The Pilot

December 2023



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

DEAR COMMUNITY,

December has crept up on us here at The Pilot HQ. Where did 2023 go we wonder?

This is the fourth edition of The Pilot in its new format and we continue to be told that it is a great improvement. Thank you to all those people who go out of their way to let us know.

This edition features all the usual contributions for you to enjoy and our Pet of the Month is a delight! Please keep sending them in – we have a vacancy for February...

You will notice that this edition has all of the information about the church services for December and January. This is because there will be no edition of The Pilot in January. Our fantastic distributors and deliverers can take a well earned rest!

So, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mel and Claire



Date for submissions for our February edition – 5th January 2024 Editor@charpilot.com



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PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER

For the October Probus meeting at the Gamekeeper in Charminster our guest speaker was Alistair Chisholm best known as the Dorchester Town Crier for very many years but also the current Mayor of Dorchester. Alistair reminded us of the rich history of the area which was, in his view, much better than Stone Henge where coach loads of cruise ship passengers arriving in Weymouth were sent totally ignoring what was available locally. He said it was so sad that we did not really seem to value this history and that there was

really "no vision for Dorchester" at either the town or county level. He said in Poundbury we had a really unique example of urban extension to a Market Town and one that was highly regarded at the international level. He moved on to express concern at the lack of enough social housing with currently over 500 people wanting housing accommodation. Poundbury had led the way with about 35% social housing but more needs to be done especially using "brown field" sites – the old prison site being one.

His real message to us was that we need to significantly improve the marketing of Dorchester and the immediate area – need to get younger people involved and use all of the "modern" communication tools to try to create a real buzz. All in all a very interesting and thought provoking talk.

The weekend following the monthly lunch a small group of members and partners went as a Group to see Noises Off at the Poole Lighthouse where much laughter was evident.

Probus Club of Dorchester is part of the international Probus Organisation and is a group of retired or semi-retired men who meet on the second Thursday of each month for lunch at the Gamekeeper in Charminster. At many of the meeting we have guest speakers and a wide range of topics are covered.

We are keen to welcome new members and if you are interested in coming along please in the first instance contact either Bill Lowes at williamlowes167@btinternet.com or Chris Hutton-Penman at chris@ossl.biz or on 01305753611





DECEMBER 2023

- 1. Which of Santa's reindeer has the same name as the ancient Roman god of love?
- 2. What colour are mistletoe berries?
- 3. What is the food layer between the icing and the Christmas cake?
- 4. What is the name for a male turkey?
- 5. What Christmas item was invented by Tom Smith in the 1850s?
- 6. King George V made the first royal Christmas broadcast. When?
- 7. What's the name of Will Ferrell's character in the film Elf?
- 8. According to the song, what did my true love give me on the third day of Christmas?
- 9. How many ghosts appear in Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
- 10. What do we call the Christian season running up to Christmas?

Answers on page 30

THE THREE COMPASSES

BAND NIGHTS

DECEMBER MUSIC - THREE COMPASSES

SAT 2nd 7pm - TBA

SUN 3rd 5pm - SHADY BEARD

SAT 9th 7pm - "THAT COVERS BAND" SUN 10th 4pm - NICK COLEMAN

THURS 14th 7pm - OPEN MIC - Si Genaro SAT 16th 8pm - WHAT THE PHUNK SUN 17th 5pm - MARKY MARK DAWSON

WED 20th 8pm - 🎄 XMAS JAZZ JAM 🦸

SAT 23rd - A XMAS SPECIAL A

6pm - NINA GARCIA

8pm - THAT CHRIS PAYN

SUN 24th 7pm - STRESS

THURS 28th 4pm - MASAU'U SUN 31st 7pm NEW YEAR'S EVE FANCY DRESS PARTY

JAN 2024 DATES

THURS 11th - OPEN MIC with Si Genaro SUN 14th 4pm - STEVE WILSON & THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS

WED 17th 8pm - JAZZ JAM SAT 20th 7pm - STICKLEBACK JACK SUN 21st 4pm - STOMPIN' DAVE

SAT 27th 7pm - IRONHIDE SUN 28th 4pm - ZOE SCHWARTZ BLUES PARTY



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STINSFORD NEWS

Not quite into November, and earlier than usual I am 'putting pen to paper' as I will be away for a few days and wish to meet our Pilot editors' deadline. However the clocks are to go back, the last weekend of October so to my advantage although, a sobering thought, whilst we gain an extra hour on the Sunday, we will not see a day light evening for some months to come.

