

# The Pilot

March 2024



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

# DEAR COMMUNITY,

Our March edition brings all the usual articles from our regular contributors. We also have a couple of interesting pieces to watch out for.

Firstly Nigel Lea tells us about the incredible Coastal Watch Charity which we knew nothing about! You can even train to be a Watchkeeper...

Then Peter Dangerfield gives us some village history from March 1915. We can only imagine the scene and the excitement it would have caused in the village.

We have also included the information from SSEN again as realised it was quite difficult to read in the last edition. Apologies for that!

Our lovely cover photo (as usual from the amazing photographer Mark Simons) certainly has us looking forward to Spring. Let's hope the weather improves!

**Mel and Claire**

**Date for submissions for our April edition – 4th March 2024**  
**Editor@charpilot.com**



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## NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION (NCI)



NCI is a registered charity, formed in 1994 to restore a visual watch along the coast after many coastguard stations were closed. The mission is to assist in the protection and preservation of life at sea and along the coastline. Here in the South West, this includes the coastal path. Whilst technology helps HM Coastguard keep a watch on commercial shipping, at NCI we focus on insure leisure activities, including small boats, kayakers, paddle boarders, swimmers, hang gliders and walkers.

We now have approximately 60 stations around the coast of England and Wales. Around 3000 volunteers participated in 840 incidents during 2023. Of that total 37 involved both West Dorset stations. Our Burton Bradstock station opened in 2010, and Charmouth in 2016. We now have more than 90 volunteer Watchkeepers keeping the two stations operating year-round during daylight hours. In 2012 we were proud to be awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The number of shifts operated at both lookouts is very much dependent upon the number of volunteers. Our 90 Watchkeepers are spread quite thin when all that is asked of them are 2x4 hour shifts per month. Our Watchkeepers come from many different backgrounds. No prior experience is necessary as all training is provided. Most watches at Burton Bradstock are double-manned, and this is where the training is undertaken. This is supported by several classroom-based training sessions throughout the year.

At NCI Lyme Bay all our highly trained and accredited Watchkeepers are integral to the UK's coastal Search and Rescue (SAR) response capabilities as recognised by its SAR partners, HM Coastguard, UK Border Force, RNLI (Lifeboats) and the emergency services.

If you are interested in becoming a Watchkeeper and for more information, whilst our Charmouth Station is too small to accommodate visitors inside, at Burton Bradstock our Watchkeepers on duty will be pleased to meet you. Alternatively, please feel free to contact the Station Manager Judy Clarke at [judy.clarke@nci.org.uk](mailto:judy.clarke@nci.org.uk) or 07786 354403.

As a charity we receive no funding and must raise all our own funds to continue to operate. It currently costs about £8,000 per year to keep our two Lyme Bay stations open 364 days a year, 365 this year. We have no paid staff, we are all volunteers, so every penny raised goes towards operational costs. All donations ensure we keep a watch year-round during daylight hours. If you are unable to volunteer as a Watchkeeper for any reason, consider volunteering for us as a fundraiser. If you are a business looking to support this local public safety operation, we will be delighted to speak with you about ways you can get involved.



## Charminster Village Hall



**Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

**Tickets £7.50, including buffet supper.**

**Bring a bottle!**

**Book now by calling 01305 269401 or email:**

**[nigelrkay@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrkay@gmail.com)**

## VILLAGE HALL QUIZ AND BINGO EVENINGS RETURN THIS SPRING

If you think you know your onions, here's your chance to test your mettle against the rest!

Charminster Village Hall is hosting another of its popular quiz nights on Friday, March 15th, starting at 7pm. All are welcome. Tickets cost just £7.50 and include a free buffet. There's no licence so bring your own bottles.

Call Nigel Kay on 01305 269401 to reserve your tickets, or email [nigelrkay@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrkay@gmail.com)



Eyes Down! Bingo returns to the village hall on Friday, April 19th. After the success of the Christmas themed evening, we're expecting another bumper attendance. Doors open 6.30pm; eyes down at 7pm. There'll be the usual top-notch refreshments and a super raffle. All are welcome.





