

# Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

# NEWSLETTER

## Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages

Welcome to The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's June/July 2026 newsletter, consisting of articles from many local organisations in our communities.

Again, we have distributed printed copies of the newsletter around our various communities. The first printed edition was supported by Swanage & Purbeck Rotary and this edition the printing has been supported by **The Swanage Railway Army Link** for which we offer our sincere thanks. If you or your group or company would like to support the printing of one of our future issues, please contact myself by email or phone. Locations where printed copies can be obtained are:

**Swanage** - Hull Gregson Hull, Miles & Sons, Corbens, HKLaw, Ellis Jones, The Focus Centre, Herston Village Hall, Greengage, Cost-cutters, Swanage Medical Practice, Swanage Library.

**Corfe Castle** - Village Library, Shop & Hall, the Medical Practice and The National Trust Base.

**Studland** - The Village Store.

I can't believe it's already been a year since the Focus Centre opened! In that time, the Welcome Lounge has helped hundreds of people connect with the support they need, and many new services are now available at the Focus Centre. But Wellbeing Swanage is about much more than one building. Led by Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, it's a community-wide effort to improve wellbeing across our town — from services at Herston Village Hall and other local venues, to the Wellbeing Swanage Facebook page and website, and our amazing Community Connectors who are helping people across Swanage and the surrounding villages.

### Now we'd love to hear from you!

What's working well? What could be improved? What else does our community need to help people feel healthier, happier, and more connected? Please take a couple of minutes to complete our short community survey using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WellbeingSwanageCommunity>

Every response helps shape future services and support in Swanage — so by completing the survey, you're helping make a real difference in our community. Thank you!

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, can you please notify SPDT newsletter - melvyn.norris@icloud

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Trustee Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

email: [melvyn.norris@icloud.com](mailto:melvyn.norris@icloud.com) mobile: 07446 677924

find the newsletter at [www.sandpdt.org.uk](http://www.sandpdt.org.uk)

## DEADLINE

for contributions to the August / September 2026 issue of the Newsletter

**MONDAY 13 JULY 2026**



Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust

Charity Reg. No. 1162662

# Citizens Advice Joins Wellbeing Swanage at The Focus Centre

Citizens Advice in East Dorset & Purbeck will be joining Wellbeing Swanage at Swanage's community hub, The Focus Centre, **from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**, offering a regular advice service. Drop-in sessions will run from **10am–12pm**, providing opportunities for residents to seek advice on issues including benefits, debt, housing, employment, and consumer rights.

This service strengthens The Focus Centre's position as Swanage's central hub for wellbeing and support. Existing provision includes the Welcome Lounge, where expert staff and volunteers can help you find the support you need, mental health support on Mondays, Family Hub services, Baby and Toddler groups, drug and alcohol support, and more. Rachel Tapping, Hub Co-ordinator at The Focus Centre said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Citizens Advice to The Focus Centre. Swanage is a wonderful but geographically isolated community, and access to impartial, expert advice can be life-changing for residents facing challenging circumstances."

Ros Dignan, Service Manager, Citizens Advice in East Dorset & Purbeck, said:

"We are really pleased to be able to provide a drop in service from The Focus Centre. To enable Swanage residents to access free, confidential, and impartial advice and support. Our goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever their problem."

The will drop in service will operate every Tuesday from 7<sup>th</sup> April from this new venue. No appointment is needed, just come along.

Citizens Advice will continue to offer advice and support at **Herston Village Hall** every Monday, 10am-12pm during the Community Café and run the Advice Bus at **Swanage Market** on Fridays, 9.30am-12.30pm. For more information visit [www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk)

Wellbeing Swanage is a project of Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust. For more information, visit [www.wellbeingswanage.org.uk](http://www.wellbeingswanage.org.uk)



Swanage is a town of incredible stories, and the museum has always been at the heart of that heritage. We want to start by saying a huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers who have worked so hard to keep our history safe over the years. Your commitment has provided the foundation for an exciting new chapter.

We are now modernising the museum to create a vibrant space where history feels alive. To make this vision a reality, we need you. Whether you are interested in technology, meeting new people, or helping behind the scenes, we need fresh hands and ideas. You don't need expert knowledge to get involved, just a passion for Swanage.

If you would like to help make the museum the place to be, please get in touch or drop by for a chat. Let's work together to ensure our town's story continues to be told.





Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
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It was lovely to see so many of you at the Herston Community picnic, enjoying activities on the field and in the hall, while listening to fabulous live music from Out of the Blue and AllSort'd.

Fundraising to build a new hall continues with **Sea Front stalls** on 18th June, 16th July, 20th August and 10th September.

We are also pleased to invite everyone to join the **Friends of Herston Hall**, to show your support and to get regular updates. To sign up you can pop into the Community Café on Monday mornings or DM on the Herston Village Hall Facebook page with your name and email.

### Regular sessions:

Mondays 10-12 (except bank holidays) – **Community café with Community Pantry, Citizens Advice, Digital Adviser**

Wednesdays 9.30 -11 – **Seahorses Carer and Preschool Children/Babies Group**, led by Home-Start

Fridays – **Swanage Youth Club** (term times). Years 6 & 7, 6-7.30pm. Years 8 & above, 7.45-9.15pm

First Saturday of the month 10-12 – **Craft Circle**

Last Saturday of the month 10.30-12.30 – **Repair Café**: reduce waste and save money.

**Contact** and more information via Facebook: Herston Village Hall, Swanage Community Pantry, Swanage Youth Club, Repair Café Swanage & Purbeck

**SWANAGE REPAIR CAFE**

Repair Cafes are community events aiming to help reduce household items sent to landfill. Our volunteers are on hand to help repair or advise how to fix many common issues.

Help us to help you and let us know what you're bringing in advance - or turn up on the day.

Bring broken items for repair

Donations appreciated

**Fix it, don't bin it!**

Find us at Herston Village Hall  
10:30am-12:30pm  
25 April  
27 June  
26 September  
24 October  
28 November

### Repair Cafe Swanage & Purbeck

Repair Cafe has been running monthly fixing events at Herston Village Hall and celebrated the first anniversary of our relaunch on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

We are delighted to have had some new volunteers join our group this year but always happy welcome more. We would especially like people with knowledge and skill with simple household electronic appliances such as kettles, vacuum cleaners, radios as we sometimes get a bit overwhelmed with these items but any other repair skill -ceramics, clothes, woodwork are also in demand. Either drop in at one of our events for a chat or drop an email.

For the remainder of the year we intend holding Repair events at Herston on Saturdays 27 June, 26 September, 24 October and 28 November. 10.30am to 12.30pm On 18 July we will be setting at Wareham Town Hall.

As well as the regular events we had a display and demonstration at the Herston Community Picnic on 4 April and a Plant and Produce sale to raise some additional funds at Swanage Library on 9 April.

Email : repaircafepurbeck.chair@proton.me

Questions? Contact us  
Facebook.com/repaircafeswanagepurbeck  
Email repaircafepurbeck.chair@proton.me  
Interested in volunteering? Get in touch!



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We are thrilled to be the newest 'residents' at The Focus Centre, and soon to be running The Focus Cafe. We are a not for profit Community Interest Company, who have been working in Purbeck since 2018, supporting adults 16+ with additional needs. We believe that being part of the community is crucial to the people we support, enabling them to develop independence, a sense of belonging and improving their well-being and safety.

You may have heard our intergenerational, inclusive choir who not only sing, we use sign language too as an alternative form of communication. We share our joy of music and show case the talents of the wonderful children and adults who are members of the choir!

