

ADVERTISING RATES *for the year 2021*

(Cheques to be made payable to Bere Regis PCC)

Rates for charitable, community or non-profit organisations are charged at 50% of above.

Full year advertising is based on complete calendar years. Adverts inserted for part years are charged at a pro-rata rate of the full year cost. Full year advertisers are automatically included on both village websites.

<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

I hope this lockdown hasn't been too hard on you. I think it is quite bitter-sweet – we know that it is good for us and something we must endure, but we can't help thinking it would be nice to get our freedom back. At least now we have more glimmers of hope because of the vaccines and the efficient way they are being rolled out. Talking of glimmers, there has definitely been evidence that the days are getting a little longer. I was out until about 5pm yesterday and it was only just dusk, but it had been a sunnier day. It's the middle of January as I write and for most, Christmas will be just a distant memory, but in my home and in our churches, there are still Crib scenes out and they will remain so until the 2nd of February.

You may wonder why this is...

Every year on February 2nd the Christian Church celebrates the festival of Candlemas, or to give it its proper title 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple'. It marks the halfway point between the winter solstice on 21st December and the spring equinox on 21st March.

Long ago, before Christianity, people celebrated a festival of light at this time,

right in the middle of the season of long, dark, winter nights. For Christians, Candlemas marks the day, 40 days after his birth, that Jesus was presented in the Temple for a special blessing which was the Jewish custom.

Two elderly and faithful people called Simeon and Anna were in the Temple and they recognised the tiny baby as the Saviour they had been waiting for. They called him a light for all people, one who will bring glory and redemption. They were the first people since the shepherds and the wise men to understand who Jesus really was. They felt joyful because it was such an amazing moment to welcome the Saviour of the world. But while there was joy there was also sadness. Simeon tells Mary that Jesus will be rejected or turned away by many people, and that there will be pain for her, too, he says that pain will be like a sword being thrust through her.

This meeting in the Temple is bitter-sweet because it holds in one moment the joy of Jesus' birth and the pain of his death on the cross. For Christians, the light of Candlemas reaches back to the joy of Jesus' birth and forward to his suffering at Easter. So, between Christmas and the cross, Jesus' presentation in the Temple is bitter-sweet. This bitter sweetness is important because it reminds us that Jesus lived through the full range of human experience, from great joy to terrible pain. Because of that, we can trust that our God is with us when we are happy and when we are sad; when life is wonderful and when things feel as if they are falling apart.

I pray that you might feel God with you whatever you are going through at this bitter-sweet time.

With blessings

Sandra

Parish and Benefice news

As the coronavirus now seems to have caught up with us in this part of Dorset and because of the new variant of the virus, which likes to linger in cold spaces, the churches will not always be open for private prayer or services, we will try to advertise where we can, but the best thing to do is get in touch with the Churchwardens whose details are on the inside cover of the magazine.

At Bere Regis, the Remembering Stones that were on the grass near the porch have now been relocated to make a cairn on the steps of the War Memorial, to let the grass grow again.

I'm sure you will all join with me in saying a very big thank you to Bob and Denise Croom who have worked incredibly hard to tidy up the churchyard – it really does look lovely.

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.

When we are all allowed back in the church please do take a look at the banner in the Children's area, the Kingsbere Quilters have very kindly made these hangings and they look wonderful as you can see in this photo.

At Affpuddle the Remembering cairn can still be found within the Peace Garden.

The Benefice continues to live stream Sunday services on Zoom, please do ask for the link if you are not already on the contact list. Rev Jenny and I had a lovely afternoon yesterday meeting (on Zoom) with some of the couples who are getting married in our churches this year, we do wish them all much joy and happiness at this next stage of their lives together.

Easter is at the beginning of April this year which means that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 17th February. Unfortunately, I won't be able to host a Pancake Party this year on Shrove Tuesday, but I hope you enjoy your own pancakes! We do have a Lent course coming up, details are below.

As ever, please do get in touch by phone or email if you would like a chat.



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

If this is a question you have asked, then Alpha online is an opportunity to explore this and the many other BIG questions about life. Alpha creates a friendly space to connect with others online to watch a series of episodes and explore the Christian faith together. We are starting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on the 24th February. For more information and to obtain the link to join email Jenny Alidina on jennyalidina@irishollow.co.uk or

Sandra Williams on revsandrastpurbeck@outlook.com





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

February Services

Services **will not take place** during lockdown in Wool and Affpuddle churches

	Streamed	Church	Church	1 st Reading	Gospel
Wed 3 rd Feb	10am BCP HC				
Sun 7 th Feb 2 before Lent <i>green</i>	10:45am Café Church	9am HC EL	9am BCP HC Bere Regis	Prov. 8:1,22-31 or Col. 1: 15-20	John 1: 1-14
Wed 10 th Feb	9pm NP				
Sun 14 th Feb Next before Lent <i>green</i>	10:45am CW HC	9am HC WL	9am HC CW Wool	2 Kings 2: 1- 12 or 2 Cor. 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9
Wed 17 th Feb Ash Wednesday	10am CW HC				
Sun 21 st Feb Lent 1 <i>purple</i>	10:45am AAW	9am HC CH	9am HC Affpuddle	Gen. 9: 8-17 or 1 Pet. 3: 18-end	Mark 1: 9-15
Wed 24 th Feb	Alpha online starts 7pm				
Sun 28 th Feb Lent 2 <i>purple</i>	10:45am HC CW	9am HC WN	9am HC CW Bere Regis	Gen. 17: 1-7, 15-16 or Rom. 4: 13-end	Mark 8: 31-end

Key:
HC CW Holy Communion Common Worship
HC BCP Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer
AAW All Age Worship (Family friendly Service)
NP Night Prayer (also known as Compline)

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. Telephone numbers can be found on the inside front page of the Parish News. 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.

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

SMALL ADS

February 2021

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

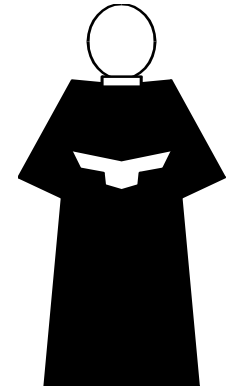
St John the Baptist, Bere Regis

2020

22 Dec Brenda Pitfield

2021

8 Jan Cyril Johns
13 Jan Gilbert Griffin
22 Jan Barbara Bell
27 Jan Walter Billey



St Laurence, Affpuddle

2020

31 Dec Stanley Wood MBE

Rosemary Caroline Turner 29.3.41 - 12.1.21

Richard Turner has asked to include this notification about the sad loss of Rosemary. He will do a few words for next month's magazine.

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



Online

The Rescuer!

4pm

Sunday 31st January

Lots of fun for families

live on Zoom

rsvp: email jennyalidina@irishollow.co.uk

or revsandrawestpurbeck@outlook.com

for activity bags and zoom link by 24th Jan.



One thing is certain no item of village history since January 1987 is likely to be lost now, as this was the time when Jenny Silavs first arrived Briantspuddle with her husband George. She started to collect newspaper clippings, souvenir posters for village events, orders of service for local weddings and funerals, and all sorts of items of interest.

"A love of history allied to a love of collecting creates problems in a very small cottage" says Jenny, who lives at The Hollow.

"In 1997, I was determined to have a good clear-out, but came across the newspaper clipping of vicar Jonathon Burke dedicating the memorial stone erected for the celebration of the millenium in 1987. This prompted me to start to compile a village scrapbook. That scrapbook is now in its fourth volume.

"It is not intended as a scholarly work," adds Jenny. "It is merely the recording of the happenings, the joys and the sorrows, triumphs and perhaps the tragedies of the ordinary everyday men and women who inhabit a small part of England that we all love so well."

Receiving this article from Diana, has, once again, reinforced the support and enthusiasm of many members of our communities.

Although this was written sixteen years ago, and it is sad that it references so many friends and neighbours who are no longer with us, it is fascinating to have these opportunities to look back in time.

I would encourage any of our readers who feel that they can offer such interesting contributions to get in touch as I would welcome more pieces of this nature.

Alison

By the way, I always find it interesting to see my husband's name in print in this way - we have absolutely no connection to this branch of the Debenham family tree, but Martin did get a shock one day when he was working in Affpuddle and went for a walk in the churchyard at lunchtime. He suddenly discovered that he was standing alongside his grave! It's also fascinating to know that the Alison Debenham of 1903-1967 was a well known artist - sadly I am not quite in her league.

Eric Rolls has lived in the village since 1941, and has seen a huge amount of changes in that time. Eric has been a parish councillor since 1972, beginning under the chairmanship of Martin Debenham. It was a working village then, he reflects. Now it is very much a retirement area. The youngsters have gone. There is nowhere affordable for them to live, he adds. Eric well remembers the opening of the Social Club on February 18, 1957. It was first opened in the Granary adjacent to the hall, now the village shop.

The late George Poore went around on his bicycle and collected a shilling (5p) off 200 people willing to support the venture. Eric had been holding the sum of £22 since the closure of the old Football Club five years before, and this was added to it. Thus the Social Club was opened with the sum of £42. Seating from old buses was donated by nearby Bere Regis Coach Company. Ivan Cox built the bar, and the committee did the rest of the work.

Fred Barret, James Barrett's son, whose family has been delivering the Echo to the community for 32 years also well remembers those days. There was a different atmosphere in the village then, Fred says. The social club was started because there was no pub in the village, and people thought it was marvellous that they could walk down the road and have a pint. There were very few cars in the village. The club was full up with villagers, 50 or 80 people used to get there in the evenings. There were fruit machines, table skittles and card games.

The late Bill Stockley played the accordion. Fred organised the whist drives. All the bar staff were volunteers in those days. Ernie Bowell was the club's treasurer for many years. Over the years since it was first established, the social club has raised around £45,000 for various charities. Currently the parish of Affpuddle and



Turners puddle is just the second parish in Purbeck to produce a Parish Plan, and the first to include a Design Statement to assist the management of change. With input from well over half the parish, and the coordinating work of eight residents under the chairmanship of Campbell de Burgh, it represents around 700 hours of volunteer effort over a period of 18 months. The plan is shortly to be published, and its steering group believes it to be truly representative of the thoughts of the majority of the parish.

The village shop and post office too is a tribute to the community-spirited residents. A few years ago, this was under the threat of closure, and is now staffed by volunteers to maintain this valuable village facility.

LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF SALISBURY

According to ancient tradition (!) the probationer choristers of the Cathedral celebrate Shrove Tuesday by cooking pancakes in the Deanery kitchen. Boys, girls, and staff members crowd around as lemons are squeezed, sugar is scattered, and pancakes are flipped. Some are caught and some are not: the presence of two Deanery tortoises in the corner of the room is always a significant distraction. Above the din I try to explain how once upon a time this was the day when all the household's butter and eggs were used up in readiness for the Lenten fast.



Pancakes eaten, we troop out into the back garden for a more solemn but no less fascinating ritual. The stacks of palm crosses collected from the congregation in previous weeks are thrown into a fire, and the probs are told about the ashing that will take place in the Cathedral the following day. Appetite and curiosity satisfied, the children return to school.

None of that will happen this year. Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday fall within the earliest dates envisaged for the ending of our current lockdown, and it seems inconceivable that we will be able to observe Lent – or, for that matter, Holy Week and Easter – in anything like the manner to which we were once accustomed. Like the butter and the eggs, like the probationers' pancakes, our routines, our traditions, our habits are being devoured by a pandemic which seems to go on and on.

And, we might ask, when all these have been devoured, what is left? The answer is: the ash. The gritty, resilient, irreducible residue that clings to the bottom of the barbeque when the palm crosses have been burnt and the flames have died down. It's this gritty, resilient, irreducible residue that we daub on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Ash is what remains when everything else has been taken away.

It makes you think. Ash which cannot be destroyed; ash which endures. This year of all years, could there be any more potent symbol of God's gritty, resilient, irreducible love for us?

Dean Nicholas

OBITUARIES

Brenda Pitfield (1935-2020)

We lost Brenda on 9th December after she had been in hospital for about a week. Her health and fitness had taken a jolt in January 2017 after a fall when she broke her arm after slipping on ice in Dorchester. After recovering from this she returned to something like normal and got back to driving, and also parking, again, but as the years passed she needed more help from her sons Mark and John, who made sure that she could continue attending her beloved Bere Church and also get to the surgery and to appointments with the dentist, chiropodist and choir at Briantspuddle Singers. The result of this effort was that Brenda was able to live in her own house almost right to the end.

Brenda married Fred in 1955 after they had met many times at dances, music concerts and, of course, the Briantspuddle Singers where in the 1950s they had singing, dancing and musical instrument training. Brenda lived at Troytown then with her parents and brother, and Fred was brought up at Bere Regis. They were married at Puddletown church, then moved to rented rooms at No 78 West Street while their bungalow was built in Butt Lane and they moved in in 1956 before electricity was connected and spent evenings illuminated by oil lamps for some time. Fred had designed the house and also many others around the village and surroundings, then after leaving private practice, began work at Dorset County Council Architects Department but he never turned down the chance to help villagers with their planning permission needs.

