

SWANAGE AREA FORUM NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Welcome to The Swanage + Purbeck Development Trust (SPDT) and Swanage Area Forum (SAF) April 2022 Newsletter. We thank all the organisations that support this community newsletter, whether by contributing features, or by distributing the newsletter to their constituents.

Articles in this issue will once again illustrate the many positive aspects of our vibrant communities, including exciting reports from the Ambulance Car campaign re the recently announced decision to maintain the service and from Swanage & Purbeck Rotary regarding their magnificent efforts in raising cash for the Ukrainian refugees. Also, great news from The National Trust re progress in establishing the enlarged Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve right here in the heart of Purbeck, just as the Spring weather is giving us all a morale booster. Good news, too, re the recovery of the 'lost' Defib; but some very worrying news has been announced from Friends of Wareham Hospital regarding the future - or not - of 'The Hub'.

From the grassroots there are many stories of a new bout of Covid-19 doing the rounds in our communities, so please take care in your activities. Finally, again news from the grapevines, there appears to be a resurgence in the number of folk offering their services as volunteers - let's hope this is true and is a pointer for a successful year for many local organisations.

Mel Norris

Trustee Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust and Chair of The Swanage Area Forum

melvyn.norris@icloud.com, tel: 01929 426127

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Gerry and Jenny of our little team would really appreciate it if you could please note the preferred deadline for your contributions/photos/news for the May issue, bearing in mind that Easter may be a busy time for all of us: **14th APRIL.**



Our Ambulance Car Has Been Saved: Thank You All!



Our Community Campaign

After two years of campaigning, I'm delighted to tell you the Swanage Ambulance Car has been saved! Our community has united behind the campaign to save the Car, with six Purbeck Town and Parish Councils endorsing retention, posters, garden stakes and banners on display throughout Purbeck, the booklet with over 50 residents' stories illustrating why we need the Car, the community song video that's had almost 2,000 plays on YouTube, the children's picture competition and trail, and the generous donations. Over 8,000 signatures on the petition to Dorset CCG, and almost 5,000 signatures needed to get the Dorset Council petition to full council. We were inundated with offers of help from people eager to help get any consultation document Dorset CCG produced distributed, street-by-street, so that our voices would be heard, we were inundated with offers from people willing to help. Thank you all!

But there is more to do..

Our need for the Car is clearly evidenced. When it was well staffed in 2019, it attended 1,875 call outs in Purbeck, almost 1000 of these were in Swanage. More than half the Purbeck call outs were category 1-3 emergencies, the most serious, with over 800 category 1 & 2, where there is risk to life. **Sadly while the Ambulance Car has been under review, it's staffing has been reduced, so that in 2021 just over 40% of shifts were covered, and over the same period response times for risk to life emergencies have doubled, inevitably meaning an increase in preventable deaths and disability.**

Still 'i's to be dotted, 't's to be crossed

Dorset CCG and the Ambulance Trust say they are working on increasing staffing, but not to what level or over what time period, so there are still 'i's to be dotted and 't's to be crossed before we can honestly say that we have our service back as it should be. We also need to ensure that the service continues to prioritise the areas with the longest journeys to acute care, and get our emergency response times at least back to where they were when the Car was well staffed. A number of questions remain and assurance will be sought about staffing levels, and that the Swanage-based 24/7 emergency response Paramedic Car will remain 'tethered' to Purbeck. <https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/open-letter-from-nhs-dorset.../>

Please store your banners and stakes ...

I was asked on BBC Radio Solent if I thought the new health body that replaces Dorset CCG this summer might review the service again (!) I really hope not, but please do store your banners and stakes - just in case!

I can only end by thanking the Paramedics, who are with us during our most difficult times, saving lives, easing pain and anxiety, including at the ends of our lives. Thank you.

Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Cllr - Co-ordinator Save Our Ambulance Car Campaign

Rotary and Ukraine

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary is a proud part of Rotary International, a global network of more than 1.2 million men and women who believe that great things happen when dedicated minds come together. Nothing illustrates this better than Rotary's response to the horrific events in Ukraine.

Locally we were able to quickly organise street collections around Swanage. Rotary's international chair, Maggie Hardy, said: "I had absolutely no problem filling a collecting team rota for the two days with Rotarians and Rotary Friends who, without exception, were happy to help and who like me, were overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community."

The collection which was supplemented by money raised from cake sales at The Centre during the Swanage Blues festival raised a total of £10,000. Maggie added "I don't think we've ever collected so much money so quickly. The Swanage community is so amazing!"

All the money raised has gone to the Rotary International Foundation Charity which will distribute funds in support of Ukraine and its people, through its clubs and partner organisations like Shelterbox.

At a national level Rotary in the UK has been working with local Rotarians inside Ukraine and in bordering countries to establish what is needed to support displaced refugees and find safe routes for money. Shelterbox, the disaster relief charity set up by Rotarians in Cornwall is opening a centre in Cracow, Poland and Rotary health workers are sending supplies and advice to colleagues in Ukraine via the International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals.

Rotarians in the Czech Republic are running a regular train service taking humanitarian supplies for onward distribution by local Rotarians in Uzhorod, Ukraine. The trains are returning with 600-700 refugees. In Moldova, Rotarians are using a 200-bedroom hotel at the border which is owned by a member for short stays for refugees.

If you want to find out more about helping us please contact us via our website

<https://www.swanagerotary.org/cio>

Deirdre Selwyn

President, Swanage and Purbeck Rotary





FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

<https://www.friendsofswanagehospital.org.uk/>

Update from the Friends of Swanage Hospital

The pandemic caused the closure of a number of outpatient clinics at our hospital so we thought it might be a good idea to let you know which ones are actually running at the moment.

But please remember you have to be referred by your GP and you might need to remind them that you would like to be seen at Swanage if at all possible.

CURRENT OUTPATIENT CLINICS AVAILABLE AT OUR HOSPITAL

AAA (screening (abdominal aortic aneurysm))
Audiology
Cardiac Echo
Cardiac 24 hour ECG
Cardiology - Consultant
Cardiology - Physiologist
Child Health
Diabetes Clinic
Diabetic Eye Screening
ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat)
General Surgery
Glaucoma Review
Gynaecology
Haematology
Heart Failure
Lewis Manning Breathlessness
Ophthalmology
Orthoptics
Orthotics
Parkinson's
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Purbeck Community Mental Health Team and older persons' mental health
REACH addiction service
Respiratory Nursing Team
Respiratory Physio
Respiratory Medicine
Rheumatology follow-up
Steps2Wellbeing
Stoma

Sadly, there are many missing and we will continue to urge Dorset HealthCare to arrange new contracts and find willing consultants who would be assured of a very warm welcome!

