

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.

January 2021

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

Most mornings Zinnie and I are leaving the house later for our walk because it's still so dark, these shorter days are more difficult for some than others, especially the gloomier ones. I don't mind them, because the winter also brings lovely things. You can't beat a frosty day, especially if you don't have to go anywhere except walk the dog and enjoy it.

The night sky on a clear crisp evening has been particularly spectacular, we're lucky to see such a fine array of stars and planets on some evenings. Our grandchildren are fascinated by the planets and the stars and know some amazing facts, but there are probably still even more amazing facts to learn about our universe. I also love the way that we get glimpses of light at this time of year: when the sun manages to break through on an otherwise grey day; when the moon shines so bright you don't need a torch on; when the cobwebs sparkle on a frosty morning; when the lights twinkle on the outside Christmas decorations that are still up.

The winter also brings our lovely Christian festivals – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas – spreading Christ's light to the world. In these times of uncertainty and change, our world seems very dark indeed. And while it's been a different

way of celebrating, we've learnt to adapt and do what we can rather than wish for what we cannot do. Sharing with each other the light of Christ may be one way of overcoming these dark times, where we can hope for a better future and pray for a peaceful and much healthier world.

With blessings,

Sandra

Benefice and Parish news

I'm sure you will have heard the sad news the Brenda Pitfield passed away in December. Until October 2019, when she retired, she had been a much-loved Lay Licensed Minister with everyone valuing her ministry, friendship and support. I'm certain there will be more tributes to Brenda in the next magazine, but we do send heartfelt condolences to Mark and John and the rest of the family. Brenda will be sorely missed by us all.

On a happier note, we had a wonderful Messy Church Christmas Party on Zoom on 13th December, 12 families with 22 children between them joined in with making angels, Christmas cards, a Nativity scene (one from foam and one edible!) and donkey masks. We watched some great videos, one based on the book 'It begins at Bethlehem', which has gone out to every family in the schools in the benefice, our very own puppeteers Poppy and Daisy recorded the song Little Donkey and we also watched 'Bethlehemian Rhapsody GPBC final' – you can find it on YouTube, you'll recognise the tune!

Our next Zoom Messy Church will be Sunday 31st January 2021 at 4pm – look out for information through school and Facebook.



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

CHURCH AND VILLAGE

ACTIVITIES, SOCIETIES, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS and CONTACTS

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



The West Purbeck Benefice – Service Rota

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

	Streamed	Church	Church	1 st Reading	Gospel
Sun 3 rd Jan	10:45am	9am HC	9am HC BCP	Jer. 31: 7-14 or	John 1: (1-9)
Epiphany	Café	East	Affpuddle	Eph. 1: 3-14	10-18
White	Church	Lulworth			
Wed 6 th Jan	10am	BCP HC			
Sun 10 th Jan	10:45am	9am HC	9am HC CW	Gen. 1:1-5 or	Mark
Baptism of Christ (Plough Sunday)	HC CW	West	Bere Regis & Blessing of the plough	Acts 19:1-7	1:4-11
White		Lulworth			
Wed 11 th Jan	8:40pm	NP			
Sun 17 th Jan	10:45am	9am HC	9am HC Wool	1 Sam. 3:1-10	John 1: 43-end
Epiphany 2	AAW	CW CH		or Rev. 5:1-10	
White					
Wed 20 th Jan	10am HC	CW			
Sun 24 th Jan	10:45am	9am HC	9am HC CW	Gen 14:	John 2: 1-11
Epiphany 3	HC CW	Winfrith Newburgh	Affpuddle	17-20 or	
White				Rev. 19: 6-10	
Wed 27 th Jan	9pm NP				
Sun 31 st Jan	10:45am				
Candlemas – Presentation of Christ in the Temple	HC CW				
	4pm				
	Messy				
	Church				

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.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PARISH MAG PRODUCTION!



In December 1995, I would never have believed that I would be still sitting at my desk in December 2020, working on another issue of this monthly magazine!

When I responded to an appeal to take over as Editor from the late Dorothy Briggs, I don't think I had fully understood the task in hand. "How difficult can this be" I thought to myself as I opened my laptop on the 06:03 from Southampton Parkway to Waterloo (the earliest train from Poole, didn't arrive until after 9.00 and I needed to be in the office for 8.00). "All I have to do is get these articles typed up on the journeys to and from work, and I'll have it done in no time". I thought it would be a great way of relieving the monotony of the daily journey.

Of course, in those days, our magazine was a much smaller publication, rarely more than about thirty pages. In recent years we have frequently hit one hundred pages (which is the maximum, as it's not possible for the printer to staple it properly if its any bigger) and there are often full colour centre spreads.

People ask me why we can't have the whole magazine in colour, but this would add so much to the printing costs that we wouldn't be able to make any 'profit' contribution to the church finances. In fact, this coming year is going to be quite difficult to achieve that, as we have, understandably, lost a few advertisers because the pandemic has impacted their businesses.

Looking back over the January issue from 1996, Dorothy's last one, it's really poignant to see the names of so many people who are no longer with us, in particular, our Vicar at the time - Graham Roblin, who sadly died not long after he retired. He delivered a beautiful address at our wedding blessing in 1997, saying he was nervous that I'd opt to move to Martin's home location in Clanfield, and that he'd lose his fairly new Editor! Fortunately, Martin came here.

I particularly remember Graham as having a magical way with words, and that's not to say that his successors haven't possessed the same talent, but when I look back at his monthly 'letters' there are several which I know had a significant impact on me at the time. For the next few months, I am going to reproduce some of these, for the benefit of those who will not be familiar with them. So, to kick this off, here is Graham's piece from January 1996

It is such a benefit being able to look back at all the old parish magazines on the village website - bereregis.org and our current webmaster, Rod Osmond, has done a great job in making them more searchable. However, huge credit must be given to James Loxton, who originally set up the website from scratch. He

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

January 2021

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THE PARISHES of BERE REGIS and AFFPUDDLE
with TURNERSPUDDLE

JANUARY 1996

The Venerable Graham Roblin OBE

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

AN UNCUT CAKE

Long before coming to these parishes, I went to a christening party. On the table was a beautifully iced cake. As so often happens, someone said "It seems a shame to cut it." Do you know, they never did! We looked at it, admired it and went home. No one had any. It was left, uncut.

Cakes, or hot crusty loaves, boxes of chocolates, cans of beer, Yorkshire pudding, - it spoils them to use them - but they are no good if you don't. Cakes are meant to be cut, bread to be sliced, cans to be opened. They are for sharing around.

I believe people are the same. We are to be shared. Some people say "I keep myself to myself." They don't want to get involved. The trouble with this is that they become like that uncut cake; neat, tidy, self-possessed. They give us nothing, we go away empty, and they don't nourish.

To be fair, it's not easy to share ourselves. Some people are very shy. We fear too much involvement. But if you think about it, we all owe a lot to those who share themselves; friends, people we have been to for help, colleagues, a teacher, and of course, members of the family.

When a man and woman comes into church to be married, they promise to share themselves in a most astonishing way. They put their lives in each other's hands. They abandon their self-possession. They lose all privacy. And when babies come, they have to share themselves even more. They let themselves be taken over for years; broken nights, nappies, school, untidiness, anxiety; but also enormous pride and joy. But their life isn't their own. They've risked it on a relationship. Some don't. Some can't.

There is no doubt about it, love has it's risks and getting involved can be painful, but you can't have life without it. Cakes are for cutting, bread is for slicing, wine for drinking, and life is given us to share.

Yours sincerely
Graham Roblin.

persuaded me that it would be good to have an archive of the magazines and asked if we could scan them all. At the time, I had to decline, being a full time employee, so he personally scanned hundreds of copies and then added the digital files that he transferred from my computer. This must have taken him hours and hours and was a true labour of love, especially as he had left the village to progress his career in London. Thank you James and Rod.

Would you believe, that one of the advertisers in that issue, still has the same advert to this day - thank you Steve Painter. And you're still going strong!

Because I only moved to the village in 1988, I am still not really 'a villager' but I like to think that I am considered as a useful part of this exceptional community. We are so lucky to have a wonderfully integrated

mix of our 'born and bred' residents and those who have moved here and discovered what great places Bere Regis, Briantspuddle, Affpuddle and the smaller communities are.

Our young children have a thriving and caring school, we have a great team of medical professionals and support staff at our surgery. Our village shop, the post office and the pub all provide vital services for everyone. One of the greatest benefits is the surrounding countryside and rural environment which enable us to make the most of the health benefits of fresh air and nature.

Drax Hall

Available for hire for private parties or for regular meetings.
Large hall and smaller room are both available. The latter especially suitable for children's parties. For details of hiring charges etc.

Contact Hall Secretary - Lyn Simmonds
01929 471528

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Claire Myers

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Whilst the past year has been incredibly challenging, the difficulties have created an even stronger, supportive community and such initiatives as Bere Connect, the Food Bank, the work of the Pop in Place and so on, have all provided much needed help in all kind of ways. The weekly Zoom streamed Church Services have enabled parishioners to continue their worship and feel connected, and now that the church and chapel buildings are able to open again, those who are not so keen on 'technology' can return to their preferred way of following their religion.

As I write this, I have just learnt of the loss of Brenda Pitfield. As part of the 'backbone' of our church community, she will be very much missed. I send my deepest condolences to those, both family and friends, for whom she has been a major part of life. I hope that we shall have a full tribute to her in next month's magazine. Rest in Peace, Brenda.

