

Register

Magazine

Issue No 356 December 2020

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Distributed to: Wyke Regis, Preston, Sutton Poyntz, Osmington and Osmington Mills

Local news

Wyke Regis Library

Wyke Regis Library has a new library manager. My name is Nikki Plumb and I moved to Weymouth in January 2020. I started to work for Dorset Libraries in May.

Having worked as a primary school teacher for over 15 years and more recently for Surrey Libraries I was looking forward to becoming involved with the local community organising

events and developing library usage. Unfortunately, as we all know, this has been hampered by Covid-19 but in mid-September, after a small refurbishment, Carol and I opened the library doors to the public. It has been lovely to welcome our customers into the library again and I have particularly enjoyed meeting the people behind all the Order and Collects we processed during the summer!



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Letters, articles and photographs are always welcome, but views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. We reserve the right to edit submissions if appropriate.

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I am aware that many of our customers are not online and so here are details of our current opening hours.

Monday and Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm. Saturday 10.00am – 1.00pm. The library is open for browsing, borrowing of books, DVDs and audio books, computer use including printing and photocopying. The entrance is currently at the side door where Track and Trace details are taken by a member of staff. We do expect customers to wear a mask (unless exempt) and to sanitise their hands before entering. Browsing is limited to 15 minutes and computer use, to 45 minutes for each session. Computers need to be pre-booked by phoning us on 01305 760191. Books can be returned at the side door during these opening hours; via the library post box or at any other library in the area.

Alongside our opening hours we continue to operate the Order and Collect service so please go to the Dorset Website for details on how to make an order. Alternatively, you can phone 01305 228400 to place an order. Carol and I have really enjoyed selecting books for our customers over the summer so if you are unable to visit us in person please use this service.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

displayed inside the church and in the porch. Please put your donation in an envelope with the name of persons remembered and post the letter-box of Buttress Cottage Church Lane Osmington or ring Carol Sutton on 779353 or Irene Pratt on 833847 for further details - thank you.

Overcombe WI

Well, another month has gone by and the Covid rules have changed yet again. From today, the country is in lockdown. I am pleased to say that with our little caravan we have been able to get about and one visit was made to The National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas.

The approximately 400 memorials are set in a woodland 150 acre site with 25,000 trees and hard paths making it easier for everyone to walk about. There is also a 'noddy' train which, with the continual commentary makes for an interesting ride around the area.

I managed to find the WI memorial which is an S shaped stone seat in the poppy field area. The Arboretum is very interesting and parts are very moving and humbling. Well worth a visit when we are all able to travel again.

St Osmunds Church, Osmington

The St Osmunds Church flower arrangers invite you to make donations for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas in memory of friends and loved ones.

A list of those remembered will be



The WI memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas.

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I suppose it's back to sorting lofts and cupboards and for those with gardens, there's always the pre-winter tidy up. Keep safe everyone.

Jackie Greet

Sutton Poyntz Village WI

Well, what a year? After the first Lock Down in the spring our WI ground to a halt. Everything was cancelled and we had no AGM.

We all 'locked down' and hoped things would soon return to normal, but that was not to be. For some of the most vulnerable, semi isolation has continued and for us all life has been very restricted.

I have to apologise for being absent from the village and our WI over several months, helping my family up in Bath. During this time Rita Riley has kindly taken over my secretarial duties and we all owe her a big thank you. Several members have met up for socially distanced coffee and gossip sessions in small group of six or less and

many others have kept in contact by phone or email, but life has been far from normal.

Just when we were planning a WI committee meeting to get things going again, here we are back to square one in another Lock Down! Let us hope it works and we can all enjoy Christmas. With that in mind, Sutton Poyntz Village WI wish all their WI and other friends a Very Happy Christmas and even better New Year. Keep in touch with your friends.

Liz Slee

Wyke Square Carols

With great regret we have concluded that the customary 'Carols in Wyke Square' cannot go ahead this year. Under the current Covid 19 restrictions it would be impossible to gather in the Square safely and sing heartily to the wonderful music of Weymouth Concert Brass.

Please put the 20th December 2021 in your diaries, when we sincerely hope to be able to get together and celebrate Christmas in the traditional way.

Michael Gill

From your Parish Church in Wyke Regis

All Saints and St Edmunds churches
All Saints Church on Portland Road, Wyke Regis is open for the following (with participants wearing facemasks and social distancing) :-

Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion open to anyone.

Tuesdays 5pm - 6pm. A quiet evening service with reflections and prayers.

Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion for the over 70s and previously shielded patients

On the first Wednesday of the month Toddler Praise is presently on hold.

St Edmunds Church, Lane House Rocks Road, is now open for Holy Communion Service on Sundays at 11.00am.

Livestream

The main parish service continues to be livestreamed at 9.30am on Sunday Mornings which can access from your own home. An order of service is published each week so you can join in with the hymns and prayers. You can connect to the live stream service on the following links:

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/WykeRegisChurch/live>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/allsaintswyke/>

Parish website - <https://www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk/live/>

In addition to the livestream service the parish also runs a live local news programme at 6pm and a quiz at 7.30pm on Saturdays, these can be accessed on the same links as above.

If you would like to make contact with your local church, we can be contacted on

Tel 01305 784649

Email info@parishofwykeregis.org.uk

News from St Andrew's CE Primary School

Outside Adventures - within the school grounds

Staff and children alike are really enjoying the making the most of the opportunity to take learning and playtimes outside as much as possible - whatever the weather! Even though we are not going on trips this term the children and the staff have had lots of fun exploring the school grounds and

making the most of the wonderful green spaces we have here at St Andrew's. Children have enjoyed splashing about in muddy puddles on rainy days and hearing the crunching sound of autumn leaves under foot on cold, crisp autumnal days this term!

The children have also been enjoying the wonderful new trim trail that has been installed in the playground. Although we are in separate 'bubbles' the children and staff are still working together to #makeadifference, even though they are apart.

Christmas Cards

All of the children in the school have designed and made their own Christmas cards and these have been sent off to the printer so that their families have the opportunity to buy a special set of cards this year.

Hello Yellow Day

We recently took part in Hello Yellow Day which is a day in which we continue to raise awareness about the importance of looking after our mental health. The children were encouraged to wear something yellow and to take part in wellbeing and kindness challenges.

Remembrance Day

We still took part in Remembrance this year - although it looked a little different to other years. The children learned about why people wear poppies and where the idea for the poppy originated from and learning about the work of Moina Belle Michael as part of this. They also had an opportunity to think about the importance of remembrance. The children were invited to draw, paint or create their own poppies so that we could create a display in the main school entrance as well as an online 'Field of Poppies' on our school website.

Continued on page 9



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Friary Care has extended its service to support people in the community of Weymouth.

Our highly trained staff are now available in Weymouth to provide a home care service built around health, well-being and companionship, for more details please contact Peter on Weymouth 787811, thank you.

Friary Home Care is a service tailored to support people living independently at home

The service is led by Peter Fry, the owner of Friary Care and Friary Home Care. Peter has over twenty years in the care sector and has created this new service to support independent living at home.

- **Shopping plus**, a shopping, health watch, nutritional support, and companionship service
- **Meals plus**, a daily meal service together with personal care, home independence, home support, and home recovery.
- **Home alert service**, that you can contact 24/7.

These three services are provided by existing full-time members of the Friary Care team who have been with the company for several years, we never use agency staff.

With **Shopping Plus**, we will visit you twice per week, shop for you, using your shopping list, deliver it to your home and help put it away and advise you on items and menus that can help to maintain good health and support you with the same range of regular health checks enjoyed by those who have made our care homes, their home.

Meals Plus provides a service of three meals per

day, prepared in our own kitchens and delivered at pre-agreed times to your home. Our service not only provides the meal, but also allows time for us to undertake both personal and home care in accordance with a programme we will develop together.

Home alert service provides a fully managed, emergency on-call system for you, which means we will attend any incident or situation where our input can make a difference to you at any time, day or night. This comprehensive service provides the peace of mind we want for all our clients.

With all three services we seek to provide ongoing companionship and share time together to support your interests at home. We use the latest monitoring protocols to record our time with you and can allow family members to view your progress if this is something you would feel is reassuring to them.

During these times when Coronavirus is still with us, we all wear full PPE all staff are tested for Coronavirus every week and we use strict hygiene protocols to ensure your safety, if you would like to learn more about preserving your independence, whilst accessing real support please call Peter Fry on Weymouth 787811.

