

Register

Magazine

Issue No 394 February 2024



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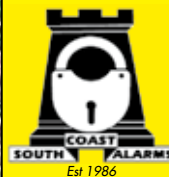
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Photo: Iain Ross

tunes. So, come along to boo, hiss, cheer and laugh at this magical family panto.'

Each year Preston Pantomime supports three local charities. This years chosen charities are:

- Gully's Place
- Weldmar Hospice
- Tumbledown Farm

The clock is ticking so grab your tickets now to the show that proves that a pair of shoes really can change your life.

Showcasing February half term 2024, tickets from £6.

Book here: <https://www.ticket-source.co.uk/preston-pantomime>

The Wyke Regis Society Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting and AGM held 7pm Tuesday 14th November 2023 at Wyke Regis Working Men's Club, Portland Road.

Members present:

Chairperson – Georgina Skipper, Membership Sec - Jon Riley, Treasurer - Jean Hamdorff, Cllr Helen Toft, Cllr Brian Heatley, Rosemary Lander, Cyril Perren.

Apologies:

Mayor Kate Wheller, Cllr Clare Sutton, Alan Howard

Presentation:

The Shoreline Management Plan presentation was given by Alan Frampton of the Dorset Coast Forum, who explained and illustrated the problems facing our coastline and infrastructure from climate change, and the solutions being considered and undertaken, and took lots of questions from his audience. We all felt well informed, if not reassured, as the Chesil Bank is trying to move into Portland Bay and the Fleet; also, since the build of Osprey Quay and Lidl extra protection is needed to the coastline. An online survey is on the Dorset Coast 'Have Your Say' webpage.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Were read to be correct although an update from All Saints Church explained that the wall around the church yard at All Saint Church was the responsibility of the Council and not the Church. In the past, hit and run drivers have left the substantial cost of repair to the Council. The problem has worsened with the increased size of the lorries being directed up this road. There has been talk of the Church giving up a small area on the corner but the Council want to get the Church to give up all its parking on Portland Road outside the Church. The Wyke Society will always support the Church on how it wishes to proceed.

Membership Report:

No new members.

Chairperson's Report:

The Old Wyke Stores is hoping to become a Community Hub and Café with various activities taking place over different days. Contact wykecafeandhub@gmail.com with your suggestions.

There had been reports of flooding in Lanehouse Rocks Road due to the new housing estate, this is being investigated.

Grubbing out of hedges along the Fleet is an ongoing problem along Camp Road and at Martleaves. This has been reported.

A fine of £4,000 has been placed on the person that has not removed all items from the field at the bottom of Pirates Lane. We hope that this will deter any future plans for permanent settlement on these fields. Tyres that have been placed in the hedges at the bottom of Pirates Lane need to be removed as they are classed as hazardous waste. Other hedges in the area have been grubbed out, it is unclear whether this is against regulations.

The Number 4 bus route for Littlemoor is to be retained. It is reported they want its hours extended. It is noted there is no plan for the Lanehouse/Wyke High Street service to be resumed, even though local planning proposals with little car parking rely on 'plenty of local bus stops'!

Notices have gone out to get more residents to get involved in the neighbourhood plan online (weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) and at libraries.

The inquiry for the incinerator on Portland started on 5th December. The Society hopes this will finally end these plans.

News

Preston Pantomime Hear ye... Hear ye...get ready to polish your glass slippers and line up your pumpkins for you shall to the ball.

Preston Panto is putting on the most enchanting story of them all – the magical tale of Cinderella! Poor Cinderella works night and day but dreams of a very different life and with an invitation to the royal ball it looks as if her wish may be granted. Will her Wicked Stepsisters succeed in ruining Cin-

derella's dreams of happiness or will her Fairy Godmother and loyal friend Buttons be able to thwart their devilish plans?

A spokesperson from the group said. 'We have some familiar faces treading the boards once again, as well as new members of all ages within the cast and crew. Everyone from cast, backstage crew, set designers and a host of others are working hard to put on a fabulous show with colourful costumes, stunning scenery and toe tapping



Councillor Reports:

More EV charging points are needed in the area. The Council are looking at laybys and off road areas to use, and the Gateway park and ride. Lamppost operators have been approached by the operating firm.

Many complaints have been made about the Royal Mail in the area, some residents had only one delivery in two weeks.

Wyke Regis GP Clinic has had a lot of complaints about their service. Many patients have voted with their feet and moved to Cross Road Surgery.

The Asylum Barge, *Bibby Stockholm* at Portland Port, should be full by Christmas, concerns for the occupants and local services were expressed.

Would you be interested in opening your garden for charity. It is hoped that an open gardens day could be organised for Wyke next summer.

Memorial Hall:

All seems okay with the hall and it is being well used.

All Saints Church:

It is hoped that the funds for the roof repair will be sufficient to start after Christmas. Visits to the tower have proved popular, with a magnificent view from the top and the chance to ring a bell. Activities in the Church range from singing to gardening, why not get involved. The WRS along with the Church gardeners have planted camissia bulbs alongside the daffodils in the churchyard. These bulbs were purchased by the Society for Wyke Regis to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

Wyke Square:

Bin stores overhanging the public highway in Shrubbery Lane have been reported to the Highways Dept/Conservation Officer, as has the fact that the footpath to the front of Oban Cottage in Wyke Square has been taken out and cobbles put in its place. It was also noted that the flagstone floors might have been removed and the pointing may be inappropriate.

The perimeter fence along the car park at the back of Lyme Close needs repair and the Society have contacted Parks Dept on this.

A resident has been reported in Lymes Close putting out food for seagulls. Please consider your neighbours when you attract the seagulls, Lymes Close has very small gardens and residents find windows and washing white-

washed. Feeding them is classed as anti-social behaviour and can be reported to Environmental Health.

Planning:

There were no new planning applications on the website for Wyke.

Footpaths and Highways:

On the coastal footpath between Ferrybridge and Martleaves Farm Dorset Council 'no cycling' signs are still up, although others have been removed. Two years ago the Rangers stated that unlawful use of the path by cyclists should be reported to the police.

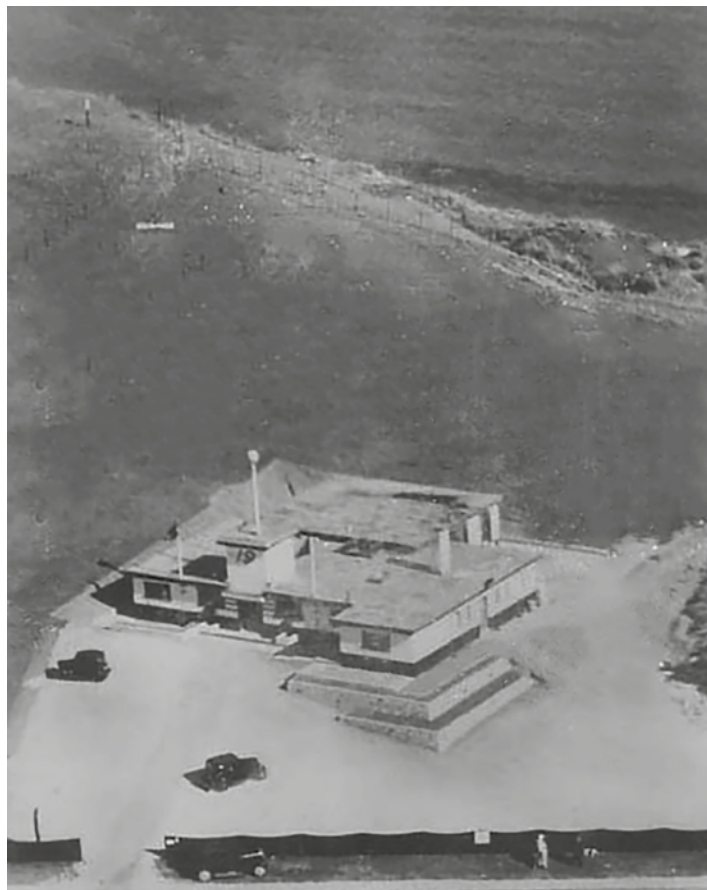
Councillors had called for some safety improvement to local roads, mainly the mini roundabout at all Saints Church/Wyke Road, Asda Junction and Portland Beach Road. Post meeting note, the speed limit on Portland Beach Road has been reduced. No update since the need for a crossing was identified for Wessex roundabout.

A concern has been raised about the new junction at the bottom of Lanehouse Rocks Road near Fremantle Road. Cars are parked opposite the middle white cross hatching which leaves little space for traffic to manoeuvre around the keep left sign. With the size of the lorries coming down the hill on this road, it is an accident in the making. It was also mentioned that the traffic lights on the junction of Lynch Lane/Lynch Road do not always filter, which leaves cars stranded in the middle of the junction. The filter lane at these traffic lights is hardly wide enough, considering the size of the lorries now using this road. The junction could do with re-lining. The Society has contacted Highways on this and they have a team to monitor the situation. Please contact the Dorset Highways department if you feel this junction is now not fit for purpose.

The sale of land at the Bottom of Camp Road has gone through, this is beautiful pasture land that belonged to Manor Farm, we hope it stays that way.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

wykeregissociety.org.uk
Contact Georgina Skipper,
georgina.s.skipper@gmail.com,
01305 761993.



This aerial photograph is titled 'The Nineteenth Cafe', (it had an 18 hole putting green in the grounds), note 19 above the entrance. Later known as the 'Embassy Bars' then the 'Spyglass' it is now the 'Harvester', shown below in Google Earth. Note the added first floor storeys and extensions and the amount of cliff top that has been lost at the rear of the pub.




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News continued on page 6

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Weymouth South Scout Group

Weymouth South Scout Group are extremely excited to announce that as part of our 80th birthday celebrations this year, we have completed our task to thank the brilliant community of Wyke Regis, Rodwell and Weymouth by fundraising and installing a defibrillator near to our scout base in Rylands Lane, Wyke Regis.

The defibrillator is fitted on the wall of Legh House residential home, DT4 9QB and is accessible

24/7 by calling emergency services on 999 who will direct you to the unit and give you the code in an emergency. We hope and pray no one will need to use it though. Special thanks to Legh House and to Wyke Horticultural society for supporting us and to all the brilliant businesses and locals who donated raffle prizes and financial donations to the fundraiser. There are too many of you to mention but please do know that we really appreciate all of your support and kindness. A massive and final thank you to Sam from Xscapes Electrical for giving his time for



Members of Weymouth South Scout Group, Friends from Legh House and Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

free to fit the Defibrillator – thank you. Wishing you all a safe and happy 2024.

Citizens Advice

'Q I am due to retire soon but I think I might struggle to live well on my state pension. Someone told me I might be able to claim Pension Credit but I don't know what that is.

A: Pension Credit is extra money to help you cover your costs if you're over State Pension age and living on a low income. You might be able to get it even if you have other income, savings or assets. Pension Credit comes in two parts: Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. It's separate from your State Pension.

Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level. In 2023-24, this level is £201.05 if you're single or £306.85 if you're a couple.