December is a time to bring out the sparkle and to say the tickets for Stinsford's Grand Draw are now out. Please ensure that you take the opportunity to purchase some with many prizes. The Draw will happen on the evening of the Carol Service 16th December 2023. We will have mulled wine and mince pies so please join us.

This year we recreate Stinsford's Occasional Choir, a nice thought as it was so well supported by Carol and Malcolm Davis. The funeral of our wonderful organist for 30 years took place on Tuesday 14th November, 12 months to the day of that of his wife, Carol, who played the flute so beautifully, they will be together again.

With this issue you will have received a Christmas Card from our Benefice Rector wishing you good tidings and giving you the times of all the Christmas Services throughout the Benefice for the Festive season. This allows you to make your choice as to time and place you may wish to go to a Christmas service. The first day of Advent is on 3rd December.

The Ride and Stride event this year held some interesting activities around the county. I note in the Blackmore Vale News

three individuals from Frome Vauchurch made amazing journeys, two walked 22 miles, visited 15 churches and ended their journey at Sherborne Abbey. They were supported by a third member of the team who ran a marathon instead to Sherborne. There was a photograph of them all taking a well-deserved break and relaxing on a bench outside the Abbey.

Reviewing the year 2023 reveals one full of super activities such as the Coronation Party, the wonderful Michaelmas Fete and Christmas Fayre and the laying of a stone to Bill Jesty, the beautiful displays of flowers for both special events and regular Sundays. There has been great changes; we have lost valued key and loved members of our community. We have a new Rector and new people arriving in the village and parish to join us. Kingston Maurward goes from strength to strength and adapts to the challenges of our times and is planning a merger with Weymouth College, a major step for Further Education in the county.

Looking at my 2022 News I see last year I commentated on the video to bring forward the changes to our church , we are still trying to get there, and we will move forward albeit slowly.

Now whilst thinking of 2024 and the plans for the coming year. I must remind everybody there will not be a January issue of the Pilot.

I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year 2024

Michael Clarke

ANYONE FOR CAKE!

Wendy Andrews who lives in Charminster has made these wonderful knitted cakes. She also makes vegetables and fruit.

Wendy likes to keep herself busy and gives them to a friend in town who takes them over to America for her grandchildren.

Isn't she clever?





Save the Date:

Calling all Residents of Greenwood House, Herrison House, Redwood House

The next Inter-House Quiz is Sat. February 17th @ 19:30

Herrison Hall, Charlton Down

2022 Winning House: Greenwood. Winning Team: Redwoodentops Charity: Alzheimer's Society. Funds raised: £ 355.55

2023 Winning House: Redwood. Winning Team: Redwoodentops Charity: Dorchester Poverty Action. Funds raised: £ **363.50**

2024 Winning House: ???? Winning Team: ????

Charity: Julia's House. Funds raised: ????

Further Info: Richard.Wareham7@gmail.com

Autumn Squirrel

Little squirrel on the cable
Surprising me that you are able
To run across at such a speed
Carrying your winter feed.
With cheeks packed full and outstretched tail
I worry that your grip might fail,
As you are up so very high
And pass before me in the sky.
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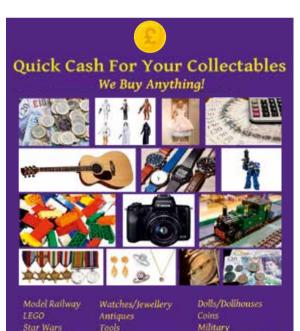


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Hon. Associate Minister The Reverend Dr Hugh Willis 262940

Associate Minister The Reverend Dr Rob Van der Hart 852130

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PCC Secretary Jean Garrard 259083

PCC Treasurer Andrew Jones 264316

ST MICHAEL'S, STINSFORD

Churchwardens Shirley Churchill 260159

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DORCHESTER TREFOIL

This month Dorchester Trefoil delivered our latest batch of shawls, blankets, twiddlemuffs and teddies to the Mary Anning elderly care ward at Dorchester County Hospital. In total we have donated about 700 knitted and crocheted items in the 4 years our project has been on-going. Our items are used by the Stroke and Evershot wards too. Chris White, a Charminster WI member, who knits for the project also came with us (but is accidently hidden in the photo). Sorry Chris!

Linda Gundry was our afternoon Trefoil speaker recently and was hilarious. December 's speaker talked about and demonstrated various musical instruments. We've also enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at Hendover Café.

