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

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

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



Our Vision:

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

Our Mission:

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

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

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

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

A LETTER FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear friends

As I write this, we are still experiencing the unpredictable April weather. We have had some glorious mornings recently – a combination of frost and sun if you're up and out early enough to enjoy it. One afternoon last week Graham, Zinnie and I ventured over to Ringstead Bay, when we got out of the car it was trying to snow, ten minutes later down on the beach we had beautiful sunshine, Zinnie went for a paddle, but looking past the cruise ships to Portland you could see something else brewing! Zinnie and I left Graham to walk up to the top car park, where Graham would meet us in the car. By the time we got up there we were in the middle of a blizzard and you could hardly see a cruise ship let alone Portland. Then as quickly as it had arrived, the snow was gone, and the sun came out again!

It's like this season that we are going through, we get glimpses of sunshine – the rollout of the vaccine, the easing of restrictions, the chance to see loved ones – ok, so you have to wrap up warm! Then we get plunged into a storm – the possibility of an outbreak of Covid somewhere in the country, the news of more violence on the streets, jobs lost. These storms will hopefully pass, but of course some storms stay with us. On Tuesday 6th April we received the sad news that Revd Carol Langford had died after her long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are

with her husband Mark and their sons Dan and Tom and their families in their tragic loss. Carol touched us all in different ways with her depth of faith, her commitment to Christ's mission and her compassion for those in need. She will be greatly missed but we can draw comfort that she is now with her beloved saviour.

Later in the same week we heard the news of the sad passing of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. There are very few alive now who will know of anything different than the loyal years of service given by Her Majesty the Queen and her husband, this is another storm that will stay with us longer and of course we send heartfelt condolences to all of the Royal Family.

When this magazine arrives on your doorstep it will be about five weeks after Easter Sunday, when Easter eggs and chocolate are a distant memory, unless your waistline is still showing the signs of too much indulgence! But in the church, we are still very much thinking about the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection and how they helped the disciples to travel through the storm of crucifixion into the joy of a new day and new life. And that is still what Jesus does. He walks along with us where we are walking, he guides us through those storms through the words of scripture, he helps us make sense of life and its problems, he never abandons us because he loves us.

I pray that you will find Jesus with you in any storms that you are facing.

With blessings

Sandra

Parish and Benefice News

The Benefice is now in a period of Interregnum as we look to fill the vacancy of Incumbent left by the sad and tragic death of Revd Carol Langford. Whilst most things will carry on as normal (Covid restrictions in place, of course) a profile will be produced and then the vacancy will be advertised, we will keep you informed of any progress made. Please hold the Benefice in your prayers at this time.

Maintaining your Parish Church – the APCM and what it means

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners, open to anyone who lives in the parish or worships in the church. The only business is to elect the churchwardens.

And the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which follows on straight away, is open to those who are on the church electoral roll.

For **St Laurence, Affpuddle** – following a 5pm Worship for Rogation on **Sunday 9th May, so from about 5.45pm.**

For **St John the Baptist, Bere Regis** – Wednesday 26th May at 5.00pm

The business – to keep an overview of how the church is being run by receiving

CHURCH AND VILLAGE

ACTIVITIES, SOCIETIES, CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS and CONTACTS

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

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

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

reports on changes to the electoral roll, financial statements of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) for year ending Dec 31st 2020, the state of the church building (fabric), goods and ornaments, the activities of the parish and proceedings of the PCC. To elect representatives to the PCC, appoint sidespeople and the auditor, and to question and discuss issues relating to the parish and its life, ministry and mission.

We are always looking for more willing volunteers to join one of the Parochial Church Council's (PCC) in the benefice and if you would like to offer some time, please do get in touch with either me or one of the Church wardens. It really is a case of many hands make light work.

Thank you

Rev Sandra

FROM THE REGISTERS

St John the Baptist

Funeral

10th April

Tony Booth (Harbour View Crematorium)



AFFPUDDLE CHURCHYARD MOWING ROTA

| | Area 1 | Area 2 | Area 3 | Area 4 |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 26 Apr – 9 May | Damien Lewis | Graham Nobbs | Paul Nottingham | Marek Cropper |
| 10 – 23 May | Chris Parker | Adam Hallmark | Roger Prideaux | Daren Cutler |
| 24 May – 6 Jun | Ivor Bryant | Dave Harper | Steve Sanderson | William Smith |

If you have lost your notes on what to do and how to do it, give me a call – Mike Menzies 01929 471263, michael.menzies@talk21.com

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Simmonds
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May 2021

BISHOP'S LETTER

Making it a Welcome Break

The opening up of our churches at Easter has provided us with much joy. Resurrection hope has entered once again into our hearts and once again we can celebrate within our buildings and sing hymns just outside them.

What is interesting about the resurrection accounts from the Gospels is that they take place both indoors and outdoors; in a garden and in a locked room, in a house and by the lakeside, on the road to Emmaus and up a mountain. Inside and outside is how the good news spread and the early church was born.

Throughout this last year the church has also been inside and outside, making a difference in local communities through significant social action, and enabling worship via zoom, YouTube, Facebook, and as small gatherings in church. It feels though that we have moved into a new phase, and during this month when we celebrate Ascension and Pentecost, we have an opportunity like no other before us.

Ever since Easter many people are booking up a staycation as the country opens up once again and according to the news Dorset and Wiltshire are going to be on many holiday makers lists of places to visit.

If we really believe in our risen and ascended Lord, and the power of the Holy Spirit we have the hope we all need in moving forward, not just for those of us who worship regularly but our neighbours, friends, and strangers also. Engaging with those who have attended worship online will be important going forward as will our hospitality and welcome to those who call in, pass by, and come to stay in our towns and villages. People are also going to be looking for space to reflect, to pray, to worship, to give thanks, for meaning. So, my challenge this month is that we fully prepare for the tourist season. Let us really go to town in demonstrating God's hospitality and welcome inside and outside our buildings, and in doing so share the hope that we have in Jesus Christ abundantly and openly.



Bishop Karen

OTHER CHURCHES NEWS

BERE REGIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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

Tuesdays at 7.30pm Bible Study and Prayer

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

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

Do you ever look around you and think what a wonderful world this is, the vastness of the sky, the warmth of the sun, the moon and stars that shine at night, the myriads of different flowers, grasses , vegetables, and the thousands of insects, (including spiders), and multitudes of different animals. God is an amazing Creator.

Do you ever think that **you** are one of the most wonderful things that God has made? The way that our bodies work is one of God's miracles that we seldom think about – unless something goes wrong!

I recently read an article about how amazing our **feet** are, and their incredible complexity.

Over the next six years, the feet of someone with normal mobility will carry them the same distance as a walk around the world. Every day you take about 30,000 steps, which I find hard to believe, maybe I need to wear a pedometer and find out! There are 206 bones in your body, and a quarter of these are in your feet. Each foot contains 26 bones, linked through 33 joints and lashed together with ligaments.

For a split second during each step, the full weight of the body rests on the ball of the foot, which gives it quite a jolt. Even greater jolts are given to your feet if you run. You stand on gently curved arches ... natural bridges that can support several hundred times their own weight. You keep your balance because your weight is distributed with mathematical exactness. Each arch contains five metatarsal bones which are connected to the toe bones, and carry their share of your weight.

For the time being we continue to observe Covid restrictions, so there's only one customer in the shop at a time and we are grateful to the village hall for opening up and allowing us to facilitate a one way system and somewhere to wait when the weather's not so great.

Thank you for continuing to support the Village shop.

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

Ali Chorley

Chair, The friends of Briantspuddle post office and village shop

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BRIANTSPUDDLE VILLAGE SHOP – NOT JUST FOR COVID 19

Well apart from the frosts which are continuing to prevent planting of Dahlia's in the garden it is starting to feel like spring. I've managed breakfast in the garden for a few mornings now and when faced with a day in front of the laptop starting the morning off outside certainly makes me feel much better.

The village shop continues to be well stocked with fresh fruit and veg. We have inevitably seen sales start to reduce as we are all beginning to travel a bit further and shop in town. My greatest hope though is that everyone will continue to support the shop and ensure we can continue to provide the wide stock that has been so appreciated over the last year.



There are many ways you can support the shop. First and foremost, by coming in and using it. We are open every day Monday to Saturday 9 till 12 and 10 till 12 on Sundays. We have a wide range of Sainsbury's product and we are proud of the wide range of fresh fruit and Veg, meat from Curtis', bread from Williams of Wool and the Italian bakery in Wareham and dairy from Sargents dairy.

There are other ways of support too. Do you fancy a morning once a fortnight serving in the shop? It's a great way to meet people if you're new to the area. There's plenty of support for training and Monday to Friday there's always someone in the Post Office too.

Or maybe a behind the scenes job would suit you better. We collect stock 7 days a week, the papers come from Puddletown, the fruit and veg, Meat and Bread come from Wareham and there are trips to Dorchester Market and Wool. We also need people to take in the Sainsbury's delivery and stock the shelves.

It is great to be part of a wide team who together spread the load and ensure the shop is there for all of us.

Because your feet are downhill from your heart, blood has to flow up in your veins from your feet to your heart, against gravity. Small 'gate-valves' inside your veins open to let the blood flow up, and close to prevent the blood from flowing back down. If you suddenly become afraid of something, the warm blood rushes to your brain. The temperature of your feet falls and you get 'cold feet'.

God made your foot to be one of the most ingenious devices ever made. You can see how your feet work by your footprints in the sand. When you walk your heel prints will be deeper than your toe prints. When you run, your toe prints will be the only ones seen.

This last thought reminded me of this well known poem 'Footprints in the Sand' by Margaret Powers.

"One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the sky flashed scenes of my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one was mine and one was the Lord's. When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the way there was only one set of footprints, and I saw that it was at the lowest and saddest times of my life.



I asked the Lord about it. 'Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk all the way with me. But I notice that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why You left my side when I needed You most.' The Lord said: 'My precious child, I never left you during your times of trial. Where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you.'

We have all found life difficult over the last year, with all the restrictions caused by covid 19, and some of us may have felt very alone during that time. It is good to remember that Jesus is there for us, and when we put our lives in His hands, He will help us, and even carry us through these hard times. He says, "I have made you, and I will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you." Isaiah 46:4 "Come to me, all you who are wearied and burdened, and I will give you rest,... and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28. May the reality of God's love and care bring you comfort and strength to face all the uncertain days ahead. God bless you.