We love volunteering and working with other groups and organisations in our community, so being a partner with the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust in The Focus Cafe, was an amazing opportunity for the people we work with which we are very excited about! We hope to be up and running Mid- June! So come and see what is on offer, at this cafe which is run for the community!

All our work is led by the people we support, and so we offer activities for any adults who may be neuro-diverse or have a learning disability in Purbeck:

Tuesdays 9.30-10.15am **Aerobics** at All Saints Church - £3 pay on the door/carers free

Wednesdays 10.30-11.15am **The Music Project** at The Focus Centre - Free

Wednesdays 5.30-7pm **Singing & Signing Choir** - £5 all ages/ carers free

At various dates on Friday evenings through the year in partnership with The Mowlem, we offer a social night out called 'Purbeck Disco Party' for £5 ( tickets available from the Mowlem) - Carers are free!

**Please help us raise the last £5k needed for the accessible stage lift for The Mowlem which will enable anyone with mobility issues to perform alongside their friends on the stage!**

The Allsort'd Choir are performing 'A Night at the Musicals' on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm £7.50

Tickets available from Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/allsortd-at-the-theatre-tickets-1986346705467?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>



## Visit a garden to support the National Garden Scheme!

In 2025 this largely voluntary organisation raised over **£3,875,000** to support nursing and healthcare charities. My mother Rachel Helfer has opened her garden at **Knitson Old Farmhouse** for decades and last year, as my garden is very different from my mother's, I was encouraged to open mine at **The Stables, Knitson** at the same time. This worked successfully in 2025 and we are going to repeat again this year with one entrance cost (which all goes to NGS) covering both gardens at the same venue. The gardens are very different, although with same soil and climate there are many cross overs.

Ample parking in field, with separate field available for picnics.

Homemade light Refreshments provided by Swanage WI team.

**Opening dates: June 10th and 11th (12-5) and July 29th and 30th (12-5)**

**Entrance £8 for both gardens. Between Swanage and Corfe at Knitson BH20 5JB.**

**What3words: currently.accordian.panicking**

Visits can be made at other times by appointment.

We both look forward to welcoming you.

*Becca Charron (07553877947) and Rachel Helfer*





## Focus Café Open Day!

Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust will be holding an event on the 29th of May from 11.00am until 2.00pm at the Focus Centre in Swanage.

Please come along to support your local community and have a look at the great things happening at the Centre!

Join us for....

- A celebration of the new Focus Cafe (which will be run by the fantastic Allsort'd - opening soon!)
- Take a 'behind the scenes' look at the Focus Centre, now close to completion
- Come and meet the people involved and see how you can join in!
- Find out about other services at the Focus Centre
- Meet some of our Member Groups
- The dedication of the Bill Trite Wing, at 1pm in celebration of his work in pioneering services for the local community
- Family activities
- Refreshments

We look forward to seeing you all on the day!

## A Resounding Success: Our "Have a Go" Days

It was fantastic to see such a brilliant turnout for our recent "Have a Go" days. The energy was high, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many new faces to the club. Whether you were a complete novice or dusting off old skills, the enthusiasm on display made the events a truly memorable success. We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who came down, pitched in, and gave it their all. The feedback has been wonderful, and it's clear there is plenty of hidden talent in our local area!

### On the Field: A Season of Mixed Fortunes

With the season now well underway, our teams have been busy on the competitive front. As is the nature of the game, we've seen **mixed results** across our matches so far. While we've celebrated some hard-fought victories, we've also had a few "character-building" moments on the scoreboard. Regardless of the final tally, the team spirit remains high. We're finding that win, lose, or draw, the camaraderie (and the post-match debrief) is what really counts.

### Supporting a Great Cause: CanCare

This year, we are proud to announce that our fundraising efforts are dedicated to **CanCare**. Throughout the season, we will be hosting various initiatives to raise money for this fantastic charity and the vital support they provide to those in our community. We encourage everyone to give generously where they can—every contribution helps us hit our goal for a cause that touches so many lives.

### Join Us on Wednesday Mornings

If you missed the "Have a Go" days but are still itching to get involved, you haven't missed the boat! We hold dedicated **beginners sessions every Wednesday morning**. These sessions are the perfect, low-pressure way to learn the ropes, meet the team, and get some fresh air. Whether you're looking for a new hobby or just a bit of mid-week socialising, we'd love to see you there.

### Get in Touch

For more information about our Wednesday sessions or any other club activities, please reach out to **Barrie Tatman**. Barrie is ready to help you get started.

**Contact:** Barrie Tatman

**Phone:** 01929 421162







Multi Award winning **Double Act** drama group is creating a brand new adaptation of

## THE CAT AND THE CANARY

(Performances on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>)

Director Dougal Dixon has based his adaptation on the original 1922 play by David Willard. He invented most of the clichés of melodrama, with an estranged dysfunctional family meeting up for the reading of a will at midnight in an old dark house with a monster on the loose! What could possibly go wrong?

*First Auditions have taken place for this major production but you can still come along and join in.*

We may still be looking for youngsters who can pass for teenage boys and men who can be made to look as if they are in their 30's.

Any youngsters will rehearse on Sunday afternoons until November.

**Read-through as a cast & blocking starts**  
**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Corfe Castle Village Hall.**  
*If you would like further details please ask Peter.*

Looking ahead to future-proof our skill sets we will be running a few short

### Lighting Workshops

These will contain essential knowledge for any prospective Directors but if you have the vaguest interest in lighting or just want to broaden your horizons you are welcome to attend on

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & July 6<sup>th</sup> at Corfe Village Hall, 67 East Street.**  
 Starting at 6.15pm sharp until 6.55pm with opportunities to get 'hands on', these will finish just before "The Cat & The Canary" rehearsals start.

If you are looking for a new hobby and would be interested in joining our friendly safe group, on or off stage, please contact  
 Peter (chairman – 07551 183465) or email  
 doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com for more details.  
 New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome!




**2 June, 7 July**  
**10-12 noon**  
**Welcome Lounge, Focus Centre**  
**107 High St, Swanage**

**Give a Little, Gain a Lot**

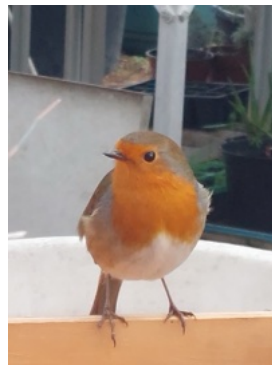
Would you like to: make a difference, use existing or learn fresh skills, meet new people, have fun and be proud to know that you have helped keep Swanage great?

Local organisations, who need volunteers, have joined together to bring all their volunteering opportunities into one place.

*From one-off to regular opportunities*

**Pop in and meet our friendly Volunteer Champions to find out more or go to**

<https://www.sandpdt.org.uk/swanage-volunteer-bureau/>

We have had the busiest of months and germination and growth have been really amazing.

In the greenhouse veg and flower seeds have been sown and already a lot of people have visited us and taken away what they need.

We have prepared the hanging baskets for the hospital, pots to help beautify the library and will, very shortly, be planting out the planters at the hospital.

We have attended events at the Boilerhouse in Corfe, Swanage Library and Herston Fields picnic day on Bank Holiday Monday.

In addition our plots of potatoes, leeks beans, salad crops and more are doing very well in our fertile soil!

Our biggest news, though, is that we are really pleased to say that our lovely garden room is almost ready with our kitchen area, lighting etc now complete.

On **May 22nd** we are having an **OPEN DAY** from 11am ... lots of cake, tea, plants etc and an opportunity to see our new facility. The next stage is to renovate the toilet block and that should be starting soon!