Savings Credit is extra money if you've got some savings or if your income is higher than the basic State Pension. It's available to people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016. In 2023-24, you could get up to £15.94 extra per week if you're single or

£17.84 extra per week if you're a couple.

There are different eligibility requirements for each of the two parts of Pension Credit.

If you've reached State Pension age, you can claim Guarantee Credit if your weekly income is less than £201.05 if you're single or £306.85 if you're a couple. Even if your weekly income is higher than these thresholds, you could still claim Guarantee Credit if you have a severe disability or you're a carer or you have to pay housing costs, such as a mortgage.

If you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 – or if you're a couple and one of you did – you might be eligible to claim Savings Credit. There isn't a savings limit for Pension Credit, though savings over £10,000 will affect how much you receive.

To claim Pension Credit, you can either claim online on GOV. UK (if you already claim State Pension and there aren't any children or young people included in your claim) or call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234 (lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).

Claiming Pension Credit doesn't just top up your income – it could help you get other benefits, too, including help with health and

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Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

The seed potatoes are in!

There will be an evening talk by Andrew Cowling, Herbalist, on Wednesday 7th February at 7.00pm in the Club House, Rylands Lane. Tickets £7.50 include a soup and dessert supper. Non-members welcome.

A seed swap is open to all on Saturday 10th February 9.30am - 12.30pm. Come and share your spare seeds, vegetables and flowers.

We are organising a coach to RHS Rosemoor on Tuesday 18th June. Tickets £40 includes entry.

To join the Society, visit the Trading Post when open, Wednesdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm and Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or phone 01305 759668.

Wyke Regis WI

The Singer's group started our Christmas festivities with their Christmas Concert 'Sing a Christmas Carol', presenting two evenings with a wide variety of Christmas themed music, greatly enjoyed by the audiences.

At the monthly meeting members were invited to enter a craft competition and a wide variety of craft items were displayed.

Coffee and mince pies were enjoyed followed by a Christmas Quiz. A musical entertainment from

Ann and Norman Stagles ended a jolly meeting.

Despite a very windy and wet morning the monthly coffee morning (first Tuesday in the month 10.00am - midday) was well attended. On the domestic front a new electric cooker has been installed in the well appointed kitchen, the purchase made possible by a bequest from a former member.

The Institute members are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable 2024.

Thirty years of the Fairtrade Mark

We are all now familiar with the Fairtrade Mark which first appeared in 1994, thirty years ago.

The first Fairtrade certified product to be launched was Green & Black's Maya Gold Chocolate, made with cocoa from Belize, followed shortly by Cafédirect coffee, Percol coffee and Clipper tea. In 1998 the first honey to carry the Fairtrade Mark was launched by Equal Exchange and Divine Chocolate appeared. Divine Chocolate was established in the UK by a Ghanaian cocoa farmer organisation, the only farmer-owned chocolate company in the world.

In January 2000 Fairtrade bananas from Ghana, Ecuador and Windward Islands became the first to carry the Fairtrade Mark. Co-op and Sainsbury's were the first to stock them but they are now available in all major UK supermarkets and one third of all bananas sold in the UK are Fairtrade.

From its modest beginnings in 1994 with one chocolate, two coffees and one tea available, Fairtrade has grown to 450 companies now licensed to trade 4,500 Fairtrade products in the UK. These range from traditional commodities such as coffee and tea, to cotton, raisins, spices, cut flowers and gold jewellery, the list is endless. Buying Fairtrade products really does make a difference to the lives of farmers so do look out for the Fairtrade Mark when doing your shopping.

In 1995 the Fairtrade Foundation introduced Fairtrade Fortnight to be held at the end of February, beginning of March every year. This was a time to bring together campaigners, businesses and producers to raise awareness of trade justice. For their 30 year anniversary celebrations there will be various events planned throughout the year and they have decided to move Fairtrade Fortnight. From this year onwards Fairtrade Fortnight will be in September and this year it will be held from Monday 9th September-Sunday 22nd September, which gives us all plenty of time to plan events.

One event which we have traditionally held during Fairtrade Fortnight is a Big Brew. A chance to get together over a Fairtrade hot drink and slice of homemade cake whilst also raising money for Traidcraft Exchange, now Transform Trade. Our Big Brew last year was very successful and enjoyed by all who came and met with friends in our upstairs seating area. We don't

want to wait until September to hold another one and so there will be a Big Brew at the shop on Saturday 2nd March from 10.00am until 3.00pm and then maybe another one in September! Do come and join us, we look forward to seeing you all there.

During January we will be open Tuesday-Saturday but with shorter hours from 11.00am-3.00pm. We will be closed for stock taking on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st then open on Thursday 1st February at our usual times, Tuesday-Saturday 10.00am-4.00pm. We can be contacted on 01305 772842 or by email at thebridgefairtrade@gmail.com

The Bridge Fair Trade Shop, 24 Trinity Road, Weymouth, DT4 8TJ.

Reporting to Trading Standards

If you think a business has broken the law or has acted unfairly, you can report them to Trading Standards. Call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

There are two benefits in reporting this way:

Your call will be answered by a trained Citizens Advice helpline advisor. They take details and give you practical and impartial advice on how to resolve your consumer problem. They will tell you the law which applies to your situation and will provide letter templates if needed. They will then pass information about your complaint to Trading Standards.

Trading Standards will use the information you have provided to decide if to investigate unfair trading and illegal business activity. Often business advice is all that's needed. However, Trading Standards can take businesses to court when there have been major breaches and it's in the public interest to do so.

Here are just some examples of

when you should report a business to Trading Standards:

Unsafe or dangerous goods, including electrical goods and food past its use-by date

Fake goods

Misdescribed goods

You were pressurised to buy something

You paid for something that you didn't receive, and you can't contact the seller

A business seller has tried to stop you using your legal rights, such as saying you can't return Faulty goods

The price wasn't clear, or an unexpected extra cost was added

A business is selling age restricted products to people underage

Work wasn't carried out properly at your address

Trading Standards will contact you back if they need more information about what has happened.

Often Trading Standards look for persistence, so even if they don't act on one complaint, they may use your evidence to act against the business in the future if other people make complaints too.

Mayor hands out Christmas Fund cheques

The Mayor of Weymouth, Cllr Kate Wheller, held an event on Thursday 21st December to present recipients of this year's Christmas Fund Appeal with a share of the money raised this year. (Photo below.)

The total of £1,563 was split between the following organisations and an individual who each received £312.

The Lantern Trust, The Nest shop, Weymouth Food Bank, The Bus Shelter project, and Ollie whose story in the local press touched the Mayor.

Mayor Cllr Kate Wheller said: "My sincere thanks go to all those who

Continued on page 14



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Over the Hill

With Chris Hubbard

Many more years than I care to remember I was part of a team working on some shore-based submarine equipment at Faslane in Scotland. Not of course that there is a Faslane anywhere else. But I digress after only two sentences.

During working-up trials, one of our first early morning tasks was to establish that the Tannoy system was working. To do this, and in reference to my beard, work friend Joe used a phrase from Genesis Chapter 27 verse 11 'Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man.' We started many a workday with that booming out to all and sundry. Nowadays it could be adapted to 'My In-house Adviser is an observant person, but I don't notice much at all.' She can easily pick someone out in a crowd. Once she even spotted a friend of ours on TV running in the London Marathon. One face out of thousands. So it is not unusual for her to call me to hurry to the window to note an unusual bird she has spotted in our vicinity.

Sometimes that bird is a green woodpecker standing - or perhaps sitting as it's difficult to tell with a woodpecker's short legs - on our lawn digging its long beak into the grass for food. As it stands - or sits - around for quite a while it is easy for me to locate. But more often she is referring to a bird that has just flown by at great speed and disappeared over the horizon. Or over next door's fence to be more precise.

Some of her sightings are of quite exotic and rare birds, but I cannot confirm this as they are long gone by the time my aging legs get me going. You might enquire about my keenness to reach a viewing position when the bird in question is probably in Yorkshire by the time I get there. The obvious answer is that all things of interest to my In-house Adviser are of equal or greater interest to me. Part of my essential self-preservation strategy.

In complete contrast, such are my powers of observation that I wouldn't notice if an ostrich landed on our garden shed and danced up and down for four hours warbling 'Land of Hope and Glory.' But I digress again.

Newspaper articles about birds are easier for me to spot as they don't move about so much. One of these related to Paul, a gentleman living in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (which is quite a long way north of Weymouth) who adopted a turkey. Adopted is not a word I would have used. Are there special legal procedures for adopting turkeys? No doubt Mrs Barnacle of Wyke will let me know. Anyway, this turkey, which Paul imaginatively named Lurkey, terrorised the whole family.

For instance, after creeping into the kitchen via the back door it would jump onto the work surfaces and steal food. It would chase Paul's daughter around the garden. Did you know they (turkeys, not Paul's daughters) can run at twenty three miles an hour pecking anyone within reach? And it would also bully Paul's chickens. Now we all know that such bullying behaviour is unacceptable in this day and age, so Lurkey was banished to a new, chicken free home.

But Paul doesn't have very much luck, because the flock of Muscovy ducks that replaced Lurkey have, so it is said, destroyed his garden and form a barricade outside the house allowing no-one in or out until they are fed. Might be a good idea for Paul to get some goldfish next time.

Then there are Chinstrap Penguins which according to my In-house Adviser have not been spotted in our garden, though they may be in Paul's? Who knows? Anyway, Chinstrap Penguins get a healthy eleven hours sleep a day/night despite having to protect their nests from predators. Thankfully though, they are too far south or north to be bullied by turkeys. They manage to get this amount of sleep while remaining vigilant by taking over 10,000 micro-sleeps of about four seconds each. Which, as you are no doubt aware and Mrs Barnacle will calculate, is 11.1111 hours. This research was carried out by Paul-Antoine Libourel of the Neuroscience Research Centre in Lyon. To avoid confusion, Paul-Antoine of Lyon is no relation to Paul of Wisbech. Paul-Antoine does not know whether such micro-sleeps would benefit human beings, but if they

do occur due to lack of sleep, he recommends that you try not to be in control of a motor vehicle at the time.

And finally, despite all the sad news about avian flu decimating sea bird populations, there is a heart-warming story from much closer to home. Just along the coast on Chesil Beach, in fact. It concerns Little Terns, which, being tiny, would definitely be bullied by Turkey Lurkey. Last year Little Terns, which are the rarest seabirds in the UK, had their best ever breeding season. The efforts of Dorset volunteers helped to ensure that nearly fifty fledglings flew off for their winter quarters thousands of miles away in West Africa and other warm spots. In order to make this happen an area of the beach was sealed off

to protect the breeding birds from unobservant people like me who might trample on the eggs, and chicks which are camouflaged in the undergrowth. And as hedgehogs are partial to a tern egg for breakfast, the RSPB teamed up with the Hedgehog Friendly Portland charity to design a fence to keep the hedgehogs out of the breeding areas. So hopefully all those fledgelings will make it back to Dorset in April or May this year. When they do, two things are certain. Firstly, if on their route home they fly past our house, my In-house Adviser will spot them. And secondly, despite being called and rushing with all speed to the window I will still be too late to see them pass.

