awarded £298,000 for the Low Carbon Skills Fund. In addition, we have also been offered £18.7 million to enable major works to take place to reduce the council's carbon footprint across its buildings. This funding is really welcomed and will enable the council to start delivering its strategic climate and ecological objectives.

2021-22 Budget

I put a very long article in last month's report about our proposals for Council Tax for the coming year. So, I would just add some general points.

Every year budget setting has become more challenging and 2021/22 is certainly no exception. The twin uncertainties of a one-year settlement and the serious short to medium impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has created shortfalls in funding which have had a real impact on the revenue budget and on our ability to maintain discretionary services, which are very visible and valued by our residents. Increasing pressures in the demands-based services - Adults and Children's Social Care - has created the greatest challenge. We have a balanced budget for the next council year, which depends on increasing council tax and ensuring that the transformation of services moves forward at pace.



the last part of my journey. Suddenly the sandy beach of Jerry's Point became clearer and more pronounced. I was getting there and the feeling of euphoria was immense.

My Garmin watch told me later that my swim had taken 6 hours 15 minutes but my moving time was 5 hours 8 minutes at an average speed of 2.1 miles per hour.

Jo and Luke had paddled ashore and were there to greet me with a big hug, kiss and handshake. Emile and Gordon clapped and cheered from the boat. What a brilliant day, what a fantastic experience. I am so proud of what Emile and I achieved. I have told him that I am looking forward to the next challenge with me on the boat cheering him on!

Emile's Story - a good idea?

"Are you ready then Bob?"

"Yes mate, I think so."

And so we immersed. 11 miles of water lay ahead of us, streaming from Wareham Quay to Poole Harbour entrance.

My great friend and I swim regularly together all year round; winter in the pool, summer in the sea. Whilst enjoyable, the pool is really just a means to an end; a swim! The sea however, offers us far more. Every swim is a dynamic venture; different tides, waves, visibility, weather and of course venue. We swim mostly at Ringstead Bay but this swim was something different.

After a short wait a little way down the river, Emile had caught us up and our small flotilla of boats and swimmers had begun our long journey. This proved to be a brilliant part of the swim as we were getting the benefit of the flow of the river and being close to the river's edge, could see the glorious Dorset countryside whizz by before our very eyes.

We were soon passing Redbridge Marina and Ridge Warf on our way to the more open reaches of Wareham Channel and Poole Harbour. Even without a wetsuit, Emile is quicker than me these days and has definitely got another gear, but generally we can stick together over a long swim.

After an hour we briefly stopped for a drink and in my case a whole banana. I find that bananas are the one energy giving food that I can digest and swim at the same time.

In the middle of Wareham Channel and well into our swim, we stopped to reassess the situation. The tide as expected had turned against us by 0.8 knots. We retreated to the boat for around 20 minutes to give the tide a little time to turn in our favour once more. Also, the water temperature had noticeably jumped to around 17C and was to reach 19C at the end of our swim.

We were soon back in the water with Rockley Caravan Park and the Poole Marine Base our focus for the next couple of hours. We were clearly making really good progress as we edged our way into the Wych Channel and the more open Poole Harbour and towards Pottery Pier and Brownsea Island.

We were now just 2 miles from our intended finishing point just inside the outer reaches of the harbour. This was the point where every muscle in my body began to ache! However after a short stop on the eastern side of Brownsea Island we began to make our way down the long southern shoreline.

Problem: we very shortly began to run out of water as we swam/ crawled and at times walked in the now salty water which was only a few inches deep. No matter, after a little while and after the boat had got stuck on a mud bank we managed to ease ourselves into more swimmable waters.

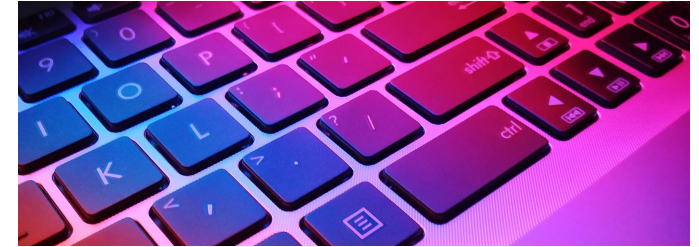
The western end of Brownsea now became our focus as we edged ever closer to it. We had soon passed Green Island and Furzey Island on our right. The tide which is always variable and unpredictable inside Poole Harbour had now turned against us by 0.8 knots and we still had over ½ a mile of the swim left.

As Gordon brought the boat to a halt, we had to make a decision whether to abort the swim at this point. My great friend decided to call it a day. Emile had swum brilliantly without all the advantages of a wetsuit and had completed the major aim to swim from Wareham Bridge to Poole Harbour.

I decided to swim on and see what happened. Within a few hundred metres and in more open water, the tide had changed yet again and was definitely for me for

Digital Hotline

A special hotline set up to help people with digital enquiries has seen the number of calls it receives almost triple during this latest lockdown. From



January 5 to February 5, the Dorset Digital Hotline received 132 calls – its biggest ever monthly total and nearly three times the average monthly calls it received in the last quarter of 2020. Operated by volunteer Digital Champions, the hotline has helped people in the last month with a wide range of enquiries, from using Zoom to what device they can buy.

The hotline was set up by Dorset Council in March last year during the first lockdown and when the Digital Champions were no longer able to help people face to face in libraries. On day one of lockdown three, the first call to the hotline was from a gentleman who had tested positive for Covid-19 and needed help with arranging online shopping delivery slots. Other calls received during January included a woman whose tablet froze while she was in the middle of internet banking; and a partially sighted resident who needed help on how to make her screen larger. A school that needed advice on clearing old information from laptops it had received as a gift also got in touch.

The Digital Hotline – 01305 221048 – is open Mondays to Fridays from 10am to midday (except Bank Holidays). Outside of these times you can leave a message, and someone will get back to you.

