

The Pilot

August 2021

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Here we are already hitting the eighth month of the year and the last month of the summer. Summer?

What summer? Oh well, let's hope we can grab a bit of sunshine, a sparkling Pimms (as seen on our front cover), and some fun before Autumn arrives.

It's good to know the villages are getting a bit of a face-lift. There's a new bench going in to the tennis courts at Charlton Down, there's a clean-up going on in various places and there's new equipment being installed in the North Street play area.

Covid fears

August was of course supposed to be the month of Charminster fete this year but sadly that's not going to happen (see page 5), as the fears surrounding Covid simply won't go away. So for the second year running, Covid claims another victim.

The fear-factor seems so sad, but we hope we're bringing you a few smiles and some enjoyment in this latest Pilot, largely thanks to the wonderful Judy Bird from Charminster WI who has devised another walking treasure hunt around the village.

Thanks

Thanks also have to go to our distributors, advertisers and contributors without whom The Pilot wouldn't be able to function.

Our copy deadline for the September edition is Friday August 6—a little early but fits in with people's diaries. Please send all contributions and comments to editor@charpilot.com.

Have a great Bank Holiday,

Marilyn Kay (Editor)



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Fête CANCELLED!

Disappointed villagers have expressed their sadness at the decision to cancel this year's Charminster Fête.

Reaction to the announcement on the village's Facebook page was summed up by one villager who wrote: "Such a shame but completely understandable and definitely the right thing to do. Fingers crossed for next year."

The fête, which should have been held on August 21st, joins a long list of local events that have been cancelled or postponed because of the pandemic.

Great reluctance

Fête committee chairman, Nigel Kay, said the decision had been taken with great reluctance: "The decision to extend government restrictions in June and rising numbers of infections later in the month, gave rise to serious doubts about whether the fête could be held safely and succeed in raising money for local causes."

He said: "Even if restrictions are lifted to allow the fête to take place, the

committee is concerned that many people, including some of our helpers, would be reluctant to attend the event."

The fête is traditionally held on the first Saturday in June but was cancelled in 2020 and this year's event had to be postponed until August.

It was still planned to hold the event at Charminster House, thanks to Mrs Gwen Yarker.

Bounce back

Proceeds from the fête have traditionally supported St Mary's Church and the village hall. This year, for the first time, other local organisations have been invited to apply for grants to benefit the village and its environment.

Nigel said the fête committee was grateful to all those individuals and organisations who had offered to support this year's event. He hoped it might be possible to bounce back in 2022 with an even bigger event.

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Bridging the gap.

Workmen from Dorset Council have been hard at it rebuilding the base and installing a new bridge by the ford at the end of Mill Lane in Higher Charminster.

Neighbour Bob Brinton has been on hand to record developments and see the finished bridge in place. Work has now begun on the footbridge by the church at the other end of Mill Lane.



(Clockwise from top left) Old bridge has gone and new stonework appears, the new bridge arrives by lorry, carefully craned into place, and finally the new bridge is ready for action.





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The sun's still out for the Charminster Fete Children's Sunflower Contest

Ah well! Sadly, the Fête has been cancelled, although we are already looking forward to next year's event!

But, *writes Arna Drammis*, what of all those sunflowers? Those sunflowers being so lovingly nurtured and watered, cherished and encouraged to grow, grow, grow!!

Well, perhaps we should just keep 'growing' but, rather than bringing along photographs and measurements to the Fête, just email them instead to the Pilot magazine, on or around the 21st August, where they will be beautifully displayed for all to see (and the prize winners declared, of course).

Tallest and biggest

The two categories are the tallest (from top of pot to tip of flower head) and the largest flower head (the widest diameter). There will be a prize of £5.00 awarded to the winner of each category.

Please email your name, along with details of your sunflower's vital

statistics and a photo of the sunflower blooming in your garden to editor@charpilot.com then just sit back and await the October edition of the magazine to drop on to your doormat.

Good luck!



Meetings, marshmallows and mess!