Evening Trefoil played darts at Wolfedale Golf clubhouse – well, tried to. It took several attempts by each of us to actually hit the dartboard. But we enjoyed it her workshop on Hand the supper Alli cooked for us. Alli is our Charminster Guider. Our November meeting was a craft workshop led by Jen Cole, a professional crafter, held in her workshop on High Street East. We were Iris folding paper to make Guiding Trefoils.

If you are interested in coming to one of our meetings, or have wool you'd like to donate please e-mail me on jct19336@gmail.com . Everyone is welcome at meetings and you can attend 3 meetings before you decide whether to join us or not.

Judy Thompson



Advent at your Local Church

CHARMINSTER, STINSFORD & THE CHALK STREAM VILLAGES

3RD DECEMBER

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER
9.30AM PARISH COMMUNION - STRATTON
11AM PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER
4PM CHRISTINGLE - STINSFORD
4PM ADVENT SOUL FOOD - BRADFORD PEVERELL
6PM CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE - CHARMINSTER
6.30PM EVENSONG - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS



6TH - 7PM NIGHT PRAYER - STRATTON 9TH - CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - 1-3PM SYDLING SN (VH)

10TH DECEMBER

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER
9.30AM MORNING PRAYER - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS
11AM HOLY COMMUNION - STINSFORD
11AM PRAISE AND WORSHIP - BRADFORD PEVERELL
4PM CHRISTINGLE - CHARMINSTER
6PM CAROL SERVICE - FRAMPTON



13TH - 7PM NIGHT PRAYER - BRADFORD PEVERELL

17TH DECEMBER

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

11AM BENEFICE COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

4PM FAMILY CAROLS ROUND THE TREE - FRAMPTON (VH)

5PM CANDLELIT CAROLS - STRATTON

6PM CAROL SERVICE - BRADFORD PEVERELL

6PM LESSONS AND CAROLS - STINSFORD

6.30PM CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS

19TH - 2-4PM CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - STRATTON VH 20TH - 1-3PM CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - CHARMINSTER 20TH - 3PM OUTDOOR CAROLS - CHARMINSTER

20TH - 6PM ADVENT PRAISE - FRAMPTON VH
21ST - 7PM NIGHT PRAYER - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS



Christmas at your Local Church

CHARMINSTER, STINSFORD & THE CHALK STREAM VILLAGES

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

CHARMINSTER

8AM BCP HOLY COMMUNION (ADVENT 4) 3PM NATIVITY SERVICE (COME IN COSTUME) 11.30PM MIDNIGHT MASS STINSFORD - 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION

BRADFORD PEVERELL - 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION STRATTON - 4.30PM NATIVITY SERVICE FRAMPTON - 6PM CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION SYDLING SN - 9.30PM CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

CHARMINSTER - 11AM ALL-AGE CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION STINSFORD - 10AM FAMILY CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION BRADFORD PEVERELL - 10.30AM CHRISTMAS STOCKING STRATTON - 10AM CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SYDLING SN - 10.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE

DECEMBER 31ST - CHRISTMAS 1

BENEFICE-WIDE COMMUNION SERVICE 10.30AM AT SYDLING ST NICHOLAS





Christmas cont. (January 2024)

CHARMINSTER, STINSFORD & THE CHALK STREAM VILLAGES
"NEW SERVICE TIMES IN BOLD!!

7TH JANUARY - EPIPHANY (THE MAGI)

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER 9.30AM PARISH COMMUNION - STRATTON 11AM PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER 11AM BCP PARISH COMMUNION - STINSFORD 4PM SOUL FOOD - BRADFORD PEVERELL

14TH JANUARY - EPIPHANY 2

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

9.30AM* CAFE CHURCH - CHARMINSTER

9.30AM MORNING PRAYER - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS

11AM* HOLY COMMUNION - BRADFORD PEVERELL

11AM SUNG MATINS - STINSFORD

6PM EVENSONG - CHARMINSTER

6.30PM EVENING PRAYER - FRAMPTON

21ST JANUARY - EPIPHANY 3

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS

11AM HOLY COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

11AM HOLY COMMUNION (COMMON WORSHIP) - STINSFORD

11AM PRAISE AND WORSHIP - BRADFORD PEVERELL

6PM EVENING PRAYER - STRATTON

28TH JANUARY - PRESENTATION OF CHRIST/CANDLEMAS

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

9.30AM* HOLY COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

11AM* HOLY COMMUNION - FRAMPTON

4PM MESSY CHURCH - CHARMINSTER

6PM EVENSONG - STINSFORD

6.30PM EVENING PRAYER - BRADFORD PEVERELL



CHARMINSTER WI REPORT OCTOBER MEETING

Our October meeting was a Harvest Supper which celebrated all things Autumn. The Hall looked fantastic and we had a wonderful supper provided by members all bringing a plate to share. Our Catering Committee did a grand job in ensuring that everything went smoothly by laying out the foods on offer and clearing away, washing up, etc. The Committee manned the drinks table, raffle & produce, and took deposits for our Christmas meal in December. Lots of hard work and a big thank you to all involved.