Alison Debenham

BISHOP'S LETTER

From the Bishop of Sherborne, Karen Gorham

2021 by Another Road

'They left for their own country by another road.'
Matthew 2:12b

I wonder what happened to the wise men. How were their lives shaped from that day when they left Bethlehem and returned to their own country by another road? How did seeing the longed for Messiah change the rest of their lives?

It was really encouraging in the Autumn to engage with clergy and laity from across the diocese to look back at what church life had been like in 2020. This time last year we would never have imagined or believed how the year would turn out, and yet amidst all the tragedy, the fear, the anxiety, the challenge, there have been many signs of hope, new life, creativity, energy, of discovering new ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our calling now is to go forward into this New Year, in the light of 2020, by another road. To take that which has been good, new and energising into our future, not just as the church, but also as individuals.

What may this look like? Well, for me my first three and a half years in this role meant spending a great deal of time indoors and in the car. My challenge therefore going forward is to consider how I continue to reduce my mileage and



minutes to get into to the shop because of the queue.

Being a part of the shop volunteer team is a great way to get involved in the village and to meet everyone. If you're new to the village or have been here a while and are now able to get involved. Please get in touch. There are opportunities to serve in the shop or be a part of the behind the scenes team. All the stock that is sold in the shop is ordered, collected, displayed by volunteers and it works best when we spread the load. From newspapers to Eggs; Doughnuts to Courgettes something is being collected every day of the week and that is no mean feat.

In 2020 we need to buy a new freezer – the old one is leaking, and Lesley's been defrosting it once a month and we're looking at further developing the shelving to be able to store and display the vegetables better. We are also looking at access. This project will take a bit longer and will no doubt require some fund raising but we feel it is important that all members of the community now and in the future should be able to access the shop.

Thank you for continuing to support the Village shop the more you use us the more we can maintain a wide range of fresh produce.

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



should be peace on earth and goodwill to all I look forward to us all working ever closer in the year ahead. The hall will play its part in our community and work with everyone who wants to work with us in providing whatever we can as we rebuild our lives and get to grips with a new normal.

The trustees of the village hall along with the parish council, the social club and the village shop look forward to discussions on how we can all work together even more effectively for the good of all of us. Let's make 2021 a year to remember for all the right reasons. Regardless of any surveys or awards this is just the best place to live. Let's together look forward to being able to use the village hall this year as somewhere to party, as well as share a coffee and a bacon roll and pass the time of day. People make places and you all make running the hall a pleasure.

A happy and healthy new year to you all.

Stuart Chorley, Chairman of Briantspuddle Village Hall

Mobile 07818078191 email schorley30@gmail.com

BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE SHOP – NOT JUST FOR COVID 19

I start by wishing you a very happy new year! Welcoming in 2021.

Christmas turned out to be a very successful month for the shop. We were able to help the village hall Christmas market by taking all the sales through our new till system and show stall holders what they'd made. I was able to get down to the shop on Saturdays and what a feeling of community. One of the highlights had to be seeing people walking away from the shop with their Christmas tree!



As we move into a new year, I'm sure like me you will be hoping for Vaccine miracles and life will once again return to some form of normality. But there are some aspects of 2020 I hope will remain.

Life for many became much simpler again, not so much rush and bustle. For us in the village shop it gave us the opportunity to provide a much wider selection of produce. I am each week amazed by the new vegetables Leonora has found at the market. I hope like me you take the opportunity to try something new!

And whilst life will change again, I hope that some of these simplicities in community living remain. That we continue to not mind so much if it takes 15

create space to take time to enjoy God's creation. It is about deciding how I utilise the many benefits of Zoom without spending most of the week in front of a screen. It is about continuing to bring clergy and County leaders together around common topics whilst paying attention to the needs of the local church.

January 2021 will also be like no other January we have ever had. Whilst still taking care, with the possibility of being vaccinated by the summer, our resolutions can be about the life post-Covid we wish to retain and the new possibilities we need to grasp. So, what will returning by another road mean for you? The Wise Men knew to avoid returning the way they had come. We need to learn that lesson too because the year 2020 will have taught us nothing if we go back the same way.

+Karen



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

0800 804 8044



CONNECTIONS

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 has restarted and now meets on Wednesday afternoons between 1pm and 3pm during term time. All Mums and children are very welcome. Those intending to come must book in advance for each session. Please contact Suzie Gee on 07962142552. There is no charge.

Currently we are able to meet again for our Sunday morning services, although it is 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.

At the start of this New Year I have an unusual topic for you – termites! These little creatures are unknown to us in this country, needing warmer climates, yet they are very fascinating and can teach us lessons from their way of life.

Termites are tiny insects as little as 3-5 millimetres long, yet they perform some wonderful feats.

In tropical countries termites build huge 'castles' up to nine metres (30 feet) high. These nests are made of mud which the tiny insects stick together with their saliva.

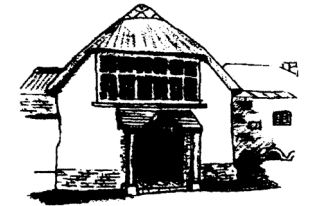
There is a network of tunnels inside which provides 'air conditioning' for the colony, which may contain several million insects. Australian termites build mud towers that are thin and wide, with the narrow edge facing the midday sun. This means that during the midday heat, less sunshine falls on the nest, but in the morning and evening sunlight falls on the wide side, providing warmth when it is needed.



BRIANTSPUDDLE AND AFFPUDDLE NEWS

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Well as I sit down to write this it's still December, we have a vaccine being distributed and we have a turkey on order. My guess is the turkey will arrive first. But there does at last seem to be some light at the end of a very long tunnel, let's hope so.



I want to take this opportunity to thank all my trustees for the hard work they've put in this year ensuring that the village hall has been able to stand up and play it's part in a year the like of which we have never seen before. The story of 2020 would have been so different in Briantspuddle if you hadn't have embraced so many huge changes from how things have been in previous years. Similarities with the war years and various other events in our history have been made but genuinely last year was a year like no other.

The hall was very pleased to be able to offer its facilities to the Bere Regis surgery to carry out some of their flu vaccinations and stands ready should they need it again to help with covid vaccines this year. Since March the hall has been open every day to allow people safe transit to the village shop which has meant that the vast majority of the village have been able to safely enter and exit the shop without risk of breaking social distancing measures and more importantly as the shop stepped up to the challenge of what it stocked it has meant that nobody has had to leave the village for anything. You can now live on what the shop stocks. Many thanks to them for the various donations they have made to the village hall over the last year.



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I know 2020 was a very hard year but I can honestly say it was and is a privilege and a joy to be there, the way everyone in the village has responded to each other throughout the pandemic, for me anyway, has re-established my faith in mankind. And, now we've put away the decorations reminding us that it

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle website: www.briantspuddle.info

- ◆ Add soy sauce (my favourite) Tabasco, sweet chilli sauce lemon grass, lemon or lime juice
- ◆ Add nuts and seeds
- ◆ Chopped brussel sprouts, spinach

I'm sure you can think of more

Afterwards It will keep in a container in the fridge for a day or two. Can be frozen I enjoy it as a salad the next day

Recycle your Christmas Trees

The council have stated that they cannot collect Christmas trees, however, there are several options.

- If you are on the garden waste collection scheme you can cut your real tree into small pieces and put it in your garden waste bin for collection. Garden waste is taken for composting by the council.
- Real Christmas trees can be taken to the recycling centre at Wareham and placed in the garden waste container for composting, free of charge.



Alternatively, you can put your tree outside your house on Thursday 7th January 2021 and we will collect it and shred it.

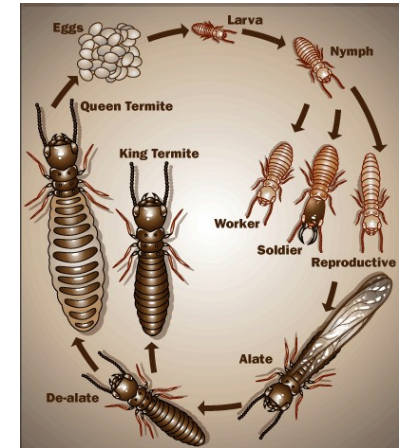
Please remove all decorations from your tree.

Artificial Christmas trees, and trees with decorations attached, will not be collected.

The council recognise that some people, like us, will be collecting trees for charity. So, to have us collect your tree, email or text your address to us with the comment "I have put £xxx in the box at XXX. Please collect our tree."

Happy Christmas from The ELM Branch. 07 419 312 517
 michael.menzies@talk21.com

Deep inside the nest is the queen termite – a huge creature which at 35 millimetres long dwarfs the worker termites. She is little more than an egg laying machine, served by all the other termites. The other insects are either workers, or soldiers, which guard the entrances to the nest. All the termites work together by instinct as though they are a single organism. The workers repair the nest and provide food. African termites even have underground gardens where they grow fungus in a special compost made of dead wood mixed with droppings.



Once a year (at mating time) some male and female termites grow wings and fly the nest. After one flight they cast off their wings, which they will never need again. The male and female couples then start another nest. They don't think about what they do – the whole colony is "programmed" to work as a unit. Termites could not learn to build their towers at the right angle to the sun, or how to grow fungus in a special compost. And how do the flying termites know they need to cast off their wings after that single flight? Everything about termites points to these tiny wonders having been created by God to live the way they do, and that He continues to provide for these little creatures.