Thank you.



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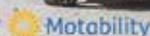
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Pyramids have become great symbols of stability. The great ancient civilizations used the pyramidal shapes to create revered monuments. Their broad wide, heavy base and light, smaller tops created monoliths which would be easy to construct and be so sturdy that they would last for a seeming eternity.

We also describe ecological systems in terms of 'pyramids of biomass'. At the foundation of a marine ecosystem will be the algae or phytoplankton which has the largest biomass. Simplistically, we have those that eat the phytoplankton, the small animal zooplankton, the small fish that eat them and so on until we get the very few at the top – the apex predators like the sharks. Each of these layers is vital for the survival of the others but just like the Egyptian pyramids they have a strong foundation which, if left unspoiled by our hands, should last for an eternity.

It seemed so perfectly relevant that Dorset's 'Solace Stones' were pyramidal in shape. The Solace Stones are pyramids of pure, white stone with a lovely tactile, smooth quality to them. These very special Solace Stones, built using local Portland

stone and designed in conjunction with Southampton University, have special holes and fissures on their surface.

The holes are suitable for a variety of marine life from different levels of the food web to find solace. However, what makes these pyramids so unique is that there is also a space for the ashes of a loved one to be enclosed within the pyramid and covered with a plaque as a commemorative memorial to somebody whose final resting place is befitting of the sea.

I was delighted to be asked to come and dive the stones with local Dorset diver Marcus and one of the directors of O'Three Drysuits and Solace Reef. Travelling with him across the calm seas and looking out over the wide expansive horizon I imagined how comforting it must be for those who are grieving and taking their loved one's 'solace stone' to its final resting place. The sea has a wonderful restorative quality that heals and soothes our salty souls and perhaps makes us recognize the small but not insignificant part we play in this great interwoven blue planet of life.

Initially, we were to dive a stone which had been laid just a few months previously. The pyramidal monolith appeared from the depths and had an atmospheric air of peace, calm and solidity. The

stone was still white but the surface of the stone had started to encrust with the very first layers of that food chain or foundation of a 'pyramid of biomass' - a fine layer of algae.

The stones are hoped to act as a living reef which will help reseed the local marine life in the area. The fissures at the base of the pyramid were specifically sized to fit young lobsters. I hoped to see some of these crustaceans lurking in the fissures and holes of the solace stones. In 2012 two thousand tonnes of Portland Stone were placed on the seabed just before the London Olympics in 2012 as a habitat for released juvenile lobsters. I wondered if we might see signs of these crustaceans.

We swam on to find the other solace stones which had been laid to rest in June 2014 and September 2015. I was immediately struck by the softened glow and gentle appearance of the older stones. There was a real diversity of invertebrates covering the stones including barnacles, tunicates and bryozoans. The whiteness of the stones could be seen no more and instead life - everywhere you looked.

Looking at the base of the first pyramid I approached, I saw an eel which, I assume, had cleared an area under the pyramid as a safe haven to rest. The Conger Eel looked at me with apparent suspicion and slowly swam from the pyramid while a Leopard Spotted Goby swam in to the space that the Conger left. The

larger holes higher up on the stones were home to Edible Crabs who looked very comfortable in their relatively new home.

Looking at one of the pyramids in its entirety, the hard edges softened by the bryozoans and a torch light shining down on the peak of the pyramid, it had an ethereal glow. I noted the inscription of the stone, 'Peter Anthony Noice... A Gentle Man'.

What an incredible thing that even in death we might be able to create life and help restock our seas! The reef isn't just a lovely memorial but has become a new ecosystem drawing in lots of marine life. Personally, there was something incredibly comforting, consolidating and life-affirming about diving the Solace Stones.

In life we too often avoid discussing death and then when it does come to us we are somewhat surprised that it should befall our loved ones despite the fact that it does, with such certainty, come to us all. Through the Solace Stones, salty souls have a way of creating something beautiful that really will last forever and help support an environment which had brought them happiness in their lives. I felt honoured to witness the swirl and spin of the great circle of life around the stones creating something radiant, beautiful and environmentally important - in that we can all find solace.



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Local news

Greenhill Gardens Christmas Cards

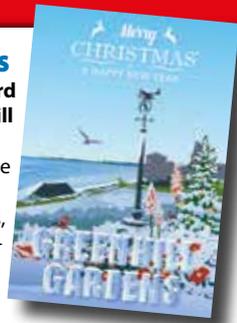
Please check out our fantastic Christmas Card specially designed for us featuring Greenhill Gardens in the snow.

It is very colourful and festive and is available on the shop page of our website.

Also there you can see Greetings Cards, Posters, Mugs and Coasters. They make excellent Christmas Gifts as well as being mementos of the 'Gem of Weymouth' - Greenhill Gardens.

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Christmas Performances

Christmas is such a special time of year for us all at St Andrew's. Although, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we will be unable to put on our Christmas Shows and Nativity Plays. We will be working together to create a unique Christmas Performance this year. We will be bringing the performance to the families – the show will go on (with the use of technology).

We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Stay safe.

Shine a light of hope

Through the long dark evenings it is always nice to light a candle, a flickering light of hope. We have a range of rather special fairtrade candles made by the gifted candle makers at Swazi Candles at their workshop in the Malkerns Valley in the heart of Swaziland. We were lucky enough to visit them 2 years ago as they welcome guests to watch the artisans as they work their magic.

Swazi Candles was established in 1982 and as a founding member of SWIFT (Swaziland Fair Trade Association) they are passionate about caring for their employees. They permanently employ 45 people who are part of the decision making process in the company and receive many employee benefits, including health care and allowances for food, transport and clothing. They are paid a living wage and receive a share of the profits of the company.

The candle makers continue to use the ancient art of millefiore using a special hard wax to create their colourful designs. The colourful hard wax veneer forms the outer shell of the candle, which hardly melts when the candle is lit. This produces a rich, romantic glow of the illuminated exterior as the candle burns deeper into the container lighting up the casing. The shells can still be used even after the original inside wax is gone when refitted with a votive or tea light candle.

Our pillar candles come in a variety of designs for Christmas or every day, some with an African theme. We also have sets of 6 mini candles either with Christmas or African designs. Due to their small size, the mini candles do not burn in the same way as the larger pillar candles and both the inner and outer wax melts with the flame. They still retain their intrinsic value as works of Swazi craft and possess the ethereal glowing qualities that Swazi Candles are known for.

Alternatively, we have large red pillar candles, perfect for your Christmas window, handpoured using palm wax by Wax Industri in Indonesia.

Following the overseas donations

which I mentioned last month I am pleased to say that we have now given donations to local charities to support the incredible work they are doing. We gave £750 to the MV Freedom to help them equip their new boat which will hopefully be in service next year providing trips for many groups of people who would otherwise be unable to experience a trip on the sea and our stunning coastal views. Another £750 has been distributed among the various food banks serving Weymouth, Wyke Regis and Portland.

While we are closed if you would like to buy your gifts, food or cards from Traidcraft we are happy to order for you and deliver or arrange a collection time. You can browse the Traidcraft Shop online and contact us with your order.

Hopefully we will be open again in December and will then be open for our normal opening hours through until Christmas Eve when we will take a break until Saturday January 2nd. We would like to wish all our customers a safe and Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

We can be contacted through our facebook page The Bridge Fair Trade Shop, by email at thebridgefairtrade@gmail.com or by telephone on 01305 772842.

The Bridge Fair Trade Shop, 24 Trinity Road, Weymouth, DT4 8TJ
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Dorset Home Library Service

Doorstep Deliveries

Although our much-loved Home Library Service had to be suspended due to the Coronavirus situation, we are now providing a temporary non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service to those that cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term.

Our volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. Books are chosen by staff at each library, based on individual preferences, and made ready for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to our clients' front doors. The volunteers will not enter the house, and they will keep a safe distance at all times; they can also pick up books and return them to the library. This service is entirely free and is available across Dorset and BCP areas. We are keen to let more people know that it is available to them if they find themselves unable to get to the library. To find out more please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager

Dorset Home Library Service, on 01305 236666 or 07786 635154, or e-mail maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

C'Siders - Cancer Support Group

With face to face meetings still on hold, C'Siders Cancer Support Group has begun holding monthly Zoom meetings.

Members and newcomers are welcome to join us. Please email info@csiders.org for more information and sign on details. For members preferring a one to one chat, the group is still here for them. A call to our helpline 07430 695462 can put you in touch with other members or answer any questions you may have.