Mark and John were born in the late 1950s and 1960s, but Brenda had been working in the Council Accounts Department and was even using computers at that time. After the boys started school and for some time after that she had jobs at the South Street Tesco's at Dorchester, again doing the accounts, then later she worked at the Health Food shop in Trinity Street and was also the receptionist for the chiropractor in Dorchester. This all culminated in her most prized job of all, being the regional representative for the Church Army charity, which meant having to learn to drive, which she kept a secret from Fred until she could announce that she had passed her driving test. Years of travelling all across the south of England meant that she was usually up and ready to depart before anyone else in the house, waking up whoever was blocking her car on the drive at unearthly hours in the morning. Brenda, now a fully committed Christian, progressed from this in 1989 when she was licensed as a Lay Preacher and so was able to play an increasing role in the local parishes for some years.



Ernest's death in 1952, the southern part of the estate was sold off in an auction held in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester on October 21, 1953. Many of the farms and houses had tenants who bought them at this time. One of these was West Farm, Affpuddle, consisting of 409 acres, purchased by tenants Edgar and Stella Kellaway. Stella was born in Briantspuddle, at the Hollow, and is now one of the village's most senior residents. She has worked on the farm all her life, and still does the books, assisted by her

son-in-law Roger Prideaux who now farms the land with his wife Shirley. Another of Stella's daily commitments until very recently was the locking and unlocking of Affpuddle church. She carried out this task for around 27 years since vicar Bert Johnson retired.

The fine cob and thatched barn in Briantspuddle, rebuilt in 1803, was turned into the present village hall as a gift from Ernest Debenham. Nine clubs and activities were listed as regular users in 1953. Included was the intriguingly-named Slate Club. All members of this paid 6d (2.5p) each week. If any member was ill, he could draw £1 a week for several weeks. Nowadays the village hall has an



enthusiastic committee running it and raising funds for its maintenance and improvement. Entertainments offered include concerts, sophisticated Artsreach performances and Purbeck Film Festival events. Many events include sumptuous suppers prepared by Briantspuddle's expert cooks.



In line with the philosophy of self-sufficiency, the estate had its own transport depot at the Queen Post building near the crossroads at Briantspuddle. The estate had two Sentinel steam wagons for carrying pigs and feedstuffs, sixteen tractors six vans and lorries, eight cars and twelve motor cycles.

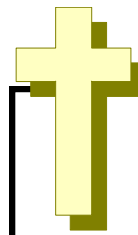
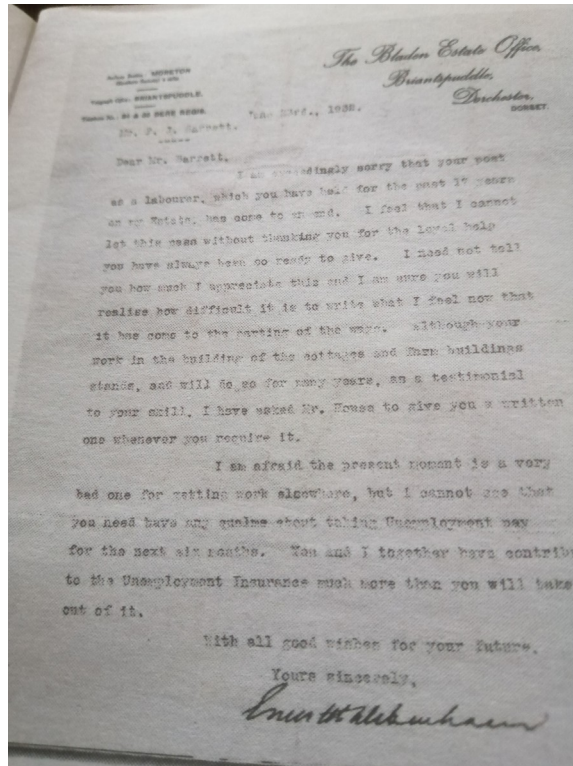
There was similar self sufficiency in electric power and water. Electric power at 250 volts DC was supplied to the farms and some residences from what is now Bridge House.

Ernest Debenham also patronised the Arts generously, building up a collection of pottery, ceramics and paintings. He commissioned Eric Gill to create the First World War Memorial at Bladen

Valley, and the Peace Garden at the east end of Affpuddle church for those who fell in the Second World War. Trees were also one of his great passions, and many trees were planted with the help of Ursula Waterhouse and the advice of Richard St Barbe Baker, the founder of the Men of Trees.

However, the recession in farming that took place in the 1920's saw prices tumbling, and even with the massive amount of money that had been invested in the project, the venture began to fail and the scale of the operation had to be cut back after 1932. James Barrett received this following letter from Sir Ernest Debenham.

Individual parts of the project, like the dairy, continued to be successful, but the first sale of land was made in 1943 when 5,600 acres was sold. After Sir



OBITUARIES

There were other aspects to Brenda's life including being a proud auntie to two nieces, grandmother of two grandsons and two granddaughters and great-grandmother to two great-granddaughters. She was active in the Mothers' Union, the Milton Abbey Music Festival, her old school girls' reunion committee, and she was even a fashion model at the Drax Hall when the need arose in the 1960s. She also got involved with other village organisations over the decades and was never satisfied unless she was part of the organisation of them in some ways. Singing, however, was always a most important part of her life and it was only the 2020 Covid pandemic which curtailed this activity.

Brenda will be remembered as always being supportive and organisational and someone who could be trusted to keep things going in any adversity, and will be missed by many. What we have to know now is that Brenda was defeated by three health enemies, cancer, diabetes and finally pneumonia, and that anything less than that she would have seen off.

Gilbert Griffin

What a shame COVID-19 restrictions robbed Dad of a full funeral service. He was a fiercely traditional man, and would have hoped for a full church, with plenty of loud hymns.

Dad was born at home in North Street in June 1929 to Gilbert (Bert) and Gladys, the second of what was to be 4 children. An older brother and two younger sisters. His father Bert ran a family building business in the village, which Dad was not destined to join, but did eventually.

Dad went to the village school, where he met his long-time friend Gilbert Phillips, and they stayed friends their whole life. After leaving the local school, Dad progressed to Poole Grammar School, and won a scholarship to Southampton University. There he read Zoology. Or started to read Zoology. This study lasted 2 years. At the end of the second year, he decided that this was not the subject for him. He could not face another year of dissecting bugs and small mammals, and naming all their parts.

It was during one holiday from University that when in the carpenter's workshop, he saw a young woman walk past on her way to the reck. He was instantly smitten. This was the woman he was going to marry, and he hadn't even met her at that point. After many enquiries' dad found out, the woman in question was



OBITUARIES

a trainee teacher at the village school. That was the start of what was to become his mission, to woo and then marry this person.

After the weekend of finishing University, he started back in the family firm, as the office boy, whilst his elder brother was a carpenter. In the early days work was mainly for the Drax Estate, who seemed to own most of the village and surrounding area.

Eventually, Dad persuaded his dream girl to marry him, and in 1950 he and Barbara married, At St Mary's Church Swanage. They started off living with Dad's parents. In North Street. Just down past the yard was a plot of land, which they managed to buy. Here they built their first house, now known as Highfield. This was a drawn out build as rationing was still a reality, for building materials.

Eventually they moved in, and started their new life together. After a while children came along. First Sue, then me, and then Fiona. Mum carried on teaching, and Dad grew from office boy to become a partner with his father in the business.

In the early 60's Mum and Dad, moved house. Not too far, to The Cedars, on West Street. Still close enough to the office for Dad. This house was fantastic for us kids to grow up in. Plenty of garden to play in and rooms to get away from each other when we wanted our own space. Although at first, was it ever cold during the winter. Getting the ice off the inside of the bedroom windows, dressing under the bedclothes because it was so cold in the winter mornings. The house had a stable building so Mum and Dad converted this into a cottage, and sold it, which fortunately for us kids, enabled them to install central heating into The Cedars. What bliss.

Village life was important to Dad, and in 1949 he was appointed Parish Clerk to the parish council, then in 1965, after his father left the council to become a Rural District Councillor, Dad became a parish councillor. He served as Chairman from 1970 to 1974. Also, he was a school manager, involved in the Drax Hall involved in the management of the Cemetery, and for a time he was also a trustee of the Williams educational trust.

Dad was a strong supporter of the Congregational Chapel in Butt Lane, again following in his father's footsteps. Although in later life he also liked to worship in the parish church, with Mum.



In the 70's and early 80's the business grew, and a lot of the work done was in the farming industry. New milking parlours, barns, silage pits and the like.

dairy farms on the estate for testing, separation and bottling of around 1,000 gallons of milk a day into Grade A milk, butter and cheeses, and pig feed.

The factory had a fully equipped bacteriological laboratory where the purity and fat content of the milk was analysed. The workers on the farm producing the milk with the lowest bacterial count received a bonus. Grade A milk was on sale in Parkstone within an hour of leaving Brianspuddle. As demand increased, a new central dairy had to be built at Milborne St Andrew in 1929. This supplied milk throughout the south of England, including the Cunard Line and the Home Fleet. It was managed by Ernest Debenham's younger son, Martin, under the name of Ideal Dairies, later called Express Dairies.

The Old Dairy, behind The Ring in Brianspuddle, was erected to test ultra violet sterilisation of milk in the 1920's. The late Bill Poore, one of the last remaining villagers who worked at the Bladen Dairies remembers an experiment to test the sterilisation of milk. Milk was taken to Cape Town and then to Salisbury, Rhodesia, where half was opened and found to be fit. The remainder was returned to Milborne where it too was found to be in good condition. Thus was the birth of HT milk, packed in waxed cartons, the brainchild of Martin Debenham.

The first twelve cottages were designed by Halsey Ricardo, the architect responsible for Sir Ernest's London residence. By 1929, forty cottages had been built, all with inside baths and lavatories. The best examples are in Bladen Valley. They were constructed mainly of aircspaced concrete blocks called the Lean block, another Debenham innovation, manufactured



using a 4:1 mixture of concrete. This innovative method of construction claimed to need less materials due to the air spaces, less foundations due to the light weight, and to provide good insulation. The blocks were dipped in liquid mortar to economise on materials and to ensure that nothing fell into the air spaces. The blocks were turned out in two sizes using hand-operated machines.

James Barrett and Jack Bridle worked on the making of the blocks. Gravel was quarried from the pit in Smoakham Bottom and taken down to the river by steam engines to be washed, mixed with cement and formed into blocks. They were then stacked to dry slowly, and watered every day for a month to prevent their drying too fast and developing flaws. More than 60,000 blocks and 200,000 bricks were produced annually.

cottages, the oldest being the Cruck Cottage, was about to enter the most dramatic and exciting period in its history.

Ernest Debenham was very much an idealist, with a practical imagination. The dream he had when he bought Affpuddle Farm, Briantspuddle Farm, Rogers Hill Farm and Turnerspuddle Farm, together with land in surrounding villages was far ahead of its time. It was to create a totally self-sufficient agricultural enterprise.

That dream is best described in the preface of a brochure prepared for its many visitors in 1929, by which time the project had become a going concern.

The Bladen Farms should be considered an experiment initiated with the chief object of ascertaining whether, under modern conditions, and with the resources and facilities supplied to agriculture by recent scientific discoveries, it is possible for Dorset (and inferentially for Great Britain as a whole) to produce a larger proportion of home-grown foods, especially of animal origin, than it does at present.

Sir Ernest – created a Baronet in 1931 for his services to agriculture – was challenging not only traditional practices, but defying the economic reality of low farm prices in the face of cheap foodstuffs from abroad. “Everybody thought Grandpa was just a rich old draper” says his daughter-in-law, Beatrice Debenham, who was married to Ernest's younger son Martin, “but he had such imagination and enterprise. Although he was a tough business man who formed the Drapery Trust he was also a very fair and kind man, and very benevolent.”

The name Bladen Estate was derived from the old form of Blackdown or Blagden, after the hill overlooking Briantspuddle. Ernest Debenham built Moor Lane House, so called after the old inn The Moor's Head which at one time existed on the site.

The village of Affpuddle, following the line of the river Piddle, was considered to have too much natural beauty for further development, and so the major building programme started in 1919 after the delay of the First World War, was centred around Briantspuddle.



Experiments were carried out on almost all types of farming between 1919 and 1929. The very first silage tower in the country was erected at Briantspuddle. A milk processing factory was set up in The Ring buildings, the Central Dairy. The Briantspuddle Farm was organised on modern lines and milk was imported from all the

OBITUARIES



Eventually this work dried up, and new avenues were needed. A local introduced Dad to wood burning stoves. After a drive to South Wales to visit an importer of Norwegian Wood burners, we took on an agency to sell and install these stoves. The demand for these stoves grew, and more and more stoves came on the market. Our area grew, and we were sending stoves all over the south west and into the Channel Islands. Again, this market dwindled, and a new venture was needed.

Building up a highly skilled workforce, Dad took on the repair and maintenance of our local churches, travelling throughout Dorset, and sometimes further afield, he built a reputation for the business as to knowing what they were doing. This proved to be a passion for Dad, all he wanted to do was work on the churches.

Sadly, tragedy struck in 2006 his daughter Sue died. After a 7-year battle cancer finally defeated her. This had a devastating effect on Mum and Dad, but with their strong faith they overcame their grief.

Dad could not retire, he kept saying he was not ready to. Mum was quite keen for him to stop, or at least slow down. It was time for them to have some quality time together, before they got too old and infirm to enjoy holidays and a bit of peace and quiet. But no, the time was not here yet. Although we did manage to persuade him to go part time. 3 days a week, and long weekends. However, he still managed to wander into the office on his supposed days off. Just to see what was going on.