After last year's trials, and our way of life turned upside down, let us be encouraged, as we remember the untold numbers of kind people who went out of their way to help others, here in our own community as well as in the wider area. For many who lost loved ones, this New Year will be filled with sorrow, but again we have opportunities to care for them. As the termites spend their whole lives working for the benefit of that huge nest of insects, so we too can learn from them and do our part to help others. The Bible says that God makes His rain to fall, and sun to shine, so that everyone is blessed. All people are important to Him. The Bible also says that God knows when a sparrow falls to the ground, but that we are much more important to Him than many sparrows. He says that He knows exactly how many hairs we have on our heads! (That's easier with some people than others!) (Matthew 10:29-31) If God knows so much about us, He also knows when we are distressed as well as when we are happy. So no matter what this New Year holds for each one of us, remember that God loves you and cares for you. And as you talk to Him in prayer, God had said, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid." (Hebrews 13:5-6)

We wish you all a very God blessed New Year, and pray it will be better than last year in every way.

Just a Smile

A trainee pilot was filling in the log book after his first solo. The engine had not been running too smoothly, so he wrote "Engine missing" in the faults column. After the aircraft had been inspected the mechanic added his own comments. "Cowling removed, - engine found."

"But what are the stars?" I asked, as my class of six and seven-year olds discussed our new project.

One girl replied without hesitation, "Holes in God's carpet where the light shines through."

Joyce Healey



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Little Egret on Bere Stream (I don't think that will be very exciting.) I have tried to be amusing but the days are beginning to pall and although we have a vaccine we have months of restrictions. By Easter we may have turned a corner and the weather may be better.

Oh well by the time you read this Christmas will be over and we will have had the winter solstice. Well as days do lengthen winter strengthens and we will have all the fun of Brexit. I think I should be called Scrooge. Bah Humbug!!! Or should it be Bark Humbug!!!

Jenny Stone

This is my owner's answer to current dieting issues:

Basic Cauliflower Rice

(you can buy this in packets in the supermarket)

Are you trying to cut carbohydrates and calories? This is essential to your dieting recipe repertoire. It is also Gluten free, Vegan vegetarian and dairy free. I am still experimenting.

Ingredients

- ◆ Cauliflower
- ◆ Chopped Onion or chopped spring onion
- ◆ Tablespoon of oil

Cut the florets and green leaves off the cauliflower and place in food processor and chop until the consistency of rice (smaller if you want to make Cauliflower cous cous) *If you do not have a food processor use a box grater it takes longer and is more effort*

Put oil in pan add onion and soften slightly add cauliflower and stir frequently until cooked.

Some recipes suggest you dry the cauliflower in kitchen towel before frying but I prefer it softer and more mushy and sometimes add a tablespoon of water. I have also microwaved it and steamed it.

Variations The variations are endless

- ◆ Use different flavoured oils coconut (my favourite) olive, seed and nut oils
- ◆ Add herbs and spices
- ◆ Add chopped chopped veg celery, carrots mushrooms pepper peas pulses tomatoes



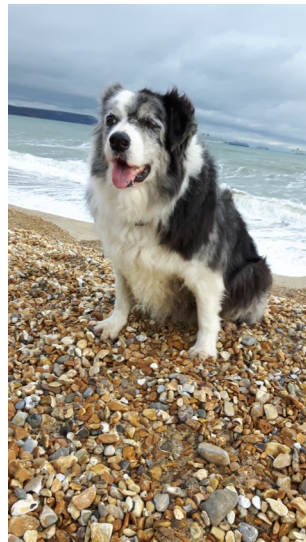
We had issues the other day about next doors cats. There are two black and white ones and they know how to make a dogs life a misery. I'd like to chase them but those cats just sit the other side of the fence and I can do nothing at all. It's as if they tease me. Recently one of them broke through our old cat flap and came into our kitchen and helped itself to some cheese. My owner told me I was a rubbish guard dog. She has blocked off the old cat flap now and put a sign up saying no cats. *(I didn't know cats could read)* I think it keeps the draught out but I can't stick my nose out to see who is outside or rattle it when I want to come in.

I have been taken to walk round Dorchester with my owners Cousin who is recovering from a major stroke and cancer operation. The three of us tramp round the grey streets and end up on a park bench outside

the Bean on the Green café at Fordington. (They have a dog biscuit jar on the counter). In pre Covid times who would have thought that humans could have fun on a Park bench in early December with an excellent coffee and flapjack. My owner thinks the architecture and history of Dorchester is very interesting. For me it's all a bit boring. I am on a lead but there are lots of different smells.

Another day we went back to Badbury Rings. It was so busy the car park there was full of older people and mums with children in pushchairs. It just goes to show that people will find things to do even when the weather is grey and everything else is closed. They all decide to do the same thing like go to Bournemouth or Durdle Door. Now the shops are open they go shopping. I suppose they will all travel for Christmas to get into enlarged family bubbles. Both our village pubs are closed at the moment so when they reopen maybe everyone will go to Pub.

Today we went for a walk round Lodmore Nature reserve and we hoped to see Sammy the seal I expected he would smell a bit different. I was disappointed he was not there I have not smelt a seal before. He is famous hitches rides on paddle boards and has his own face book page (now there's an idea). Dingle in Ireland had a dolphin called Fungi. There is a famous dog called Kano who has been awarded a Dickens medal for bravery Cher a famous pop star paid for a lonely elephant to be re-homed in Cambodia. Humans do extraordinary things for animals. Perhaps someone will write a blog for the



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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

The question so many of us ask at this time of year is what will 2021 bring? 2020 was unlike any other year we have ever lived through, and the Government had to act and pass laws that were impossible to imagine this time last year. I didn't write a column for January in 2020 – I was still only a candidate when publications were going to print. We were mid-election campaign, and I was spending my days knocking on doors and delivering leaflets.



Twelve months on, and it feels like a lifetime ago.

This year has been challenging for us in many different ways. With the vaccine news, there is now hope for us all. As I write, the first Dorset residents have just received the coronavirus vaccine, and the news is positive regarding other vaccines too. We still need to be careful, and follow the rules, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. The most vulnerable people and NHS front line staff will be vaccinated first, with more elderly people being invited in due course. Testing is helping to keep more children in school, where our teachers have been working incredibly hard and where one of our local schools has been in the vanguard of mass testing.

The Government has had to make many difficult decisions. The Chancellor has had to bring in the most wide-ranging support measures for people and businesses ever seen in peace time, and some people have lost their jobs. The Government has set up free courses available next year for adults who do not have A-levels or equivalent. The courses will be fully funded, and range from engineering to healthcare with nearly 400 different subjects on offer. These will help people to gain in-demand skills and open up job opportunities.

And there has been other good news! I know many people were pleased to see the implementation of the ban on plastic straws, cotton buds & stirrers come into effect in October, and the Government has announced our plans to ban live animal exports. There is a consultation running where you can share your views, and you can find more details about this on my website.

I have been incredibly impressed by the resilience and hard work of our local community – including voluntary groups and our two local councils. I have regular updates from the local councils and other key groups such as the local health service, the CCG and the police. This will continue into the new year, to ensure that we are all working together in the most efficient way to support everyone in Mid Dorset and North Poole as we start 2021.

Happy New Year!

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

DOG BLOG - DOGS CHRISTMAS

It's not much fun being old with arthritis. My owner is convinced it's because the weather is cold damp and grey. Maybe it's the weather which makes you feel it more. Maybe you just need something else to moan about apart from the weather and Covid restrictions. My owner was so grumpy when she realized, we were not going back into tier one, the rule of six, but alone at home in tier two. She went on an eating binge and has put on a whole kilo.

As a single person, in tier two, you may as well be in lockdown, except all the shops are now open. You can meet up with friends outside but then it's the cold dank weather. I seem to be going round in circles. One can form a bubble but one bubble for ever is not much fun either.

Social life in the village is reduced to chance meetings in the street. No clubs, dinner parties no pubs no games of cards. Some people just talk and talk about everything and nothing. It's as if they have lost the art of interesting conversation. They have all become bores. It might be one has lost the art of listening. If we meet anyone when out for a walk in North Street I just have to lie down and wait. My owner worries that maybe we will get so used to being home alone it will all be too much effort to get dressed up and go out.

We are sorting out Christmas chutney and other preserves. We have received a chocolate present from the Pop in and next week my owner is helping with parish parcels. This looks like being the social village event for December

My owner thinks Christmas is a write off. This time of year she usually buys a loud Christmas jumper and goes out to numerous Christmas dinners or parties. She has not decided where to go on Christmas Day. To be honest at the time of writing, she has no invitations. She says she will still take me out for a walk. Christmas will be another day and I will get no turkey.

My Goodness I am gloomy. The weather has got cold. I had a laugh the other day. The temperature had gone had gone down to minus zero. It was 4.30 in the morning. I had to go out and was making a fuss. My owner reluctantly got up (no heating on at that time in the morning) She let me out into the back yard so I could go up the garden. She was standing there under the yard lights wearing a fleece and pink plastic crocks in sub zero frost while I went up the garden. She must have been cold. She was not happy. Fortunately for her this does not happen very often but us old ladies do need to have some fun in the middle of the night.



POP IN PLACE NEWS

The Pop In Place thanks everyone who has kindly donated to the food bank either money or items and to all who took part in the reverse advent calendar.

The generosity of the village community has been amazing and has made a world of difference to those who struggle to feed their families .

We hope that this year we will be able to begin to bring back the joy into the community again and start some of those well loved community gatherings.

Hoping for a much brighter 2021

Alison Bennett
Team Leader - Telephone 01929 472023

The Pop In Place Bere Regis - *Bringing the community together!*



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.