Brownies have finally started meetings again indoors, although many of our activities this term have been outside!

The girls have completed their camp stage 2 badge. Learning how to put up a tent and what part of the tent is what, packing their bag to take away, what they need and don't need and building a fire in different ways. We have had a camp fire and toasted marshmallows over it.

Needs and wants

A bit on fire safety, finding things and getting dressed in the dark, using torches and trying again to see which way was best. Some ended up in the wrong clothing ! But we have talked about needs and wants as well as having a bit of silliness.



We have played a few games and had a sing song round a campfire, but mostly were just happy to have face to face meetings. We have missed being in the hall so much, we finished our last meeting making slime and other scientific fun things to play with, simply great fun and mess. But also remembering rights and responsibilities, we cleaned up and left the place sparkling, ready for Guides.

We will tell you all about our PGL trip next month

Brownie Guide leader Alli and helpers Sue and Simone



The Guides have enjoyed getting back together and had a fantastic evening Ringoing at Warmwell Leisure Centre.

We finally finished our communication stage 4 Badge which was started before lockdown.

We had a great evening outdoors singing round a campfire with Brownies, toasting marshmallows and playing wide field games. This was a lovely

way to introduce the Brownies who will be moving on after September. We spent most of this term using our 5 Essentials, giving a varied Programme.

Pizza from scratch

We went orienteering through the village, passing by the river and having a stick race; we used pictures and signs to follow a map and worked our way back to the hall. The weather was so lovely we could have stayed out longer. The last evening in the Hall before we break up for summer, we plan to make and bake Pizza from scratch. We will tell you how this went next month. We are finally off to PGL, so we are looking forward to this.

Alli, Ann and Christine

Contact: Allic4t@aol.com.

...07483429596 (Guides and Brownies)



Twelve Memory blankets were recently delivered to the Day Lewis ward at DCH for use by that ward, Barnes ward and the stroke ward.

We have also received donations three large bags of wool, which we really appreciate.

We met in the Shire Hall restaurant again for our monthly café catch-up – and by the time this edition of the Pilot drops through your letterboxes, we will have visited Extreme Falconry at Lewell, West Stafford, looked at the birds and watched a flying display. In 2019, the owner gave an interesting talk to our group and brought two birds, including a noisy but entertaining owl which seemed to think it was giving the talk!

We are back meeting in St George's church hall from September – the first Wednesday afternoon of each month from 2.30 – 4pm. Everyone aged 18 and over is welcome to come along and meet us.

Judy Thompson

Chairperson. 01305 263783. E-mail: jct231@outlook.com



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AND BAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CREATING NEW MEMORIES AND SEEING YOU ALL
SOON AGAIN. PS - LOOK OUT FOR ONGOING SPECIALS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

It's The Pilot August Quiz!

Our monthly quiz is once again a mix of local knowledge with a few questions loosely tied to the month of August.

1. Why is the eight month of the year called August?
2. This controversial portrait artist made his home in the New Forest town of Fordingbridge.
3. Fordingbridge sits on the Hampshire Avon. Which Dorset town sits on the river's mouth?
4. Which Royal mum gave birth to a baby boy named August earlier this year?
5. The Augusta National Golf Club is home to which major tournament?
6. Ingrid Bergman, the Swedish star of Casablanca died on August 29th, 1982. What was notable about the date?
7. Name the tennis player who's frilly knickers "scandalised" Wimbledon in 1949 and were even the subject of a parliamentary debate!
8. The fictional Sarah Woodruff, lives in Lyme Regis as a disgraced woman, in which historical novel?
9. What does the River Cerne have in common with the much larger River Somme in northern France?
10. Who wrote the poem *An August Midnight*?

Ingrid Bergman (right)

Quiz answers on Page 43



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“Pop-Up” club proves popular

A pop-up youth club turned out to be a hit with youngsters who gave it a shot at Charminster Community Hall.