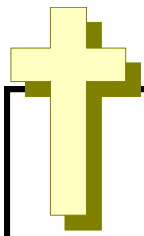
Again, tragedy struck in 2018. Mum and Dad went on holiday to Madeira, as was their idea of getting a bit of winter sunshine. Sadly, Mum never came home alive. On the day they were to return home, she was taken into hospital, and died 4 days later. After 67 years of marriage, Dad's life was in tatters. Alone in Madeira he phoned Marie-Anne to ask her to deal with the logistics of bringing Mum home. To compound matters I was away on a boy's trip skiing.

When Dad returned, he really did retire. Although he even then kept telling people he was part time, and was hand if needed. It gave him something to concentrate on.

As he only lived next door, we could all keep an eye on him, as he was happy, if that is the right word, to live on his own. He even learnt to cook for himself. Only the basics mind you.

Failing health gradually caught up with him. The worst bit was having to give up the car. Although some might say not a moment too soon. We needed some





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help, and he agreed to have some carers come in once a day to help him. These girls were a godsend, both to him and us.

Plenty of friends in the village used to call in on Dad, and keep him company. One friend Bin, who Dad had met years ago and had holidayed together in Scotland, used to drive from Piddletrentide every Friday afternoon to see him.

After a fall, which knocked his confidence for 6 Dad summoned Fiona and I and told us to sort out a care home for him. This did come as a bit of a shock, as Dad was so fiercely independent. But we did as he asked. He went into Pine Martin Grange at Sandford, and then had to spend 2 weeks in isolation because of Covid restrictions. He did not stay long. Just as he was due to come out of isolation, he had another fall, and was taken to hospital. There they found that his health was failing rapidly. Sadly 4 days later he passed away.

Dad had finally got his wish. Ever since Mum had died, all he wanted was to be with her again.

Sadly, for us, but happily for him wishes do come true.

Thank you, Dad, for being our Dad.

Mary Fegan

Many people in the village may remember Mary Fegan from her time at Cyril Wood Court and then at Turberville Court. She left Bere Regis some years ago to go to the Casterbridge Care Home in Cerne Abbas.

These were difficult times for her, she was very disabled and unable to do many of the activities that gave her joy. However her faith and her painting were both sources of comfort, and if she could help someone else she would throw herself into them with all her intelligence. For example the Purbeck Workshop based in Wool, which helps people afflicted with cancer was a project very dear to her.

She had been a nurse and written articles for medical journals, married to a doctor, and with her own experiences she brought new ways of looking at life's problems in a way that was new at the time. She was also involved with the BBC and the Antiques Road Show in the time of Arthur Negus, and assisted a young politician in Glasgow to his future career!



AFFPUDDLE AND BRIANTSPUDDLE

I came across an article on Briantspuddle and Affpuddle in a drawer the other day. It was something I wrote for the Echo's weekend magazine when I was a community correspondent for the paper. Of course, the years have moved on again since 2004 when I wrote it, and so many villagers I talked to then have themselves passed on now. Even Debenhams is fast becoming history!

Diana Holman

Shoppers wandering through the Debenham store in Weymouth little realise that just fourteen miles away lies a village whose entire history was reshaped less than a century ago by the dream of an early chairman of the store.

Ernest Debenham was the grandson of the store's founder, William Debenham. The vision he had when he purchased substantial land around Affpuddle and Briantspuddle in 1914 radically changed the somewhat slumberous way of life of the neighbourhood said local historian, the late Joan Brocklebank.

The early history of the village of Affpuddle and the hamlet of Briantspuddle is well chronicled in Joan's book *Affpuddle in the County of Dorset* published in 1968. A tribute to her life as a musician, artist, woodlander and historian exists in the stone seat at the eastern end of St Laurence's church.

The written history of the manor of Affpuddle begins in 987 with the Foundation Charter of the Benedictine Abbey of Cerne when Athelmar built the monastery. His kinsman Atrith gave land to the Abbey and bequeathed his name to the village. By the early 14th century, when the land covering Affpuddle, Briantspuddle and Throop was divided into three manors, it was partially owned

by the Turberville family, and it is thought that Briantspuddle was named after Brian de Turberville.

In 1683, all three manors were owned by William Frampton of Morton. Ownership remained in the hands of the Frampton family until 1914 when part of the estate was sold to Ernest Debenham for the sum of £49,500.

Briantspuddle, which had consisted of barely a dozen



underway with two potential suppliers. The Parish Council looks forward to receiving an update on the progress of enquiries at the meeting in February.

Briantspuddle Village Shop & Post Office

Councillors were briefed on early investigations into options for improving accessibility to the shop and post office which will allow residents with mobility difficulties to access the shop independently. The Council offered its support to the project and will work with the Shop Committee to work through any planning enquiries and application with Dorset Council.

Briantspuddle Amenity Complex

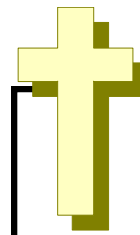
The Parish Council discussed plans to create a working group to include representatives from all its tenants to consider how parties can work together to ensure the best use of the complex into the future for the benefit of all Parishioners.

The Parish Clerk will write to each Committee to invite them to nominate 2 representatives to participate in the working group. Meetings will take place remotely and the Parish Clerk will provide administrative support. The Parish Council have nominated Andrew Monro and Emily Hall to join the working group on its behalf. Both Councillors are fairly new members of the Parish Council and will bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the table.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 10th February 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.

Sue Jones, Chairman



OBITUARIES

Unfortunately the death of one of her daughters in front of her by a car accident had a lasting effect, from which she never fully recovered. She was interested in everything and knew so much. She did struggle with events, people and was sensitive to situations, some found her difficult. I shall miss her dreadfully.



She died very peacefully on Tuesday January the 5th.

BRENDA PITFIELD

Both of the boys wish to give a big thank you to all those who sent or personally delivered Sympathy Cards following Mum's passing on 9th December. It was a great comfort to both of us that she had so many friends who wished us well and gave support in our difficult time, and it is greatly appreciated.

JP & MP

AN UPDATE ON CHURCH CLEANING

Just a quick update during these strange and troubled times! A big thank you to Pat Wharf for cleaning (toilet included!) prior to recent funerals, and for getting the key back to me.

As several have noted, the church doesn't need much cleaning or dusting at the moment, with so few people using it and the current rota, in any case, only goes to the end of January.

Pat has a key, due to 'Junior Church', and will kindly keep an eye on the state of cleanliness.

When we have a better idea of when Lockdown will end, and/or when the church will re-open, I'll do another rota and distribute it.

Any questions tel 471777,

Tina Walker

DORSET'S BEST CHURCHES

Ian Ventham recently showed me a book called Dorset's Best Churches by Brendan Lehane with Photographs by David Bailey. Ian felt that the two articles within the book on our churches in Bere Regis and in Affpuddle, might be of interest to magazine readers. I contacted the publishers, The Dovecote Press, in Wimborne, to get permission to reproduce these. Sadly, the book is now out of print but they were happy for me to publish the two extracts. This month is the one for St John the Baptist Church in Bere Regis and next month will be St Laurence in Affpuddle.

We extend our thanks to David Burnett and Lyn Orchard of the Dovecote Press. www.dovecotepress.com

BERE REGIS

St John the Baptist

From the 1300s to the early 1700s the Turberville manor stood over the road to the east of the church. The country round about was Turberville country. Hardy, in his great novel, changed the name to D'Urberville and brought Tess Durbeyfield, her widowed mother and siblings here from Marnhull, hoping for a family link and chance of inheritance.



There was neither. Unable to find lodging they camped under the church's south wall. 'Isn't your family vault your own freehold?' asked the mother vainly.

Despite the fictional gloom, and the all too non-fictional ranks of dull modern redbrick housing that nearly encircle it, and the noisy nuisances of a nearby bypass, the church of St John the Baptist, on foundations cut into rising ground, manages to assert itself very handsomely. Ageing gravestones and a line of clipped cylinder-yews like a procession of top hats grace the churchyard on all sides.

The flint and ashlar chequer of the early 16th century west tower, broken by the neat tracery of



which results in higher speeds and a more stable connection. The subsidy available is £2,500 per household and £6,000 per business. Residents and businesses in Waddock have already begun the process and properties at Rogershill Farm have had full fibre installed for six months now. If enough properties are willing to pool their vouchers to participate in the scheme, the vouchers can cover the full cost. Affpuddle residents are now considering the scheme as internet speeds are particularly slow. Further details are available on the Briantspuddle Community Website. Any residents unable to access this can contact the Parish Clerk for information.

Briantspuddle Village Shop

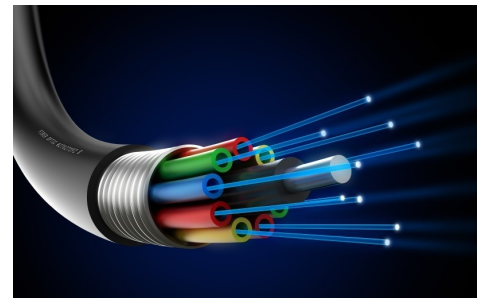
Councillors have agreed that the Parish Council will meet the cost of fixing a non-slip surface to the shop steps. This one-off cost of £130 and will improve safe access to the shop. In part the cost will be offset against the remaining Covid-19 Grant which the Parish Council received from Dorset Council last spring. In advance of the work it has been established that no planning permissions are required.

Roads and Traffic

Councillors have been regularly discussing traffic concerns throughout the parish and have agreed a set of priorities for improving roads particularly through Briantspuddle and Affpuddle. Dorset Council is currently looking at 20mph limits in rural areas and a Councillor will attend a webinar which is designed to set out the criteria for approving a 20mph limit. The matter will be discussed at the January meeting.

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The Parish Council meeting on 13th January was once again held remotely in order 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.



Full Fibre Broadband

A number of Parishioners in both Affpuddle and Briantspuddle have expressed an interest in the voucher scheme which would help residents and businesses have full fibre broadband installed. It is understood that contractual discussions are

AFFPUDDLE AND TURNERSPUDDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council contact details			
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Sue Jones	Sue.Jones@silversands.co.uk	01929 471375	
Stuart Chorley	schorley30@gmail.com	01929 472869	
Trevor Poole	trevorpoole100@hotmail.com	01929 471496	

Two reports this month as unfortunately the first one was received after the January magazine had gone to print.

The Parish Council meeting on 9th December was once again held remotely in order 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.

Full Fibre Broadband

Representatives from Dorset Council joined the meeting to make a presentation to Councillors and members of the public regarding a voucher scheme which would help residents and businesses to have full fibre broadband installed. In this case the cables would go directly to the property rather than to a nearby cabinet

its bell windows, rises past a course of many gargoyles to battlements and pinnacles large and – on the stair turret – quaintly small. The lead-roofed nave, its two-light clerestory windows peeking over the aisle roofs, links with a steeply sloping stone-roofed chancel, a 15th century reworking (as the Perpendicular windows show) of a 13th century enlargement of an original chancel built on a shorter nave in about 1050.

There is a fairly standard north aisle and a much higher and more interesting south aisle, with brick intrusions among the pale ashlar, dark heathstone and flint of its walls. This aisle's east window and another, smaller one on the south side have fine flowing quatrefoil tracery. In the right light you can see from outside suggestions of the stained glass outlines. Entry to the church is by the massive brick, flint and stone-faced south porch. On its walls hang metal flails used, at the end of long poles, to pull burning or threatened thatch off roofs. Bere Regis went up in a blaze in 1788, and not much remained standing. The church did. So, in a town shorn of ancient building, the church alone retains the physical witness of a long and rich history.

Inside, the first impact comes from light, and from the bare and comforting strength of the two arcades flanking the nave – an all but monochrome vista of massive pale shapes, grey shaded stone, white walls, tan of pews and barely coloured glass of the north aisle windows opposite. Walking a few paces towards the nave confounds the pallor with a rich scatter of pigmentation. To the right is the vivid stained glass of the south aisle: the martial array of Turberville armorial shields, and the busy scene within the mullions and shapely tracery of the aisle's east window. This depicts a glum heaven: seated centrally a solemn Saviour; to his left and right a band of all-male cloaked and bearded harpists, none too cheerful; altogether the kind of oppressively pious, monotonously serene heaven that made Shaw's Don Juan (and others) plump for eternity in hell. But the execution is well done, not least the winged angels occupying the window's upper tracery, one per quatrefoil light.

We move under the arcade to the nave. The pier's capitals are enlivened by comical heads: imps, monsters, sufferers from the torments of headache and toothache. To the left, or west, through the panelled tower arch, a fine Norman font carved with a close-knit pattern of circled stars and interlocking arches stands in splendid isolation; to the right, or east, an unremarkable chancel. For the church's priceless and most astonishing feature we need to look up, to the five glorious 15th century beams of the nave roof and their rich mustering of multifarious and brightly painted wood-carvings.



There are beams straight and arched, gilt-edged or painted with iterated patterns; heads and flowers and leaves and heraldry in primary colours; but above all there are the twelve apostles, jutting horizontally from the wall, resembling hammer-beams but serving no purpose except ornament, holy indeed but droll enough to lighten the longest sermon or dreariest service, nicely injecting the celestial with a touch of fairground and the cause no doubt of stiff necks by the thousand. Some are identified by what they carry: John's gospel, Peter's keys and church, James's pilgrim staff, tax-gathering Matthew by his moneybag. Judas, nearest the chancel on the north side, carries his purse, painted gold and filled with silver, and sports a raffishly oriental-style beard, sign perhaps of untrustworthiness.



