Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

NEWSLETTER

Community News from Swanage and the Surrounding Villages



Photograph: Shutterstock

Welcome to The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's December 2026 / January 2027 newsletter, consisting of articles from many local organisations in our communities. Please make this community newsletter a success for all those fine folk that contribute and the wonderful local organisations that they represent. You can help by circulating the newsletter to all your members, friends and contacts so that they can note the many options for them all to take advantage of and/or participate in Purbeck's vibrant community life.

This issue includes details of many SEASONAL events being held by a large variety of community groups and local organizations. YOU can play your part in our community by supporting events that suit your interests while at the same time give aid and encouragement to the many volunteers and their causes that make such a valuable part in our communities.

IF you can help by sponsoring the printing of future editions of this newsletter please contact me at melvyn.norris@icloud.com or call me on 07446 677924.

Newsletter Coordinator: Mel Norris
Trustee Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
email: melvyn.norris@icloud.com mobile: 07446 677924

find the newsletter at www.sandpdt.org.uk

DEADLINE

for contributions to the February / March 2027 issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

Wellbeing Swanage
November update

Focus Centre Roof Appeal

We urgently need your help to raise money to fix the Focus Centre roof!

The waterproof membrane protecting the roof timbers at the Focus Centre has open cracks letting moisture in. Temporary fixes need a permeant solution and the roof needs replacing.

This roof problem was completely unexpected, and despite all our hard work fundraising to improve the buildings and grow our services, we simply don't have the funds available to cover this essential repair.

Every donation, no matter how big or small, will help us towards the cost of replacing the roof Please donate if you can! Pop into the Focus Centre to give in person or give via the link **https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/focus-centre-roof-appeal**

Community Connectors

We held an informal get together on 21st October for current and new Community Connectors. The evening was well attended, and several new community connectors have joined the group.

There is no formal expectation of a time commitment from the group - only a willingness to be a voice in the community and to signpost anyone who may need further support to the Focus Centre - where help and a listening ear will be on hand.

Christmas Opening Times

21st - 24th **Open** (Closed for baby groups)

25th - 28th **Closed**

29th - 30th Welcome Lounge **Open** (no other Services)

31st Dec - 1st Jan **Closed**

4th Jan **Open,** normal Services resume.



Halloween Fun

We had a fang-tastic time celebrating Halloween at the Focus Centre! There was something for everyone to enjoy, with a great selection of fun games, creative Halloween crafts and, of course, our fancy dress competition! We were amazed by the fantastic costumes on display, with everyone making a real effort to get into the Halloween spirit.

The centre looked wonderfully spooky, and the atmosphere was full of fun and excitement.

It was lovely to see so many families coming together, enjoying themselves and making special memories. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the day such a success.





Purbeck Furniture Bank

(previously Besom in Purbeck)

It is now a year since we parted company with The Besom Network to function independently and develop a more local focus with the community. It has taken us nearly a year, such was the red tape we encountered, but we are at last registered as a charity!

Why include the name 'Bank'? We feel it says what we do – we take things in and we give things out. Also, and more importantly, it aligns us with the Swanage Food Bank, with whom we have much in common and with whom we have begun working in tandem.

Charity No: 1220045

We have been in existence for over 25 years and we continue to collect good condition furniture, linen, kitchen items (inc. white goods), in fact anything needed to furnish a home, and we continue to deliver to those on benefit and/or low income, referred to us by the helping agencies.

We have no regular income so are reliant on donations to maintain our van and store.

Thank you to all who support us especially our wonderful volunteers.

Davina Freedman, on behalf of the Purbeck Furniture Bank team (PFB)

Mobile: 07519 977732
Email: purbeckfbank@gmail.com
Website: https://purbeckfbank.my.canva.site/

Footnote: We are desperately short of electric kettles, toasters, microwaves and pots and pans– thank you!

HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER – COFFEE JUNCTION

Our final Coffee Junction morning before Christmas will take place on Thursday 10th December. Everyone is welcome to come along for a relaxed and informal get-together over coffee or tea. Whether you'd like a chat, fancy a game of cards, want to bring along your favourite board game, or simply enjoy some company, Coffee Junction is open to all.

After many years of helping to make Coffee Junction such a welcoming part of village life, the lovely Pat Wright will be stepping down from her role at the end of the year.

We're still looking for someone who might enjoy taking over the organisation of these friendly mornings. Coffee Junction is fully funded by the church, so if you'd like to find out more about what's involved, please do get in touch.

THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER – HXVH VOLUNTEERS, HELPERS & RESIDENTS CHRISTMAS DRINKS

We're delighted to invite our volunteers, helpers and local residents to join us at Harmans Cross Village Hall for an informal evening of Christmas drinks and festive company on Thursday 17th December, from 7pm–9.30pm. It's a lovely opportunity to get together, catch up with friends and neighbours, and enjoy a little Christmas cheer before the festivities begin. Please bring a bottle of your favourite drink. The HXVH Management Committee will provide crisps and nuts for everyone to enjoy.

Whether you've volunteered at the hall, helped with an event, supported our activities or simply enjoy being part of our village community, we'd love to see you there.



SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER – HXVH CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Our December church gathering will be a special Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 6pm. This friendly, informal service is open to everyone and will feature a selection of popular Christmas carols to enjoy together. Afterwards, there will be mince pies and mulled wine, offering a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours and share a little festive spirit. Whether you're a regular visitor or joining us for the first time, everyone is warmly welcome.

SUNDAY 17th JANUARY – HXVH CHURCH

Our first church gathering of the New Year will take place on Sunday 17th January at 6pm. As always, this will be a friendly, informal and happy service for anyone and everyone. Whether you're a regular attendee or simply curious about coming along, you'll be made very welcome.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM HARMANS CROSS VILLAGE HALL

As another year draws to a close, we'd like to wish everyone in Harmans Cross and the surrounding communities a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported Harmans Cross Village Hall throughout 2026. To our wonderful volunteers, committee members, regular hirers, local groups, event organisers and everyone who gives their time and energy behind the scenes, thank you for helping to make the hall such a welcoming and valued part of village life. And to everyone who attends our events, supports our fundraising activities, visits our regular gatherings or simply helps spread the word about what's happening at the hall, we're incredibly grateful.

We look forward to welcoming familiar faces and newcomers alike in 2027, and to another wonderful year of bringing people together. From everyone at Harmans Cross Village Hall, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

For more information about our upcoming events, please visit:

www.harmanscrosshall.co.uk

For any enquiries, please contact Bethani Rawlings:

bethanirawlings.hxvh@gmail.com | 07384 848419

HXVH Committee

Citizens Advice Here to Help with Winter Worries

Swanage and Purbeck residents are reminded that there is help and support available this Winter if you're worrying about the cost of living and affording to pay bills.