Just a Smile

A national newspaper initiated correspondence on the single-sock puzzle! They received the following poem on the subject from a lady in Poole.

Somewhere there's a happy land where all the odd socks go.
 You never see it happen – but they vanish, that I know.
 I put in two, I take out one, the other's never seen.
 Perhaps my automatic is a kind of time machine
 That whisks them off (but singly) to a place that knows no holes,
 Where they don't get worn or smelly, but have happy little soles.

Notice outside a cemetery: "Due to industrial action, this cemetery will be maintained by a skeleton staff."

Are you considering selling your house, or do you know someone interested in selling?

Property Wanted

We have been looking to buy a permanent home for ourselves in this area but have not seen anything on the market that suits our needs.

Can you help us find a detached house or bungalow with three bedrooms and a good-sized garden in a quiet area? We would also consider a renovation project or suitable land.

Currently in a position to move quickly with solicitor and finances in place, we could easily accommodate a longer time-frame if necessary.

If you have such a property to sell we can be contacted by email: F321Red@aol.com

write to MP Richard Drax concerning the matter and requesting his support for the proposal. Councillors feel that the benefits of the protection and funding that come with National Park status outweigh the negative impacts which could all be mitigated to an extent. The Parish Council will however state that it welcomes the suggestion that the National Park contains all rural Dorset and would suggest that any parish to be included is included in its entirety. In particular, the Council is keen to ensure that Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish is not divided by the boundary of the National Park.

Next Meeting

As things stand from 7th May, Parish Council's will no longer be permitted to hold remote meetings. Whilst these rules may change the Parish Council believes that May is too soon to return to face to face Council meetings in the Village Hall. As a result the Parish Council has decided to bring forward the May meeting to 5th May (a week earlier than usual) so that it can be virtual. There will be an Annual Parish Meeting on the 5th May at 6:30pm which is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions, raise issues or discuss any parish matters. The Annual Council Meeting will follow and a Parish Council Meeting will be held as usual afterwards.

Sue Jones, Chairman

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

Southover Woods Campsite

An enforcement investigation is underway at Dorset Council as concerns have been raised that this campsite is not general permitted development and therefore planning permission should be sought.

The Parish Council has now received correspondence regarding the promotion of campfires at the site. Councillors are concerned that there is a serious risk of woodland fires if this is not carefully managed. It was agreed that these concerns would be passed to the enforcement team at Dorset Council.

Throop Hollow Campsite

A Parish Councillor has been appointed to liaise with the Landowner. The intention is to work through concerns that have been expressed by Parishioners to the Parish Council. Several matters have so far been raised with the site owner and the Parish Council is hoping for a positive response.

Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon

It is a condition of the planning permission that a community liaison group be established to meet twice a year with the Landowner. The Parish Councils affected by the development, Affpuddle & Turnerspudde and Puddletown Area Parish Council, have agreed a joint letter to the Landowner making suggestions about how the group might be best formed together with a need for a Chairman. Councillor Lizzie Guinn has been nominated to represent our Parish Council.

Under the planning condition the Landowner will need to submit a proposal for the establishment of the group to Dorset Council for approval. It is very much hoped that in doing so the preferences submitted to the Landowner jointly by both Parish Councils will be taken into consideration.

Dorset and East Devon National Park

The proposal for a National Park is to be debated in parliament shortly. The map showing the extent of the proposed National Park in Dorset includes all the AONB's as well as what remains of Egdon Heath (extending up to the A35). The Parish Council agreed to



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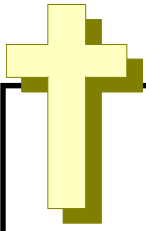
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OBITUARIES

David Charles Whitty

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dave, who had been a regular at the Pop In Place and was well known by many in the village.

Due to covid restrictions his funeral was quite a small gathering but I have shared his tribute for you to read and hope that it will bring a smile as you remember Dave.



Goodbye Turbo Dave

Dave started coming to the Pop In Place about eight years ago, along with Charlie, Lenny and Peggy who he adored, soon he became a regular.

He enjoyed it so much that he decided to leave his bungalow at Sandford and move to Bere Regis, he enjoyed his time in Bere taking part in all the village events and taking his much loved dog, old Nibbles, for walks along the river.

He made regular trips to Guernsey in his little white van loaded to the rafters with his trusted partner Nibbles (The oldest dog in the world) at his side. Dave loved Guernsey, but not as much as he loved old Nibbles.

Alison recalls taking a call from Dave from the stroke unit after one of his near death experiences, with instructions to smuggle Nibbles into Dorchester Hospital in a Wheel Chair under a blanket so that he could see him.

The mission was going pretty well until they had to use the lift and Nibbles started making a noise, a woman in the lift turned and said "Can I hear a dog" Alison just put her head to one side and looked puzzled; then got out of the lift as quick as lightening and proceeded to push Nibbles in the wheelchair to Dave in the Ward.

Luckily they pulled it off with the help of a friendly Staff Nurse; Dave was able to feed him the sausage he had saved from his lunch.

To be fair Dave had a lot of near death experiences but until this last time he fought back from them all.



are itching to get going again but clearly we will have to take one step at a time as each regulation is relaxed. It's been a long hard slog but there does appear to be some light at the end of the tunnel.

Once again I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone who has helped get us this far, not least of all the rest of my trustees who have stayed in post above and beyond their term of office. Once public meetings are allowed we will be having our much overdue agm where those trustees who wish to will be able to step down and anyone who is interested in possibly becoming a trustee can come forward. It is really encouraging that almost every organisation within the village/parish has a representative on the trustees and I truly hope that will remain the case and hopefully improve to cover all organisations. If being a part of the trustees interests you or you are just curious about what it means and involves please give me a shout and let's have a chat. There will be much to be done and many hands make light work.

So here's to 2021 being brighter and happier going forward.

Stuart Chorley, Chairman of Briantspuddle Village Hall Trustees

Email schorley30@gmail.com mobile 07818078191

AFFPUDDLE AND TURNERSPUDDLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting on 14th April was once again held remotely to comply with Government social distancing guidance. Before the meeting began, Councillors took a moment to reflect on the passing of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. As Chairman, I expressed on behalf of all parishioners our gratitude for his lifetime of service and the support he offered to Her Majesty The Queen throughout her reign as Monarch. We also expressed our condolences to the Queen and the Royal Family for their personal loss.

Household food waste and glass recycling collections

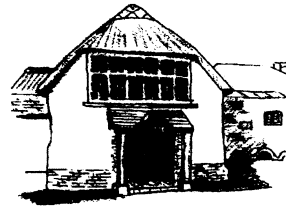
The Parish Council has written several times to Dorset Waste Partnership regarding the collections of waste as concerns have been raised about the care that is taken with the bins. Councillors reported that there has been no improvement still and so the Clerk will once again make a complaint.



BRIANTSPUDDLE AND AFFPUDDLE NEWS

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Hi, here we are again hurtling through 2021. The sun is shining, the birds are singing and we are well into round two of the covid vaccinations. The lockdown easing means we have been able to reopen the village hall café, albeit outdoors, and fortunately so far the weather has made that possible. It's been great just to be able to hear laughter and conversations amongst friends and families again. The emergency government funding provided last year to help us survive financially during the pandemic is starting to run out now and we will soon have to start dipping into our reserves so let's hope this one way route out of lockdown carries on successfully and we can see some more activities being able to take place.

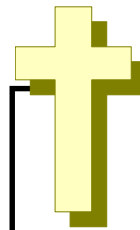


With the café re opened we are on the look out for a few volunteers who would be happy to bake a cake a couple of times a month or maybe help out in the kitchen on either Tuesday or Saturday mornings. Ideally with enough volunteers we won't be needing to ask people to do every week but maybe a couple of shifts a month. Please let me know if you are able to be a part of this venture. It's great to be able to raise some much needed funds but it's also great to be able to enjoy the atmosphere of village life taking tentative steps back

to normality.

The village hall will play its part in getting the wheels of democracy turning again as we host polling for the local elections this month and once we know what numbers and social distancing requirements will be in place when we are able to begin using indoor spaces again we can look to see what events and activities can begin again. Hopefully it won't be too long before Pilates, yoga and keep fit may be able to start up once more. I know other hirers and supporters of the hall

Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle website: www.briantspuddle.info



OBITUARIES

He enjoyed the country shows and steam fairs and was supported by the wonderful Wareham Lions with their disability transport bus, this meant he could get places in his scooter.

He was such a character bombing around on his mobility scooter, he went at such a speed we named him Turbo Dave.

He really enjoyed all the events arranged at the Pop In Place, especially the productions, for "The Way out West" he gave us a gun as a prop, he said he kept it in his bedside drawer in case of trouble.



Dave came on the Alzheimer's Memory walk, on his scooter of course; we all had a job to keep up with him.

The Christmas carol mornings, he loved the singing and particularly the mince pies.

We went to Holme Garden Centre and had lunch, he had a bit of trouble with his new teeth, in the end he gave up wearing them altogether took them out and put them in his pocket.

When we read he wanted a Pam Ayres poem at his funeral the one selected wasn't a difficult choice.

During this time his health deteriorated and he had a stroke making this independent and strong man vulnerable.

Sadly in what seems a very unfair world Dave was moved from Bere Regis for his own safety and put into residential care.

It was hard for Dave to accept his lack of mobility and loss of independence and he struggled in the latter years of his life but underneath he was still quick witted, always coming out with things that couldn't fail to make you laugh.

After another attempt at independent living in Sandford he eventually went back to Anglebury Court where he ended his days.



Where, apart from the recent lock down and not being able to escape around the town, taking out the



OBITUARIES

odd pedestrian as he rushed off to board a boat to Brownsea, he was happy and that is thanks to the great staff there.

Dave, If he hadn't been so poorly would have doubtless rather enjoyed his final journey in the Ambulance, mainly because of the high speed he was travelling racing through Wareham and Sandford to Poole Hospital.

Sadly he had suffered a massive heart attack and there was no more they could do for him.

Dave, our dear old friend, We will miss you for sure;

You were a unique Character, with the most terrific sense of fun.

We just hope that now you have your wings you will be able to go even faster.



later was prosecco in the garden. It was cold. The ice cream van was back over Easter weekend so a group of us met and her friends threw sticks for me down by the river walk while they ate ice creams.

She has been on another walk from the Visitor centre at Thomas Hardy's cottage. It was busy and the car park was overflowing. One reason is that for five people in her party there were four cars. Again really good to sit outside and partake of takeaway refreshments in company.