Household Recycling Centres

Do not visit a household recycling centre (HRC, or "the tip") right now unless your waste cannot be stored safely at home. This is the simple message that Dorset Council is using to help deal with rising visitor numbers. Recent warm weather has resulted in HRCs becoming busy again as visitors drop off their items – primarily garden waste and wood – which is starting to cause long queues, creating access problems for residents, businesses and kerbside collection vehicles.

Last May, Dorset Council re-opened its HRCs with safety restrictions in place after they were closed in the early stages of the pandemic. Initially, extra people were brought in to manage queuing traffic, but this was scaled back as visitor numbers eased over the summer, with volunteers and employees deployed elsewhere. This had continued to work well over the colder months when visitor numbers are traditionally lower, but lately the mild weather in Dorset has encouraged people to begin gardening again, or Spring cleaning. This produces more waste, which in turn causes visitor numbers to rise.

Safety restrictions remain in place, meaning that access to each HRC still hasn't returned to pre-COVID levels. For example, parts of each site may have been sectioned off to help with social distancing, there can only be one person on the access steps at any given time and on-site staff are not permitted to physically help visitors unload and drop off their waste. As a result, vehicle access and visitor time on site is slower than usual. Some people have been making multiple trips per day, while others have even complained about the delays in being able to access each site, while contributing to the traffic problems.



If you can keep hold of your waste safely at home, then please do so until restrictions have been lifted. If you are gardening, please consider home-composting or signing up for our garden waste service. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Domestic Abuse Support

With the continued pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dorset residents experiencing domestic abuse are reminded they can get confidential advice and support.

For some people, home is not a safe place right now. Lockdown measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have left them feeling trapped and at greater risk of harm. If you are experiencing domestic abuse, please reach out. Specialist advisers have been available throughout lockdown and continue to be there. They will listen to you, and together you can talk about different options and work out what is right for you, these support services can be contacted 24 hours a day to help you.

Where to get support: in an emergency, always dial 999. Speak to You First advisers are available anytime day or night on 0800 032 5204. Alternatively, you can see a range of other support options at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dvahelp. Or call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Dorset Council is also set to receive an additional £650,000 from the government to fund a new duty providing support for victims and their children, including safe accommodation. This is part of the government's forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill.

Codeword scheme; Dorset Council is also supporting the national "AskforANI"

Well I did (no fool like an old fool, they say!) as Emile looked on as the large passenger boat was attempting a three point turn in the river.

We had by this point accumulated a number of interested



spectators on the bridge and on the quay. I wandered what they might be thinking as we both entered the water: an old boy in his wetsuit followed by his younger fitter looking companion with his swimming costume, hat and goggles.

First in, I was immediately taken by surprise by the water temperature which was a cool 14.3C. Poor Emile, I thought as I saw my companion gently ease himself off the back of the boat. However, I was off and swimming at my usual steady pace hoping that we were about to get the best of the tidal flow down river. I was following Jo and Luke on the paddleboard whilst Gordon waited for Emile to start his swim.

WAREHAM BRIDGE TO POOLE HARBOUR

Bob's Story

We had talked about it for maybe a couple of years but for a number of reasons, mainly busy lives, it never quite came together until now. My great swimming friend Emile and I have often thought up some crazy swimming odysseys and today was the day that we would "bite the bullet" on one of them.

Our plan (well it was Emile's idea in the first place) was to swim from Wareham Bridge down the River Frome to Jerry's Point, Poole Harbour a distance of just under 11 miles. As far as we knew, this had never been done before.

As many of you will know, Poole Harbour is a very busy place for shipping and all kinds of water craft so this was a challenge that needed careful planning. Fortunately, Emile a marine surveyor had done a lot of work for the Poole Harbourmaster and was able to put together a suitable risk assessment and satisfy any concerns he might have.



So I walked the few paces down the road to be met by Emile, Gordon, Luke and Emile's wife Jo who were preparing the boat. Gordon and Luke who worked for Emile, and Jo were to be the backup crew

for the day. Gordon would drive the boat with Jo and Luke paddling.

The short drive to Wareham was taken up with Emile going through the risk assessment and yes we did take it seriously.

We arrived at the Redbridge Marina and there was a great deal of activity as we launched the Emile's work boat EF Shoreline into the water. All aboard, we then towed the paddleboard the short half mile distance up the river to Wareham Quay to temporarily moor up before the start of our swim.

Suddenly the water around Wareham Quay and the bridge became a hive of activity as various pleasure craft including a large pleasure boat decided to negotiate the fairly small expanse of water. However, just before 12 noon and half an hour after high tide at the quay, we launched ourselves into the River Frome.

campaign which enables victims of domestic abuse to get support at their local pharmacy. Look out for a poster in the window of your local pharmacy and ask for Ani (pronounced Annie). You'll be taken by a staff member to a private room where you will be put in touch with support services which can help you. Please reach out, you are not alone.

Surgery

We are not holding face to face meetings until we are clear to do so under government guidelines. However, we would be more than delighted to talk to you on the telephone or via Zoom. Please ring or email us with the subject matter so that we can prepare ourselves. Peter's email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com telephone 07986 600799 and Laura's is clrlaura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk telephone 07814 569563.

Peter Wharf & Laura Miller, Dorset Councillors for West Purbeck

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One man in particular comes to mind. He lived close enough to walk in but often rode his bike. Old Bob had worked with horses and called tractors, "They thousand pound armchairs" and didn't ever intend to drive anything apart from a horse. He didn't even like being driven in a car.

When his eldest daughter was married, Bob was about sixty years old. On the day of the wedding his wife dressed him in his "best" clothes and marched him off to the village church. The reception was to be at the new home of the bride and groom some four miles away on a recently built, housing estate. After the wedding service, despite many offers for lifts in cars, Bob said no, "I'll go on my bike". So Bob followed on in all his wedding splendour on his four mile trek on his bike. But he never arrived at the reception.