Jan Turnbull
Chair, Friends of Swanage Hospital

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



Great News: Stolen Defibrillator Recovered

It's with great pleasure that we are able to let you all know, that the stolen defibrillator has been recovered.

In December 2021 we went to Dorset Police after a public appeal was unsuccessful in locating the Defib, taken from its cabinet at the Sea Rowing Club. The news of it being stolen went national and we received a lot of support in funding its replacement. Our particular thanks go to the Swanage & Purbeck Rotary CIO who funded the replacement in full, along with another donation from London-based charity 'London Hearts'.

As we had purchased the replacement prior to its return, we now have a second spare device which we will use when devices are deployed / out of service for any reason.

A huge good news story and an even bigger thank you for all the generous community donations we receive which will help us to maintain the ever-increasing SCDP fleet. The SCDP defibrillators have been deployed a total of 100 times since we launched this community project.

Continuing the good news theme, a new public access defibrillator is to be installed very soon at North Beach. A group of beach hut users at Burlington Chine have worked hard to raise funds to fund a device there. Their fundraising efforts have been so successful that they are fully funding the device and cabinet. Final logistical arrangements are being completed and we hope to have the device installed on the public toilets at Burlington Chine by Easter.

Kyle Hickman, SCDP



The recovered defibrillator

Historic local house opens its glorious gardens for the first time

Whitecliff Manor Farm Gardens will be open to the public for the first time this year, under the National Gardens Scheme. This is your chance to see the spectacular gardens of this Swanage Grade II listed building, with magnificent views too. In May the tulip collection should be in full bloom and by June, the many roses should be blossoming.

All proceeds to go to the National Garden Scheme (www.ngs.org.uk) and local charity the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (www.sandpdt.org.uk) and their projects.

Sat 30th April - from 11am - 3pm

Sun 1st May - from 11am - 3pm

Sat 4th June - from 11am - 3pm

Sun 5th June - from 11am - 3pm



There will be refreshments ranging from coffee/tea and home baked treats to a luxury Prosecco Afternoon Tea. Also, there will be many stalls, including plants, books and objets d'art.

The postal address is: Whitecliff Road, Swanage, BH19 1RL. Tel 07780 704195 for more information or full details are available on the NGS website.



Swanage Volunteer Bureau

THE BUREAU is a free service as part of the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust, and has been running out of Swanage Library since 2017 until Covid struck, when we had to operate entirely online, via the website and Facebook page.

We are now updating the volunteer opportunity list and are planning to return to the library on Fridays from 10-12 after the Easter holidays, when potential volunteers can drop in and get advice on opportunities that are available locally.



They are the signposted off to the relevant organisations to explore further and sign up. We do not hold a register of volunteers but believe that by promoting the whole volunteering agenda, both face to face and virtually, we nudge people to take part.

If you are looking for volunteers we would be pleased to add your opportunities to our list and help encourage people in your direction. Please email Swanagevb@gmail.com for a volunteer request form.

Kim Gallagher

Swanage Volunteer Bureau Co-ordinator



Swanage & Purbeck
Development Trust

Swanage Food Bank



Rising New Needs - SFB still in great demand

It hardly seems possible that winter is over, but the coming of spring cheers the heart even if it heralds rising prices wherever we turn. It is not surprising that Swanage Food Bank continues to be in great demand, and that new families are needing our aid. We had expected an increased number of requests for fuel top-ups, but so far these have not exceeded our budget and it tends to be the same clients unable to manage their energy costs so we will be asking them for a referral from a support agency which may give budgeting advice.

We are very grateful that food donations have not waned at a time when our community is responding to various Ukrainian appeals. Poverty at home does not diminish because our attention is focused on terrible suffering abroad. At present, our stocks of tinned meat and fish, and of tinned fruit and desserts are constantly running low, so replacement items are always welcome. We also give toiletries such as hair care, dental products and shower gel/cream. Loo rolls are on everyone's list of needs! And if anyone has empty half-dozen egg boxes, please donate them, too. Many thanks.

Swanage Food Bank will be working with the emergent 'Community Freezer' and 'Greengage Community Garden' as the year continues, but more about that in a later update.

Pauline Werber,
Chairperson Swanage Food Bank

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS® is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. ... Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

This is still a very unsettling time. It is stressful for many people in many new ways. Some people turn to alcohol to help them cope and get through it. This can be more of a danger than a help to some of us. If you think you have a problem with alcohol we can help:

IF DRINK IS COSTING YOU MORE THAN MONEY then we can help you.
Please telephone our free Helpline today: 0800 917 7650





HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

GREETINGS AGAIN from Harmans Cross Village Hall. We are holding our Annual General Meeting on the early evening of Friday 22nd April and we are planning to follow that with a social event. Please see our website for more details.

Our next series of dates for your diary are:

STALLS IN THE HALL on SATURDAY 9th APRIL and SATURDAY 14th MAY - 9.30am - 12 noon

Lots of stalls with local crafts, produce, cards, homemade jewellery and more besides, as well as tea, coffee and home-made cakes to enjoy. Free entry. For anyone who is interested in booking a table, please contact David Hollister at hxvh@btconnect.com or on 07384 848 419

MOVIE NIGHT – MRS LOWRY & SON on TUESDAY 12th APRIL

A portrait of the artist L.S.Lowry and his relationship with his mother, who tries to dissuade him from pursuing his passion. It's an absolute masterclass in acting by two greats of British cinema – Timothy Spall as the aspiring and exceptionally talented and unique artist, and Vanessa Redgrave as his controlling and (to my mind at least) really quite unpleasant Mrs Lowry. But it's a triumph of dogged persistence and ability over negativity, carping and criticism – lovely !!