The Drax Arms weekly quiz had ended. Some local pubs will open next week but Bere Regis is still dry and will wait until May. The Royal Oak and Drax will still be shut this week. I was left outside again at Bartletts. The girls there took pity on me and gave me some Dog Biscuits. We have done Easter Flowers in the church on Easter Saturday. Conversation has moved on to the second vaccinations. The hairdressers open this week but I think it may be some time before she can get an appointment.

Hopefully things will get back to normal but she thinks now self catering accommodation is opening, and the stay at home part of lockdown is ending. We will have more people down here on holiday. She is told that holiday bookings are almost fully booked so will have to look forward to Gridlock Dorset this summer. Back to partying in the garden, shopping first thing to avoid the traffic and watching cricket at the Sports Club.

Jenny Stone

Are you over 50?
Do you live in the Parish?
Do you enjoy good food?

Temporarily Suspended

friendly environment

SALT & PEPPER CLUB

SAL...
 Held on the ...
 at 12.30pm

Initial one off membership fee...
 and then £5 per meal.

For more information or to book your meal
 Call Brenda House on 01929 471255.

We look forward to seeing you!

inserted in his mouth. He had black and purple hair made out of wavy wool. I watched her struggle to put him outside but as soon as he was vertical all his padding went south and he lost his shape.

Why was she so bad tempered? After weeks of inertia she suddenly had to do something for a deadline and it was hard work. The house was a tip. She had purple paint hands and there were chips of plastic all over the floor and glue on the table. The creative process was being frustrated. Having said that most people (bar one friend who was honest enough to say it was terrible) have enjoyed the Scarecrows and appreciated the effort. At least the weather was dry as I am sure if it rained, the purple paint would have run producing purple puddles in the street.

She has completed the 2021 Census, so her presence here, is recorded for posterity. They didn't ask about dogs as I am not important. I am recording my life here at this moment as it is in this magazine. I am sure if dogs were recorded, there would be many more dogs. There is a higher than average incidence of dog ownership in this village. There is a lot of worry about dog theft. She still leaves me outside the shop. She says, at least people, know whose dog I am. I am chipped. No one would steal me, I am too old and no one would want the vet's bills. Speaking of which, I have been back to see the Spanish Vet in Blandford. I have new drugs and am much better.



I think being inside is getting to her. She still watches the News and all the Covid statistics. The news from America is the George Floyd Murder Trial. She was saying on zoom she was fed up with news pictures of vaccinations and discussion about Astra Zeneca blood clots. She should be careful what she wished for. The Duke of Edinburgh died and rolling news coverage was fine for a few news bulletins but it was all channels and went on repeating forever. She stopped watching and read a book.

The weather has been dry but very cold at night. There have even been some flurries of snow. My owner tells me it is statistically more likely to snow at Easter in Dorset than at Christmas. The grass is growing but slowly, too cold at night and not enough moisture.

We are back to the rule of six outside. We went to a garden Good Friday breakfast for scrambled eggs, salmon with buttered Hot cross buns coffee and marmalade. It was cold and everyone was wearing coats woolly hat and gloves. It was sunny but so good for humans to get together legally. Another get together

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Coming up in May we have the State Opening of Parliament. The news this week has been full of the very sad death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and I attended a very moving memorial service for him in Wimborne Minster. This year's Queen's speech was already going to be unlike any other due to the coronavirus restrictions, and Prince Philip has not accompanied her to the State Opening for several years. I am sure however, that the Queen will very much miss his support and constancy. We don't yet have all the full details of how the State Opening will operate, but it is being carefully planned. It is usually an occasion when all the members of the House of Lords and House of Commons gather together in one place – which of course will not be possible this year.



At the State Opening, the Queen will read out a speech prepared by the Government detailing the plans for the Parliamentary year. Some of the Bills will be carried over from the current Parliamentary session, including the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, the Environment Bill and the Armed Forces Bill. The Government have also confirmed that we will introduce legislation to improve the building safety regulations, reform our asylum system and to repeal the Fixed-term Parliaments Act.

Here in Dorset we have been having a period of very unsettled weather. I got caught in a rather unexpected hail storm whilst cycling, having set out in glorious sunshine. Hopefully by the time this is published, the weather will have improved and we will be enjoying some more sunshine.

The changeable weather has been challenging for those meeting friends and family outside as restrictions have been gradually eased, but it is still important to ensure good ventilation once we are able to meet socially indoors later this month. It's excellent news that the roadmap is on track so far, with more retail and hospitality able to open, and the opening up again of sport and other leisure activities. With cases hopefully continuing to fall, and vaccination levels high, we will be able to continue to open up even further. This week the Dorset healthcare area is the top in the country for first doses of the vaccine, with hundreds of people now getting their second dose. For those of you, like me, who have not yet been called for your jab, please be assured that the local GPs and vaccination hubs are working incredibly hard get through everybody as quickly as they can.

I know this has been a very challenging time for our cultural sector, and I am really pleased that several of our local businesses and charities have benefited



from the culture recovery fund, including The Tivoli in Wimborne, and the Rex in Wareham. Sport is also re-starting, and I was delighted to open the new cricket nets at The Hamworthy Club in Merley. The club has been acting as a vaccine hub, but is now also able to open for sport and hospitality. This is particularly good news for the youth teams, as I know that

the lack of sport and recreation has been especially difficult for young people.

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

Michael.

LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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

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DOG BLOG

Scarecrows

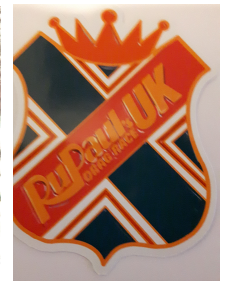
It's all my fault, that my Owner is tired grumpy frustrated and exhausted. My fault that I suggested she did a drag scarecrow. It was her idea to do something specific like Lawrence Chaney the winner of Ru Paul's drag race. Not much has gone right.

An appeal to the WI for a long dress or purple skirt produced a white polyester Wedding dress. An attempt to dye this purple produced a baby pink dress. She then obtained purple spray paint from the Range which is still open. (Not many essential goods on sale in there but they sell Bird seed and pet food). Only one tin of paint available and this ran out. When applied to the fabric the paint went everywhere and was not even. She used cheap purple poster paint to finish it.

She was unable to get black and white check fabric for the racing checks and used fur fabric instead. She was thrilled to be able to order Ru Paul badges but they didn't turn up on time so were never used. I was fed up with her bad moods. I would come in from a walk and find Lawrence Chaney's Papier mache head drying out in the oven. His body was assembled and left lying on a trestle table in the front room as if he was lying in state. He was being regularly turned like a Covid patient so she could work on both sides.



The hands were made from plastic Gloves stuffed with tissues and wires. His nails were cut out of a plastic milk bottle stuck on and painted red. The teeth were fashioned out of the handles of plastic knives and



What is Poetry?

Poetry is simply a message
A message that comes from your heart
An expression of inner happiness
A delight to share and impart.

A statement of gratitude to life
For all her bounteous treasure
For flowers that colour our summer days
And bird song, a joy beyond measure.

Eileen Richardson

Poetry is choosing words with care
To explain our innermost feeling
Hoping to please the listening ear
That the picture they paint is appealing.

A marriage of ideas and phrases
Where visions and beauty are planned
Where mankind lives in harmony
And love and peace walk hand in hand.

Dutch Waterscape

Not a sound to break the silence
Not a distant bell to chime
The whole world seemed so peaceful
The only thing to move was time.

All the days were warm and sunny
The nights silky smooth like balm
The water in the canals like a millpond
Like a sea that was forever calm.

The scene that passed was ever changing
At every bend there was something new
Picturesque houses, small and grand
Our eyes were enchanted by each view.

We wondered 'What's hiding round the corner?
Round the bend what scenic beauty lies?
What picture will nature have painted?

What lovely view to delight our eyes?'

'Would there be a graceful windmill?
A lifting bridge or a lock?
A church to remind us time was passing
With the slowly moving hands on the clock?'

As we slowly floated past the reed beds
A glimpse of grebe with chicks at play
Moorhens and ducks on their floating nests
The heron, a fisherman waiting for his prey.

They say in Holland that God made the world
But the Dutch created their own land
But I wonder if they made it together?
If by Man and nature this scene was planned?

Eileen Richardson



DORSET COUNCIL- WEST PURBECK REPORT

Summer Visitors

Dorset Council is part of a multi-agency group of partners including Dorset Police, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dorset health partners and BCP Council, working together to tackle some of the more undesirable experiences from last year.



Dorset attracts around 3.6 million overnight visits and 26.4 million day-visitors annually. In June last year travel restrictions had been relaxed but hotels, campsites and public toilets remained closed due to Covid-19. Dorset's most popular destinations became overcrowded and experienced problems with littering, illegal parking and outdoor toileting. Summer 2021 is likely to be very busy again, with 'stay-cationers' looking for a coastal retreat but possibly unable to travel abroad until later in the season. Hotspots last summer included West Bay, West Bexington, Weymouth, Lulworth and Swanage.

DORSET has been awarded more than £816,000 as part of a government initiative to help towns reopen as restrictions ease. The money, announced by Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick, comes from the government's wider £56 million Welcome Back Fund scheme. BCP Council has been awarded more than £416,000 and Dorset Council more than £400,000.



Using this Government funding, the Council will employ more parking wardens, put in place more waste bins and collections, improved signage to warn of dangers of disposable BBQs and they are considering a possible ban on beach camping at some sites, where there are currently no restrictions. However, this will not stop any determined law breakers, so we have requested that the police

adopt a greater and more high profile role in responding to incidents.

The council is also looking at innovative ideas like electric hot plate installations at key locations to deter the use of disposable BBQs known to cause devastating fires, and working with Highways Agency to identify any new tow-away areas in places where irresponsible parking is a problem. The council is also working closely with landowners to open up properly managed additional camping / parking areas.

Shielding Support is still available

Advice for people considered clinically extremely vulnerable because of COVID-19 changed from 1 April as the numbers of new cases continues to fall. Residents in this category should have received a letter from the government, advising them that they no longer need to shield. The letter also offers new guidance how they can safely start to get back out and about. Support from Dorset Council will remain in place for anyone who has been shielding and needs some extra help, as well as for anyone needing to self-isolate. Help with things like grocery shopping, travelling to vaccination appointments, or even dog walking can be accessed at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/coronavirus. or by calling the Dorset Together helpline 01305 221000.

