

The Pilot

A young boy with short blonde hair is looking through a silver telescope. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with a colorful graphic. He is standing in front of a brick wall. Several large yellow sunflowers with dark brown centers are in the foreground and background. The scene is outdoors, and the sky is visible in the upper right corner.

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October, it has to be said, is not my favourite month. It's a signal that summer (not that we've had much of one) is over, and we can now look forward to months of cold, wet and dreary winter before spring shows its welcome face.

On the other hand, when the sun *does* shine in October and the trees glow with their autumnal colours, then it can seem like the most magical month!

In this edition we've taken a peek at the work of some of our local artists, we have a winner for the fete sun-flower competition, we're hailing the cricket club's success and there are other bits of news and views from around the villages.

There's also an appeal for ideas on how we might celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee locally in 2022, so get those party thinking caps on.

It's good to see Charminster's Guides and Brownies back in the village hall for their meetings. They've been busy looking at meditation and well-being—all very modern. Whatever happened to knots?!

We took our cameras along to the Family Fun Day organised by the village school and pre-school. Turn to pages 6-7 to see if you can spot yourself, family and friends enjoying themselves.

We're also looking for your help with the distribution of The Pilot (see page 25) and in the meantime thanks go to all our advertisers, contributors and the delivery team who help make it happen every month.

Next copy deadline for the November Pilot is Friday October 8. Please send contributions, ideas and suggestions to editor@charpilot.com

Marilyn Kay (Editor)



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Local News in Brief...

Herrison Hall in Charlton Down remains closed following the collapse of part of the roof at the northern end of the hall. A number of large coping stones have been dislodged and the hall has been closed as a precaution.

The hall committee is hoping a structural survey will determine the cause of the problem and the extent of any remedial work required. In the meantime, users of the hall are having to move events to other local venues, including Charminster Village Hall.

Work starts in October on a “build-out” on North Street near the junction with West Hill. The build- out will help children cross the road safely on their way to and from school.

The plans have been drawn up by Dorset Council highways team and approved by Charminster Parish Council. The works will involve building out the pavements on North Street (near to West Hill) which will enable people crossing the road to see past parked cars and make the road narrower so easier to cross. The scheme will also make visibility better for motorists entering North Street from West Hill near the village hall. Although the visibility splay by the hall will be removed, the village hall committee has been assured that the hall users will be able to load and unload equipment at the North Street entrance.

Talking of herrisons, erinaceinae, urchins or as we usually know them, hedgehogs, life should be a bit safer from now on. The parish council has agreed to



buy two hedgehog warning signs to alert motorists of their presence. *Herrison is the French word for hedgehog, erinaceinae the Latin and urchin is an old English term which led to the naming of spiny sea urchins.

Family Fun Day a big hit

Children and adults alike joined in the fun and games when Charminster School and Pre-school joined forces to hold their annual Fun Day—and raised a whopping £8,705!

Cancelled in 2020, and re-arranged this year because of Covid, the Fun Day got off to a fine start on September 12.

Organiser Glenn Taylor, whose three children attend the school, said the aim was to raise money for all the extras that normal school budgets can't stretch to pay for.



Teddy Pink, aged two and a half, has a wow of a time on the bungee jumps

“Some money will go to the sensory garden, but otherwise there is no particular project in mind. Things just crop up and then we are able to fund them,” he said.

The last Fun Day raised around £7,500. “It’s been harder this year as companies have not been able to provide big raffle prizes and various people have cancelled, so we’re thrilled with this result,” said Glenn.



* When all money is in, the total raised should hit £9,000.

Left, Amy Smith (12) picks a winning tombola ticket from school governor Jo Greateorex as pre-school committee member Becky Hewish looks on.



Clockwise from top left, Trish Burton and Fiona Sansom with their cakes, Guides Lulu Fountain, Ann Collins and Poppy Collins, Rose and Ruby Metcalfe meet Elsa and Peter Rabbit, firemen David and Neil join in, Emily Jones (5) makes mud pies in the Forest School section and older sister Bethany (7) toasts marshmallows.





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Cricket's most successful season

Howzat! What a season it's been for Charlton Down Cricket Club – on and off the field! Success in league and cup competitions has been matched by growing support for the club's social and community activities.

Sid Dunford, who captains the evening league side, said it was one of the most successful seasons he could remember. The midweek team won 18 of their 19 games securing promotion to Division I of the Dorchester and District Evening League and a place in the cup final, where they were narrowly beaten.

Community “buy-in”

The Saturday team also won promotion to Dorset League Division 2. Sid said he was encouraged by the second team results too: “There are some good younger players coming through, which bodes very well for the future of the club.”

At the other end of the age scale, almost 50 five- to eight-year-olds took part in the All Stars coaching scheme, and another 19 children, aged eight to eleven, signed up for the Dynamos.

Just as pleasing for Sid was the “buy-in” from the local community as lockdown restrictions were eased. Club members came together and organised regular pizza evenings as well as several barbecues. The response from people living in Charlton Down was “fantastic” according to Sid. Funds raised have enabled the club to install new picnic tables next to the clubhouse and further ground improvements are planned, including more wildflower planting.

In fact, the Friday night pizza evenings have been so successful that they are going to continue throughout the winter. “It’s not just the club that benefits,” says Sid, “but the community as a whole.”



A successful side ready to celebrate

Brownies and Guides make their Promises

"I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the (Brownie) Guide Law"

Charminster Brownies have started the term off well, welcoming our new girls and getting settled back into the hall. The girls have made place mats for their chairs so they can leave their belongings on it each week. We had a lovely evening mixing and meeting each other, playing some get-to-know-you games and working on our Promise.