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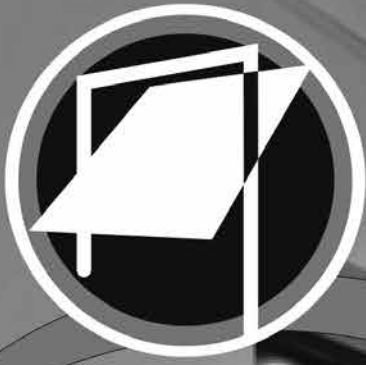
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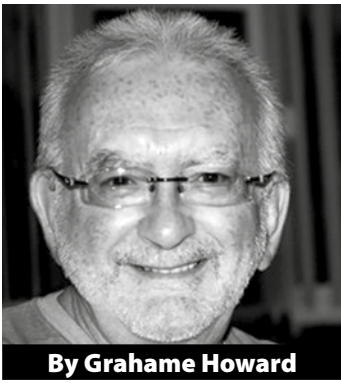
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By Grahame Howard

New Life - New Start

Here we are into the month of February. Time seems to fly when you're enjoying yourself doesn't it? Over the Festive period I began to think back over the years, assessing the changes that have befallen us as a family. Back in 1980, our lives really began to change.

At that time, we lived in a small village in Blandford. We had a nice house and a massive garden in which we grew many vegetables. I had a good job - Regional Sales Manger for a national company. Life was good. And then disaster! The company I worked for was taken over by our American competitors and we were all made redundant. I had good qualifications so, I felt I would soon get another job. I was wrong. Nearly every job I applied for told me that I was over-qualified. I'd never heard of that phrase before. Not long after this, I became ill. My mouth became slanted and I couldn't talk properly. One of my eyes were frozen; I had to close it with my fingers but it just opened again. Sleeping was a nightmare. I couldn't eat properly because my jaw wouldn't do what my brain was telling it and drinking was a joke. It all went over my clothes. I had a persistent pain in my neck too. The CO said she was taking me to the doctor's and the next day I sat in front of him. He felt that I had suffered a stroke - which had gone through our minds. But after several tests, I was diagnosed with a bad case of Bells Palsy.

Daily I had to go to Blandford Hospital to have some physio. She used to hold my mouth and make me quote the vowels A,E,I,O,U, over and over. She then put electric pads on my face and once switched on it massaged my face. After three months, The GP thought it was getting worse and was at a loss what to do next. I became very depressed. I had no job and, looking like I did - a -reject from Dr Who and not

David Tennant either, there was not much hope in finding one. I still couldn't speak properly or eat and drink without help. I couldn't even play my guitar because I was so low.

One day, I was sitting in our lounge, the CO had gone to work; I heard a voice in my head saying to me, 'Say a prayer and I will heal you.' I thought I was going mad as the voice kept repeating this every ten minutes or so. By bedtime, the voice was still saying the same thing, 'Say a prayer and I will heal you.' I thought it couldn't be God because I didn't really believe in Him but in the end, I was so frustrated that I whispered, 'Ok, heal me then'. I didn't want the CO to hear me as this would confirm to her that I was mad. After this, I went to sleep.

The next day, as I got out of bed I felt quite strange, in fact, better in myself. I went to the bathroom and started whistling. I stopped dead because I hadn't been able to whistle since I had been ill. I looked in the bathroom mirror and my mouth, nose and eye were all going back to normal. I rushed to see the CO and she immediately saw that I was back to normal. I had breakfast and I ate properly. I drank a cup of tea and it was 'mess free'. I could speak properly too, it was amazing.

The CO telephoned the hospital and told the receptionist that I wouldn't be attending this day and she also rang the GP to get an appointment to confirm that I was well. Someone knocked on the door and in came a neighbour who I had always felt embarrassed by. She used to stand in the village hall and talk about this Jesus fella and I used to cringe. Now, she was sitting before me, telling me that she felt Jesus was the voice I heard and that she felt He had healed me. There was no mistaking that something had happened. I looked so different and I felt so peaceful and happy, something that I had missed for sometime.

I saw my GP later that day and he asked me what had happened. I didn't tell him the truth. I didn't want him sectioning me for hearing voices. In the end, he said some sort of a miracle must have happened because, he was convinced I would remain like I had been.

The CO had recently asked Jesus into her life but, I was having none of it. I would stay the ex-soldier who drank and cussed and was stropky. The thing is, I

soon found out that Jesus was having none of this and so He used this illness to make me listen, which I did, very quickly. After this, we both started attending a small church in the village and life took on a new journey for us both.

We moved to Weymouth a year or so afterwards and I trained and became a Pentecostal minister and was a pastor at a local church. Following that, I became a leader in a large, thriving church in the town. I went to university and qualified as a social worker and for the last 18 years before retiring I served in a local office and then, at a local

hospice. I now write a daily blog 'Daily Life with Jesus' found on Facebook and Instagram.

I could never have imagined that all of this could have happened. My life has been completely turned around. Am I embarrassed to say that Jesus is my Lord? Never, He has done so much for this crazy couple who provide this monthly episode of our life. He is the greatest thing that has ever happened to us. See you next time

Grahame

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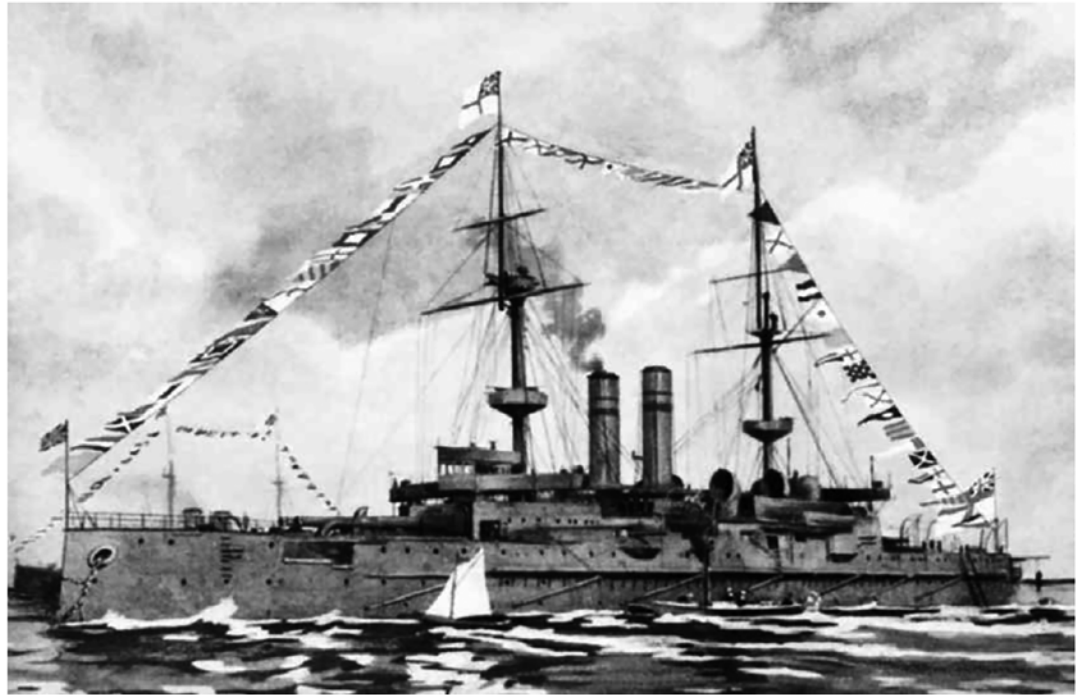
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Target HMS Empress of India

In 1913 the good folk of Weymouth and Portland had a perception of the Royal Navy, its sailors and ships far removed from that of today. Manpower of this peacetime Navy was some 146,000 (Today we aim for 30,000 regulars by April 2015). Warship building was of a high priority, with major new warships arriving at Portland monthly. Employment, businesses such as supplying coal, victuals, stores, maintenance and other services including manning the tugs and the many small boats active in the two ports at the time. The pubs, cinemas, theatres of Portland and Weymouth benefited from the thousands of sailors enjoying their evenings and week-ends. Enterprising ferry companies would organise a trip round Portland Harbour at the 'drop of a hat' (There was not the many restrictions and regulations on the waters of the harbour then) when any new noteworthy warship appeared. The men and ships of the Royal Navy also proved to be a very potent tourists attraction to the towns.

The Naval Dockyard and the torpedo Works at Wyke offered some quality long term employment along with many apprenticeship opportunities (including placements at the main naval dockyards as part of their training). The Harbour activities were observed with great interest and many of the local populace had an acute knowledge of the ships and squadrons as they evolved, developed and changed. The latest much vaunted Battle Cruiser the 30,000ton HMS *Queen Mary* had just arrived at Portland. She was to have a shockingly short life. Admirals and ships Captains were often popular public figures, ships crews and their cap badges instantly recognised, with some of the bigger ships fielding football and cricket teams that could give the local clubs a hard time.

Many would have recognised the old battleship snapping impatiently at her anchor chain holding her firmly to the seabed outside Portland harbour. Rusting and somewhat dilapidated the HMS *Empress of India* had once sailed as a smart



Postcard of Royal Sovereign Class Battleship HMS Empress of India fully dressed.

proud Flagship at Portland in the early 1890s and opening years of the century, being of a very advanced design when launched just over twenty years earlier. Carrying four massive 13" and ten 6 "quick firing guns, she sported, with some optimism, seven 18" torpedo tubes. High above the harbour in the military cemetery stood four stark gravestones marking the last resting place of four sailors of previous crews, who had died when she had been stationed at Portland earlier in the century.

Early in her life a certain Robert Falcon Scott was her Torpedo Officer, later to lead and die on the failed Antarctic expedition. It was recalled that the *Empress* had conducted a 'coaling at sea' experiment which had entailed steaming with a collier in tow and an endless overhead wire between both on which the bags of coal ran on rollers. They managed to transfered 40 ton per hour, a show of remarkable seamanship which demonstrated it could be done, but as both ships were burning hefty amounts of coal while still steaming, it was not very productive.

The old *Empress* was to be used as a target for the guns of the powerful Battle Squadrons stationed at Portland. The results of the exercise were to be kept secret and should the old battleship survive, she would be covered with canvas to hide the effect of the shelling and towed back to Portland for detailed examination and evaluation. (The plans of mice and men!)

All the ship's fittings on the 14,000 ton battleship, along with the recent installed telephone and wireless system were left intact to assess how they had withstood the battering she was to receive. Many tons of timber and cork was packed into the ship to give her extra buoyancy, and to give her weight and stability her stoke holds and bunkers were loaded with bricks and stones.