MOVIE NIGHT – HOUSE OF GUCCI on TUESDAY 10th MAY

It's 1978 Milan. Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga) meets Maurizio Gucci (Adam Driver) at a nightclub. He is the heir to a large portion of the fashion house Gucci but his father (Rodolfo, played by Jeremy Irons) disapproves of her supposed mafia family although they only own a small trucking company. He marries her anyway and his father disowns him. Sly Uncle Aldo (Al Pacino) is more enamoured, falling for Patrizia's brassy charms, allowing her and his nephew to get their hooks into the fashion house he co-owns with his brother. *"The most Gucci of them all"* is how Patrizia Reggiani described herself in a 2014 interview. Various known as "Lady Gucci" and "Black Widow", Reggiani became the centre of a very 1990s scandal involving lust, money, fashion, murder... and a clairvoyant.

LIVE MUSIC – THE SPINOFFS on SATURDAY 14th MAY

Playing music from The Beatles to Elbow with lots more in between and featuring our very own Sue Bunyar as guest vocalist. Tickets are already available online from the website <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Live-Music/> for £12.00

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE – PICNIC IN THE PARK (well actually on the Village Hall field !)

To commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are planning an 'everyone welcome' Picnic in the Park on the afternoon of Sunday 5th June. More details to follow but this will be a wonderful chance for us all to be together so please make it a date.

COFFEE JUNCTION

Cake, coffee and conversation every other Thursday from 10.30am in the Committee Room. Next dates are:

Thursday 7th April and Thursday 21st April

CHURCH AT HXVH

Please feel very welcome to join our friendly, informal church service on the third Sunday of every month, starting at 6pm. The next dates are:

Easter Sunday 17th April and Sunday 15th May

GOOD FRIDAY, 15th APRIL AT 4.00PM - 'WHOSE KINGDOM RULES?'

On Good Friday, 15th April we welcome local resident David Nunn and his drama company for a new production of his play 'WHOSE KINGDOM RULES?' It explores the Easter events from a dramatically new viewpoint!

A former reviewer of the Guardian and the Observer writes: *'...a profound silence prevailed in the audience. It spoke eloquently of the play's power and impact on all who witnessed it.'*

David's plays have been a regular feature in Swanage at this time of year. Now that the lockdown's over, we're delighted that he's bringing live drama to Harmans Cross!

Admission is free - light refreshments after - donations appreciated. We look forward to seeing you here!

In the meantime, please stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

Alison and the HXVH Committee

St George's transformed into Ukraine warehouse

As the crisis in Ukraine started to unfold, people across Swanage and beyond started donating items to send out to those displaced by the war. St George's Church became a collection hub overnight. St George's was transformed into a warehouse, thanks to the amazing generosity of the local community, with mountains of warm coats, bedding, tents, food and toiletries filling the aisles.



The goods were loaded onto several vans and transported to the Castlepoint collection centre in Bournemouth and are now heading across Europe towards the border Ukraine.

All of us at St George's are grateful to everyone who donated, packed, sorted and offered transport – a great community effort all round.

The churches in the Benefice are signed up to the Sanctuary Foundation

(www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk) which is helping families and community organisations support new arrivals from Ukraine. Details of the Government scheme to host Ukrainian families and individuals can be found on this website.

James Mercer, St George's Church, Langton Matravers



Pick up the Racket Habit
With Swanage Tennis Club

It's safe, fun and affordable for ALL

google Swanage Tennis Club or Call Ryan on 07886304114 or email swanagetennisclub@gmail.com

A Big Thank You from Swanage Tennis Club

All members of Swanage Tennis Club would like to thank the Co-op, it's shoppers and all Purbeck local residents who supported their latest fundraising cause for upgrading the Beach Gardens tennis facilities. The £8,000 funding provided to the club from the Co-op far exceeded expectations and means that the project to upgrade a third tennis court to a good quality Astro-turf surface can now be completed later this year.

Tennis club committee member Leonora Stephen said: *"It has been great working with the Co-op who are very supportive of the local community. The extra funding now enables us to work with the officers of Swanage Town Council to progress the project this year"*.

To celebrate the start to the summer tennis playing season the tennis club and town council are hosting an Open Day at Beach Gardens in Swanage on Saturday 2nd April from 10am to 4pm.

There will be opportunities to come along and join in free adult and junior tennis coaching sessions, fitness sessions and watch an exhibition match. There will also be free putting on the greens and refreshments available throughout the day. So why not come along and 'pick up the racket habit'.



Pic From L to R: Simon Manager of Swanage Co-op store, Masie Junior Club Member, Paul and Ryan Professional LTA tennis coaches at the club and club members Rob and Susie.



National Trust

One landscape of people and nature together here in Purbeck

This month has seen the culmination of an intense period of work across the Purbeck Heaths landscape. As you'll hopefully be aware this 'super' National Nature Reserve was designated in 2020, bringing together land stretching from Gold Point at the top of the Arne peninsula to the A351, across to the shores of Studland and out to Brownsea Island.

Over the past year we have been creating a single grazing unit on the western part of the landscape, to allow for wilder grazing and the introduction of pigs. The natural processes resulting from better grazing is just what some of the rarest bare ground-loving heathland specialists need to survive. To create this single unit we've put up a new perimeter fence, and installed cattle grids. We've also removed a substantial amount of internal fencing between Arne, Middlebere, Slepe and Stoborough heaths. Animals will be out on the new grazing unit this spring.

As a part of the same project we have been working with partners and stakeholders across the area to develop a Sustainable Tourism Plan and information including signs, a leaflet and a new website. These were launched at RSPB Arne on Wednesday 9th March, with those who have been involved in creating them. It has been a real team effort across the landscape of communities, businesses and organisations that live and work within or alongside the heaths. We're proud of making this happen, during a fairly unpredictable year where everyone has been both impacted by Covid and welcoming more visitors than ever before. Our plan gets into the tension between visitors, communities, nature and businesses. We've started to pull together themes and projects that look to reduce the negative impacts of tourism on the community and nature, as well as how we can increase the positive impact that a visit to Purbeck has on the individual so that they may go on to live a life that has less impact on the environment. None of this is simple or easy, but we feel that bringing people together as one landscape gives us the best chance of succeeding. This plan was developed as part of the Purbeck Heaths Grazing Unit project, supported by Defra's Green Recovery Challenge Fund and Wytch Farm Landscape Enhancement Fund.

As with all these projects, it's had surprises that has made it harder to deliver than we expected, that's without Covid impacts too. We're all really looking forward to how the impact of this work plays out across the landscape of people and nature in the coming months and years.