Electrical vehicle charge points

New electric vehicle charge points are now ready to use in five car parks in Dorset - with more to be switched on in the coming weeks. Electric vehicle charge points have been installed and are now live at Wollaston Field car park, Dorchester; Gas Lane, Gillingham; Old Market Yard, Sherborne; The Hub car park, Verwood; and King Street car park, Wimborne. The installation of the new charge points is one of several measures in Dorset Council's ambition to become zero carbon by 2040 and helps to meet several actions in its Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Action Plan. More car charging points will be ready to use in the coming months, a total of 17 council-owned car parks across the Dorset Council area will have the new electric car charging facilities - with each location having a minimum of two charge points. The government plans to phase out sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030, so it is important drivers are offered more sustainable travel options now.

The fast (22kW) charge points DC are installing (at no cost to the Council Taxpayers) are supplied with 100% renewable energy and will enable drivers to charge their electric vehicles while visiting the county's towns. A



POETRY CORNER

Ice Cream

Spring has nearly sprung.
 The grass has, all but, grew.
 The bees have begun to bumble,
 And I've noticed a swallow or two,
 When the clouds roll high above,
 Against a sky, that's blue,
 I never say no to an ice cream,
 It is not a thing I do.

When the sun is shining.
 And if you go to the zoo,
 You can wrap your tongue round a
 99,
 Whilst watching a kangaroo,
 Or a llama or a mountain bear,
 From faraway Peru.
 I never say no to an ice cream,
 As sure as a cow goes moo.

It is not a pastime, for which,
 I would not want to queue,
 For me, it's an institution.
 I cannot speak for you.
 It is built into my psyche,
 And it will be until I'm through.
 I never say no to an ice cream,
 As does the woman I woo.

Spring has nearly sprung.
 There is blossom on the tree.
 The sparrow builds its nest,
 As does the bumble bee.
 What is not to like?
 Who could disagree?
 I never say no to an ice cream,
 And it never says no to me.

Paul J Openshaw (April 2021)

Reciprocating Saw

I told him that I liked his teeth.
 They were something, I could not ignore.

He told me he liked mine, as you might expect,
 From a reciprocating saw.

Paul J Openshaw (March 2021)

Like all swimmers I feel terribly hungry after a swim so the barbecue laid on by the hotel was very welcome.

Time to thank Sally and her team for a really enjoyable swim and wish Scott and his family a happy holiday. From the happy look on his face, I knew he would be back next year. He had swum well without a wetsuit, finishing in the top 20.

There was a mad scramble for the sea tractor as we all tried to leave together. As I looked back I could see the island give a rascally glint in the gathering evening gloom. The few hours we spent there had passed in a moment.

I loved the informality of it all and the sense of fun. Shouldn't this be what swimming is all about? It didn't seem to matter too much whether you won or lost, it was enjoying the moment that counted. I shall definitely be back again next year!



quick top-up (a charge of 15 minutes) will enable a journey of about 15 miles, or a full charge will take 2-4 hours, depending on the vehicle. To see the locations of all Dorset's charge points, visit www.zap-map.com

Abandoned Vehicles

On Tuesday 16 March, officers from Dorset Council's Waste Enforcement Team carried out an operation targeting untaxed vehicles in Weymouth that were reported as abandoned by members of the public. This followed a similar operation the previous week when the team attended three locations across Dorset, responding to abandoned vehicle reports in Bridport, Portland, and Swanage. For a vehicle to be considered "abandoned", it must be parked on public land/highway (such as a residential road) and not be taxed. The Enforcement Team receive around 1,300 legitimate reports of abandoned vehicles each year, with about 60% qualifying for enforcement such as fines, clamping and/or removal.

If members of the public wish to report an untaxed vehicle, this can be done online. We would encourage the vehicle owners to contact the Waste Enforcement Team on 01305 225473 so that officers can assist them to secure the release of their vehicle. Please note that if a vehicle has been left on the highway and is causing a hazard or has been burnt out and reported by the police, its tax and MOT status is irrelevant, and Dorset Council will investigate. If any member of the public suspects a vehicle has been abandoned on a public highway, they should report it to us via our online form or by calling 01305 221040.

2 The Old Stables, Manor Farm Road, BH20 7HD

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Please don't recycle nappies!

A campaign has been launched aimed at stopping disposable nappies from contaminating recycling as a survey reveals more than one million UK nappy users are putting them in their recycling bins. Dorset Council has joined forces with environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy to launch the campaign. A council spokesman said: "Each year there are around 3,300 births recorded in Dorset and, at an estimated 2,200 nappies per baby per year, this means there are about seven million used disposable nappies in Dorset household waste every year."



Recycling bins containing materials which cannot be recycled at the kerbside

cannot be collected for fear of contaminating the whole lorry load. Instead they are collected as rubbish and sent for treatment, at a greater expense to the council and the taxpayer. Dorset Council hopes that not only will the campaign raise awareness of the problem of putting nappies in recycling bins, it will encourage people to choose to start using reusable nappies which are better for the environment and save money for both parents and the council. The campaign will be appearing on billboards around the country. In Dorset, the campaign will mainly be supported by social media posts and advertising.

Tenants protected from unsafe accommodation

Officers were called to a converted stable block which was being used for rented accommodation by a couple and their two young children; they found unsafe living conditions including disrepair to flooring and bathroom fittings. The landlord had no gas safety certificate or Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The owner was required to carry out repairs and a legal notice was served to ensure an EPC was obtained. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) were contacted and they required the gas certificate to be obtained. Upon inspection by a Gas Safe engineer, the gas boiler was found to be dangerous and was condemned. A new gas boiler was installed. The family were moved into safe accommodation via Housing Services and the landlord has since ceased using the accommodation for rent.

A direct message from the Police concerning violence against women

Recently many people in our communities have felt the need to speak out about their experiences and fears of violence, abuse, or harassment in this country. We acknowledge that this is a very real and concerning problem in our own communities in Dorset and recognise that people are worried. We would like to reassure everyone that we understand your concerns and we are listening to them. It is completely unacceptable for women of any age to feel unsafe whether they are at home, on the streets, in school or at work.

This is a problem that directly affects half of our communities and we need to ensure women and all in our communities feel safe. It is paramount that we as a police service are part of the solution, stand alongside women and girls in our communities and bring about real change that will benefit generations to come. Dorset Police remains absolutely committed to protecting everyone from violence and society must play their part in stopping this. We take reports of violence, harassment, and assault very seriously. We will investigate these reports and do everything we can, working with partners across the criminal justice

We were soon being asked to take to the water and form a line just in front of the slipway. Once in the water it became clear that the tide would be running fairly strongly against us for the first part of the swim. However, there was much jollity amongst the swimmers as we prepared for the start, and then we were off!



Arms flailing, leg kick full tilt, it is always the same in these races whether it is a mile or ten miles, everyone goes for it at the start. I tried to settle into a steady rhythm and lengthened my arm stroke whilst finding some clear water and staying close to shore.

The swim is anti clockwise around the island so for me breathing mainly left sided, it was great! The trouble is that if you stay too close to the coastline, you tend to get caught up in the rocks and snag your hands, knees or feet on the hidden rocks beneath the surface.

The island is a mile round and because of the tidal flow, difficult to pick a line to make maximum use of it. The safety paddlers were on call as we made our way to the western edge then making our turn to swim on the far side of the island. Here, there was a fairly heavy swell and the sea was being whipped up and few white seahorses began to appear.

I love swimming in rough water and so enjoyed the sea crashing around me. I found myself in the company of a couple of other swimmers and swam with them for a while. One of the joys of open water swimming is being with others and pitting yourself against the elements.

At last I could see the hotel astride the cliff tops. Not much further now. The swim had been more challenging than I had imagined given the prevailing weather conditions but as I turned the last corner, the slipway and the finish came into view.



My number was checked as I came out the water and I was offered a traditional tot of rum as the island's own "merman" (a chap in drag!) looked on. There were only around 10 swimmers on the slipway and Diana told me later that I came around 11/12th. I guess this was not bad for an old boy old enough to be the grandfather of some of the swimmers.

We settled on a bench by the Pilchard Inn to survey the scene. The tide was already beginning to rise and I soon realized that other swimmers were on the island, preparing for the race. The barbecue was already being set out and there was a general flurry of activity.

The time had come for registration as we lined up to be ticked off and have our hand numbered with a marker pen. I was number one so that was easy to remember! Sally and her fellow organisers were greeting the swimmers in a friendly welcoming way. It all seemed so informal.

We were soon joined by Scott and his family from Lewes who were holidaying on Dartmoor and were down for the day hoping to get a last minute place in the race. He was told to come back at 5.30 when he may be allocated a place in the swim.

Time moved on and more and more swimmers joined us. The seawater was now flowing over the sandbar and the last of the competitors were wading out from the mainland.

I was in the experts' race which was a little surprising as I have never considered myself an expert at anything. There were fifty of us experts on the day and there was also an amateur race with a similar number of swimmers.

Most of the swimmers wore wetsuits and I felt obliged to join them as I am much quicker swimming in one. The value of a wetsuit is not just that it keeps you relatively warm and your body more efficient, but it also adds buoyancy and keeps everything including legs to the surface. A decent kick is not required to maintain a good streamlined body position and the arm stroke is king. The downside is that for a true open water swimmer, you do feel a little like a trussed up chicken encased in rubber.



The 6 pm start was soon approaching and Scott had his participation in the race confirmed and it turned out that he was an expert also!

We were then called to the safety briefing which consisted of a few dos and don'ts. Apart from obeying the safety crew at all times, there were a few other instructions like no fins. Now I wonder where that came from. The other no-go territory was not to cut one of the corners of the island by swimming through a rocky inlet. What some people will do to win is beyond me!

system, to bring offenders to justice. We will continue to work with those people affected to better understand the impact on them and how we can improve our response. As always, we encourage anyone who has been the victim of rape, sexual assault, abuse or harassment to have the confidence to report it to us. We are here for you.