Energy Advice

During the colder winter months, many people are feeling anxious and worried about paying their energy bills. Our Energy Advisers can help if you are struggling. We can check to see if you are eligible for extra income or benefits and we can also offer energy saving tips and advice and advise about energy supplier issues. To speak to an Energy Adviser, call the Energy Line on 01929 775500, leave a message and someone will return your call. Or email: energy@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk

Debt & Money Worries

If, like many, you have debts and find you can't afford to reduce these after paying your priority bills and essentials, seek advice as soon as possible. Don't feel you have to manage your situation alone. Our debt advice is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

We also hold free Income Maximisation advice sessions by appointment at locations across Dorset. Specialist advisers are able to advise on a range of money-related topics with the aim of helping people to budget and manage finances more confidently.

Local Citizens Advice Drop-in Locations

Citizens Advice has a drop in service at Herston Village Hall, every Monday, 10am-12pm and at The Focus Centre, 107 High Street, Swanage every Tuesday, 10am-12pm and. No appointment is needed, just come along and have a chat with the friendly advisers. Advice is free, confidential and impartial. All drop-ins and outreaches can be found on the website www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/in-person

Advice Bus

The Advice Bus stops weekly at Swanage Market on a Friday morning, 9.30am-12.30pm and at Corfe Castle at the Residents Car Park, West Street, the third Friday of the month. Next on the 18th December and the 15th January, 1pm-3pm. All of the bus locations and times can be found on the website www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/get-advice/advice-bus

For more information about Citizens Advice services visit www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk or to speak to an Adviser, call the Dorset Adviceline Freephone on 0800 144 8848, 10am-4pm weekdays.



Herston Village Hall

HERSTON VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire

Hall with well fitted kitchen

Lots of chairs and tables • Small stage

For bookings please contact

Rachel.tapping@sandpdt.org.uk • 01929 208376

For further details of events visit

Herston Village Hall Facebook page





CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THE SWANAGE TOWN BAND

Christmas Concert 9th December

Join the Swanage Town Band for a fantastic **Free** Christmas Concert in the Emmanual Baptist Church, Swanage, on **Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm**. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DIFFERENT VENUE FOR US THIS YEAR.** We will be playing some great Christmas music, carols to sing along with and, as always, a few seasonal surprises!

Carols on the Bandstand 16th December

Come on down to the bandstand on **Wednesday 16th December at 6.30pm** for our annual "Carols on the bandstand" event. Song sheets provided but please wrap up warmly and bring a torch. If the weather is too bad for us to play on the 16th we will play on the 23rd at 6.30pm. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page for any weather updates.

YOU ARE INVITED
Table Top Sale
and
Coffee Morning with Cake
Childrens' Lucky Dip!

St Edwards Catholic Church Hall
Rempstone Rd

Saturday 28th November
10am to 4pm

Raising funds for the Community

Dementia Friendly Purbeck

Tables can be rented for £5 for the day
Contact Sue on 07894 035055

Supported by Dementia Friendly Purbeck.

Swanage Linking Lives
Make a friend, make a difference

Will you be alone on Christmas Day?

Then join us for

Christmas lunch on Friday 25th December

12.30pm - 4.00pm

At Swanage United Reformed Church,112 High Street, Swanage

Traditional Christmas lunch served at 1pm

(Soft drinks provided, you may bring your own wine, beer etc. if you wish)

Followed by festivities, raffle, tea & coffee

[Transport can be arranged if needed]

No fixed charge – but contributions appreciated

Reserve your place by either:-

Calling Linda Hernandez: (01929) 427116

emailing: swanage@linkinglives.uk

or facebook messaging: Swanage Linking Lives

(Please tell us about any dietary, mobility & communication needs)

[Offers to help with setting up (Christmas Eve) or on the day with service or guest transport would be gratefully considered. Contact as above]

FRIENDS OF WAREHAM HOSPITAL & PURBECK COMMUNITY SERVICES

When celebrating our 60 years of support to Wareham Hospital at our AGM in late September we were delighted to announce that the valued CHEMOTHERAPY SERVICE is to be reinstated at Wareham Hospital in the New Year. This news was welcomed by many and represents lots of hard work by the Purbeck Primary Care Network, the Dorset Cancer Alliance , Dorset Healthcare, individuals and a lot of lobbying by the South Dorset MP Lloyd Hatton **and** the Friends of Wareham Hospital!

As a Friends group we are now challenged to help to provide new equipment to support the clinic and would welcome donations to support this Purbeck wide service.



Chris Kemp , Cam Tomes and Maggie Hardy at the Carnival presentation

We are very grateful to CANCARE, Wareham Rotary and two lovely individuals who have pledged support already and we thank them for their generosity for the Chemo service. (A new scalp cooler costs £16k.)

Our recent raffle drawn at the AGM and coffee morning also enhanced our funds by over £1100 which was an amazing result thanks to the wonderful donated prizes we received and the many people who kindly bought tickets. We will also be holding a Christmas raffle with tickets available in the hospital reception.

As a Friends group our funds are limited as we do not benefit from legacies or substantial donations as other Dorset Community Hospital Friends groups but we do our best to help where we can and supporting the many clinics at Wareham Hospital is a priority for us. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the recent Wareham BEEREX event which has promised us sufficient funds to purchase a new ECG machine which will be used by several depts. within the hospital and the Swanage Carnival Committee surprised us with a £1000 donation to support our award winning garden work .

We are so grateful to the local community for supporting the important work undertaken at Wareham Hospital - "thank you all"

Maggie Hardy, Friends Chair

NEWTON MANOR PRESENTS

DECEMBER & JANUARY EVENTS



DECEMBER

December 3
Dorset's Classical Duo
Alice Rogers (soprano) and
Panisara Thomas (piano)

December 10
Open Mic

December 17
Karen Grant's Christmas Show

JANUARY

January 11
Energy Circle

January 14
Best of Purbeck

January 28
Open Mic

Donations appreciated for the events charity

Enquiries contact Alan: 07827 892893

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

For more information visit
www.newtonmanorhall.uk/blog/

Newton Manor Hall
SWANAGE

SANDY HILL ARTS

Winter Wassail

Sat 12 Dec. 12-4pm

JOIN US FOR

Christmas gifts made by our artists,
mulled wine,
Christmas card printing,
music and merriment

SANDY HILL LANE, CORFE CASTLE

CHARITY .1193387

FIND US OVER THE RAILWAY BRIDGE

FREE ADMISSION

Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team

A community approach to living well in Purbeck



Purbeck Community Wellbeing Day

SAT 9TH JANUARY
9:30am - 12:30pm

PURBECK SCHOOL/ PURBECK SPORTS CENTRE
Worgret Road, Wareham, BH20 4PF

Everybody welcome!
Free to attend
Free parking

Come and find out about the organisations and services available in Purbeck to support your health and wellbeing.