C'Fit Rehabilitation Exercise Classes at the Osprey Leisure Centre have been on hold during the recent lockdown. For latest details, please call Osprey Leisure Centre on 01305 824378.

For up to date information about the group and future plans, please visit our website csiders.org, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/csiderswp, e-mail info@csiders.org or contact us on 07430 695462.

The Wyke Regis Society

Contact: Georgina Skipper, georgina.s.skipper@gmail.com, 01305 761993

website: <http://wykeregissociety.com/>

I am sad that the pandemic has meant the cancellation of Wyke Christmas, where our members have always been stalwarts. You may have met us serving teas, or seen our displays in the small hall.

I am pleased, thanks to the Register, to be able to wish all of our members who don't use the internet a very happy and safe Christmas. I'm also taking the opportunity to sum up the year so far, as we have not been able to meet since January.

For readers who don't know us, the Wyke Regis Society has been striving for the best part of a century to listen to residents' concerns and represent them to our various councils. The recent decisions by Dorset Council to remove the Commercial Road railtrack, and to close the Harbour area for a prolonged period over the summer, have highlighted a lack of consultation with locals and an apparent failure to listen in these difficult times.

A major concern in this area is the proposal for the waste plant. Some of the claims made by Powerfuel are misleading: the weasel words 'up to 202,000 tonnes diverted from landfill' can mean 'no tonnes', and yes, 100% of Dorset non-recyclable waste is shipped out of the county, to an Energy for Waste facility which generates electricity as the proposed plant would. Cheap electricity tends to be offered after the shareholders have had their cut; the heating benefits will be available to very few. The stack will be built against the cliff and there will be weather conditions where the emissions blow over the harbour and Wyke.

Equally worrying is the claim that traffic will only increase by 0.4%. This is a percentage of total traffic, but how much of an increase in heavy goods vehicles does it represent, going over the Portland causeway? In fact the route is entirely single carriageway from the Manor Roundabout and uses the Old Portland Road, where our residents are already concerned about noise and fumes. In passing I must point out that the much vaunted 'Wyke bypass' would be unlikely to relieve traffic. It has repeatedly been shown that extra roads mean extra traffic. In addition, the unstable cliffs and need to avoid the Jurassic Coast mean that a road would have to go through built up areas, listed buildings and all. At a time when Wyke's identity is under threat this would be a step in the wrong direction. Are Powerfuel going to back a new bridge to Portland? If the Skye bridge is viable, what about one for our Island?

Although everything is once again in abeyance, anyone wishing to become a member can contact our membership secretary, jonriley47@gmail.com I wish you all a happy, if rather quiet, Christmas, and hope we will be able to meet again in the New Year.

Georgina Skipper, Chair, Wyke Regis Society.

Greenhill Gardens Christmas Cards and Gifts

Please check out our fantastic Christmas Card specially designed for us featuring Greenhill Gardens in the Snow with a Christmas Tree and baubles. It is very attractive and festive and is available on the Shop page of our website.

Don't miss the really colourful Posters of Weymouth Bay with the Liners and Dolphins, Portland Bill with Lighthouse, Weymouth Harbour and Greenhill Gardens.

Also there you can see other Greetings Cards, Posters, Mugs and Coasters.

They all make excellent Christmas Gifts as well as being Mementos of the 'Gem of Weymouth' – Greenhill Gardens and the area generally.

All available on our website and so easy to order.

Thank you for your support.

We will be back in 2021 when hopefully we will be able to recommence a Programme of Entertainment in Greenhill Gardens.

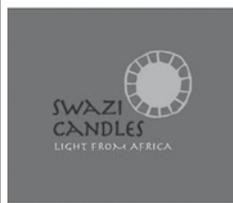
The Friends of Greenhill Gardens
www.greenhill-gardens.co.uk/shop

Zoom your Mini Panto this Year

Most stage panto's have been cancelled this year. But you can still have the fun of a panto at home!

Get all your family or friends on zoom and have your own mini panto! Zoom is free for groups of up to 100 for 45 minutes.

Continued on page 10



Mini pantos need no rehearsals, no line learning, no costumes, last about 15 minutes, involve 5/7 people and there are eight to choose from. They are £20 each and ordering is easy.

They are being bought now up and down the country.

So don't miss out on your Christmas treat.

Check out the panto scenes and more details on the website.

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www.minipantos.com

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Dorset Councillor's Update

Clr Louie O'Leary and Clr Tony Ferrari

After finishing the food bank in September and handing it over to the local church to organize (which has proven successful) I thought my days of having a boot full of shopping donations and groceries were gone, but during the October half term break this resumed.

This time it was homemade sandwiches kindly provided by Morrison's and the Preston Road Spa shop I spent my week off from the day job out and about delivering these to local families with the help of Lit-

tle Moor Community Action Group (LCAG).

We served over 130 lunches in and around the Little Moor and Bridlebank area to families and need who were very grateful. On Halloween once again with the help of LCAG and Morrison's I helped organize our trick or treat drop off where families text us their address for a delivery of goodies. My phone was picked to bear the brunt of this wave of texts but it was well worth it in the end doing over 100 houses in one evening. It would be good to be able to do similar things in Preston and Sutton Poyntz if residents would like to help organize?

On council ward business myself and Clr Tony Ferrari have been taking up the issue of Seven Acres Road bus route being blocked. This is a long term issue that has not been solved despite repeated efforts mainly due to a lack of interest from the bus company to get a long term solution. However after speaking to drivers myself I can assure residents they are fed up as well. Working with residents we are now looking at a proper solution to end this problem once and for all and we will need residents support on this. Following recent

heavy rainfall we have arranged for Dorset Council to unblock several gulleys in the Preston area to help elevate this. We have also had roadside weed sprayings across the ward with particular focus on Chalbury Corner, Cedar Drive and Willow Crescent if we feel you have been missed on this round of spraying please let me know.

On Weymouth wide issues Clr Ferrari, Bergman, and myself under the leadership of Clr Richard Nickinson (Weymouth West) took a strong stand against Weymouth Town Council's plan to take ownership of Auntie Vi's beach hut but sadly we were in the minority on this issue.

Clr Louie O'Leary. At Dorset Council I continue to be active on the harbour committee regularly meeting with fishermen, boat owners and local residents although Covid-19 has limited this. I was planning on re-starting my regular residents surgery meetings but sadly the new lockdown has scuppered as well but both myself and Clr Ferrari remain contactable by phone, email or Facebook. Clr Louie O'Leary Clrlouie.oleary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 07809905412 clrtony.ferrari@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

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Weymouth Town Council celebrates commitment to Real Living Wage

Weymouth Town Council has been accredited as a Real Living Wage Employer. Our Living Wage commitment will see everyone working at the Council receive a minimum hourly wage of £9.30 in the UK, a rate significantly higher than the government minimum for over 25s which currently stands at £8.72 per hour.

In the South West region, over a fifth of all jobs (20%) pay less than the real Living Wage. In the Weymouth area, this rises to around a quarter (25%) of all jobs. Despite this, the Town Council has committed to pay the real Living Wage and deliver a fair day's pay for a hard day's work

The real Living Wage is the only rate calculated according to the costs of living. It provides a voluntary benchmark for employers that wish to ensure their staff earn a wage they can live on, not just the government minimum.

Since 2011, the Living Wage movement has delivered a pay rise to over 230,000 people and put over £1 billion extra into the pockets of low paid workers.

Cllr Luke Wakeling, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, said:

'Weymouth Town Council wants to be a Council that people are proud to work for and a Council that is proud of its employment conditions.'

'We live in an area where work can be hard to find and can be seasonal and such work is usually lower paid. Locally some communities live with significant deprivation in terms of pay, education, health, and housing.'

'As a Council we are committed to addressing this deprivation and improving the lives of our residents. Offering a fair day's pay and leading by example is just one way we can do this and the first of many benefits we hope to bring to the communities we serve.'

Katherine Chapman, Director, Living Wage Foundation said:

'We're delighted that Weymouth Town Council has joined the movement of over 6000 responsible employers across the UK who voluntarily commit to go further than the government minimum to make sure all their staff earn enough to live on.'

'They join thousands of small businesses, as well as household names such as Burberry, Barclays, Chelsea and Everton Football Clubs, Lush, and many more. These businesses recognise that paying the real Living Wage is the mark of a responsible employer and they, like Weymouth Town Council, believe that a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay.'

