

The Pilot

October 2023



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

DEAR COMMUNITY,

Firstly, we would like to say a huge **thank you** to all those kind people who have taken the time to tell us how much they like the 'new look' magazine. We really appreciate it.

This months edition is full to the brim, with lots going on in our wonderful parishes.

Look out for the opening of Selwood House Care Home and a Fashion Show in aid of Charity Angels UK.

There is also a piece from our Police Support Officer, Sarah Pilcher, with information about how to contact the police, which is well worth a read.

There is no 'Pet of the Month' as we had none sent to us, so please, if you would like us to feature your pet then please send in some pictures and information. We absolutely love seeing your wonderful pets!

Best wishes,
Mel and Claire

Date for submissions – 6th October Editor@charpilot.com



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The Gamekeeper will continue to host their very scrumptious Saturday Men's Breakfast on the following dates:

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16 SEPTEMBER

14 OCTOBER

18 NOVEMBER

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LADIES

We know that by providing the men with breakfast the ladies are able to have some time to themselves but the Gamekeeper would like to hear from the ladies and offer them either a breakfast or an afternoon brunch.

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QUIZ

OCTOBER 2023

It's quiz time again. This month's questions are loosely linked to the month of October.

1. Which German city is the traditional home of Oktoberfest?
2. *Drink Up Thy Zyder* was a big hit for which West Country band?
3. Who played James Bond in the 1983 film *Octopussy*?
4. Who wrote the poem *Last Week in October*?
5. Admiral Nelson died at the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805. Which senior officer was at his side as he lay dying?
6. Oca is the Italian word for goose. What is an ocarina?
7. Who wrote the novel *The Hunt for Red October*?
8. Which world championships are held on the second Sunday of October in the Northamptonshire village of Ashton?
9. Who was the leader of the Bolshevik Party that led the October Revolution?
10. What is the most common name given to the October crisis of 1962?

Answers on page 28

THE THREE COMPASSES

BAND NIGHTS

SUN 1st 4pm - MARKY DAWSON
SAT 7th All Day - BILLY & THE 3C'S
SUN 8th 4pm - KIPPER
THURS 12th 7pm 🎵 OPEN MIC SI GENARO
SAT 14th 7pm - JASON & ALCO-NAUGHTS
SUN 15th 4pm - SOULHOLE

WED 18th 8pm 🍷 JAZZ JAM 🍷
SAT 21st 6pm - MAMA FEELGOOD
SUN 22nd 4pm - K'FUFFLE
THURS 26th 7pm - WILLOW HILL
SAT 28th 5.30pm - SUGAR RUSH
SUN 29th 5pm - GLASS SPIDERS



Media release: For immediate publication

Charity Angels UK Dorchester Fashion Show Tickets now on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the Charity Angels UK Dorchester Fashion Show on Thursday 12 October in Dorset Museum. All the women modelling in The Show have personal experience of breast cancer and all proceeds from ticket sales will go to *Against Breast Cancer* which supports research into secondary breast cancer.

Tickets cost £25 and include a sparkling wine and canape reception, entertainment, a commemorative programme and a display of wonderful outfits from local retailers.

Tickets can be purchased through Just Giving <https://tinyurl.com/Charity-Angels-UK-Dorchester> Or go to the Facebook page, Charity Angels UK Dorchester Fashion Show, to link to the Just Giving site.

Every year over 55,000 women and approx. 400 men are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK. Survival rates have improved hugely in the last 30 years; however, around 8,000 women will lose their lives to what is still a scary and cruel disease.

Few, if any of us do not know someone who has been touched by breast cancer. Women and families talk of their shock, the devastating side effects that can occur – hair loss, weight gain, low level infections. Part of their recovery is rediscovering themselves and learning to live with this new 'normal'. The *Charity Angels UK Dorchester Fashion Show* aims to help with this important rediscovery.

We are delighted that RiskSTOP Group Ltd and CG Fry & Son Builders have joined us as key sponsors.

For more information contact us via our Facebook page [Charity Angels UK Dorchester Fashion Show](#) or email: jane@charityangels.co.uk

Notes for Editor

Jane Hinrichs - Lead organiser for Charity Angels UK, Dorchester Fashion Show is available for interview as are participating models.