Free activities include:

- Special offers, free class tasters, building tours
- Physio assessments
- Activities for children

For more information visit **www.purbeckpcn.co.uk**

Scan here

Better health | Improved wellbeing | Stonger communities | Active lifestyles | Support & advice

- **Come and find out all that the Purbeck Family Hubs** offer for all ages 0-99 years, bringing services and opportunities into Purbeck!
- **Discover volunteering opportunities -** Find out how you can get involved, make a difference and connect with your local community.
- Got aches, pains or niggles? Join us for a **FREE PHYSIO MOT** to help you stay active, working and doing what you love. Keep an eye on the website for more information and how to book an assessment.
- **Explore local services and support -** Meet organisations offering practical help, advice and activities to support your health and wellbeing.

Purbeck Sports Centre

1. **Exclusive Membership Offers -** Available on the day only!
2. **Free Gym Inductions -** Get started with confidence. Bookable in advance.
3. **Exercise Class Taster Sessions -** Sample a range of our popular classes. Bookable in advance.
4. **Expert Advice -** Chat with our fitness team about your goals and how we can help you achieve them.

For more information visit **www.purbeckpcn.co.uk**

Scan here

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Purbeck Community Health and Wellbeing Event - save the date!

The next Purbeck Community Health and Wellbeing event will be held on **Saturday 9 January 2027 from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Purbeck School and Purbeck Sports Centre.**

Do come along to this free event to find out about the organisations and services available in Purbeck to support your health and wellbeing. Everyone is welcome - and there is free parking.

A range of activities will be available, including free physio MOTs, free exercise class tasters and activities for children - and lots of organisations will be there. Please see the flyer for more information.

The PPGs of all the GP Practices in Purbeck will also be hosting a stand at the event, so please drop by and say 'Hello'.

PPG Meetings

The PPG last met on 10 November 2026, when we were joined by Dr Qureshi, one of the Partners at the Practice. We were very pleased to hear that the Practice now has its own dermoscope, which means patients with skin lesions will now be able to get an earlier diagnosis and GPs will be able to identify which patients need an urgent referral.

The Practice is still advertising for another GP to join the Practice, as well as a Clinical Pharmacist and a Nurse Practitioner. Dr Qureshi also updated us on the changes to the way GPs request specialist advice.

We were also pleased to hear that the number of patients choosing to use SystmConnect to request medical advice is continuing to increase. Please note that this service is only available during Surgery Opening Hours: 8:00am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding all UK bank holidays).

The PPG will next be meeting at the Surgery on **Tuesday 12 January 2027 at 12:30pm**.

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.

If you are interested in joining the PPG, please contact Natasha Ritchie, the Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at 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

Successful autumn events, including jumble sale and auction, have raised around £800 for the rebuild fund. Next, we will be having fundraising stalls at PASH, Worth Matravers Village Hall from 28th November to 6th December and at the Rotary street market on 5th December, where we will be selling handmade gifts etc.

In the meantime, regular sessions held at the hall are:



Mondays 10-12 (except bank holidays)– Community café with , Community Pantry, drop in citizens advice and Digital Adviser- all welcome.

Wednesdays 9.30 -11 (term times) – Seahorses carer and preschool children/babies group, led by Home-Start.

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

Generally, first Saturday of the month 10-12- Craft circle

Generally, last Saturday of the month 10.30-12.30 . Repair café – reduce waste and save money.

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

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662



We have had a memorable few weeks at Greengage. Our 10th birthday celebrations were celebrated at the end of September with the opening of our new Garden Room, followed the next day by a very successful open day. The Mayor of Swanage, Chris Tomes performed the opening ceremony, followed by a tree planting and then it was back to the Garden Room for tea and cake. The Pines hotel made an enormous cake for us so thank you for that – it was delicious. Both events were well supported so thank you to all of you who attended the events.

We have had a good year despite weather which made gardening difficult. We have a good numbers of volunteers.

The next few weeks are going to be busy. On November 14th we are having a stall at the Catholic Hall as part of theHospital Friends Christmas Fayre, we are decorating a tree for the Langton Festival and will be making decorations over the next few weeks.

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

We will be having our own **Christmas Fayre at Greengage on December 11th from 11am** – there will be plants, pots of bulbs, Robs Reindeer, a grand Christmas Raffle, tea, cakes, guest stalls and more. It promises to be a really enjoyable day! Please come and see us..

We close for our Winter break from the 18th December until late February although maintenace of the site and plants will continue.

Our AGM is at Herston Village Hall at 11am on Friday January 22nd and sometime early next year, we will hold the Greengage General Knowledge team quiz but we will announce details later.

Thank you for your continued support. We have had new people join us recently and you will always be welcome at Greengage, every Tuesday from 12, every Friday from 10!

Happy Christmas and thank you!







SWANAGE & PURBECK ROTARY - CREATING LASTING IMPACT

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Rotary International's 2026-7 presidential theme is **'Create Lasting impact'** where Rotarians are encouraged to work together to make a meaningful difference in our communities and around the world. In Swanage & Purbeck we work hard to do both.

On World Polio Day October 24th we held a Soup and Sweet event to support Rotary's efforts to **Eradicate Polio** around the world. Now endemic in only two countries Afghanistan and Pakistan, Swanage & Purbeck have done much to support this work since being one of the very first Rotary clubs in the world in 1988, (led by Geoff Pike our own David Pike's father) to work collectively with other organisations to end this crippling disease and rid the world of Polio - substantial difference and lasting impact has been achieved as polio cases are down by 99% since 1988 but total eradication is the aim and our support will continue.

Our event raised an amazing £755 which will be doubled by the Gates Foundation in support of END POLIO NOW.







For many years now our International work has included collecting items to fill **Christmas shoeboxes** to be sent to under-priveleged youngsters in the Balkan countries and also to Ukraine. This year is no exception and over 300 boxes have been sent.

With Christmas approaching our local community plans are well developed and include some fundraising events plus support for local schools and organisations.

- **THE ROTARY CHRISTMAS MARKET is being held on Saturday 5th December** from 1000 hrs and finishing by1700 hrs in Station and Institute Roads

  Stall holders are booking pitches in large numbers to sell their Christmas goodies and we are pleased and grateful to have been offered extra volunteer support for the day .