The Saturday afternoon event, organised by the Dorset Youth Community Centre, gave teenagers and pre-teens a chance to try their hand at badminton, indoor football, table-tennis, craft work, board games or to simply hang-out.

Sharon Rose, who works for the Centre and used to run Stratton Youth Club until a lack of volunteers and Covid called time on that, said she was using the remaining funds to set up the afternoon.

Drop in for volunteers

Now she’s holding a 'drop-in' at the Gamekeeper on Monday 26th July from 7.30pm - 9.00pm for anyone wishing to find out more about volunteering opportunities with a view to getting a local youth club up and running again. Sharon will be there, along with Kate Parkman, youth work manager at Dorchester Youth & Community Centre.

She said: “We’d love to get a youth club running again but it does depend on how much demand there is and of course, on volunteer helpers.”

Great fun

The young people at the pop-up were enthusiastic and having some fierce table tennis matches and badminton games.

Said Sharon: “Youth clubs can be great fun. My parents met at Stratton youth club more than 60 years ago. Without the youth club, I wouldn’t be here!”



12 year-olds Julie (left), Holly and Harry prepare for battle in the table tennis tournament.



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More than three million homes have acquired a new pet during lockdown. We have more dogs than ever before – over 12 million of the lovable rascals.

To help cope with this increase, training classes for puppies (and their owners) are being held on Monday evenings at Charminster Village Hall.

The classes are run by Karen Brown, who has more than 30 years' experience as a dog breeder and trainer. "Every owner," she says "deserves a well-behaved dog. And every dog deserves a well-trained owner."

Among the puppies attending the courses which started last month are Lulu, a young dog rescued in Romania and now adopted by her owner Ruth in Charminster. Then there's Frankie the frug (a cross between a French bulldog and a pug), and Eddie, a very friendly labradoodle.

Each course is six weeks long and the next one starts with an introductory evening on August 16th. Details from Karen on 07934 465 128 or email: mad-mutts@hotmail.co.uk



Trainer Karen Brown and Eddie the labradoodle.



Samuel Diaz, aged eight, with his "best friend" Frankie the frug.



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Cats—not alpacas - for Charminster WI

Writes Juliet Austin



This month we had hoped to have a session meeting some Alpacas, but continued lockdown made it impossible. The Alpacas were postponed until September, and we had yet another session – the last we hope - via Zoom!

Undeterred by a few technical hitches, our new president, Judy Thompson, welcomed quite a flock of us. Business completed, we enjoyed a talk given by Gloria Ashwell, about the work of Cat's Protection.

Happy rehoming

We were saddened by some of the tragic cases but there were also successes. Everyone enjoyed the enchanting photographs and were delighted that there were so many happy rehoming's after vet's treatment and rehabilitation. We ended up with a most enjoyable cat quiz which Gloria had compiled.

We are a friendly group and have been pleased to welcome several new members, despite lockdowns. We have a network of support for our members and it's a good way for people to make contact with each other. Monthly meetings, in normal times, are on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Friendly faces

New members are always welcome, and we would love you to come and have a couple of trial meetings. You will certainly find friendly faces. We have groups who meet monthly for much enjoyed skittles, walking, craft, drama readings and a book club, and we organise group outings to local events and interesting places.

If you are interested just contact Judy (01305 203783) or our secretary Doreen Sadd (01305 267498) to find out more.


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Mud pies and mini-beasts—all part of the fun at Forest School

At Charminster preschool we are an outdoor learning setting where we spend a majority of our time playing, learning and exploring outside, writes staff member Sally.

But we are also able, twice a week, to offer Forest School where a small group of children get to explore a small wooded copse at the edge of the school field.

The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire children through positive experiences in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks.

Interacting with nature

Taking part in activities in a woodland helps children and young people to develop a connection and respect for the natural world, promoting both physical and mental health. We believe all children should be regularly interacting with nature and this ethos underpins all our outdoor learning provision.