Contact – 07910 720931 or jane@charityangels.co.uk

Background - Charity Angels

A group of women came together over 25 years ago as the fundraising committee for Breast Cancer Care's flagship fundraiser – The Show. Held annually at a prestigious London hotel, with entertainment, celebrity guests and an auction, the committee helped raise in excess of £5m for the charity. Breast Cancer Care merged with Breast Cancer Now in 2019 and the committee was no longer required. In response, Charity Angels UK was born. Since its inception, Charity Angels UK has raised over £70,000 for *Against Breast Cancer*, its chosen charity. Charity Angels UK fundraisers are from all parts of England and each one looks at fundraising possibilities in their area. Dorchester has been chosen as an ideal location for *The Show* in 2023.

2 September 2023



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WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

STINSFORD NEWS

As I write we have just passed the 1st of September which is considered the first day of Autumn by the meteorological profession.

On 30th August a magnificent Blue Super Moon preceded, the Autumn Equinox on 23rd. September will follow so Harvest Festival will be this weekend when the church will be decorated and our Sunday service held on the 24th at 11.00am.

The Dorset County Show was a great success this year with two of the best consecutive days weatherwise for quite some time. As can be seen by the attached photograph Michael Legg was amongst the "first prize" winners. The photo shows two ewe lambs, home grown and born this year in March. They were shown by George and Phoebe, Mick's twin grandchildren. Picking a pair from a limited number does not come easy but as they say, "Old skill's never fail" and Mick has been raising and showing sheep for some decades.

In the Dorchester & Weymouth Beekeepers new apiary in the Hanbury extension, under the supervision of their experienced members including Richard Norman and Sally Leslie, work has seen the results of those participating in this year's beginners course. The team has been regularly visiting the site on Saturdays, to set up the hives, introduce the colonies, check for good health and that they are queen right i.e. she is present and laying, through to taking off this year's honey crop. The seasonal Bee Inspector, Kevin Pope, visited to ensure they were aware of what good health looked like and a tick in the box was attained for their efforts. Three labelled jars of honey were entered in the Dorset Show, under the novice class named 'Mellstock Church Honey', plus an observation hive. The latter allows the general public to safely see, without the necessity for protective clothing, the Queen, Drones and Workers go about their daily routines. With some 40 classes and 30 plus members entering both the open and closed classes as well as the novices, it all made for a good display in the marquee. Should any person be thinking of taking up the hobby do not hesitate to contact me and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person. The course allows practical management of bees plus some tutorial so that there is an understanding of the life cycle of all three categories of bee plus insights into disease that can affect your bees as well as the many other pollinators.

Another skill which we have along Church Lane, and noticeably present at the Show is that of the Blacksmith.

Simon Grant-Jones, besides now being a member of the illustrious Company of Blacksmiths as well as a past Chair of the Guild of Blacksmiths, has now passed the baton to Kevin (Fabrication) and Robert (Blacksmithing) and they continue to bring forward young skilled people both men and women at the Blacksmith and Welding Department of Kingston Maurward College. These were the group who helped us to replace the Bockhampton Cross. In addition the Guild has regular weekend meetings either at KMC or Lineham for beginners, up to the very experienced wanting to extend their expertise. The Blacksmith Guild is to work more closely with the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association who have a permanent office at Stoneleigh Park.

30th September will see the Parish Michaelmas Fayre from 11am:

There will be refreshments served from the courtyard of the old Rectory and stalls of varying kinds in and around the church. Please come along and enjoy, and take the chance to catch up with all the developments and activities of the year, we would love to see you and there and there will be a little Mellstock Church honey for sale. **The Purbeck Choir will be appearing** as part of a round robin tour they are making. I must admit I look forward to their musical compositions.

October 30th at 2.00 a.m. brings the annual seasonal change in the time with one hour taken away and a return to Greenwich Mean Time thus we revisit the time change of our Evensongs for the Winter, moving earlier to 4.00 pm. in the afternoon.

Michael Clarke



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW ELISABETH FRINK EXHIBITION

Dorset Museum is currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to support the stewarding of a major new exhibition opening on 2 December 2023.

Elisabeth Frink: A View from Within will run until 21 April 2024 in the Museum's Special Exhibition Gallery. It will explore Frink's artistic process, personal life, and the influences that shaped her work.

The exhibition highlights artworks created at her Woolland studio including sculptures, prints, drawings, and personal possessions from the Elisabeth Frink Estate's collection, acquired by Dorset Museum in 2020. Some of these objects have never been on public display, such as working plasters that provided the basis for Frink's bronze sculptures, and tools used in the Woolland studio.

The exhibition is arranged through eight themed sections, where visitors will be able to gain unique perspectives on Frink's life and art. From her family and social life in Woolland to her studio and work processes, each section offers captivating insights into this fascinating artist. Visitors will be able to discover Frink's work processes, experimentation with techniques, her interest in the relationship between humans and animals as well as her spiritual beliefs.

To ensure visitors enjoy an exceptional experience, the Museum is actively seeking volunteers to serve as Gallery stewards. These volunteers will play a pivotal role in engaging with visitors, offering information about the exhibition, and performing a key role in ensuring that objects on display are supervised at all times.

No prior background in art or knowledge about Elisabeth Frink's work is necessary for potential volunteers, as we encourage everyone to explore and learn about the artist and her connection to Dorset during the exhibition.

If you are interested in volunteering visit our website or www.dorsetmuseum.org/volunteering or please contact volunteering@dorsetmuseum.org for more details.



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Selwood House Care Home is declared open by Deputy Mayor Janet Hewitt

7th September 2023; On Friday, 1st September, Selwood House Care Home, in Charlton Down near Dorchester, was officially opened by Deputy Mayor Janet Hewitt alongside local fundraiser Helen Freeman and Alykhan Kachra, Co-CEO of Country Court, the parent company of Selwood House. The home was declared open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by the local community.

Over the weekend, the luxury care home welcomed over 100 visitors to celebrate the Grand Opening. On the day, staff were delighted to offer tours, food and live music to visitors from the local community. One visitor commented "It's a stunning home and I wish you all the best for it, it will be a great asset to our community here in Charlton Down. I loved the bathroom with the spa bath, I can see myself moving in!"

Helen Freeman said "We were delighted when Country Court offered to make the final donation to complete our fund raising for an additional defibrillator for Charminster. I'm sure there will be lots of opportunities for us to work together in the future".

The care home will provide both long-term residential and dementia care and short-term respite care in a luxury setting. The eighty-four-bed care home has

undergone a full refurbishment and extension by the new operator Country Court.

The award-winning operator Country Court has thirty-seven care and nursing homes across the UK with a forty-year track record of providing luxury person-centred residential and specialist dementia care. Selwood House will promote a lifestyle for residents that will offer a luxurious environment with exceptional personalised care. Residents can enjoy catching up with friends in the in-house pub, enjoy a cup of coffee at the Café, watch films in the cinema, indulge in pampering sessions at the hair salon and enjoy socialising in the cosy lounge and dining areas.

Rosie Hanmer, Home Manager at Selwood House, commented.

"The warm response from our local community was wonderful this weekend. We were delighted so many people came along to support us and thank everyone for their kind words about our home. We look forward to working closely with all of our new connections to enrich the lives of our residents."

If you would like to take a tour of Selwood House, please get in touch with Ben Marsden, our Customer Relations Manager on 07399 062 712 or email ben.marsden@countrycourtcare.com



CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2023

The Benefice of Charminster, Stinsford & The Chalk Stream Churches

1st October 2023 – 17th after Trinity

Bradford Peverell	4.00 pm	Soul Food
Charminster	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Frampton	NO SERVICE	
Stinsford	11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Stratton	9.30 am	Harvest Holy Communion (CW)
Sydling St Nicholas	6.30 pm	Evensong

8th October 2023 – 18th after Trinity

Bradford Peverell	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Charminster	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.00 am	Baptism Celebration
	6.00 pm	Evensong
Frampton	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Stinsford	11.00 am	BCP Matins
Stratton	NO SERVICE	
Sydling St Nicholas	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (CW)

15th October 2023 – 19th after Trinity

Bradford Peverell	11.00 am	HARVEST P & W! with Baptisms
Charminster	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Frampton	NO SERVICE	
Stinsford	11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Stratton	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sydling St Nicholas	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW)

22nd October 2023 – 20th after Trinity

Bradford Peverell	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Charminster	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Frampton	9.30 am	Holy Communion (CW) Harvest Thanksgiving
Stinsford	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)
Stratton	NO SERVICE	
Sydling St Nicholas	NO SERVICE	

29th October 2023 – Last After Trinity (Bible Sunday)

Bradford Peverell	10.30 am - COMBINED BENEFICE COMMUNION SERVICE
Stinsford	6.00 pm United Benefice Evensong (BCP)



CHARMINSTER WI REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023

We were pleased to welcome local historian and author, Brian Bates, as our speaker for September. He gave a very interesting talk on Annie Keats, a local girl, who was a nurse in Dorchester during WW1. There were several Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) hospitals in Dorchester, one of which was Colliton House, and this is where Annie worked during the whole of WW1. The hospital building, and additional marquees in the grounds, was able to house 100 patients at any one time. Annie was paid an annual salary of £18 per year when she first started, but this had risen to £22 by the time war was over. Brian showed us slides of old photos of the hospital, its staff and patients, and also excerpts of Annie's autograph book which included poems, cartoons and little paintings.

We now look forward to our next meeting in October which will be our Harvest Supper. Hopefully everyone will bring a plate of food to share, and any excess produce from the garden, jams/chutneys, etc, to sell. We will have an Autumn display with members bringing along anything related to the season.

At the end of the meeting we said goodbye to Jo Humphreys, who is moving out of the area. She has been a member of Charminster WI for 22 years and has been an active member of our Committee. Wishing her well for the future, she was presented with a gift as a thank you from us all.

Judy Bird



POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

Dear Readers

As your local PCSO I am still patrolling although you may not of seen me as regularly as you would like.

This is due to a number of factors but I am always contactable as are other members of the Neighbourhood policing team via - DORCHESTER NPT LINK: Dorchester | Your area | Dorset Police | Dorset Police or via CONTACT US LINK: Contact us | Dorset Police

- PLEASE NOTE - Silent 999 calls have increased and the large majority of these are "pocket dials". If taking your phone out with you, please ensure that the screen/keypad is locked, to avoid any unnecessary calls. If you accidentally dial 999, please do not hang up. If possible, please stay on the line and let the operator know it was an accident and that you do not need any assistance. Silent calls to 999 are never just ignored. Nationally, all emergency services are experiencing record high 999 call volumes, which is believed has been impacted because of an update to Android smartphones. The update, issued between October 2022 and February 2023, added a new SOS



emergency function for devices to call 999 through the power button being pressed five times or more on devices.

If you have an Android phone, you can check your emergency settings to turn off the functionality added in the latest update, if you wish to.

Go to 'settings' then 'safety and emergency' and slide the button which says 'emergency SOS' to switch the functionality off.

- Withdrawal of 101 email address:

Improving the way, you contact us

We receive thousands of digital contacts from residents and visitors every month and contact overall to Dorset Police has recently been reaching record levels. It is important for us to use the best systems

and processes to ensure emergency lines are kept open and non-emergency calls can be answered from those who are unable to contact us online. We have been looking at ways to ensure we can meet the needs of our communities as quickly as possible as well as ensuring that members of the public are directed to the correct agency, such as the local authority, who may be best placed to deal with their request for service. Following the launch of our new website in March, we have seen a huge increase in the quality of information captured on digital reports completed via our website, ensuring we are able to record crimes effectively and task officers and staff appropriately

- Why are we making these changes?

We are asking members of the public to use these web forms when contacting us digitally instead of sending an email to ensure we have all the relevant information we need and can respond as efficiently as possible – meaning we get you the advice, information and help you need as soon as possible.

Our non-emergency email was withdrawn from 5 June 2023 and digital contact should be made via our website - CONTACT US LINK: Contact us | Dorset Police. Alternatively, you can still contact us for non-emergency enquiries by calling 101.

Cheers Sarah
Sarah Pilcher 5410
Police Community Support Officer

CHARLTON DOWN CRICKET CLUB

Charlton Down Cricket Club finished their season in glorious September sunshine with some friendly games against touring teams from Whiteparish (Wilts), Coombe Down (Somerset) and the Luddites (from all over the place). It's always nice to finish things off with some relaxed games, often against old friends, and give our players a last chance to cap their year with a memorable performance.

The end of the season is also a time to look back and give thanks to all those who have given up their time to organise, help out and support the club. There are too many people to thank everyone by name, but special thanks go to our sponsors Dorset Cherry Picker Services, Port Décor, Balti Express and David Morrison for the youth cricket balls. Big thanks also to Chairman Ian Jones, who does a lot more than most people realise behind the scenes and Yvette Roles who has multiple roles at the club and seems to be able to do them all at the same time (often while still doing the scorebook and relaying the football scores to anyone in ear shot)!

As always, Tommy Tucker has been irreplaceable

as Youth Co-ordinator and head coach. As well as overseeing the Under 11 and Under 15 teams, he has played a major part alongside Si Dunford in the All Stars and Dynamos Cricket. This year, it has been so successful that we continued with training sessions and matches for the 7-11 year-olds until early September, when their season usually finishes in mid-July. It takes a lot of volunteers (and energy) to make this work effectively, so thanks to everyone who has helped make this element of the club such good fun. Next year we hope to have training and games available for children from ages 7 all the way up to 15. Winter training will start indoors in the New Year for all youth squads. If you want to know more, follow the Club and Village Facebook pages, keep reading the Pilot, or ask Tommy for more info (07810 275847).

In other good news, Oktoberfest will be returning to the cricket club on Friday 20th October (and probably the Saturday night too). It was great fun last year and this time we'll be looking to expand our offering of local cask conditioned ales and quality German beer and sausages.



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DATE: 25 August 2023 News from Central Dorset Citizens Advice

After a somewhat mixed 'summer' we are now heading towards winter and this means higher heating costs. There will be an announcement about the Energy Cap at some point, but heating costs will still put a strain on many people's budgets. So to help you out, here are a few things to check:

- Are you getting all the welfare benefits you are entitled to? There's a good overview, and links to 'benefit calculators', on Citizens Advice:
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/benefits-introduction/what-benefits-can-i-get/>
- Are you due any of the Government's Cost of Living payments? For example, if you are on certain means-tested benefits you will get £300 in the Autumn, and for pensioners, if you're entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2023 to 2024, you will get an extra £150 or £300 paid with your normal payment from November 2023.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#low-income-benefits-and-tax-credits-cost-of-living-payment>
- Have you got additional costs now the new school year has started? Help is available, for example, children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 automatically get free school meals. You can apply for free school meals for older children if you claim certain types of benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support. Also, if you're on a low income, your Local Education Authority may also be able to help you with activity and school uniform costs.
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/help-with-school-costs/>
- Can you save money on other bills? There are some 'social tariffs' for people on low incomes, for example broadband and phone packages. More information on Ofcom:
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>
- And finally, be aware that Dorset is now on the list for 'managed migration', which means some people on the older benefit systems, like tax credits, will be getting a letter saying they need to submit a new claim for Universal Credit. Read more here:
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/before-you-apply/moving-to-universal-credit-from-other-benefits/>

If you want to talk to a local Citizens Advice office call **0800 144 8848**, or visit our website at www.centraldorsetca.org.uk to see our office opening times.

Church Contacts

THE PARISHES OF CHARMINSTER AND STINSFORD

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Rector	Vacant	
Curate, Charminster, Stinsford & Chalk Stream Villages	The Reverend Leila Mather	263761
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 Garrard stmaryschurchcharminster@outlook.com

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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

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QUIZ

ANSWERS

1. Munich
2. Adge Cutler and the Wurzels
3. Roger Moore
4. Thomas Hardy
5. Thomas Hardy
6. A simple wind instrument often made of clay and resembling a goose's head
7. Tom Clancy
8. World Conker Championships
9. Vladimir Lenin
10. The Cuban Missile Crisis

PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER



For our August meeting we held our annual cream tea for members, their wives or partners and previous member's widows. The tea was held at the Gamekeeper in Charminster who put on a wonderful spread for us. The weather was kind and much time was spent in the out in the gardens in the sunshine. The meeting was very well attended and apart from a formal



welcome from the President was deliberately informal. I am pleased to say that we managed to do justice to the excellent catering that the Pub had provided

The next meeting in September will revert to the normal format.

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



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CHARMINSTER CONTACTS

Parish Council	Chairman: Mark Simons Vice chair: Carol Matthews Parish Clerk: Sarah Davies	260055 751535 819429
Flood Warden	Tim Yarker	265942
St Mary's School	Headteacher: Mick Homer Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	263880 266598
Pre-School	Vanessa Thomas	251512
Village Hall	Bookings: Sarah Bird sarah345bird@aol.com	266478
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STINSFORD CONTACTS

Stinsford Parish Council	Parish Clerk: Kirsty Rigler stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com	268818
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THE PILOT CONTACTS

Editors - editor@charpilot.com **Advertising** - timyarker@btinternet.com

PRINCES PLOT NATURE RESERVE

This parish-owned nature reserve is open to everyone. It lies to the east of Mill Lane by the sluice and was given to the parish many years ago. It is named after the horse that grazed there! The field is part of the ancient field system of the parish. No good as arable land, it had been used for grazing and as a coppice. It must at one time been full of plants and insects typical of Dorset's steep chalk downs but today is virtually a desert as far as biodiversity is concerned. The parish council is determined to improve that.

Left to its own without horses or sheep to graze, it has been reverting to scrub and dense woodland. A contractor has been engaged to create a number of different habitats and control the blackthorn through the use of different mowing regimes, and to regenerate the coppicing. We want to re-create the conditions where native chalkland plants, insects, birds and small mammals can thrive. Maybe, one day, even orchids will appear.

All the grass areas will be cut very short every winter to reduce the vigour of scrubby plants like blackthorn. We will also spread the seed of yellow rattle, an annual plant that reduces the vigour of grasses and has been used successfully in the Churchyard, , leaving space for wild flowers.

There will be different mowing frequencies in different areas. Some will be kept fairly short in summer so plants that like short grass can thrive: clovers, daisies, buttercups and plantains. Other areas will be cut less frequently to encourage plants that flower in early summer (like pasque flower, horseshoe vetch, sainfoin, round-headed rampion, vipers bugloss, gromwell, wild candytuft, chalk milkwort, field mouse ear, kidney vetch, hounds

tongue, cutleaved selfheal, hoary plantain, salad burnet, common rockrose and large wild thyme). Cutting in May and then in autumn will encourage late flowering plants (like birdsfoot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, field scabious, harebell, small scabious, wild mignonette, marjoram, rest harrow, long-stalked cranesbill and vervain).

When you see someone mowing during the spring and summer, remember that we are not killing wild flowers but encouraging different wild flowers, and the creatures that depend on them.

What you will particularly notice is the coppicing: it will look alarming, but it is a good cause. It will be spread out over several years so the plants will be at different stages. Coppicing, mostly of hazels, has been traditional in Charminster for centuries. It involves cutting everything off at ground level so the plant can regenerate. The wood would have been used for fuel, furniture or hurdles. The ground will be opened to the light so that plants that like dappled shade will do well, unlike in the almost plant-free dark shade that exists today.

The cut grass, after drying to allow seeds to fall to the ground is to be raked to the bottom of the site. This reduces the nutrient level of the meadows as this encourages diversity. The heaps of dry grass will join the cut timber to provide an ideal place for lots of creepy-crawlies and the things that eat them, as well as safe nesting sites.

A botanical survey carried out last year was very disappointing. Another study in 5 years' time will tell us if we have been successful.

We hope you will enjoy watching the positive changes to this valuable community asset.



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)
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www.charminster.info

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