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## PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER



The Probus meeting in January took place as usual at the Gamekeeper in Chraminster. Our guest speaker was William Batt of Dukes Auctioneers in Dorchester. William had come along with some examples of porcelain and explained how he got into auctioneering. He studied at Hardye School in Dorchester and in the 6th form took a number of science subjects and Classical Civilisation. He was totally fascinated by Classical Civilisation and went on to study the subject at Leeds University. Having graduated William joined Dukes initially as a porter but then full time. He is now an auctioneer and valuer with them. William explained that every month Dukes have 2 to 3 specialist auctions plus a general auction. Nowadays the vast majority of the business is done "on line" with a relatively small number of people attending. The business is truly international with a lot of interest and bidding from the Far East particularly China where there is a big appetite for acquiring anything relating to their past. Recently, of course, they have needed to introduce detailed checks to ensure they do not deal with Russia. He said the watch and jewellery sales were always well supported as were sales of 20th Century art. Last year Dukes had their 200 year celebration with a sale that included and original design drawing for Max Gate by Thomas Hardy and they are keen to handle more pieces from the local area. At the end of the meeting William went through the background to the items he had circulated and explained how they varied in value. It was a fascinating talk giving us a real insight into the world of Auctioning.

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](mailto:williamlowes167@btinternet.com) or Chris Hutton-Penman at [chris@ossl.biz](mailto:chris@ossl.biz) or on 01305753611

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## BAND NIGHTS

### MARCH MUSIC

SAT 2nd 7pm - THE FEW

SUN 3rd 4pm - SHADY BEARD

SAT 9th 7pm - BILLY BOY MISKIMMIN AND  
MERCY LOUNGE

SUN 10th 4pm - ELIJAH

THURS 14th 7pm - 🎤 OPEN MIC - Si Genaro

SAT 16th 7pm - LOOK AROUND CORNERS

SUN 17th 4pm - DECATONICS

WED 20th 7pm - 🎷 JAZZ JAM

SAT 23rd 7pm - THE DIRTY PONCHOS

SUN 24th 4pm - HOWLING AT THE MOON

SAT 30th 7pm - ANTIGUA JOE

SUN 31st 4pm - MARKY DAWSON

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**Please contact:**

**Susan McCrea : [susanmccrea@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susanmccrea@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Tim Doherty email: [timothyjohndoherty@gmail.com](mailto:timothyjohndoherty@gmail.com)**

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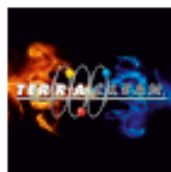
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# Church Contacts

## THE PARISHES OF CHARMINSTER AND STINSFORD

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Rector	The Reverend Leila Mather	263761
Stinsford & Chalk Stream Villages		
Hon. Associate Minister	The Reverend Dr Hugh Willis	262940
Associate Minister	The Reverend Dr Rob Van der Hart	852130

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, CHARMINSTER

Churchwarden	Andrew Morgan	259664
PCC Secretary	Jean Garrard	259083
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Jones	264316

## ST MICHAEL'S, STINSFORD

Churchwardens	Shirley Churchill	260159
	Sally Warburton	07587177735
PCC Treasurer	Michael A Clarke	267611

## FOR BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES

Contact the Administrator for the Parish of St Mary's Charminster and St Michael's Stinsford, Jean Gerrard [stmaryschurchcharminster@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryschurchcharminster@outlook.com)

# Lent and Palm Sunday at your Local Church

## **3RD MARCH - LENT 3**

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM PARISH COMMUNION - STRATTON  
11AM PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
11AM BCP COMMUNION - STINSFORD  
4PM SOUL FOOD W. HOLY COMMUNION - BRADFORD PEVERELL  
6.30PM EVENSONG - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS

## **10TH MARCH - MOTHERING SUNDAY / LAETARE SUNDAY**

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM MOTHERING SUNDAY COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM MOTHER SUNDAY SERVICE - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS  
11AM MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE - STINSFORD  
11AM MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE - BRADFORD PEVERELL  
6.30PM EVENING PRAYER - FRAMPTON



## **17TH MARCH - LENT 5**

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM PARISH COMMUNION - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS  
11AM PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
11AM PARISH COMUNION - STINSFORD  
11AM PRAISE AND WORSHIP - BRADFORD PEVERELL  
5PM EVENING PRAYER - STRATTON  
6.30PM EVENING PRAYER - BRADFORD PEVERELL