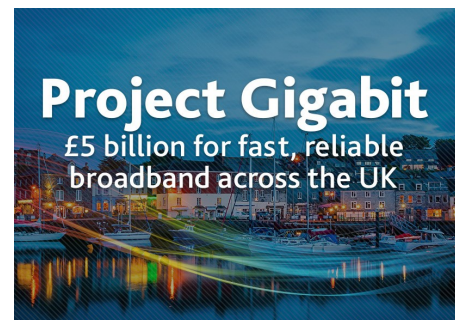
South Walks House Dorchester

Dorset Council is considering that its headquarters in South Walks House, Dorchester, be permanently closed and transformed for other use, possibly residential. The Dorchester offices have been closed since the start of lockdown last year and even with an easing of restrictions Dorset Council has said it will continue to have many of its staff working from home, at least part-time. The council has proposed the library and learning centre, attached to the west end of the building, will remain open, with a new customer access point within it.



There is little demand in Dorchester for anything like the amount of office accommodation available in South Walks House, either for permanent or shared use. In the next few months as business returns to normal we anticipate we will find more and more office space becoming available as it is left by businesses failing or deciding to work more remotely.

We are proposing that employees be moved to County Hall, Coalition Park, and plan to invest £2.1m into a range of energy saving measures there. Clearly there remain considerable savings to be made as a result of the abolition of five District Councils and a full study of all the office accommodation in the whole of Dorset is now underway



Project Gigabit - next steps in connecting the nation to fast, reliable broadband

We are very pleased to be one of only six areas in the UK to benefit from the first tranche of the government's £5bn Project Gigabit . This will bring ultra-fast broadband to some of the most

rural and hard to reach parts of the county and will help put Dorset on the digital map. It will of course still leave many rural residents waiting for this service.

This is alongside our ground-breaking 5G RuralDorset project which continues to receive recognition, as well as other our broadband interventions will in time increase both fixed-line and mobile connectivity in the County. This follows months of behind-the-scenes lobbying for better broadband in Dorset - led by West Dorset MP Chris Loder and myself. Projects will prioritise Dorset areas that currently have slow connections and will be predominantly aimed at schools and doctors' surgeries. Dorset has almost 96 per cent superfast coverage thanks to the council's partnership with Openreach, which began nine years ago. However, when it comes to the next generation of gigabit capable broadband, Dorset only has seven per cent coverage, compared with 38 per cent nationally. We have a letter from the Digital Minister supporting our programme and in it two links below, which are of relevance to the project, particularly those who are in very hard to reach premises

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises>

St Mary's School near Shaftsbury

Local people and community groups have given their views on the future of the former St Mary's school site near Shaftsbury. Of the 1,400 people who responded to the recent survey from Dorset Council, an overwhelming 92 per cent expressed their support for the site to continue to be used for educational purposes. The majority, 89 per cent favoured using the site as a SEND (special educational needs and or disabilities) school. Dorset residents also backed the idea of creating complementary facilities for vulnerable children, young people and adults alongside its educational purpose, (82 per cent). The responses will now be carefully considered before a decision on the future of the site is made at an upcoming meeting of Dorset Council's Cabinet.



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BURGH ISLAND

No one could fail to be impressed with their first sight of Burgh Island. As we descended the steep hill in the car, it was there, majestic, cool and serene, like a pop up in a children's book. A grand carpet of sand seemed to have been especially rolled out from the mainland for our visit, the sun shone brightly and the sky was an azure blue. Perfect!



We negotiated the Devon lanes with care, some so narrow that we had to reverse to let oncoming traffic through, but now we were in the giant car park and the whole place was heaving with holidaymakers. At 4 O'clock in the afternoon, it was a very busy scene and there seemed no place to park the car.

Finally, we found a parking space and negotiated the steep steps down on to the sands. There, the giant sand bar was exposed by the sea until the tide came in. High tide was at 8 O'clock that evening so the sands were filled with holidaymakers enjoying the day.



We made our way slowly across the causeway through the basking throng and up the boat launching slipway onto the island. The famous sea tractor was there in all its glory waiting to ply its trade when the tide came in. This is provided by the hotel to ferry its guests to and from the island at high tide.

The Burgh Island Hotel sits on the top of the eastern side of the island and looks a wonderful place to stay. The hotel now completely restored to its former glory, was built in 1929, a truly iconic building depicting the art deco feeling of elegance and romance. Little wonder that such luminaries as Agatha Christie and Noel Coward flocked there in its heyday.

When I first came to swim a couple of years ago, I thought it would be nice to spend the night there. A quick trawl of the hotel's website told me that the cheapest rooms were £370 per night for bed and breakfast and I quickly went off the idea!

these fertilisers into rivers and other water supplies, causing all sorts of alien vegetative growth and chemical contamination .As for chemical sprays, some have been a definite problem since first used, for example, when glyphosphates were first introduced we couldn't believe our luck, they did a wonderful job but are now banned widely because of the damage they can do. Many new changes have been made which are beneficially increasing yields by use of botanical techniques in crops and the use of zoological breeding of higher yielding animals.

Much of what I learnt during my three years at agricultural college, almost sixty years ago is no longer acceptable. Even the plough is becoming a less used tool and surface soils are being treated in entirely different ways. Some years ago I decided I needed to update my complete outlook on life and add to my knowledge of the natural world. So I actually obtained a degree in Environmental Studies with the Open University, which caused me a lot of effort and some trouble but am glad I did it. I can now look on our world with a completely different perspective and appreciate the wonders of the basic, natural world.

At this time of the global pandemic, we think of all those who are suffering, all those who have passed away and we especially want to thank all those who have been instrumental in caring for the sick.

May God bless them all.

Ted Cox

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

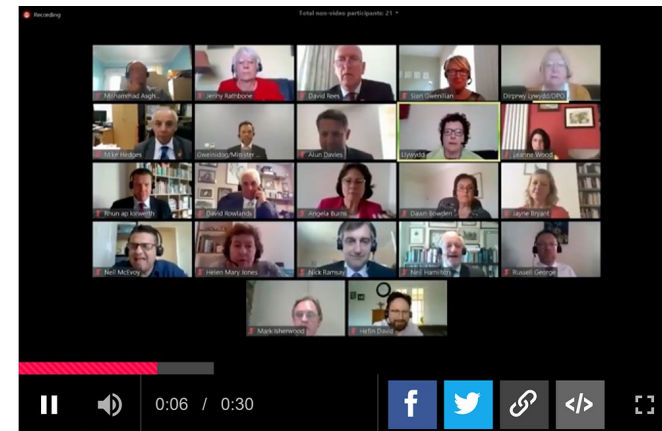
Virtual Meetings

Government recently announced that there would be no extension for local authority virtual meetings to be held after 7 May, due to lack of Parliamentary time to consider this matter. This creates a challenging situation as COVID restrictions are not anticipated to be lifted fully until 21 June at the earliest. In the meantime, we do not have any meeting spaces big enough for all 82 councillors to meet in person in a COVID secure way. To give an indication of the current restrictions, within the whole of the South Walks House committee suite space, there is only sufficient room for a maximum of 15 people to meet in a COVID secure way. And in the County Hall council chamber, it would only be possible for a maximum of 18 people to meet in a COVID secure way. This would not even allow for Cabinet meetings to be held in person.

Our democratic services team has also looked at other possible venues across Dorset, but none have been found where all 82 councillors could meet in person and conduct a Full Council meeting in a COVID secure way. As a result, we have had to move our Annual Council meeting forward by a few days to 4 May so it can be held virtually. We do not yet know whether council meetings will revert to being held in person from 21 June, and this will depend on Government guidance based on the current COVID situation. We have been continually lobbying Government for councils to retain the ability to choose when they whether they want to hold meetings in person, online, or as a hybrid in future. In light of this situation, we have been exploring the options for how we hold council meetings in the interim period between 7 May and 21 June, in a way that is legal, COVID secure, and enables the democratic process to continue. More on this next month

The choice of schools for Children

Recently parents across the county found out which primary, first junior or middle school their child will be going to in September 2021. Of the 4482 applications – 99.09 per cent of parents are receiving the good news that their child has gained one of their three preferences, compared to last years' figure of 98.8 per cent. This includes places for those starting school for the first time, transferring from infant to junior school and transferring from first to middle schools. Of the 3105 applications



for a reception place at Primary, Infant and First schools put into Dorset Council, 98.9 per cent have secured a place at one of their preferred schools. 100 per cent of children got their first choice for junior school, 97.5 per cent for middle school and 94 per cent for reception.

Any parents who failed to get their highest preference school and are wanting to appeal against the decision can do so on school admissions page on the website.

Surgery

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

Peter Wharf & Laura Miller, Dorset Councillors for West Purbeck

SPEEDING ON THE C6 THROUGH SOUTHBROOK AND RYE HILL BERE REGIS

We have received a reply from the Dorset Council and regrettably it is not in favour of reducing the speed limit to 20 mph.

I have published a copy of the letter for you to read the responses.

Thankfully Angie and Ian Wright are well ahead with establishing a Community Speed Watch and this will be our way forward to support our case.

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters and signed the petition, I don't feel that it was a wasted effort as it has raised awareness of our concerns, and these will not disappear, as lockdown eases and the traffic gets heavier and we have collected recorded speeds we will be in a stronger position to resubmit this once again.

Also when you read this we will (hopefully) have the SID in action, another proactive step that is being taken.

In the meantime this road remains a concern and we will continue to campaign for the safety of our community.

Alison Bennett

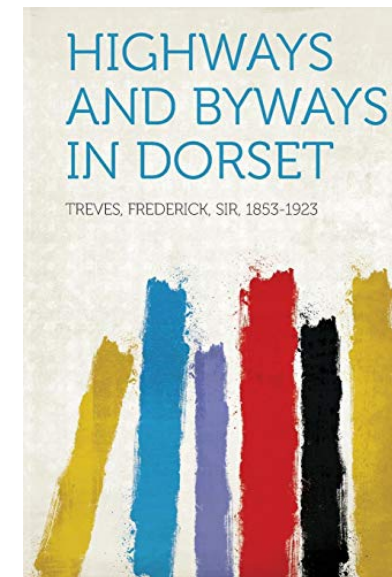
up along the ditches leading to the river. Also in the wet environment next to the river are that great relative of the celandine and buttercup, the marsh marigold or king cup, with its large, glossy yellow blooms, up to five centimetres across and large glossy, kidney shaped green leaves. Another very prolific flower now to be seen in our woodlands is the bluebell, which is now beginning to blossom in huge quantities.