Cardinal Morton, whose face fills the central boss of the second beam from the east end, is said to have paid for this florid canopy as well as for the tower. His chantry chapel was at the east end of the north aisle. Born a few miles away at Milborne St Andrew, he was one of the cleverest and possibly one of the wickedest men of his time. He helped engineer the marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, daughter of

Edward IV, to strengthen Henry's fragile claim to the throne. His charge that Richard III killed Edward IV's two sons in the Tower, true or false, also helped Henry. Under Henry he became Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor, Cardinal. Morton's Fork was his formula to justify the taxing of all clergy: the rich could afford to pay because they were rich; the poor because they were frugal in their habits.

Nothing matches the unique quality of this lively blending of effigy art and waxwork art. The chancel has fine painted angels along the sides of its wooden roof, and a well-decorated late Tudor tomb-chest with a rich canopy and brasses showing Margaret and John Skerne. The 14th century south-side squint retains its original iron grille. On the north side the spiral stairway and upper opening to the long-gone rood-loft remains. An 1898 wheeled bier stands in the north aisle. Back in the south aisle we see, close to the Turberville window, two 16th century Turberville table-tombs, made of Purbeck marble and showing serious signs of decay. Nearby, under a mat, is the stone that covers the Turberville vault. These memorials, in a state of decay and ruin, are carefully described by Hardy when he brings unhappy Tess in from outside to wander among her forebears.



You won't be surprised to know our top selling items are eggs and milk, but you might be surprised to know that on average we sell 3 kilos of Bananas every day! From Oct till December we sold 65 kilos of Brussels Sprouts and 93 Kilos of Carrots, 13 black puddings and 19 Camembert's.

If you're new to the parish or have not been in the shop recently please come and take a look. The Post

Office is open Monday to Friday 9.00 till 12.00 along with the shop which also opens on Saturday 9.00 till 12.00 and Sunday 10.00 till 12.00. We stock a wide range of Sainsbury's products alongside fresh fruit and veg collected from the market twice a week. We have fresh bread in 4 times a week. Our meat is supplied by Curtis' of Wareham and we have a wide range of cheese from the market. There is a good range of bird food from Nordale.

We are currently operating a covid friendly queuing system and a traffic light system ensuring we only have one customer in the shop at a time. We appreciate the continued support of the village hall committee allowing us to use the hall to facilitate a one-way system and somewhere to queue in bad weather.

A few of our volunteers have had to step back once again due to the virus but a few new ones have stepped forward and so we continue to be supported by a strong team. That is not to say if you'd like to get involve you wouldn't be very welcome. There are always things to be done and if you'd like to help out please get in touch. It is a great way to get to know your neighbours.

We are grateful for the support of the parish council in providing some anti slip covers to the steps which were lethal in the icy weather we saw at the beginning of January. The steps are now much safer in all weathers.

As we head towards spring, and I hope that won't be long in coming I hope you will continue to support the shop, we can only continue to provide the wide range of stock if you come and buy it so we can keep it fresh. We are more than happy to take an order and deliver it or have it ready for you to collect.

Thank you for continuing to support the Village shop.

To place an order please contact us on 01929 472000 during opening hours and by email Briantspuddle.shop@gmail.com. You can collect or we're happy to deliver.

Ali Chorley

Chair, The friends of Briantspuddle post office and village shop

host would be gladly received and we can see if there is anyone out there who could bring them into being.

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the food bank box which has been in the hall since the first lockdown. You've have been able to give support to some 14 families consisting of approximately 40 people half of whom are children through the Bere Regis food bank and also many others supported through the Wareham food bank which we have also been able to support occasionally.

Just a thought, but as Lent starts in February and traditionally it is a time when many of us give something up until Easter maybe this year we might like to consider giving what we've saved through our abstinence to the food bank to help others further. Goods can either be brought to the hall or bought from the shop and put in the food bank box or you can give money and we can then either spend it through the shop or ask the food banks if there is anything specific they would like.

Take care and please continue to remember hands, face, space while we wait for the vaccination programme to take effect.

Stuart Chorley chairman Briantspuddle Village Hall
Mobile 07818078191 email stchorley30@gmail.com

BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE SHOP – NOT JUST FOR COVID 19

One thing that writing a monthly article for the parish magazine does, is bring home how quickly time flies – even during these days when we once again find ourselves locked down It feels like only 5 minutes since it was mid-December and I was writing for the January issue.

Now as I write ready for the February issue, a few in the village have started to receive the vaccine – I wonder by the time you read this how many more will have been vaccinated and how far off being able to see the rules relaxed once again we might be.

This weekend we've seen other challenges – Raspberries stuck in Spain due to snow, Romanesque Cauliflowers stuck in port with the wrong paperwork!

We did however have an amazing selection of fresh vegetables from the market. It always looks so good on a Saturday morning to see all the fresh produce in. A complete array of cabbages, every type of root vegetable and purple sprouting broccoli. It is also possible to get fresh ginger, horse radish and herbs.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PARISH MAG PRODUCTION!



Well, that was nice! Some very kind and lovely comments on last month's article. However, I do have to come clean - the photo is from around 2015, so a little out of date!

As I mentioned last month, it has been fascinating to go back through some of the archived magazines on the village website - and I'm really glad that I saw Rod Osmond's post on Facebook about the updating he is doing to the site, just in case I had problems accessing it this month. As it happened, everything worked fine, despite the domain transfer, or whatever it was that he was doing!!

I've taken the liberty of including two of Graham Roblin's articles from February and March 1996. These both stuck so firmly in my mind from the time. I remember my own Dad saying to me, "I do hope that you won't put me in a corner with a trough when I'm old" - given he was only 70 at the time he need have had no fear. Now he's 94, and still as sprightly and as sharp as that 70 year old, so he doesn't need to have any worries.

The second piece - Fingerprints - made such an impression on me that I have always had it posted up above my desk, and I look at it frequently. It's timing could not have been more appropriate for me personally and I shall remain ever grateful to Graham for helping me to deal with some difficult times.

However, back to the magazine production. In those days, of course, people wrote their articles on bits of paper and put them through my letterbox. No internet, no email, and not much word processing either. Occasionally I did get things that were typed out, and with the magic of the OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software at the time, I was, at least, able to scan them and convert them to editable text - with some tribulations as the software wasn't always 100% accurate. Of course, the other method was saving electronic files to disk - I think we were just past the 'floppy' stage of the 5¼, and on to the solid 3½ ones. And we may even have had the early memory sticks/flash drives!

Anyway, this all did mean a lot more typing for me as well as interpreting handwriting, tracking down the source of some articles (sometimes contributors forgot to put who had sent things) and dealing with computer viruses! It was fortunate that we did only have around the thirty pages in those days and I'm so glad that I did learn to touch type when I did my business course at college.

As you will notice, all the advertisements in the magazine at that time, were printed for the full year ahead, so were kept on the outside pages. This did mean that we were not able to take adverts mid-year and also it wasn't possible to

THE PARISHES of BERE REGIS and AFFPUDDLE
with TURNERSPUDDLE

FEBRUARY 1996

The Venerable Graham Roblin OBE

The Vicarage
Bere Regis BH20 7HQ
Tel: (01929) 471262

COPING WITH GRANDPA

Every so often, you come upon a story that gets to you. It hurts you, or makes you cry. I found this one the other day.

Once upon a time, there was a little old man. His eyes were not what they had been; his hands shook. When he ate, he made a noise and often dribbled, not only down his chin, but onto the tablecloth.

He lived with his married son. They had said he should sell the house when 'mother' died and that he should move in with them. His son's wife was very modern and sophisticated and houseproud. So the dribbling and the mess on the table offended her. One day they took him by the arm and sat him in a corner of the kitchen. There he ate his meals. He ate out of an earthenware bowl.

One day his hands shook more than usual. The earthenware bowl fell and broke. The son and daughter-in-law were furious. "If you eat like a pig, you should eat out of a trough" they shouted. They made a wooden bowl and he got his meals in that.

They had a four year old son, of whom they were very fond. One day, his father found him playing intently with some bits of wood. "What are you doing?" said Dad. "I'm making a wooden trough for you and Mummy for when I am grown up". The little boy looked up for approval.

The man and his wife looked at each other. They didn't say anything. Then they cried a little. Then they went to the corner and took the little old man and led him back to the table.

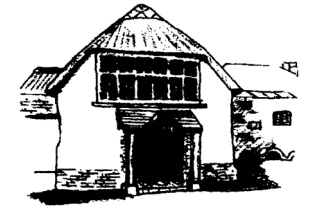
It is one of Grimms' fairy tales. It is this sort of story that I feel should be taught to young and old alike. A government minister has indicated that he wants more moral teaching to be given to our schools and few would disagree with him. Having said that, I believe that the schools that serve our communities do give a strong moral lead. But it is good to know that there is the beginning of a swing back to the understanding of right and wrong.

This powerful, modern story simply illustrates the ancient commandment "Honour thy father and thy mother". It also illustrates the ancient maxim 'Do as you would be done by'. Both are part of the moral law that we have neglected for too long.

Yours sincerely
Graham Roblin

BRIANTSPUDDLE AND AFFPUDDLE NEWS

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Here we are heading on into February and quite a few of us have received our first vaccinations and we're all looking forward to being back in tiers. Whoever thought living in a tier system of restrictions could feel good but after another full lockdown anything that suggests we're heading back towards something much closer to the old normal feels good!. I had hoped that we could've had pancake races and a sweet and savoury pancake lunch but I fear we will have to wait until 2022 for that, but you are allowed out for daily exercise so there's no excuses for not starting the training now for next year.



We were fortunate that further restrictions didn't come in until after the village hall café was able to hold the Christmas lunches. A huge thank you to all those that helped out in making it a very successful lunchtime. The village shop sponsored the event meaning we could offer a 3 course meal plus an aperitif as well as wine with the main course and tea or coffee with Christmas cake to follow all for £5

and still be able to put some money into the village halls coffers in these times of little or no income.

We had 28 people pre book their socially distanced tables and 11 who felt more comfortable having lunch delivered to their door. Thanks to Chris Miller, Ann Colquhoun, Lesley Wilcox, Ali Chorley, Amelia Chorley and Eloise Chorley for helping me on the day and those who stayed behind afterwards to help clear up.

And I think a good time was had by all, and everyone remained safe and well at the same time.

Looking forward into next month hopefully we will be able to reopen the café on Tuesdays and Saturdays and start thinking about various events such as Mike Menzies' lectures and artsreach. Any ideas of other events the village hall could

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle website: www.briantspuddle.info

February 2021

We are back to all the other lockdown problems such as her growing hair. The hair bands are back out. Zooming sessions are a regular entertainment and Pip's weekly face book village quizzes are back.

I am worried. There is a TV programme now called Pooch Perfect. It is about grooming your Dog. I went to a dog grooming parlour for a bath once!!!!. I was traumatized. Came back all fluffy and smelling like a flower bed. Those poor dogs, and it's all for human entertainment. I am afraid it might give her ideas for me it's a horror show enough to give one nightmares.

We have been following the news all the time particularly the American drama. It has everything Incitement, Riots, Lies and an Impeachment. My owner cannot understand how with all the internet technology they cannot follow the electronic trail and find out more. Is the secret service complicit in the riot? Is there financial impropriety? What will she watch and talk about when Donald Trump leaves the stage? I suppose she will watch the Test match and the new Drag race programme. I think I preferred Donald Trump.

She has eaten all the chocolates she was given at Christmas and put on another Kilo. There is no sign of returning to the diet. The house needs a clean and tidy. As a neighbour hood car volunteer she has received her car Covid cleansing pack. The car may get cleaned before taking our first person down to Wareham hospital for vaccination next week.

By the time you read this my owner will be hopefully nearer getting vaccinated late February perhaps, it's times like this you wish she was older. The days will be getting longer. I notice daffodils are in bud in North Street. Spring is on the way I hope.

Jenny Stone

February 2021

March 1996

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

MARCH 1996

The Venerable Graham Roblin OBE

**The Vicarage
Bere Regis BH20 7HQ
Tel: (01929) 471262**

FINGERPRINTS

Try taking a two year old for a walk. It takes ages to get from where you are to where you want to go. The child looks at everything. Every car or lorry passing in the street, every bit of growth in the hedgerow, everything is interesting, new or different. The curiosity, the innocence and the trust of a child is simply beautiful. The two year old has such enthusiasm, and an amazing ability to enjoy life. It takes part in life wherever it is, moment by moment, laughing, crying, sleeping, playing. It is unique, special, a 'one-off'. Every parent revels in it.

You are the same as that two year old child. You are unique, special, a 'one-off'. You have only to look at your fingertips to remind you of that. No one else in the world has your fingerprints. Your fingerprints remain the same through life. Everything else about you changes. And the fingerprints of your soul remain constant as well.

It is a good exercise to have a look at your fingerprints on your fingertips. It is the secret of God's care for you personally. He made you special, unique, a 'one-off'. And like a parent holds the hand, patiently, of the two year old, so too does God hold your hand. He created you innocent, trusting and with an ability to love and to laugh. He enjoys you, especially when you respond to His love.

When you look at your fingerprints, leave the past where it is, in the past. Begin anew, now. Let them remind you of that loving, trusting two year old that you once were, skipping along, or taking a long time just looking. Let go of what has been. Start to love beautifully. A young child has no fear of failure. Don't let a fear of failure paralyse you. Make hope and trust your mottos. You have only the rest of your life to lose if you stay stuck in a sad existence.