Tom Clarke

on behalf of the Purbeck Heaths Grazing Unit project
Senior Community and Volunteering Manager
National Trust Isle of Purbeck



Singing for Pleasure
Every Thursday 2pm



Swanage Dementia Friendly

£2 per session



All Welcome



Pop in to

Emmanuel Baptist Church

every Monday between

10 am and 12 noon



join in a game, do a jigsaw

or have a drink, a cake and a chat



No charge



Live Shows in April:

- **Made in Dagenham** - [Tickets](#)
 - April 1st & 2nd at 7.30 pm

Movies in April:

- **The Real Charlie Chaplin (12)** [Tickets](#)
 - 4th April - 2.30 pm & 7.30pm
 - 5th April - 7.30 pm
- **Uncharted (12A)** - [Tickets](#)
 - 6th & 7th April - 7.30 pm
- **The Bad Guys (PG)** [Tickets](#)
 - Every day from 8th to 14th at 2.30 pm
- **The Batman (15)** [Tickets](#)
 - Every day from 8th to 14th at 7.30 pm
- **Sonic The Hedgehog 2 (PG)** [Tickets](#)
 - Every day from the 15th to 21st at 2.30 pm
- **Sing 2 (U)** [Tickets](#)
 - Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd at 2.30 pm
- **Phantom of the Open (12A)** [Tickets](#)
 - Every day from Friday 22nd to Thursday 28th, except Sunday 24th at 7.30 pm
 - Monday Matinee on the 25th at 2.30 pm

Clubs & Societies:

Monthly

- **Tuesday, April 5th - Making Memories** (*Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Group*) meets in the Show Bar cafe for coffee and cake from 10 am, with a movie showing of **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** from **11 am**.
- **Friday, April 8th - The Purbeck Society - 'Bumps in the Bay'** - This is a talk from Dan Bosence, who is Professor of Carbonate Sedimentology at the Royal Holloway University of London. Dan has been working for the past few years with Swanage Divers on unusual geological features found underwater along the Southern coast of Purbeck.
 - Meets in the Community Room at 2.30 pm. Free to members, £3 to non-members. [More information](#)
- **Tuesday 19th April - Making Memories Café Morning 10am.** **SADFG** will be adding a fortnightly Making Memories cafe morning in the Show Bar. While there will be no movie for this other meet up, cake and refreshments will be available as usual.
- **Thursday, April 21st - The monthly Flower Club** meets in the Community Room from 9.00 am through to 5.00 pm.

Weekly

- Health Qui Con Community meets every Wednesday at 1.30 pm in the Community Room.
- We welcome the Swanage Arts & Crafts Market back every Saturday and Sunday outside the Mowlem from April 16th through to October.
- Slimming World is back every Thursday from April 21st, meeting at 6.00 pm in the Community Room.

Contact Details:

TICKETS / 0333 666 3366 (9:00-17:00 Monday-Friday, fees apply)

ENQUIRIES / Box Office: 01929 422 239 (10:30-13:30 Monday-Saturday)

EMAIL / info@themowlem.com

THE MOWLEM
Theatre, Cinema & Function Rooms

**Mowlem Community Hub
so much to see and do!**





Calling All Jazz Lovers!



IF YOU ARE interested in Jazz music, why not join other jazz lovers at the **Swanage Jazz Club** who meet regularly on the fourth Thursday of each month? We meet at the Centre at Chapel Lane, High Street, Swanage (just behind the Swanage Day Centre.)

You will be most welcome, refreshments are provided and entrance is free. Each month, we usually have a speaker who gives a talk with the aid of CDs or DVDs on jazz music of every persuasion.

For more information phone 01929 426127.



Need Advice? Citizens Advice is now OPEN for drop-ins

We are here to help whenever you need advice to find a way forward. No appointment is necessary. Whatever your problem, our advice is free, confidential and impartial. Drop-ins are now available at:

Wareham Office - Tuesday & Thursday
10.30am-1pm

Wimborne Office - Monday & Wednesday
10.30am-1pm

The Centre, Barns Road, Ferndown - Thursday
10am-2pm

Ferndown Library - Tuesday & Thursday
10am-2pm

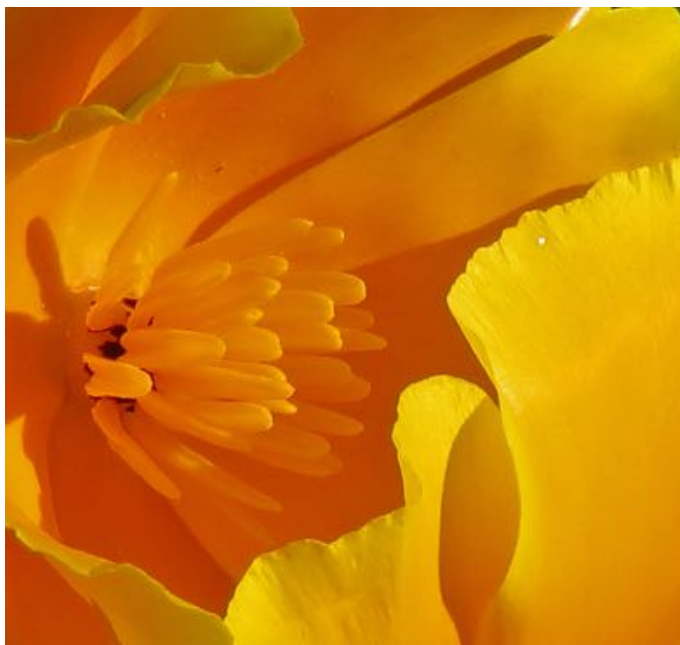
Or you can talk to an adviser, by phoning **Dorset Adviceline** on our freephone line 0800 144 8848 (Textphone: 0800 144 8884), 10am-4pm weekdays.

Alternatively, complete our online form at www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/by-email to request an email or telephone call-back.

There is also a wealth of self-help advice accessible through our website www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk We offer a full range of up to date advice, including help with:

- Benefits entitlement and claims
- Debt management, budgeting and income maximisation
- Employment advice including Statutory Sick Pay and rights when laid off work
- Advice for the self-employed including the Income Support Scheme
- Energy and water advice, and support schemes available
- Housing and advice if at risk of homelessness
- Referrals for charitable support or to a food bank

www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans



'Aquarius', the ladies club based in Corfe Castle, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm, continues to thrive.