Later that day when his wife and younger daughter arrived home, they found Bob eating his tea. Of course they were furious and wanted to know why he hadn't turned up at the reception. He replied that he had ridden to the village concerned but couldn't find the house. As the estate consisted of only twelve houses, they asked him why he didn't ask or even look for the cars that had been used that day? To this of course he had no answer, except that he couldn't remember her new name. Bob was a countryman, who kept himself to himself and was too shy at sixty to mix with people he hardly knew.

I hope that is worth the few moments needed to read this.

May I say thank you for your comments for past articles, to Madge or myself

May God bless you all.

Ted Cox

Did you Know?

You can have your parish magazine delivered to your door each month if you live within the parishes.

We have a fantastic team of volunteer distributors who undertake the delivery of this magazine, and for just £8 a year (which is £1 less than you would pay at the retail price and no charge for delivery), you could be included on one of these rounds.

Contact the Editor, for more information: Alison Debenham
alison@culverdell.co.uk or 01929 471780



We are very privileged living in the countryside and often don't even realise it. For example a close relative of the snowdrop, the snowflake, which is now grown in many gardens in various varieties, can be found growing in its original wild status in only two sites in the country. There is one site in south Somerset and one in Dorset and the latter is here in Turnerspuddle. It puts on a spectacular display each year but few see it

The countryside is changing quite dramatically throughout the whole of the U.K. and especially here in the South of England. This is due to farming to a large extent and secondly to the increased population and its needs. More housing, miles of additional roads are needed for the huge increase of cars and additional transport to cope with the movement of the people and also for industrial, building and

commercial purposes. More land is being built on for commercial and industrial uses as well as for social purposes but agricultural is creating the biggest differences. Fields are made different, bigger sizes and shapes to help with the use of bigger and more complex machinery, which reduces the need for labour, while at the same time producing more accessible and increased yielding crops. Hedges are still being removed, trees cut down and more areas being used for building.

To live in the countryside today without a vehicle is almost impossible, with few shops within reach, often no bus or train services, little in the way of work opportunities and schools for children. In the old days you would simply have walked or got on your bike to get what you wanted but to ride on the roads today is extremely dangerous.

So different from the old days, when people especially went to work on a bike or on the bus. Many did not have cars or indeed licences to drive them. When I started work on the farm there were eight members of staff, two who lived nearby walked and the other six rode in on bicycles.



BERE REGIS NEWS

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

- Chairman:** Ian Ventham 471480 ianrventham@gmail.com
- Vice Chairman:** Bryan Benjafield 07969 770890 bryan@cheapprintingdorset.co.uk
- Parish Clerk:** Amanda Crocker 01935 83454 bereregispc@gmail.com
- Websites:** www.bereregisparishcouncil.co.uk
www.bereregis.org

The Parish Council met remotely via Zoom on Thursday 11th March 2021 with two members of the public present. The next meeting will be on Thursday 8th April 2021, again remotely. If you wish to join the meeting, or wish to send in a question to be read out, please contact the clerk beforehand.

Food Bank Grant

The Council unanimously agreed to award a grant of £2,400 to cover the costs of installation of storage cupboards in the Lower Drax Hall, meaning that moving forward once things return to a more normal level and the hiring out of the Drax Hall resumes, the Food Bank can still continue to operate a provide a much-needed service, with all items being kept secure.

Community Garden

Whilst it remains a priority to find a communal space for this project, it was discussed at the meeting that in the meantime, some community gardening could be undertaken to improve the Cemetery including the planting of trees and flower bulbs and renovating the shelter at the top. It is hoped that then further areas around the village could also be improved in the same way, giving members of the community a purpose and a chance to engage in some social interactions once restrictions are eased. Further details of this will be announced in due course.

Community Speedwatch & SID

The SID (Speed Indicator Device) has now arrived and the posts for it have been installed, so it will be fully operational shortly, warning passing drivers of their speed if above the limit. We hope this helps to reduce speeding throughout the village. In conjunction with this, the Community Speedwatch Project, headed by Angie Wright is getting ready to undertake training and hope to be up and running in the next few months. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact Dorset Road Safe here: www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk

Community Events

We are wondering whether an 'opening up' weekend shortly after the lockdown rules might be lifted in June would be welcome, dependent, of course, on the progress towards defeating the virus. This could be the weekend 26/27th June or the following weekend.

The thought is that village organisations might like to organise a number of traditional events over the chosen weekend that residents could attend and enjoy together when the rules allow.

In no particular order the events might include:

- ◆ A Big Breakfast,
- ◆ A Duck Race and Barbecue
- ◆ Open Gardens
- ◆ Beacon Lighting
- ◆ A special Church Service and bell ringing.
- ◆ Presentation of Awards

Would such a weekend be welcome? Should it be close to the ending of lockdown rules or later in the year? Would you be willing to take on running or being involved in any of the activities? All and any thoughts and suggestions would be welcome, through Ian Venham or any of the other Parish Councillors (<https://www.bereregisparishcouncil.co.uk/about-us/councillors/>). Initial feedback obtained through an email survey is indicating that there may be a preference for something a bit later in the year, once people have had chance to catch up with family visits and trips away.



LOCKDOWN STORIES

Over the Hill

How our world is changing? We constantly hear of climate change and what it means for our future but we do little about it. Our environment is changing dramatically and from my earliest memories many changes have occurred in our countryside. Back in the nineteen forties, the days before central heating became present in most houses, I remember waking up on winter mornings and finding ice on the inside of my bedroom window. It didn't take us long to get washed and dressed and out to the kitchen, where our mother was cooking breakfast on a coal and wood burning range.

In those days we expected cold weather in the winter and looked forward to having a white Christmas, whereas today we hardly have a severe frost at all and very rarely do we see snow. We knew then, the difference between the weather in the different seasons but today there is hardly any difference. As the days lengthen or shorten we do know there is something happening but I actually had to look up in the dictionary the seasons, to be sure of when winter was over and spring started.