Please come and see us on the 22nd but also every Tuesday from 12 and every Friday from 10. You are always welcome and we have some lovely plants and you will probably see our lovely, friendly robin – or Rocky as he is known. He is now taking food from Rob's hand and is the undisputed star of the show! See you soon!

As summer days bloom, the involvement of Purbeck Sounds in community events offers the widest opportunity for local groups and charities to be heard via the airwaves.



Sir David Attenborough pictured with photographer Sam Stewart. Photo:

We enjoyed listening to a number of guests who have all been responsible for the nature films made by broadcaster and naturalist, David Attenborough when Maggie chatted to those who took part in the David Attenborough 100th birthday celebration held at the Etches Museum of Jurassic Marine Life, Kimmeridge on May 8th.

The Mowlem's Open Weekend on May 30-31st has given us the chance to hold poetry workshops for adults and children, led by Fi, presenter of words to inspire and the crew plus a History Box special led by Purbeck Sounds director, Cathy and Thelma.

The Purbeck Arts Weeks figured heavily in the Purbeck Sounds schedule and various presenters were out and about interviewing the artists and musicians who have taken part at many of the scores of venues which opened all over Purbeck. This year's schedule brought the artists to life and we held a series of hour-long programmes when they could give us the 'back story' of their journey to becoming sought-after local artists. During the conversations they promoted aspects of their work and identified Purbeck as a top spot for creativity in their field.

We'll be waving our cowboy hats when we take part in the Swanage Carnival at the end of July. Our presenters will be popping up in all sorts of places to talk to the crowds and encourage volunteers to join us. Who knows, you may see us in the procession lineup. We are holding two events in the carnival marquee. There's a Words To Inspire workshop on August 1st and another event on July 27th. Look for our distinctive Purbeck Sounds logo.

Meanwhile our regular programmes continue, from our travel programme, notes from abroad with Grace, H'our Local History with Cathy, Book Marks when Chris has a wonderful time talking in depth to his guests about their favourite book and why it fascinates them, to David, our intrepid walker who likes nothing better than to kick up his heels and take his guests on paths less travelled. Then there's the soothing tones of Paul who brings us a weekly afternoon favourites' show or Peter who recently embarked on the Star Wars themes and the background to this fantastic film line up. I'm sure you've listened to David Hollister's drive time, now telling it like it is, at tea times. You might not agree with him, but he's worth a listen.

We mustn't forget our Young Stars led by Pierre who present their programmes on Friday evening in their inimitable style. Pierre you will recognise as a film buff with his weekly programme. The regular breakfast shows hosted by Hannah, Annabelle and Fi start the day with a swing as do our community shows with Thelma, Maggie, Karen and Steve.

So listen regularly and listen long - you can learn a lot from Purbeck Sounds radio.

**Summer Nights in the Castle!**  
Bournemouth symphony orchestra  
.... live in Corfe Castle!

Choose from these fantastic concerts

Scan the QR code to book tickets!

Find out more...  
[loveitlocalevents.co.uk](http://loveitlocalevents.co.uk)

**Friday 24th July**  
**'WEST END TO HOLLYWOOD'**  
Experience the greatest music from film and musical theatre  
From James Bond to Harry Potter to The Sound of Music to The Phantom of the Opera!  
Tickets from £40.00

**Saturday 25th July**  
**SMASH HITS**  
Hits of the 80's with the BSO string players, five-piece band & singers  
From George Michael, Elton John, Blondie, David Bowie, Madonna and many more...  
Tickets from £40.00

**Sunday 26th July**  
**CURIOUS CREATURES & THE NATURAL WORLD**  
A musical journey through the wonders of nature  
From Rimsky-Korsakov, Vaughan Williams & Manuel de Falla to The Beatles, Bjerk, Louis Armstrong and many more...  
Adults: £40.00 / under 15's: £20.00



The 2026 Swanage Folk Festival is looking forward to another great year. With over 50 bands appearing across the weekend, The Longest Johns, Gerry Colvin and Merry Hell will be topping the bill. Tickets are already selling well, so don't forget to get yours soon from the Swanage Folk Festival website.

There will once again be free concerts throughout the weekend and colourful dancers filling the town.

Last year the festival raised £10,000 for local charities. If you can spare a few hours to help over the weekend, please see the "Can You Help Us?" page on the festival website: <https://swanagefolkfestival.com>

## Herston ‘Community’ Halt

Regrettably we postponed our planned Open Day at the beginning of May, as it was not possible to complete the winter works on the rainwater harvesting project in time. Hopefully we can re-arrange the event later in the year. However there has been a good spring clean of late, and the garden areas have been tidied up by Carol Wright and her small team. On 24 Apr we had assistance from 10 very keen volunteers from Network Rail who prepared and woodstained wooden fences and cleared winter debris from a safe walking route.

Team Herson has become rather depleted and so we are making efforts to boost our group which meets on Friday mornings, often on the second Saturday of the month and on other days by request. Please contact [frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk) for more information.



## Success on a different scale for the Purbeck Mining Museum

The success of Swanage Railway’s first Model Railway Exhibition weekend on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> was clear to see at the Purbeck Mining Museum near Norden station. The museum hosted four layouts alongside its permanent layout depicting the clay mining interchange at Furzebrook in the 1950s, as well as rides and driver experiences on the 5” ride-on miniature and fully signalled Hymex railway from AMR in the museum grounds. The event attracted a record number of visitors, with former clay miner, Brian Biles providing them with stories and anecdotes about his experience in the clay mines at Norden.



The intensive efforts of the museum’s team of volunteers, adjusting the clay mining exhibits and preparing the venue to accommodate the OO, HO and N gauge layouts and greeting visitors over the weekend certainly paid off. Donations over the two days far exceeded expectations and feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive with many saying how much they enjoyed chatting with the four talented modellers in the real-life clay mining atmosphere of the museum.

“Building on the success of the Steam Gala weekend, the high level of attendance at the model railway weekend has given us a great start to the 2026 season”, says the Museum’s Chairman, Peter Sills. “It really was a tremendous team effort to get everything ready and provide everyone with the best possible visitor experience, and we’re delighted with the results.”

The Purbeck Mining Museum is run entirely by volunteers and details on opening times are posted on the museum’s website, [www.purbeckminingmuseum.org](http://www.purbeckminingmuseum.org) This also provides more information on Purbeck’s clay mining industry and the various roles and opportunities for volunteers who are always given a warm welcome, even if they are only available for just a few hours every now and then.



The Purbeck Mining Museum hosted four layouts and a 5” ride-on miniature railway throughout Swanage Railway’s first Model Railway Exhibition.



A 5” ride-on miniature railway was set up in the grounds of the Purbeck Mining Museum for visitors to Swanage Railway’s first Model Railway Exhibition. Photograph courtesy of Andrew PM Wright.

## Summer Events on Swanage Pier

This summer, Swanage Pier hosts a varied programme of events for all ages, combining seaside relaxation, gentle activity, evenings on the water and local history.



### Underwater Exhibition – From Friday 22nd May

Paul and Alison will be displaying their underwater photographs on the lower landing of the Pier from the end of May, running throughout the summer.



### Summer Raffle – From Friday 22nd May

Our Summer Raffle launches at the end of May, with amazing cash prizes and other exciting prizes, including a limited-edition print by renowned local Purbeck artist Cathy Veale.

### Fish and Chip Cruise - Sun 24th May, Sat 13th June, Fri 10th July & Wed 29th July

The ever-popular Fish and Chip Cruise returns, offering classic fish and chips alongside stunning coastal views from the water.