Our March AGM was amazingly well attended - the best numbers since the start of Covid! I think this was less likely to be about wanting to hear how Aquarius had fared over the last difficult year than the anticipation of pancake tossing and eating! As it was St. David's Day as well, Welsh cakes were also served with the tea and the hall looked lovely with daffodils on the tables. The five retiring Committee members were given beautiful white hellebore plants as thanks for their hard work over the past few years. Three new committee members were welcomed to join the remaining ones and were all wished well in their future in leading Aquarius into easier times. The new and former Committee members have now put their heads together to finalise details for The Wild West evening on 1st April, the party that has been postponed for 15 months due to Covid.

The April meeting will hear from Judith Holmes, one of the members, about her trip to Costa Rica and its involvement with more fairly traded food and other products. This will be followed in May by a Corfe resident, who uses an amazing black labrador Hearing Dog called Elmo, telling us about his work and also that of the Hearing Dogs organisation. In June Dr Barbara Smith, an entomologist, will give us an informative insight into her very interesting work and those members that have ordered Jubilee mugs will receive them.

Aquarius is fully committed to supporting Corfe Castle's programme of events for the Jubilee weekend and will be serving teas and coffees at the Village Picnic on Sunday June 5th and sharing out the cakes that will have been made by residents for the Bake Off Competition.

Our satellite groups of walkers, strollers, book clubs and lunch club have all continued with their monthly meetings and provide an additional source of camaraderie amongst members.

We would welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining us in the future, please contact me on **01929 480007**

Christine Kemp

***Swanage & Langton
Matravers Folk Dance Club
Meets every Tuesday evening in
Langton Matravers Village Hall
7.30 - 9.45 p.m.***

FOLK DANCING

***New members and beginners very
welcome, with or without a partner!***

***Music, Movement and Gentle
Exercise for Mind and Body.
Instruction given.***

Contact:

**Mike or Frances Walshaw:
Tel 01929 421913 and leave a
message
or email mhwalshaw@talktalk.net**

Psst! Psst! - A Little Bird Told Us ...



Some local people have been contacted by someone purporting to represent "The Driveway Centre" (who are based in nearby Blandford Forum) who wishes to upgrade their driveway and display their work in a magazine.

One Swanage resident told me: "He alleges that my property is on some list [I couldn't discern which one] from which he has gained my telephone number. I have no idea what this list might be and can only assume he's getting numbers randomly from a telephone book/ listing.

"Incidentally, I have no driveway for the caller to upgrade!"

SCAM

However, according to The Driveway Centre's website: <https://www.checkatrade.com/trades/thedrwaycentre> "Dorset Driveway Centre does **NO** cold calling and if you have been cold called by someone pretending to be The Driveway Centre it is a scam."

So may I suggest anyone receiving such a 'cold call' rings off immediately to stop this apparent 'scammer' from continuing his fraudulent activities.

Dorset National Park – for a Thriving, Greener Future

Youth Engagement, Health and Wellbeing

Young people's health, wellbeing and life chances matter very greatly to us all. National Parks not only connect people with nature and help us enjoy the countryside. They benefit mental as well as physical health, and their work helps improve young people's educational experience, family and community relationships and life chances.

From junior ranger schemes and apprenticeships to John Muir Trust awards and providing "wild play" areas, National Parks help develop resilient, confident young people. For every £1 invested, one National Park scheme created £6 in value for the young people involved, their families and society.

Many young people leave rural areas for jobs and more affordable homes elsewhere. The South Downs National Park, England's newest NP, shows how this National Park has promoted affordable homes, developed sustainable transport, attracted growth in knowledge economy businesses, and increased its 16-24 years old population in the National Park's first seven years.

For more information, see the report "Youth Engagement, Health and Wellbeing: the Role of National Parks":

<https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/post/national-parks-help-improve-young-peoples-health-and-life-chances> and <https://www.dorsetnationalpark.com/post/winter-2021-newsletter>

Sign up for e-news or join the Facebook Group here: www.dorsetnationalpark.com

Best wishes from the Dorset National Park Team

It's time for Dorset's National Park



Children enjoying the coast, courtesy of Zoey Ingarfield



Swanage Bay, by Richard Brown



Who Are We?

We are a group of local people in our local Communities who experience depression or anxiety. We are not experts, but we know how it feels. For many people, this is still a very stressful time. And for many of us, we feel we still cannot safely meet face-to-face at the moment, but that may change ...

We find that a problem shared is a problem halved.

To find out more please contact us - with confidence

To get in touch please contact Nick at nickviney@hotmail.com or phone **01929 439121**, or Mary at mary.ann.bevis955@gmail.com or phone her on **01929 426896**

REMEMBER: THERE'S LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Swanage & Wareham
Depression Support Group

Disappointing News for Friends of Wareham Hospital



With the unfolding situation in the Ukraine, the disappointing news we received on 21st February '22 seems almost insignificant as we still have much to be positive about but the news that the plans for the promised Purbeck Integrated Hub had been scrapped evoked some very strong emotions amongst committee members.

We have been working with local organisations since 2015 on Purbeck plans and were discouraged from campaigning against the closure of inpatient beds at Wareham Hospital in 2018 as it could affect the proposals for the Hub bringing together health and social care staff on one site in an exciting development opportunity. We had hoped this would complement the Integrated Care Agenda, improve recruitment opportunities and service improvements for our locality area which perceivably has seen an erosion of local services for several years. The decision does not just affect Wareham; this will affect the whole locality, including Swanage, as staff work across the Purbeck area. Sadly, we are aware that key staff, disheartened by this news have already resigned.

We are told that the consensus opinion of Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust, who manage community services is that integration can be achieved through digital means and that finances do not support a new building. Interestingly the Trust which manages Dorset County Hospital feel that an integrated hub is a good idea and are proposing one for Dorchester!

There is however some good news ... We have been informed that Wareham Hospital, not long ago considered to be "unfit for purpose" is to remain for at least another 10 years.

Our support of Wareham Hospital and Purbeck Community Services remains strong and will continue but we would urgently welcome new members to the Friends to help us strengthen our voice should this promise also be broken. We can be contacted through the Hospital, Streche Road, Wareham.