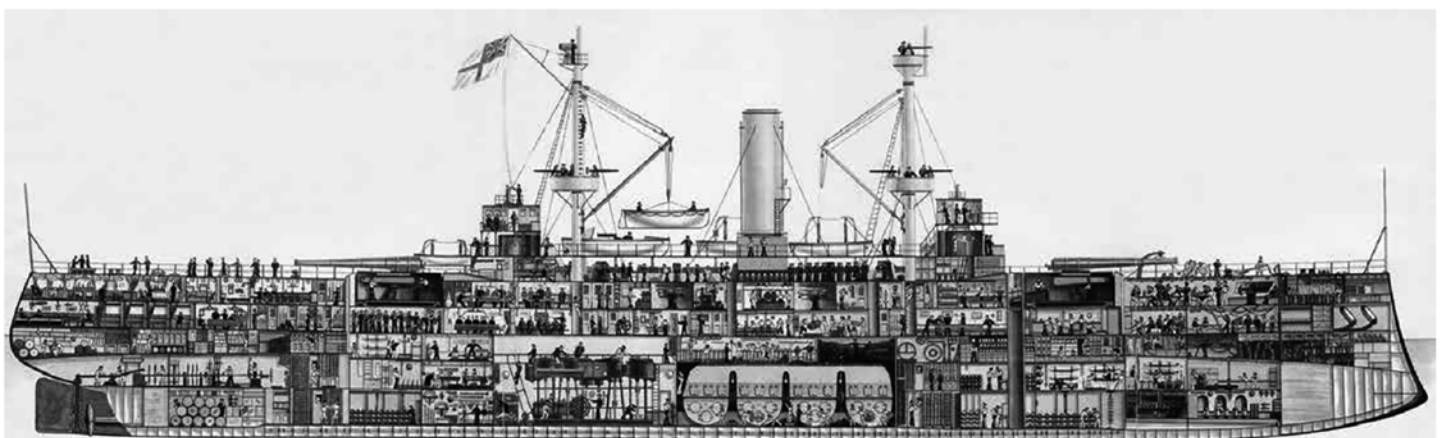
The two year old dreadnought HMS *Hercules* attempted to tow the doomed battleship, but she proved an unwilling participant in her own demise and no more than five knots was achieved. It was left to the tugs, *Pilot* and *Egerton* to take her out to the firing sight in Lyme Bay.

In the event, the weather played its

This article was first published in November 2013 by the late Jack Cranny

part in giving the doomed battleship a further two weeks life before providing the eight miles visibility required for the exercise. Early on Wednesday 4th November* the tugs took the *Empress* out over the waters she had sailed in her heyday, past Grove Point, skirting the Shambles, round the Bill and out into Lyme Bay. A dull sullen day in keeping with the occasion, the executioners followed some hours later, with the *Hercules* hosting Mr Churchill and other Naval and Army VIPs to observe the spectacle. All this activity was viewed by many on the cliffs of Portland and all along Chesil Beach by the Fleet and Abbotsbury. (no intrusive caravan sites or Naval Estate then) The big ships could clearly be seen and the dull roar of the heavy guns heard, a pall of black smoke indicated to the curious where the

Below: Cutaway of a Royal Sovereign Class Battleship



target lay.

The light cruiser HMS *Liverpool* opened the bowling with her 6" and 4" guns getting on target and hitting the *Empress* about the bridge and upper works causing fires to break out. This exhibition was followed by the 12" guns of the pre-dreadnought battleship HMS *King Edward VII* and followed a little later by the 13" guns of the new dreadnought HMS *King George V*. The old *Empress* rocked and staggered while absorbing the hail of heavy shells from the Battle Squadrons.

The battleships were causing havoc to the already tattered upper works, but it could not clearly be seen how the 18" thick compound and steel armour plating was standing up to the heavy shells. A funnel was blown overboard and one of the heavy guns had gone. Within a short time of the big ships opening fire, the target was blazing fiercely. A salvo from the dreadnought HMS *Orion* smashing into the hull caused her to heel over so much as to show much of her dripping underwater hull, leaving her rocking in the dull grey dispassionate waters of the Bay as she struggled to stay afloat.

Clearly the ship could take little more punishment and firing ceased, the interior was a mass of flames licking through the fractured hull, deck and shattered portholes. The tugs closed in an attempt to quench the fires but after an hour with no progress being made and night approaching, the tugs were ordered away and the Second Battle Squadron instructed to dispatch the burning hulk to her watery grave.

At 12,000yds. (6 miles) the big ships opened fire and again a rain of shells descended on the luckless *Empress*. Shortly a heavy shell struck her stem and slowly she began to settle and as night closed in, the tired and abused *Empress* sank in a tumult of agitated water and clouds of smoke and steam as the sea met the white hot metal and roaring flames of the ships internal hell. Few of the executioners or observers saw the end because of the poor visibility, their only indication of the targets final moments being the gradual disappearance on the dull glow that in-



HMS Empress of India in her prime

dicated her tenuous presence in the deepening haze.

As the ships returned to Portland, the tugs and a few destroyers remained above the grave checking for debris and flotsam, but soon they too quit the scene hurried off for home.

Mr Churchill landed at Portland where he was later to inspect the Rifle Range and the worked out Admiralty quarry, now the dilapidated YO1 Sports Field and the Naval Football Pitch, with a view to building further oil tanks for the Fleet.

The following day three Torpedo Gun Boats *Speedy*, *Gossamer* and *Jason* left Portland to sweep with wires to locate the wreck with a view to sending divers to examine the hulk. In the event after she had been found it was decided that the wreck was too deep to salvage or remove. But the *Empress Of India* was to haunt the Admiralty for quite some time. Soon the trawler men of Brixham which at the time had one of the largest fishing fleets in Britain, were up in arms as the sinking had taken place on their rich fishing grounds and was causing considerable damage to fishing gear. It was supposedly costing the trawlers £60

every time they ruined a trawl on the massive hulk. The Admiralty hastily announced that a gas lit buoy would be placed over the wreck, while in the meantime the trawler men prepared to send a deputation to London to urge that action be taken to remove the hazard.

Probably the Admiralties worse moments were when the former Commander in Chief of the Channel Fleet, the somewhat pugnacious Lord Charles Beresford then MP for Portsmouth, publicly slammed the whole exercise a waste of time and public money, but much more wanton waste of opportunity to gain valuable and much needed knowledge for the Fleet. Every naval expert must have known that the old battleship would be sent to the bottom with the punishment she was clearly to receive. However the Navy felt that they had learnt some lessons from the exercise. **

In late January 1914 a film of the whole exercise was shown to the Officers of the Fleet board the Flagship *King George* Portland and later to the men of lower deck viewed the film of their handy work in the Naval Gym in Castletown.

Some days after the sinking, the Sec-

ond Destroyer Flotilla sailed from Portland for their own little party, their target was the old Torpedo Boat 25. She went to her watery grave with none of the commotion that attended her bigger sister. The destroyers working with a nonchalant efficiency, poured shell after shell into the old boat as they sped past, her destruction was swift and total.

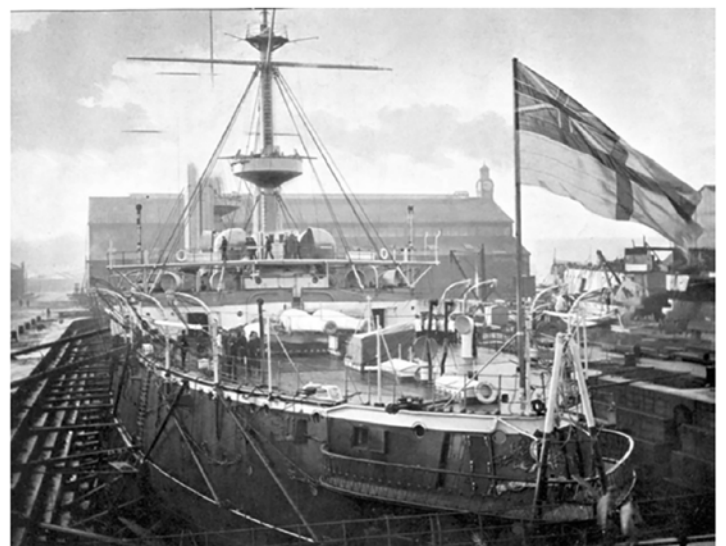
* Exactly 12 months later to the day, the *Empresses* half-sister HMS *Hood* was sunk in Portland Harbour as a block ship.

** At the outbreak of war Admirals and Captains afloat quickly became aware that their armour piercing shells were not, and let our sailors down badly at such encounters as at Dogger Bank and Jutland.

• The wreck is still accessible in Lyme Bay at a depth of 45m and is a popular destination for advanced divers.



Bow and stern views of HMS Empress of India in dry dock



have donated and those who helped shake the donation buckets at various events to help me raise vital funds for this year's appeal.

"A range of community groups and organisations were selected to benefit from the money raised including The Nest, The Lantern Trust, Weymouth Foodbank, and The Bus Shelter. I also chose a woman called Ollie to benefit as well, as her story in the local media touched my heart, and I wanted to do something to help her and her family following a difficult time. 'I invited everyone to come together to attend the short event where I presented everyone with their cheques, spreading a little festive cheer as 2023 draws to a close, unfortunately The Lantern Trust and Ollie weren't able to make it, but they will still receive their cheques!'

Each year the appeal is launched, and organisations or individuals are encouraged to donate to the fund which is run by Weymouth Town Council and administered by Weymouth and Portland Lions Club.

National Trust South Dorset Association

Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 2.30pm 'Dorset's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' a talk by Ian Rees, Countryside Officer, Dorset AONB.

St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth, DT3 5EW
NTSDA members £3 Non-members £4 includes tea/biscuits. No need to book in advance.

Thursday 7th March 2024 at 2.30pm 'Versailles and the English' a talk by Philip Mansel

Presented by the National Trust South Dorset Association. Brownsword Hall, Pummery Square, Poundbury, DT1 3GW. NTSDA members £3 Non-members £4 (includes refreshments/no need to book in advance).

Family History Society
The next meeting of the South Dorset group of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society will be a talk entitled 'Portland's High Angle Battery'.

The late Victorian gun battery, owned by Dorset Council, has re-



ceived funding from the National Lottery's Heritage Fund to refurbish the site and Steve Wallis, Senior archaeologist for the County Council will be giving a presentation about the battery.

The meeting will take place on Friday 16th February at the St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Radipole, DT3 5EW at 2.30pm preceded by tea or coffee.

Admission is £2 for members and £3 for non-members. All welcome.

Weymouth Bay Concert
Memphis Jazzmen in concert at Weymouth Bay Methodist Church, DT4 7TH on 27th January at 7.30pm.

Tickets £12 on door or £10 in advance from Pete 01305812637.

Preston Village Market Saturday 11th February

Our first Market of 2024 will be held in St Andrew's Church Rooms, Church Street, Preston DT3 6BU. We will have our usual high standard of goods for sale including many crafts, cards and paintings. Our Avon lady will there as well as Fairtrade goods. Betty will be selling her preserves. Plants and bulbs will be ready to plant for the Spring. There will be delicious refreshments available.

This time the Charities that we are supporting are Weymouth Street Pastors and St Andrew's Church Funds.