It is wonderful living in the countryside but how things change even in the countryside.. I have recently been reading Frederick Treves book Highways and Byways in Dorset, first published in 1906. He mentions the maze at Leigh, which he says was on high ground in an open field. He goes on to say, "Of the winding passages no trace survives. Nothing indeed is left but the low bank and the ditch, with which the place of entertainment was surrounded. The enclosure is circular and very small It would not content the present day villager, who needs for his open air pleasures, a barrel-organ, a roundabout, plenty of swings, a row of coconuts to "shy" at and if possible, a fat woman in a tent."

So you see our needs over the past one hundred and twenty years have changed even more. However it is great to see so many people walking in the countryside today and the number of television programs about the countryside and farming. All supported by a huge, wonderful selection of books on the countryside, the environment generally, climatic situations and wildlife generally and of course the inclusion in our children's', education all kinds of subjects involving the natural world.

In the past century many things have changed in the natural world as a result of the huge increase in human population and of mans' influence on the environment generally. The use of plastics and polythene, the burning of fossil fuels and the increase of the use of oil products including petrol and diesel producing more and more carbon dioxide .have of course caused huge environmental problems.

Even agriculture has to change quite radically. When I was at college we learnt about the use of all sorts of chemicals, which were to the benefit of farming generally or so we thought and therefore to mankind. Since then, the use of many chemicals, including fertilisers have been accepted as a detriment to the world generally. For instance, the use of high levels nitrogenous fertilisers to increase yields were thought to be essential but little was thought about the leaching of



LOCKDOWN STORIES

Over the hill May 2021

Despite the warnings that we have received about bad weather coming our way and some early morning frosts resulting from these forecasts, spring is with us. Trees are in leaf, including hawthorn, sycamore, several species of willow and of course the blackthorn which is different to these other species and insists on producing its flowers before its leaves. What a show it has produced with its white blossoms this year. Also it looks as if some of the ash trees are about burst their buds and produce leaves. The oaks on the other hand are not showing any sign of coming into leaf. So I hope this does not activate the saying:-

The oak before the ash, we will only get a splash.

The ash before the oak we will surely get a soak.



The trees are not the only plants of the countryside, which are worth noting at this time of year. Certain flower species are very conspicuous this year compared with past times, despite the warnings of our meteorologists, to expect cold conditions.

As I have previously mentioned, celandines are prolific this year and despite normally being a fairly short lived and fairly delicate flower, this year they are very abundant and long lived, creating a wonderful display. Primroses too are in magnificent display and are flowering over a considerable period, as are wild white and blue violets.

Also worth mentioning again are the snow flakes, which are dependent on a damp environment. They are in excellent and copious display, even spreading

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BERE REGIS NEWS

BERE REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Parish Council met remotely via Zoom on Thursday 8th April 2021 with one member of the public present. The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th May 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.

Speed Indicator Device

The SID has now arrived. We are merely awaiting installation training for the Lengthsman for it to be operational. This will be happening during the next few weeks and the SID will be up and running by the end of April.

“No Man’s Land” Planting

We are very grateful to Dorset Trees for the tree planting on “No Man’s Land”, the patch of ground partially enclosed by the School drive near the end of Egdon Close. About two thirds of the trees have been planted and it is hoped that we will be able to organise an event in the Autumn when local children will be able to help plant the remaining trees.

Neighbourhood Plan—White Lovington Site Planning Application

A planning application was heard by Dorset Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee on Wednesday 7th April. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan had specified approximately 12 dwellings on this site, the plan that was approved will allow 17

arrived at Covent Garden at about 6am. After unloading we went on to Spitalfield market. We got out of London about 8am. We stopped at Chiswick for breakfast, and got back home at 1pm."

14-15 April 1949: "Mr Hann came and asked me to go to London with him. At about 11.15pm we set off for London in the cress lorry. We stopped at Chiswick for refreshment, and got into Covent Garden at 5am. We got out of London early, as there was very little traffic. We stopped again at Chiswick for breakfast. It was beautiful weather and the trip was very enjoyable."

26-27 April 1949: "Late in the evening went to London with the cress lorry. Mervyn Bailey was the driver, and we left at midnight. We got to Covent Garden by 3.30am. We unloaded at 6.30am and went on to Spitalfield Market. Mervyn wanted to do some shopping so we waited and had a look around the big shops. We got back home at 1.45pm."

16-17 May 1949: "... then at 11.30pm I left for London with Mr Hann in the cress lorry. After travelling all night we arrived at Spitalfield market and partly unloaded, then we went on to Covent Garden, where we had a job to get in. We got out of London by about 9am, and came home via Salisbury, arriving home at about 1pm."

There were probably many other trips when my Dad went on the cress-run, but these are the only ones that I could find.



dwellings. The Parish Council opposed granting the application mainly on the grounds that an uplift of 42% in the number of dwellings was not in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. The planning Committee nonetheless approved the application by 6 votes to 4. Whilst we regret that our objections were over-ruled, it is worth noting that if the Neighbourhood Plan had not been in place, a developer could have brought forward plans for a development of up to 30 houses on this site.

Commemorative Garden

We approved plans to enhance the top of the Cemetery, with two aims. Firstly, this will provide a site for members of the community to work together to improve a vital village resource, and secondly to enhance the top end of the cemetery as a place for quiet reflection and contemplation.

Benches

A new bench, donated in memory of a Bere Regis resident, will be installed soon at the Western end of the streamside open space, and we hope to put in picnic benches near to the Scout Hut shortly.

Community Speedwatch Project,

This team is headed by Angie and Ian Wright and is getting ready to undertake training and hope to be up and running in the next few months. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact Dorset Road Safe here: www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk

Annual Parish Meeting and AGM

We are obliged to hold these meetings before the end of May, so they will have to be held remotely. Our annual Parish Meeting will be on 6th May. We would invite anyone who wishes to attend to let our clerk know, in order to be given the link.

Considerate driving

There have been a number of complaints recently about traffic speeding, particularly on Elder Road, and noisy vehicles driving through the village early in the morning. May we ask all drivers to show respect for other residents by driving carefully and quietly in the built-up area.

Footpaths and Bridleways

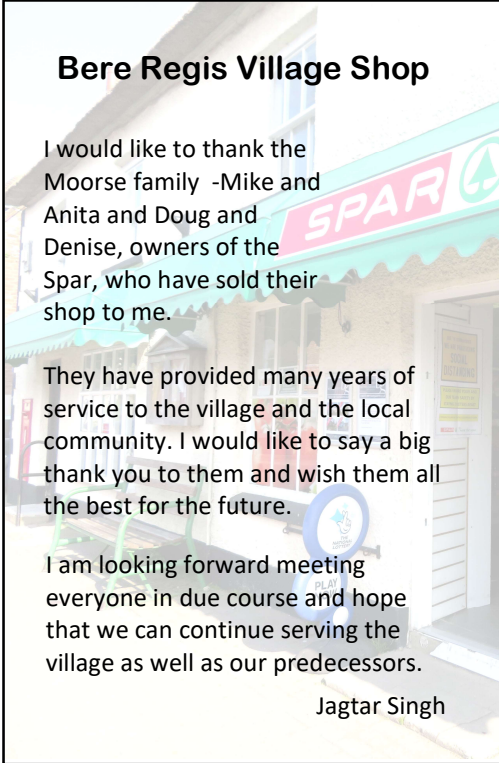
There have been concerns expressed about the possibility of some of our footpaths and bridleways being threatened with closure. Obstructing a public right of way is illegal and this includes telling people that they can no longer use the path and asking them to leave. Any changes to rights of way have to go through a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) procedure. A DMMO is analogous to a planning application and needs submission to Dorset Council and allows for public consultation. If you are challenged, please be assured that there have been no applications for any DMMOs in the parish. If there are any in the future, the Parish Council will be informed.

Environment and Conservation



It is now 9 years since the Parish Council bought, with the help of a nature conservation grant, the Souls Moor/ Bere Stream SSSI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest) in order to create a village nature reserve. Time has moved on and much has changed which has benefited wildlife. It is worth reflecting on how our nature reserve has developed and what has been achieved. .

Ponies have been grazing for the past 4 years and created close cropped grass in the wetter boggy areas where important plants such as the Southern Marsh Orchids are now flourishing. They are not so interested in the drier parts nearer to the school where longer



Bere Regis Village Shop

I would like to thank the Moorese family -Mike and Anita and Doug and Denise, owners of the Spar, who have sold their shop to me.

They have provided many years of service to the village and the local community. I would like to say a big thank you to them and wish them all the best for the future.

I am looking forward meeting everyone in due course and hope that we can continue serving the village as well as our predecessors.

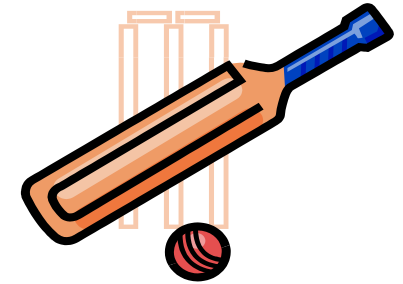
Jagtar Singh

BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB - CRICKET

Website: www.bereregis.com

Home Fixtures in May

- Saturday 1st - Martinstown
- Wednesday 5th - Charlton Down
- Saturday 8th - Wimborne/Colehill III
- Monday 10th - Dorchester U15
- Tuesday 11th - Cerne Valley U11
- Saturday 15th - Cattistock & Symene
- Tuesday 18th - Cattistock & Symene U11
- Wednesday 19th - Puddletown II
- Saturday 22nd - Royal Challenger Sports
- Sunday 23rd - Charlton Down (TT25)
- Monday 24th - Martinstown U15
- Wednesday 26th - Dewlish
- Saturday 29th - Christchurch



BERE REGIS HISTORY SOCIETY

Driving Cress to the Local Markets

I recently found some entries in one of my father's diaries from the late 1940s which referred to how Bedford & Jesty transported their cress to the markets in London. The designated driver usually chose a youngster to help with the unloading at the other end, and they had to get there very early in the morning. My Dad was aged 18 in 1949. The dates and entries are as follows:-

11-12 April 1949: "After supper I went with the cress lorry to London. The driver was Fred Dean and we left Bere Regis about 11 o'clock. After driving all night we



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grass and other plants grow. This is the best habitat for insects such as grasshoppers and crickets.

We dug a pond within the wet area for a water source for the ponies. This has added another habitat for dragonflies and still water aquatic insects and plants which are different to those that live in the stream.

We deliberately fenced off the western end of Souls Moor to retain a wild area where birds nest and small; mammals live. A Buzzard is sometimes seen hunting over here.