✉ Michael.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk
☎ 01202 624216
💻 www.michaeltomlinson.org.uk
🐦 @Michael4MDNP

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 that 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

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DORSET COUNCIL- WEST PURBECK REPORT

Dorset Pension Fund

I am proud to be the Vice Chair of the Dorset Pension Fund which looks after the interest of a variety of County pension fund members and is doing well despite the economic uncertainty. Both unitary councils in the county are members along with many other public sector organisations including schools and universities, Tricuro and some housing associations.



The estimated value of the pension fund's assets at the end of September 2020 was £3,045M compared to £2,696M at the start of the financial year. Since April 2020 we have seen a significant recovery from previous lows, but the outlook is still very uncertain, and we anticipate more volatility over the remainder of this financial year, Figures before a recent meeting of the board show almost 74,000 local people either paying into, or being paid out of the fund.

Who Cares for the carers?

Do you regularly support an adult, or care for someone with daily tasks, a loved one or a friend? You may or may not identify yourself as a carer, but the caring you do entitles you to information, advice and support. It is very important that when you're caring for someone that you look after yourself too. This is particularly so now that some people are increasing the amount of unpaid care they provide. Caring can be very rewarding, but without the right support it can have a negative impact on your health, career, finances and relationships. You may have found that your caring role has become more challenging due to the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), or you may have taken on new caring responsibilities. Support is available from a wide range of organisations.

If you don't have family, friends or a support network that can help you get the things you need - we can help you. Let us know the support you need by completing our online form on the Dorset Council website. There is a helpline for vulnerable people in need of vital support in the Dorset Council area 01305 221000 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, or email communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk The Dorset Council website also has up to date Covid-19 information:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/>

White Christmas?

His head is in the clouds.
That is where he is today.
All he really wants to be,
Is going out to play.
With the weather on his side,
There are things he wants to do.
He'll be looking at the window
As the sun comes shining through

He's dreaming of a white Christmas,
Just like the ones we used to know.
He's sitting on the sledge he got from Santa.
He is hoping that tomorrow it will snow.

It doesn't seem quite right,
He does not know where to start.
Where does a boy begin?
It is tearing him apart.
Things could be much better,
With an icicle or two,
He wants to see some heavy clouds,
Drift out across the blue.

His winter clothes are ready.
His woolly scarf and hat
Are waiting in the wardrobe.
His mum has seen to that.
It will only take a moment,
To mobilise the gear.
It's ready and it's waiting,
For the first flake to appear.

Paul J Openshaw (December 2020)



Dear Santa,

It is Christmas Day.

I was very happy this morning when I came downstairs to find that you had left me some presents underneath the Christmas tree. The biggest present is a fantastic sledge. I did not ask for a sledge. It is a lovely idea, so thank you very much. It is definitely not an ordinary sledge. Grandad read the instructions and it seems to be "top of the range", and the best of sledges money can buy.



It is painted blue, and that is my favourite colour. It will carry two people (me and grandad). It can be steered to go right or left by pulling on a lever. It has a length of yellow cord attached to the front. That makes it very easy to pull along. I have not stopped sitting on the sledge, since unwrapping it, in the early hours of this morning. It does not take much imagination to think about hours of fun sliding down the slope behind grandad's garden. That makes me happy.



I do not know if you have heard, but I have put a lot of effort in over the past few weeks, trying my best to be a good boy. It has not been easy, as my mummy will tell you. With next Christmas in mind, I do not want to upset you and I hope you do not think I am overstepping the mark, but I do wonder whether you are the right person to talk to, with regard to organising some snow at your earliest convenience?

Thank you in anticipation,

Otis (aged 6)

Paul J Openshaw (December 2020)

coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx and Adult Social Care information for Carers on adultsocialcare.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

I am very proud to say that Laura is leading on this critical project.

Crookhill Depot Fire

Many of you have asked what the current situation is following the fire at the depot in Weymouth on Sunday 15 November. Sixteen waste collection and other ancillary vehicles were destroyed or heavily damaged. Services were disrupted for a short while, but they are now returning to normality although there will be some residual affects for some time to come. We will try to let Parish Councils and the public know when we are informed of late or disrupted collections. Please be assured that we are moving matters forward as quickly as is feasibly possible, but we ask for your patience during this time. The Fire Services report into the incident concluded that the accidental fire started around 1:20pm under the bonnet of one of the waste collection vehicles, most likely caused by the heavy rainstorms and high winds experienced in Chickerell that afternoon. This apparently led to rainwater entering the vehicle's electrical circuits, causing a short circuit, igniting the internal components of the vehicle and allowing the fire to take hold. The report also noted that a lightning strike hitting the vehicle could not be ruled out as there were several strikes in the area during that time period. The fire then rapidly spread to the other adjacent vehicles as the flames were 'wind driven' eastward towards the site building.



Council employees raise £5000 for charity

Employees from Dorset Council rallied together during the second lockdown to raise more than £5,000 for charity. Colleagues across the council organised a series of virtual events, such as a raffle, quizzes, dress-up day and a silent auction to raise money for BBC's Children In Need and local charity the Friends of Dorset Care Leavers. Some colleagues took on personal challenges too, including a sponsored silence, going sugar-free and running. A host of local business around Dorset Contributed including Camp Bestival in our area.

Digital Hotline

Dorset Council's Digital Hotline is helping even more people get online thanks to a

new arrangement with Age UK in Dorset who are now referring its users who need help with any IT issues to the free Hotline. The Dorset Digital Hotline on 01305 221048 is open every weekday from 10am to 12 noon. The Hotline is manned by a team of volunteer Digital Champions, who can help anyone in Dorset with computer, tablet and smartphone queries, including helping people get online for the first time.

Accessing online services has never been more important and our Digital Champions are using their expertise to help people overcome any barriers that are preventing them from fully joining the digital world. The Digital Champions can help with a wide range of enquiries that come through to the hotline, including: setting up video calls such as Skype and Facetime to keep in contact with friends and family, providing help to get online for grocery shopping, setting up and using new devices, support for all digital NHS services and e-Consult and the use all digital appliances and problems solving.



Dorset Council is also teaming up with an organisation called "Everyone Connected" to identify people who were previously shielding and would benefit from receiving free tablets. Also, our Dorset Council's Digital Champion volunteers are giving training via the Digital Hotline on how to use the tablet,

Planning Services Systems

We are currently undertaking a major project to transform and converge the previous 6 systems into one system. The first phase was to transfer information from the former North Dorset District Council, and this has now been completed. Data from West Dorset will be transferred in January, followed by the remaining legacy council systems. The new system should be up and running later this year and will provide a consistent and much improved system. More in later reports.

Dorset Libraries and Tourist Information centres (TICs)

All 23 Dorset Council libraries opened from Wednesday 2 December along with the three TICs. They will remain open although currently the hours are restricted, and this is all dependent upon the latest government guidelines and legislation.

Dorset Council Local Plan

Below is a link to the recent report identifying the status of the Dorset Council Local Plan. <https://modern.gov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?IId=11239&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A16723>

You can't have the sunshine

You can't have the sunshine unless you have the rain
 You can't have your happiness without a little pain
 You can't have the moon every night in the sky
 Sometimes it's hidden by clouds passing by.

You can't have the Summer until you've had the Spring
 Then comes the Autumn, golden leaves that she will bring
 You can't have the Winter with only Christmas snow
 You must have some days when the cold winds blow.

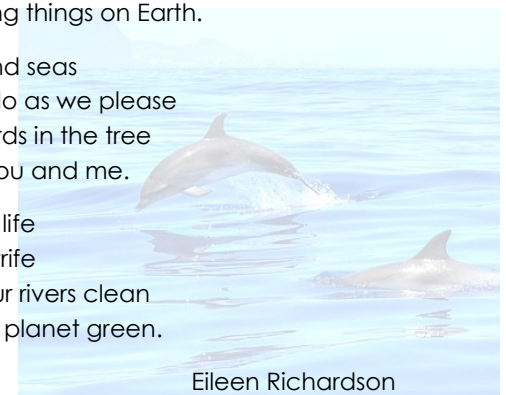
You just cannot separate anything in life
 If you want to have the good things you've got to have the strife
 You just can't separate the good things from the bad
 If you want to have your happiness sometimes you must be sad.

You can't have a happy heart until it's filled with love
 To be really happy with a blessing from above
 And sometime in life we all have to find
 We must have love and peace for all mankind.

You can't have a happy heart until it's filled with love
 To reach the highest summit that Man is worthy of
 And sometime in life Man has to prove his worth
 And share this lovely planet with all living things on Earth.

The forests and rivers, the mountains and seas
 The whale and the dolphin, we can't do as we please
 We must save the elephant and the birds in the tree
 Every plant and tree must survive like you and me.

We must learn to settle for just a simple life
 If we go on taking there's misery and strife
 We must save our oceans and keep our rivers clean
 We must save our forests and keep this planet green.



Eileen Richardson

I am a retired geologist. We visit family in Bere Regis almost monthly when we can and enjoy walks in your very special countryside. During recent visits I have started to think about the landscape and its evolution on geological timescales. A lot can be learnt by researching published geological maps and reports. In outline, the story starts 75 million years ago in a deep warm clear sea, it encompasses gentle tectonic uplift, younger river deposits and the effects of ice-age meltwater erosion and climate change.