### History Walks – Sun 24<sup>th</sup> May and Sun 5th July

Step back in time on a guided volunteer walk exploring the history of Swanage Pier.

### Children's History Walk – Thurs 28th May

Designed for younger visitors, the Children's History Walk brings the Pier's past to life through fun, interactive storytelling along the Pier.

### Yoga on the Pier - Every Tues & Thurs from 1st June at 8.00 am, plus Sat 25th July at 5.30 pm

For those seeking a moment of calm, enjoy a peaceful and refreshing start to the day.

### Park to Pier Walk - Sat 27th June, Sun 12th July, Sun 30th August & Sun 13th September

Offering fresh air, gentle exercise, and beautiful scenery from Durlston Country Park to Swanage Pier.

Whether you're seeking relaxation, gentle activity, family fun, an insight into Swanage's history, or the chance to enjoy our summer exhibition, Swanage Pier's summer events offer a welcoming and memorable experience for all.

For more information, visit: [www.swanagepiertrust.com/events.aspx](http://www.swanagepiertrust.com/events.aspx)



In the age of digital audio streaming, we consume music one track at a time, fed by algorithms invented by strangers living thousands of miles away. But, when you come to Swanage Record Club, you hear complete albums, from start to finish, lovingly chosen by flesh-and-blood music enthusiasts.

We run monthly sessions at the Showbar in the Mowlem Theatre. Each session is curated by a volunteer, who chooses a theme for the evening's music. Two albums are presented in full, and everyone is invited to play tracks which match the theme. They are sociable sessions. People are welcome to chat while they listen to the records.

No membership is required and you don't need to own any records or be an expert. All you need is an interest in music and an open mind. Come alone or bring a friend. You'll be made to feel welcome. Ages range from 18 to 78 and there's a healthy mix of genders (we're not a bunch of ale-drinking chin-strokers!). We see new faces every month, so you won't stick out.

If you fancy having a go on the decks or curating a future session, one of the regulars will happily show you the ropes.

**Next sessions:** "City" 18 June; "Revolution" 9 July. Music starts 6.30pm. First album introduced at 7.30pm. See [swanagerecordclub.uk](http://swanagerecordclub.uk) for details.



# A Century of Wonder: Sir David Attenborough at 100

In the heart of Kimmeridge, the Purbeck community gathered for an unforgettable evening of storytelling, science, and celebration to honour a global icon's milestone birthday.

On Friday, May 8th, the atmosphere at **The Etches Collection** was electric. One hundred and twenty-five guests—ranging from local residents to the Rotary District Governor—came together for a Swanage & Purbeck Rotary-led tribute to the man who taught the world how to fall in love with nature: **Sir David Attenborough**.

While the world knows him as the voice of the wild, Purbeck knows him as a frequent visitor and a champion of its unique Jurassic landscape. The evening was a deep dive into Sir David's life, his legacy, and his enduring ties to this corner of the Dorset coast.

## Voices from the Field

The night was anchored by three distinguished speakers, each offering a personal glimpse into the world of the legendary broadcaster:

- **Dr. Steve Etches:** The world-renowned palaeontologist shared the thrilling saga of discovering the world-record beating **Pliosaur**. He spoke warmly of his experiences working alongside Sir David, detailing the naturalist's genuine awe when faced with the "T-Rex of the sea."
- **Sam Stewart:** A master of the skies, oceans and land, the wildlife photographer presented breathtaking drone footage that has graced Attenborough's programmes. Most notable were the sweeping, iconic shots of **Old Harry Rocks**, which Sam helped capture for the screen.
- **Sue Western:** As a veteran scriptwriter and producer, Sue offered a "behind-the-curtain" look at the production process. She reflected on Sir David's unique genius—his unparalleled ability to translate complex science into stories that touch the heart.



## A Community Effort

A celebration of this scale requires a village—or in this case, a dedicated Peninsula. The evening was a feast for the senses, fuelled by a "pantastic" Paella prepared by local chefs **Steve and Lindsey Townsend**.

The generosity of the local business community was on full display through an exceptional raffle, featuring contributions from:

- **The National Trust & The Mowlem Theatre**
- **Chococo & Jurassic Kites**
- **Abbotsbury Swannery & The Etches Collection**
- **Durlston Country Park & Pete Johnson (National Geographic Kids)**



## Conservation with a Purpose

The event wasn't just about looking back; it was about protecting the future. Held in close association with **Planet Purbeck**, the evening championed local sustainability and environmental enhancement. The impact of the night extends far beyond Kimmeridge. The charitable profits are being shared with the **Cambridge Conservation Initiative**, an organisation for which Sir David serves as Patron, ensuring that his 100th year continues to support the biodiversity of our planet.

"It was more than just a birthday party; it was a testament to how one man's voice can inspire an entire community to protect the world around them."

As the sun set over the Jurassic Coast, the message of the evening was clear: Sir David Attenborough may be 100, but his mission to protect our "Wonderful World" is only just beginning.

Jane McSharry  
Swanage & Purbeck Rotary

Swanage & Purbeck  
**Rotary**  
Charitable Incorporated  
Organisation



# The Friends of Wareham Hospital



The Friends committee has continued to celebrate 60 years of support for Wareham Hospital by organising a Soup and Pud Lunch at the United Reform Church in Wareham on May 9th. Sadly numbers attending were small but those who came enjoyed a free lunch in a very happy atmosphere and were kind enough to donate generously to our funds helping us to continue support for the hospital and community services.

We were delighted to receive very positive feedback on facebook, guests enjoying a choice of 2 soups and 2 puds (and seconds!) and appreciating the hard work of the team who also provided a raffle. We will aim to hold a similar event in a few months time .

The Friends' Gardening team continues to meet weekly to tend the garden. Many new roses have been planted and the shrubs are beginning to flower providing a very attractive area for patients, visitors and staff. Our bird boxes have residents and the garden area is being well used and appreciated. The District Nurses were able to hold a leaving party in the garden recently enjoying the sunshine and the lovely area we have created.

Committee members have also been working hard to modernise the Friends organisation by becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which we hope will help us to attract new Trustees and ensure the continuing viability of this important group which works so hard to support Wareham Hospital and Purbeck community services - valuable assets for our local community. Please do get in touch with us if you think you can help in any way. [friendsofwarehamhospital@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwarehamhospital@gmail.com) We will again be having a stand at the Wareham Carnival on Sunday July 19th where team members will be pleased to tell you more.



And a reminder that our AGM and a fundraising Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday September 26th from 0930 at Wareham Town Hall - we hope to see you .

*Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair*



## Swanage Food Bank

April has been busy at the Food Bank and we were able to help 49 households in Swanage. The Food Bank is very grateful for the generous donations of food from local folk over the years which are vital for our work. Unfortunately we have recently seen a decrease in donations in our supermarket bins - we do appreciate that everyone is experiencing a cost of living increase and may be unable to spare as much. However any donations into the bins would be hugely appreciated.

If you are able to contribute to our stocks this month, the following items would be very welcome:

**Cereal • Minced beef, corned beef, meatballs, beef stew • Chicken in white sauce • Tuna • Macaroni cheese**

**Tinned fruit • Rice pudding • Custard • Sweet biscuits • Savoury biscuits • Toothpaste • Household cleaning liquid**

Our Blue Food Bins for donated items can be found in **Budgen's**, the **Co-op**, **Costcutters** and **SPAR**. Collection points can also be found in local churches. We welcome gifts of tinned and dried food and drinks - though we currently do have enough pasta shapes, spaghetti and baked beans in our store. Items must be within their Best-by date.