Free entry but donations to our chosen charities would be gratefully received.

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Continued on page 16

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I am pleased to announce that 2024 marks my thirty years as a professional reflexologist in Weymouth Dorset. The start of a new year provides the perfect opportunity to not only make resolutions for positive changes in the coming year but also to reflect on the past.

Looking back can be therapeutic, a chance for letting go of the not so good memories and experiences and remembering fondly the good times. Frequently, the good outweighs the bad and this realisation helps us to move forward with a positive outlook. Throughout my many years in practice I have witnessed complementary therapy move from being referred to as 'quackery' to a position of acceptance within areas of mainstream medicine. This is mostly down to patient power, a growth in demand due to the effectiveness of the therapy treatment and word of mouth recommendations. Supported by therapists taking up the challenges of research and the research being published in quality journals. Looking back, my professional career began in my twenties studying Contemporary Dance (Laban). After obtaining City and Guilds teaching qualifications I became a freelance choreographer and tutor working in education and the youth service. Using dance as a communication tool to create opportunities for children with difficulties to express themselves through movement and young adults grow in skills and confidence. In my thirties I qualified in Homoeopathic Medicine (1990) and this was the start of my Comple-

mentary Medicine career journey. I continued to study gaining qualifications and achieved an Interprofessional Health and Social Studies BSc degree. Over the years I have grown my practice by introducing a variety of evidenced therapies, travelling the world studying native medicine, attending conferences as a delegate and presenter, and writing a huge number of articles to educate and inform colleagues and the public. Mostly about how complementary therapies offer patients help with symptom management but especially reflexology via case studies and research.

In my sixties I was approached and took up the challenge of creating a Clinical Reflexology service within a Dorset NHS hospital cancer service. The success of this project inspired me to create Professional Clinical Reflexology PCR Training, The Langstone-Wring Method™. Advanced accredited evidenced CPD training for qualified reflexologists that have ambitions to work in the NHS.

Entering my seventies my thirst for knowledge and new challenges is still with me. The re-publishing of 'Patients' experiences of clinical foot reflexology in a hospital cancer service' in the Royal College of Nursing Cancer Nursing Journal Jan 2024 as a featured contributor will I hope stimulate interest and future research opportunities.

Whilst I feel humbled to have received awards for my work I firmly believe that with maturity comes the responsibility to pass on valuable knowledge, skills and experience. You are never too old to learn something new, get involved and help others. Volunteering has always been important to me as a past elected Public Governor of DCFT, Hospice volunteer therapist, elected board member of the International Council of

Reflexologists and fundraiser for local cancer charities.

My thoughts for the future 2024 and beyond focus on assuring the voice of the older patient is heard. I have no problem speaking up for those whose voice may not be as strong as mine. Especially as issues over access and quality of health care provision are major identified concerns for the older population. As a member of my GP Patient Participation Group PPG and Healthwatch volunteer and magazine contributor I feel that far from retiring or slowing down, continuing to see my patients and run training courses will keep me busy for the foreseeable future.

I didn't intend this to read as a CV merely to illustrate how putting disap-

pointment and sadness firmly in the past and focussing on recollecting good times can be beneficial to well-being. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2024.

Would the retired physiotherapist that rang me asking for help concerning Nov PLACE article and didn't leave a phone number on Saturday 9th December get back in touch via email.

Contact Tel 01305784986 abigailwring@btinternet.com www.dorsetclinicalreflexology.co.uk Abigail is fully qualified, insured and DBS checked with over 30 years professional experience specialising in Clinical Reflexology, Nutritional Therapy, Homoeopathy and Counselling.

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Thursday 5.30pm

Wyke Regis Community Centre
Saturday 8.30 & 10.00am

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rounds.
A joker card for each team doubles points. Max team size is six. £12 including light supper.
Contact: Jane chandler, 01305 775829, janechandler123@hotmail.com.
A friends of greenhill gardens event
www.greenhill-gardens.co.uk

The amazing spring quiz

Come and join in one of the most popular and fun quizzes around!
Preston village hall
Friday 19th April 2024 at 7.30pm.
Subject and general knowledge

Entertainment in Greenhill Gardens

The friends of Greenhill Gardens entertainment team have organised a whole summer season of musical entertainment for performance on the bandstand.
It all starts in June with the follow-

ing taking part 2.00pm - 4.00pm:
Sunday 2nd The Originals. A fantastic local group with great 60s, 70s and 80s sounds.
Sunday 9th Singers Neil and Sally
Sunday 16th Scandals 21. Three amazing guitarists with a mixture of songs.
Sunday 23rd The Dorset Wrecks. A fun afternoon with this great group.
Sunday 30th 11th hour. A band of experienced musicians.
Check out our website for up to date information www.greenhill-gardens.com.

ill Community Centre on Tuesday 13th February at 7.30pm by the Chairman of the Friends of Weymouth Museum Graham Perry. Graham's talk is entitled "The Parks and Gardens of Melcome Regis", and will cover the history of the development of the parks and gardens from about 1800, covering the area from Alexandra Gardens to Lodmoor.
The event is open to members and non-members (£4 entry for the latter), and refreshments are included free of charge. Further information on this talk or the club in general, including membership information, can be obtained from Nigel Smith on 01305 788939.

Southill Gardening Club

(Formerly Radipole and Southill Horticultural Society)

The club's next talk is at the South- News continued on page 20

Quality care in Weymouth you can trust

When a family is thinking about care for a loved one, they want the best - they want to know that the care home they choose will put their loved one's safety, happiness and wellbeing first.

Anning House is managed by award-winning provider Care UK - one of the UK's most highly successful care home operators* with over 40 years' experience of delivering high quality care to older people.
Living at Anning House is all about quality of life. Every colleague in the home is passionate about enabling residents to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle, tailored around their unique needs and preferences. The lifestyle team organises a huge variety of group and one-to-one activities, with plenty going on each day.

With the extra support that our care home offers, new residents are often surprised at what they can do, whether that's being able to continue with an activity they've enjoyed in the past, or even discovering new hobbies with our daily activities.

The purpose-built home is designed for enjoying a luxury lifestyle, with en-suite rooms and facilities including a cinema, café, hair and beauty salon, and comfortable lounges and dining rooms. The home also boasts stunning gardens with wheelchair friendly pathways - the perfect place to spend some time when the weather allows.

Whether your loved one enjoys a quiet cup of tea in bed before starting the day, loves going for strolls in the landscaped grounds, or enjoys a chat over a glass of wine, the team at Anning House will spend time to enable them to continue living life the way they want to.

Anning House care home, Cross Road, Weymouth DT4 9QX
01305 510 230

careuk.com/anning-house

*As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.

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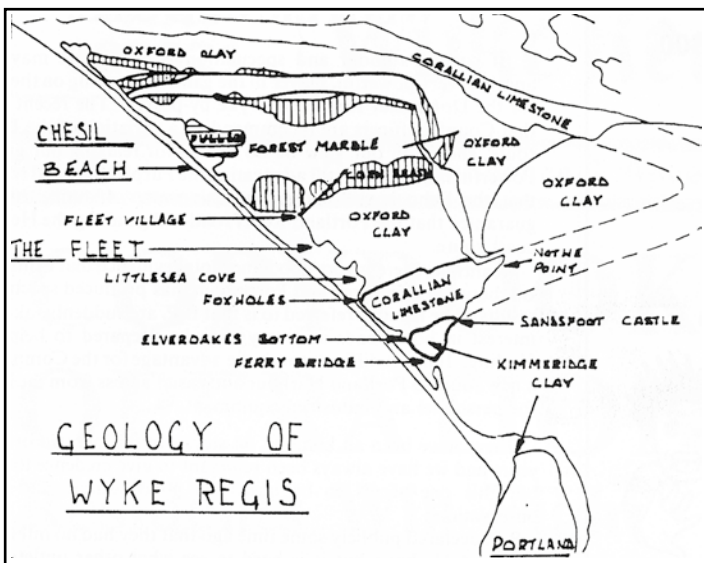
Wyke Regis

Beneath Your Feet

When residents of Wyke Regis, Southlands and Littlesea wander along their coastal and inland footpaths, very few realise the host of ancient natural treasures that lie beneath their feet. However, the area is one of the best training grounds for geologists in Britain, for it contains a variety of readily identifiable rock formations and erosion features, along with many smaller types of fossil fauna.

Many books are available on general aspects of the geology of Dorset, but the most remarkable one that I have come across is called *Geology Explained in Dorset*, by John W Perkins. It explains in very understandable layman's terms the geology of South Dorset, including Wyke Regis and Portland - it is well worth purchasing.

period of muddy waters, that saw the formation of Kimmeridge Clay at Ferrybridge. Towards the end of this Jurassic Period, some 140 million years ago, the shallow seas became warmer and clearer, and the great beds of Portland limestone were formed. Fossils are important evidence of the environment respon-



Almost 200 million years ago (the Jurassic Period) the land that eventually became South Dorset was at the bottom of a shallow sea that was constantly changing. It was during the first part of this Period that the waters became muddy, resulting in a band of Oxford Clay being deposited which now stretches from the Fleet (between Fleet Village and Littlesea Cove), beneath Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Melcombe Regis, and Lodmoor, to Preston. Next came a shorter period of clear waters, which saw the deposition of Corallian (coral) limestone, which runs from the shores of the Fleet (between Foxholes and Elveroakes Bottom) across to Portland Harbour (between Sandsfoot Castle and Nothe Point). Then came a further

sible for the various layers of clays, sands and rocks. The Corallian Beds of Wyke Regis are not very well endowed with the larger and better known fossils, for evidently the seas were never clear enough for long enough. However, there are a considerable number of smaller varieties of fossils that can be identified by the observant resident. Let's go first to Littlesea Cove, to examine the Oxford Clay deposits. The southern shoreline of the cove at Littlesea (called Foxholes) can be reached by the footpaths from Camp Road or Littlesea Estate. It is here that the Fleet narrows, and the underlying deposit of sticky Oxford Clay on the shore is clearly visible. Numerous rust-covered lumps lie along the shoreline, hav-

ing weathered out of the clay, and close examination will show that some of them are fossil casts with such grand names as *Modiola bipartita*, *Thracia depressa* and the ribbed oyster *Lopha gregarea*, (see illustrations).

Shortly before the footpath diverts around the back of the Army Bridging Camp, the sticky clay gives way to the overlying Corallian Limestone rock, which slowly rises to a peak at the top of Lanehouse Rocks Road, then follows the line of Wyke Road, before undulating gently down towards Sandsfoot Castle, Chapelhay, Bincleaves, and the Nothe Point. The Corallian layers can best be studied in the exposed face of the low cliffs that run along the shores of the Fleet, from the end of Camp Road towards Portland. The limestone rock was formed during a period when Wyke was covered by shallow, clear water, but there were still two brief returns to muddy water conditions, and this has resulted in the Corallian beds being interleaved with layers of clays and sands.