The wildlife group have regularly coppiced and cut back the scrub along the streamside walk – the result is a splendid display of March Marigolds and other plants.

In the stream, 4 years ago gravel was added to the stream bed at several sites to create berms to benefit spawning areas for fish. Little Egret, heron and Kingfisher are frequent visitors.

It is good to see the village enjoying this area which provides a great opportunity to appreciate our local wildlife.

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Brenda House
(Scheme Co-Ordinator)

01929 471255

BERE REGIS AND THE PANDEMIC APRIL 2020 TO APRIL 2021

As we pass the anniversary of the first lockdown of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is perhaps the right time to look back and reflect on how our community reacted and rose to the challenge this disease created.



As in most other communities, we should perhaps firstly recognise the enormous number of unsung, and unnoticed acts of kindness carried out for relatives and by friends and neighbours to help those who were on their own or 'shielding' from the earliest days of the pandemic. Then there were the innumerable acts of selflessness by those who live in our midst who are 'key workers'. Let us

remember the delivery drivers, our posties, the shop workers, the doctors, nurses and paramedics, the teachers and teaching assistants, the care workers, our priests and pastors and many others, who carried on doing their jobs in the most difficult, and sometimes dangerous, of circumstances. We will recognise some of these people when we present our Certificates of Appreciation in due course.

We should also recognise that this past year has been an appallingly difficult time for those who are on their own, or who have medical conditions that made them vulnerable, or who perhaps suffer from mental issues that the pandemic can only have exacerbated.

Our young people, too, have had an incredibly difficult year with friendships interrupted and schooling or education curtailed. Our school (and parents) had to react quickly to the need for distance learning and the delivery of materials for home schooling.

The response of our community has, as in so many other similar communities, been magnificent. Here are some of the highlights that we should perhaps put on record, before they are forgotten.

On Friday, 13th March 2020 the situation was looking sufficiently serious that the Parish Council convened a meeting that brought together representatives of the School, Pop In Place, WI, the Church, the Surgery, Scouts and the Sports Club to discuss and agree a community wide response. Out of that meeting emerged BereConnect and the posters which were distributed to all households with emergency contact numbers and advice, the food bank and much else.

VILLAGE HALL

Reopening of the village Hall for Public Hire

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

If you are interested in hiring the hall phone 01929 471528

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



Defibrillators in Bere Regis All of these are Public Access

Drax Arms West Street

Visible from street on front wall

The Village Hall North Street

Visible from Street on front wall

The Sports Club end of North Street

On Wall of the larger white building near entrance (not the old barn building)

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

Monday -Friday 8.30- 6.30 Weds 8.30 -4pm

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

Alison Bennett

Bere Regis Food Bank

Thank you so much for all the food donations we really appreciate them, there is a box outside the village Hall . Moving Forward we will continue to run the Food Bank when the Village Hall reopens , our thanks to the Parish Council for the generous grant to make this possible. It will operate on a part food part voucher basis this will be from June 25th

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

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

Alison Bennett popinplace@gmail.com 01929 472023

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By 19th March 2020, our school had placed their "Give What You Can, Take What You Need" food box outside the school for all to contribute to and take from. This remained available throughout most of the pandemic.

By 30th March 2020 a crowd funding appeal had been launched, that would eventually raise over £8000 for the Emergency Fund.

At the beginning of April 2020 Pop In Place took over food bank provision from Wareham and created its own bank in the Village Hall.

Also, at the beginning of April, the BereConnect volunteer scheme was launched to deliver prescriptions, collect shopping and connect isolated people by phone.

The Pop In Place food bank began by supporting about 12 families, rising to about 22 deliveries at the peak. It is still supporting 16 families, equating to about 45 people being helped. The food bank was kick-started with grants from the Emergency Fund, and was able to continue because of the incredible generosity of residents' donations throughout the crisis. Generous grants were also made by Dorset Council.

The work of the food bank has not all been about food parcels. Personal contact between the five volunteers involved and the clients has helped avert numerous serious domestic issues, mental health crises and even suicides, by providing links and introductions to specialist professional and volunteer help.

The work of the food bank will continue to be needed. Recently the Parish Council made a grant to Pop In Place to install cupboards in the Village Hall to enable the hall to re-open, and remain the base for the food bank.

The Emergency Fund was created almost entirely from very generous donations by a number of Bere Regis residents, supplemented by the profit from the sales of the 2021 village calendar. In total it raised £8300. The first grant or loan was made on 3rd April 2020, and to date 27 payments totalling more than £3000 have been made to individuals or families. In addition, the food bank received just under £900 in the early days and £2820 has been given the Bere Regis School to supplement free school meals during holidays. The balance will continue to be granted or will be given to local charities, when needs subside.

BereConnect volunteers originally numbered over fifty people. As the need for voluntary help became clearer this settled down to a core group of about 20 people who provided an invaluable service in delivering



prescriptions from the surgery to the housebound, and by driving residents to hospital appointments as necessary. Latterly these drivers have taken on the task of getting people to and from vaccine clinics.

We originally thought that many volunteers would be needed to undertake shopping trips for residents who were shielding, but in the event, many of these tasks were taken up by Dorset Council delivering food parcels, and by relatives, friends and neighbours stepping in to give help.



Some of the BereConnect volunteers found themselves in a new role by providing a 'Buddy' link to isolated residents who valued the human contact of an occasional chat on the phone.

We should also recall how our local community services and businesses quickly adjusted to the new circumstances and

contributed to life in lockdown. Our shop adapted to social distancing, and brought in an expanded range of fresh foods to meet local needs. Our pubs turned themselves into takeaways, and for a short period in the summer even adapted to providing an indoor service under the Eat Out to Help Out scheme. The Post Office maintained a magnificent service, sometimes indoors, often from the window, even delivering to peoples' homes if necessary. The surgery adapted quickly to the distancing rules and to the need for appropriate PPE. Who will forget queueing for prescriptions under the shelter of a tent provided by the Scout Group? I am certain, too, that none of us will forget how we came to rely on the distribution services of our greengrocers, the fish van, the fish and chip vans, the ice cream trailer and other deliveries.

Now, a year on, in the middle of April, it would appear that due to distancing, and to the effectiveness of the vaccines, the impact of the pandemic may at last be waning. Medically, Bere Regis was not hit as hard as other places, but many of our residents faced great financial hardship and the mental and physical health issues caused by lock down. Perhaps our community response, and our individual good sense in abiding by the ever-changing rules, helped alleviate at least some of the problems we faced.

Looking ahead, the next challenge will be rebuilding our community organisations, and encouraging people to participate and get involved again. With the care and kindness everyone showed during the pandemic we have every reason to feel optimistic about the future.

Ian Ventham

POP IN PLACE NEWS

Volunteers Wanted

The Pop In Place will need a rota of volunteers to help with the community café to serve the teas, to chat to people if you think you would like to become one of our amazing team of people who make such a difference to others lives please do get in touch.



Pop In Place Rainbow Café

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

Pop In Performers Group

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

New Projects being proposed

The Repair shop

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

Garden of Hope

This is still very much on the agenda but the holdup is trying to find a suitable space to develop it in, in the meantime it is hoped we may be able to enhance some other areas of the village that are owned by the Parish council while we work on the right site for this project. The first area we hope to start work on with the Parish Council representative Robin Pitcher is improving the cemetery, planting trees and bulbs and renovating the shelter. Please let me know if you would like to help with this project.

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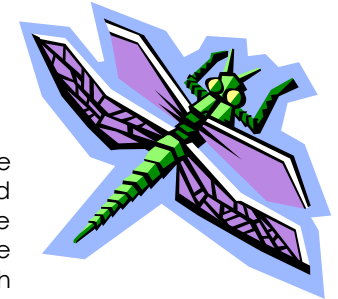
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BERE REGIS WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP



What a glorious time of year. With the onset of the warmer weather Spring is now well underway and wildlife is responding with a burst of activity. The returning swallows are back with us and all birds are busy nest building and raising their broods. Trees, with their flush of new leaf growth, are in now various shades of wonderful fresh greens and there is an abundance of blossom, most notably hawthorn. And, of course, there is the beautiful blue haze of our native bluebells decorating local woods. The annual wild flower meadows in May's Wood have been raked and sown, so in a couple of months' time we should have another visual delight (and the insects will love it too).

Alder Leaf Beetle

Whilst recently re-fixing bird boxes and bug hotels along the riverside path a cluster of small (7mm long) quite striking metallic blue beetles were uncovered (see pictures). Following some research they were confirmed to be Alder Leaf Beetle. Unsurprisingly, they were found on one of the Alder trees that line the river. The Alder Leaf Beetle has always been regarded as rare and in the mid 1900s it was considered to be extinct in the UK. It was rediscovered in Manchester in the early 2000s and has since seemingly undergone a sudden expansion of range. The first sightings in Dorset were just a few years ago.



The beetle has one generation a year. Adults overwinter, emerging in early spring, they are winged and capable of flight. The black caterpillar like larvae feed on the leaves of alder mainly, although other trees may also be used as a food source. These larvae can be found on leaves in spring and summer. New generation adults can be found from mid-summer, and then enter a dormant phase until the following Spring.

Coppicing

If you take a walk from Black Hill to Kite Hill you'll notice some quite extensive areas of coppiced hazel near to the dilapidated woodsman's hut just off the main track. These areas have been cut over the past winter and follow other nearby areas that have been previously coppiced.



Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which has largely died out over the past fifty years. Coppicing has many benefits, so it is good to see this craft taking place. Apparently, coppicing dates back to the Stone Age evidenced by the discovery across the Somerset Levels of Neolithic wooden trackways formed from coppiced material.

Coppicing involves repeatedly felling trees at their base and allowing them to regrow. This activity provides a constant and sustainable supply of timber. Within a woodland coppicing typically takes place on a rotational basis, every five to ten years. The timber produced has had a number of uses, including for producing charcoal, making wooden hurdles, fencing and thatching spars. Hazel is probably the most coppiced tree. Traditionally willow was also cut back for timber, although often at about two metres above ground to prevent regrowth being grazed by animals. This method is known as pollarding.