To find out more about making a donation or for other enquiries, please call 07759 230313.

If you or someone you know needs one-off help from the food bank, please self-refer by phoning us on 07759 230313. If more frequent or ongoing help is needed, please get a referral from an agency that is aware of your circumstances - like Citizens Advice, your Social Worker, Mental Health Worker, the Focus Centre, your GP or a church minister.



**SWANAGE TOWN BAND**

**SUMMER ON THE BANDSTAND**

**Sat 23 May 2:30pm**

**Sat 6 June 2:30pm**

**Sat 20 June 2:30pm**

**Wed 8 July 7pm**

**Wed 29 July 7pm (Carnival)**

**Wed 26 Aug 7pm**

If wet, we will play in Swanage Methodist Church, High Street, BH19 2LZ, starting 30 minutes later

[www.swanagetownband.co.uk](http://www.swanagetownband.co.uk)

follow us @swanagetownband Registered Charity Number 1214942

### Swanage Town Band Playing on the Bandstand this Summer

The Swanage Town Band will be playing in the bandstand throughout the summer and there are two dates in June for your diaries - Saturday 6th and Saturday 20th June at 2.30pm. Should the weather prevent a bandstand performance, the concert will still take place 30 minutes later in the Swanage Methodist Church.

Come and hear some great music with a varied programme for each concert - everything from show tunes, film scores and jazzy numbers to Queen and The Beatles! Guaranteed to get your feet tapping! So pack a picnic, bring a deckchair or a blanket and soak up the sun while enjoying some great music. The concerts are always free to enjoy but the band do collect for local charities and last year raised nearly £2000 for Dementia Friendly Purbeck's second Admiral Nurse.



### Corfe Community Kitchen Soup 'n Pud

**A choice of 2 soups and 2 puds with custard**  
Corfe Castle Village Hall

**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> '26, 12.30 – 1.45pm**

**Come and join local friends for a simple, healthy, filling and sustainable  
Free Lunch**



This venture is provided by volunteers, on a not-for-profit basis, in a friendly environment for local residents to increase community spirit. If you wish to make a donation, either of food or money please feel free but it is not obligatory.

June 6<sup>th</sup> sees us returning to a fully enlarged and refurbished kitchen!! What luxury to have such a clean, empty and useable space with a lovely manageable cooker and an all singing all dancing dishwasher!! Thank you Corfe Castle Village Hall Committee for pushing forward with this amazing plan. It will make cooking and serving food an even greater pleasure and will hopefully attract more large scale users to the hall, helping to pay off the loan needed to kick start the work.

Soup 'n' Pud is hoping to run another fund raising event in July to help with repayments. Watch this space for more information.

At this point we are not sure of what we will be making for June's lunch but you can be sure it will be as tasty and wholesome as usual. We are coming into the productive time of year for fruit and vegetables so if anyone has some surplus we would be happy to take them off your hands to contribute to our seasonal treats.

We are always very thankful for the help and support we get from our volunteers, without whom we would be unable to function, however we are happy to welcome more into the fold as well as additional diners. Do come and join us.

We will be forever grateful to The Village Bakery for donating to us the bread rolls over the last 3.5 years and are very pleased that the new incumbents are willing to do the same. Thank you very much. It is so indicative of the community spirit that Corfe Castle and its residents inspire!

**WHY DON'T YOU GIVE SOUP 'N' PUD A TRY?**

## Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

### Newsletters about making the best use of local health services

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) has produced a series of six newsletters about making the best use of local health services. These are being published weekly on the Practice website and can be found at: [Newsletters about making the best use of local health services - Swanage Medical Practice](#). All patients for whom the Practice has a mobile number have also been sent a text to alert them to the publication of the newsletters.



The newsletters cover the following topics:

1. Sources of information, advice and support on health issues
2. Keeping Well and Self Care
3. Services provided by Community Pharmacies
4. Community Health Services you can refer yourself to
5. Maternity Services and Services for Children, Young People and Families
6. Mental Health Services.

Do take a look.

### Priorities for the year ahead

The PPG has agreed that its priorities for the year ahead should be to

- Promote awareness of the PPG and recruit new PPG members
- Promote the uptake of the NHS App and other online NHS/GP services
- Support the Practice to keep people informed of changes in the way services are delivered at the Practice
- Encourage people to make the best use of local health services - including those they can refer themselves to directly, without needing a GP appointment
- Review the results of the national GP Patient Survey when they are published in July.

### Getting protected this Spring with a COVID-19 Vaccination

If you are over 75 years old, aged 6 months and over and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment, or you are a resident of a care home for older adults, you can now get your COVID-19 Spring Vaccination. Vaccinations will be available until 30 June 2026.

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination can be found on the Stay Well Dorset website at <https://staywelldorset.nhs.uk/vaccinations/covid/>.

The NHS is sending invites to those who are eligible, but you do not need to wait for an invite to book an appointment. You can book an appointment in any of the following ways:

- Via the NHS App
- Online on the National Booking System at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>
- By calling 119.

You can also attend a walk-in clinic without an appointment. Locations of walk-in clinics can be found at <https://staywelldorset.nhs.uk/vaccinations/walkin/> or on the NHS website at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/find-a-walk-in-covid-19-vaccination-site/>.

### PPG Meetings

The PPG last met on 12 May 2026, when we were joined by Dr Mark Law, one of the Partners at the Practice. Dr Law updated us on the new GP Contract and how it is being implemented at the Practice. The PPG will next be meeting **at the Surgery on Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 6:00pm**. You can find out more about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings and our current priorities, at: [www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group](http://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group).

**If you are interested in joining the PPG, please contact Natasha Ritchie, the Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at [ppgswanage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgswanage@gmail.com). We would be particularly pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on the role of Secretary for the PPG.**

*Dr Margaret Guy, Chair, Swanage Medical Practice PPG*

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## Community Health Group

### **If you have concerns about timely access to NHS care please come and raise these with our MP and the Chief Executive of Poole and Bournemouth Hospitals at a Roundtable**

The session will focus on collaborative solutions to improve local health outcomes, including:

- Improving accessibility to primary and secondary care for Purbeck residents.
- Understanding the impact of the UHD clinical transformation on our local area.
- Identifying opportunities for integrated community health hubs.

Friday, 22nd May 2026, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

The Mowlem Theatre, Shore Road, Swanage, BH19 1DD

Chair: **Lloyd Hatton MP**

Guest Speaker: **Siobhan Harrington, CEO of University Hospitals Dorset**

## Wareham Whalers

Looking back over 2025, Whalers are pleased to say that we raised over £10,000 for charities. This has been split between the RNLI and the cancer charity, Planets. Both of these charities are local and provide exceptional support to those who need it. Much of the money was raised through our concert, "Between the Devil and The Deep Blue Sea" which we put on at various places. In these concerts we explored how the language of the sailing ships became part of our everyday English language. We got our audiences to imagine a poor sailor being hung over the side of a fast moving sailing ship and having to carry out necessary repairs. The devil, in this case being the name given to the seam between the main deck and the hull.

This year's concert is entitled "**Shanties and Strange Stories**". In this concert we will explore the many superstitions that ruled sailors' lives and led to many strange customs, such as wearing a single earring, not cutting hair or nails etc. We will also find out about strange characters such as Mother Carey, Bertie Binns and Lady Luvibond, just to mention a few. Once again we will be raising money for the RNLI and Planets, whilst raising the roof with a good selection of shanties and readings. So far we have performed this concert at Durlston Castle, North Perrott Village Hall and at the Hamworthy Club, Csnford Magna.