We salute and thank all Purbeck staff who continue to work hard for us all in the area.

Maggie Hardy Friends Chair

Charity Number 252073



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

Site Works

You may have noticed some work going on around the Learning Centre and Castle recently. There are a range of things happening to help decarbonise the park. Most recently the cottage and apartment have been fitted with solar panels, and new efficient radiators have been going in too. There is scaffolding around the Gallery ready to install a wonderful array of solar panels in the next few weeks. We are also installing air source heat pumps, which means some disruption will be caused by the digging of a trench along the road to the Castle – however the Castle and Café will remain open throughout the works – so come along to see the progress!! We are also getting new LED lighting to replace the failing bulbs and fittings in the Castle. All this work is through the government decarbonisation programme, means that the Castle will be warmer, brighter and cheaper to run, and better for the environment.

Wildlife to Look Out For ...

As spring has sprung and migration is just starting, often our first African migrant of the year is the Wheatear, so keep your eyes peeled, for this gorgeous bird on the downs or by the lighthouse, while warblers will be following on their tails. By Tilly Whim the Adders have been basking, so pick a warm sunny day and you might be lucky. Please let us know of any of your wildlife sightings.



Dates for Your Diary

Return of Durlston Stargazing Events

Our first returning public Stargazing is scheduled for 19:30 start on Saturday 26th March.

We do not take advanced bookings as this is always weather dependent.

In case of thick cloud or heavy rain then check the event status at:

- <https://wessex-astro.org.uk/>
- Durlston Website's Events page <https://www.durlston.co.uk/events.aspx>

Join Wessex Astronomical Society for a talk and a chance to look through the telescopes at the night sky! They will be looking at star clusters, the Orion Nebula, Galaxies, the Spring constellations, and the Moon rising at 8pm, being 2 days after full. Don't worry if you can't make these dates, we have more stargazing booked in, including one in April, and more in the next events guide. Keep your eyes on the website for more!

Friends of Durlston Evening Meeting: "Tales of the Riverbank: animal-human journeys into the past"

Tuesday 5th April 19:30 start at the Learning Centre

Free to members: Non-members £2 donation.

Student Forensic Skeletal Archaeologist Paul Clarkson studies bones to establish how people and animals interacted. He will take us on a journey looking at Dorset's Mesolithic hunters, Neolithic farmers, Roman townsfolk, and Saxo-Norman Dorset. Bones from the Bournemouth University collection will be available for examination.

Durlston Parkrun

Every Saturday 9am start

The first Durlston Park Run took place on Saturday 19th March, for which some 130 participants took part! The 5km Parkrun will take place every Saturday starting at 9am. It is a positive, welcoming, and inclusive experience where there is no time limit and no one finishes last. The day's "first finisher" was former apprentice Sammy Allen!

Everyone is welcome to come along, whether you walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate. But if you can't wait, you can try the 'race a ranger!!!' segment. It starts at the bottom of Durlston Head, past Caravan Terrace and the Dell then ends at the top of the steep hill outside the castle. Currently 1899 different people have completed the segment but nobody has taken the crown from one of our rangers! All you need to do is record your run on Strava and pass through the segment and it will record your time for you! For more details visit: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/durlstoncountrypark/>

Paul Jones

Countryside Ranger Durlston

Tel: 01929 424443 info@durlston.co.uk www.durlston.co.uk

Easter at Durlston
Easter Children's Trail
 Friday 8th April - Sunday 24th April, 10am - 4pm
 Rabbits and eggs are hiding around the park. Follow the trail and find them all! You may just win a prize! Trail packs can be collected from the Castle reception. £3 each.

HOP
SKIP
 The Easter Bunny's Egg Patch
JUMP
 This Way!

Drop-in Activities!
 Wed 13th & Wed 20th April
 11am-3pm
 Wild Wednesdays!
 Sat 9th April,
 11am-3pm
 Spring seed-bomb making
 Fri 22nd April
 11am-4pm
 Wild Play Day!

Workshops...
 Mon 11th April
 11am-12:30pm
 Children's Nature and Woodland Art
 Join artist Mark Page for a workshop learning how to draw plants animals and nature!
 £15. Ages 7+. Booking required. At the Learning Centre.

Ranger led Sessions!
 Booking required. £3 per child. At the Learning Centre.
 Thur 14th Apr
 11am-12:30pm
 'Let's go fly a kite!'
 Tues 19th Apr
 11am-12:30pm
 'Dolphins and the deep blue sea'

For more information on all activities, please visit www.durlston.co.uk

DURLSTON Dorset Council
 COUNTRY PARK AND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE, SWANAGE
 01929 424443 | info@durlston.co.uk | www.durlston.co.uk

Katy Harrald
On Wing & Shore
 Drawings in celebration of Dorset flora & fauna

2nd - 24th April 2022
 The Fine Foundation Gallery
 10:30am - 5pm

DURLSTON Dorset Council
 COUNTRY PARK AND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE, SWANAGE
 01929 424443 | info@durlston.co.uk | www.durlston.co.uk

Community Support still growing for Trevor's legacy

The Trevor Chadwick Appeal is continuing to attract a lot of local support. In particular, we are delighted to announce that Mark Richardson, of Budgens Supermarket in Swanage, has generously offered the use of one of his display windows. This will enable the Trust to advertise and promote the Appeal. Mark will also allow additional advertising leaflets to be placed within the store for which the Trust is extremely grateful.



Budgens Manager Darren Steele with John Corben

The Charity is also hoping to arrange a celebratory gala event in the middle of summer to further its aims. There will be more details in the next edition.

The Trust has a little way to go to finalise the project and all support and donations will be greatly received. Further details can be obtained from the website <https://trevorchadwick.uk>



John Corben, Chairman TCMT





A message from the Mayor of Swanage Councillor Avril Harris

Daffodils are well and truly on show in the High Street at Herston and round the town; we've passed the Spring Equinox and the clocks "spring forward" an hour very shortly, so I think we can say that spring is here.