In winter last year snowdrops were in flower in mid December in copious displays and celandines were out in numerous amounts in January of this year. There was a spectacular display of these under the plane tree in the churchyard at Bere Regis. Daffodils and primroses are also very early this year. It amazes me that nearly all our early flowers including the dandelion and apart from snowdrops are yellow. An exception to this are the blue violets that have been

flowering all winter in our garden next of course we will be seeing the bluebells in huge numbers, creating wonderful displays in woodland areas now.


As a boy back in the nineteen forties, it was always a competition amongst us boys as to who could bring back the first bunch of a particular variety to their mother or in my case my grandmother. Today of course it is illegal to pick wild flowers. However children of that age knew far more about the countryside than children of today do, because we roamed the rural areas at weekends and in the school holidays almost constantly, without causing trouble.

Back Pains?
Neck Pains?
Sciatica?
Joint Pains?




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Parish Council Vacancy

We are very grateful to Cathryne Packham for her involvement as a Parish Councillor over the past 3 years. She will be standing down at our AGM in May. There will be a vacancy on the Council from then, so we would invite anyone who would like to be involved in sustaining our community, through planning, our environment, provision of facilities and creating events to put their name forward to Amanda Crocker, our clerk.

Planning

Various planning applications were discussed at the meeting. A full list of the responses can be found in the minutes, available on the Parish Council website and more detailed information can be found on the Dorsetforyou web site:

<https://planningsearch.purbeck-dc.gov.uk/Search/Results/183>

Annual Parish Meeting and AGM

We are obliged to hold this meeting between the 1st March and 1st June so, in the current environment, this will have to be held remotely. It is the intention of the Parish Council to hold this year's meeting before the start of the monthly Parish Council meeting on Thursday 13th May. We would invite anyone wishing to attend to let the Clerk know and they will be sent the link.

Bryan Benjafield

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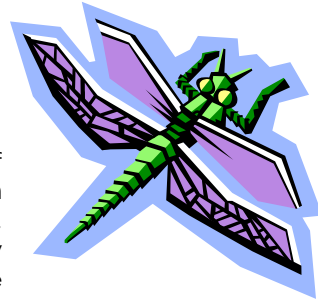
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OR **Could you be a volunteer driver?**

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 **Brenda House**
(Scheme Co-Ordinator) **01929 471255**

BERE REGIS WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP



With brighter, longer and warmer days the signs of Spring are now all around us. Primroses are in bloom and bluebells will soon be adorning our local woods, the first swallows will soon be arriving (do let us know when you see your first), while other birds will be active building their nests and incubating their eggs. You should be able to see many if not all of these sights along the riverside path, helped by the conservation work our volunteers have been doing over the past years to create a wider range of habitats.

Sallows

Sallows are part of the Willow family of trees, with a number of Willows known by this name, for example Grey Willow and Goat Willow. They are particularly found in damp areas such as those between the riverside path and the stream. They are an important tree for invertebrates; apparently willows support even more species of large moths and butterflies than oaks and birches. At this time of year the catkins may be seen, often called pussy willow as the catkins have the appearance of a cat's foot. These catkins are a great source of nectar for moths and butterflies and other invertebrates. Male and female catkins grow on separate trees. Pollination is by wind and once pollinated, the female catkins the female catkins develop into woolly seeds. Once these seeds are mature they are distributed on the wind. This explains why for some weeks in early summer there is a carpet of white cotton wool like material to be seen along the riverside path.

Pony Grazing on Souls Moor

The friendly ponies have been grazing for 4 years now. Bere Regis Parish Council was able to let the grazing right to Mark Bartlett a local pony owner and this has greatly benefitted the condition of the this part of our village nature reserve for wildlife.

The ponies have their favourite areas for grazing and each successive year they have chewed their way through a larger area. In those areas fresh growth of grasses are more tender and palatable for them. You might ask, why do we want them to eat interesting wild plants. The only way to give these plants like the Southern Marsh Orchid a chance is to reduce the amount of grass coverage and these grow within the boggy areas closer to the stream. In the drier areas nearer to the school, there has not been so much grazing so longer grass and plants like Hogweed and Angelica (pictured) occur. This is ideal habitat for bees, other insects and small birds.

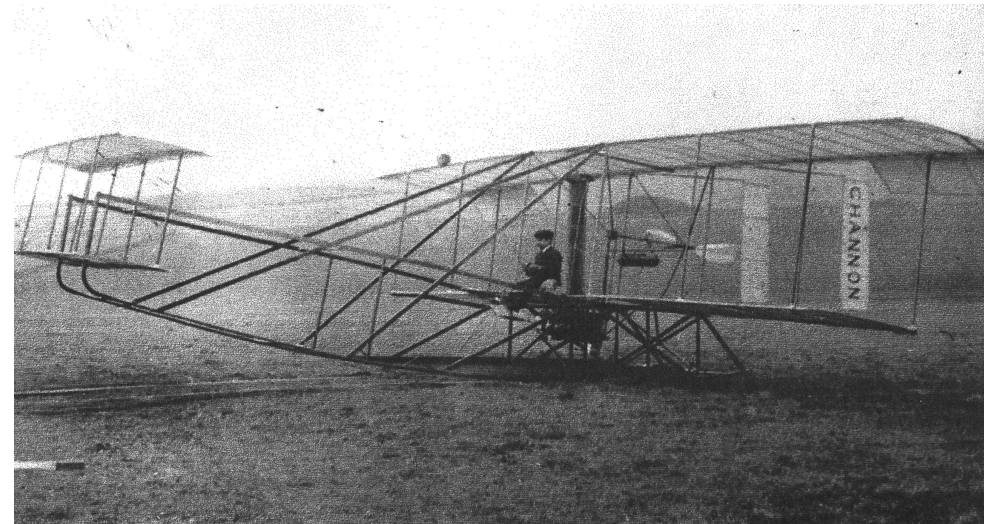
BERE REGIS HISTORY SOCIETY

ENGLISH PIONEERING AVIATION DEVELOPMENT NEAR BERE REGIS



Who would ever imagine that 111 years ago, in 1910, there were aviation experiments going on just a few miles from Bere Regis? Just a few years after the Wright brothers had made the first manned powered flight in the US in 1903 a couple of young men from a Dorchester automobile manufacturer were trying out an aeroplane just 1.5 miles (2.4km) from the centre of Bere Regis.