Yours sincerely

Graham Roblin

move them around so that they provided a bit of variation to our readers. Although I have always worked with publishing software (the cheap and cheerful Microsoft Publisher, rather than the professional packages favoured by our local experts - Julien and Bernie Lightfoot) it has been perfectly adequate for producing the magazine. So it wasn't too long before I took the decision to change things about a bit, and make the format more flexible.

• **GARDENSITTER.** You relax on holiday while your garden is being cared for by me. Part-time maintenance, including watering, at reasonable rates. Mrs Lightfoot. Bere Regis 471498

We used to have quite a lot of 'lineage' adverts in those days,

Could this be you Jenny?

TERRY MOONEY - GENERAL MAINTENANCE Gardening Etc. Reasonable Rates. Friendly Service. Free Quotes. Ring 0929 471421 or call at 45 West Street, Bere Regis.

Terry used to mow my lawns

• **CHRIS'S WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE** - Tel: B.R. 471075

• **C CORBIN & SON** Fencing contractor. all types of fencing supplied and erected. frree estimates given. for a prompt competitive service - contact Jim Corbin on 01929 471611

I think Chris is still trying to retire but Jim is going strong!

and during the course of my first year, I decided that it would be nice to make these more eye-catching and turn them into the 'small-ads' section. This met with quite a few positive remarks. However, when I made another change - to move the body copy typeface from Times to Century Gothic - I did get quite a bit of personal feedback. Justifiably so, in fact, as research has shown the a 'serif' typeface is generally easier to read. But, one of the problems of that era was the print and paper quality made the text rather fuzzy, so that was the reason for moving to a sans serif font.

I was very fortunate in the early years to have a friendly 'proof reader' thanks to my neighbour Barbara Crowe. Being of perfectionist tendencies, I was paranoid about making mistakes. Part of my job had been involved in producing training manuals and workbooks, but these were printed at considerable cost with the intention of being used over many years. I very quickly had to realise that I could not be quite as fussy with a short term, throw away publication, especially one done on a voluntary basis. I should imagine that Barbara was quite relieved when the decision was taken to be less diligent. But then, guess what happened? I used to get regular telephone calls from a lovely gentlemen (who shall remain nameless but I remember him well) who would point out all the mistakes that he had observed in that month's issue!

Nowadays I can't really claim to be an Editor. I simply don't have the time to read every submission in detail or to correct any typos or grammatical errors. When I typed articles from scratch, it wasn't so much a problem but now they are copied and pasted from electronic communications I'm not always as observant as I would like to be. Hopefully all of our lovely readers don't mind this too much.

There will be more reminiscences next month - just wait until I get to the Sports Reports!!!!

Alison



crossing a water meadow and were ankle deep in flood water.

My owner deviated to the edge of the field where it was drier but Pip and Alice pressed on and I had to laugh as Pip stepped in a drainage ditch and got wet feet. After staggering across some more muddy fields and gateways through the fog we came to the outskirts of Sturminster Newton. There was nothing open and then back down the railway line to Fiddleford Mill. This would be a great walk, if it was not foggy and shops and places to take refreshment in the Town were open. The walk is about two miles on the level and one to do in the summer.

We have had a walk round the bogs and pylons at Sugar Hill and

my owner has been to Heavens Gate (she wasn't let in) with some friends. Walks for something to do are not allowed now, only exercise with one other person two metres apart.

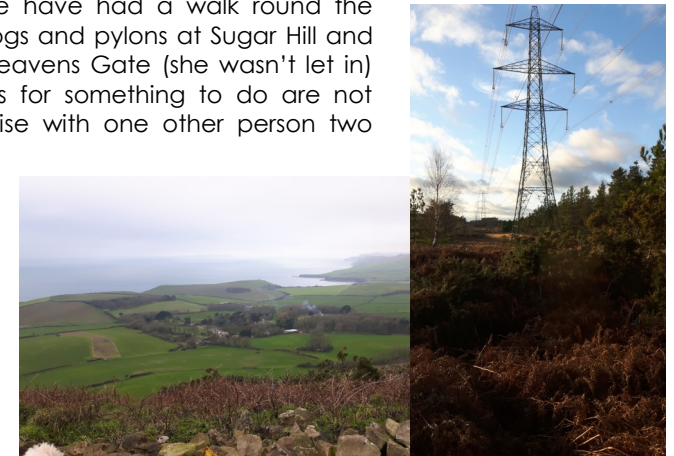
We walk down to Court Green Farm some afternoons and I try to chase "Dave" the cat but he is clever and sits under a car and I cannot get him to move.

My owner is watching a lot of TV and listens to the radio. She goes to

bed with the World Service and wakes up to Farming today and the Today programme. She doesn't get out of bed until it is light and then plays on the computer. It takes her forever to get dressed and take me out. I hate cold weather and dark mornings. Humans have to put on so many clothes, hat, scarf, boots, coat, glasses, gloves and warm socks. I get so impatient. Then it's pooh bags, leads etc. I am bursting.



Now she has bought me a High Viz. Jacket so that has to go on as well. I hate it makes me look like an assistance dog. The cats can see me coming. It was reduced to half price in Healthy Pets in Blandford. Fortunately she tells me it is only for very wet days or if she takes me out at night.



DOG BLOG - NIGHTMARES AND RAILWAYS

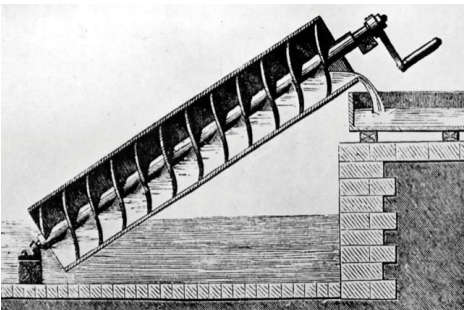
Last month we were in tier two and I was moaning about Covid restrictions. Since then we have been in tier three and are now locked down again. We have a highly infectious mutant virus and the news is grim. Infections are on the rise locally, the hospitals are full, and people are dying. We are staying in.

It seems ages ago but we went to Somerset for Christmas, and spent the day with my owner's brother. We were allowed to do that then. We were home on Boxing Day. That night Storm Bella came sweeping through. I made the mistake of waking my owner up when the power was cut off. Instead of turning over and going back to sleep like a sensible woman, she had to get up.

Humans are helpless in the dark. It's back to the Stone Age. She had no idea where a torch was and made a paper taper in the dark. She then went on to light it on the pilot light of the gas fire in order to light a scented candle. I thought she would set the house on fire. She went into the kitchen where the LED movement lights were and Lo and behold, there was some light! No radio or TV. Eventually she went back to bed having a nightmare worrying about what she would do in the morning if power was not reconnected. It was quite pathetic.

This feeling of helplessness persisted. Since then she has purchased a camping Gas stove and gas (we can brew tea at the top of the garden next summer). This has been put in a cupboard with some matches. We have batteries in torches and in the radio. We are sorted. She has now been reading about the chances of a polar vortex and hopes that if it happens again the power will not be out long as it will affect the central heating and the internet.

We have been watching TV programmes on derelict railways and have been on two walks on the North Dorset Trail way. This is the Old Somerset and Dorset railway Line. The first walk was from Shillingstone to Fiddleford Manor. The second walk was from Fiddleford to Sturminster Newton with Pip and Alice. The weather was frosty and foggy. Fiddleford Manor is open to the public, managed by English Heritage and is an interesting ancient building.



We walked round past the mill race where there is an Archimedes screw for generating electricity. We crossed the river Stour where we watched some men (magnet fishing) on the weir by the Mill pond. . As it was foggy you could not see very far and came to a corner of a field and all you could see was grass and fog. Pip decided to follow the footprints in the icy grass but it was soon obvious that we were

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 again 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.

Older readers of this magazine will remember the writer and broadcaster Malcolm Muggeridge, who died in 1990. He had a long and distinguished career as a journalist . He worked for several well known newspapers and was also a frequent presenter of Panorama, with a reputation as a tough interviewer. Having been an agnostic for most of his life he had a genuine conversion to Christ, and Christianity. The following is a short comment that he wrote about himself and his faith.

"I may, I suppose, regard myself or pass for being a relatively successful man. People occasionally stare at me in the streets – that's fame. I can fairly easily earn enough to qualify for admission to the higher slopes of the Inland Revenue – that's success. Furnished with money and a little fame even the elderly, if they care to, may partake of trendy diversions – that's pleasure. It might happen once in a while that something I said or wrote was sufficiently heeded for me to persuade myself that it represented a serious impact on our time – that's fulfilment. Yet, I say to you – and I beg you to believe me - multiply these tiny triumphs by a million, add them all together, and they are nothing – less than nothing, a positive impediment – measured against one draught of the living water Christ offers to the spiritually thirsty, irrespective of who or what they are."

Perhaps you may find the concept of being 'spiritually thirsty', and that 'Jesus can give you water to quench your thirst', a bit difficult to understand. We are spiritually thirsty when we wonder what life is all about. Is there really a God who cares about me? How can I know Him? There must be more to life than I am

experiencing. It is said that all of us have a 'God shaped hole' in our lives, and only He can fill it. John's Gospel chapter 7, verses 37-39, says: "Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.' By this He meant the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive."

What does it mean to 'believe in Jesus'. Another verse in the Bible says "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' (that is, you want Jesus to take charge of your life and make it new), and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe, and are made right with God, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10.

If you want to know that living water that Jesus gives in **your** life, why not ask Him to be your Lord, to take charge of your life and make it new. Ask Him to forgive you for all the times you have ignored Him and done your own thing. Thank Him that He died for you and rose again from the dead. Ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit so that you will know His 'living water' in your life.



If you pray this prayer, do let us know, so that we can give you some literature to help you in your new life with Jesus.

Just a Smile

A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages. "Mum, look what I've found" the boy called out. "What have you got there?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered, "It's Adam's suit!"

I over heard a customer ask the assistant, "Do you have any invisible thread?" I was delighted when the assistant answered, "I haven't seen any," and then added as an afterthought, "What does it look like?"

Joyce Healey, 07535964909

Bere Regis Food Bank

Thank you so much for all the food donations we really appreciate them, currently we are not taking in donations but spending the cash that was also donated to the Food Bank to buy food.

When we need help again I will make sure that I post it on the Village Face book Page and put it in this magazine.

We continue to run the Food Bank for all who are struggling in this crisis email popinplace@gmail.com or telephone 01929 472023 for a delivery.

Thank you to our wonderful Knitters

Again this week we have handed over another large bag of knitted items to Blandford Cares who support Refugees, thanks to Mary for her help with transporting these across to their store after lockdown.

And finally Our sincere thanks to the Editor :-

The Pop In Place would like to say a big thank you to Alison Debenham our Parish Magazine editor, who like us has also been carrying out her community volunteering role for 25 years.

We have seen the Magazine grow from quite a modest little village mag into a brilliant publication packed with many pages of information and Advertisements.

All of this is down to the commitment and dedication of the Editor.

The Parish Magazine, even in this age of technology is still a vital part of village life keeping us all connected and it is undoubtedly a truly wonderful communication source for so many.

Alison Bennett

What really kind words Alison, thank you for the compliments - they're much appreciated. Ed.

POP IN PLACE NEWS

Pop In Place celebrate 25 year in the community 1996 -2021

This year 2021 is the Pop In Place Bere Regis Silver Jubilee 25 years in the Community. We want to let you all know that we will be back as soon as it is safe with the Rainbow Cafes, Performers Group, Music to Movement and we hope to launch two new projects:

- ◆ The Repair shop
- ◆ Garden of Hope

Stay strong we have got many things to look forward to, and remember ...

The darkest hour is just before the dawn.



INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS



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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

MP update – Vaccines & the Dorset Local Plan

Great progress is being made in rolling the vaccine out across the UK. At the time of writing, 2.6 million people have had at least their first dose, and the number is increasing daily.

In Dorset there are two main ways in which the vaccine is being organised. Most people will be vaccinated through their Primary Care Network – invited by their local GP.



Vaccinations are taking place in a variety of venues, depending on which GP you use. If you live in Purbeck – Wareham, Sandford & Bere Regis, you will be invited to the Wareham hospital. If you are part of The Adam Practice – including Lytchett Matravers, Lytchett Minster & Upton, you will be invited to Poole Port. I'm delighted that the Hamworthy Club are able to host the vaccinations for residents from Broadstone, Merley, Corfe Mullen & Canford

Heath. Bearwood residents may be asked to go The Talbot Medical Centre, and people living in Wimborne and Colehill will be asked to the St Leonards hospital site. In addition to these there will be more sites in due course as part of the roll-out of local vaccination services.

The Primary Care Trusts have chosen their sites for vaccinations to ensure that as many people as possible can be vaccinated quickly, whilst still keeping people safe and maintaining social distancing. There are hundreds of volunteers who are helping with jobs like marshalling and driving people to the sites, and I would like to thank all of those - both paid and volunteers - who are working incredibly hard to make this possible.

It's really important to remember that there is a priority list for those who will be vaccinated first, and that your GP will contact you. **You do not need to call them.** In addition, the vaccine is **free**. Anyone offering it in exchange for money, or asking for bank details could be breaking the law.

Tinkle

There is nothing like a sleepover,
For creating moments of pleasure,
And building memories, which
hopefully,
One day, grandchildren will treasure,
But, by way of a word of caution,
It needs to be understood,
That when little boys have a tinkle,
It does not always go where it should.