Last week I had the privilege of drawing a raffle organized to fund a defibrillator at Burlington Chine. This was organised by a group of beach hut users and two members of the WI branch that began shortly before the pandemic that has attracted over 60 members and holds evening meetings at Herston Hall. The small group sourced 14 prizes donated by local businesses and the raffle raised an amazing £2,521.21. The money will cover the cost of the defibrillator, plus a sum towards maintenance. I was interested to hear that this will be the 37th defibrillator installed in Swanage and Purbeck. Thank you to all who are involved in this life-saving voluntary service!

Overshadowing everything at present is the terrible news on all the news media about the war being waged against Ukraine. Millions have fled their homes; the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, said on 20th March that over a quarter of Ukrainians had fled their homes. About 3.4 million have left the country since the Russian invasion began on 24 February, 90% of whom are women and children. There are over 6.5 million displaced people within Ukraine. About 3.2 million are believed to have fled to neighbouring countries, including over 2 million to Poland. This country is only granting visas to refugees with family links; by mid-March 5,500 visas had been granted with 20,000 further visa applications submitted. Many men – and women – have stayed and joined the Ukrainian forces in brave armed resistance.

Donations of clothing and bedding were gathered at St Mary's School and despatched from there; I understand that, for the time being, only donations of money are requested, either to one of the major aid charities or to the appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), a consortium of 15 major charities including Oxfam, Save the Children, Age International, CAFOD, Islamic Relief, and Christian Aid. A street collection in Swanage by Rotary for the Ukraine raised over £9,000, a great expression of local concern and generosity. I attended the special film showing of 'OLGA' on 20th March at The Mowlem, which raised £1,120 for the DEC appeal. The Ukrainian film shown, is about a young gymnast training for, and competing in, an international gymnastics competition during the "Revolution of Dignity" of 2013/14 against the repressive and Russia-oriented President, and the film included footage of the uprising then in Kyiv, a prescient foretaste of what is happening now.

Awareness of the horrors in Ukraine, and in Yemen, South Sudan, Syria, and other places makes me feel blessed to live in a close community like Swanage and in a peaceful country such as ours.

Cllr Avril Harris



Easter Fun on The Pier!

This Easter there is plenty of fun activities to get involved with on the Pier. Take part in our amazing **Easter Trail**, where the Easter bunny has been up to mischief hiding coloured eggs in time for an egg-citing Easter egg hunt to take place. There will be a prize for finding all the eggs that are hidden on the Pier!

There will be a **Children's History walk on Tuesday 12th and 19th April**. Learn about the history of the Pier, including hearing about pirates, smugglers, sunken treasure, and shipwrecks.

If you are looking for fun crafts to enjoy this Easter, come along to the Pier on **Thursday 14th and Monday 18th April between 10.00am and 2.00pm** and make your very own Easter Bunny or Chick and more.

Wednesday 20th April we have 'let's go discover the creatures below Swanage Pier'. Learn how to crab safely, create a crab mask or hat and visit our science lab to discover the microscopic world living under the Pier.

No need to book for any of the activities, just turn up and have fun!

Help us to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Swanage Pier being opened on the 29th March 1897.

We are holding a raffle to win a fabulous original Rebecca Lardner Painting. Rebecca won Artist of the year in 2010 and is a nationally-acclaimed artist (living in Dorset) and we're delighted that she has agreed to undertake this commission to celebrate our 125th anniversary.

We are also putting together an exhibition of photos of the Pier through the years, which will be held in May. If you have any photos of the Pier and the story behind them, please email - activities@swanagepiertrust.com

Swanage Pier: contact details: 01929 425806 or office@swanagepiertrust.com



**Dorset
Community
Foundation**



Young People Grant Alert! - South West Enterprise Fund

Opens on 21st March 2022

Closes on 17th June 2022

Young people in Dorset age 18 - 30 can apply for a grant of **up to £2000** for support with business start-up costs. Applicants should either be planning to launch a brand new business or within the first two years of running a new business. The grant can be used for equipment, materials, stock or services needed for the business - not for salary or living costs.

Applicants need a referee to support their application - this could be a previous or current teacher, employer or support worker.

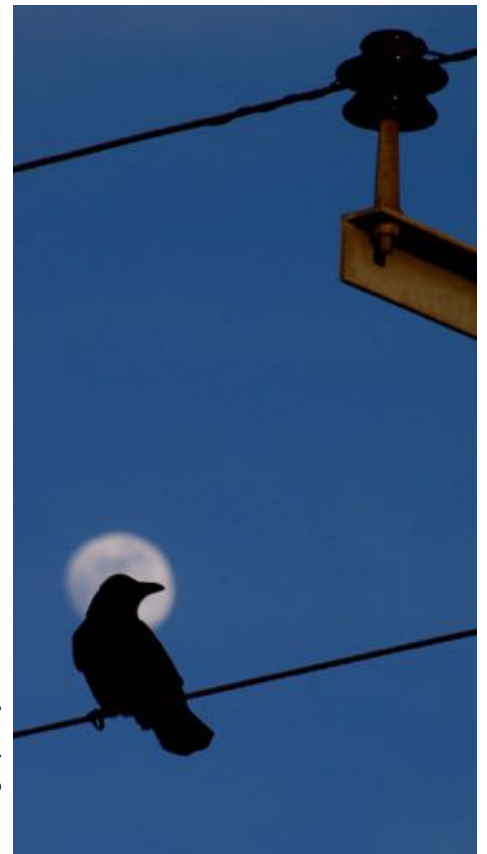
**Applications received by April 30 will receive a decision in mid-May.
Subsequent applications will receive a decision in early July.**

For more details, please [CLICK HERE](#)



'Artisans at the Market' is held on the first Friday of every month from 1st April to 7th October from 8.00 a.m. until approximately 1.00 p.m. in Main Beach Carpark in Victoria Avenue, Swanage

Come along and browse the wonderful selection of lovingly crafted items on sale including jewellery, ceramics and furniture



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

The Dorset branch of the CPRE welcomes the initial approach taken by the leader of Dorset Council in a letter to the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, requesting a review of the basis and the time for the completion of the Dorset Local Plan. However the Dorset CPRE recognises that Dorset Council has the ability to present, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance, an alternative approach to housing numbers other than the government's Standard Method. The Dorset CPRE disagrees that the idea within the Standard Method that by building more and more houses, the affordability of market houses improves. As the main supplier of new housing is the private sector, there is no incentive for house builders to increase the supply of houses in order to improve affordability. Dorset CPRE maintain that Dorset has exceptional circumstances in respect of its legislative protection, eg, the Green Belt and the exceptional circumstance of the environment, ecology and archaeology in Dorset. Volunteers within Dorset CPRE, the Purbeck Society and others have an opportunity to identify exceptional circumstances in the immediate area. If you are able to supply evidence of exceptional circumstances please contact the Purbeck Society and/or Dorset CPRE.