Dorchester Country Market

Look out for us at the United Church, South Street, Dorchester (Not far from Goulds). Our opening times will be 9am - 12 noon every Friday. We will be selling the same high qual-

www.registermagazine.co.uk

ity goods that we sold at the Corn Exchange. Come on in and see our Christmas range. Our first market will be on Friday 4th or 11th December, depending on the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

New Keep in Touch Projects

Refresh in collaboration with Weymouth Town Council are launching two exciting, new projects: Chat2gether and Pen2paper under the wider Keep in Touch scheme. The projects aim to connect those who have been socially isolated due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Chat2gether scheme involves a weekly telephone call between a small group of individuals, offering support and friendly interaction. The groups will be of no more than four people and the calls will last approximately 30 minutes. The scheme is open to everyone and will provide an opportunity to make new connections, particularly as many social events and activities are currently being cancelled. Sign up is completely free of charge and can be done over the phone.

Volunteers to facilitate the telephone calls are also needed. This is a great way of giving something back to the community and can all be done from the comfort of your own home! We're looking for people who have excellent listening skills and can commit to a 30-minute call on the same day and time each week. Training and support in this role will be provided. All you need is a phone!

All volunteers and participants will be protected using an external telephone system so that no personal telephone numbers need to be exchanged. (Calls are charged at a standard rate and are included if you have free minutes.)

The new Pen2paper scheme is for individuals that would like to receive a card or letter in the post. This will be offered on a fortnightly basis and participants will have the option to write back if they wish to, though there is no obligation to do so.

This scheme will also be carried out in a safe way, with no exchange of addresses. All letters will come to a central base and be sent from there.

If you would like to receive a phone call, a letter or be a volunteer on either of these fantastic projects, please get in touch with Rosie on 07902217942 or email keepintouch.weymouth@gmail.com

Dorset Home Library Service

Doorstep Deliveries

Although our much-loved Home Library Service had to be suspended due to the Coronavirus situation, we are now providing a temporary non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service to those that cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term. Our volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. Books are chosen by staff at each li-

brary, based on individual preferences, and made ready for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to our clients' front doors. The volunteers will not enter the house, and they will keep a safe distance at all times; they can also pick up books and return them to the library. This service is entirely free and is available across Dorset and BCP areas. We are keen to let more people know that it is available to them if they find themselves unable to get to the library. To find out more please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, on 01305 236666 or 07786 635154, or e-mail maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Latest news

Following recent government announcements, we are required to close Dorset libraries except for our Order and Collect service. Dorset Libraries will reopen as soon as they can in line with Government guidance and ensuring they continue to be COVID-19 secure.

Existing loans due on or after 5th November 2020 will be automatically extended from the due date until at least 14 December (loans will be extended by 39 days). Should our libraries remain closed beyond this date, we will continue to extend these loans to ensure they do not go overdue. For items that are already overdue on or before 5 November 2020, charges will continue to apply. Items can be renewed using the Libraries West website www.librarieswest.org.uk, Libraries West app, or phoning 01305 224311.

The Order and Collect service is available, offering you the opportunity to order a selection of books, DVDs and talking books which are chosen to meet your reading preferences. Further information is available at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/librarians or by phoning 01305 224800.

Whilst your library is closed, you will still be able to place any requests using our online catalogue for collection at one of our libraries and any current requests you have made will continue to be processed where possible. You will be contacted by the library when a requested item is available for collection so that a time can be arranged for you to collect the item(s).

You are able to return items borrowed from the library during this time via the letterbox and please do not leave them on the doorstep, as they could be stolen or damaged.

Our free digital e-book, e-audio, e-magazine, e-newspaper and e-comic services continue to be available; for more information on these please visit www.librarieswest.org.uk.

For community managed libraries, these may have different arrangements - please check with your local community managed library.

Contact us at d.libraries@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk if you have any queries.

For the latest updates follow us on Twitter @DorsetLibraries or follow us on Facebook - DorsetLibraries

News continued on page 13

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Free Benefits Surgeries

Age UK North, South & West Dorset holds regular surgeries where over 50's can come and ask an expert questions about benefits they may be entitled to receive.

Working in partnership with Dorset Council, these benefit advice sessions are one-to-one surgeries, free and by appointment only. Due to COVID-19, these surgeries will go ahead on the planned dates but will be by telephone only.

Sessions will operate on the following date:

Weymouth area – Thursday 10th December

Richard Bristow from Age UK North, South & West Dorset said: "We are working in partnership with Dorset Council and can assist older people to access the benefits they are entitled to such as attendance allowance and pension credit

"If anyone is not sure about the benefits they may be able to claim, I would encourage them to make an appointment at one of our telephone surgeries.

'We are also still offering help to complete benefit forms, such as attendance allowance, over the telephone through our welfare benefits team.'

To book a telephone appointment for Dorchester, Weymouth or Bridport, please call Age UK North, South & West Dorset on 01305 269444 or email enquiries@ageuknswd.org.uk

For further details of other ways in which Age UK North, South & West Dorset can help you, please telephone 01305 269444 or visit our website: ageuk.org.uk/northsouthwestdorset/

Question a legal expert over the phone for free

Age UK North, South & West Dorset, in partnership with local solicitors, is holding a free over the phone service for anyone over 50 to ask an expert questions about wills, power of attorney, property and finances.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, these surgeries will go ahead on pre-planned dates by telephone and will be by appointment only.

Dates for the next surgeries in partnership with Nantes Solicitors are:

Weymouth area – Wednesday 2nd December

To book a telephone appointment, please call Age UK North, South & West Dorset on 01305 269444 or email enquiries@ageuknswd.org.uk

For further details of other ways in which Age UK North, South & West Dorset can help you, please telephone 01305 269444 or visit our website: ageuk.org.uk/northsouthwestdorset/

Zoom in for Healing!

All you've got to do is ring 07503 461160 and you will be given a time slot to be prayed for online.

The team at Healing Rooms consists of mature well trained Christian teams

of men and women from many of the local churches. Even though you will be prayed for from a distance it will be 'face to face' and very friendly. Absolutely confidential. No pressure, no arm twisting, no criticism, no charge! Just plenty of encouragement to build your faith to help you receive your healing. Our slogan very appropriately is 'Christ the Healer. You have His Word for it.'

Healing Rooms for Mid-Dorset are part of the worldwide International Association of Healing Rooms organisation and Mid-Dorset Healing Rooms, of which Weymouth are a part, have been operating now for nearly twenty years. The lockdown most certainly won't stop us from offering to pray for you without you having to wait very long.

Costa Coffee before the lockdown, and a major Health Centre in the area used to be the operational base for Dorchester Healing Rooms, until the surgery became so busy that the Health Centre needed additional space for more doctors and nurses. On occasions GPs referred their patients to us. Such is the excellent reputation of this healing ministry.

106 Weymouth College Town Centre Site

Often just referred to as '106' the college is lucky to have a site dedicated exclusively to the over 18 population. The courses here focus on what adults need to progress their careers and the centre also offers qualified careers advisors to assist with all employability related matters.

Sadly, due to the virus, we can no longer host our social drop in afternoons, so this newsletter is a way of staying in touch with all our past/present and indeed future students – enjoy!

Message from Julie Ellis, Centre Manager

Well thanks to storm Alex, October didn't start well!

It caused flood damage and we had to close for only 2 days, big thanks to my amazing staff who helped with clearing up! Classes are now back up and running. Apologies to those who had classes disrupted and thanks to all for their patience.

Courses

We offer English, maths and computer courses from complete beginners through to Level 2 which is equivalent to GCSE C or grade 4 standard. Courses are offered throughout the year and best of all they are free!

Private Callers

Ever felt wary answering the phone when display comes up 'private caller?' Just be aware that many large organisations, including the NHS, display this when they ring you. It is becoming

Continued on page 15

Wyke Regis Working Men's Club



56 Portland Road, Wyke Regis
www.wykeworkies.com



Wyke Regis Working Men's Club would like to wish all their valued members and customers A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

New Years Eve

The Originals (formerly The Silhouettes) playing from 6pm until 9pm. Limited tickets will be available.

Boxing Day - Ticket only.

2021 memberships now available with the remainder of 2020 free of charge.