There is no sinister intention.
They give it their best shot,
But, when caught short in the early
hours,
They don't always hit the spot.
It is not that easy, when bleary eyed,
And they'd do better if they could,

However, when little boys have a
tinkle,
It does not always go where it should.

There's a lot to consider for a little
man,
With stuff going on in his head,
As he finds himself answering nature's
call,
When he just wants to get back in bed.
A spill kit could be the answer,
To avert an impending flood,
Because, when little boys have a
tinkle,
It does not always go where it should.

Paul J Openshaw (December 2020)

Articulating Bus

It all seemed a bit weird to me,
And I was not too well versed,
So, when I launched into conversation,
Nothing had been rehearsed,
But, with time to chew the fat,
And a great deal to discuss,
I whiled away an hour,
With an articulating bus.

It told me of its travels, and
The things, which it had seen,
And the way it bent in the middle,
On the journeys, which it had been.
I sat on the edge of my seat,

Not wanting to make a fuss,
Or disturb the flow of words,
From the articulating bus.

The more I know, I know, I know
nothing,
So I did not have much to say.
All too soon the moments passed,
And I went on my way,
Having slipped my clutch a bit.
If you can do that, it's a plus,
As there are words of wisdom to be
gleaned,
From an articulating bus.

Paul J Openshaw (January 2021)

POETRY CORNER

Ripples on a pool

All my thoughts seem to turn into words
 And my words all change into song
 But only I hear the melody
 Though the music lingers so long.

If my songs could all go round the world
 Travelling like the ripples on a pool
 Made by someone just throwing a stone
 Wide circles in the water so cool.

Then everyone would know what I think
 All the happiness I'd like to impart
 Everyone would hear the music that I hear
 Everyone would hear the music in my heart.

All my songs are going round inside
 There's harmony warm as the sun
 If only all the world could share it
 Love and music for everyone.

Eileen Richardson

I want to tell the world

I want to shout out loud to everybody
 I want to tell them be happy and gay
 I want to tell the world to start living
 On this such a wonderful day.

I want to sing a song for everybody
 I want to shake everyone by the hand
 I want to tell the world to start living
 I want to tell them that living is grand.

Eileen Richardson

I want to smile a smile for everybody
 I want to tell them living is fine
 I want to say just how happy I feel
 That everyone's a friend of mine.

I want to say hello and greet
 everyone that I meet
 I'm so full of good cheer
 I want to tell everyone that living is fun
 And to anyone happy I'll say 'Hear hear'.

For more details about the vaccine rollout, please do see my website, where there is a dedicated page that is updated regularly. There are also links to the Primary Care Trusts, and FAQs about the vaccine.



Dorset Council Local Plan

On an entirely different subject, the Dorset Local Plan is in its consultation stage. This plan addresses the housing needs across Dorset and sets out strategically where development could be permitted. A plan is essential to avoid planning by appeal.

It includes details of where houses might be built in our area, and the council are asking for your views. You can find details and links to the consultation on the Dorset website here <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan.aspx>. It's really important that residents take the time to do this, and have their say.

The consultation ends on the 15th March, and all submissions must be before that date. There are more details about this on my website.

Please do get in touch if you help or support. You can contact me via email michael.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk or call my office on 01202 624216. 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

LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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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- ☎ 01202 624216
- 💻 www.michaeltomlinson.org.uk
- 🐦 @Michael4MDNP

DORSET COUNCIL- WEST PURBECK REPORT

NHS and care workers

NHS and care workers can use any Dorset Council-operated car park free of charge, provided they are on duty and displaying a relevant permit, or they have registered with Dorset Council. There will also be no charge to park for volunteers and people getting vaccination.



Letter to Health Secretary

We have sent a letter to the Health Secretary on 4th January asking that all teachers, support staff and administration staff in schools be prioritised for Covid 19 vaccinations to help the country get children back into schools.

Thank you Letter from MHCLG

We have recently received a handwritten letter from the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and local Government (MHCLG), which amongst other things thanks us for our service to local communities during this last challenging year.

Executive Director of People – Children at Dorset Council

Theresa Leavy has been appointed to this critical position for which she has been covering for on an interim basis since January this year. Following a robust recruitment process, she has been appointed to the role permanently. She is responsible for all statutory services for children and young people – including safeguarding and social care, education and early help, as well as working with other partners to champion the interests of children and young people across Dorset. She is responsible for all statutory services for children and young people – including safeguarding and social care, education



for the prize giving where it was announced that over £5,000 had been raised for charity, another by-product of a great day.

As I stepped off the ferry on my return trip from the island, another fellow swimmer stepped in front of me. "It's Bob isn't it? I'm Scott Rodger and we met when we swam Burgh Island together three years ago". I had told Scott what a wonderful swim Brownsea was and he must swim it one day and here he was!

Following this, his wife had given him a year's subscription to the Swimming Times for his birthday and he seemed very pleased to read that he was mentioned in my Burgh Island report. It was good to hear that in a very small way, I was helping the circulation figures of this magazine.

When I look back, this had been another fabulous day spent in good company in a truly magnificent location. Mark Shakles and his team should be so proud to have organised such a fantastic event. I shall certainly be back again next year.

What did I say!

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though some decided to carry on to complete the full distance. It is the point where you start your turn to swim down the southern side of the island. Here it becomes very shallow and I found myself easing out into slightly deeper water.

Then it happened as it always does. The old bones and muscles began to ache as I hung on in there. The usual thoughts began to race through my head "I am never going to do this again. Not ever!" Trouble is that with a year to forget the pain I put myself through, I always forget and I am determined to have another go!

Keep going, just keep turning those weary arms over and you will get there I tell myself, time and time again. By this time, younger fitter swimmers were beginning to overtake me but for the most part, I was holding my own.



The large yellow finish flags and buoys emerged out of the background and the castle loomed ever closer. I was almost there now, just a little way to go...

I had completed the course in one hour 55 minutes 20 seconds. My Brownsea medal was placed over my head after I had swam through the finish funnel. The finish marshals were fantastic making everyone feel so special as they emerged from the water. My swim had gone well and I claimed 125th spot though I thought I could have done better with a little more preparation. Still for me it was a triumph to be there still doing the thing I love.

All the swimmers had come through their personal challenge with Guy Giles leading the field in a staggering time of 1 hour 14 minutes 38 seconds. Hannah Tuck from the National Trust brought up the rear with a time of 3 hours 23 minutes 28 seconds for perhaps the biggest cheer of the day.

As I lay on the beach changing back into shorts and t-shirt a friendly fellow swimmer engaged me in conversation. After about five minutes it became clear that he wanted to ask me something and eventually plucked up the courage. "Excuse me asking, but how old are you?" I felt like saying 24 but that I've worn badly but eventually meekly admitted to being 70 at the end of the year and as with last year, the oldest swimmer in the race.

There was time for my soup/roll and to collect my Brownsea t-shirt before heading

and early help, as well as working with other partners to champion the interests of children and young people across Dorset.

Theresa started her career as a social worker and over the past 25 years has managed and led a range of children's services authorities across the country, and was previously the transformation lead for Wiltshire Council and. Peter and Laura have worked closely with Theresa over the last year and we are delighted that we now have an individual in this key post who we feel certain will do an excellent job but also she will bring certainty and stability to an area that has been under intense pressure all through the pandemic.

Traffic Management during the Summer period

Following the disturbing events of the summer at Durdle Door - a Dorset wide committee was set up led by the Police and it included representatives of Dorset Council Highways, Dorset Council Rights of Way, Dorset Council Communications, The Lulworth Estate and Dorset Councillors Wharf and Miller respectively.

The purpose was to review the actions of the summer and to try to develop and coordinate plans to address some of the problems experienced over the summer. Obviously, this will require a Dorset wide solution as there may well be a need to take actions well outside of the immediately affected areas. The directly affected Parish Councils (Wool, East Lulworth, West Lulworth, and Winfrith) have been sent the draft proposals for their comments, particularly how they view their own involvement in these plans as a communications channel for their communities. They are also attending the next review meeting.

When these comments have been received the plan will be further refined which I hope will be consulted on again before being published. Other Parishes have also been sent a copy of the plan and their comments will also be included in the review process. We will be having further multi-agency meetings and we will issue any final plan before the summer.

What to do with your waste if you or someone in your household has Covid 19 symptoms

Dorset Council is reminding residents what to do with their waste if someone in their household is showing symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Cleaning cloths and personal waste such as used tissues and disposable face coverings should be stored in disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be

- **Store for 72 hours**
- **Double bag**
- **Dispose of accordingly**



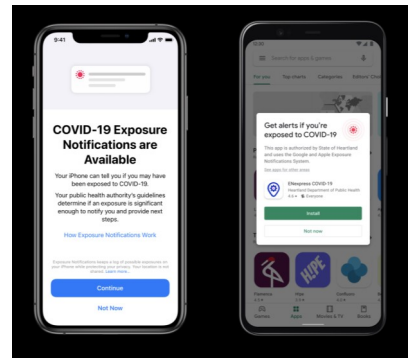
placed into another bag, tied securely and put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in your usual external household waste bin or authorised blue sack.

Other kinds of household waste can be disposed of as normal. To dispose of any face coverings or PPE you or members of your household use when self-isolating, you should, double bag them, store them for 72 hours before putting them in a 'black bag' waste bin and under no circumstances put them in a recycling bin. You may also wish to clean the handles on your bins before and after they have been emptied.

Household recycling centres (HRCs, or 'the tip') will remain open for waste that cannot be collected at the kerbside, including garden waste. We encourage residents to continue to store waste at home, if you can and where possible, to reduce pressures on these services. If you or anyone in your household is unwell, has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms and/or self-isolating, you should not make a trip to a HRC.

Covid Contact Tracing System

Dorset Council, in partnership with Public Health England, is launching a locally supported contact tracing system for the Dorset Council area. From Friday 8 January Dorset Council's customer services team will be working to help trace residents who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.



If the national NHS Test and Trace system is not able to contact a local resident after two days, their details will be passed on to the council to help find additional contact details. The local contact tracing team will then try to get in touch with the resident by phone, text, or email over the following 72 hours.

Battle Lab at Winfrith Innovation Centre

The new initiative will see the MOD invest £3.1 million into the Defence Innovation Centre, along with a further £2.6 million from Dorset Council & Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership. The Defence Innovation Centre will be built at the Dorset Innovation Park, the county's Enterprise Zone. The construction works will be starting on site in January 2021 and aims to be completed in the Autumn. The Army BattleLab as the Innovation Centre is being termed will provide 1100m2 new office space and 450m2 new workshop space for MOD innovation, and associated conference and collaboration space. The Army BattleLab will feature an engineering workshop, as well as joint working and conference areas for use

We were then invited to walk along the pathway and deposit our clothes and personal belongings in our swim number marked bin bag over the wall into the baggage area.

On the beach, the order was then given to enter the water, all 283 of us, 269 in the 4.6 mile full distance and 14 in the half distance. But where was Emile? I scanned the milling throng of swimmers for his green hat and he eventually swam over towards me and we wished each other a last minute good luck for the race.



On the sound of the klaxon we were off, arms flailing, legs kicking furiously. I am told it is an amazing sight but it is even more of an experience in the water. With over 280 swimmers trying to find a little space to swim in at the start, the answer is often to ease back a little and maybe swim on the outer edge of the mass.



After a couple of hundred metres we rounded the quay and made our way along by the stone wall for a while. We then turned left to be faced with the long expanse of the island before us. Many swimmers tend to follow the curvature of the island consequently swimming into all the inlets and in my opinion swimming much further than they need whilst not catching the best of the tide. I tend to take a line straight up the long stretch of the island and just inside the safety cover.

The sun was now beginning to peep through a shadowy sky casting shafts of light on the turbulent water. The choppy sea was to ease in the later stages of the race but added to the challenge.

After a while I began to settle into a steady rhythm and enjoy my swim. Around halfway up the island, I thought I had spotted Emile swimming beside me and gave the swimmer a friendly tap on the head. He didn't respond and I suddenly realised that it wasn't him. Silly old fool!

Pottery Pier is the halfway point of the swim where the half distance swimmers finish

there competing to win the various categories, but as a whole they were there to fulfil their own personal challenges. Could they beat last year's time or like me, could they hold on to what they got!

The short walk to the ferry negotiated, we mingled by the quay where the yellow Brownsea Island ferry boat was tied up ready to take us across to the island. Emile and I decided to sit on the top deck for the ten minute journey where we could see craft large and small, sailing in and out of Poole Harbour- magic! It was in 1907 that Lord Robert Baden-Powell came and set up his first campsite on the southern side of the island which was the forerunner to the worldwide scout and guide movement. The National Trust, who now manage the island still run camping on the very site. There is also a colony of red squirrels and deer inhabiting the place, a unique feature of a wonderful habitat.



Having disembarked we waited a while before being asked to walk through to the Castle Gardens (now owned by the John Lewis Partnership). Time for a chat, talk about the day ahead and prepare for the race. I know I keep on saying so, but there is a tremendous camaraderie amongst long distance swimmers that you do not always get in swimming. A tub of Vaseline shared here, some useful tip about navigating the island imparted there. Yes everyone wanted to achieve their own personal goal but they were also keen to help others.

The safety briefing given by Mike Darkin was brief but comprehensive and he seemed very keen that everyone swam in the same anticlockwise direction around the island! For a mainly left sided breather this could not be better!