At preschool it is about allowing children the time to explore, imagine and



take risks: to dig a big hole, to see who can find the longest stick, to discover the mini beasts that hide under logs, to hang upside down from a tree, play on a rope swing, to build a den, to make a mud pie, jump in a muddy puddle, play in the rain, make some environmental art and under supervision to use real life tools.

It's about being allowed to be a child and having FUN in the outdoors!



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Stinsford News...

...from Michael Clarke

Although all seems quiet on the bee front with no swarms to date and very few bees in the garden, with warm rain and sun, growth has taken off everywhere.

I often hear the saying “a weed is only a flower growing in the wrong place”. Well I appear to have many of both, but it is good to see the beautiful spring flowers and the early vegetables to eat.

New loo

The Diocesan Advisory Committee, including the Archdeacon of Sherborne, visited to discuss the idea of a WC and servery where the shed currently stands. An opening would be created in the west wall to the south aisle for internal access. We are in the initial stages and I understand we will need the support of the listings officer and planning consent to go ahead.

Tim Hanbury made one of his annual visits to Stinsford last week. Tim is the grandson of Sir Cecil Hanbury and has expressed a wish to be buried in the family plot. On looking around the

memorial cemetery Tim was much impressed by the work completed by Derek Pride and his wife.

The lower graveyard looks grand too and many family members who come with flowers or just to sit and think about past times are very grateful that all is kept up together. The south part of the upper graveyard has been allowed to flower more naturally this year and we hope the flora and fauna in these surroundings have been enjoyed.

Poets' Corner stone

The Thomas Hardy International Conference went well. At the first Sunday service, the Bishop of Sherborne (who is currently acting Bishop of Salisbury) blessed the newly installed corner stone to Hardy which used to be in Poets' Corner at Westminster Abbey.

It was removed from there to prevent further wear and tear.

August brings the wedding of Mathew Paine, the grandson of Michael Legg, we wish him and his bride good health and happiness for the future.

Finding their feet at “big School”.

The link between Charminster Pre-School and St Mary’s First School has always been strong, and this summer the 4-year-olds have been having their transition sessions to prepare them for ‘big school’, says chairperson Emma Norman.

Good luck

Covid restrictions are in place, and the children are thoroughly enjoying meeting their new teachers.

We also would like to wish all of our Pre-School leavers luck for their new school and all of our families a fun



and safe summer holiday.

And for those who want to prepare their child (and themselves!) for school in September, Leanne Branch is trying to set up a Facebook group for reception class starters.

She posts on the Charminster Village group site for anyone interested in joining.

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From the clergy...



As I write we await confirmation of the lifting of restrictions from 19th July. But what then? Some of us may be anxious at the thought of it, given the expected increase in the number of cases. And yet, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

During my time on Retreat last month, I was struck by the number of candles alight on the 'Tree of Light' in the tiny white cob chapel there. There was light in the darkness ... the darkness in our world, particularly in relation to Covid, and light shining through into the tired, and drained parts of me.

There is no doubt that candlelight provided a way of connecting with the spiritual for many who, like me, were seeking peace, restoration or, perhaps, God.

Some of the guests wouldn't say they were 'religious', and others may not have identified as Christian or 'believers'. And yet, the 'Tree of Light' was a dynamic thing, never static but living. It became a blessing to us all.

The retreat house and chapels are set

With Rev'd Pene Kennedy

in the depths of the glorious Devon countryside, among forty-five acres of farmland, and there is a tangible sense of God's grace and love there. Healing 'just happens'. For me God became even closer.

No-one cancelled

In the strange world in which we now live and where so much in our lives is uncertain, we are blessed that our God is a God of accompaniment as he is omnipresent in our lives. We are never alone, for there is no circumstance in our lives when God is not present ... for the joys and the sorrows, the successes and the difficulties, the certainties and the uncertainties.

As Christians, we are called to counter so much in modern culture ... to support the weak, the homeless, the outcast and to fight for justice. Every single human being is important to God – and should be to each one of us. No-one is ever 'cancelled' in the eyes of God, who desires life in all its fullness for all of us.