A message from our committee:

2020 has been a very difficult year to say the least. We have, and still are, experiencing unprecedented times that none of us could have predicted this time last year. The health and safety of our customers is paramount and whilst we look forward to welcoming you again in 2021 we want you to stay safe throughout the festive season and beyond. Look after yourselves and each other. Best wishes from us all. xx

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ing more common now with corona. As we try to limit touchpoints, even here at the college only one person will have the office phone. The rest will use mobiles that display private caller, or number withheld. As a safeguard, you can always let the answer phone screen it. Genuine callers like ourselves will always leave a message.

Good news – Certificates are Ready!

We usually host an awards ceremony to give out certificates. Again, sadly, this is not possible with Covid. For students currently on courses with us and attending 106, certificates will be given to you here at the centre. Past students – we will be contacting you to see if you want to collect or have posted out to you.

NB: They will be posted to addresses held on the college system when you enrolled. So if you have moved, please inform us. The college is not responsible for the non-arrival of any certificates once posted. If you need your certificate urgently, then please email: job_club@weymouth.ac.uk

Student Success!

Congratulations to Kelly who after updating her English skills, secured her preferred job role working in a school. Also Sam, who did, literally everything with us – English, maths and IT all the way up to Level 2! She is starting a new job next month in retail. Well done both!

Computer Courses- Russell's Story

'Noooooo!!! Please don't make me do that!

That was my initial reaction to the suggestion that I try one. Luckily the beginner's entry courses were quite gentle affairs. Helping me to overcome my fears and actually have some fun, while learning new things. Meeting lots of new people made it even more worthwhile. It's hard to get away from computers in today's world, so the skills I was taught have allowed me to break down barriers and broadened my horizons. I don't think I had ever sent an email before attending 106 Weymouth College. Today I can talk face to face though a computer all over the world. I have finally taken the plunge and invested in a laptop computer for home use, or wherever the

fancy takes me. So grateful for the 106 experience... just say yes!

Absence from class

Please do phone in if you can't attend for any reason. We have a duty of care now with Covid to keep all our students and staff safe. You can help with this by reporting your absence reason, we need to know it's hopefully NOT Covid, but to instigate tracking if it is. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Feedback on employability services at 106

Here's what Jasmin had to say: What a fab service! Heather started helping me a few weeks ago to put together a CV after having run my own business for 13 years and not knowing how to put it all into a relevant CV. I've also had some support with job applications and looking for jobs. The service provided really is amazing, it's given me the confidence to apply for jobs after such a long time!

As a result of my talks with Heather, I've also just completed assessments to book onto a computer skills course, as although I am fairly competent in using a computer, I have no formal qualifications. Can't believe this was all free too – great job 106!

A day in the life of What it's like to work in a particular job?

We plan to regularly showcase what a job is like in each edition. Last time we told you about Claire who had got a job as a student support assistant (SSA). So in this edition, Amie, who works in this role, is going to tell you what it's like to do this job! She also is an ex-student of ours.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter! Want more information about anything in it? Want to contribute or get in touch? Please email job_club@weymouth.ac.uk or call on 01305 759683 image012.png

As a SSA you never know how your day is going to be. Some days are easier than others and some days can be quite challenging. I find my job very rewarding, going home knowing that I may have helped someone today, it makes you feel like you have made a difference, even if it is just one person. Whether that is helping someone un-

derstand a maths or English question to get them through an exam, or just being an ear to someone and listening to their problems. Some days I get sworn at by students and other days I have students draw me pictures which I treasure. Whatever the situation my job is to help and support each student with whatever their troubles are. I get to meet people from all walks of life and I am always learning something new. It is an amazing job to have, I and wouldn't be here now if it wasn't down to the amazing support I got from the 106 team myself. Amie.

Digital Champions & Computer Help

Digital Champions are a group of volunteers, mostly made up of retired IT professionals, who usually hold sessions in libraries and community centres. The face to face service is not available at the moment but a helpline has been set up to assist residents with digital issues.

Anyone can call the Dorset Digital Hotline with an IT question on 01305 221048 (select option 2) weekdays (excluding Bank Holidays) from 10am to 12noon.

You can leave a message with your name and number outside of these times and we will call you back. A team member will take details of the help you need and then direct your call to the best advisor available. The team can offer digital support for a wide range of issues, no problem is too small.

Preston Friendship Club

The date as I write this is November 5th, the start of a new month's lockdown. So, off we go again, nothing really to do except to make the most of things as they are, remain positive and emerge hopefully better off at the end of it all. Just for now, the sun is shining, the view is wonderful, Preston is a great place to live, and we are surrounded by good friends.

So, we can start this article with a mystery tale. One of our members would like to know if any other member has had a similar life experience to hers.

She had two rings, not particularly valuable in monetary terms, but having very deep sentimental value.

She wore them every day and night but had noticed that they were becoming loose, and that she needed to be very careful when washing hands and when doing anything that might cause them to slip off or be pulled off, becoming lost.

Then, horror of horrors, one day she glanced down and saw that both rings were gone. The shock and consternation were hard to cope with. She was filled with anxiety.

Naturally there was an immediate search. Every room in the house was gone through, even the bed stripped, sofas and chairs delved into, bins searched, pockets and bags emptied, but no luck.

Continued on page 19



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Over the Hill

With Chris Hubbard

As you read this hopefully the dreaded Covid will have eased its relentless march across Britain – and perhaps indeed relaxed its grip across the whole world – but at the time of writing it all looks rather bleak. Especially for Christmas.

Incidentally, I was corrected, thankfully by one of my elders and betters and not a youngster, for using the words 'global pandemic'. She explained that pandemic means a world wide infection, so the addition of 'global' is unnecessary. A correction also came when I used the word Corvid instead of Covid. It was delivered with heavy sarcasm along the lines of "We are not at much risk from birds of the crow family". Can't be too sure about that, as anyone who has seen Hitchcock's film 'The Birds' will testify.

Do you know the difference between a crow and a rook? My dear old mum always said that a crow in a crowd (gett?) is a rook. A lot of her favourite sayings such as 'you are never too old to learn' are now mine. My In-house Adviser says that there are about five thousand favourite sayings in my list, which she believes is just an excuse for my constant repetition. Me repeat things? Never.

But I digress. The NHS Track and Trace App has been downloaded to my phone – by me, I hasten to add, not by Grandson George or some other super IT savvy youngster – and it is extremely useful. On entering a shop it gives me my exact location, which helps me remember where I am. Now all we have to do is programme it to tell me where I should be and we have cracked one of the biggest difficulties in my life.

But I digress again. My In-house Adviser has made dozens of face masks so I am well equipped when going out – or I am if she reminds me to put one in my pocket. Also there is always a small bottle of hand sanitizer in my pocket, though I usually manage to squeeze out too much so it takes about 3 minutes of frantic hand rubbing to get it to dry. Then in a local supermarket we have a mobile clicker so we can scan our own purchases as we go around, put them straight into our bags and then pay the bill at the end. No need to unload the goods at the checkout, have each one of them scanned by the checkout person then pack them away into our bags.

Well that's the theory anyway. In practice what happens is that we are told to wait for a supervisor to check that I am of sufficient age to buy my bottle of wine. They take an age to arrive and the check is often carried out grudgingly, as if there is some doubt in her, or of course his, mind that I am actually over 18. I look so young that doubt is understandable in shops with an over 25 policy, but even I could not claim to be under 18.

Have a look at my picture and see if you agree.

Worse, on the last four occasions we have had to have our whole trolley scrutinised. That's every item. This process takes longer than going through the checkout because they have to root about in every one of our bags. I can imagine the security staff looking at their bank of CCTV monitors and saying "He looks shifty and suspicious, pull him over and give him the works". Or more likely "That's the bloke who writes nasty things about youngsters, let's get own back".

But I digress from my starting words, which mentioned Christmas. At the present moment gatherings will, it is said, be restricted to six people, including those gathering around the table for the turkey dinner. This will definitely pose problems. Firstly our normal turkey dinner is adequate to feed about fifty people. Six will not make a the slightest dent in it. We will be dining on the remainder for weeks, and despite Delia Smith's best advice there are only so many things that you can do with leftover turkey.

Secondly, there are more than six of us in the family. If we only gather six at a time there will be so many individual days of celebration that we will only just have finished Christmas in time for Easter. Thirdly, six people are not enough to play Charades, given that at any one time on the day itself at least four people are asleep. Fourthly, opening the presents will not, as is traditional, take up most of the day. There will be so few that it will be all over in about 15 minutes.