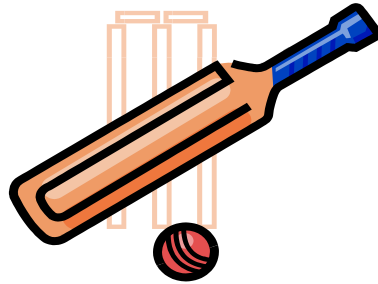
Ernest and Ralph Channon had built a Wright-type biplane at their works in Dorchester and had found the ideal place to try it out at Affpuddle Ridge. Their first trials were made without power in July 1909. Further tests were made in August 1910 on Moreton Heath, while their hanger was being constructed at Maiden Castle beginning earlier in that year.



In the late summer of 1910 they made their first attempts at powered flight using a two-bladed propeller running on a 23 h.p. six-cylinder petrol engine powering their 50 feet (15.25m) span aircraft. In those early days it was problematic getting the engine power to propeller size ratio correct but in September 1910 a flight of about 100 yards was made at Maiden Castle, but they concluded that more power was needed from the engine. The young men had run out of money so the experiments ended, and unfortunately the aircraft was destroyed in a fire at the Channon engineering works shortly after this.

BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB - CRICKET

Bere Regis Sports Club will once again be an All Stars Cricket Centre this summer. All Stars is for 5 to 8 year olds costs £40 and includes 8 weeks of fun filled sessions on Sunday mornings at the recreation ground, kit, kit bag and personalised shirt and opportunities to attend Hampshire and/or Somerset matches for free.



We will also be a Dynamos Cricket Centre as well, this being for 9 to 11 year olds. Once again, £40 gets you 8 Sunday morning fun sessions, personalised shirt, access to the Dynamos app and opportunities to see the new Hundred format cricket.

Both All Stars and Dynamos start on Sunday 9th May.

The only way to register is through www.allstarscricket.co.uk or www.dynamoscricicket.co.uk

We will also be offering training and matches for 11 to 15 year olds during the summer. Further details about ANY of these are available from Andy Kent on 07957 823234 or cricket@bereregis.com

We need you!

Do you have a keen interest in social media and communications and have time available to support your local cricket club.

We are looking for a volunteer to look after the Bere Regis Cricket Club media channels and to help grow our online and offline presence.

Supported by the cricket club committee, we would like you to create engaging content to promote the club via social media platforms, provide newsletter and magazine content and to help ensure that our website is up to date.

If this is you, or someone you know, please contact H Swann, 07753820730 or tefswann@btinternet.com, for more information in the first instance.

www.bereregis.com



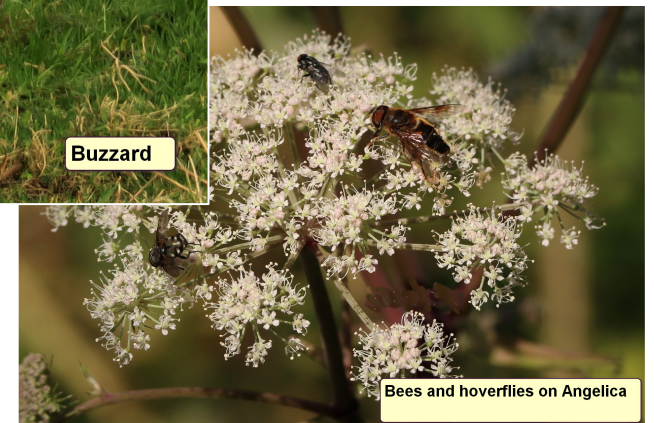
At the western (Jubilee Bridge) end of Souls Moor there is an area which is not grazed. This has now become quite wild and bushy and is definitely a favourite area for nesting birds and small mammals,



Redwing 180217



Buzzard



Bees and hoverflies on Angelica

such as mice and voles. These being part of 'the food chain' are inevitably tasty meals for buzzards (pictured) and kestrels which are quite often seen keeping a keen eye

on the area. The flooded pools in the grazed area are good stopping off points for winter migrants such as Redwings (pictured) and Fieldfares.

We are very pleased with the way the moor has developed for wildlife and we hope you enjoy the 'wild things' that are there too.

Conservation Working Parties

For obvious reasons the regular Conservation Working Parties have not taken place over the past year. Now that we are into the bird nesting season we will not be carrying out any work parties for the time being. We hope to be able to resume them in the once the bird nesting season is over and Covid restrictions allow.

Contact Us

If you would like to know more about the work of the Wildlife Group or to be included on our mailing list, please contact:

Tony Bates at tonybates19@gmail.com / 01929 471563 or

Amy Yates at AmyEveats@hotmail.com

Mike Gee at mike.n.g@outlook.com / 0775 988 4942.



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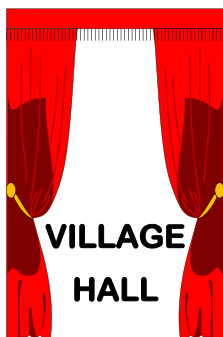
VILLAGE HALL

Reopening of the village Hall for Public Hire

If all goes to plan we will be looking at opening the village Hall on Monday 21st June there will still be very strict Covid Safe Procedures, including cleaning hand sanitizing etc the full details are yet to be published.

If you are interested in hiring the hall phone 01929 471528

More updates will be in this magazine over the next few months



Defibrillators in Bere Regis All of these are Public Access



Drax Arms West Street - Visible from street on front wall

The Village Hall North Street - Visible from Street on front wall

The Sports Club end of North Street - On Wall of the larger white building near entrance (not the old barn building)

There is a defibrillator at the Doctors Surgery Manor Farm Road for use by them it would only be available when the surgery was open.