In the first brief return to muddy water conditions the so called Nothe Clay was formed. It still contained the rounded *Gryphaea dilatata* fossil of the earlier Oxford Clay times. At the second return, the Sandsfoot Clays were deposited, but they now contained the flatter oyster, *Ostrea delta*. The cliffs along the Fleet are tilted, and slope gently down towards Pirates Bay, where they are much lower. At this point there is some 15 metres of Osmington Oolite revealed, which contains the fossil *Trigonia clavellata*. Interestingly one of the fields here-a-bouts was anciently called Claylands.

The more intrepid residents should continue on around the shoreline, past Martleaves Point, to the next small bay, where the field called Elveroakes Bottom runs down to the shore, Here a Ringstead Coral Bed is discernible, with the grey Kimmeridge Clay deposits becoming visible along the shoreline towards Ferrybridge. This Ringstead Coral Bed marks the top of the third cycle of shal-

low water, and is rich in serpulids, pectens and sea urchin spines; ammonites also reappear. and commonest among the weathered specimens on the shore are the corrugated heavy shells of the pecten *Ctenostreon proboscideum*. Sandsfoot Castle was built by Henry VIII in the 1540s and almost as soon as it was built it has been gradually falling into the sea due to coastal erosion. With the building of the Portland Breakwater (1847 - 1872) the erosion has reputedly slowed, but the cliffs to the back and east of Castle Cove have continued to move, being in the weaker Sandsfoot Clays. At the base of these cliffs is a good exposure of the fossil *Trigonia Clavellata*, but they are difficult to extract. In the cliffs beneath the Castle are the best exposure in Dorset of what are known as Sandsfoot Grits. They are not easy to study because of the fallen debris from the castle, and because some of the grit beds pass into clays as they are traced under the headland. The blue-brown clays contrast sharply with the rough gingery and red-brown grits, which have large Y-shaped burrows all through the blocks. On the western side of the headland (Sandsfoot Beach side) the most common fossils are the heavily ribbed *Ctenostreon proboscideum*, along with the long narrow local oyster named *Pinna sandsfootensis*, which weathers grey amidst the red-brown grits. Well, that concludes our mini geology trip around Wyke Regis. Much of the information for this article was gleaned from 'Geology Explained in Dorset' by John Perkins. It contains some striking, but simple, drawings of Dorset's cliff exposures, ranging across areas such as Lulworth Cove, The Fossil Forest, Black Ven, Portland, Ballard Down, Hengistbury Head, The Isle of Purbeck, Weymouth and Lyme Regis. If you prefer to explore Dorset with a purpose, then this book will make an excellent companion.

First published in the Wyke Register No 9 January 1991 by the late Doug Hollings



Gryphaea dilatata



Trigonia Clavellata



Ctenostreon proboscideum



Thracia depressa



Lopha gregarea



Modiola bipartita

Accordion Club

Every Tuesday 7.30pm. St Ann's Schoolroom, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. £3.00 includes tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information please email or call Graham. gacrow1907@googlemail.com. 07733367065.

AquaFit

Exercise in the water with a smile. Tuesday & Thursday mornings at Osprey Leisure Centre. All abilities welcome. Margaret on 01305832944 or 07977191547.

Beachview Community Centre,

Beachview Close, Wyke Regis, DT4 9JA. My Place Dorset run a lunch club, every Friday from 12.00. Please call Michelle Wilson to pre book on 07920 428039.

Blind & Partially Sighted Wednesdays 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Weymouth Community Safety Centre, Radipole Lane. Bingo/Excursions - Jenny Clift. 01305 787065.

Breathe Well Weymouth

A support group for people with lung problems. Meet 2nd Wednesday of the month. 2.30pm - 4.30pm at The New Fire and Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. Mike on 07792846463 or 01305 814600.

Busy Bees

Friendly stitch and craft group meets alternate Thursday 2.00pm-4.00pm in Upwey. For more information contact Joy on 0774 230 5841.

Community Angels

Volunteer Support- Do you need neighbourly help or could you volunteer to help someone? Please phone 01305 834866 for more information.

The Cygnet Group

Third Saturday in the month, St Paul's Church Hall, Abbotsbury Road, 10.00am-12 noon. For more details Eve Hanney 01305 787220 or Joan Savage 01305 820668.

C'Siders - Cancer Support Group

Regular meetings, activities and events for anyone affected by cancer. Find out more at csiders.org, search csiderswp on Facebook, email info@csiders.org or ring on 07430 695462.

Dorchester and Weymouth Branch of Epilepsy Action

Coffee and Chat Meetings, Jacksons' Gallery in Fortunswell, Portland every second Thursday 10.30 - 11.30am. Suttons' Coffee Shop, St Albans St, Weymouth. On the 4th Thursday each month

Dorset Kidney Fund

Support for Renal Patients throughout Dorset and South Somerset. For help and information please call Diana Crowder on 01305 834954 or Sue Bithell on 01305 269293.

Friends of Lodmoor Country Park

Aim to protect, maintain and improve the Park for all to enjoy. We have tree trails, gym equipment, a children's playground all free and we hold events such as Sparkle in the Park, table top sales and Pic-a-Book-Nic. Contact 01305 770772

Friends of Weymouth Library

Supports and promotes our Library. Knit & natter on the first Tuesday of each month from 10.30 and all are welcome. Membership is £6 pa but non members welcome. 01305 832613/750557 or fowl8521@gmail.com www.fowl2017.wixsite.com/fowl

Hardy Quilters and Stickers

Meet on the second Monday of the month (not July or August) 9.30am to 12.30pm, St Francis of Assisi Hall Merredin Close Littlemoor DT3 6SB. Contact: chantaldavid1@gmail.com

Island Voices Community Choir

Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm (in term-time). Peter Trim Hall, St George's Centre, Reforne, Portland. The first session is free and then £6 per week. Contact Anne for information linksup9@gmail.com or 01305776328.

Ladies Keep Fit

Exercise to music classes for the mature mover. We have a few vacancies at the Southill Community centre on Thursday mornings 9.45am till 10.45am. Please contact Linda 889119. Try the first class free.

Ladies Social Badminton

Players needed for ladies badminton group. Friendly group, social games, not league. Meet Tuesdays at Redlands Sports Hub. Details Rosemary 01305 832456

Lip Reading and Communication Skills

Mondays in school term time, 2pm - 3.30pm at the Frank Reynolds Community Centre, Dorchester Road, Weymouth, DT3 5BY (Broadwey). Email: elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com

Littlemoor Library

Tues 9.30am - 1.00pm; 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Wednesday 2.00pm-5.00pm. Thursday 2.00pm - 6.30pm. Fri 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

The library holds the following:

Writing Group every Monday at 10.00am.

Library Gets Lively Every Tuesday 11.15 - 12.00 noon.

Reading Group on the second Wednesday in the month 10.30am - 11.30am.

Mulberry Bush Pre-school

At St Andrew's School. Children. 2 years 9 months to school age. Contact jjones@standrews.dsat.org.uk

Osmington Archery Club

We meet one afternoon a week in the Village Hall throughout the year. Sometimes in better weather in the summer we shoot on private ground at Milborne St Andrew. Please phone 01305 833460 for further details.

Osmington Art Group

We meet each Thursday afternoon in term time at Osmington Village Hall from 2.00pm till 4.00pm. Bring your own art, whatever it is, and draw, paint, collage, in a relaxed atmosphere and pause for tea and cake or biscuits (and a natter), at half time. Phone Sheila 01305833150 or email sheilaedmonds@hotmail.com.

Osmington Leisure

Table Tennis is held on Wednesday evenings (7.30pm - 9.30pm).

Osmington Lunch Club

The club is now meeting on the third Friday of the month. A two course meal is available with a glass of wine for only £7. Guests arrive at Osmington Village Hall at 12.15 for lunch to be served at 12.30. To book a place phone Fran on 832430 or 07817825527.

Osmington Village Hall

07387 118300 osmingtonhallbookings@gmail.com. www.osmingtonvillagehall.co.uk.

Parish of Wyke Regis, All Saints with St Edmunds

Rector: Post vacant until Autumn. All Saints, Portland Road, 01305 78464 info@parishofwykeregis.org.uk www.parishofwykeregis.org.uk Every Friday at All Saints: 10.30am Holy Communion followed by coffee. Sundays at All Saints: Possible 8.00am Said Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Holy Communion. First Sunday in month - Café Church. St Edmund's, Lane House Rocks Road. Alternate weeks, Holy Communion or Service of the Word. 11am Mother and Toddlers at St Edmund's: 1pm - 3pm Please check our block of parish activities elsewhere in magazine.

Pilates classes with Clair Myers

Every Thursday morning St Andrews Church Rooms, Preston 9.00 and 12:30

for beginners and advanced, men and women. cmpilates@live.co.uk

Preston Pre-school

Where learning is fun, in a free flowing environment indoors and outdoors. Children from 2 years. Funded places available.

Monday - Friday 8.45am to 2.45pm For more information, phone 07826515321, e-mail prestonpre-school@hotmail.co.uk or simply come and visit us during our opening times.

Preston Table Tennis Club

Wednesdays 7.00pm and 9.00pm, Westfield School, Littlemoor Road. Contact Dave Clegg on 835108.

Preston Pantomime Group

Meets every Wednesday, 7.30pm at Preston Village Hall. New members welcome from age 14 upwards. Contact Julie on 832620.

Portland Gig Rowing Club

Meet Osprey Quay for various rowing sessions during the week and weekends and are open to all from 11yrs and over. For more information, www.portlandgigrowingclub.co.uk

Repair Cafe Weymouth

Volunteers repair broken items in return for a donation. Events are on the second Saturday of the month from 10.30am - 12.30pm, except July and August., The Top Club, Louviers Road, Littlemoor DT3 6AY with free car parking. www.repaircafeweymouth.org or 'Repair Cafe Weymouth' on Facebook. E:repaircafeweymouth@gmail.com.

Scottish Country Dancing

Thursday 7.00pm September - May. New dancers welcome anytime. Southill Community Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. DT4 9SF. Details from Judy on 833660 .

Social Badminton Players Needed

Friendly groups, non league, Redlands Community and Leisure Centre. Ladies Doubles 10 to 11am Tuesdays Mixed Doubles 9 to 10.30am Fridays Details - Rosemary 01305 832456

South Dorset Caledonian Society

Ceilidh Dance Practice on Monday evenings, 7.45pm - 9.30pm at Willowbed Hall, Chickerell. £2.50 per session, inc tea/coffee. www.southdorsetcaledonians.org, e-mail: sdcsec@gmail.com

South Dorset Radio Society

We meet on the second Friday of the month, Weymouth West Scout Hall, Granby Close, DT4 0SR from 7.30. www.HamRadioSouthDorset.com, E: stuartvanstone@btinternet.com

Somerset and Dorset Family History Society

St Aldhelms Church Centre Spa Road on the 3rd Friday of the month talks commence at 2.30 pm, preceded by tea or coffee, Contact no is John on 01305 776008.