Please would readers put me in touch with any local people working in this area of interest. I would be happy to share my findings - and, if appropriate, help people access and understand the often-archaic world of geological terms and maps. Perhaps we could work together on resources for the village web page? - or produce occasional articles for the magazine? Maybe when times are better, we could arrange for a talk - or even a walk? Do let me know.

Jim Marshall (jimmarshall58@gmail.com , tel - 0757 060 5659)

POETRY CORNER

Music is magic

Music is magic that comes from your heart

Music is magic that makes the day start

You will be happy all the day long

If you have the magic of song.

Music is magic when you sing with me

Music is magic in love's rhapsody

We shall be happy all life long

'cos we have our love and the magic of song.

Eileen Richardson

Melody is magic makes every day fine

Melody is magic with you all the time

You will find beauty in all that you see

If you have the magic of melody.

When trees drop their leaves of gold

We know Autumn is here

But if you sing all through Winter

Spring is really quite near.



Foster Carers

Dorset Council is joining forces with other local authorities across the south west region to call for more people to consider becoming foster carers. According to The Fostering Network, there are 6,140 children in care in the south west and 2,650 fostering households, with many more needed. Local authorities from Dorset, Bath and North East Somerset, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire have all come together to run the latest campaign.

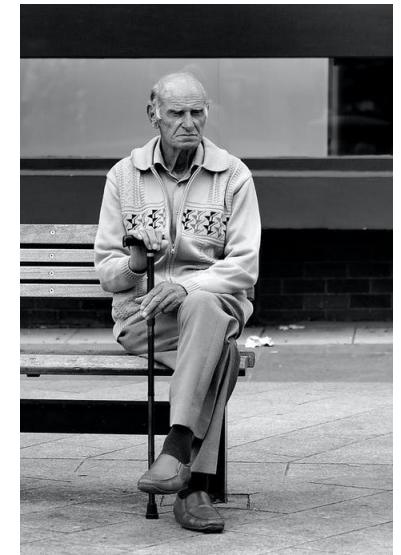
They are calling for those in the region with space in their home and their lives to consider fostering for their council. There is a huge need to raise awareness of the need for more foster carers across our region. This campaign will help people to understand that when you foster for your local council you are part of a service that is not for profit and where every penny is spent on providing a good service to the children and their foster carers. We are so grateful to all our foster carers. They make a real difference to the lives of children in our county. If you are interested in fostering, you need to be aged 21 or over and have a spare bedroom. Find out more by visiting www.fosterindorset.co.uk or call 01305 225568.

Getting help this winter

Dorset Council and partners in the community response to COVID-19 are working together to offer help and support to struggling residents this winter. Efforts are focused on supporting families with children, people in financial difficulties and those facing loneliness and isolation over the festive season. The aim is to make sure vulnerable people have access to food and warm clothing for their children, and someone they can talk to if they need to.

People experiencing financial difficulties are urged to seek help by calling the Dorset Citizens Adviceline on Freephone 0800 144 8848 or textphone 0800 144 8884. By calling the Adviceline, anyone struggling to pay their rent, mortgage, debts or other bills can access free expert help and advice and secure a referral to a local foodbank or community food initiative if needed. Comprehensive information to help people find support is also available online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/reaching-out.

Anyone staying at home because of COVID-19 without the support of family,



friends or neighbours can request help from the Dorset Together team. Support includes food shopping and delivery, collection of prescriptions, dog walking and befriending. Help can be accessed via our online form or by calling the Dorset Together helpline on 01305 221000, 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. People with queries about getting online or improving online skills can call the Dorset Digital Hotline on 01305 221048, Monday to Friday from 10am – noon. Outside of those times you can leave a message and a Digital Champion will get back to you.

Avian influenza precautions from December 14th

From the 14 December all poultry and captive birds must be housed under new rules issued by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Due to the increase in cases of Avian Influenza (bird flu) found in both wild birds and commercial poultry flocks these additional rules have been brought in to prevent further spread of the disease. This follows the Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ) that was introduced by APHA in November. For more advice and regular updates on the latest situation, visit Government's avian flu pages. Poultry and captive bird keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (option 7), and keepers should report suspicion of disease to APHA on 03000 200 301.

Car Parking Charges

Following extensive discussion by Councillors, Dorset Council has revised the proposed changes to car parking arrangements. After notice was provided to Town and Parish Councils of the proposed changes in October, many people voiced their concerns, especially considering the current financial pressures faced by businesses and regarding the introduction of charges up until 8pm. The recommendations remain, as they were revised, in force in Weymouth

The recommendation for the Implementation of Sunday charging also stays as before, but Town and Parish Councils can ask for free days for special events. The Extension of morning charges in Purbeck to begin at 8am stays as was recommended. The recommendation to extend evening charges to 8pm has been withdrawn.

5G Project - new 5G buoys

Dorset Council has announced the signing of a contract with JET Engineering System Solutions Ltd and Exceleare Technology Limited to deliver a network of Surf Condition Monitoring (SCM) buoys to the Lulworth Estate coastline. The trial is



making our way to the jaws of the cove. Turning left we stopped a while at the entrance. Boats large and small lay at anchor in the cove. They positively sparkled in the early morning sun. As we got closer, we could see the sailors getting their craft ready for the day.

We swam to Sailfish, climbed aboard and Jo made us a lovely cup of tea. It is a beautiful boat and I could imagine myself sipping champagne onboard a luxury yacht in the South of France. Valentine said: "We were at Mute Bay last night and caught some whitebait for supper." Apparently the whitebait had been chased into shore by a giant shoal of mackerel and 30 or 40 of them had landed on the beach. Emile and the boys had put the few who were still alive back in the water (Ha, the old soffie...) and cooked the rest for a delicious meal.



It was time to swim ashore and prepare for the rest of the day. Swimming with good friends in a cathedral of natural beauty, it really doesn't get any better...

Bob Holman

LOCAL GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE HISTORY – ANY INTEREST?

Dorset is known for its world-famous Jurassic Coast but many people know little about the role of younger deposits and geological processes that shape the countryside around Bere Regis.



The village lies at the boundary between two very different landscapes. To the north, lie rolling hills, open fields, chalky soils with flints and arable farming. To the south, a flat-topped hill, with flint-rich gravel deposits, whose slopes are cut by ancient, incised trackways (holloways?). Here, sandy soils support mixed woodlands and gorse: smaller fields host beef cattle and horses.



Emile and Sean were soon chasing after this old boy and were off swimming around the circumference of the large bay. Emile was soon with me and swimming side by side. We stopped a little while for Sean to catch up and generally tried to stick together. Sean is a relatively recent recruit to open water swimming. We had been swimming in the Dorchester Leisure Centre Pool during the winter for some while and a couple of years ago we persuaded him to come and join us. He loved it!

We ploughed on through the murky water through the odd bit of kelp and taking care to

avoid some rocks lurking just under the surface of the water. Sometimes when we swim here, the water is crystal clear and you can see the little fish darting hither and thither. However, not today. We had been swimming for around 20 minutes when we got to the steps leading up out of the cove to the grassy hill above. "It looks good, are we going for it?" I asked the others. "Yes, let's" they replied.

So off we set for Stair Hole. We had first to pick our way around the substantial bank of seaweed on the outer edge of the cove. The weather was almost perfect and the sea flat in the cove but I am always filled with a slight sense of adventure when we do this swim. Outside the cove and in open water, conditions can change quite dramatically and there have been times when I have likened it to trying to swim in a washing machine.

Today, the weather was fine and the sea was flat calm (well, almost!). We eased our way out of the rocky entrance to the cove and swam a while across its jaw to the headland on the other side. Time to re-group, we decided to continue our swim and after another 400/500metres, Stair Hole in all its glory lay before us. I guess you would describe it as a smaller version of Durdle Door, another fabulous location along the Jurassic Coast. However it has its own majesty with its cathedral-like arch of rocks. Swimming through it is one of life's experiences. It is always a magical moment.

We stopped a while in the small pool of water inside and as Stair Hole has two entrances, we decided to exit through the smaller one. There is a connecting tunnel between to the two entrances and depending on the state of the tide you can swim between them. I have done it a couple of times but if you are like me, a bit claustrophobic, it is really quite scary.

Soon we were in open water again and



part of the 5G Rural Dorset project, a £6.675 million initiative which aims to assist rural communities in benefiting from next generation mobile connectivity.

The SCM buoys will measure sea state, including tidal current, temperature and wave height data, and communicate the information via 5G to project partners. The information will be displayed on the connected digital signage which will be installed at busy locations on the Jurassic Coast and will be available via a published feed, available to the general public, and accessible by the emergency services to support their operations. This is a very exciting project and when fully working will help the emergency services prevent incidents and improve coastal public safety in what is a beautiful but potentially dangerous environment. I am pleased to be leading on this project.

Surgery

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

Peter Wharf & Laura Miller, Dorset Councillors for West Purbeck

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BERE REGIS NEWS

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Clerk:	Amanda Crocker	01935 83454	bereregispc@gmail.com
Websites:	www.bereregisparishcouncil.co.uk www.bereregis.org		

The Parish Council met remotely via Zoom on Thursday 10th December 2020. The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th January 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.

Update on Rye Hill Speed Problem

Alison Bennett's petition had been handed to Dorset Council. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) has arrived and we are awaiting the installation of the posts. We understand the Community Speed Watch team (CSW) can be trained, but cannot be operational before mid-January. If you would like to volunteer for the CSW, please contact Angie Wright at thewrights.1@btinternet.com

Planning Applications

The planning application for change of use of agricultural buildings to 4 dwellings and associated building operations at Yearlings Poultry Farm, Bere Regis was discussed. This application has been submitted under Permitted Development Rights, which means the building can be converted but any development cannot extend beyond the existing curtilage.