Monday -Friday 8.30- 6.30 Weds 8.30 -4pm

There is also a defibrillator at the school that would only be available when the school is open.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Thanks to our WI members for sharing their favourites

Pork and Cranberry Hotpot (Serves 4)

I was given this recipe by a friend and it is totally yummy. So much so that my other half had to get the bread out to soak up the rich gravy.

I halved it for the two of us.

Ingredients

- ◆ 4 Pork shoulder steaks
- ◆ 1 tbsp oil
- ◆ 1 onion chopped
- ◆ 2 tbsp plain flour
- ◆ 450ml chicken stock
- ◆ 4 tbsp med sherry
- ◆ 1 tbsp tomato puree
- ◆ 2 tbsp cranberry sauce
- ◆ pinch of ground spice
- ◆ 500g potatoes peeled and thinly sliced
- ◆ 1oz butter



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180c/350f/Gas 4
 2. Heat oil in a large frying pan and brown the pork on both sides, then transfer to a shallow oven proof dish.
 3. Add the onion to the pan and fry until starting to soften and go golden.
 4. Stir in the flour then slowly mix in the stock, sherry, tomato puree, spice and cranberry sauce.
 5. Season with salt and pepper and bring to the boil, then pour over the pork.
 6. Arrange the thin slices of potatoes, overlapping, on the top and dot with butter and sprinkle salt and pepper.
 7. Cover with tin foil and cook for 45mins. Then remove the foil and cook for a further 30mins until the potatoes are browning.
- Enjoy with your choice of vegetables.

New Projects being proposed

The Repair shop

We hope to develop this in the Lower room during the community café hours for people to make or repair items if you are interested in the project please pop into the café and let us know.



Garden of Hope

This is still very much on the agenda but the holdup is trying to find a suitable space to develop it in, in the meantime it is hoped we may be able to enhance some other areas of the village that are owned by the Parish council while we work on the right site for this project.

Bere Regis Food Bank

Thank you so much for all the food donations we really appreciate them, there is a box outside the village Hall . Moving Forward we will continue to run the Food Bank when the Village Hall reopens , our thanks to the Parish Council for the generous grant to make this possible. It will operate on a part food part voucher basis this will be from June.

If you need help and are struggling in this crisis email popinplace@gmail.com

Please make sure that all users registration forms are back to 3 Rye Hill Close

Alison Bennett

When you respond to advertisers, do please tell them you saw their advert in this magazine - it helps them monitor the effectiveness of their advert and helps us generate more advertising revenue!!

credits as Billy Smallbury one of the farm labourers.

He was a Governor of Bere Regis School and of Purbeck School. He was an independent District Councillor for the Village on Purbeck District Council for about 17 years. He was well known to his constituents. A local character, good fun in the Pub, once met not forgotten. There are many amusing anecdotes and tales about him. He was President of the Bere Regis Sports club, and a founder member of the reformed cricket club in 1982.

In addition he was well known in Agriculture being Chairman of the Dorset National Farmers Union. He helped to set up the Agricultural Training Board in Dorset and set up a Scheme for Proficiency Skill testing for Agricultural workers. He was County President of young Farmers Clubs and many other positions.

As a Councillor he was particularly interested in Housing and was chairman of the Housing Committee for many years and even had a hostel for homeless persons in Wareham, "Vic Stone Court", named after him.

To the best of my recollection very little was published in the Parish Magazine at the time of his death as he was a Bloxworth man and the funeral service was held in Wareham.

POP IN PLACE NEWS

Pop In Place ROADMAP

Pop In Place Rainbow Café

If everything goes according to the Government roadmap we hope to reopen the Community Café on Friday 25th June 10am. If this looks like a feasible thing I will call a meeting of all volunteer helpers on the previous Friday 18th at 10am to have a training session on opening in a covid safe way, and make a rota of helpers and drivers. If you want to come along but need transport phone 471170



Pop In Performers Group

If regulation allow, our plan is to start this group up in September using some of the Grease items we started working on mixed up with a few Christmas favourite we will invite you to Rydell High Christmas Prom our Christmas Show in December.

BERE REGIS SURGERY NEWS

Happy Easter to everyone for the beginning of April!



April brings the start of the 2nd COVID vaccination roll out and the conclusion of the 1st vaccines for cohorts 1 – 9.

Hopefully we will be able to have a much-needed long weekend to recharge our batteries and enjoy the sunshine, although as I type this the long-range forecast is for freezing temperatures. Let's hope

they've got it wrong! Last year, if you remember the Government requirement was that General Practice worked through the Easter holidays as business as usual and full lockdown began in earnest.

The Surgery will be closed Good Friday, 3rd April through to and including Monday 5th April. We will re-open as normal on Tuesday 6th April, 8.30 am on the phones. If you require medical assistance whilst we are closed please call 111 or if you have a medical emergency, call 999. Please ensure you have enough medication for the long weekend.

DORSET TRADING STANDARDS

Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service check and approve businesses so you don't have to.

For more information visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call 08454 040506.

To report or seek advice about problems you have experienced when dealing with a trader call 08454 040506.



Bird Flu at Christmas as told by an Animal Health Officer.

After a very busy year dealing with the various challenges covid had thrown up running the Dorset Council Trading Standards Animal Health Team I was looking forward to a nice break over Christmas. In an attempt to be organised for once I had booked the week running up to Christmas off so I would have plenty of time for Christmas shopping. Unfortunately one phone call from the Government Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) ruined these plans. An outbreak of bird flu had been found in a small backyard flock of ducks and chicken near Gillingham. Bird flu is brought into the country by migratory birds and if it infects domestic birds it can have a devastating effect with very high mortality rates. It was reported that 5 of the 6 chicken in the effected flock died within 24 hours of becoming sick.