The briefing over, there was time to make final preparations for the race. There was a scurry of activity as swimmers squeezed themselves into their wetsuits or swimming costumes, hats on, goggles, a little Vaseline to prevent chaffing, we were ready.



by the Army and wider MOD, for at least 15 years. In its first ten years the programme aims to create 90 new local jobs and add £4 million to the local economy.

Dorset Council and MoD officers would be more than happy to provide a presentation to explain the project in more detail. will arrange for a presentation to be made to those Parish Councils (and/or other organisations) that are interested in this development.

Dorset Council Local Plan

The local plan will form part of the development plan for the Dorset Council area and form the basis for planning decisions. It sets out the strategic approach to managing development and helps deliver the homes and employment opportunities that Dorset needs whilst protecting its environment.

It is produced through an iterative process involving the gathering of evidence and public consultation. It normally takes around five years to produce and adopt a local plan.

The key milestones for the Dorset Council Local Plan are currently proposed as:

- ConsultationJanuary - March 2021
- Publication Autumn 2021
- Submission Spring 2022
- Examination Summer 2022
- Adoption Spring 2023

Prior to the formation of Dorset Council, the legacy authorities had all commenced reviews of their adopted local plans. The evidence that was informing these reviews, and the consultation that was undertaken on them, has been used to assist in the production of the current Dorset Council local plan. It is important to note that the proposals in the plan as outlined, are in draft form and have been prepared for consultation so that we can seek feedback on what is proposed. There will be opportunities as the plan progresses for the content to be amended to respond to the issues raised.

Please find attached in the link below a summary of the Dorset Council local plan consultation document. This document gives a brief summary of each of the sections of the local plan. The consultation started on 18 January and runs for 8 weeks. There will also be a phone line that people can call to ask questions. This number will be available Monday – Friday 10am – 2pm. The dedicated phone line is 01305 252500

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=11239&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A16723>

Stay at home postcards

Circa 187,000 postcards will be despatched to all Dorset Council people reminding them of the rules during lockdown and giving detail of where to seek help; this will hopefully have been completed by the time this article first appears.

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 cllrlaura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk telephone 07814 569563.

Peter Wharf & Laura Miller, Dorset Councillors for West Purbeck

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ROUND BROWNSEA ISLAND SWIM

The drive into Poole under a grey muggy sky had been uneventful enough. The odd flurry of drizzle had settled on the windscreen but I could see in the distance some encouraging signs of lighter patches in the distant sky.

The Round Brownsea Island race certainly attracts a broad mix of people from all walks of life, doctors, builders, teachers, shop workers, administrators they all come with their common love of open water swimming and the freedom and joy of swimming in the sea.

My friend Mark Shakles has been running the event since he started it over 20 years ago and it has grown fantastically in popularity. I can well remember in the early days turning up with around 25 other mostly non-wetsuited swimmers. This year, Mark went live on the RLSS Poole website in February and within two hours had filled his 280 entry limit and had a hundred on the waiting list. Amazing!



My great swim friend Emile and I arrived at the big car park at Sandbanks just after 7 am. for registration. By then the cheerfully efficient volunteers were registering and the handing out of the swimmers packs. The system appeared to be running like clockwork.. However, I know from long experience that a lot of planning and effort goes into this smooth operation. The team had an hour and a half to register all 283 swimmers before the first ferry set sail for the island at 8 am.

In total, Mark had over a hundred volunteers on the day registering, marshalling and providing the safety cover out on the water. He and his committee organises assistance from all the life saving clubs in the area. It is a massive operation and he actually takes two weeks leave from work to manage it.

After a very mild winter, the sea temperature had held up pretty well through a warm spring and early summer and was now a positively balmy 17C.

We picked up our packs including a swim hat, number to be attached to the hat, lanyard, swim wristband and a large bin liner to deposit our clothes and valuables and we set off on our 15 minute walk to the ferry. There was a record number of swimmers from my own East Dorset Open Water Swimming Club and also a number of our members helping on the day.

Open water swimmers are a friendly bunch and very supportive of each other and jovial banter was in full flow. Yes, they all wish to do well and some were

far upstream I have no idea but it continued on swimming rather than flying, so that I could see it clearly and identify it. Yes, this area is a wonderful place to be in to observe the wildlife. Not only birds but flowers as well, including the snowdrops in the churchyard and the wild violets being in flower still in January in our garden. Despite a week of mild frosts we still have roses in bud although all the blooms that were in flower are now over. It has been a late autumn and early winter the likes of which we have never seen before.,

What a year we have had in 2020, let us hope that 2021 is going to be kinder once we have got on top of this horrible virus. How we miss our Sundays at church, the services and meeting up with our friends and having coffee and cakes and a natter afterwards. We must continue our prayers for all who suffer from this horrible virus and for all those wonderful people who are taking care of the sick and are organising the after care and trying their best to comfort those who have either lost their loved ones, suffered themselves from the illness and are generally at great inconvenience in their daily lives.

On a more cheerful note may we look forward to another very kind year in respect to our weather and our ability to meet together in our various groups of friends. In my case I look forward to our Tuesday coffee mornings in the Drax Arms.

May God bless you and all your friends and relatives. Amen

Ted Cox

P.S. Just a question I was asked yesterday.

What does a hedgehog have for tea with his sandwich?

The answer:-

Prickled onions!



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BERE REGIS NEWS

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Parish Council met remotely via Zoom on Thursday 14th January 2021 with three members of the public present. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th February 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.

Matters Raised by Members of the Public

A member of the parish raised the matter of the increase in the precept (the Parish's element of Council Tax), notice of which had been published in the December Parish Magazine and on the Village Facebook page. He had two issues. Firstly, the full budget had not been put on the Council Website with the minutes of the November minutes, and secondly, he expressed the view that the proposed rise at this time was excessive.

The Chairman apologised for the omission of the budget paper from the minutes due to an oversight. The budget papers are now available on the website and the explanation for the individual expense increases can be found in the November 2020 minutes, also available on the website.

On the matter of the rise, the Chairman explained that much additional work that previously would have been done by Dorset Council was now falling to parishes or would not be done at all. For



the river Piddle, is aptly named because of these huge 'puddles'. This of course is the case of current period only because previously the hamlet was in fact called Turners Piddle. This was changed to Turners Puddle together with Piddletown, Tolpiddle, Affpiddle, and Briantspiddle, which were changed to Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Affpuddle and Briantspuddle.

Why? Because Queen Victoria as a young girl was to visit this part of Dorset and it was thought that the word piddle was not a suitable name for her to be met with. The word piddle was in fact used in old Dorset terms for the water that was escaping from a swampy area, hence the River Piddle. Why the river's name was not changed is not known, although it is also called the River Trent but why or when this is so, I can't find out.

Another interesting fact is that the farm which encompasses Turnerspuddle is known as Tonerspuddle Farm. This is because Oliver Cromwell gifted the land here to a man who was obviously a Frenchman or of a French family called De Tonner, in the 16th century. The present owners, the Debenham family not only call the farm Tonerspuddle but refer to the hamlet by the same name.

Another version of the name, apparently comes from an earlier time, namely during the reign of Henry I, in the 11th or 12th century when the land was given to a Henry Toner by the king. I am afraid I don't know anyone old enough to tell me which one is correct.

Despite the Piddle being only a small river, two years ago I was walking back from Throop to Turners Puddle and as usual I stopped on the bridge over the river to see what was about. Suddenly from the south a large bird flew upstream and under the bridge on which I was standing. It was big enough to have to close its wings to manoeuvre through the bridges under structure. It made a considerable noise with its flying manoeuvres and for such a large bird had me almost mesmerised. I didn't have a great chance to see it clearly but I am sure after looking it up that it was a cormorant. Why a bird of this size had made it so



Much has been learned through this year of challenges of home learning, whether it is most of the school or those children who have had to isolate for short periods. I for one will now continue to make use of pre-recorded videos and my YouTube channel in my teaching (I am working on a instructional video about brackets and dashes for parenthesis this morning!), to extend or support small groups and individuals. I also think we will never look back from the use of interactive learning platforms.

Conducting parents evening through phone and Zoom has worked brilliantly for most and children completing their normal homework on line has worked really well too. There is also something wonderful about an assembly held on Zoom where we see children within their classrooms; somehow we have found it more intimate and warmer than meeting in the hall. We are always learning!

And so, this routine continues. We enjoy the company of around a quarter of our pupils in school, while the others work diligently at home on their weekly choosing boards and practising their key skills. We hear how they get on via the phone, emails, the Facebook Page (members of the community are welcome to join us there <https://www.facebook.com/bereregisprimary>) and monthly trips in to school to pick up learning packs and books.

Sadly, we don't know when this period of partial closure will end, but I think I speak for staff, parents and children alike when I say we certainly look forward to it!

Warmest wishes,

Kay Gibbs, Deputy Head, Bere Regis Primary & Pre School

LOCKDOWN STORIES

Over the Hill

Sitting at the table with the computer in front of me, I can, on turning to my left, see out of the windows a great expanse of water on the water meadows beside the River Piddle. This rain water lake is certainly greater than I have ever seen it before. When the spring comes it will take some time to drain, despite all the drainage channels that exist there. It will mean a late use for the grazing of the cattle, unless we have an exceptionally dry spell in the spring. As if the farm doesn't have enough problems as it is? Especially since leaving the EU. Last summer of course, due to a very long dry spell, grazing was very restricted and conservation of hay, haylage and silage for winter feed was in very short supply.

What will happen next?

The name of the village or hamlet of Turners Puddle, where we are situated near

example, the Parish had recently taken ownership of the car park, and of the land at the junction of West Street and Shitterton. Additionally, most hedge and tree work, and cutting of verges was falling to the Lengthsman, as well as the continuing work in the streamside area, Souls Moor, the cemetery, clearing the gutters and maintaining the Play Park, as well as improving the amenity value of the streamside area with new picnic benches. This was in addition to our on-going work such as oversight of planning applications, and, more recently, our response to the Covid pandemic.

In order to maintain the standards of maintenance, cleanliness and safety in our public areas that we believe residents want, we had taken a unanimous decision to make this increase, which amounted to an uplift of £8.91 for the year on a Band D property. This means the cost on a Band D property will go from £96.48 for the year to £105.39. An increase of 17p a week.

Land Acquisition

With the demise of Purbeck District Council, Dorset Council has been reviewing its inherited land holdings, and was trying to shed its responsibilities for small packets of land. In Bere Regis these include the carpark, the land on the south side of the junction of West Street and Shitterton, and Podgers, the triangular green space with the pump at the same junction. At the meeting the Council resolved to accept the transfer of these pieces of land. It should be stressed that there was no monetary exchange involved in the transfer.



Update on Rye Hill Speed Problem

The Parish Council have purchased the SID and we await the installation of the holding poles by Dorset Council. This has been delayed slightly as those who will be undertaking the installation have been occupied with gritting and clearing drains around the county.

No-Man's Land

Tree planting will be going ahead shortly on the small patch of land encircled by the School access drive near the School entrance. This has been delayed slightly due to the restrictions imposed by Coronavirus but it is hoped the trees will be planted by the end of March.

Christmas Hampers

We were very pleased indeed with the warm response of residents who had

received one of the 126 hampers made up and distributed by volunteers before Christmas. Our thanks are extended to all those who helped with this.

Parish Forum

Clearly it is too early to be setting dates for post-pandemic activities, but we noted that an early event should be a Parish Forum, to enable us to recognise the extraordinary efforts of our army of volunteers who will be awarded Certificates of Appreciation. So far, forty have been nominated. We are delighted to add to that list Bob and Denise Croom, who have been nominated by Sandra Williams for their valiant efforts in maintaining and tidying the Churchyard, and Mrs Penny Daly-Maynard, nominated by her grateful neighbours for shopping for them throughout the pandemic. Watch this space, the Parish Council website, notice boards and Facebook for further information as soon as we are able to move things forward.

Bryan Benjafield

THANK YOU

John and Wendy Scott would like to say a huge thank you to all those who were responsible for creating the lovely hamper which they received before Christmas. This was a truly welcome gift and they were both very appreciative.

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In Kimmeridge class, children learned about space, making their own planets and finding items around the house that could create a scale model of our solar system, dancing to Gustav Holst's The Planets and writing 'A day in the life of an astronaut'.

In Studland, our children learned a little about Christopher Columbus, as well as continuing to work on their key skills such as reading, spelling, times tables and number.


In Tyneham class (our youngest learners), the focus was Little Red Riding Hood, with children listened to versions of the story, played 'What's the time Mr Wolf' and enjoyed singing and dancing along to songs linked to the tale.

Since those first two weeks, each of our classes, including the pre-school, have been set learning based on what would have been their topics had we been in school. Across much of the school, the focus is historical; Jurassic class are learning about the Maya, Kimmeridge have begun their study of the Romans and Studland class are investigating the Great Fire of London. As well as their topics, learning in PSHE, PE, French and maths continues, as well as a focus on basic skills such as typing, spelling and times tables. The image here shows the French section on one of the Jurassic class choosing boards.

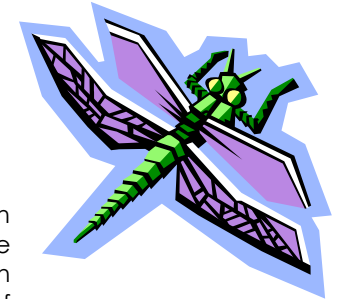
Children in Tyneham class are learning about space. You can see one of the sections of their choosing boards here: these are some of the learning opportunities they had one week for topic, alongside phonics, reading, handwriting, maths, PSHE, music, PE and so on. I quite fancied making a moon diary myself! Our pre school children have been presented with stories, maths activities, crafts and cooking, too.