AUGUST 2021 at St MARY'S, CHARMINSTER

Please note that these services may be subject to change
depending on the regulations issued by the Government

Sunday 1st August Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Wednesday 4th August 11.30 am Zoom Service

Sunday 8th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Act of Worship with Baptism

Wednesday 11th August - 11.30 am Communion Service in St Mary's

Sunday 15th August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

6.00 pm Evensong

Wednesday 18th August - 11.30 am Zoom Act of Worship

Sunday 22nd August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Wednesday 25th August - 11.30 am Communion Service in St Mary's

Sunday 29th August - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)



AUGUST 2021 AT ST MICHAEL'S, STINSFORD

**Please note that these services may be subject to change
depending on the regulations issued by the Government**

Sunday 1st August - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 8th August - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

11.15 am Songs of Praise

Sunday 15th August - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 22nd August - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

6.00 pm Evensong

Sunday 29th August - Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

6.00 pm United Benefice Evensong

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Charminster WI Treasure Hunt... now you can all have a go

The Treasure Hunt starts and finishes at Charminster Community Hall. You should follow the directions and answer the clues along the way.

1. At the Community Hall is a tree to celebrate the centenary of Charminster WI – what year was it?

Take the footpath by the new houses towards the Cemetery.

2. Why should 5 & 7 be clubs & spades and 9 & 11 hearts & diamonds?

3. Does No. 15 wish it was somewhere else?

Cross the road and into Hill View.

4. Which number welcomes you at the door with sunflowers?

Follow the road round left into Pound Close.

5. Is there a buzzing flagpole here?

6. Across the way what number is

guarded by Warriors?

7. On the corner what time is the Saturday collection?

8. Where nearby can you find a game of snakes and ladders?

Down the hill to North Street and cross the road to the Village Hall.

9. If Elizabeth is silver, gold and diamond, what are Mary & George?

10. In which year was Charminster best large village?

Staying on North Street....

11. Did Rupert pen some verse here?

Turn right into Church Lane.

12. Door to a strongroom or just a garden entrance?

Follow the path behind the Church towards Alley Bridge.

13. Wolfeton House can be seen but what number is it?

Over the bridge and up the hill.

14. Which three animals come to mind at No. 5?

Continue up the hill and take the footpath after Green Bank.

15. According to CPC what should you not leave?

16. The post gives you four choices but who made it?

Follow the sign to York Close, then left to Ellerslie Close.

17. Outside which house is daubed a three-dart maximum?

18. Where can you make a wish?

Turn right into Down End and take the footpath leading to Vicarage Lane, then turn right.

19. Feeling down? Who is the Piddle Valley contact?

Cross the road into Cocklands and along to the shop.

20. What are B & L licensed to sell?

21. How many red flowers help you not to forget?

Retrace your steps back to Vicarage Lane.

22. Which Mum, Dad & baby look cute at 25?

23. How far is Herrison from here?

24. At OVC, if 4 is beech and 1 is oak, which month is 3?

Carry on down East Hill.

25. What number is Offleys?

26. What is the church connection at

No. 6?

At the bottom of the hill take the gate into the Church grounds.

27. Emergency – help is at hand – what is the location reference?

28. Which birds are quoted in Psalm 84?

Back up Church Lane, cross North Street carefully and go right.

29. Near HH what are FVT & ML on the arms?

Left into Wanchard Lane, then take the footpath on the left by the yellow construction traffic sign and then right onto Granary Hill.

30. Nice new fence – who made it?

31. A gate, a famous footballing name approved by the Queen – what's the phone number?

32. And where are these?



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Getting in the picture with Charminster Art Group.

Charminster Art Group, which like so many clubs and organisations had to effectively disband over the past 18 months, is planning to get back into action this September.

Said organiser Dudley Kemp: "We will restart the Art group on the 8th September every Wednesday at 2 o'clock during term time in Charminster Village Hall."

"All abilities welcome including those who would like to take up art as a new hobby."

The cost is approximately a £10 for each half term and includes tea and coffee.