These days the demand for coppiced timber is much lower than in the past, but it remains a popular conservation practice for the benefits it offers to wildlife; coppicing increases woodland biodiversity, as greater amounts of light can reach the ground, allowing other species to grow there. Many of these species are food sources for butterflies and other insects, which in turn provide food for birds, bats and mammals. The evidence of the growth of a range woodland plants is clear at Kite Hill with an abundance of primroses, bluebell, violets and wood anemones in recently coppiced patches. One mammal that has benefited from the coppicing at Kite Hill is the dormouse, as seen in the photo below taken by the coppicer. The dormouse is a protected species, shy and nocturnal so rarely seen. It spends most of the spring and summer in tree branches, rarely coming down to the ground. It eats buds, hazelnuts, berries and insects. They build their nests out of grasses, stripped honeysuckle bark and fresh hazel leaves. They hibernate over winter, often on the ground (under logs, leaves, in grass tussocks and at the base of trees). There are also benefits to the trees from coppicing as the process of coppicing increases their life span.

The court heard that Turner would approach elderly and often vulnerable victims and frighten them into believing that their roofs had serious problems which required immediate attention. Two of the victims were in the later stages of dementia and one was registered blind.

If you suspect there are rogue traders in your area please report them to Trading Standards by phoning the [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](https://www.gov.uk/citizen-advice-consumer-service) freephone 0808 223 1133. If you believe a doorstep crime is in progress call 999. When selecting a trader to carry out work for you then consider Trading Standards approved traders at [Buy With Confidence](https://www.buywithconfidence.co.uk) or call 0808 223 1133.

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

VENUES 2021

| Date | Venue | Trophy | Winner |
|------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| 30th April | Wareham Golf Club | | |
| 28th May | Salisbury and South Wilts | | |
| 25th June | Ashley Wood Golf Club | | |

There will be no trophy play this year. Forthcoming matches will be noted as confirmed.

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Rogue trader jailed for fraudulent trading across four counties

A man who worked on a range of home and garden maintenance jobs at consumers' homes in Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Devon has been jailed for participating in a fraudulent business.

On 22 March, at Bournemouth Crown Court, Thomas Edward Turner (Aged 41) of Oaktree Farm Caravan site, Odstock Road, Salisbury, was sentenced to two years and eight months imprisonment.

Fraudulent behaviour was identified at eight properties where he had worked, carrying out a mix of roofing, guttering, driveway and path repairs, moss removal, jet washing and garden work. These properties were in Ferndown; Christchurch; Exeter, Devizes; Andover and Shipton Bellinger in Hampshire. A catalogue of excessive charging, unnecessary work and charging for work not done was revealed when these cases were investigated by trading standards officers from Dorset.

His men would start work immediately and undertake unnecessary and sub-standard work at grossly inflated prices. The victims paid in advance for the work by cash or bank transfer. Investigation of Turner's bank accounts led to the details of seven other victims being traced and together they were found to have lost over £100,000 between them. Turner later admitted to a total of £70,000.



So, if you are a gardener and would like to support wildlife conservation in a practical way, why not buy your bean poles and pea sticks from a local coppicer rather than buy imported bamboo canes from a garden centre. John (the coppicer at Kite Hill) will deliver his bean poles and pea sticks – he can be contacted on 0773 297 0484.



No Mow May

Do you have a lawn? Do you fancy a break from the chore of mowing the lawn? Would you like to be more wildlife friendly? Yes? If so, why not join the No Mow May movement! Simply, don't mow during May – the daisies and other flowers that should emerge during the month will provide an additional and welcome nectar and pollen source for our insects. More insects mean a greater food source for other wildlife, so birds etc are also benefitting. Even better, why not leave an area of your lawn unmown over the summer allowing a wider range of plants to flourish, flower and seed – just mow in Autumn.

Souls Moor Ponies

The ponies should be returning to Souls Moor during this month to continue their summer grazing of the meadow. Do say "hello" to them when you pass, but



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please do not feed them, approach them and keep dogs on a lead. They are there to continue their good nature conservation work. The benefits of their past grazing are already apparent with a reduction in the longer rank vegetation and the appearance of a range of more interesting and varied plants and wildflowers. These include the bright yellow marsh marigolds, along with pink campion, meadow buttercup, orchids, sorrel, ragged robin, comfrey and lady's smock / the cuckoo flower.

Nature Sightings

We would be very interested to hear of your local wildlife sightings (common or unusual), so as to build up a picture of what is about and when it first arrives / emerges.

Contact Us

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

Tony Bates at tonybates19@gmail.com / 01929 471563
Amy Yates at AmyYeats@hotmail.com or

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

BERE REGIS WI

Spring appears to be firmly with us – the sun is shining, the sky is blue and the blossom is out. To celebrate the cheeriness of the season (and the countdown towards what hopefully will be the final easing of lockdown), we thought we'd share a little fun this month – the daring ladies of Rylstone and District WI in North Yorkshire sharing traditional WI activities in a very untraditional way!

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](#).



BERE REGIS SURGERY NEWS



NHS Prescription charges

The NHS prescription charge has increased to £9.35 per item from 1st April 2021

The NHS prescription charge is a contribution to the NHS; it is not a payment to the Surgery or its dispensary and it is not related to the cost of your medicine(s).

If you need at least 4 prescriptions in 3 months or at least 12 prescriptions a year, you could save money with a Prescription Prepayment Certificate. Please ask the Dispensary team for more details

Bank holidays in May

The surgery will be closed on Monday 3rd May and Monday 31st May. Whilst we are closed, if you have a medical concern that cannot wait until we re-open, phone 111. If you have a medical emergency, phone 999

Please ensure you order and collect your medication in good time.

Protected Learning time

The Purbeck Primary Care Network, which Bere Regis Surgery is part of have a protected learning time from 13.30 – 16.30 on Thursday 13th May. The Practice will be closed during this time. Dispensary will be open for collections 16.30 – 17.30 only that afternoon

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Thanks to our WI members for sharing their favourites

Strawberry Cream Cake

With summer coming and finally meeting up with family and friends, what a lovely way to celebrate than with a yummy cake. Fatless sponge the filling is your choice !!!

Sponge

85g caster sugar, plus extra for dusting

85g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

pinch of salt

3 medium eggs

Filling (down to you, I choose)

Double cream

Raspberries/strawberries



Method

Preheat oven 170c/gas4. line with paper two 18cm cake tins, then lightly oil and dust with extra castor sugar and the flour.

Whisk together the eggs and sugar until pale and thick.

Sift the flour and salt together then tip over the whisked egg mixture and using a metal spoon gently fold the flour into the mixture.

Divide between the two tins and bake for 20mins or until golden. To test it should spring back when lightly touched by your fingertips.

Leave the cakes to cool in the tins for 5mins on a wire rack before turning out and leaving to get cold.

Fill with whipped cream and strawberries which I like to toss in a little Cointreau... the choice is endless.

THE MIRROR, Tuesday, April 13, 1999 Page 3

W.I. eyeful

THEY STRIP OFF FOR CALENDAR

MUSIC BUFF: In tune for February

BOT PLANTS: April's gardening gal

THREADBARE: Sandra Sayers poses with her sewing as Miss June

FRUITY: Making jam in August

STRIP TEAS: Cuppas for September

BOW PEEP: Hats provide the only cover at Beryl's January meeting

NOT A STITCH: November knitting

ALTOGETHER NOW: Carol singing in the nude to round off the year

WEIGH HEY: Miss March gets baking

NATURIST: Miss May's flowers

APPLE COR: Tricia's October cider

BARE CANVAS: Arty Miss July

IT'S A far cry from jam and Jerusalem for the ladies of the Women's Institute.

The middle-aged members stripped away more than their stuffy image when they posed for a charity calendar — in the nude.

The models, aged 41 to 61, decided to bare almost all to raise money for cancer research in memory of a friend who died last year.

But there were a few rules. No naughty bits, no bottoms, and the ladies doing what they do best — sieving flour, oil painting, making preserves and flower arranging.

Oldest model was mum-of-two Beryl Bamforth, 65, who is shown wearing just a hat while chairing a meeting. A retired headmaster's wife, she said: "You can't see much can you? A few tits and bits, maybe, but nothing droopy."

Money from sales will go to the Leukaemia Research Fund in memory of John Baker. The sunflowers in the photos are from seeds he gave the women, hoping to be in remission when they bloomed. Tragically, that was not to be.

● WOULD you pose naked with your colleagues or club friends? If so we'd like to hear from you. Call The Mirror on 0171 293 3532. ● Voice of The Mirror — Page 8

BERE REGIS FOLK NIGHTS



After an absence of over a year we are planning our first Folk Night of 2021. Our last evening was in February 2020. In the summer we had to cancel a concert by Aaron Jonah Lewis who is an American fiddle and banjo due to travel restrictions.

We are aiming, subject to covid restrictions, to start again on Tuesday 29 June between 8pm and 10pm doors open 7:30pm.

The typical Folk Night consist of local musicians playing and entertaining us for a couple of hours on the last Tuesday of the month. Our artists represent many different styles of music and we use the word 'folk' loosely. Our menu on the June night consists of:

- ◆ Show of Fingers are a band made up of Paul J Openshaw (regular poet for the parish magazine and fine musician), Mike (Fingers) McDaid (accordion), Nina Garcia and Ben Wain both playing the fiddle
- ◆ Martin Ansell singer song writer
- ◆ David McKenzie multi instrumentalist and piper
- ◆ The Bere Essentials who are the house band and feature several local residents

The venue is The Stable Bar (skittle alley), Drax Arms in the village. During the performances we request the audience respect the artists by remaining seated and not talking through their sets. Of course you can sing along, clap and have a jolly good time.

There is no entrance fee but we do hold a raffle at half time during the interval. Proceeds of which are used to cover any expenses we may incur. On occasions we do charge an entrance fee as we book internationally recognised artists from around the UK and USA. Please look at our new website www.bereregisfolk.com to see some of the people who have entertained us in the past.



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MAKE ME SMILE

On one of those seemingly endless rainy days I was feeling fed up and miserable and I just wanted something to make me smile. Trawling the website I found some pictures of the previous village scarecrows and it was like a light bulb moment. Why not do them again.

I thought about Easter. We were still going to be in lockdown but given good weather the villagers would be able to get out for walks and hopefully the scarecrows would make them smile as well. I floated the idea with a few people and got some positive response.

In fact the response was wonderful and we had 14 addresses where scarecrows could be found. I got around to all of them and I must say there are some very clever and inventive people in our village and I thank them for all their hard work and for taking part. Importantly for making me smile.

I am hoping that we could make this an annual event so get your thinking caps on for next year.

For those who were unable to get out and about I hope you enjoy the photos in the colour spread overleaf.

Glo Curtis

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