Some members contributed to an Autumn display – there were some beautiful crafts, hedgerow finds, etc.

Our Craft Group led by Mary Hayes had made a lovely centrepiece decoration for each table of hand-sewn fabric pumpkins & leaves on a hand-decorated 'table mat'.

We had a produce table with plants, squashes, jams, etc for sale – proceeds raised will be donated to the local foodbank. Some lucky ladies won lovely prizes in our raffle too.

Members were kept entertained with lots of chatter and a table quiz on logos which taxed the brains!

All in all, it was a most enjoyable evening and something we will certainly considering repeating next year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th November, 7.30pm in the Community Hall. We will be looking forward to our speaker, Steve Belasco, entertaining us with his slides and talk entitled 'A Cruise along the Jurassic Coast'.

We have had several new members join us recently from Charminster and the surrounding villages. Please do come along and see what our WI has to offer – you will be made most welcome.

NOVEMBER MEETING

This month we were pleased to welcome Steve Belasco, marine photographer, who took us on a pictorial journey along the Jurassic Coast from Poole to Sidmouth. Steve's unique slant is to take photos from his little motor boat looking towards the coast. He showed us some fantastic shots, many of which have been seen in the national press. Rock formations, boats,

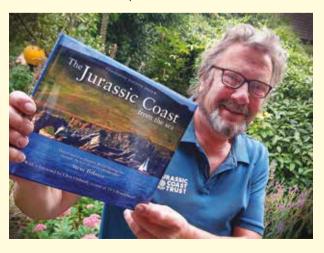
wild life, sun shine, it was a reminder of the lovely part of the world we live in.

Our competition this month was 'The Sea'. The winner was a shell mobile, chosen from among crafted items, shells, photos and a poem.

We were also pleased to welcome two new members who have recently moved to the village.

Next month we're off to the Saxon Arms for our Christmas meal!

Judy Bird



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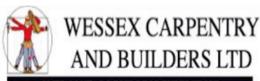
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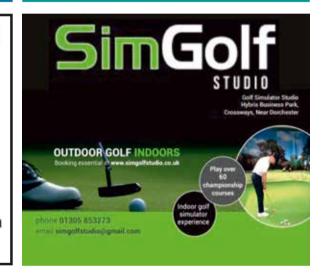
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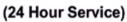
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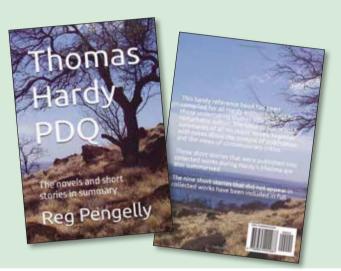
THOMAS HARDY PDQ

I am Reg Pengelly and I live in Charlton Down. I have recently published a book about the novels and short stories of Thomas Hardy. For several years I have been a Tour Guide for the National Trust at the two homes of Hardy as well as Clouds Hill; the Dorset home of TE Lawrence (of Arabia). Needless to say these roles have required considerable study.

The book is the outcome of a "Lockdown" project in which I made an effort to read all of Hardy's novels and short stories at least twice and then to research the circumstances of publication, critical reviews etc and then to write summaries with notes. That amounted

to 14 major novels and 50 short stories! It was a very interesting way to spend the many long hours at home during the Pandemic.

I wondered whether you might be inclined to give the book a bit of promotion in the Pilot? I can't really afford to pay for advertising. However I am willing to give talks/ presentations about Hardy and Lawrence if any local societies are interested if I am allowed to promote the book in lieu of any fees.





Dear Friends

Scout Post

As you will see there will be no Scout Christmas Post this year and in the future.

I would like to thank everyone in the Charminster area who have supported us in anyway during the past years.

We all have mixed feelings about this and for me it has been a way of life since the start, but with regret, I think it was time to finish.

I would like to wish you all Joy and Peace for Christmas and the New Year.