The Parish Council recommended no objections, but commented that if this application had had to follow normal planning guidelines it would have been unlikely to be passed.

LULWORTH COVE AND STAIR HOLE

I love summer weekends as I get up with the lark and prepare for my early morning swims. My great swimming friend Emile had emailed to say he was taking his boat Sailfish out and would I like to come for a swim in Lulworth Cove – a huge treat for wild swimmers. I was in the car by 7.30am and on my way to pick up another of our Whatsapp swimming group members Sean at the Red Lion at Winfrith Newburgh. The sun was an earlier riser and had been glistening in a bright blue sky for some time now.

Having parked up we made the short walk to the Cove. For those of you who have never been to Lulworth Cove it is one of those places that capture your imagination. It is a vast expanse of water enclosed by a cascade of multi-coloured rocks and grassy hilltops on all sides bar its mouth. It never fails to lift my spirits and I am always left in awe at its staggering beauty.



Sailfish was moored a short distance from shore and Emile gave a friendly wave. The family was there with his wife and sons, Jo, Valentine and Oscar looking busy on the boat. It was time to change and get ready for our swim. Costume, hat, goggles and wetsuit on, we stacked our swim bags by the beachside café ready for Emile to swim ashore to join us. He was non-

wetsuit and there was a time when I would have joined him but I am such a wimp these days! Also, the one small downside of swimming at Lulworth is there is a small stream that empties itself into the cove, lowering the temperature of the water by a degree or two.

The beach is pebbled and uneven. Negotiating this surface can be a little challenging and I am always very careful as I descend to the water's edge. This time was no different and as soon as I had enough water I flung myself forward and lunged into the sea- wonderful! The exhilaration I experience every time is so difficult to put into words, it is just brilliant!



he loved to talk about his family and my favourite story is as follows. It concerns himself and his wife. On a Friday evening they would both travel six miles to a neighbouring village, she to the village hall for bingo and he to the pub opposite for "a wee dram". One very cold and very wet evening, Jock came out of the pub at closing time, the doors were locked behind him and everyone disappeared home. He got into his old car to find his rather wet wife sitting in the passenger seat. He turned the key but nothing happened the pub was locked and they needed a push. Since there was no one else about and his wife Betty was not able to drive, she had to get out and push. In the pouring rain they managed to start the car and off home they went.

On the lane just before their home there was a gate across, because there were cattle grazing in the field down which they travelled. Jock stopped and expecting Betty to get out and open the gate but she didn't. Jock looked across to see why she hadn't and saw she wasn't there! He had driven home, leaving her in the pouring rain in the pub car park. By the time he had reversed up and got back to the pub in the pouring rain, she had been standing there for more than forty minutes. She was furious. However he told the story to me many years after her death with great humour.

He was a likeable old rogue, a man of simple needs. A man appreciative of what he had, as were others who took advantage of his good nature but all in all, when it was time to go, he was ready and looked forward to a well earned rest. To have known him as a younger man was a privilege I had missed; despite the fact that he described me to another neighbour as the 'Old Man' over the road. (He was only thirty years my senior.) He was a proud man, proud of what he had achieved. A man of the countryside, with very good tastes, for example lamb, trout, venison and pheasant ---- I rest my case.

It is wonderful when I look back at the characters I have known in my lifetime, in the countryside both here and in Southern Ireland.

Let us get back to the present here in Turnerspuddle, where currently it is very wet and green and where flowers are blooming and the grass very green and still growing. My editor has just been through the article and I am about to send it off.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to You All and may God Bless you.

Ted Cox

Christmas Hampers

The council acknowledged with gratitude the very generous donations made by Peter Andrews of Andrews Plant Hire and Haulage and by Distgen, which will enable Christmas gifts to be distributed to many of our elderly and isolated residents. Very grateful thanks are due to Councillors Brenda House and Philip Morgan for their hard work on this initiative.

Bryan Benjafield

RYE HILL SPEED WATCH - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As reported in the Parish Council's article, we had a useful meeting last month. I would like to thank all those for supporting the petition to call for the speed to be reduced on the C6 through the village and, to date, 192 people have signed.



Peter Wharf has kindly agreed to take this along with the 14 letters of concern to the Highways Department at Dorset Council.

As part of a staged approach our group is setting up a Speed Watch and our thanks to Angie and Ian Wright who are taking the lead.

We will need a small team so if you feel strongly about the speeding on this road and are willing to help us by helping to monitor the speeds of traffic, please do get in touch with them to volunteer your help. Telephone 01929 471734 or email therwrights.1@btinternet.com

Alison Bennett

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CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Bere Regis residents have so far nominated thirty-five people, partners, businesses or groups to receive Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of the huge contribution they have made to our community during these difficult times. Efforts have varied from stepping up to help neighbours, or altering how businesses were run to spotting where help was needed, and providing it.



Two more people have been nominated and we are delighted to add their names to the list of people we will honour as soon as we are able to meet together to do so:

Eileen Spracklen and **Louise Connor** for making facemasks by hand for the whole BereConnect volunteer team.

Please feel free to nominate anyone else whose efforts you feel have helped to make life easier, or more bearable for any of our residents during these difficult times.

Ian Ventham

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Brenda House

(Scheme Co-Ordinator)

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LOCKDOWN STORIES

The New Year Over the Hill

Again I am making a new start to this article having lost my original attempt. Never the less it is wonderful to be a countryman and be living amongst such wonderful people. Before living in Turnerspuddle, Madge and I lived on the edge of the Cranborne Chase, in the little hamlet of Woodcutts. Our next door neighbour but one was a lady well into her eighties Her name was Win and she had lived there all her life. In fact the house was built just before her birth. Her father worked for the Pitt Rivers' estate he and her mother had moved from an old property at the end of her existing garden that the Pitt Rivers' Estate had demolished, having built the new one. Win had lost her husband some years previously and her daughter



was a constant visitor until she died in her early fifties. So Madge and I were regular visitors and Win, who managed her huge garden by herself and was always giving us flowers and vegetables. One day when Madge went to see her in her garden she said "You have changed my life as I didn't see anyone for days before you came". Her next door neighbour was Mr Jock as he was known.

My first meeting with him was about seven o'clock in the morning. We had just moved in and I had made myself a cup of tea and I decided to have a nose around. I went out carrying my cup of tea with me only to be met by Jock, who had never met or seen me before. His first words were, "Where did you get a cup of tea up here from and at this time of the morning."

He had a strong Scottish accent, having been brought up in Scotland, but was in fact Irish. He was born of an Irish Mother, who was a very young unmarried girl and was considered to be a disgrace to her family and in some way moved to Scotland had her son and had him moved to an orphanage. As soon as he was old enough to work he was on a farm as an assistant to a shepherd. He was known by his Irish name of Mr Robert Meehan when I knew him but he was also referred to as Shep, Bob, Mr Shep. or simply Jock.


He had been married and had a family but none near him and when his wife died was a very lonely man. He was in this state when I first got to know him but

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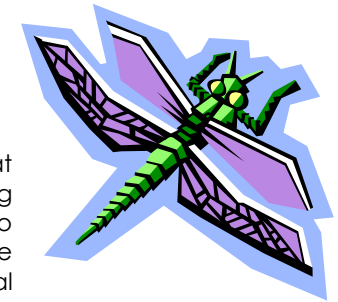
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BERE REGIS WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP



A very HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all and let's hope that the Covid restrictions may be lifted in the coming months. In the meantime, do enjoy what nature has to offer, be it sunrises and sunsets or birds we may see from our windows or the fantastic variety of natural sights we have around the Parish.

Let Us Know What Wildlife You Have Seen

Now in the depths of winter is the time to have a look at mosses and lichens. Both of these plant forms thrive in the current damp cool conditions. There are a vast number of both plant types – 12,000 species of mosses and 17,000 lichens worldwide.

We see them together everywhere and often don't notice them, particularly in woods, on dead and living branches; old stone walls; and even garden benches.

Mosses are true simple plants that have basic root systems and small leaves as can be seen when magnified as shown in these pictures. Lichen are a mix of a fungus and algae. They have no root systems. Some particularly on stone such as

gravestones grow radially very slowly at only about 1 cm. every 10 years.

So have a look at them closely; they are like a miniature enchanted forest!



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To many of us the Little Egret and the Kingfisher will be familiar sights along Bere Stream. Buzzards and Kestrels are frequent visitors at Souls Moor over the winter period as earthworms are forced to the surface by the rising water table and provide easy and nutritious pickings. There are also other visitors that we only see at this time of year, for example redwing and fieldfare. These are migratory birds arriving at our shores

from Scandinavia to escape the winter cold there. They may be seen on hedges, scrub and woodland feasting on berries, and on grassland and field margins looking for worms, slugs, leatherjackets and sometimes grain.

In our gardens there will be plenty of the more familiar birds, such as pigeons, crows, starlings, sparrows, blue tits, robins and wrens. All a delight to see and hear. Alongside those, you may be fortunate to see such as goldfinches and long-tailed tits. The goldfinch is one of our most highly coloured birds, with a bright red, white and black head, and gold wing bars. They frequently move around in groups – a group of goldfinches is known as a 'charm'. Long-tailed tits similarly are often to be seen in groups. The name for a group of long-tailed tits is a 'volery'. The long-tailed tit is quite different in appearance from other tits, with (as its name suggests) a long tail and its pale pinkish white underside and its marbled black wings and head.