- **THE ROTARY SANTA SLEIGH,** always popular with children and adults, will be travelling around Swanage, Langton and Corfe Castle from December 1st . Routes will be advertised in advance; there will be Christmas carols, sweets for smiling children and big waves from Santa who will be joined by his band of elves with their collecting buckets (and credit card machines when required!)

  If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer with the sleigh or any other of our activities please email swanagesanta@gmail.com

- **THE ROTARY CHARITY CHRISTMAS MAIL -** delivering cards in Church Knowle, Corfe Castle, Harmans Cross, Kingston , Langton Matravers. Worth Matravers and Swanage **ONLY 50p per card**
  - Harlees Fish restaurant have kindly offered to host our Swanage office which will be open on weekdays between 10am-3pm from Sat 5th until Thurs 17th December (*not Sundays)*
  - Additional collection boxes will be at The Studland Stores, Salt Pig ,the Farm Cafe at Putlake in Langton and the Pantry Cafe at Ulwell Holiday Park
  - Last collection from these boxes will be midday on Wednesday 16th December
  - ALL MAIL WILL BE DELIVERED AFTER 19th DECEMBER

Finally

It seems very appropriate to acknowledge with gratitude the work and support of one of our Rotary colleagues who was awarded his Honorary membership badge at our recent End Polio event.

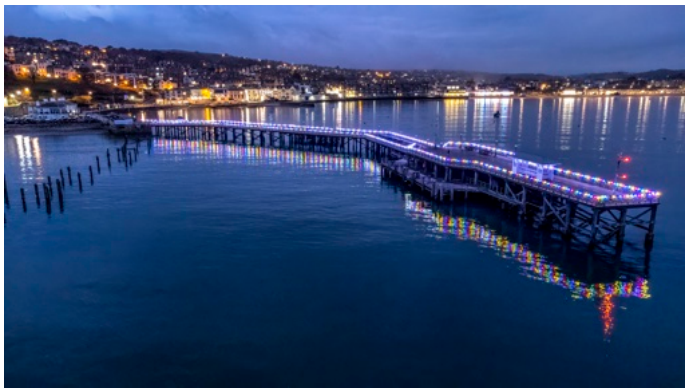
Mick Beck has completed **46 years** as a member of Swanage & Purbeck Rotary - definitely ***creating lasting impact*** in that time! Mick was awarded his badge by District Governor Steve Parsons Many congratulations Mick!



Christmas on Swanage Pier 2026

The festive season returns to Swanage Pier for another magical year of celebrations!

Our much-loved **Lighting Up Lives** event is back for 2026, offering a special way to remember loved ones and celebrate the people who have made a difference in our lives. Over the past five years, hundreds of families and friends have taken part in this heartwarming tradition.



Make your dedication today and help support the ongoing restoration, conservation and improvement of Swanage Pier for future generations to enjoy.

Join us on Saturday, 5th December 2026, for the official **Lighting Up Lives Switch-On Event** and watch as the Pier is transformed into a sparkling festive display. Gather with family and friends to enjoy the excitement as the lights are switched on, marking the start of the Christmas season at Swanage Pier.

Throughout December, visitors can enjoy a magical visit with **Father Christmas** on the Pier. On selected dates, Father Christmas will be joined by his reindeer and our ever-popular donkeys will also be making special appearances. See below for visit dates and details.



Don't miss our stall at the **Swanage Christmas Market** on Saturday, 5th December, where you'll find festive gift ideas, information, the chance to enter our Big Winter Raffle and try your luck on the tombola.

There will also be live music, festive entertainment and plenty of Christmas cheer throughout the season.

We look forward to welcoming you to Swanage Pier this Christmas and helping make the season truly memorable.

Please check our website and social media channels for event dates, times and the latest updates throughout the festive season.

All our events coming up ...

Swanage Christmas Market – Saturday 5th December

Lighting up Lives - Light Switch On - Saturday 5th December

Swanage Pier at Christmas - Various dates from 12th – 23rd December

Festive Fun Days – Saturday 12th and Sunday 20st December

To find out more about our festive events and how to dedicate a light in memory or celebration of someone special, please visit www.swanagepiertrust.com/events.

As it is winter and a time to hunker down, now is the moment to explore what Purbeck Sounds has to offer. As many of you will know, we provide a community radio service for Purbeck and beyond. This means that we promote your events, stories and music. We have calculated that, since we began broadcasting over two years ago, we have had approximately 300 guests. Many of these are local people whom you know, telling you about things they are passionate about.

We have attended many events during this period, integrating ourselves into the community and developing partnerships where we can. We provide breakfast, community, music and special interest shows. Because our offering is broad, we have developed a weekend repeat schedule, where you can listen to our entertainment shows on a Saturday and our cultural shows on a Sunday. Many of our shows are also available on our podcast service, Listen Again.

Our entertainment shows are popular, with topics that attract local attention. For example, we recently interviewed someone talking about their time at Swanage Grammar School. We have a line-dancing show where you can catch up on the greatest line-dancing hits, specialist music shows and Steve Whale's entertainment show, Backstage with Steve Whale and every evening we round up with The Late Show with Paul Thompson.

A Warm Welcome Awaits: The Focus Café Opens Its Doors in Swanage

Swanage's newest community café has opened its doors, run by Allsort'd C.I.C., and open to everyone!

A brand new community café has opened its doors at The Focus Centre in Swanage, offering a warm welcome, delicious food, and a safe space for everyone, whether you're visiting for support, working locally, or simply looking for a friendly place to enjoy a coffee.

The Focus Café, run by Allsort'd C.I.C., is now open Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 4pm, serving freshly prepared lunches, cakes, hot and cold drinks, and much more.

A Place for Everyone

The Focus Café has been created with one simple vision: to be a welcoming, inclusive space where everyone belongs. Whether you're a local resident, a visitor to The Focus Centre, a worker from a nearby business, or someone looking for a quiet corner with a good book, you are welcome here.

The café offers something different every day, with a rotating selection of freshly made dishes, sweet treats, and cakes. From hearty lunches to indulgent cakes and freshly ground coffee, there's something to suit every taste.

But The Focus Café is about more than just food. It's a place to connect, to feel safe, and to be part of something bigger – a community hub at the heart of Swanage.

Run by Allsort'd C.I.C. – Supporting Adults with Learning Disabilities and/ or Autism

The café is proudly run by Allsort'd C.I.C., a local organisation that provides day support services for adults with learning disabilities and/ or autism. Allsort'd already has a home at The Focus Centre, and the café is a natural extension of their mission: to create meaningful opportunities, build confidence, and promote inclusion.