Ruth Young Lead Group Volunteer Charminster

CHARLTON DOWN CRICKET CLUB

The festive season is upon us and while it might not look very crickety outside, the cricket club will be a busy place through December. Thursday coffee mornings will continue as always from 10 to 12.30ish, depending on how busy we are. We are open every Friday Evening from 7pm for a drink and catch up with friends. On Friday 22nd, we will be having our annual Christmas Party for a bit of mulled wine and festive cheer. We're also having another party on New Year's Eve – nothing too outlandish, but a nice way to see in the New Year. And then on New Year's Day, we're opening for coffee and pastries from 10am to 12.30ish.

The monthly quiz night and monthly draw will be on Friday 29th December, and it won't be any ordinary quiz either, as Sid plans to make it an End-of-Year Super Quiz! There will be generous cash prizes for the top two teams, plus other spot prizes. There is a strong possibility that there will be some daft games to add to the fun and some warm snacks to keep you all going strong. We're anticipating a busy night, so teams must enter in advance to ensure a table. There will be 8 teams of up to six people - £20 entry per team. If you're keen to join in, please contact Sid on 07769 620968.

Back in November we had our annual Presentation Night at the club. It's always a good way to get everyone together outside of the cricket season – and while 2023 was pretty average in terms of our success on the field, you wouldn't have known it from the fun we had on the night. Club stalwart Ashley Hayes came

away with a car-load of silverware, including the coveted Player's Player award and the notso-coveted Duck Cup. He somehow managed to play a whopping 34 games for us in 2023, which deserves some sort of medal on its own!



We also had a Spanish Night in November – a rare chance to feast on the Secretary's home cooked food and try out the Social Secretary's potent sangria concoction. Thanks to everyone who came down and made it an enjoyable night. These themed food nights take a bit of effort to get together, but it is nice to do something different and plans are already under way to bring you another dish from somewhere around the world (once we've got over the Christmas excesses).

Finally, advance warning that January's Quiz Night will be on Friday 19th. This is so we can have a Burns Night celebration on Friday 26th January.





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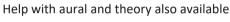
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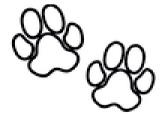
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Brian and Lynne, moved to Casterbridge Court in April 2022 and have been happy in their twobedroom apartment ever since. Lynne says: "Moving has impacted our life completely for the better. We can get



out to do more things and it's more secure than the bungalow we were living in, which was quite isolated. It's great to have other people around." When asked what they would say to

somebody considering moving to a McCarthy Stone property Brian said, "Do it!" he goes on to add: "what else can I say it's been absolutely super!"



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CHARMINSTER BROWNIES

This half of term we Have been working on the parliament week badge 2023. We started by doing a





bit about Guy Fawkes and how bonfire night came about! The girls already knew so much about this I am always so proud of them. We had a busy and Messy but great evening building guys for Bonfire night. Penny for Guy was something now forgotten, but much bigger in my childhood. We had a lovely evening and learnt the rhyme that goes with guy Fawkes and the 5th of November.

We followed this with a bit about our parliament, a few of the governing parties and a couple of games that would help us to remember who does what! And played a houses of parliament game from our parliament workbook. We also put our voting to the test choosing new sixers and seconders for our sixes.

We have been practising some carol singing and looking forward to putting our vocals to good use!

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year



CHARMINSTER GUIDES

Guides chose to have a little party for Halloween, playing some old-fashioned games and a bit of a spooky story by torchlight. They have completed their Personal Brand and their Parliament badge this term, finishing with some Christmas craft and Bingo!

This term has gone by so fast and the badges have filled our time, We are hoping to get in a sleepover early next term and have been planning what we would like to do.

Our group has now got smaller, and we are looking for an adult to join our leader team. We have a leader needing to step back a bit and take a break for Family, leaving from Christmas and 1 going off to university next summer! With out the voluntary adult supervision we may have to join with another unit and take our girls into town. It would be a shame to move out from the village but we need the leaders to keep running our unit at home.

If anyone has an interest in joining as a unit helper or leader, please get in touch through girlguiding.

www.girlguidinguk.org

Alli and the Guiding Team

Pet of the Month...

Our lovely goldfish were originally bought for the pond in the garden, but having recently lost our dear cat we decided to keep them indoors in an aquarium.

They are collectively known as "the fishes" and they are just charming pets!

So lovely to chat to whilst tidying up and with their beautiful iridescent colours it's very relaxing just to watch them swimming through the plants and under the stone bridge. They even come up to the front of the glass and say hello (well, I think they're saying hello!) They just ask to be feed or left a holiday block if we're away and as it's a cold water aquarium it's fairly easy to look after with occasional water exchanges and a clean filter. They have been a great addition to our home.