The
countryside
charity

Dorset CPRE maintain that the required number of houses under the Dorset Local Plan is around 22,000 to the year 2034 rather than approximately 39,000 stated by Dorset Council. Dorset CPRE also maintain that affordable housing for local residents should be given priority along with ensuring that housebuilding reflects the climate and ecological emergencies.

It is understood that the government will be making a major policy statement in respect of energy very soon. Rising costs and the conflict in Ukraine may well lead to a re-assessment of the components within energy policy that will challenge much of the thinking of environmental groups. Do watch out for this.

Finally, CPRE in Dorset will be responding to the consultation on the draft for the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Local Plan. Interestingly this consultation offers opportunities for ideas from residents and community organisations. Dorset CPRE is keen to see improved bus services to rural areas including community transport. Such services can contribute towards actions on climate change and reducing isolation experienced by elderly residents in both Dorset and the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole areas.

For further details go to: www.dorset-cpre.org.uk

STUDLAND SNIPPETS



Studland Parish Council

The Council has adopted a tree policy that encourages the replacement of every tree felled with two new trees in either the same or a similar location. Efforts are likely to be made to encourage residents, the National Trust, local businesses and Dorset Council to assist with the implementation of this aspect of the Council's tree policy. The trees in the parish of Studland are a special attraction; some of them go back to planting initiatives associated with Henrietta Bankes at the start of the 19th century. Many of these old trees are just not being replaced especially in the Studland Conservation Area. The wonder and awe of these local trees can be appreciated in the next six months by walking around the village and even using some of the thirty nine Rights of Ways.

The Council is disappointed that Dorset Council are not proceeding with the Parish Council request for a group Tree Preservation order on the trees to the east of the Knowle House hotel.

Recent stoppages to electricity supplies has led to interest in the creation of a village resilience plan. Some parts of the village, eg, the Glebe Estate, were without electricity for several days. Such a plan if adopted would assist residents in terms of information, skills and facilities so as to address the difficulties faced when utility and other supplies may be temporarily curtailed.

The Council and the Studland History group have an opportunity to work with others to create a list of Heritage Assets under a project with Dorset Council. Heritage Assets include buildings, walls, natural and human-made structures as well as gardens. Some Studland examples are the two Lych Gates, the ironstone walls by Pigs Field and the site of former 22 the Green, the village church cross, the three kissing gates associated with the churchyard, wartime architecture including slit trenches and oil tanks, tank traps, former farm buildings and the village well.

The Purbeck Society

There is an opportunity for interested persons to work with members of the Purbeck Society in creating a list of Heritage Assets in the Swanage area. This list can build upon the recently produced list of non-listed heritage assets. Dorset Council have received project funding to facilitate the creation of a countrywide list of heritage assets using the consultancy services of Land Use Consultants an organisation based in Scotland! There is an urgent need to start this survey as the Dorset Council deadline is on the 11th of April. Please contact the Purbeck Society via its website and/or Facebook page. Swanage needs your knowledge and help with this important project.

The next talk will be on Friday the 8th of April in the community room of the Mowlem Institute at 2.30pm with doors open at 2pm. The talk is titled "Bumps in the Bay". This is about the topography of Swanage Bay. Do come along to hear this interesting presentation and please tell others about it.
www.facebook.com/PurbeckSociety/

Peter Bowyer

Please find some useful information below from
Swanage Town Council which may be helpful to you



EXCESS CHARGE TICKETS (ECT)

If your enquiry relates to the payment of a parking fine, payments can be made by cheque or cash by post to Swanage Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NZ, or by bank transfer to Swanage Town Council at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-99-12, Account Number 01275158. Please quote the 5-digit reference number in the top right hand corner of the ECT (without the reference we will be unable to match the payment to the ticket). Thank you.

If your enquiry relates to an appeal regarding an Excess Charge Ticket, please note that the reduced fee period is extended whilst your appeal is being processed and you will be informed of the outcome when our enquiries are complete.

RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS

If you would like to apply for a Residents' Parking Permit please click on the following link for instructions regarding how to apply and pay for a new permit:

[Residents Parking Info v15 June 2021 updated.pdf \(swanage.gov.uk\)](#)

[Swanage Town Council - Car Parking and Residents' Permits](#)

ENQUIRIES REGARDING HOUSEHOLD BIN SERVICES, LITTER/ STREET CLEANING, AND DOGS/DOG FOULING

Please contact Dorset Council via the following links:

[Contact the Dorset Council Waste Services - Dorset Council](#)

[Street cleaning - Dorset Council](#)

[Dog Warden Service - Dorset Council](#)

ENQUIRIES RE PLANNING + BUILDING CONTROL OR PLANNING APPS

Please contact Dorset Council's Planning Team, Purbeck Area:

[Contact Planning and Building Control - Dorset Council](#)

[The planning office for the Purbeck area \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

ENQUIRIES RE ROADS OR PAVEMENTS, HEDGES, TREES OR VERGES, STREET LIGHTING OR ROADWORKS

Please contact Dorset Council's Highways Team:

[Report a problem on a road or pavement - Dorset Council](#)

For further information please visit the Town Council's website: www.swanage.gov.uk or Facebook page: [Swanage Town Council | Facebook](#) or the Dorset Council website: [Home - Dorset Council](#)



Do you help or support someone?

Are you helping someone with everyday household tasks like shopping or cooking, or organising or transporting someone to medical appointments?

You may also be helping with medication, treatment, personal care and mobility, or you may be providing emotional support.

By doing these things you are considered to be an unpaid carer and there is a lot of support waiting for you in Dorset.

Support is available to unpaid carers in Dorset, finding the right help to support you at the right time when you need it is available in 2 easy steps:

1. Register with your GP Surgery.

2. Register with the carers support service.

Dorset Council residents:

☎ **0800 368 8349**

🖱 **www.carersupportdorset.co.uk**

Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole:

☎ **01202 128787**

✉ **carersupport@bcpcouncil.gov.uk**