We would be very interested to learn about the wildlife (be it birds, mammals, fish, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians etc, common or unusual) you've seen locally. Please send details of sightings to us at the email addresses below. We are fortunate to have a wide range of habitats around the Parish (woodland, meadows, heath, streams etc) and it would be good to build up a picture of the wildlife resources we have in the area.

Conservation Working Parties

As you may know, one of our tasks in late 2020 was to fence off part of the pond at Souls Moor. The pond was dug for two reasons. One – to provide the ponies with a constant source of water; Two – to establish a new wildlife habitat as the still water of a pond is beneficial for plants and amphibians that cannot survive in the moving waters of the river. The pond has been a success on both counts.

However, the surrounds to the whole pond are being trampled by the ponies, which means that marginal plants are having difficulty in establishing. To overcome the problem we have fenced off part of the pond and its immediate margin to prevent trampling by the ponies when they return next year. Easy access will still be available to much of the pond to allow the ponies to drink.



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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. In the meantime, we will organise ad hoc sessions for particular tasks. Of necessity, the numbers will be limited and safe social distancing will have to be observed at all times. So, we will not be extending the normal open invite to these working parties. Instead, if you wish to attend please email mike.n.g@outlook.com, an appropriate number of those showing an interest will then be invited to attend.

Contact Us

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

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

Amy Yates at AmyEyeats@hotmail.com

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

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smithy, and the open space in front would sprout petrol pumps. The old Boy's School, already superseded by a building for both sexes, would be transformed into a comfortable home; and bungalows and houses would spring up, not just for the use of locals, but to house incomers, who might work anywhere within a radius of fifteen to twenty miles.

So, it would seem, the old self-contained village life has gone for ever; but one wonders, has it? It has been given its by-pass at long last, but the story may not end there. Does the threatened exhaustion of the world's supply of fossil fuel portend a return to a more localised and limited life for us all? Only time will tell.



William Lucas, with his wife, looking back on a very different Dorset

by long voluminous skirts, so she escaped with a few bruises. Bob Denning was not amused when a local resident came out from his cottage, took a close look at the scene, peered to read the make of the car and said, "A-ar, but he didn' dodge that'n did'ee?"

With the rapid spread of mechanical means of transport life began to change rapidly; horizons broadened; no longer were the villagers dependent upon what could be bought in the village shops. No longer were the young people limited by the work which the village could offer — the wider opportunities of the towns were now available to them. Soon the ancient smithy would cease to be a



Bere Regis was by-passed by the trunk road traffic in 1982. This view by John Pitfield, of the western part of the village, is from the new bridge that carries the main road. The horse traffic is on a slip road and the old A35 is in the middle distance



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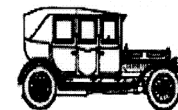
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Changes

THERE CAME a time — it must have been very soon after the end of the war — when an innovation appeared which caused a big stir in the village, and it was destined to change village life irrevocably. George Vacher, a horse-carter, came to live in North Street in 1919 and he brought with him a motor bus; we were to have a motor bus service. Admittedly the vehicle was not new; nor was it reliable; much less, with its hard seats and solid tyres, was it comfortable. But, compared with the carrier's cart it was the acme of speed and luxury. Before long we were to have a daily service to town and the journey would be cut by half. Little did we realise that this event signalled the end of village life as we had known it. No longer were cars to be treated by the villagers as a new-fangled curiosity. Times were moving on from the days described in the story of the old country-man in his smock with a broken scythe over his shoulder, who stops to gaze curiously at a car whose driver is trying without success to get it to start. "What do'ee call'n" he asks. "An automobile but it won't start," is the testy reply. "A-ar", says the yokel, "We'm in the same boat, cos this," pointing to the scythe, "is a automograss — but 'ee won't either."

Our friends from Bournemouth were moving with the times. Bob Denning sold his old Model T Ford and bought a brand new Dodge. "She's thirty horse-power," he told us proudly, "and she'll go up the steepest hill at over thirty miles an hour." She was, of course, an open tourer and Bob had installed a glass windscreen for the protection of the passengers in the rear seat. On one occasion he was taking Mother and Father for a ride when he had an accident; in order to avoid a cyclist he swerved and collided with a wall. Fortunately for Mother, who was in the rear seat, the windscreen was folded down, for she was flung forward and it was her knees, and not her face, that went through the glass. Naturally they were protected

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Thanks to our WI members for sharing their favourites

Easy ice cream to use up sweet leftovers.

I'm sure the children would be happy giving this a go.

Ingredients

- ♦ 200g Sweetened condensed milk
- ♦ 600ml Double cream
- ♦ 1tsp Vanilla extract (this helps the ice cream from freezing hard)
- ♦ slice of Christmas cake, cut up chocolate, get experimenting



Method

Whisk the cream until it forms soft peaks.

Add the condensed milk and vanilla and whisk together well until it forms soft peaks the thickness of clotted cream.

Now get creative add some crumbled Christmas cake, stem ginger cut up, chopped chocolate, that couple of mince pies no one wants, or just leave plain to have with fruit.

Then place in a container and freeze for 4hrs or overnight.

on driving me to the interview. As it was a church school to which I was applying, the fact that my own vicar had driven me to the interview must have had some weight; in spite of the fact that I was not an Anglican, I was appointed.

Later on, when my application to training college — again an Anglican institution — was refused, he took up the cudgels on my behalf and wrote a very strong letter to my college principal, carefully providing me with a copy. Probably as a result of his action, my application was accepted the following year by the same college.

The vicar’s sister, who kept house for him, was a kindhearted, but somewhat timid lady who seemed to live in great awe of her brother. One of her interests was the organ. She acted as deputy organist, and reckoned to put in an hour’s practice each week. For some reason or other — I cannot imagine how it came about — I was asked to be her ‘blower’, the bellows being operated manually. Now I was very glad to have the half-crown which was my weekly wage, but I found the job utterly boring, and I can only conclude that I have no music in my soul.

My duties included calling at the vicarage, collecting her music case, proceeding to the church and, when necessary, lighting the oil lamps. I must have been twelve or thirteen then, and I wouldn’t have admitted to being nervous, but in the chilly dusk of a winter’s evening there is an atmosphere of gloom and mystery about an ancient church which the wan flame of an oil lamp does little to dispel. So I was always happy when I was met with “Miss Taylor is indisposed and will not practise today,” or “Miss Taylor is busy and cannot spare the time” — especially since the half-crown was still forthcoming.

BERE REGIS SCOUT GROUP

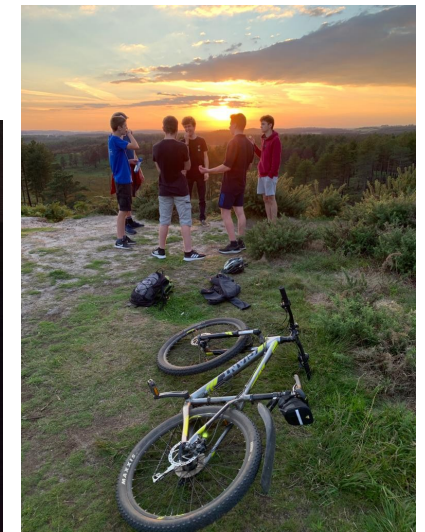


The Scout Group continues to function under the prevailing conditions which makes face to face meetings very challenging.

Beaver Scouts (6-8) enjoy an online video programme recorded each week by Turtle, the leader, and have done many craft projects, songs and stories and baking.

Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (11-13) have occasionally met virtually by Zoom with craft activities, bingo, cooking and quizzes. Kingsbere Explorers (14-18) have also virtually met over Zoom many times. They have enjoyed several quizzes, craft sessions (pumpkin carving), even cookery (making brownies), creating items at home to show the rest of the Unit (pandemic pizzas and pancakes), and a fantastic presentation on the Explorers 2013 Nepal Expedition.

When the restrictions were lifted slightly over the summer, Covid risk assessments were done and the Explorers met for a night hike over Black Hill, with navigation and general knowledge challenges at bases. They also explored with a bike ride in Wareham Forest and a wonderful socially distanced



campfire. There's nothing quite like roasted marshmallows with friends when you've been in lockdown for weeks!

HELP. When we restart something like normal Scouting, we will need adult volunteers. This is your chance to help our brilliant young people bounce back from such testing times. Give an hour or two when you can. Register your interest and Neal will call you back one day when this thing is under control. gsl.bereregis@gmail.com



BERE REGIS SURGERY NEWS

Wishing our patients a Happy and Peaceful New Year!

We would like to remind you that CITIZENS ADVICE is still available for patients of the surgery during this difficult time for advice on a wide range of issues including benefits, housing, employment etc.

You can make an appointment through the surgery and Gill, or an adviser from Dorchester Citizens Advice, will contact you by phone

Patients entitled to the COVID-19 vaccination will be contacted by the Practice when their vaccination is due. If you wish to opt out of having the vaccination, please advise us at that time.



and we were all anxious to know what the “new man” would be like.

One of the first to call on him was Joby, in his capacity as choir master and organist. Approaching the vicarage front door, he passed the newly erected garage, in front of which stood a black Ford car. Someone, apparently a general factotum, in an old pair of overalls was underneath it, and Joby stopped to enquire where he would be likely to find the vicar. He was more than a little taken aback to find out that he was talking to the vicar himself.