Remaining dates for this concert, are:

16<sup>th</sup> August at Arundells, Salisbury

11<sup>th</sup> September, Mudeford (raising funds for Mudeford RNLI)

4<sup>th</sup> October, Wareham Parish Hall (raising funds for Wareham RNLI fundraisers)

30<sup>th</sup> October, Lymington Sailing Club (raising funds for New Milton RNLI)

For more information and tickets, please email:

[wareham.whalers@gmail.com](mailto:wareham.whalers@gmail.com)

Whalers will also be travelling round to various venues and festivals where we look forward to bringing you a range of well known as well as more obscure shanties for your entertainment.



## Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating



### Time to Blow our own Trumpet!

Eleven years ago now, 4 of us agreed that placing 4 public access defibrillators in Swanage would be a good idea as we were all concerned about Ambulance response times in an emergency situation particularly as Swanage is situated at the end of the Purbeck cul de sac.

We were so very fortunate to receive generous support from many within our community at the beginning of our project and are delighted that community support has continued either financially through fundraising initiatives on behalf of SCDP or by voluntary help to monitor and maintain our now greatly increased fleet of public access defibs across Swanage, the local villages and some in Wareham - totalling over 60!

The team of volunteers supporting this initiative is extensive; our dedicated original team of 4 are still committed to SCDP and have been joined by Mary and Claire on the steering group. We provide familiarisation sessions to show how to use a defib and we continually review our fleet to ensure that the defibs are up to date and rescue ready, but without the committed team of defib guardians who check the defibs and cabinets on a fortnightly basis the project and the support we give to the local community would be less successful.

Defibs have been deployed over 300 times and we have provided familiarisation sessions to hundreds of people. SCDP is so grateful to all our volunteers and our supporters. Thank you all. What an amazing community we are lucky enough to be part of - definitely one worth celebrating and telling others about!

The latest defib and cabinet within SCDP has been provided for Hoburne Park by Alan May and his fundraising team at Newton Manor Hall; thank you Alan.

SCDP Steering Group- Ian, Dave, Maggie, Kyle, Mary and Claire



  
Swanage & Purbeck  
Development Trust  
Charity Reg. No. 1162662






**OPENING JAM**  
**MAY 30, 2026**  
12:00 - 17:00

**SWANAGE SKATEPARK**  
FREE ENTRY

**WORKSHOPS | PRO DEMONSTRATIONS | COMP & PRIZES**

[SWANAGESKATEPARKCOMMUNITYPROJECT.COM](http://SWANAGESKATEPARKCOMMUNITYPROJECT.COM)



**LET'S CELEBRATE THE NEW RAMPS**  
**SKATE JAM HOSTED BY KING RAMPS**



**SCHEDULE**

- 12:00 - 13:00 SKATEBOARD & BMX WORKSHOPS
- 13:00 - 13:20 PRO DEMONSTRATIONS
- 13:20 - 14:30 OPEN PRACTICE SESSION
- 14:30 - 16:30 SKATE, SCOOTER & BMX COMPS
- 16:30 - 16:50 PRO DEMONSTRATIONS
- 16:50 - 17:00 PRIZE GIVING



Bring cash for snacks, refreshments, merch & raffle.  
Have your say: Phase 2 initial ideas design consultation.

BYO Water bottle, picnic blankets & chairs.  
If it rains, the event will be rescheduled. Check our socials for updates.

@SWANAGESKATEPARK @SWANAGE SKATEPARK COMMUNITY PROJECT

**MONEY RAISED GOES TOWARDS THE PHASE 2 BUILD**

## The Big Weekend: Big Magic at the Mowlem!

The Big Weekend at The Mowlem on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, will host over 25 events, including workshops for families and young people as well as unique pop-up creative experiences for adults.

Free entry to the 'Big Weekend' includes our backstage tours at 10am and 2pm every day, our 'Art Cafe' in the Showbar and 'History Box' hosted by Purbeck Sounds - collecting people's memories and stories about the Mowlem.

Workshops in poetry, dance, theatre, singing and beatbox are offered to all at a £5 suggested donation. '3 Operas, 1 Evening' by Destination Opera in the auditorium on Saturday and 'The Devil Wears Prada 2' on Sunday are offered at our regular prices.

The Mowlem will be partnering with a host of local artists and arts organisations to deliver the Big Weekend including Diverse City, Words to Inspire, Destination Opera and Crooked Timber Theatre. We'll be hosting brand new initiatives such as our first Open Mic Night, Showtunes Karaoke and a unique opportunity to learn to draw with Horrible Histories illustrator, Martin Brown.

The Mowlem will be open from 10am to 10pm on both days, with the Showbar open for tea, coffee and cake all weekend. We look forward to welcoming you to experience the magic of the Mowlem on the beach in Swanage!

Our full timetable of events can be found on our website: <https://themowlem.com/series/the-big-weekend-2026/>



**BIG THE MOWLEM WEEKEND 30 & 31 MAY**

**BOOKING NOW AVAILABLE**

25 EVENTS TO DISCOVER! FREE AND LOW COST EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. PRICES START AT £5 SUGGESTED DONATION.

- '3 OPERAS, 1 EVENING'
- 'THE BEAT BOX EXPERIENCE' WITH RU OLDRIGE
- ART CAFE IN THE SHOWBAR
- SING & SIGN WITH ALLSORT'D
- DANCE YOURSELF DIZZY WITH DIVERSE CITY
- HORRIBLE HISTORIES AND DEADLY DRAWING WITH MARTIN BROWN
- 'UP JUMPED THE CRAB' PUPPETRY SHOW WITH CROOKED TIMBER THEATRE
- WORDS TO INSPIRE POETRY WORKSHOPS
- BACKSTAGE TOURS
- 'SEA PICTURES' WITH SARAH PRING
- SHOWTUNES KARAOKE WORKSHOP
- TAKE A BREATH... AND SING!
- AND MORE...

ALLSORT D living | support | work | learning

Diverse City

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

M

Dorset Council



# Updates from the National Trust



## Dam impressive!



Photo: Beaver Dam, Cathy Lewis

One year after we released beavers into the wild at Little Sea, Studland, their activity has dramatically reshaped part of the nearby landscape – turning a previously dense area of woodland into a thriving wetland habitat.

One of the two pairs of beavers we introduced in March 2025 have built an impressive 35-metre-long dam, which has slowed the flow of a small stream, creating a deep and extensive pond. Their coppicing of trees has opened up the canopy, allowing light to flood in and creating ideal habitat for plants, insects, amphibians, birds and bats. The trees they cut don't die – they quickly sprout new shoots.

Gen Crisford, Wetlands Project Officer, said: "The effect on the eco-system is astonishing. From dense tangled woodland, the beavers have created a light and airy wetland teeming with life above and below the water. We can't wait to see what wildlife appears this summer – from dragonflies, diving beetles and butterflies to frogs and newts – and of course, all the animals that feed off them."

## First seahorse of the season!

There was excitement on the training day for the new volunteer divers at Studland Bay – when the first seahorse of the year was recorded!

Each summer, around 40 volunteers – from students to experienced divers – help count and photograph seahorses, while checking the health of the seagrass. Their findings are fed back to the Studland Bay Marine Partnership, a group of organisations including the National Trust, which works to protect these precious underwater meadows. Our eco-moorings enable boats to anchor without damaging the seagrass, and the mooring fees go straight back into the project.

Huge thanks to Southampton University and The Seahorse Trust for leading the training – and to all the volunteers for giving their time to help conserve this rare habitat.