South Dorset Woodcarving Club

South Dorset Woodcarving Club
Tuesdays, 7 - 9pm - Upwey Old School Hall, Church Lane, Upwey, DT3 5EQ
Contact - Dave: 01305 812064 or Andy: 07739 020839. Find us on Facebook. email: southdorsetwoodcarving-club8@gmail.com

SSAFA

Pilgrim House, 1 Hope Street, Weymouth, DT4 8TU. (By appointment only). Urgent enquiries: 01202 742934. Office Number 077 26127 532.

The Light Spiritualist Church

Preston Village Hall, Preston Road, Weymouth. DT3 6BH. Sunday Services 5.30pm for 6.00pm. Tel 07483 811516.

The Menzies Art Group

We meet in the Menzies Room at the rear of the Upwey and Broadway Memorial Hall, Victoria Ave, DT3 5NG on a Thursday morning from 9.30 -12.30. Contact Carol on 01305 787769.

Watercolour Art Classes

Thursdays, 1-3, Broadway and Upwey Memorial Hall. Starting September 7th. Call Jan 07746 871134 for more info.

Weldmar Hospicecare Shops

Wyke Regis:- 82 Portland Road, Tel 788369. Open Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm.
Weymouth :-71 St Thomas Street. Tel: 783523. Open Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm. Sun 10am-4pm.
59, Great George Street. Open Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm. Tel 787825.
10 Hardwick Street. Tel: 777774.
Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm
Weymouth Outlet
Unit 11/12 Oxford Court, Granby Ind Estate, Weymouth DT4 9GH. Tel: 770760. Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Weymouth Astronomy Club

7.30pm second Friday each month St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, New members welcome regardless of experience. www.weymouthastronomy.co.uk

Weymouth & Portland Branch, Fleet Air Arm Association

Meet 1st Friday of each month at the Wyke Smugglers, Portland Road, DT4 9AB. Full Membership open to serving or veteran members of the Fleet Air Arm. Please contact Jeff Cook, Branch Chairman, on 0773333274, or email jeff.cook@faaa.org.uk

Weymouth and Portland Quakers

Meet first and Third Sunday of each month 10.30am at the Fire Station, Radipole Lane, Weymouth. Tea and Coffee after. Doors are locked after 10.45am. Tel: 01305 788452.

Weymouth and Portland Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)

Weymouth Angling Club, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Thursday evenings 8pm. Contact Ian Joseph 07802658848 or chairman. wpsac@gmail.com

Weymouth Ind Evangelical Church

WI Hall, Gallwey Road, Wyke Regis, Services 11.00am and 6.30pm.

Weymouth Carers Group

Meetings 11am to 1pm on the third Tuesday of the month, Bethany Hall, Westham Road, next to Wilko. For more information 07766 529297 and leave a message with contact details.

Weymouth Choral Society

St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Monday 7.30 to 9.30pm during term time. You can join at any time of the year. www.weymouthchoralsociety.org info@weymouthchoralsociety.org.uk or Melodie on 07929 519973.pмам

Weymouth Drama Club

A local drama club for adults and young people, meeting on various nights during the week. For information on how to join, please contact the secretary, Jacqui Trent on 07709601567 or curtainraisers7@gmail.com
www.weymouthdramaclub.com

Weymouth East Scout & Guide Groups

Beavers - Friday 5.30 - 6.30
Cubs - Wednesday 6.30 - 8.00
Scouts - Friday 7.00 - 9.00
Explorers - Thursday 7.00 - 9.00
Brownies - Thursday 5.00 - 6.15
weymoutheastscouts@gmail.com

Weymouth South Scout Group

Scout Hut - Ryland's Lane
General - weymouthsouthgroup@gmail.com - volunteers welcome
Waiting List - weymouthsouthwaitinglist@outlook.com
Monday - Squirrels aged 4 to 6, 5.30 to 6.30 pm
Scouts aged 10½ to 14½, 7.00 to 9.00pm.
Tuesday - Cubs aged 8 to 10½, 6.00 to 7.30pm.
Explorers Aged 14½ to 17, 7.45 to 9.30pm.
Wednesday - Beavers aged 6 to 8, 5.30 to 6.45pm.
Scouts aged 10½ to 14½, 7.00 to 9.00pm.
Thursday - Cubs aged 8 to 10½, 6.00 to 7.30pm.

Explorers aged 14½ to 17, 7.45 to 9.30pm.

Friday - Beavers aged 6 to 8, 6.00 to 7.15pm.

Weymouth and District Model Engineering Society

Tuesday evenings from 7pm and Saturday from 10am at Budmouth College, Chickerell Road. Talks on Tuesday during Winter months. www.weymouth-dmes.co.uk. Andy, Secretary 01305 459677 or andy@hsme.co.uk

Weymouth Floral Design Group

New Venue Now Meeting at the Holy Trinity School, Cross Road, Weymouth. Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Meetings held usually 3rd Thursday of the month (except August no meeting & Dec meeting on the 2nd Thursday).

Weymouth Movie Makers

Meet from September to May on alternate Wednesdays at 7.30pm at the Centenary Club 21 Jubilee Close, Weymouth www.weymouthmoviemakers.weebly.com E: weymouthmoviemakers@gmail.com Chairman Anne Vincent Tel: 01305 780140.

Whist & Military Whist Drive

Moonfleet Bowls Club, Knightsdale Road. Tuesday, start 2.00pm. Further details on 784056.

Whist Drive

Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz. Every Monday at 7.30pm

Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

Trading Post Openings. Sat 9.30am to 12.30pm; Wed 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Annual Membership £10 may be taken out at our shop during opening times. www.wrhs.org.uk

Wyke Regis Community Association

Email: wrca@btconnect.com
www.WykeRegisCommunityAssociation.co.uk or follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/WykeRegisCommunityAssociation/

Wyke Regis Community and Sports Association

Monday - C'Siders - Cancer Support Group Table Tennis from 2pm to 4pm.
Tuesday - Weenies - A group for Toddlers and their parents/carers from 9.30am to 11am.
Tuesday - U3A Table Tennis from 2pm to 4pm.
Tuesday - Prize Bingo from 7pm to 9pm.
Wednesdays - NHS Leg Club from 9.30am to 11.30am.
Thursday - NHS Leg Club from 9.30am to 11.30am.
Friday - NHS Leg Club from 08.45 to 11.30am
Sunday - Wargames - all ages- mid-day

to 5pm.

Wyke Regis Library

Mon - 10am - 1pm; 2pm - 6.30pm
Wed - 10am - 1pm; 2pm - 5.30pm
Friday - 10am - 1pm
Saturday - 10am - 1pm

Wyke Regis Pre-School

Shrubbery Lane, Wyke Regis. Tel 789222. Monday - Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm. Term time only. 2 years 9 months until school age.

Wyke Regis Medical Practice

Portland Road, Wyke Regis - 782226
Surgery hours - Monday - Friday - 8.30am - 1pm and 2pm - 6.30pm.

Wyke Regis Nursery

Shrubbery Lane. A safe, secure, relaxed and friendly environment, offering high quality provision (led by qualified teachers). Nursery housed within Wyke Regis Infant School. Monday - Friday 8.45am - 3.15pm. Term time only. From 3 years. For more information tel: 01305 782470 or email us at infooffice@wykeregisfed.dorset.sch.uk

Wyke Regis Society

www.wykeregissociety.org.uk
Meetings second Tuesday two-monthly, 7pm at Working Men's Club, Portland Road. Contact 01305 761993 or georgina.skipper@gmail.com

Wyke Ukedelics

Non-profit group of musicians who gig to keep our members and equipment from wear and tear, available for functions. Dave 07980 32221 or Clare 07837 307932.

Wyke Regis WI

General meetings are at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month at the WI Hall, Gallwey Road, DT49AJ. The various interest groups meet at regular times during the month, details on our website. For more information contact us: 07719312901. Email: secretary@wykeregiswi.org.uk
www.facebook.com/wykeregiswi
www.wykeregiswi.org.uk

Yoga

Sutton Poyntz. Small groups at our home studio on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Also Chair Yoga (a standing and seated practice) at the Mission Hall on Wednesday mornings. Contact Isabelle on 07970 772963 and Lea on 07973 268836.

Yoga JAX

Thursday mornings 10.30 - 11.30 Hope Redemer Church, Trinity Street, off Hope Square, Weymouth. Basic Vinyasa yoga, gentle, restoring, traditional. Phone 07543 627944.

Sutton Poyntz WI

For many years our WI have had two competitions for members to enter each month, one was for 'Flower of the month' and the other a chance for members to bring in items relating to the topic for each meeting.

We decided that it was time for change and that we would stop holding the competitions and instead have a 'Bring and Buy' sale and with the donated items raise money for the local Women's Refuge, our chosen cause this year. Our January meeting saw the first

of these sales and it was very successful thanks to the generosity of members who brought lots of items to sell.

This was however just one of the activities at this well attended meeting, we started the afternoon with Committee members presenting each of four Resolutions for members to vote for. Each year the WI campaigns on a resolution supported by the maximum number of members, this years proposed Resolutions were presented to the members to choose from.



Sutton Poyntz WI

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS

Starting Soon

Be Water Confident	Be a Swimmer	Be a better Swimmer
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These are 1 - Dental health matters. 2 - The impact of poor housing. 3 - Say no to gambling advertising and 4 - Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system'

All of the Resolutions won the support of some members, but the majority vote was for the 'Dental Health Matters' so we now have to see how other groups have voted and which of the resolutions will become the one for this year's National Campaign.

Most of the rest of the meeting was spent with everyone joining in our annual Beetle Drive followed by the distribution of birthday cards, drawing the raffle and some discussion about possible future events. A busy and productive meeting to launch us into 2024!

Sue Davis
President

Radipole Park Development Update

The Radipole Park & Gardens project is progressing well and has come a long way since starting out nearly eight years ago.

In conjunction with the Friends of Radipole Park & Gardens, we have spent many hours working on the various elements to allow the project to eventually happen and overcome many issues that have been thrown up along the way. Due to a couple of delays with the kiosk build the project construction period is due to be the end of February, the base of the kiosk (on stilts!) is now in, the building structure will soon start appearing in the New Year. All of the sports

courts have been newly surfaced this month which includes the MUGA, basketball and tennis court, and are accessible (minus the court lines which will be added after the Christmas break). If you go into the park you will be able to access these areas now and will notice the opening up of the park and the reinstatement of the rear path along the railway. Things like this have made a real difference to the feel and flow of the park spaces and invites you to explore and enjoy all the areas once again.

Most of the play equipment is now installed and looking great. It is hoped the type of structures will provide a different type of play for young residents and visitors with a real sense of adventure. The pétanque court is in and a group of keen residents are already planning to form a pétanque club next year to make full use of this new facility; watch this space on how to get involved if you are interested in finding out more and having a go. All the interpretation materials are now finalised and in production. This will include new park signs with orientation maps and history panels, a heritage timeline and hidden history information on the park's life displayed on panels on the kiosk and a nature trail for younger visitors to engage with the flora and fauna of the park.