P. W. Taylor, who had rowed for Oxford in the Boat Races of 1884 and 1885, was a somewhat eccentric bachelor. As a housemaster at Marlborough College he had enjoyed a reputation as a martinet. He was soon to show us that he was no run-of-the-mill parish priest. A tall, awkwardly-built man, he had little of the manner of a typical vicar; he was brusque almost to the point of rudeness, and he had little time for the niceties of village social life. It was quite a sight to see him leading a funeral procession from the church to the cemetery. The coffin was pushed on a bier the quarter of a mile or so; the vicar with his long, loping stride, his ridiculously short surplice billowing out behind him, would arrive at the cemetery far ahead of the rest and would stand at the grave-side and wait somewhat impatiently for the cortege to arrive.

Since we did not attend church we had not had first-hand experience of his sermons, but we understood that they were very brief and to the point. In spite of his eccentricities he was a man of great kindness and his sympathies and help were not confined to his own flock. He was always ready to help me in any way that he could. My first appointment for interview as an uncertificated teacher coincided with the 1926 General Strike, and since it involved a journey of thirty miles each way, he having already written me a very good testimonial, insisted

later to be known as Royal Blue, ran under the name of their owners. "They there Elliot Bros charas," Walt would explain, "they do make my house shake. Where be'em all going to and what vor?"

Jimmy Miller was another "character" — a somewhat morose, silent man. A small-holder, he grew a little corn and kept one horse, a grey, which was known to all us village boys as "Jimmy Miller's milk-white nag". Jimmy always insisted on cutting his corn by hand, using a scythe and laboriously tying the sheaves with corn ties. He certainly worked hard for his living. One of his fields bordered the wood, and one night, Cecil, returning home late from one of his romantic assignations — this time with a keeper's daughter — jumped over a stile and was scared out of his wits to see a white form slowly rise out of the misty shadows. Not until he had run half a mile did it dawn on him that what he had seen was not a ghost, but Jimmy Miller's milk-white nag!

The village boasted three professionals who could be relied upon at all times to give leadership and advice whenever it was needed; Joby, Job Bugby, the schoolmaster; the doctor, an old friend to everyone, Dr. Lys; and last, but not least, the vicar. The war years saw changes in the incumbency; the vicar who had been with us for years became a padre, and we had a period without a resident priest. Then came the news that the next incumbent was to be a schoolmaster, a man who had taught for years in a public school; and this was to be his first living.

Although we as a family had left the church, the church and the vicarage still played a large part in our lives. The kitchen quarters there were well known to all the older members of the family, for when Dad worked there as a gardener, the maids had been friends and the youngsters were often invited in for a cup of tea and a snack at the kitchen table. All this had, of course, come to an end before I arrived on the scene, but I was still attending the Sunday School,

BERE REGIS WI



In 'normal' years, Bere Regis WI devotes the last meeting before Christmas to making decorations or treats for the festive season. This year, the ongoing restrictions meant we couldn't meet to continue this tradition. Instead, we've decided to share with you some of the things we made throughout the years. Once again, this takes the form of a wordsearch and there are 13 (lucky for some) items to find.

To give you a helping hand, the word list is below. Overleaf is the answer to last month's puzzle.

Happy solving and best wishes to all our members and friends for the best possible Christmas.

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](#).

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

- Bells
- Bows
- Cakes
- Chinese lanterns
- Christmas cards
- Crackers
- Felted robins
- Folded napkins
- Mince pies
- Sweets
- Tree decorations
- Truffles
- Wreaths

Solution to
December's WI
Word Search

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

Village Characters

NEAR THE village lived Bill Amey with his numerous family. Bill at one time had run a traction engine and threshing tackle, but he was no business man and had probably run into financial difficulties. When I knew him he scratched a somewhat precarious living from his smallholding. His financial state was, to say the least, tenuous, but this didn't worry him. One of his many sons was said to have complained that he hadn't enough money to get married. "Money! what do'ee want money vor, me bwoy?" exclaimed Bill, "I never had no money and I be none the worse vor it." He certainly seemed to have managed to raise his long family, and these, as they grew up, followed in their father's footsteps and produced their own young in profusion. I can recall him sitting in his large kitchen, surrounded by children, picking up a bellowing infant and dancing it up and down on his knee. "Let me zee now," he said, "Be this Rose's or Daisy's? — I never can remember whose they be."

Then there was Frank Stickley. Frank was a woodsman, a simple villager without much knowledge of new-fangled inventions. One day, it seems, he was given a present — an electric torch. Poor Frank managed to get it to work, but he couldn't discover how to switch it off. "I blowed'n and blowed'n," he said, "but he oud'n go out, so I putt'n on the table and putt me hat over'n, and sure nuff, in the mornin' he were out."

Walt Shave was another village stalwart, a labourer who was worthy of his hire, who believed that hard work and big meals belonged together. "I do like to feel me belly bangout agen me belt" he would say, patting his ample abdomen with pride, after a huge meal of stew and dumplings. These were the early days of the "motor charabanc", and the peace of the village was increasingly disturbed by the day-tour coaches. At that time, the blue coaches,

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1150 there was more stone added to our church to make a small single-cell building. While King John had the "Manor House" at Bere, during his reign of 1199 to 1216, he probably supported some building work but he did not ignore the modernisation of his own Catholic chapel in the manor house itself. From about 1255 the Turberville family were the patrons of the church and oversaw a lot of the expansion work of the building until they ran out of money in the 17th century then died out in the very early 18th century. The reformation, effective in about 1542 changed the internal arrangement of the building from, a no-seats affair, to having wooden seating which continued until the previously-mentioned restoration of 1873-75 which resulted in the building that we now have.

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THE STORY OF CHILDHOOD IN BERE REGIS IN THE YEARS AROUND THE TIME OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR - PART 9

We now come to the final instalment of Bill Lucas's delightful little book 'Dorset Born'.

He now tells us about some charming village characters of the time. Then he looks at the changes that were starting and reflects on the village on a return visit in later life.

The book was written in 1982 when there was concern at fossil fuels running out and of course this differs markedly on concern now on the effects of fossil fuel on climate change

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

R O G S

c/o Mr G R Storey, Secretary
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 Telephone:- 01929 471041



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

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

VENUES 2021

Date	Venue	Trophy	Winner
26th February	Ferdown Golf Club	Members Challenge	
	Rushmore Golf Club	GRS Trophy	
	Can		
	Sal		
	Ash		
	Bul		
	Dorset Golf and Country Club	Captain's Cup	
	Lyme Regis Golf Club	Whitbread Pairs	
	Dibden Golf Centre	Zoom Trophy	

Dates still to be confirmed

DORSET TRADING STANDARDS

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

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

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



Having parcel delivery problems? You are not alone as half of British consumers have had parcel delivery issue since the first March lockdown.

Check delivery policies - Before you place an order find out what the delivery times, costs and returns policies are of the items you have ordered.



If you're out of the house during delivery - Consider asking a neighbour or friend if it can be delivered to their address if you think it may be at a time or date you will not be at home. But beware, if you do provide details of a safe space or nominated neighbour, and something goes wrong, it may not be the seller or courier's responsibility.

Online trader or online marketplace? - Make sure you know if you are dealing with a trader or a private seller on an online marketplace as dispute processes may vary. If you have an issue with a trader, a dispute can be raised directly with them, but if it's a private individual it may be easier to go through a marketplace's dispute process.

Review traders - Check and review if the trader is genuine. It's always worth taking a look at reviews to gain an insight as to how reliable the company is and how well they deal with missing parcel complaints and refunds.

Who to deal with when a parcel goes missing - Your purchase and contract is with the seller. If your parcel goes missing you should speak with the seller to deal with the problem, not the courier company.

For advice on a consumer problem, or to report something to Trading Standards, contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer

BERE REGIS HISTORY SOCIETY

**BERE
REGIS
HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ORIGINS OF BERE CHURCH

When we look at our magnificent church now it is hard to imagine its earliest incarnation as being a small wooden "barn", probably in exactly the same place. There are a wide range of dates for when Christianity arrived in Britain, but in 333 AD the Roman Empire adopted that religion to augment and later to replace their own varying religious models, while they still occupied Britain.

By the time the final Romans left, in 418, they had their own interpretation of burial practice, in particular, and it is probable that this continued on what we now call Barrow Hill but in addition to burials at their own Villas and it seems now that they were also burying on the slopes of Woodbury Hill. By about 450 AD the burial ground that we now know as the church-yard was established. There would have been a simple wooden building, near the middle, and called the Charnell House, where a body would have been kept until the preparations were made, such as informing the relatives, digging the grave and supplying the coffin.



By about 725 AD there would have been a stone cross probably on the edge of the current church yard and this would have been the scene of preaching by travelling speakers who summoned villagers to hear words read from prepared tracts of the bible. It is likely that the carved stone in the porch, between the two iron "fire-hooks" is a representation of our stone cross, with the top now missing. It was inserted here by the Victorians during the restoration of 1873-75 but it is unknown from where it

was salvaged. Then in about 750 AD at the time of Viking invasion threat the village was re-modelled to be a more concentrated affair, with the Royal House, Court Farm moved in much closer, the Vicarage and the Church all in a small space near the river and what we now call Southbrook, or perhaps "Upperbrook" in reality.

There was much fear that the end of the world would come in 1000 AD and so a waiting game came, then went. Within a generation or two when the threat had passed, local monasteries became established and their influence resulted in rebuilding parts of the Charnell House in stone and mainly funded by the monastic extraction of tithes or tenths to fund both local church buildings and the monasteries themselves. These were at both Bindon Abbey and Tarrant Abbey. By