The list could go on, but as my dear old Mum used to say "It's being so cheerful as keeps us going" which is another of her, and my, favourite sayings. So looking on the plus side there should certainly be a quieter atmosphere for the Queen's speech, with no need to turn the sound up to hear her golden words. And there certainly won't be as much washing up. Nor raised voices arguing about whether 'squixp' is a valid word in Scrabble.

But now, as I come to the end of this discourse my In-house Adviser informs me that Boris is going to lock us down again and Christmas may even be postponed. So at this time of great uncertainty and concern, may I just say that I hope that this Christmas confounds all our expectations and proves to be the wonderful and magical time we all wish. May it be a safe, happy and healthy holiday for everyone. And to all those working tirelessly in our hospitals, on our roads, in our care homes, in our service industries and anywhere else they are needed, our grateful thanks.

God bless.

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If 'lockdown 2' ends on 2nd December

Normal Sunday worship in church buildings [masks must be worn, and QR scanned by compatible mobiles]

8.30am	St Osmund, Osmington	Said Holy Communion
	Holy Trinity, Bincombe	Said Holy Communion
9.30am	St Andrew, Preston	Said Holy Communion
	St Nicholas, Broadwey	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	St Francis, Littlemoor	Lay led worship
11.00am	St Laurence, Upwey	Said Holy Communion
4.00pm	St Nicholas, Buckland Rippers	Said Holy Communion

Worship by candlelight 7.30pm every Wednesday at St Andrew, Preston

Who's Who

Team Rector Canon Tim West (normal rest day: Friday) The Rectory, The Weir, Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6BX (01305) 833142 weymouth.ridgeway.lector@gmail.com www.facebook.com/canon.tim.west

For St Andrew, Preston; or St Osmund, Osmington please contact **Administrator** Shirley Mitchell 4 Church Rd., Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6BU (01305) 837147 or weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

Team Vicar for St Francis vacancy. Please contact Churchwardens: Graham Field (01305) 832532, OR Hilary Wareham 07816 448988

Team Vicar for Holy Trinity, Bincombe; St Laurence, Upwey; St Nicholas, Broadwey; St Nicholas, Buckland Rippers Rev'd Philip Elliott (normal rest day: Mon) The Vicarage, 526 Littlemoor Rd., Weymouth, DT3 5PA (01305) 459971 weymouth.west.ridgeway.vicar@gmail.com

Retired Clergy Rev'd Ada Whittock, 79 Clearmount Rd., Weymouth, DT4 9LE (01305) 788045

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Tue	10.00am	Ridgeway Bible Study Group [fortnightly] Preston (01305) 834604
	6.30pm	Home Churches [weekly], Littlemoor (01305) 835921
Wed	7.30pm	Home group [1st, 3rd] at St Francis, Littlemoor (01305) 833242
		Home group [fortnightly] co-ordinated by Jackie Meadows 07591 851075

If you see something of concern, say something

Church noticeboards and www.ridgeway.org.uk give details of who to contact. Each Church has a Parish Safeguarding Officer, and publishes their policy.

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Hall booking secretaries

Frank Reynolds Community Centre, Broadwey: David Moth (01305) 812218
Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz: Maureen Morris (01305) 835533
Osmington Village Hall: 07521 966252 bookingssecretary@gmail.com
Preston Village Hall: Julie Witt (01305) 834232
Scutt Hall, Preston: Betty Hennessy (01305) 833614
St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston: (01305) 837147 sachurchrooms4@gmail.com
St Francis' Community Room, Littlemoor: Anne Field, (01305) 832532 anne_field@talk21.com
Upwey and Broadwey Memorial Hall: Jonathan Harwood (01305) 814940
Upwey Old School: Phil Cooke (01305) 812665.

News and Views

The interview for Team Rector designate took place by Zoom but the outcome can't be published until the next edition of The Register, so watch this space!

Remembrance was held early on 1 November during worship. Churches were also open for private prayer Sundays and Wednesdays throughout the month. Many paid their respects in a very different way this year. May we relish the gift of peace even more wholeheartedly by living life to the very full.

Christmas will also be different this year and here is how it will be celebrated in St Andrew, Preston; and St Osmund, Osmington. Of course, we can only assume we come out of 'lockdown 2' as planned. All December services will include listening/humming to 2 well known carols, candlelight if possible/desired, and crib scene as the central decoration for the whole month.

Sunday 6

8.30am St Osmund's with 2 Advent carols
9.30am St Andrew's

Wednesday 9

7.30pm St Andrew's with 2 Advent carols

Sunday 13

8.30am St Osmund's with 2 Christmas carols
9.30am St Andrew's

Wednesday 16

7.30pm St Andrew's with 2 Christmas carols

Sunday 20

4.30pm St Osmund's 6 carols & 5 readings
6.30pm St Andrew's 6 carols & 5 readings

Thursday 24 Christmas Eve

9.30pm St Osmund's said Communion, 4 carols, & incense
11.30pm St Andrew's said Communion, 4 carols & incense

Sunday 27

8.30am St Osmund's with 2 Christmas carols
9.30am St Andrew's



Wednesday 30

7.30pm St Andrew's with 2 Christmas carols

St Andrew is looking smart now that the scaffolding has been removed to reveal re-pointed south and east elevations. Already the interior is beginning to dry out. Thanks to Harry Barnes for carrying out this complex project.



Then she went outdoors, garden, patio, flower beds, bird table, everywhere, but no sign.

Finally she gave up hope, the rings were lost. Sadness and gloom.

Two weeks passed. A relative came to visit. On the very first day he came in from the garden and asked "Are these your rings?". There they were in the palm of his hand, shining and clean. "Where oh where did you find them?" She took them eagerly and put them onto her finger. Her relative replied "They were just outside the door on the steps leading up to the garden".

She said that the path is used every day, those steps regularly trodden, and had those rings been there they would have been seen. If a caller, a postman, a delivery man or any visitor had found those rings somewhere en route he would surely have brought them in to our member and asked "Are these yours? not just placed them neatly side by side on a step and walked away.

Once the rings were safely back in her finger, our member went outside with her relative to see exactly where they'd been found.

They noticed three large black crows sitting on the lawn nearby who appeared to be watching them intently. They live on the roof and our member feeds them regularly and provides fresh water and a birdbath. They have become very friendly. She says that she often "has a word with them".

She asks, "Is it being over-imaginative to have felt that those crows knew something about those rings, and might in fact have arranged them so neatly, side by side on the steps?"

Well, she stayed still for a few moments, touching the rings and keeping the gaze of the crows. She said that she had to admit whispering "thank you, oh thank you" to them just in case... Then they rose up and flew away.

Experts in bird behaviour, particularly the high intelligence crows, say that "Crows are the only birds known to bring gifts to humans. They will do this for people who feed them a lot and pay attention to them". Also they say that crows can remember faces especially those of whom they have observed to be most kind and communicative.

If any reader cares to type into their search box "What kind of gifts do crows bring?" Or

"Crows bring gifts to humans", one feels they may well be surprised at the accounts given.

So, did those crows see her lost rings lying there in the garden, realise they were hers, or even just bright objects, and take them to her as gifts? They were laid carefully side by side, not

haphazardly, exactly where they'd be found easily.

Did they fly down at exactly the same time as she came outside wearing those once lost rings to let her know that they had sent them?

Have any readers experienced similar events? One member tells me that she befriended a crow, often talking to him as she took her dog for early morning walks. The crow became so friendly, he'd wait for her, then accompany her on the walk and back again, hopping along beside her as she went. The talking bit was very entertaining she said. Whatever folks, it's a fascinating tale.

Now for tale number two, lighthearted and fun, just what we need. Our members enjoy creative activities, they are always ready to learn new skills, they look forward to fresh interests. So when you add the possibility of fun and laughter, all the boxes are ticked, and they are ready for the off. As they say today, 'Bring it on!'

Thus, one member, her daughter and granddaughter decided to become potters par excellence for the day

Off they went to a village 'somewhere near Poole' to seek out the pottery.

It was an establishment run by two friendly and charming 'lads', one about 60, the other in his 70s. Both were so knowledgeable, and their years of experience had given them great expertise. They were excellent teachers too, patient, supportive, motivating, and entertaining.