The sensory garden being delivered by the Friends Group is well under way and once built they will be looking for local residents to get involved as volunteers to help look after it. This will involve plenty of social get-togethers with tea and cake!

We are working on a programme of events that will kick off in spring

next year to encourage people into the park as the weather improves and make the most of the new facilities available.

Care Dorset celebrates first year

Dorset Council's local authority trading company, Care Dorset celebrates a successful first year of operation.

Managing director Chris Best said: 'Our focus is on helping people to become, or remain, as independent as possible. That means delivering care in a range of settings, and working with the people we support to get them the best possible outcomes.'

'The challenges facing the social care sector make headlines every day, but we still have a job to do - and Care Dorset will keep inno-

vating to deliver the best possible service.'

Last December, Care Dorset opened an extra 20 beds to support Dorset NHS and help ensure people are free to leave hospitals as early as possible through a bedded reablement service.

In the summer, Care Dorset opened Castleman Plus in Blandford Forum with an additional 12 beds.

In addition to these services, Care Dorset also made progress in its delivery of community reablement - providing help and support to people in their homes. This has grown by 30%, meaning 3,425 hours of care in 2023 compared with 2,400 in 2022.

Care Dorset also provides residential care, and we have seen improved occupancy levels from

Continued on page 23

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The Ridgeway Churches

† Holy Trinity, Bincombe; † St Nicholas, Broadway; † St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers; † St Francis, Littlemoor; † St Osmund, Osmington; † St Andrew, Preston; † St Laurence, Upwey.

Serving Bincombe, Broadway, Buckland Ripers, Littlemoor, Nottington, Osmington, Overcombe, Preston, Poxwell, Ringstead, Sutton Poyntz, & Upwey

Worship and information is available at www.weymouthridgeway.org.uk

The Weymouth Ridgeway Team offers a wide range of services and a warm welcome to all.

Normal Sunday worship in church

8.00am St Andrew's, Preston (1st)
8.00am St Osmund's, Osmington (3rd)
8.30am Holy Trinity, Bincombe
9.15am St Andrew's, Preston (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th)
9.15am St Andrew's Church Rooms (1st)
9.30am St Nicholas, Broadway
10.15am St Francis', Littlemoor
10.30am St Osmund's, Osmington (1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th)
11.00am St Laurence, Upwey
4.00pm St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers
6.00pm St Francis', Littlemoor (2nd) Prayer Meeting
6.30pm St Francis', Littlemoor (4th) Celtic Prayer

Please note: during January & February Sunday services at St Andrew's will be held in the Church Rooms, opposite the church.

Weekday Worship

7.30pm Tues Candlelight Service St Andrew's
12.45pm Wed Prayer Meeting St Francis'
08.00am Thurs Morning Prayer St Francis'
12.00pm Fri Prayer Meeting St Andrew's
07.00pm Fri(1st) Revival Prayer Meeting St Francis'
(For weekday services at St Nicholas see separate paragraph)

WOMEN to grow in faith

Tue 10.00am Ridgeway Bible Study Group [fortnightly] Preston (01305) 834604

Who's Who

Team Rector

Rev'd James Menzies - The Vicarage, 2 Primula Close, Littlemoor, Weymouth. DT3 6SL (01305) 835921 revjamesmenzies@outlook.com (day of rest Monday)

Team Vicar

Rev'd Philip Elliott
(Holy Trinity, Bincombe; St Laurence, Upwey; St Nicholas, Broadway; St Nicholas, Buckland Ripers)
The Vicarage, 526 Littlemoor Rd, Weymouth. DT3 5PA (01305) 459971 weymouth.west.ridgeway.vicar@gmail.com (day of rest Monday)

Team Administrator

Shirley Mitchell, The Team Office, 4 Church Rd, Preston, Weymouth. DT3 6BU (01305) 837147 weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com

Community Angels

A volunteer service offering companionship, errands, home visits, lifts to appointments, activities, shopping etc (01305) 834866 standrewsangels@hotmail.co.uk

Hall Hire

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston,

Shirley Mitchell (01305) 837147 sachurchrooms4@gmail.com

St Francis' Community Room, Littlemoor

Anne Field (01305) 832532 anne_field@talk21.com

Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz

Maureen Morris (01305) 835533.

Preston Village Hall

Julie Witt, Booking Secretary, Preston Village Hall, Weymouth, Dorset prestonvillagehallweymouth@gmail.com. 07742 636511.

New Weymouth Ridgeway Team Ministry Newsletter

If you would like to receive news and information about what is happening in our churches please contact me on: weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com or 01305 837147.

Weekday Services at St Nicholas Church, Broadway

Tuesdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey.
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Broadwey
	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Upwey
Wednesdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer with Communion	Broadwey
	10.45am	Coffee Morning	Broadwey
Thursdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Broadwey
	10.00am	The Holy Eucharist	Broadwey
Fridays	8.45am	The Angelus with Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer with communion	Broadwey
	9.00am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
Saturdays	8.45am	The Angelus and Meditation	Broadwey
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Broadwey

All Saints & St Edmunds Churches

Parish of Wyke Regis

Our parish of Wyke Regis would like to send you our good wishes and offer a warm welcome at the Churches of St Edmund's and All Saints.

All Saints church, Portland Road is normally open daily for visitors and private prayer from 9am until 2.30.

Daily prayer is offered in the church at 9.00 Tuesday – Friday. Rector: Rev'd John MacKenzie

Sundays

8am Said Communion. BCP (unless Rector is away.)

First Sunday of the month 9:30 am Café Church, with refreshments beforehand

All other Sundays: 9.30 Sung Holy Communion, followed by refreshments

Fridays

10.30am Said Holy Communion, followed by refreshments.

Tuesday – Friday: Morning prayer in the church at 9am.

Saturdays

Third Saturday of the month Coffee Morning. All are welcome to join us for coffee, tea, cakes, books, Fairtrade stall and, of course, chat.

Livestream

Our 9.30am Sunday services are also livestreamed. An order of service is published each week so you can join in with the hymns and prayers. You can connect via any of the following links:

Youtube – youtube.com/user/WykeRegisChurch/live

Facebook – facebook.com/groups/allsaintswyke

Parish website – parishofwykeregis.org.uk/live

Our weekly Pew Sheet is also published on the website with up-to-date news and the readings for the service.

St Edmund's Church, Lane House Rocks Road is open for Sundays

Every fortnight 11:00 am Sung Holy Communion alternating with Service of the Word

Thursdays during term time,

1.00pm Little Saints Baby and Toddlers Group. Please bring along your children, grandchildren or Godchildren and meet up with others. All welcome. Please check for starting dates in January.

All Saints Events Diary

January

Saturday 20th Coffee Morning, 10am to 12pm, All Saints Church
All are welcome to join us for coffee, tea, cakes, books, Fairtrade stall and, of course, chat.

February

Saturday 3rd Film Night – The Cruel Sea

7pm, Wyke Regis Memorial Hall
Classic British war film. A corvette is sent to protect convoys in the North Atlantic. Its novice crew is tested by the weather, the sea, and U-boats. Starring Jack Hawkins, Donald Sinden and Virginia McKenna.

Entry £6 includes glass of wine, beer, or a soft drink. Book online at parishofwykeregis.org.uk or contact Jeff Thomas on 07710 096174 to reserve.

Saturday 17th - All Saints Coffee Morning

10 am to 12 pm, All Saints Church
All are welcome to join us for coffee, tea, cakes, books, Fairtrade stall, music, and, of course, chat.

Friday 23rd - Murder Mystery Evening

Murder mystery supper evening presented by The Acting Caledonians. Can you identify the murderer, their motive and how they did it?

Entrance £10, by pre-booked ticket only. Buffet meal provided* (bring your own soft / alcoholic drinks). Team/table size 6 people. Individual ticket holders welcome - teams will be finalised on the night.

Contact Robert Smith on 07814 618837 to reserve or sign the list

at the back of All Saints Church.

Wyke Regis Community Film Club 2024 programme

The Film Club's programme for next year is out now! Leaflets are available in All Saints church, and details will be posted on the Parish of Wyke Regis website.

More info www.pariahofwykeregis.org.uk
go to www.pariahofwykeregis.org.uk/events

Live local news programme at 6.00pm on Saturdays and a quiz at 7.30pm the same evening. These can be accessed using the livestream links above.

If you want to get in touch with us, we can be contacted on 01305 784649 or email info@pariahofwykeregis.org.uk

ed that the families have moved in with very few possessions. Their flights did not allow them to bring many items, and most had few to start with.

The situation was identified by Chickerell Town Council in conjunction with Chickerell Army Camp and Weymouth Town Council's Mayor Cllr Kate Wheller after speaking to staff at Chickerell Camp. Cllr Wheller subsequently contacted Weymouth & Portland Lions Club for assistance and now Local Lions are working with The Weymouth Veterans Hub, Weymouth Rotary Club, and Weymouth & Portland Town Councils on an appeal for items to help welcome the families.

Chickerell Town Council's Mayor, Cllr Mike Jolliffe said 'Chickerell Town Council is working with Chickerell Army Camp to identify items that are needed by the families to make them more comfortable. We are also working with our local community group, Spirit of Chickerell, who are purchasing 5 a side football goals and cricket sets for the older children. These will stay at the camp for the duration of the scheme. Required Donations:

- School bags - Older children; Toys - All ages
- Pencils and colouring pens; Warm clothes, coats, raincoats; Bedding for babies; Nappies; Scooters and

skateboards - Older children. Any donations can be dropped off at Chickerell Town council's Offices, Willowbed Hall, 39 Putton Lane, Chickerell, DT3 4PB during the hours of 9.30am and noon.

Andy Price of the Weymouth Veterans Hub added 'We understand that Christmas can be a difficult and many families have already gifted to local charities however if you have something you can gift to these families it will support them during their short stay here in Dorset before they are rehomed and give the opportunity to rebuild their lives after the service they gave to our Armed Forces.'

Donations can be dropped off at: Chickerell Town Council Offices 9.00am to 12.00 Monday to Friday
The Veterans Hub - 10.00am-2.00pm Monday - Saturday
Mulberry Children Centre - 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday
Those wishing to make cash donation can do either by cheque made payable to Weymouth & Portland Lions Club And post to Weymouth & Portland Lions Club, C/O Mark Lockie Niu Haus, Franchise Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8JU or via bacs Weymouth & Portland Lions Club Charity account number 91118050 Sort code 60-23-35 reference Chickerell Camp on payment.

News

Continued from page 21

76% at point of transfer in October 2022, to more than 90% one year later.

Local community set to welcome Afghans who helped UK

Chickerell Camp is being used to temporarily house families of Afghan nationals who worked

with or for the British Armed Forces and other Government departments throughout operations in Afghanistan. This resettlement is part of the MoD's ARAP Scheme - Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

This weekend saw the arrival of the first residents however there are high numbers of very small children who have arrived as part of the first contingent. It is report-

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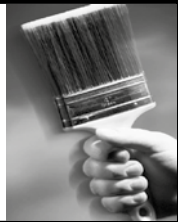
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