If you would like further details please contact Dudley at
dudleykemp@hotmail.com or tel 01305 757151

Alternatively, why not just pop in and meet us - you will be most welcome, says Dudley.



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Follow the code

With so many people moving into the area and so many families getting dogs to help them through the various lockdowns, here's a reminder of the Countryside Code—a guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside.



The guide asks us all to respect everyone, be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside and leave gates and property as you find them Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking , be nice, say hello, share the space, and follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the environment by taking your litter home. Leave no trace of your visit , do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.

Always keep dogs under control and in sight and as for dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do. Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors. Check your route and local conditions , plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do , enjoy your visit, have fun, and make a memory.

For further information go to www.gov.uk/countryside-code

A special reminder must go to dog owners when walking in fields where there are livestock. It's perfectly true that dogs off leads might run towards sheep with no malice intended—they're "only playing". But sheep aren't very bright and will almost always panic. This can lead to the death of the sheep and, in the lambing season, aborting the unborn lambs. And that's a farmer's livelihood we're talking about.

Dogs are lovely joyous animals—but don't let them chase sheep.

STAND latest...

Five thousand people have signed a petition, set up by Save The Area North of Dorchester, opposing plans to build up to 4000 houses in fields between Charminster and Stinsford. The petition was presented at Dorset Council's July meeting.

The planned development is included in the latest version of the Dorset Local Plan – along with proposals for another 35,000 houses across the county.

Charminster and Stinsford Parish Councils are both opposed to the plan, as is West Dorset MP Chris Loder.

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Associate Minister	The Reverend Dr Rob Van der Hart	852130

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PCC Secretary	Jean Garrard	259083
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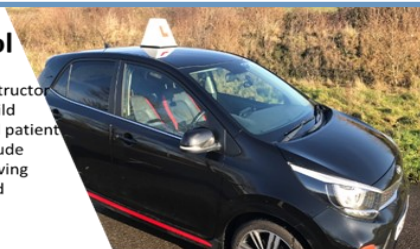
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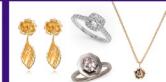
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Answers to the August Quiz

How did you do?

1. The Roman Emperor Augustus named the month after himself. It was originally called Sextillia – the Roman word for “sixth”, as it was the sixth month of the Roman year.
2. Augustus John (1878 – 1961)
3. Christchurch
4. Princess Eugenie
5. The Masters
6. August 29th was also her birthday.
7. Gertrude Augusta "Gorgeous Gussie" Moran
8. The French Lieutenant's Woman by John Fowles
9. They are both chalk streams – two of only 220 in the World.
10. Thomas Hardy (of course!)



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	Parish Clerk: Sarah Davies	07947 622326
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	Bob Brinton	260511
	Tim Yarker	265942
St Mary's First School	Headteacher: Suzanne Garner	263880
	Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	266598
Pre-School	Vanessa Thomas	251512
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CD Women's Institute	Brenda Down	251499
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Stinsford Parish Council	Parish Clerk: Kirsty Rigler stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com	268818
--------------------------	--	--------

Charminster & Charlton Down

Q. What is the background to the new footbridges being installed in Charminster?

A: Both the wooden footbridges at Higher Charminster and Alley Bridge, near the church have reached the end of their useful life. The supporting stonework needs to be rebuilt as well. Dorset Council have taken the opportunity to re-use a bridge being removed in Bridport. They then have cut it in half, refurbished it and used half here at Higher Charminster and will be using the other half near the church. It is good in our throw-away world to see things being re-used and in turn gives us a more interesting bridges.



Q. What is the latest on the proposals to install new play equipment at the North Street playground in Charminster?

A: By the time you read this the major overhaul of much of the play equipment in the playground will have been done. There will be a large new play tower with 2 slides, a new seesaw, a large basket swing and springer toys. To follow will be new smaller football goals and refurbishment of the play equipment that is to remain.

South Ward (Charminster village)

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

North Ward (Charlton Down & Forston)

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Charminster Parish Council