## **24TH MARCH - PALM SUNDAY**

8.00 AM HC (BCP) - CHARMINSTER (ALSO BELOW)  
(9AM FOR) 9.30 AM PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION W. DONKEYS \*\*  
9.30AM PALM SUNDAY SERVICE - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS  
11AM PRAISE AND WORSHIP - BRADFORD PEVERELL  
11AM HOLY COMMUNION (CW) - FRAMPTON  
4.00PM BCP EVENSONG -STINSFORD





# Holy Week and Easter at your Local Church



## **HOLY WEEK - 25TH-30TH MARCH**

25TH CHRISTIAN MEDITATION - BRADFORD PEVERELL 7PM

26TH TAIZE SERVICE - FRAMPTON (MUSICIANS WELCOME) 7PM

27TH NIGHT PRAYER - STRATTON 7PM

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY (28TH)**

11AM (TBC) - CHRISM EUCHARIST | SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

7.30PM MAUNDY THURSDAY EUCHARIST AND VIGIL |  
CHARMINSTER



TBC - MAUNDY THURSDAY PARISH SUPPER | SYDLING SN

## **GOOD FRIDAY (29TH)**

9AM ONWARDS WALK OF WITNESS (CHALK STREAM VILLAGES)

12NOON - STATIONS OF THE CROSS - CHARMINSTER



## **EASTER EVE - SATURDAY 30TH**

8PM EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER  
STINSFORD

## **EASTER DAY**

6AM DAWN SERVICE - TBC

9.30AM EASTER DAY COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

10AM EASTER DAY COMMUNION - STRATTON

10.30AM EASTER DAY COMMUNION - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS

11AM EASTER DAY FAMILY COMMUNION - BRADFORD PEVERELL

11AM EASTER DAY FAMILY COMMUNION - STINSFORD

11AM EASTER DAY COMMUNION - FRAMPTON





Charminster Brownies have had a great start to the new term. We have completed our First Aid badge and our Archaeology badge that we started last term. We looked at wellbeing and what makes us happy as well as future finds - what could be found from our time (the present), in the future and what treasure could be dug up or still exist a few hundred years from now. We cleaned some coins using natural products, and really loved the results we achieved.

This term we have chosen 'skills' for My Future badge which also works towards a theme award and have practised money management! Some of our Brownies have also been working on Interest badges too! Which also helps with the theme awards, puts their books to great use and brings Brownies to their home. It's been really great to see.



Charminster guides have chosen 'Take Action, Make Change' Skills Builders this term splitting into two groups. They are doing two different levels. We chatted about things we can do to make changes about a subject we are passionate about. Having looked at different things in our lives and the world around us, as well as close to home. Bullying, care in the community, environment and many more subjects we can have a hand in. We played some games using steps to get to our goal. Some girls made a zine - testing out their folding skills and learning how to get their message across using words and paper.

We also had a lot of fun learning a bit on how machines work and algorithms. In teams, as a conveyor belt we had to follow instructions to make a sandwich! Each person had a different job to do, changing the order of our instructions and seeing what happened. Then doing everything in the right order, to finish we ate the perfect sandwich. We spent out last evening before half term in the park making camp donuts over a gas stove working safely in small groups. A very tasty beginning to our term!

If anyone is interested in our units, joining, or helping please go on our website and join us. [www.Girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.Girlguiding.org.uk)

We love to hear from you.

**Alli and the Guiding team**



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**SSEN is working in and around Charminster to deliver a cable replacement scheme that will provide a modern and more resilient electricity network in the area.**

The scheme will replace 3.4km of existing fluid-filled cables between the Charminster Primary 33/11kV substation on Wanchard Lane and an existing 33kV pole to the east of Charminster; from where the circuit continues as overhead line back towards Puddletown 33/11kV substation. There will be no interruption to your electricity supply as a result of these works.

**Why are we doing this work?**

The 33kV oil-filled circuit running between Charminster and Puddletown has developed a serious leak along a railway line on Network Rail property. It is deemed unviable and unsafe to repair and reenergise this section of cable and the leaking section has already been cut, drained and capped. The replacement 4.6km of underground XLPE cable is not oil-filled, and our installation route will remove the need to access some assets on Network Rail land, where gaining access for repairs and maintenance can cause delays for safety reasons. Our project will futureproof and strengthen your area’s power supply to cope with severe weather events as we will be improving circuit operability, enabling us to switch to alternative operating assets in the event of a fault or for planned maintenance.