Topic

1. To get space ready, I have chosen a poem called 'Astronaut and Rocket Ship'. You will find a copy in your learning packs. Read the poem with an adult. Have a go at remembering the poem and reciting it! Can you think of any actions to go with it? [Click here](#) to join Miss David reading the poem.
2. Watch this [CBeebies video](#) all about exploring the Universe! Discuss with an adult: *What can you see in the night sky?*
3. In your home learning packs you will find a 'moon diary' to complete. Each night this week, have a look outside your window (or rug up warm and venture into your garden!) and look up into the night sky. What can you see in the sky? Stars? The moon? Planets? In your moon diary, record what you can see by drawing a picture. Use the star constellation and phases of the moon sheet to help you identify what you can see! – I really look forward to seeing what you all find out.
4. Make your own planet! In your pack you will find some balloons and some instructions on how to make a paper mache planet. If you do not have PVA glue, I have attached some instructions on how to make some paste from kitchen cupboard ingredients, this will work just as well. Once you have made your planet (and it is dry) you can then decorate it with any craft material that you have at home!



BERE REGIS WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP



Spring

February can be a cruel and unpredictable month weather wise. However, the daylight hours are lengthening and on kinder days the sun's warmth can be felt. And, in nature there are promising signs of Spring with snowdrops making a welcome appearance. Catkins will be dangling in the hedgerows and early wildflowers, such as the yellow lesser celandine, may soon be seen – all providing welcome fuel for emerging insects. Indeed, on warmer days you may be fortunate to see the butter yellow brimstone butterfly on the wing. As the month progresses, birds will be increasingly vocal during their dawn chorus giving us the most wonderful wake up call.

Fungi and Slime Moulds

Last month we described a bit about mosses which grow well in the damp cold of winter. If you look at decaying pieces of dead branches, often covered with dead leaves you may find other strange growths. These are often small fungi or slime moulds. Slime moulds are strange members of our botanical population. There are 900 of them! Once thought



to be fungi they are now classified separately. Sometimes very colourful yellow and red, others shapeless blobs. This one in the picture has an impressive name of Entelidium lycoperdon.

Some fungi are quite different to the classic design of the mushroom style and grow from mycelium in rotting wood rather than soil. The one to look out for is the yellow brain fungus Tremella mesenteric.

So next time you are walking in a wood, stir the dead leaves and it surprising what you might find. Also don't forgot to look out for the charming bright red Elf Cup fungi that we described last year.

Conservation Working Parties

For obvious reasons the regular Conservation Working Parties have been cancelled for the time being. We hope to be able to resume them in the near future.

Contact Us

If you would like to know more about the work of the Wildlife Group or to see Tony's fantastic photos in full technicolour, please contact Mike Gee to be included on our mailing list:

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

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French

This week we are going to learn about 'La Semaine' - 'The Week' and revise our learning from last term on 'Le Temps' - 'The Weather'.

1. Watch this song and try to learn it: [La Semaine](#)

lundi, mardi, mercredi, jeudi, vendredi, samedi, dimanche

Notice that the days in French don't start with capital letters.

2. Complete 'The Weather' worksheet in your pack which focuses on using the weather phrases.

3. Log in to Duolingo with your password which is in the back of your reading diary and complete the assigned activity on Weather.



4. Create a weather diary which you can then complete each day. Include the days of the week and write a sentence about the weather. You could even add a little more information in French about what you are doing or how you feel.



E.g.

Use Google translate to check or try out ideas. Use the present tense i.e. what you are doing now. [Google Translate](#)

Mercifully, we were well-prepared in the home learning department. We have been using a number of online platforms for some time (prior to the advent of coronavirus), so children are quite au fait with them (we love Manga High and Spelling Shed, and would recommend Duolingo for language learning to all!). Since last year, we have introduced a few other platforms to support reading and times tables, and the children have been using them in school, so the children are confident with them. All of these platforms allow our teachers to see how children are getting on at home and to set specific tasks – they are fantastic.

As well as that, we used some INSET time back in October to prepare physical packs of work and a fortnight's worth of home learning, in the event that a lockdown came. That certainly came in handy! We feel it's really important to keep providing these paper and resource packs: it means families are less reliant on technology and we can provide a greater range of activities – crafts, handwriting, art, maths puzzles and so on. It also means children are not in front of a screen for too long.

We have called our home learning guide 'choosing boards', as we want families to choose what works from them. We present a weekly smorgasbord of inviting learning opportunities and it is up to our families to select from them! For those first two weeks of term, we set stand-alone learning as we hadn't known when we might use it. Our eldest pupils learned about Louis Braille, problem solving with different combinations of braille dots, learning about sequences and patterns, considering what it would be like to experience a loss of sight, creating art and making a cartoon strip of Braille's life.

NEWS FROM BERE REGIS PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Southbrook, Bere Regis, BH20 7DB 01929 471334



The view from the school

Well, it certainly hasn't been the start to the term that we expected! As I'm sure you'll know, we received notice, along with the rest of the nation, at 8pm on the first Monday of the new term that school would need to be closed to most pupils from the following day. It was quite an evening! The immediate task was two-fold: we needed to find out which families would need to access the critical worker provision by sending children in to school and timetable the staff to cover the 'bubbles' we would need to create, and we also needed to prepare home learning for those who wouldn't be attending school. There was also the delivery of lunches to organise.

Fortunately, we were able to send out a survey that evening and our parent body responded quickly, letting us know their working patterns and needs. So, less than 12 hours after the prime minister's announcement, we opened just to the children of NHS workers and teachers and, on the following day, we were fortunate to be able to accommodate all the children for whom we had received a request. Staff have been incredibly flexible, with teachers working mostly at school with some time at home each week to prepare home learning and touch base with children through online means, emails and our Facebook Page. No one would have expected to have their own YouTube channel a year ago, but this is where we find ourselves! Aside from our staff who are shielding (myself included, since I am now in my final stages of pregnancy!), and those class teachers who have some time to work from home, all our staff, from admin to cleaning to the pre school keyworkers and TAs, are working their full hours in school. At home, parents have had to organise supporting their children at short notice. They have picked up learning packs, logged on and got cracking. We are very proud of our whole community.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Thanks to our WI members for sharing their favourites

Meatloaf

This is so easy and tasty, great in the week or even for a change on Sunday.

Ingredients

- ◆ 1 large onion chopped
- ◆ 2 cloves of garlic chopped
- ◆ oil
- ◆ 500g mince meat
- ◆ 1pkt of 6 sausages (skins removed)
- ◆ 1 large egg lightly beaten
- ◆ 1 tsp mixed herbs
- ◆ salt and pepper



Method

1. Fry the onion and garlic in a little oil until soft and place in a mixing bowl.
2. Remove the skins from the sausage meat and place the meat in with the remaining ingredients into the mixing bowl and mix well.
3. Place the mixture into a buttered loaf tin and smooth the top.
4. Bake at 180c, 350F or gas 4 for 1 hr or until the juices run clear.
5. Serve hot or cold and enjoy.

Editors note: My mum would always coat the loaf with tomato ketchup once it had been turned out - yummy! Or you can line the tin with bacon, like the one in the photo.

BERE REGIS SURGERY NEWS

The practice manager has posted a few updates on the village Facebook group recently, to keep residents updated with everything that is going on with regard to the COVID vaccination programme.



Things can change almost daily, so it's difficult for her to always submit a timely and accurate article for the magazine, and, of course, they are all incredibly busy at the surgery.

She has posted that unfortunately, the Surgery has been inundated with patients phoning to request a COVID vaccination or to find out where they are on the list. This is delaying patients who have a clinical need getting through. The first cohort of patients have been contacted and have an appointment booked. As soon as notifications are received about the next delivery of supplies, they will contact patients in the order they have been asked to vaccinate by the Government.

Nicky has also asked that if anyone is a healthcare worker and would like a COVID vaccination and are yet to contact the Practice to please send her a direct message on Facebook messenger. Provide name and job title and she will check the criteria to advise you whether you are eligible for a vaccine in the next cohort to be rolled out shortly.

Bere Connect and Neighbour Car volunteers are providing lifts to Wareham hospital to those who have been called for their vaccination but who do not have transport. Contact Brenda House on 471255 if you need to access this service.

BERE REGIS HISTORY SOCIETY

WHEN THE LUFTWAFFE ATTACKED BERE REGIS

When I submitted the text of my book 'Bere Regis - Past & Present' in 2006 the publishers wanted to entitle the section of 1946 onward as "The Aftermath", but I resisted this cliché as there had been no "math".

There had been a few stray bombs dropped on or near Bere Regis by returning Heinkel He.111 bombers which had been on missions to Yeovilton and Bristol, and who had dropped "hang-ups" on their way back to their French bases to avoid landing with live ordnance. There were impacts of 50 kg bombs on Woodbury Hill, in Bere Wood and at Chamberlaynes, but nothing deliberate.



That was until the end of 1940 or early 1941, when an He.111 after dropping incendiaries on Bristol, decided to dispose of its remaining fire-bombs somewhere on the return journey. This particular Luftwaffe bomber, probably on a moonlit night glimpsed the shimmering reflections of the cress beds at Bere Regis.

The aircraft weaved about and proceeded down the village from Southbrook to Doddings and dropped its remaining incendiary bombs, which were just about one foot (30cm) long and had a Magnesium casing and an incendiary filling. Probably only about a dozen were dropped but it caused considerable consternation in the village and early the next morning panic struck the people. The Home Guard had successfully dealt with the matter through the night but the stories spread rapidly, that Bere Regis had been bombed by the Germans.



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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	
	Dates still to be confirmed		
	Dorset Golf and Country Club	Captain's Cup	
	Lyme Regis Golf Club	Whitbread Pairs	
	Dibden Golf Centre	Zoom Trophy	

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How do you know if the collection bags dropping through your letterbox asking for your old clothes, shoes, CD and DVDs and other household items are genuine?

According to the National Fraud Investigation Bureau, charity bag fraud costs £50 million per year in the UK. Some charity bags are distributed by fraudulent collectors who claim that donated goods will go to charities, legitimate or otherwise, but have been

pocketing the proceeds for themselves.

A large proportion of charity bag collections are genuine, and they will feature the charity's details and registered number on the bag. If you want to check them out then you can look up the charity from its registration number on the Charity Commission's website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission> or call the Charity Commission helpline on 0300 066 9197

However as only English or Welsh charities need to be registered with the Charity Commission it means that it's more difficult to check an overseas-based charity and you may wish to take this into account when deciding whether to support the collection.

If you want to donate it's also worth being aware that some charity bag collections are run by legitimate commercial collectors on behalf of genuine charities. These commercial collectors will take a percentage of the profits for themselves. This is all perfectly legal but they should tell you this so check out the small print on the charity bag to see how much profit they will keep and make sure you are happy with that before you donate.

Look out for the Buy With Confidence logo - trading standards check traders so you don't have to.

Visit the website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call The Citizens Advice Consumer Service **0808 223 1133**.

Last month's WI Word Search solution

M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S	Q	D	R	V	C	D	J	I	O	M	T
T	I	O	J	F	D	N	K	L	F	D	E	W	W	G	K	L	P	H	R
C	H	I	N	E	S	E	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	S	R	H	K	T	E
R	R	G	Y	H	D	W	Q	S	G	M	B	E	U	L	O	Y	I	G	E
A	E	U	I	P	L	W	S	T	E	L	U	A	G	W	T	Y	L	B	D
C	A	K	E	S	P	E	G	R	R	K	M	T	F	G	Y	U	J	N	E
K	L	J	K	F	J	A	B	U	F	J	Q	H	E	R	H	H	M	J	C
E	F	F	R	F	Z	L	K	F	G	U	S	S	W	E	E	T	S	R	O
R	I	O	S	X	R	K	K	F	J	D	R	T	K	O	P	R	F	E	R
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G	J	N	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	C	A	R	D	S	M	H
T	B	S	F	C	D	E	L	K	P	C	D	R	E	F	V	G	Y	I	Y

Green Hearts campaign photos



BERE REGIS WI

Green hearts in February have become a bit of a tradition for Bere Regis WI and this year will be no exception. As part of The Climate Coalition's *Show the Love* campaign, we'll once again be adorning the village with green hearts of all shapes, sizes and materials.

The aim of the campaign is to #ShowTheLove for all we want to protect from climate change, and to encourage everyone who sees the hearts to think more about our environment and what we can do to protect it. But this year, we hope our efforts will also bring a little brightness after what has been a grim and difficult ten months. At time of writing, we're sprucing up last year's hearts and working out how to coordinate producing some new ones and putting them all up while complying with the current COVID restrictions.

If you'd like to get involved, the #ShowTheLove website (www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love) has a resource pack with instructions on making your own hearts, a learning pack for teachers and parents on getting creative about climate change and some ideas for petitioning your local MP (michael.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk for Mid-Dorset and North Poole) to commit to #ShowTheLove for the solutions to the climate crisis. This year is of particular importance for the campaign as the UK is hosting the United Nations Climate Summit (www.ukcop26.org) in November, giving us an opportunity to lead the world in a cleaner, greener future. We hope our efforts will make you smile, and perhaps think a little...

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).