As soon as a case of bird flu is confirmed a 3km protection zone is put around the infected premise and it is Dorset Council's job to support APHA to visit as many properties as possible in that zone to see if the household are keeping poultry in their back gardens. In this outbreak the zone took in most of Gillingham which meant over 5000 properties. I was very lucky as most of my colleagues in Trading Standards stepped forward to help out and so on the first day of foot patrols 13 of us were knocking on doors, maintaining a Covid social distance, in the area and 3 days later we had finished, just in time for a hectic Christmas Eve shopping spree.

As a result of various outbreaks around the country all poultry must be kept in housing and not allowed to free range. Further details of the rules can be found on the gov website. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

MEMORIES OF VIC STONE

It is thirty years since the death of my father Vic Stone who died on the 26th April, 1991. I recall the occasion of his thanksgiving service held at St Mary's church Wareham on 3rd May. I have spent some of my lockdown time reaching for some thirty year old audio typing skills and have typed out from the cassette recording of the service the eulogy delivered by George Willey on this Occasion.



As my father was chairman of the Purbeck District Council at the time of his death the service was held in Wareham. Bloxworth church was too small. Bere Regis residents and Bloxworth residents along with the great and Good of Purbeck district council all gathered with standing room only in St Mary's. My father was Governor of Purbeck School. The school orchestra played. My cousin Liz sang the William Barnes song Linden Lea. My cousins in the Red Post choir sang an arrangement by my Uncle Mick Gulliford of Swing Low Sweet Chariots to reflect my father's love of rugby.

I will place a full copy of the typed eulogy on the memories of Bere Regis Facebook page as at nearly 3,000 words it is rather long for the parish Magazine. I am not sure after all this time many people will remember that much detail. George Willey was a great friend of my father's, a well known local thespian and press reporter. I will also forward a copy to John Pitfield in the Bere Regis History society who can place a copy among his file of press cuttings on my father.

My father farmed at Bloxworth from 1961 until his death. All five of his children attended Bere Regis School. My father was a frequent visitor to Bere Regis village, to shop, to put fuel in the car and to visit the local pubs. His beaten up blue Saab

96 was a regular sight in the village with mud, baler twine, fencing poles and the growing crop of corn wedged in the bumpers.

In 1966 he was very involved with the making of the film far from the Madding Crowd at Bloxworth and taught the film star Julie Christie to milk a cow. He was an agricultural advisor to the film company and had a small part with screen



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BERE REGIS WI

When it was formed in 1915, the aim of Women's Institute's was to revitalise rural communities and support and give a voice to the woman working in these communities, largely in the home or in restrictive agricultural settings. How far we have come since then. The WI is now the largest women's organisation in the UK and caters to a huge diversity of membership. Bere Regis WI alone can claim several current artists, a qualified aerobics instructor, an Alexander Technique teacher and a firefighter. Amongst our retired members we have a former air stewardess, book illustrator, constituency secretary for Michael Heseltine, florist, hotel manager, probation officer, sales assistant at Chanel on Old Bond Street (dressing people such as Shirley Bassey and Diana Ross), school governor, social worker, textile designer (in Paris) and several teachers. And this is just scratching the surface!

Women's Institutes themselves come in all shapes and sizes. As well as the traditional rural village institutes, there are institutes in towns, workplaces and even in hospices and prisons. All with the common aim of supporting their fellow members and allowing them to be involved in the way that suits them – ranging from simply taking the chance to meet people and catch up with friends, to getting involved in the wider WI campaigning activities – albeit it remotely for the time being. Speaking of which, it's hard to believe that this time last year I was writing about how we were trying to get to grips with the impact of COVID-19 and the implications for our members.



And finally (to give me an excuse to include a picture), I'm happy to report that the Bere Regis WI Centenary cherry tree in the shrubbery outside the surgery seems not to have suffered as a result of the recent cold snap and is blooming magnificently!

For details of future meetings or further information about the WI, please contact Di Pitts on 01929 471322 or Moira Mathers on 07900 906278. You can see more about our past meetings and activities on our Facebook page [@BereRegisWI](https://www.facebook.com/BereRegisWI).

President - Ian Spalding
 Captain - Neil Middleditch
 Vice - Matt March
 Secretary - Guy Storey
 Treasurer - Merrick Smith

R O G S

c/o Mr G R Storey, Secretary
 9 Boswells Close, Bere Regis, BH20 7JE
 Telephone:- 01929 471041

www.bereregis.com e-mail: golf@bereregis.com



Golf Days held every month, usually the last Friday, from February through to October.
 Membership currently full. Contact Guy Storey – 471041 for waiting list and details.

VENUES 2021

Date	Venue	Trophy	Winner
26th February	Ferndown Golf Club	Members Challenge	
	Rushmore Golf Club	GRS Trophy	
Ca	Dates still to be confirmed		
Sal			
Ash			
Bul			
	Dorset Golf and Country Club	Captain's Cup	
	Lyme Regis Golf Club	Whitbread Pairs	
	Dibden Golf Centre	Zoom Trophy	

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Dorset Children's Literacy Charity Celebrates Fifteen Years

Local charity Dorset Reading Partners is celebrating its fifteen year anniversary by recruiting more volunteers to help children become confident readers. The charity trains, equips and supports a large team of volunteer reading partners who provide regular 1:1 help to children in primary schools right across the county, and their services are needed more than ever as pupils settle back into school after a year of disrupted learning.



Charity manager Juliet Ruddick says "Dorset Reading Partners was set up in March 2006 to provide quality in-school help for developing young readers, and since then we have worked with thousands of local children. Our reading partners don't just listen to children read; they make reading fun by offering choice, conversation and skilled support, and children flourish as a result of this approach. Our aim is to help children enjoy and succeed at reading, and it is always so satisfying to see a previously reluctant reader become more enthusiastic and confident as we progress."



"We really look after our volunteers, providing comprehensive training, DBS checks, top quality resources, ongoing support, and regular meetings and visits to ensure they have the best possible experience with us. Many of our brilliant team have been with us for years, but we are always looking for more people to join us, especially now as we prepare for the busy year ahead."