**Minimising traffic disruption and noise**

We understand that these works may cause some access disruption and noise however, using industry best practice, our contractors will do everything to minimise any inconvenience. Look out for our maintenance signs on the road network for further information and diversions. The nature of these works will mean that, for some phases of the project delivery, we will be closing the roads for our works to take place supported by a temporary traffic management system to be put in place. These measures will be planned by us in association with Highways England and local authorities. The key roads impacted are shown on the map below. Each coloured phase will itself be delivered in stages. This means that, while the road will be closed where we are working (except for Old Sherborne Road and North Street which will be managed under 3-way traffic light control), vehicular access to properties will be maintained as far as practicable, even if direction of access may change. Vehicular diversion signage will be in place for each phase, but it is intended that pedestrian access will be maintained at all times unless a brief temporary closure is required to keep pedestrians and the site team safe; the site team will advise you if this is the case.

Please note that the delivery programme is subject to change due to site conditions or adverse weather conditions.

**GET IN TOUCH**

We want to be a good neighbour and help answer any questions you may have.

**Have a query?**

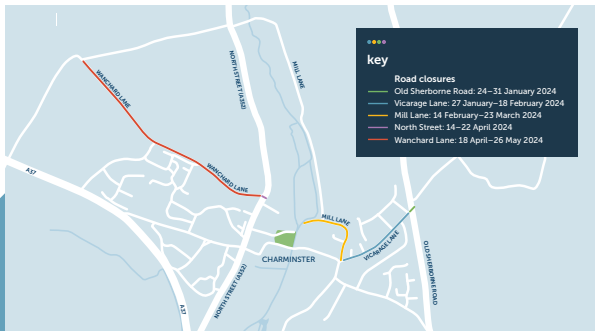
You can email us at [community@sssencharminster.co.uk](mailto:community@sssencharminster.co.uk) or call us on 0800 0129 154.

**Have a complaint?**

You can email us at [customercomplaints@sssen.co.uk](mailto:customercomplaints@sssen.co.uk) or call us on 0800 980 1395.

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## CHARMINSTER, 3 MARCH 1915

If you had been in Charminster on 3 March 1915, you would have heard the familiar sound of soldiers marching. As the men came into view, you would have had quite a surprise – the majority were Germans! The smart escort, rifles at the slope, were probably Scottish Fusiliers.

Poundbury Artillery Barracks, on the site of what is now the Grove Trading Estate, emptied at the outbreak of war. The first prisoners arrived on 14 August 1914 and in due course it became the most important Prisoner of War camp in the country with over 4,500 prisoners (Dorchester's population at the time was 9,000).

The original accommodation was soon full and rows of wooden huts, each with bunks for thirty men were built (by English workmen at the insistence of the TUC!).

Chapels, workshops, kitchens, a reading room, a hospital and even a theatre soon appeared and the London and South Western Railway built a siding to serve the camp.

Local folk rapidly became used to their new neighbours and there were few problems. The Germans were taken on 'constitutional' walks under guard in the surrounding area. With so many men away at the front, some prisoners worked on local farms, kept streets tidy and looked after the trees in The Walks. They were modestly paid for their work and the camp shop sold cigarettes, chocolate and other items.

It is a tribute to the quality of camp life and the humanity of our Dorset forebears that just forty-five prisoners died, mostly in the influenza pandemic at the end of the war. All these men had military funerals at St George's Church at Fordington whose cemetery contains a fascinating monument to them (worth a visit!).

Within a few months of peace in November 1918, all the prisoners had been repatriated and today nothing remains of this notable part of our local history.

**Peter Dangerfield.**



*A Detachment of The Dorchester German Prisoners Passing Through Charminster During A Constitutional, March 1915.*



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## HEAR FROM TWO OF OUR HOMEOWNERS.

Brian and Lynne, moved to Casterbridge Court in April 2022 and have been happy in their two-bedroom 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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## STINSFORD NEWS

### **Can you recollect being outside in the light of last year's full moon on 6th February?**

Well this year's falls on 24th. The 'Snow Moon' is a Micro Moon being a mere 252,225 miles from Earth. The opposite to micro is the term 'supermoon', which is when the moon is at its nearest to Earth, when describing a full moon within 10% of its closest distance to the Earth.