Photo: Cathy Lewis

## Adder appreciation



Photo: Adder, Dave Hutton

We've had lots of sightings of adders across Purbeck recently. These beautiful native snakes come in a range of colours, from silvery-grey to coppery brown – and some are even completely black! The zig-zag pattern along the back makes them easy to recognise.

Yes, adders are venomous – but they're also incredibly shy. They'll disappear as soon as they sense your footfall. Their venom is used to catch prey such as mice, voles, lizards, frogs, newts and small birds. When you're out in the countryside, remember:

- Never try to handle adders.
- Keep to paths rather than walking in long vegetation.
- Keep dogs from rooting around in long grass, deep heather or gorse.
- If you are bitten, seek medical help immediately. Not all adder bites cause a serious reaction, but it's worth being cautious.

## Help ground-nesting birds

From March to August, some of our favourite birds are nesting – including skylarks, meadow pipits and corn buntings. But these birds nest on the ground which makes them very vulnerable. You can help by:

- Staying on the main paths
- Respecting seasonal restrictions, such as keeping your dog on a lead
- Not lighting fires or using disposable BBQs
- Spreading the word!

If you have any queries, email us on [purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk).

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust



Photo: Skylark, Pete Christie



## Help Us Create a Community Café and Gardens

You can help us raise £10,000 to open a Community Café and open gardens for people and wildlife.

### Our Café will....

- Allow people with learning disabilities to work or train
- Help young people to develop skills
- Be a place to make new friends
- Give local groups a place to share their work
- Offer health and wellbeing support
- Create 'pocket parks' for relaxation
- Provide homes for wildlife in the heart of Swanage

A donation of any size will help us reach our goals!

**DONATE TODAY!**



www.wellbeingswanage.org  
01929 208376

A Project of Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust - charity number 1162662



## The Focus Café: Update

Work by Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust to create a new café for the community at the Focus Centre is flying ahead!

The Focus Café will offer so much more than just great coffee. It'll be a warm, welcoming place to meet friends, make new connections, and find support. Even better, it will be run by the wonderful **Allsort'd CIC**.

The new café and garden will be places where everyone is welcome – helping to reduce loneliness, offering a gentle gateway to wellbeing services, and giving community groups a friendly place to meet. The café will also provide training and employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities, making a real difference to real lives.

Over the last couple of months, contractors have been busy creating a new, accessible kitchen and toilet for us, removing internal walls and pillars to create a light, airy space, opening up a new doorway and as I write, are busy creating a welcoming outdoor space.

Meanwhile, staff and volunteers from SPDT and Allsort'd have been working together to 'cook up' an exciting menu, train up the 'crew' who will be running the café, create new signage and all the other things needed to take this final step to turn the Focus Centre into a buzzing, inclusive hub for the whole community.

As we approach the finish line, **we need your help to raise the final £7,000 we need** to equip the kitchen, café and garden.

Your donation could pay for.....

- £10 A plant to attract butterflies to our garden
- £15 Kitchen utensils for the Allsort'd crew to hone their cookery skills!
- £20 A planter for fresh herbs
- £30 A toaster for those all-important snacks!
- £40 Gardening tools for our volunteers
- £50 Installing a bird box, making our front garden great for wildlife as well as people!
- £100 Training for a young person to gain work experience in our café

Your donations will support the work of Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust and particularly developing the Focus Centre as a wellbeing hub for the people of Swanage.

Even a small donation helps! You can donate by following the link below:

[Donate to Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust Focus Cafe Appeal - Give as you Live Donate](#)

Or get your ticket for a fundraising concert at Newton Manor Grange at 7pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> May (see the poster for details).

Thanks to everyone who has helped us get to this point and we look forward to welcoming you to the Focus Café soon!

Ali Tuckey

CEO, Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust

To find out more about what the Focus Centre can do for you, visit [www.wellbeingswanage.org](http://www.wellbeingswanage.org)

**BEST OF PURBECK**  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
7pm to 10pm  
Doors open 6.30pm




3 Headline Acts  
Esther Rivas Adrover  
Mandy Woods  
Pete Christie

Fundraising for  
Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust  
to equip a café for the community

170 High Street,  
Swanage, BH19 2PF  
Entrance directly off  
High Street pavement  
opposite Cow Lane



**TICKETS £10**  
Contact Alan:  
07827 892893




National  
Emergency  
Briefing  
www.nebriefing.org

# People's Emergency Briefing

# Swanage



Fri 5 June | 7pm | The Swanage School




Film screening & discussion with:


- Lloyd Hatton - Your MP
- Nick Ireland - Leader of Dorset Council
- + Local community leaders


Book via this QR code OR [Swanage-NEB-Film.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Hosted by:  

Supported by: 

Can't make it? Your voice still can:

Sign the petition  
call  for a  
televised briefing





## Tickets & donations

This event is **free to attend**, with booking required so we can manage numbers (There's only 210 seats available, which we expect to get snapped up quickly!)

Optional donation tickets are also available through Eventbrite.

Donations help cover event costs, spread the word, support more community conversations, and deliver urgent action to strengthen Purbeck's economy, resilience and quality of life.

Please only donate if you're comfortably able to.  
Free tickets are available 

## Can't make it?

Your voice still can.

The National Emergency Briefing is calling for a televised national briefing so the public can better understand the risks we face and the practical responses available.

➡ Sign the petition here:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/open-letter-keir>

This is a Sustainable Swanage event

Hosted in partnership with us at Planet Purbeck

Supported by Swanage Town Council and Dorset Council.

Please come along, bring a friend who wouldn't usually come to something like this - and be part of the conversation 🗨️

Thanks for reading

Luke, Rob & the rest of the Planet Purbeck team

## Corfe Castle Surgery and Patient Participation Group (PPG)

In recent weeks members of the Corfe Surgery PPG have been seeking feedback through a short questionnaire with the main aims of increasing our PPG membership and finding out if the surgery's current access times support our practice population which has a high proportion of people within the 0-40 age group, therefore many of working age and those with young families.

The Corfe Surgery catchment area is wide covering Corfe and the local villages, including Langton, Worth, Kingston, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge, Studland and Harmans cross (and a few patients in Swanage). We aim to have PPG representatives from each of the villages at our regular meetings.

At the time of writing we have been delighted with the positive response to our work; invited attendance at both the Corfe Castle Parish meeting and the Worth / Harmans Cross Parish meeting provided us with some useful and helpful information and ideas for future health talks.

PPG member attendance in the surgery on 3 occasions to date has been enjoyable with so many positive and constructive comments offered by patients and carers who greatly value the services provided by Dr Lepper and his team.

Of course there is always room for improvement and we will be reviewing all completed questionnaires at the end of May and will be reporting back in more detail at a later date.

I am delighted to say that Sarah Rowley has kindly volunteered to join the PPG and represent the views of Studland patients. Sarah is well known to many and will be a great asset to our team - thank you Sarah.

On **Thursday June 25th at the Corfe Library at 2pm** we will be joining the Friendly Food Club to talk about healthy eating (something requested by a Corfe resident) and the PPG. Please do look out for posters and do join us.

Maggie, PPG Chair



PPG members Deb and Maggie at the Corfe Parish meeting.

## JUNE 2026 at HXVH

### HXVH SUMMER BARN DANCE

Saturday 30 May starting at 6pm

This is a last-minute reminder (hopefully and depending when your newsletter lands) of our Summer Barn Dance at the Hall. We welcome back the brilliant Black Sheep Band to guide us through the dancing. Tom's Bar will be open selling a full range of refreshments and Kingston Country Courtyard will be on site selling food. Please go to the website at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Special-Events/> for more details and to get your tickets online through Ticketsource.