Both had worked at Poole Pottery, one of them for 30 years before retiring. It takes 6 years basic training to become a fully fledged potter. As our member remarked 'Almost as much as a doctor'. Apparently, to pot properly, one has to get onto a potting stool, a bit like a horse saddle really and just as demanding if you need to cock up one leg, leave yourself across, then plonk down safely dead centre. If one also finds balance and leg energy a trifle dodgy, things can be fraught. However, all three managed eventually to achieve a correct and comfortable position for the off.

We've all seen the accomplished potter slap a lump of clay onto the spinning wheel and expertly coax and 'love' it into an emerging object of beauty. Yes, we've also seen the alternative too... the splosh and clay tsunami mayhem. Our ladies did well though and managed to produce one planter, one candleholder, and a model mushroom for the garden apiece, relatively unscathed. They said that their teachers were amazing, so helpful, encouraging them all the way, and making it a pleasure.



There was a real spot of movie magic part way through, romance and high comedy combined as you might expect from our special member. 'Ghosts' that sweet, sad, tear jerker film sprang instantly to mind as potter bent lovingly behind and over our lovely member at her wheel, his hands guiding her expertly, 'Oh' she breathed, 'Pity you're not Patrick Swayze', fast as a flash he retorted, 'yes, and pity you're not Demi Moore!'. End of scene, music fades. Much laughter.

Well, you can't win 'em all.

Their creations were left at the pottery to dry out. When done, the girls will return to decorate them. After that they are fired and no doubt we will all admire their artistic efforts when we meet again.

Poole pottery seems not to be exactly as we remember... times change. Much of the works now are private commissions for specialist clients, though of course one can buy individual ready made and very attractive articles during a visit.

As we have said, we do look forward to seeing the results of their pottery day out, particularly those of our own member because one of the potters remarked on her exhibit saying, 'Mmmm, you seem to like things a bit quirky don't you?'. She agreed. He said did she mind if he added a little bit more quirkiness to her idea. 'Not at all' she laughed 'Feel free'. Bated breath, we await.

For a while it's adieu from Preston Friendship Club but I already have another tale waiting regarding an almost "15 Minutes of Fame" so, who knows what will turn up in time for next month.

Take care as you have all been doing, keep in touch, it's so important.

PS. Sorry I didn't have a picture of the lovely granddaughter who took part. Will try to get one for next time.

Dorothy Lawrence

Your councillor update Weymouth Town Council

(Wyke Regis) and Dorset Council
(Rodwell and Wyke Regis) :-

Well here we are again, in lock down. The senior team, both Councillors and officers assure us that we are much better placed this time and that all systems are in place to deal with the crisis. Certainly, I am assured that there are fewer homeless people, most of those that were helped in March have remained in the accommodation provided for them and we are better able this time to help without placing a strain on existing services or areas. I meet many of these men whilst working at the food bank and they certainly do seem appreciative and are making the most of the support being offered to them. I am also told that we have the capacity to deal with patients being discharged from hospital without resorting to care homes. I hope all this is true. All the necessary PPE is available. The many voluntary agencies that were set up in March are all ready to deal with problems as they become apparent. Keeping in touch with our neighbours, particularly the elderly, the vulnerable and those living alone is very important. Loneliness and isolation continues to be a problem for some of our residents, both young and old, a friendly voice on the phone once a week can make an enormous difference to mental health. . Please pass details to me so that I can arrange some support.

Cllr Lucy Hamilton and I continue to have a heavy work load so do be patient but don't hesitate to contact us if you have a problem that the Council can help with.

I am pleased that this time our refuse collection sites will remain open and the waste collection service seems able to cope. They have done a terrific job over recent months, so do give them a wave and a thank you when you see them.

I spoke about the problems with sites of refuse bins on the Rodwell Trail, we seem to have managed some compromises on locations. Not everyone will be happy but that is the nature of compromise. Lucy and I will continue to work on this.

The County of Dorset is still reporting fewer cases of Covid 19. However, these cases are rising and we must take care. The number of infections in our school and colleges have risen, and although younger people seem

Continued on page 23



How do you say that?

The other day I was asked where the 'u' was in 'honoury'. It's a good question to which I have no answer except that it disappears from 'honour' in UK spelling. US spelling is 'honor' anyway, but for some reason we British only drop the 'u' in words like 'honorable'. 'Glamour' becomes 'glamorous' too. I can understand that the '-ous' on the end as well as the 'ou' in the middle might just be too much for us, but the question remains, where does the 'u' go in 'honoury'?

GS

Christmas won't be the same this year with a prohibition on singing. However, the church will still be present with online services accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WykeRegisChurch/live>

We will have an online Nine Lessons and Carols that we are recording before lockdown. My hope is that we are allowed to hold a ticketed Midnight Eucharist at 11:30 on Christmas eve at All Saints Church for 45 people? I also hope that we can hold a Christmas morning family service for 25 people at St Edmunds at 10:00AM on Christmas morning. Further than that I am very unsure to say what we can and cannot offer.

The other Christmas work of the church will still go ahead. We will be helping families through our Foodbank. We will also have a Christmas appeal for presents for families in need in the Parish. Do please contact us on if you would like to donate to this please.

In the meantime whether in person or online I wish you a very Happy Christmas and with you all a prayer to pray with hope for a Vaccine and an end to this Pandemic.

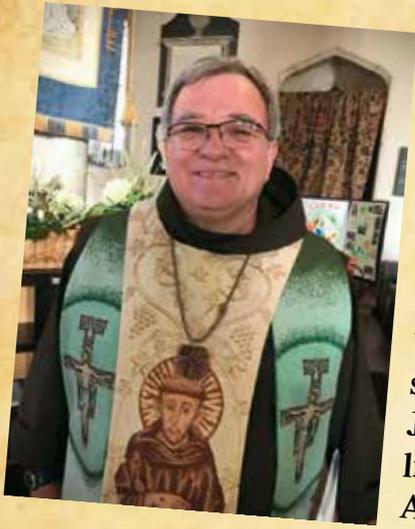
Please follow our website www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk or facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/allsaintswyke/> for details of any services in church or livestream services this Christmas.

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Can I begin this letter by wishing you all a very happy and blessed Christmas. I expect 2020 is a year that you would like to see the back of. I think I'd possibly agree with you. It has been a very trying year. A year that has been filled with much change as well as anguish and heartache.

The context of the Christmas Story is one of pain, struggle, and heartache. We quickly forget that for Joseph and Mary all that they had planned for their lives did not happen as they expected. The visit of the Angel must have come as a great surprise to both of them. Certainly, the news that Mary was to bear the Christ child. Mary's dreams and hopes we're upset. Joseph's decision without the visit of the Angel would have been an impossible one.

It was hard in March and since then to say, your wedding will not go ahead as planned. Officiating at funerals has been particularly sad. The church being closed for many months has been an area of great pain. Finance has been a struggle. Added to all that, I know many in our congregation have found lockdown very stressful. Like Joseph and Mary, we find ourselves in a situation that we cannot quickly fix.

A particular prayer used by people in 12 step recovery programmes around the world has become even more pertinent and useful to me in lockdown I want to offer the full version of it to you. It helps to provide us all with words to help us when Christmas isn't as we hope it would be. A prayer to manage our expectations.

**God, give us grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.**



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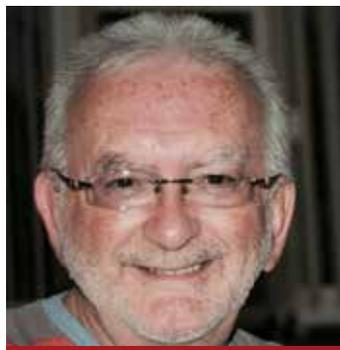
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By Grahame Howard

Christmas in Lockdown

I can't believe it, and I don't really know how to break it to you, but, after we have had to put up with lockdowns, no lockdowns, Tier 1, 2 & 3 and now, (at the time of writing) talk of another national lockdown, I am afraid to have to inform you that Santa and his workers are all self-isolating. The whole of Santa's land is in threat of a lockdown that could, unless we have a miracle, last until the spring. Devastating news, I know.

In fact, Santa is in a bit of a pickle because, if they are not in lockdown before Christmas arrives, how is he still going to get through all of the restrictions over the world, safely and efficiently and deliver our presents in time? It is shattering news to all of us. What will we do? How will we cope with no presents, no joy and no Santa and his reindeers? Sage at this present time, are working on whether or not, he will be fit for the Festive period and if he is, whether he will be allowed to visit us all. I'm sorry to have to break this earth-shattering piece of news to you but you needed to know and I was selected to tell you.