Every visit to The Focus Café supports Allsort'd's work, helping to fund their vital services and provide valuable work experience and training for the adults they support. Eddie Gillespie, Representative from Allsort'd C.I.C. , said:



"We are so proud to open The Focus Café. It's a dream come true for us, especially for our Crew Members as the café offers opportunities to develop skills, build confidence, and connect with the community. For everyone who walks through the door, it's a place to feel welcome, valued, and well-fed. We can't wait to serve you."

A Vision Brought to Life by the Community

The Focus Café is the result of a shared vision between Allsort'd C.I.C. and Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the local community. Rachel Tapping, Hub Coordinator at The Focus Centre, said:

> "We are absolutely thrilled to see The Focus Café open its doors. This has been a long-held dream, and seeing it come to life with Allsort'd at the helm is incredibly special. The café is for everyone: families, workers, visitors, and anyone who needs a friendly face and a good cup of coffee. We want to thank the community for believing in this vision and for continuing to support The Focus Centre. Please come and enjoy time at the café, you are always welcome."

What's On Offer

Freshly Prepared Lunches • Daily Specials • Cakes • Hot and Cold Drinks – including barista-style coffee, teas, and soft drinks. A different offer each day, with something new to discover every visit. A warm, safe, and welcoming space, for everyone!

Opening Hours & Location

The Focus Café, The Focus Centre, 107 High Street Swanage BH19 2NB – 07874 634907

Open: Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 4pm

Open to all, whether you're using The Focus Centre's services, working nearby, or just passing through.

A Note of Thanks

The Focus Centre and Allsort'd C.I.C. would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the community of Swanage and beyond for their continued support. The Focus Café is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision of inclusion, connection, and care.

We invite you to come and see for yourself. Pop in, say hello, and enjoy a moment of warmth at The Focus Café.



ALLSORT'D
Living | Support | Work | Learning

THE FOCUS CENTRE

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

A huge "THANK YOU" to all who have been supporting us recently with generous food donations. Our shelves are currently well-stocked with tins (particularly with baked beans, soup, pasta and tea) though any further donations will be gratefully received ... especially **CHRISTMAS TREATS!**

Our Blue Food Bins for donated items can be found in Budgen's, the Co-op, Costcutters and SPAR/Arkwrights. Collection points can also be found in local churches. We welcome gifts of tinned and dried food and drinks. Items must be within their Best-by date.

The Food Bank opening days over the Christmas and New Year period are as follows:

Mon 21 Dec OPEN
Wed 23 Dec OPEN
Fri 25 Dec CLOSED
Mon 28 Dec CLOSED
Wed 30 Dec OPEN
Fri 1 Jan CLOSED



Swanage Food Bank

The Food Bank is usually available at the United Reformed Church, High St, BH19 2NY on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 12-2pm.

If there is a one-off emergency, clients can reach us by phoning 07759 230313. If a client has already received a self-referred food parcel and requires further help from the Food Bank, they will be asked to contact Citizens Advice to get a referral. Citizens Advice can provide support in assessing if the household is receiving all the benefits to which they might be entitled and might also provide further assistance on managing financial affairs.

Thank you again to everyone who has been able to support the work of the Food Bank!

WAREHAM LIONS 2006 SWIM FOR CHARITY RAISES £15,500 FOR CHARITIES

NOW BOOKING FOR 2027

For 2 days in October this year Wareham Lions Club took over the swimming pool of the Purbeck Sports Centre for their annual Swim for Charity event, with teams taking part from all over the Isle of Purbeck area, stretching from Swanage to Cheselbourne. 21 Organizations provided 47 teams from various clubs, schools, trusts, and people just wanting to raise money. The teams came from Wareham, Wool, Lulworth, Cheselbourne, Swanage, Lytchett Minster, and Bere Regis. The 340 swimmers with ages ranging from children aged 5 years old up to seniors over 70 years old, they achieved a total of 3112 laps of the pool covering up to 155.5 Kms.

The Wareham Lions carried out tasks from setting up an admin area and putting out signage to direct teams, and by the pool side counting laps completed by the swimmers for 5 hours on Saturday and 8 hours on Sunday. Lions and their wives carried out the administration of booking in all the teams on time and accounting for all the sponsorship money raised. Lion wives also ran a successful tombola in the All-Stars Cafe area for the 2 days. The event could not be run without the support of team captains, who organize the swimmers and get them to the event on time, and parents who support the teams with car rides and enthusiastically encourage the young swimmers during the swim.

In January we gather in the All-Stars Cafe for a presentation of shields and medals which are presented to teams in various categories and age groups. The purpose of the event is to raise money for worthy causes, so at this presentation we pass on the cheques that the teams have raised to the team captains. This year's total was over **£15,600.**

BOOKING OPEN FOR NEXT YEAR - 8th AND 9th OCTOBER 2027

Contact: warehamlions@icloud.com

WAREHAM LIONS CLUBS
We Serve!



LIONS CHILD SIGHT UK

ABOUT LIONS CHILD SIGHT

Children Screened: 13,228 Schools Screened: 258 Children Referred: 2,042

LIONS CHILD SIGHT UK Volunteers from Wareham Lions have joined forces with Lions International in a programme of training in the use of non-invasion camera to scan school children under 7, to help detect eyesight issues before they affect their education and wellbeing. One in five children have undiagnosed vision issues, screening can uncover conditions often before symptoms appear. Screenings are quick, child friendly and conducted by DBS-checked trained volunteers.

For more information about Lions Child Sight UK visit http://lionschildsightuk.co.uk

REPAIR CAFE
Swanage & Purbeck

Repair Cafe takes a break in December and returns for a fixing session at **Herston Village Hall** on **23 January from 1030 to 1230**. Hopefully you will not need to bring along recently received Christmas gifts but we are ready to have a go at fixing anything. We will then be having regular monthly meetings through to July.

Our recent events have been well attended with a host of different household and clothing items being brought along. We have around a 58% success rate on the day, some items needing to come back when spare parts have been acquired or we have done a bit of research. A time consuming fix in October was assembling a flat pack standard lamp. The owner had not been able to work it out and our Fixers found why with components omitted from the pack and bolts which were too short.

A partnership with Sustainable Wareham has resulted in a very succesful and growing quarterly Repair Cafe in Wareham Town Hall.

Anyone with Fixing experience of household items, simple electronics, clothing and knitwear is very welcome to come along and see if they would like to join our friendly group

Stephen Rawlins , Chair

Busy Times Ahead at Swanage Museum

It's a busy period for everyone involved at Swanage Museum. We are currently preparing for a second-hand book sale while also planning a programme of museum improvements due to begin at the end of November and continue into December.



At the same time, we are working on new displays and updating content throughout the museum. One exciting project involves a collection of models that tell the story of the Purbeck stone trade, an industry that played an important role in shaping Swanage and the surrounding area. We hope these displays will be ready for visitors to enjoy in the near future.