Sharon

CHARMINSTER COMMUNITY HALL DEFIBRILLATOR

The Defibrillator has now been installed to the right hand side of the Charminster Community Hall.

Thank you to everyone who have donated to this great cause.







ANSWERS

- 1. Cupid.
- 2. White.
- 3. Marzipan.
- 4. Tom or Gobbler.
- 5. Crackers.
- 6. 1932.

- 7. Buddy.
- 8. Three French hens.
- 9. Four the ghosts of Jacob Marley, the past, the present and the future.
- 10. Advent.

VILLAGE'S DIRECTORY

DORSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr David Taylor 07905 352710 cllrdavid.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

All villages are covered by Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPT). We're looked after by Support officer (PSCO 5410) Sarah Pilcher. If you want to contact one of the team for any reason then go online to Dorset Police website at dorchester-rural-npt@dorset.police.uk and follow 'Do It Online' to access a range of services. Or there's always 101 or 999 or via Do It Online / Dorset Police

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Flood Warden	Tim Yarker	265942

riood warden	IIIII Tarker	203942
St Mary's School	Headteacher: Mick Homer Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	263880 266598
Pre-School	Vanessa Thomas	251512

Village Hall	Bookings: Julie Seeney
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WI	Judy Thompson	263783
Bell Ringers	Captain: Chris White	07783 555 199

Girl Guides	Alison Barlow	07483 429 596
Brownies	Alison Barlow	07483 429 596

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers	Ruth Young	268208
Scottish Country Dancing	Val Scriven	265177
Charminsters Stores & Post Office	Louise Christopher	264312

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Community Hall community hall@charminster.info 07947 622 326

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Jellytots	Emma	07791 204323
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Flood Warden Carol Matthews 751535

Peter (Tommy) Tucker 07810 275 847 youth/senior

757151

James Pretty: booking / hire 07810 275 847

STINSFORD CONTACTS

Stinsford Parish CouncilParish Clerk: Kirsty Rigler268818stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com

THE PILOT CONTACTS

Editors - editor@charpilot.com **Advertising** - advertising@charpilot.com

CHARMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Charminster Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month (except January and August). Meetings alternate between Charminster Community Hall and Charlton Down Village Hall. All parish councillors are unpaid volunteers.

The meetings are open to all members of the public and there is always a public discussion period during which parishioners can raise any subjects they would like considered.

November's Parish Council meeting was a busy one.

An update from the Charminster Movement Strategy working group that is looking at traffic issues in the village was discussed and work on the final phases of a proposal approved.

A double Electric Vehicle charging point is to be installed outside the Community Hall. Research on the best site for Charlton Down is in hand.

Play areas in Charminster and Charlton Down have been inspected by specialists and recommendations for improvements were accepted.

A donation is to be made to the Charminster St. Mary's School Association to fund transport for school trips for the coming year.

A number of planning applications were considered in detail and formal responses made to Dorset Council Planning. This is standard procedure and helps maintain the quality and quantity of development.

Several options for broadband and telephone provision for the Community Hall were considered and a contract with BT approved.

The monthly finance reports, bank reconciliations and all payments due and paid since the last meeting discussed and approved. This level of detail ensures that the council's finances are subject to proper scrutiny.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee were tasked with preparing a budget for fiscal 2024 for consideration at December meeting.

The recent flooding in Charminster was discussed. It was noted that the areas worst affected this time are not the usual ones. The Parish Council was active in securing a supply of sandbags that protected the worst affected properties. More sandbags will be ordered and the siting of their storage bins reviewed.

The powers and resources of the Parish Council are limited – but many small things can make a difference.

SouthWard (Charminster Village)

Keith Beeson264032Peter Dangerfield260543Richard East264724Alan Rolls267863Mark Simons (Chair)260055Tim Yarker265942Louisa Swabey-PayneTBC

NorthWard (Charlton Down & Forston)

Carol Matthews (ViceChair) 751535 Susan Frazer 269255 Julie Jackson 07714 433 174 Richard Wareham 07710 938 959 Ollie Greenaway Contact: Parish Clerk (Michele Harding) c/o Community Hall, Weir View, Charminster, DT2 9QY 07946 489 488 or email clerk@charminster.info

For Community Hall Enquiries please call 07947 622 326

Please see our website or contact the clerk for details of any forthcoming meetings. www.charminster.info

Charminster Parish Council