It may not be all gloom and doom though because Santa has been working on the possibility of doing his orders online. It could work because Santa wouldn't have to leave his busy workshops to deliver the goods himself. He would have his own vans, or should we say, reindeers and sledges at the ready, to deliver.

How it is planned to succeed goes like this. We would have to go online to santaonlineduringlockdown.com browse through the millions of items available; tick what we want and pay the bill and await delivery. They are promising to deliver between 2-3 days. It may not come to this but we need to be ready. Be prepared should be the motto as my training with the Boy Scouts declared. The CO said that I should be ashamed of myself as I was kicked out for stealing a badge - I told her that I was only 10 years old. But she still maintains that it was disgusting and I should have been locked up. Anyway back to Christmas, I remember once quite a while back, I treated the CO to a trip to Texas for Christmas. She loved it. Afterwards we went to B&Q but it wasn't so thrilling but she still liked it all the same. I'm so generous like this you know. The CO never knows what I'm going to do next. It's a thrill a minute for her. She's just said, 'You've got to be joking,' but she is overwhelmed with my generosity to-

wards her really.

If this possible lockdown comes upon us, what are we going to do without Carol singers? Christmas won't seem the same without them will it; and then of course, the queues in the supermarkets are going to be horrendous. They usually are at Christmas time but with a lockdown, will we be allowed to go there and queue up? With being 2 metres apart, the queues will be massive. Boris apparently hopes that if we have a lockdown for a month, we should all be okay for the Festive period. But who knows?

It must be nice at times like these, to be a cat. I mean, I watch Henry and he hasn't a care in the world. He lays around all day, yawns and strolls to his bowls for something to eat and then goes back to sleep again, quite a lot of the time sitting on the CO's knee for extra comfort and warmth. Yes, I could live that kind of life, no worries, bills and food paid for. A flipping life of luxury, but I don't know if the CO would let me curl up on her knee. I tried it once but she just pushed me back on the floor again. Charming isn't it. Henry can sit on her knee - no not Henry our neighbour, at least I hope not, no I'm talking about Henry the cat. He gets away with murder - well he would I think if he committed the act. He wouldn't though, he's more of a cat burglar.

He has the CO wrapped around his little finger, well, paws I mean. He can do no wrong in the CO's eyes. Even Charlie feels this way. Henry is allowed up on the settee, but Charlie isn't. He looks at me when this happens and I can tell that Charlie's thinking that there is case of discrimination going on here. Henry lazing around on the settee and poor old Charlie, sulking on the floor or in his bed. I've told him, it's a dog's life mate, join the club. Sometimes, when I've upset the CO, I too have to sleep in the dog's bed; but that's another story.

One thing for sure, if there is another lockdown, I'm going to be working from home and that means no garden. It's too wet and they say that we have to stay at home and home to me, is not the garden. I'm retired and it's winter, the CO can't expect me to work in the garden at my age, in mud and inclement weather. It is too dangerous, that's what I say. It is nothing but elder abuse. No, the garden is out of bounds until next year - possibly July or more like August. I'm getting 'the look', now from the CO so I'll be in the doghouse for the weekend. That will please Charlie anyway, he likes company.

Anyway, enough of these words of wisdom, even if we do have a lockdown or we are in one now, I wish you all well, and I hope you have the best Christmas that you possibly can. Thanks for your support this year. God Bless and remember, I will be back next year. Now that's something to look forward to, you are so lucky.

Grahame

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better able to combat the infection there has been an increase in hospitalisations Our death rate still remains low but is rising and our excess death rate is rising too. If you have a medical problem please do not be afraid to call your health centre or visit the hospital. Half term saw an influx of visitors from higher risk areas and I don't suppose that helped our figures! We were able to turn people away during the last lock down but we were not in lock down at half-term. Dorset has offered to be among the pilot authorities for types of testing as well as more efficient tracing. Our public health director and the environment health team are working flat out and doing a terrific job. It is vital that tracing is not only efficient but that every support is then provided to help people to self-isolate if they are required to do so. If your child is sent home from school then that does mean he or she should not go out shopping with you! Unless it really is impossible for you to do so please wear a mask, 2 metres is the distance you should keep from people not in your own household. I said last month we are each responsible for ourselves, in order to stay safe observe distance, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently or use a sanitising gel and help keep the number of cases in Dorset as low as we can. Do this to protect your Granny, but as was pointed out to me Granddads are important too!

I am among the many local people sad to see the removal of the railway lines along Commercial Road. The sight of the boat train was a very evocative one as I was growing up. (and a great excuse for being late for school) I wish there could have been some other way of dealing with this but sometimes we have to bow to the inevitable. Too many people wanted them removed.

Letters are now being issued to residents in and around Church Knapp in Wyke concerning the upgrading of the Telecon Mast to 5G. Please respond to the consultation. There is no evidence that 5G is harmful but of course people do have legitimate concerns. With poor road and rail connections it is vital for the economic growth of Weymouth and Portland that we take advantage of new technology to promote the businesses we need.

The new Dog Orders across the County were approved by DC Cabinet and have been welcomed by dog owners and residents generally.

Let me remind you of the other matters for consultation that are ongoing, the Dorset Council Climate Strategy and Dorset Council Local Plan, do go on-line to take part in these.

Corporate Parenting Board continues to be challenging. We have over 400 children in care across the County. Some of these are in the care of family members and we are fortunate to have some wonderful and very committed foster parents. A recent drive to recruit more was very successful but corona virus restrictions have

slowed the process of confirming these new parents.

If you feel you have the skills to foster a child in need then do get in touch and ask for more information.

It is not all doom and gloom we are very proud of the many school leavers in our care who have gone on to university and further education, and are doing well.

We have also recently recruited some very skilful and professional social workers to our teams, so we are really moving in the right direction for the service. It is our aim for as many of our Dorset children to be cared for within the County and as close to their families as possible. The planned new children's home in Dorchester Road will help with this aspiration and there are other initiatives in the pipe line.

We continue to receive praise for our innovations in delivering children's care but funding is still a problem and we use every opportunity to make representations to the government for adequate grants, not just for Children's Services but for Adult Services, too.

The new lock down rules caused us to reschedule our working practices for Portland food bank yet again. We have learnt from last time and everything seems to be in place from the start. I have applied yet again for funding grants to buy in basic food items, and we will again want to provide special Christmas Food Parcels. Local hospitality businesses have been amazingly generous with many of them making donations of fresh food that they were unable to use once they were required to close on 5th November. Thank you all so much for your kindness. We wish you all well during lock down and we will look forward to supporting you again when you are able to reopen.

Having just begun to get back to a sort of normal Scouts are again in lock down. May I remind you there is a keen interest to re-establish scouting in Littlemoor. We have a waiting list of young people wanting to join and once we are able we would like to establish a new troop. As always we have the problem of not enough adult volunteers. Were you a scout? Do you miss it? Do you have a few hours to spare? If you would like to discuss the possibilities please get in touch. Not just hands on, the group will need a treasurer and a secretary as well as a chairman.

I am aware that not all the ward receives the Register but it is also available on-line so please tell anyone who asks. Please remember; the best way to contact me is by phone 07850 060947 (you can leave a message) or to email me at cllrkate.wheller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. I rarely use facebook or pick up from messenger.

Please stay safe – hands – face – space. God Bless.

Kate



Tim West's View

Every Christmas should be different

Same old, same old... kills off any elevation. We need to constantly evolve as circumstances change. Christmas should radicalise us! Not in some daft self-righteous sense, but because it reminds us of our roots. Jesus Christ was born under a bureaucratic lockdown when everyone had to register in the place where they were born.



www.dailymail.co.uk

Brexit is a tea party [no offence to any Americans welcomed among us] compared to the political chaos of his day. Roman imperialism vied with puppet kings and religious authorities for control of peoples lives. His 'NHS' was overstretched, and so his birth took place in a stable.

This will be my last Christmas with you, and I have celebrated many under wildly different circumstances: tragic funerals either side, festive weddings, baptisms at the Springhead with Salvation Army leading carols, personal traffic of one sort or another. And every time the story of the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe giving our little planet his message of love has been mind-blowing and heart-warming.



www.nasa.gov

We may well have to be physically distanced from each other, but it's vital we remain socially close. God didn't maintain superior physical distance, but became intimate in the Christ child. May we accept such wonder into our hearts and minds.

A very happy, peaceful, and fun Christmas for all of us.





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