To help make these plans a reality, we are always looking for new volunteers. Whether you can help with welcoming visitors, exhibitions, maintenance, research, events or behind-the-scenes work, we'd love to hear from you. With community support, we can continue developing the museum into a place that properly reflects and celebrates the history of Swanage.

The next **Swanage Museum Evening Talk** will be held on **Friday, 27th November at St Edward's Catholic Church Hall**, Rempstone Road, Swanage.

The talk is The Kyarra "Ship of Brass" Swanage's WW1 Wreckand will be given by Nick Reed, local historian, diver and Pier Volunteer The Kyarra, known as 'The Ship of Brass', was sailing from Tilbury to Devonport with a fully loaded general cargo when she was torpedoed and sunk by a German Submarine near Swanage on 26 May 1918.

Join us to hear Nick tell the fascinating story of the Kyarra wreck, which lies on the seabed about a mile off Anvil Point and is popular with divers from Swanage Pier, and her role in WW1.

There will be light refreshments available from **7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start** and the charge for the evening will be £3 for members and £4 for non-members. Do please pass these details on to friends who might also be interested in attending.

Nick gave an interesting talk earlier this year on Swanage's Piers so this should be another very interesting talk and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.



Updates from the National Trust



Photo: Pete Christie

Have a really wild Christmas!

Firstly, we wanted to wish you all a really wild Christmas and a nature-rich New Year! We hope you've enjoyed reading our nature updates this year. Remember, if you're on Facebook, you can follow us on the National Trust Purbeck Countryside page, where we put a spotlight on the wonderful wildlife of our area.

Pictured is a redwing, a small thrush that overwinters here, feasting on berries.

Chick this out!

Fifteen barn owl chicks were ringed in Purbeck this year as part of a new monitoring programme. The project will help track the fortunes of these beautiful birds and measure whether nature-friendly farming is supporting their recovery.

Barn owls have declined nationally over recent decades, but this year they have shown an increase in numbers. Let's hope the trend continues for these iconic farmland birds.

The ringing was carried out under licence by specialists from the Carey Ringing Centre.

Read more here: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/spyway/barn-owl-ringing-helps-measure-nature-recovery



Photo: Kate Fox



Photo: Jon Bunker

Scars can heal...

For the first time, we have scientific evidence that the scars left in Studland Bay's seagrass meadows by dragging anchor chains are healing.

Thanks to more boaters choosing eco-moorings that don't damage the seabed, some of these bare patches have shrunk by more than 90% over five years. This is a huge win for our precious seagrass meadows, which provide a home for countless marine species, including seahorses. It also shows what can be achieved when organisations, researchers, volunteers and the boating community work together to protect this special place.

The research was carried out by MSc student Kira Dunn from the University of Southampton. Read the full story on the new Studland Bay Marine Partnership website: https://www.studlandbay.org/update/proof-that-eco-moorings-help-save-seagrass/

Sea defences play new role on farmland

Wooden timbers that once protected Bournemouth's coastline are now playing a vital role on farmland in Purbeck. They are part of an innovative natural flood management project led by the National Trust.

The large hardwood timbers, which spent up to 40 years serving as groynes (breakwaters to absorb wave energy), have been laid across a floodplain at Godlingston Manor Farm, near Swanage. Re-using the timbers in this way is part of BCP Council's wider sustainability programme.

During heavy rainfall, they are helping slow the movement of water across the farm, encouraging it to spread naturally across the floodplain rather than rushing downstream towards Swanage. By holding water in the landscape for longer, they can also support resilience during increasingly dry summers, providing a water source for a variety of insects and all the other creatures that feed on them.

If you have any queries, email us at purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust



Photo: Ben Cooke

FRIENDS OF SWANAGE HOSPITAL

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



I've always loved walking into Swanage Hospital around Christmas time. This may seem an odd thing to say, but the beautiful reception area and galleried landing lend themselves perfectly to a traditional, warm and Christmassy welcome from the hospital team. Often there have been small gifts under the huge tree (left over from the Friends November Coffee Morning Lucky Dip) which can be given to children attending MIU over the festive period, which is so thoughtful and welcome. The Friends will have the fun and privilege of decorating the entrance and reception area this year and it's a great job to do, as patients, visitors and staff coming through will smile and pause and often chat about their own Christmas plans.

Once again, the Friends of Swanage Hospital will be giving each patient a small personal gift to add to the festive spirit that all staff work hard to bring, whatever their role. A particular shout-out to the catering team who will make sure that no-one misses out on Christmas fare.

It seems to me that one of the greatest gifts of Christmas is that people are more open and relaxed than at other times of the year; willing to take time to smile or chat. Christmas and New Year can be difficult or lonely for so many people, so this gift of time for others is especially precious.

Well, what about New Year? All those plans and resolutions to do more, to do better, to change this, to improve that. Perhaps this year we need to think whether the New Year should be about doing less, about giving ourselves and others more space, more time? About carrying forward that smile and openness to others.

Whatever your plans, wherever you are, the Friends of Swanage Hospital hope you have a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Until next time, take care

Pat, Chair, Friends of Swanage Hospital

The Purbeck Marathon donates £1250 to Dementia Friendly Purbeck

On 6th November at the Corfe Castle Club Oliver Allcock, the organiser of the Purbeck Marathon, presented the Dementia Friendly Purbeck committee with a cheque for £1250, a donation from the proceeds of the 2026 event.. We were pleased to have chosen as one their charity partners.

The Purbeck Marathon is a volunteer-run trail marathon along the Jurassic Coast of Dorset. All profits are donated to local charities.

The Inaugural Purbeck Marathon was held in 2012 it was immediately recognised as one of the finest marathons in the UK. Runner's World magazine rated it 3rd Best Marathon in the UK — an extraordinary debut for a volunteer-run event on the Jurassic Coast. 2013 was a records year for participation when over 1,000 runners crossed the line. After 2021 there was a 5 year pause caused buy the pandemic but back with vengeance on 20th September 2026!. Next years event is scheduled for a 9.00am start on 26th September 2027 - a marathon : 26.57 miles and Purbeck 16: 16.9 miles.

https://thepurbeckmarathon.co.uk/?s=2027



Corfe Community Kitchen

Soup 'n Pud

A choice of 2 soups and 2 puds with custard

Corfe Castle Village Hall

Saturday December 5th '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.

Well our 4th Anniversary has been and gone and we had a record number of diners – 67 in all. So Soup 'n' Pud continues to go from strength to strength! Now we are looking forward to the festive season and beyond. We always welcome new people and new ideas.

We used our curiously shaped, donated squash to make a tasty Squash and Red Pepper Soup. We also had a lovely Mushroom Soup followed by the ever popular Crumble and a Pineapple Upside Down Cake and are now planning our December treats. As usual we encourage you to wear your Christmas jumpers or other decorations but it is not essential to get us all in the festive mood.

Looking ahead we would like to give you advance warning that our January lunch will be on **January 9th** not the expected January 2nd. We thought it might be a bit close to the New Year celebrations and it also keeps us in line with the Village Hall Coffee Morning which happens just before us.

We are very thankful for the help and support we get from our volunteers, without whom we would be unable to function and The Village Bakery for donating to us the bread rolls.

We look forward to welcoming regulars and new folk alike on Saturday December 5th and wish everyone, especially our diners and volunteers a very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

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

Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership

Keep the heart of Swanage beating

INCREASED USAGE OF DEFIBRILLATORS

The deployment of defibrillators in our area has continued to increase; whilst a defib may not always be used it is available in an emergency situation and could make the difference in saving someone's life.





SCDP 's regular maintenance programme has identified significant issues with defib batteries which are being monitored closely to ensure all devices are 'rescue ready '. Batteries are not lasting as long as our previous experience but are being replaced when necessary . This is creating an increasing cost which will reduce our financial reserves. We are therefore seeking support from local organisations and individuals to help us to continue this important work.

Donations can be made through Corbens in Station Road Swanage or on line :-Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership, 30-99-12 a/c 28100368

Our work also includes supporting new units and we were delighted to help the Swanage Therapy Centre when they fundraised for their own unit now situated on an outside wall at the Centre making it accessible for public use. The electrical installation for the cabinet was kindly and generously provided by Swanage Sparks who also installed a new cabinet at the Sea Rowing Club - the previous one showing signs of age having been one of the originals placed by SCDP over 10 years ago.

We also continue to provide Defib *Familiarisation* sessions for groups. The sessions are provided free of charge but we do welcome donations to help us maintain the now extensive fleet of defibs within SCDP.

Please contact us through Corbens or by email info@swanage defib.co.uk **for more information**

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Charity Reg. No. 1162662

Three of Wareham's prized institutions came together for the handover of a £1,000 cheque.

Beerex, the real ale and cider festival backed by a raft of the town's businesses, made a donation from the proceeds of their recent autumn function to Wareham Area Men's Shed. It was aimed at boosting funds needed by the Shed to build their proposed new community workshop on the grounds of Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club. And it was at the club that the cheque was handed by Beerex chair Chrisy Mcbride to the Shed's leader Harold Forbes. Mrs Mcbride said:

> "We pride ourselves in giving something back to the community. We chose the Men's Shed for our latest donation because we believe in their ethos of providing a haven for retired and less advantaged people who need some company. The Shed does a massive amount for Wareham and surrounds by making all sorts of useful and impressive things for all sorts of people and organisations, including schools and other charities. We also agree that they badly need a new workshop because they are clearly growing fast and must find more space to enable more people to join them."

Over the last four years Beerex has donated £15,000 to local good causes including the Rex Cinema, Wareham Hospital and Dorset's Search and Rescue team. And it let the Men's Shed – currently in rented premises at Lenctenbury Farm outside Wareham – run a raffle at the recent festival, which netted another £400.

Mr Forbes called the Beerex donation "a very generous sum for which we are extremely grateful".

It took the total raised so far towards the new workshop to just over £40,000 – an impressive amount in just three months since the fund was launched. It is still well short of the £200,000 needed for the project to succeed. But Mr Forbes said:

"Getting the support of the community like this is particularly pleasing and significant. The more we can demonstrate that the Shed is an integrated and valued part of the community the better our chances of convincing the big foundations and funds that have larger sums to part with."



The cheque is handed over watched by members of Beerex, the Shed and the Rugby Club

PURBECK primary care network

NHS

PURBECK MOVE MORE HUBS

Access to Free Movement Classes

Need to move a little more? This program is specifically designed for complete beginners and anyone returning to exercise after a break. Join us for a supportive **FREE 6-week course** created to safely improve your physical health, mental wellbeing, and daily confidence.

What the Science Says (NHS Evidence)

Moving your body regularly is a powerful medicine. The UK Chief Medical Officers state that regular physical activity can lower your risk of:

- **Type 2 Diabetes** (by up to 40%)
- **Heart Disease & Stroke** (by up to 35%)
- **Depression & Falls** (by up to 30%)
- **Certain Cancers** like bowel and breast cancer (by up to 20%)

It is also clinically proven to **boost your mood, self-esteem, sleep quality, and daily energy levels.**

What to Expect at the Session

We focus entirely on making you feel comfortable, safe, and welcome.

- **Gentle 45-Minute Session:** A relaxed pace tailored entirely to how you feel on the day.
- **Functional Movement:** We practice gentle movements that mimic everyday life—making things like getting out of a chair, gardening, or carrying shopping much easier.
- **Suitable for All:** Completely adaptable for all ages, fitness levels, and physical abilities. Go entirely at your own pace.

Community Café

Every class is followed by our friendly **community café,** featuring **complimentary refreshments.** It is a completely free, warm space to sit back, have a cup of tea, and chat.

Classes will take place at the following venues and times over a 6 week course:

Monday - Wareham Family Hub, Wareham BH20 4PH. Classes at **12:30pm, 14:00pm and 15:30pm.**

Tuesday - Emmanuel Baptist Church, 160 Victoria Ave, Swanage BH19 1AZ. Classes at **10:00am, 11:30am and 13:00pm**



Booking Essential:
Email purbeckpcn@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

DOUBLE ACT drama group
DoubleActCorfeCastle
www.double-act.org.uk

By the time you read this our production of

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

will have been another roaring success and thoroughly entertained all those lucky enough to have witnessed it! So well done to first time director Dougal, all the cast and the great team that helped build the stage & create the show. Once Christmas & the New Year are over our attentions will turn to next years meetings, activities and productions. These will include a brand new Murder Walk during July & August (will it be wet or dry?) and our main show

Pygmalion

on November 18th, 19th & 20th 2027.

Meetings normally take place every first Monday of the month at 7pm in Corfe Castle Village Hall. If you fancy a new hobby & want to join a safe flourishing company – we can always do with more technical help back stage with costumes, make-up, props, sets, lights and sound – to make the magic happen! Just come along and join us or ask Peter for further details.

Peter (*chairman – 07551 183465*) or email - doubleactdramagroup@gmail.com

New members of all ages and abilities, on or off stage, are always welcome!

What's On at The Mowlem
December 2026 / January 2027

December 2026

Theatre

Artsreach Presents: Opera Cocktail
4 December 2026 7:30pm

The Christmassy Christmas Show of Christmassy Christmassness
6 December 2026 2:00pm

Scrooge
22 Dec 2026 2:00pm
23 Dec 2:00pm (accessible performance)
22 & 23 December 2026 7:00pm
24 December 2026 10:30pm

Cinema

Bad Apples (15)
30 Nov 2026 2:30PM & 7:30pm
1 & 2 Dec 2026 7:30pm

GIANT – The Play
3 Dec 2026 7:00pm
7 Dec 2026 2:30pm

Ghosts: The Possession of Button House (PG)
5, 7, 8 & 9 Dec 2026 7:00pm

André Rieu's 2026 Christmas Concert: Let it Snow (U)
11 Dec 2026 7:00pm

Wicker (15)
14, 16 & 17 Dec 2026 7:00pm

Festive Fun with Peppa Pig (U)
19 Dec 2026 10:00am

Comedy

Cally Beaton: Namaste Motherf*ckers
10 Dec 2026 7:30pm

The Mowlem Comedy Club (14+)
16 Dec 2026 7:30pm

Community

Shore Things
6 Dec 2026 2:30pm & 7:30pm

Tea Dance
8 Dec 2026 11:00am

The Mowlem's Open Mic Night: Show Off @ The Showbar!
8 Dec 2026 7:30pm

Swanage Record Club
10 Dec 2026 7:00pm

Oscar's Ultimate Quiz
17 Dec 2026 8:00pm

Live Music in The Showbar (FREE entry)
Pent Up House Trio - 1 Dec 2026 7:30pm
Swing Easy Too - 2 Dec 2026 2:00pm
Pent Up House Trio Christmas - 15 Dec 2026 7:30pm
Swing Easy Too - 22 Dec 2026 2:00pm

January 2027

Live Music in The Showbar (FREE entry)
Pent Up House Trio - 5 Jan 2027 7:30pm

Family

Twinkle Twinkle
9 Jan 2027 1:00pm | 3:00pm

Robinson Crusoe
15, 16, 22, 23 January 2027 7:30PM
16 & 23 Jan 2027 2:00PM

Cinema

NT Live – Hayfever
28 Jan 2027 7:00pm

Comedy

The Mowlem Comedy Club (14+)
20 Jan 2027 7:30pm

Community

The Mowlem's Open Mic Night: Show Off @ The Showbar!
12 Jan 2027 7:30pm

Swanage Record Club
14 Jan 2027 5:30pm

Oscar's Ultimate Quiz
27 Jan 2027 8:00pm

About The Mowlem

The Mowlem is a thriving arts hub for Swanage and a charitable organisation offering creative events throughout the year. We are an independent cinema with a 380-seat auditorium, studio space, gallery, and Showbar. Each year, we host over 300 events and welcome more than 25,000 visitors through our doors. Community and culture are at the heart of what we do, and we regularly partner with local festivals, schools, and amateur societies, as well as professional artists, companies, and productions.

More information:
https://www.themowlem.com / Facebook / Instagram / Website
For more information, please contact: Tia (Marketing Coordinator) marketing@themowlem.com
Mowlem Institute Charity: Reg. No. 243486

'Fantastic response' to new woodland Clay Trail

It has taken several years of planning and hard work by volunteers and local carpenters, tree surgeons, civil engineers and construction firms. But the effort to create a new Clay Trail through 20 acres of woodland around the Purbeck Mining Museum has been given a firm thumbs up by the public.



Cllr Beryl Ezzard officially opens the new Clay Trail in the woodland around the Purbeck Mining Museum at Norden. Photo: Andrew P.M. Wright

"The response has been fantastic," says Museum Lead Peter Sills, following the official opening of the new trail. "It really has made all of the hard work worthwhile and we're delighted the new interpretation boards and viewpoints overlooking Blackwater, Corfe River and Corfe Castle have proved to be so popular."

The new Clay Trail opens up a previously inaccessible area that has been shaped entirely by Purbeck's industrial heritage and is now rich with wildlife. The project has been supported in part through heathland mitigation funding provided by Dorset Council. The official opening of the trail was confirmed by Cllr Beryl Ezzard, Dorset Counciller for Wareham Ward alongside Jade North, Dorset Council's Heathland Mitigation Officer, who joined volunteers and local residents on the inaugural walk.

Ideal for day visitors and dog walkers the new trail is the latest initiative by the Purbeck Mining Museum to preserve and share all aspects of Purbeck's industrial clay mining heritage. The trail is open to the public all year round and follows many of the trackbeds of the former narrow gauge railway that once criss-crossed the area around the museum. And, during the summer months, visitors can complete the walk by visiting the museum. This is housed in the area's last mine building and provides a fascinating insight into the history of Purbeck's clay mining industry. Full details of the museum's opening times can be seen at www.purbeckminingmuseum.org.

SWANAGE DISABLED CLUB

Charity no: 1133375

This year, so far, we have had several speakers including Maggie Hardy on her attendance at the Women of the Year awards, Gary Suttle about his journey as a local councillor, Vanessa Neish exercising our bodies as well as our brains, and Rose telling us about all that the new Focus Centre is offering.

In addition, we have had trips to The Hub to include shopping at the new Lidl at Sandford, to Holme Nursery, RSPB Arne and the Courtyard at Lytchett Minster. We have been fortunate with the weather on all these trips, being able to sit outside in the shade to chat while enjoying our teas and cakes. We also had our usual 'after Christmas lunch' at the Seven Stars just outside Wool, when the members and all the volunteers have the chance to get together over delicious food. On other Monday afternoons, some have continued playing Scrabble, dominoes, various card games while others pursued creative activities like jewelry making, bag painting, card making and colouring. We hope to have a stall at the Christmas market in December to help boost our funds to continue offering social activities and transport for older people in town.

Just a reminder that we do have a vehicle available for wheelchair transport for appointments or social occasions which can be booked by calling 07426 928224. There is no charge for this service though donations are very welcome. We also have many items available to help someone disabled, whether permanently or temporarily, including wheelchairs, rolators, frames, commodes and other aids. These can be borrowed or purchased.

We have no Monday meetings during December but would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in joining us any Monday afternoon from 4th January at 2.00pm at All Saints Church hall. Transport to our social afternoons can be arranged.

We owe many thanks to the Carnival committee for their generous donation to the club. On the strength of this, we are taking our members out for afternoon tea at the Springfield Hotel just outside Wareham.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

To contact us please call Sue on 07426 928224.



Photograph by Gwenda Yeomans

DEADLINE

for contributions to the February / March 2027 issue of the Newsletter

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027