### MOVIE NIGHTS – HAMNET

Tuesday 9 June – doors open at 6.30pm

In 16th century England, young tutor and writer William Shakespeare meets Agnes and they fall in love. They have three children, two daughters - Susanna and Judith - and a son - Hamnet. Shakespeare's career as a playwright starts to take off but this tests his relationship with Agnes and his children. Then tragedy strikes ... See the trailer for this stunning, multi award-winning film at <https://www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk/Movie-Nights/>

Please note that following feedback from our movie fans, we are now starting half an hour earlier. Doors and bar will open at 6.30pm, and the film will start at 7pm

### HXVH COMMUNITY PICNIC

Tuesday 14 July from 5.00pm

A date for the diary - bring a dish for sharing and come along and join us for an early evening at the field. Tom will have the bar open or bring whatever you want, and we can all enjoy a few games and hopefully a lovely sunset.

### COFFEE JUNCTION

Everyone is welcome to come along for a very relaxed and informal get together over coffee or tea. Have a chat, bring a deck of cards or your favourite board game, and see where the morning takes you. Thursday 11 and 25 June and 9 and 23 July from 10.30am in the small committee room.

### HXVH CHURCH

Our next gatherings are Sunday 21 June and Sunday 19 July at 6pm – a very friendly, informal and happy service for anyone and everyone.

*Alison and the HXVH Committee*



HARMANS CROSS  
VILLAGE HALL



**Cook & Connect**  
SWANAGE & PURBECK  
Fun, friendly and free  
Perfect for beginners and improvers!

- Learn new skills
- Be inspired with new recipes
- Try cheap, simple, tasty new dishes
- Meet others

Everything is provided!  
£3 donation for ingredients welcomed

At URC, High Street, Swanage BH19 2NY

on Thursdays (term time)  
Arrive from 9.30 for a cuppa  
Cooking 10am-12pm

Book your FREE place now  
[www.thefriendlyfoodclub.org/purbeck](http://www.thefriendlyfoodclub.org/purbeck)  
or call 01202 057100

With thanks to  
Talbot Village Trust  
COMMUNITY FUND

## Canzonetta

Music for a summer afternoon

With flautist Emma Estridge and  
accompanist Isabelle Butler

Sunday 28th June 3pm

St Nicholas Church

Worth Matravers, BH19 3EQ

free admission  
retiring collection for  
the St Nicholas Flower Fund  
and the Swanage Food Bank



Join us afterwards  
for tea and cake  
in the Village Hall  
across the road



# DURLSTON

COUNTRY PARK AND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

After a benign Spring, with a profusion of early orchids appearing across the downlands above Anvil Point Lighthouse, Summer has arrived in Durlston Country Park.

Our Guillemot colony is now busy with parent birds ferrying fish to their chicks, and attempting to stave off assaults by hungry Ravens – all the drama can be viewed live on our **Guillemot Cam**, in the Castle reception or over at [www.durlston.co.uk/webcam](http://www.durlston.co.uk/webcam).

Our hard-working Hereford cattle have returned to Durlston's

downland for the season, their young calves in tow, grazing back the dominant grasses to create space and opportunity for rare wildflowers. Please continue to keep your dogs under close control, and ensure you close gates behind you to avoid any escapees!

Durlston's evening **Seabird Cruises** continue each Friday throughout June. In collaboration with Coastal Cruises, and departing from Swanage Pier at 7:00pm, join the Durlston Rangers aboard ship for two hours of Guillemots, Puffins, Peregrines and the iconic geology of the Jurassic Coast. £25 per person, booking required via [www.coastalcruisespoole.co.uk/bird-watching-cruise](http://www.coastalcruisespoole.co.uk/bird-watching-cruise).

June and July see the continuation of Durlston's busy schedule of **guided walks**. On Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June, celebrate Dorset Day by exploring the county's oldest Country Park, while on Sun 7<sup>th</sup> June and Sun 19<sup>th</sup> July, join former Durlston Ranger and SPDT CEO Ali Tuckey to explore the National Nature Reserve's spectacular wildflowers. Other Ranger-led walks include a 'Guided Walkies' for canine companions on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June, and a brand-new evening walk celebrating the Summer Solstice on Sun 21<sup>st</sup> June - complete with a drink on the Castle terrace!

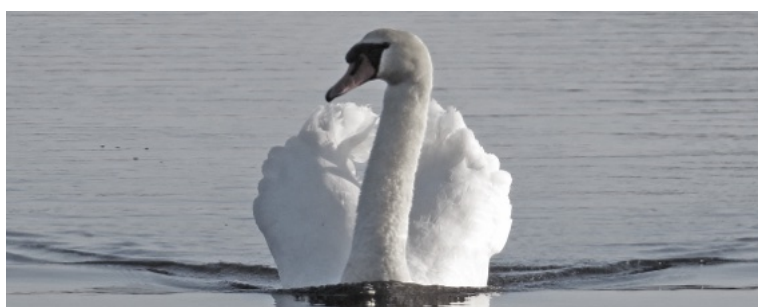
Join our popular '**Park to Pier**' event on Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June, while on Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July meet some of Durlston's nocturnal residents at our '**Meet a Moth**' event, to see what emerges from our overnight moth trapping. Our evening **Glow-worm Walks** take place on Fri 17<sup>th</sup> and Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> July - For more information, check [www.durlston.co.uk/events](http://www.durlston.co.uk/events) for dates, booking requirements and further details.

Durlston's **Fine Foundation Gallery** plays host to a number of inspiring exhibitions across the summer season. From Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> until Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June, 'On Dorset's Edge' will see three local artists Kim, Robin and John combine their mediums – printing, stone carving and painting – to depict visual, spiritual and emotional aspects of the county.

From Tues 30<sup>th</sup> June until Weds 15<sup>th</sup> July, 'Abstraction vs. Realism: The Joy of Colour' by Judith Devons and Helen Joyce showcases paintings, mixed media and ceramics in dynamic dialogue. Both free exhibitions open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Our monthly **Friends of Durlston (FoD) evening talks** at the Learning Centre continue on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June with 'Lundy: Above and Below the Waves', as former warden Joe Parker gives an illustrated talk detailing island life, Lundy's unique wildlife and conservation success stories. 'Bats, Myths, Magic and Mystery' on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> July will see Nick Tomlinson of the Dorset Bat Group exploring these enigmatic mammals, the national significance of Purbeck for bat conservation and how people can learn more and get involved. Entry to FoD evening talks is £3.50 on the night, free to FoD members.

Start your Summer of Smiles at Durlston with our range of **family-friendly holiday activities**. From Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> July until Weds 12<sup>th</sup> August, bring your little explorers to discover Durlston's wealth of wildflowers and win a prize on our Marvellous Meadows Activity Trail - £3.50 per trail pack, available from Castle Reception. Join a Durlston Ranger for more family fun on Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> July at our Nature Journaling and Scrapbooking Session – creating your own scrapbook from objects you might find in the park. £3.50 per person - booking required via [www.durlston.co.uk/events](http://www.durlston.co.uk/events), meeting at the Learning Centre for 10:30. Durlston's regular Wild Wednesdays return from 29<sup>th</sup> July through to 26<sup>th</sup> August, with free drop-in sessions at the Learning Centre giving you the chance to get creative - donations welcome!



## DEADLINE

for contributions to the August / September 2026  
issue of the Newsletter

**MONDAY 13 JULY 2026**

*Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans*