

# The Pilot

April 2024



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

# DEAR COMMUNITY,

Still looking forward to a sunnier Spring here at The Pilot HQ!!!

Our wonderful cover photos are usually sent in by Mark Simons and we think they are very special. One lovely village resident told us that her little boy loved the picture on the March Pilot so much - the cute chick - that he wanted his Mummy to read it to him as his bedtime story. How lovely is that? He probably slept very well that night ...

We are very happy to receive your photos too!

We have a new contributor this month for you to look out for. It is Ollie Morency and his Fitness blog. It's a really interesting read with lots of good advice and achievable exercises. Do let us know what you think!

## **Mel and Claire**

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



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# Coffee notes™

{re}writing our planet's future

## STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At a special meeting of Stinsford Parish Council, called to understand the impact of the North of Dorchester development on downstream water supply, Hydrogeologist Paul Stanfield from Wessex Water gave a presentation on the potential implications of the possible building of up to 4,000 houses plus industrial sites.

While he said he was confident that there would be an adequate supply of water to meet demand, the company was less reassuring about the implications of any development on water quality.

Most of you will know that we rely on groundwater for all our water in this area and the development would turn the catchment from rural to urban, with multiple associated pollution risks. Paul was particularly concerned about the unknowns – e.g. the nature of the proposed business units.

The development would actually sit in the inner source protection zone where there is the greatest threat to drinking water.

Paul said that while the risks could be managed with proper planning, he admitted that serious contamination of the groundwater in that area could be 'disastrous.'

He explained that the company's biggest concern was the long-term cumulative impacts

of contamination on the groundwater and that, in time, this could result in serious deterioration such that Wessex Water may have to install a water treatment works – at present the quality of our water is so good that this isn't required. He was not able to give an answer to the question about what it would mean for the many private water supplies in the parish.

While Wessex Water are legally obliged to support any development, Paul said that they can raise concerns with the developer and councils. They are monitoring the situation closely.

Stinsford Parish Council will be holding another public meeting on this topic with a speaker from the Environment Agency. Watch this space for details when confirmed

Or join the new **"Stinsford Parish and Community"** Facebook site (case sensitive). This is a group open to all who live and work in the Parish of Stinsford. We have made it a 'private group' to try to reduce misuse by trolls and commercial enterprises. When you visit the site, you will need to apply to join: we will try to turn round your membership as quickly as possible. The more people join the group, the more it will reflect the nature of Stinsford and the better it will be for communicating all Stinsford events.

### A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

The Bridleway between Lower Bockhampton and Stinsford should be a gem in the literary and landscape heritage of Dorset. It is Hardy's 'embowered path'. It is also the main walking, cycling and horse-riding route for local residents to Dorchester and Stinsford Church. It is a delightful route...or should be!

The path is falling into a state of disrepair: the riverbank is repeatedly eroded, the path surface has been repeatedly washed away in numerous winter floods, the bridge at Stinsford now has its approach completely eroded and dumped into the river, further distorting the complex drainage in the area. Only attempt this walk with high wellies, waders, and a degree of personal agility.

Stinsford Parish Council has repeatedly demanded that this lovely part of Dorset, central to the Hardy Heritage, be urgently restored to its former state. Dorset Council has postponed vital works for a number of years. Each year that passes means greater erosion and damage and thus greater repair costs.

Join with us in demanding that Dorset Council acts to preserve this vital part of Dorset's past and present (SPC would like to acknowledge the help given by Cllr David Taylor on this issue)



## CHARMINSTER WI FEBRUARY REPORT

At our February meeting we were pleased to have Nigel Kay again as our speaker. The title of his talk this time was 'Let Sleeping Snakes Lie', about his experiences since leaving the BBC eighteen years ago and setting up his own business. He travels the world training governments, broadcasters and journalists on 'crisis communication' and what the public need to know in an emergency. Nigel kept us well entertained with tales of his experiences, as well as injecting some humour along the way! He is an excellent speaker, and I will be recommending him to other WI's in the area.

We were also pleased to welcome twelve visitors to the meeting and hope that some may be joining us as members.

Our competition was 'A Herald of Spring' and the winner was a Springtime patchwork wall-hanging by Judy Bird (judged by Nigel Kay).

Next month (March) will be our birthday party and we will be celebrating with an Italian theme – food, drink, table decorations, table quiz and competition. Members have been asked to dress in red, white or green, or a combination of all three!

### Judy Bird



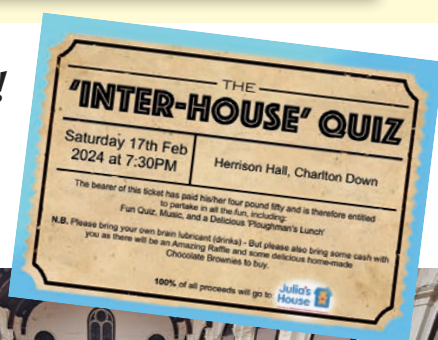
## Most Successful Charity Quiz yet!

*Organiser & Quizmaster – Richard Wareham is delighted to report record-breaking result*

The 3rd annual 'Inter-House' Quiz between Greenwood House, Herrison House and Redwood House, took place on Sat. 17th Feb. at Herrison Hall, Charlton Down.

The inaugural event in 2022 saw £355.55 raised for **Alzheimer's Society**, last year's event raised £363.50 for **Dorchester Poverty Action** and this year, an amazing £441.00 for **Julia's House!** A massive Thank you to all who attended, and all donations received.

The Winning Team were 'Herri-Sons & Daughters' (of Herrison House) with 59.5 Points Second 'Redwoodentops' (previous 2 years winners) (of Redwood House) with 58 Points and Third: 'The Naughty Corner' (of Greenwood House) with 53 Points. The Winning 'House' was Greenwood House. Congratulations to all and thank you again!





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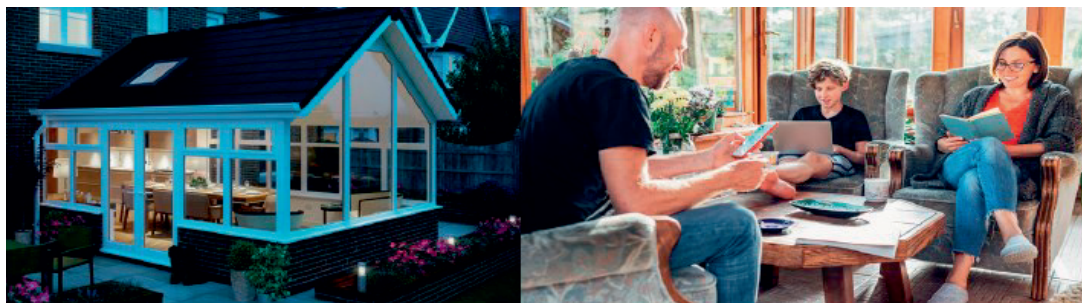


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## PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER



The Probus meeting in February was the Annual Presidents Lunch and open to members, past member widows and associate members. This year the Lunch was hosted by Robert Potter the current President until the AGM in March. For the lunch Robert had chosen the Dorset Golf and Country Club and Resort which is situated in the open countryside just outside Bere Regis. It was, unfortunately, a very wet day so we could not really get the benefit of the location and there were, unsurprisingly, few people playing golf. However the lunch was well attended with 30 people sitting down for a really excellent meal and we were well looked after by the staff.

The President in his speech following the lunch gave his thanks to the committee and all members who had contributed to the club over the past year. He also wished the incoming President all the best for the 24/25 Club year. It was a most enjoyable lunch and an opportunity to catch up with past members widows and associates.

The next meeting in March is the AGM and will be held at the Gamekeeper as usual.

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 meetings 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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SUN 14th 4pm - COBALT BLUE

WED 17th 8pm - 🎷 JAZZ JAM  
SAT 20th 7pm - THE HAZE  
SUN 21st 4pm - JINDER

SAT 27th 7pm - K'FUFFLE  
SUN 28th 4pm - IDENTIKIT



## DORCHESTER TREFOIL

February – March was a busy time for Trefoil with many activities connected with Thinking Day (22nd February) when we celebrate Girlguiding across the world. The photograph shows members from across the county, including some from Dorchester, by Baden-Powell's statue on Poole Harbour – yes – in the rain. We then left for the United Church hall where, after a welcome hot drink, we held a short service and celebration with those who hadn't braved the rain.

Our latest collection of Blankets, shawls, twiddlemuff and knitted animals has been delivered to Dorchester County Hospital and, thanks to three generous wool donations we have been able to produce over 30 blankets, 28 shawls and several muffs and woollen animals. Not all knitters are members of Trefoil but all of us like to support the community.

The Evening section of Dorchester Trefoil has been orienteering in Thorncombe woods – on a Saturday afternoon so we could have a cup of tea afterwards in the Visitor Centre. The courses there are fairly short and the orienteering markers easy to spot so are suitable for most people. Of course, you can spot the wrong marker and make a mistake, but we were aware of this and read our maps carefully so didn't go wrong. We didn't want to be late back for the café closing at 3pm. It was a lovely day!



A quiz including a ploughman's supper and dessert, is being held by Dorchester Evening Trefoil on 21st May in Charminster Community Hall (6.50pm for a 7pm start) to raise money for Foxies' Future, a charitable organisation set up to buy the New Forest Guiding activity centre, Foxlease, so it can continue to be run for the benefit of young people.



Tickets £7.50 per person, teams of up to 6 people. The quiz will include 10 questions related to Guiding as well as many more.

For more information about the afternoon or evening groups, or the quiz, just e-mail me – Judy Thompson: e-mail – [jct19336@gmail.com](mailto:jct19336@gmail.com) or telephone 01305 263783.



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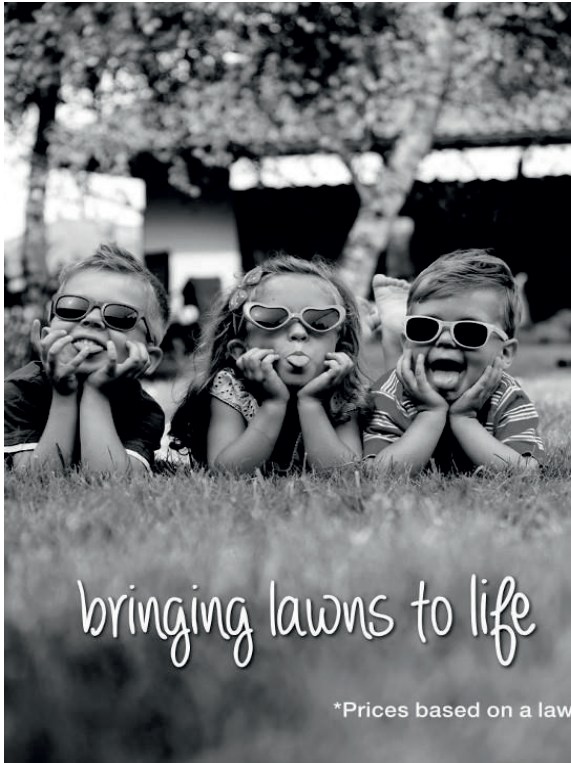
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## THE PARISHES OF CHARMINSTER AND STINSFORD

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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)



# Eastertide

## April at your Local Church

### **7TH APRIL - EASTER 2**

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



### **14TH APRIL - EASTER 3**

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM CAFE CHURCH - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM MORNING PRAYER - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS  
11AM MATINS - STINSFORD  
11AM HOLY COMMUNION - BRADFORD PEVERELL  
6PM BCP EVENSONG - CHARMINSTER  
6.30PM EVENING PRAYER - FRAMPTON



### **21ST APRIL - EASTER 4**

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



### **28TH APRIL - EASTER 5**

8.00 AM HC (BCP) - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER  
9.30AM MORNING PRAYER - SYDLING ST NICHOLAS  
11AM HOLY COMMUNION (CW) - FRAMPTON  
4.00PM MESSY CHURCH - ASCENSION  
6.00PM BCP EVENSONG - STINSFORD  
6.30PM EVENING PRAYER - BRADFORD PEVERELL





# HEALTH AND FITNESS - MARCH - 2024

What do you spend 11 minutes doing? That fiendish quick crossword or folding the laundry? Perhaps it's re-stacking the dishwasher after your other half's had the first go?

Did you know, it only takes 11 minutes of vigorous exercise per day to improve heart and lung function, lose weight and improve muscle strength and bone density?

Granted, not everyone likes exercise. It's much easier to sit on the sofa and lift the occasional glass of red than a few weights. Yet, it's hard to see a downside to being fit and strong - there's grandchildren to play with and shopping that isn't going to lift itself into the car.

The average age in Dorset is now 51, according to the most recent census - that's more than 13 years older than the national average. But that doesn't have to mean more risk of illness and injury - or worse.

Why not spend the next 11 minutes trying out one or more of the below? This series is great to try at home\* and you can build up to doing all of them over time. The dishwasher can wait.

Vigorous exercise is subjective, but typically you'll experience an increased heart rate when doing it or warm enough to feel like stripping off a few layers.

## Squats

From a fixed/safe seated position, stand up tall - ideally without the use of your arms. Then sit again. Recite the alphabet out loud as you perform the movement and stop when you can no longer speak. Congratulations, you're squatting! Rest and try again when you're ready. Make a note of your rest time, try and reduce that rest time in between sets in future. If you can't do it the first time, it



doesn't mean you won't be able to do it next time. Keep at it. Aim for sets of 10 repetitions, but more is better assuming your movement is good.

## Good Morning Abs

If and when that's too easy, increase the number of repetitions, and stop using your arms / hands to stabilise. If you can do so safely, supplement this with getting out of bed in the morning without using your arms. It's harder than it sounds and great for your core strength. Getting up off the floor from seated without using your arms is your next challenge.

## Stair Climb

You can combine these with climbing a flight of stairs, or more flights when you're ready. Use your arms to stabilise as you build your confidence and strength. Take care. It's not how fast you can move, it's how slowly you can move properly (and safely).

## March / Weighted March

If this is daunting, or you bought that bungalow at number 6, you could try marching on the spot, and progressing to marching and holding a light to moderate object: e.g. a book or small bags of shopping. Remember, you're aiming for 11 minutes.

If this is all too easy, combine chair squats with the stairs.

## Good luck!

**Olly Morency is a level 3 personal trainer from Bridport, now living in Charminster. For more tips or to let him know how you got on, email [more@trainwell.com](mailto:more@trainwell.com), or visit [www.itrainwell.com](http://www.itrainwell.com)**

\*Always get a sign-off from a medical professional if you have a history of falls, or dizzy spells

# Your Pilot Magazine

**Jenny Mulligan**

Your Pilot drops on your doormat 10 times a year in Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford – but have you ever wondered about its journey to you?

Well, it begins with you! We need you to contribute to make the magazine fun and interesting.

You send your copy to the Editors (Claire and Mel) who send the edited material to the printers, who in turn deliver the finished magazines (currently a 1700 run) to a distributor who takes them to deliverers, who pop them through your letter box.

And it all depends on volunteers from our community!

One lady who moved to Charminster Farm told me she was so glad to find a Pilot at the Sales Office that she undertook to deliver a copy to each house in her area. It still gives her pleasure to walk around her neighbourhood ten times a year as her part in the story of Pilot Delivery.

One of our team manages to distribute the Pilot twice a year even though she works as well.

Sally, an energetic person with a strong sense of community, has been involved in getting the Pilot to you for many years, but she now needs to re-focus her energies. Thank you, Sally!

So, we are always needing new helpers as the village expands and as some get to the stage when they feel they need to stop!

I have learnt that the Pilot has some surprising uses from being the centre of an activity for some elderly folk to being the quick check for church services and useful telephone numbers. If you contribute your ideas and words too, it gets even more interesting.

Go on! Send in your thoughts and words to Claire and Mel at [editor@charpilot.com](mailto:editor@charpilot.com)

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**Charminster Litter Pick will be from 11am on Sunday 7th April  
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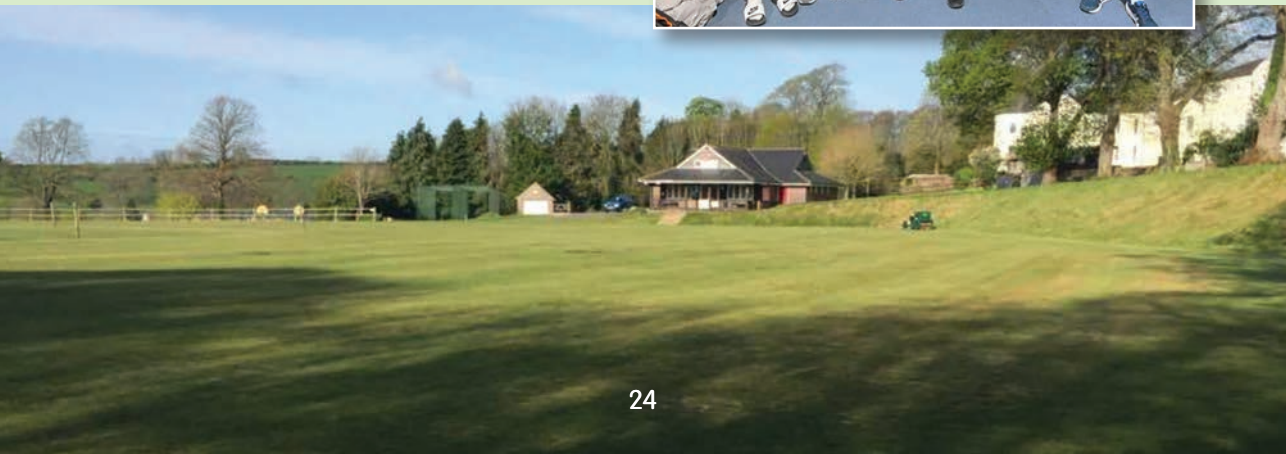
I've got plenty to report this time round, in part because I missed the deadline for the March edition, but mostly because the cricket season is just around the corner! Indoor practice has been going for the last month and now the evenings are getting lighter we will be moving to outdoor training from the 19th April. This year we are making Fridays our designated club training and social evening. Under 9-11s will have sessions from 5-6pm, Under 13s and Under 15s from 6-7:15 and adult training thereafter. The bar will be open throughout, offering refreshment to our social members, parents and cricketers, giving them a chance to talk tactics/nonsense ahead of Saturday's league matches.

This year we have given ourselves a head start by playing six-a-side indoor cricket in Weymouth through the winter. We actually did remarkably well, winning the competition and beating Weymouth in a nail-biter in the last match. Everyone played their part through the competition, but special mention should go to youngster Ciaran Godwin for some brilliant bowling performances and some runs with the bat too.

The fixtures for 2024 are more or less complete now and the pitch will be busier than ever through the summer months. Two Saturday teams, a Sunday friendly team, two Evening League teams, four youth teams (Under 9s, 11s, 13s, & 15s), plus pitch hire to Frampton CC and a designated training night means there will be something happening at the club almost every day from late April onwards. Thanks in advance to Pally and his team who, whenever they can get on the ground, will be working hard to prepare the

pitch for upcoming matches. It has been a bit of a headache for the club organisers to fit everything into this jam-packed calendar – it has taken some effort and creativity (and a sense of humour), but thanks to everyone involved for getting a plan together. Fixtures and other info can be found on the club website <https://charltondown.play-cricket.com/>, but we will also advertise upcoming games on social media and our notice boards at the club and (hopefully) village shop.

With all the cricket, we'll do our best to keep the social calendar ticking along too. There will be some of the old favourites to look forward to over the summer (Gin Night, Cheese & Wine Night) and hopefully something new too (Cocktails, Raclette). Keep your eye out for our special events. Quiz night and the monthly prize draw will definitely be taking place throughout – usually the last Friday of the month. This is probably a good time to remind you that social membership is just £5 for the year, or if you fancy playing please get in touch [james.pretty@charltondowncc.co.uk](mailto:james.pretty@charltondowncc.co.uk) or come down and say hello on a Friday evening.





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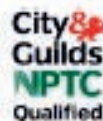
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Brian and Lynne, moved to Casterbridge Court in April 2022 and have been happy in their two-bedroom apartment ever since. Lynne says: "Moving has impacted our life completely for the better. We can get



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

**As I write only a few days into March after what appears constant rain it is a bright and beautiful day** with little or no wind. The seasonal flowers are showing themselves off at their best. **Whilst February 2023 was the driest month, this year it has proved to be the wettest.** What extremes but that now appears to be the norm. **It was this time last year when folk caught sight of the wondrous Aurora Borealis and this has recently been seen again.** I shall keep watching as I have yet to see the northern lights. **A new moon on the night of 10th March brought the new astronomical year.** The Lunar New Year is said to be an opportunity as 'embracing the new moon's energy allows us to tap into our intuition, align with the rhythms of the universe, and embark on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual enlightenment'. Hardy wrote the poem *The Year's Awakening* and captured the event with the words "How do you know".

*How do you know that the pilgrim track  
Along the belting zodiac  
Swept by the sun in his seeming rounds  
Is traced by now to the Fishes' bounds  
The Ram, when weeks of cloud  
Have wrapt the sky in a clammy shroud,  
And never as yet a tinct of spring  
Has shown in the Earth's apparelling;  
O vespering bird, how do you know,  
How do you know?*

*How do you know, deep underground,  
Hid in your bed from sight and sound,  
Without a turn in temperature,  
With weather life can scarce endure,  
That light has won a fraction's strength,  
And day put on some moments' length,  
Whereof in merest rote will come,  
Weeks hence, mild airs that do not numb;  
O crocus root, how do you know,  
How do you know?*

**This year March had five Sundays with Easter falling on the 31st We are to have a 10a.m. service on this day.**

**The Dorset Constabulary Police Dogs** are in the news as the College has given them permission to access parts of the College Estate to assist with their ongoing continuous training. So do not be surprised if you see police vehicles about day or night anywhere within the 700 acres or so. They have been down to

Stinsford Park to view the lay of the land in this area. We look forward to seeing them.

**The story of the American Memorial to Thomas Hardy in Higher Bockhampton continues...** In the Dorset Chronicle Thursday 16th April 1931 edition, it outlines that an event was to take place at 3.00 pm that day with all local dignitaries plus parishioners taking part: the full coverage in the following week reports that three coaches were available from the Kings Arms from 2.00 pm. The Mayor of Dorchester and Professor Livingstone Lowe spoke, the latter on behalf of the American Admirers, the Secretary to Mr Cecil Hanbury MP, later to become Sir Cecil Hanbury, was present. The land upon which the memorial was installed was made available by Mr Hanbury and estate employees had cleared the ground and turfed the surround. The photograph in the newspaper shows a good crowd with the granite needle standing on land near the path to the heath beyond. Several local dignitaries were present including Alfred Pope, more to follow. It was very difficult to read the information on the old microfiche machine, the modern electric versions being fully employed so I will return to continue further at our marvellous resourceful and helpful Dorset History Centre.

**Do not miss the Dorset Spring Show at Kingston Maurward on April 27th and 28th, presented by the team behind the Dorset County Show to be held at Kingston Maurward. Tickets are now available online.**

**April will continue with the normal range of church services with Evensong at 6.00 pm as we are now in British Summer Time. The prospective date for Stinsford's APCM will be on Sunday 14th April 2024 following the 11am Matins.**

**Just to mention well in advance the time of the service on 2nd June 2024 will be held at 10.00 a.m. rather than 11.00a.m.** It is Thomas Hardy's Birthday celebratory weekend and we see in his window in the south aisle of the church two of these symbols of wind and fire from his favourite text 1 Kings. Ch 19 and the story of Elijah. The service is followed by coffee, readings and the Annual Wreath laying ceremony by the Thomas Hardy Society. The preacher has yet to be announced. It is our usual morning Service where we honour our most famous author and all are very welcome to attend.

**Michael Clarke**

## **Pet of the Month ...**

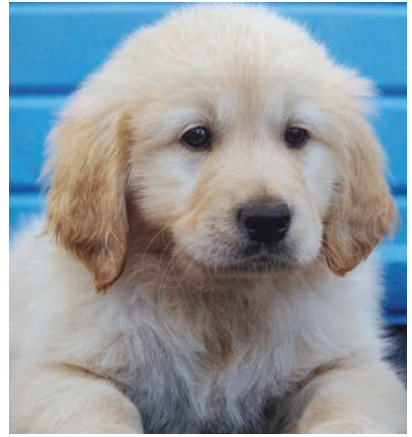
This is Crumble.

She is a 10 week old golden retriever and has Star status as she has been on TV.

Crumble does not live with me, I sponsor her for Guide Dogs and she is at present being cared for by a puppy keeper where she will live as a family for 12 months.

She will then return to Lemmington Spa when she will receive her formal training for another year. After which, if she qualifies, will become a Guide Dog and loving companion for someone with sight loss.

**Wendy Andrews**



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## **NEWS FROM ST MARY'S**

Don't forget the upcoming visit of the BBC's Jon Cuthill on Saturday 13th April at 4.00 pm. Tickets are now available by telephoning one of the contact numbers shown on the flyer printed in the issue.

Admission is by pre-booked ticket only

# VILLAGE'S DIRECTORY

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<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
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## 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

## Charlton Down Nature Area restored!

The Nature Area in Charlton Down was created in 2008-2009 by the Parish Council in conjunction with a local volunteer group and with support from the National Lottery.

Over the last 16 years the pond had fallen into disrepair with little maintenance but was still very much used by locals and wildlife.

The Parish Council sought quotes for its rejuvenation with the support of local residents and on 12 February 2024 a contractor started the mammoth task of removing the old pond, reshaping it to allow more access for wildlife and then relining. No animals were injured in this process as all were removed and placed in tanks, then returned to their new home on completion of the works; we understand they are loving it!

There is still work to be done in planting again and repairing the entrance and ground around the pond as the weather was very wet!! But everyone agrees it is good to see it looking almost back to its best.

Moving forward, if anyone would like to help out in the Nature Area with knowledge or just labour, please contact the Parish Clerk.



### 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)

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Susan Frazer	269255
Julie Jackson	07714 433 174
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Contact: Parish Clerk (Michele Harding)  
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