Could you help inspire a child to read? Dorset Reading Partners would love to hear from you if you love books, enjoy working with children and have two hours a week to spare over a year. You can find out more at www.dorsetreadingpartners.org.uk or contact Juliet on 01305 458515.

Who to contact in the West Purbeck Benefice

Church Office: Tel 07729484866 Email: westpurbeckoffice@gmail.com
Revd Jenny Alidina Tel: 01929 551502 Email: jennyalidina@irishollow.co.uk
Revd Sandra Williams Tel: 01929 792235
Email: revsandrawestpurbeck@outlook.com
Canon Keith Hugo Tel: 01202 734971 Email: keith.hugo@ntlworld.com
Visit the Website: www.holyroodwool.org, includes the WPB

Benefice Easter Services 2021

Palm Sunday 28th March 10.45 Café Church Online
Maundy Thursday (1st April) 19.00 Holy Communion online
Good Friday Services (2nd April)

Churchyard Services (No need to book)

10:30 Holy Rood Church, Wool
10.30 St John the Baptist Church, Bere Regis
12 noon St Laurence Church, Affpuddle
14:00 Good Friday Hour at the Cross **Online**

Easter Sunday (4th April) Services in church need to book!

09.00 Holy Communion Holy Rood Church, Wool
09.30 Holy Communion St John the Baptist Church, Bere Regis
09.00 Holy Communion Holy Trinity Church, West Lulworth
10:45 Easter Holy Communion **Online**

Contact the Westpurbeckoffice@gmail.com
to be added to the email list and for the links

The 21st June is the government's target for the end of lockdown restrictions, until then we have to book in for services in church (9am Easter Sunday), we will still have to maintain social distancing, wear masks and will not be able to sing in church.

Service Booking contacts:

Wool— Email: sue@whomwah.com or tel 01929 463803

Bere Regis—Email: Sarah W, sarahwelton@oceans.f9.co.uk
or tel 01929 471562

West Lulworth—Email: Paul Simpson, paulnewlands@hotmail.com
or tel 01929400376

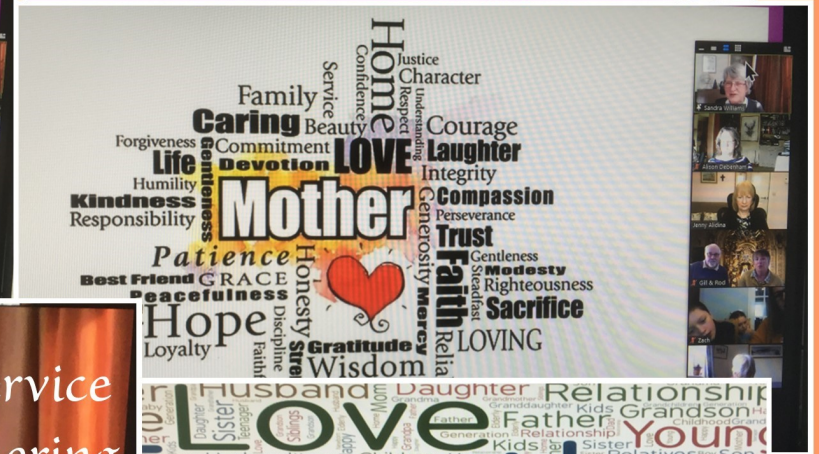
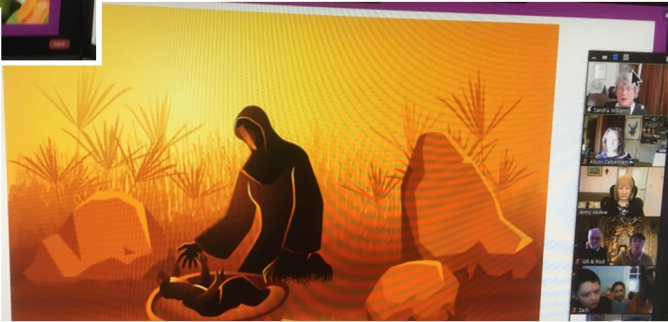
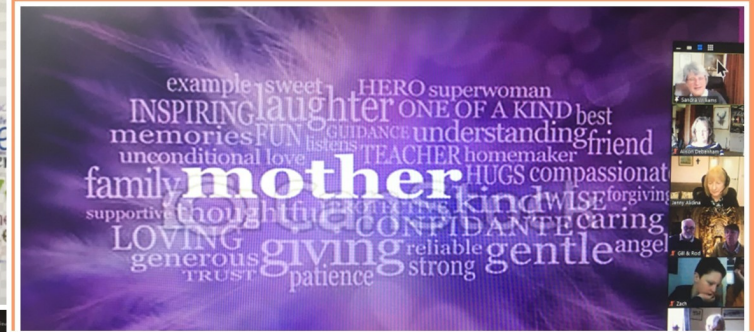
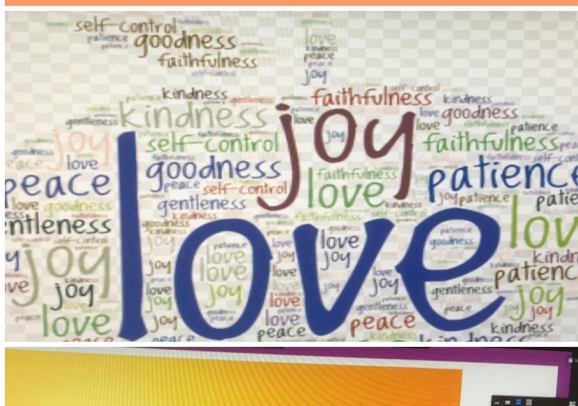


**Easter Blessings
from the
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'Peace Be With You'

Here is your Benefice Easter card, with details of services on the back for you to pull out and keep. In the centre is a pictorial record of our Mothering Sunday service.



Zoom Service for Mothering Sunday

If you're not already a participant, do join us. They are great services, every Sunday at 10.45 a.m. Full details on page 4