**Poet's and songwriters have written of happy times** 'we danced by the light' or spooning as in the film, 'by the light of the silvery'.

**Farmers and others have viewed it in other terms.** In March it will be known as the Worm Moon appearing to us in full on Lady Day, the 25th. Spring will have arrived.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, there are a couple of theories behind this name. One is that March being the time of year when the worms come out because of all the rain and thawing of the soil. the other is as follows: "An alternative explanation for this name comes from Captain Jonathan Carver, an 18th-century explorer, who wrote that this Moon name refers to a different sort of 'worm' — beetle larvae — which begin to emerge from the thawing bark of trees and other winter hideouts at this time." Well it seems it does depend on which part of the world you are in and what it means to you.

**The Spring Equinox will take place on 19th March 2024** when day equals night and hopefully our introduction to warmer weather and a renewed growing season.

**Here of late, following sub-zero temperatures,** we have had little frost but damp weather. At present temperatures are around 12C. Confident spring flowers and shrubs are showing, many due at the time we have always expected them, beautiful drifts of snowdrops and daffodils, hellebores and wild celandines, plus the spectacularly perfumed "winter box". Who amongst us has their

broad beans showing now for an early crop and thus missing the black fly and enjoying a rare treat as an additional vegetable when picking the tips?

**Another wonderful old tradition is to plant your new potatoes on Good Friday, this year on 29th March.** Well farming ideas are much more scientific these days and climate warming is taking place, and I know many of you will be expecting your new potatoes very early this year. It was believed by some that Good Friday was the best day to plant potatoes because the devil holds no power over them at this time and thus hailed a good crop. Would that now be considered a biodynamic method which emphasizes spiritual and mystical perspectives.

**Mothering Sunday is on the second Sunday in March namely the 10th being the fourth Sunday in Lent.** I have read it was started in America in 1908 by a sister of the Methodist Church in West Virginia as a service of worship, and began in 1914 in the UK.

**We move from GMT to BST when the clocks go forward on Sunday 31st March 2024 and thus Evensong at Saint Michael will move from Winter's 4.00 pm slot and commence at 6.00 pm on SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024**

**The question has been raised of the Granite Obelisk which was erected by Hardy's American admirers back in 1931 and situated at the bottom of the lane alongside Hardy's Cottage.** The Rangers have enquired as to whom might own and thus be responsible for its maintenance. From what I have read there were four palm crowns in bronze set upon it, but they seem to have been long gone . Please let me know should you have any information .

**Have a very Happy Easter**

**Michael Clarke**

# Pet of the Month ...

Meet Willow she is 15 weeks old German shepherd .  
She is a black bundle of fluff with lots of energy.

Willow is looking forward to lots of walks around Charminster and meeting new people and other dogs.

**Liz Fearnley**



**STRATTON POP-IN**  
1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month

£1 Tea  
Coffee

Village Hall  
10 - 12

Biscuits  
&  
Cakes

**COMING SOON**

- 1st February - Cards & Board Games
- 15th February - Come along for a chat
- 7th March - Talk on Cyber Crime  
PCSO Sarah Pilcher
- 21st March - Easter Plants & Crafts
- 4th April - Fun Quiz
- 18th April - Cards & Board Games

Stratton Pop In is a twice monthly coffee morning which takes place in the Stratton Village Hall on the first and third Thursdays of the month between 10.00 and 12.00.

We are a friendly bunch ready to welcome anyone and everyone to join us for tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits, all provided for the princely sum of £1.

Besides simply meeting up somewhere warm and cosy for a chat, forthcoming events include a cards and boardgames morning; a talk on cyber crime by PCSO Sarah Pilcher; a plant and craft sale and a fun quiz.

If you should find yourself at a loose end on any of the dates listed, please do come along and join us.

*We would love to see you.*

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## NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

BBC South’s well-known Newscaster and Reporter, Jon Cuthill, will be coming to Charminster Church on Saturday 13th April 2024 to talk about his work at the Corporation. The talk which should last about one hour will be followed by a cream tea. Please note this is an all ticket event for which tickets must be pre-booked.

**Please see the poster above  
for details of what should be  
an interesting and entertaining  
afternoon.**

# VILLAGE'S DIRECTORY

## DORSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr David Taylor 07905 352710 [cllr david.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr david.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](mailto: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

## CHARMINSTER CONTACTS

<b>Parish Council</b>	Chairman: Mark Simons Vice chair: Carol Matthews Parish Clerk: Michele Harding	260055 751535 07946 489 488
<b>Flood Warden</b>	Tim Yarker	265942
<b>St Mary's School</b>	Headteacher: Mick Homer Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	263880 266598
<b>Pre-School</b>	Vanessa Thomas	251512
<b>Village Hall</b>	Bookings: Julie Seeney <a href="mailto:enquiries@charminstervillagehall.co.uk">enquiries@charminstervillagehall.co.uk</a>	07918 595456
<b>WI</b>	Judy Thompson	263783
<b>Bell Ringers</b>	Captain: Chris White	07783 555 199
<b>Girl Guides</b>	Alison Barlow	07483 429 596
<b>Brownies</b>	Alison Barlow	07483 429 596
<b>Scouts, Cubs, Beavers</b>	Ruth Young	268208
<b>Scottish Country Dancing</b>	Val Scriven	265177
<b>Charminsters Stores &amp; Post Office</b>	Louise Christopher	264312
<b>Art Group</b>	Dudley Kemp	757151
<b>Community Hall</b>	<a href="mailto:communityhall@charminster.info">communityhall@charminster.info</a>	07947 622 326

## CHARLTON DOWN CONTACTS

<b>Village Hall</b>	<a href="mailto:bookings@charltondownvillagehall.info">bookings@charltondownvillagehall.info</a>	
<b>Jellytots</b>	Emma	07791 204323
<b>Flood Warden</b>	Carol Matthews	751535
<b>Charlton Down Cricket</b>	Peter (Tommy) Tucker youth/senior James Pretty: booking / hire	07810 275 847 07810 275 847

## STINSFORD CONTACTS

<b>Stinsford Parish Council</b>	Parish Clerk: Kirsty Rigler <a href="mailto:stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com">stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com</a>	268818
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## THE PILOT CONTACTS

**Editors** - [editor@charpilot.com](mailto:editor@charpilot.com)    **Advertising** - [advertising@charpilot.com](mailto:advertising@charpilot.com)

## CHARMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The February meeting is always a busy one as traditionally there is no meeting in January. There was a good attendance and members of the public spoke on various topics including planning, flood issues, allotments and tree works.

The Transport Strategy project is progressing. Our consultants are engaged with Dorset Highways and the ward Councillor and there are many ideas for improving safety and reducing traffic speeds through the village.

Rowan Walk in Charlton Down is to have the decaying chestnut trees removed to be replaced by – rowan trees! Apple and pear trees are to be planted where trees have failed in Charlton Down Community Orchard and two round picnic benches will be purchased and installed.

Princes Plot is a valuable community open space. Works in 2023 have much improved it and a programme for 2024 was approved aimed particularly at clearing invasive scrub in order to produce a better and more diverse habitat.

Part of the boundary hedge in North Street Play area consisting mainly blackthorn and brambles is to be cut back.

It was agreed to make a charitable donation to cover the Community Hall hire to the TASM and 4UP group who support our young children with a Tuesday session of food, clothing, help and advice whilst they transition from primary to middle schools.

The Parish Council is investing in a new website which will include an online Community Hall booking facility. Meanwhile for Community Hall booking enquiries please contact the Assistant Clerk by email: [communityhall@charminster.info](mailto:communityhall@charminster.info) or call 07947 622326.

Two planning proposals at the heart of the village were discussed and commented upon. Comments are relayed to Dorset Council Planning for consideration.

Members were updated on the recent flooding down Mill Lane. We now await heavy rain to see if the work is effective!

Nomination forms for the election on 2 May are now available and applications are encouraged to be submitted from 12 March until 4 April. Please contact the Clerk for more information [clerk@charminster.info](mailto:clerk@charminster.info) or call 07946 489488.

More Parish Council information is available at: [www.charminster.info](http://www.charminster.info)

### SouthWard (Charminster Village)

Keith Beeson	264032
Peter Dangerfield	260543
Richard East	264724
Alan Rolls	267863
Mark Simons (Chair)	260055
Tim Yarker	265942
Louisa Swabey-Payne	TBC

### 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,  
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Please see our website or contact the clerk  
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Charminster Parish Council