Sixes sorted

We have also planned our Sixes, choosing a sixer and a seconder, and learned our routine and Brownies songs. We did a hall safety check and a fire drill. It has been an exciting beginning to our term. We have been looking at our badges and choosing things to do - interest badges, unit meeting activities and skills for life all



work to a themed award and we also chose individual badges to work on. We are also working on Mindfulness, which is part of our Be Well badge.

Brownie Guide leader Alli and helpers Sue and Simone

The Guides have also been working on the Promise, making paper hands with our Promise on and our Promise sign. We have learnt all about our Guide Law, what a law is and what it means to us. We had great fun making fortune tellers using our Guide law, learning about Guiding traditions and camp blankets with our badges on. This is an incentive to work harder to earn our badges.

Meditation

At present we have been working on our Feel Good stage 4 skills builder and doing some calming and meditation activities. Getting used to new routine after such a long break has been challenging but fun. Getting to



know the new Guides and saying goodbye to the older girls has made space to choose new patrols and patrol leaders. We will be doing individual work with our badges, and more next month when doing a few craft activities. It has been really lovely to be back and brilliant to be in the hall.

Alli and the leadership team

We have spaces in both Brownies and Guides so if you wish to enrol please log into our guiding website - **www.girlguiding.org.uk** - and go on to join us. We'd love to hear from you.

Dorchester Trefoil has finally been able to meet almost normally again in St George's Hall. Chairs were spaced and sprayed and 18 members turned up for tea, cake and lots of chat and information, much of it about our 60th birthday party to be held in Stratton Village Hall on 18th September. Sixty-five guests have accepted invitations! Alli from Guides is baking a cake for us – she is brilliant at decorating celebration cakes!

We have also given a donation to Project Linus towards wadding for patchwork quilts for children in hospital, child carers and disabled children. Liz and Lesley from Project Linus are giving us a talk at our October meeting.

Our own Memory blanket and twiddlemuff project has been expanded to include triangular shawls. The latter have been requested by staff on the Day-Lewis and Barnes wards to cover patients' fronts as they sit up in bed to help keep them warm.



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 join in.

Judy Thompson

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

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It's the October Quiz!

It's quiz time again. This month's questions are loosely linked to the month of October, but oddly, geese seem to feature as well...See how you get on. The answers are on page 43

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. In computing, a unit containing 8 bytes is called.....?
7. The pantomime Mother Goose opens at Yeovil's Octagon Theatre in December. What traditional role is played by Mother Goose?
8. Oca is the Italian word for goose. What is an ocarina?
9. Who wrote the novel The Hunt for Red October?
10. Which world championships are held on the second Sunday of October in the Northamptonshire village of Ashton?



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Art Club back in the picture

Charminster's Art Club has returned to the village hall—with more than double the former numbers.

After being forced to dabble with their paints, charcoals, pastels and acrylics in isolation while Covid restrictions were in force over the last 18 months, local artists were please to be able to get together and share advice and encouragement.

Organiser Dudley Kemp said the group started about 15 years ago. “There’s no teaching—everyone comes along and does their own thing. I mostly use acrylics and do everything but portraits and my wife Christine prefers water colours.

“Everyone seems to enjoy meeting up. We’ve now got 14 here when we only used to have about six, which is good news.”

Anyone wanting the go along to the club should contact Dudley on 751535. They meet during term time at 2.00 on Wednesdays at Charminster Village Hall.



Retired psychotherapist Jane Bax works on her flower picture while Tony Cooke perfects a portrait of his wife Caroline.



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Charminster WI meet the Alpacas

We had a great turnout for our September meeting held at the new Community Hall. It was lovely to see so many members and also quite a few new faces– including some rather more unusual ones, writes Judy Bird.

Wendy Williams of Alpaca Adventure (based at Shaftesbury) visited us with 2 lovely ‘boys’ from her flock of 36. Guinness and Casper were very well-behaved, standing patiently waiting whilst Wendy told us all about the different breeds, their history and some interesting facts about alpacas in general, such as they have padded feet not hooves.

We’ve also had another visit to Hauser & Wirth at Bruton where we looked round the gallery and enjoyed the beautiful prairie planted garden. Another group visited Dorset Museum to gain inspiration for our next Charminster Whispers challenge.

Next month’s speaker will be Steve Griffith from Abbotsbury Gardens who will give us a

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

presentation about the gardens’ past, present and future on Tuesday 12th October at 7.30pm. We also have an opportunity to take part in a history walk around Dorchester and hopefully a Ghost Walk with Alistair Chisholm.

Please come along to our next meeting if you would like to join us or contact Judy Thompson on 263783 for more details.

Below, Guinness and Casper at Charminster WI with handler Wendy





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Stinsford News...

...from Michael Clarke

St. Michael's will bring both its Harvest and Patronal Festivals together on the 3rd October when the church will be decorated in its traditional Harvest style.

The Michaelmas Fayre will be held on the 25th September between 11am and 3pm. There will be refreshments served from the courtyard of the old Rectory and stalls of varying kinds in and around the church, so please come along and enjoy.

The grass in the upper graveyard has been cut by bridegroom, Matthew Payne with the help of his grandfather, Mick Legg and nephew, George, in preparation for his marriage which took place earlier in September.

Hymns are back

Hymns are now firmly back as part of the services and a pleasure to have . We started with two but quickly went to four and on the fifth Sunday in September at the Benefice Evensong we ended with a glass of bubbles and nibbles outside

The Roundel for the Bockhampton

Cross signpost has arrived from the north Dorset foundry so we now have all the pieces and are just waiting for all to be painted and assembled.

No swarms

Fruits and vegetables are in abundance but the bees are missing and there were no swarms this year. From everything I hear it is going to be a very poor honey harvest. French beekeepers are calling for government support with losses up to 60% . So numbers going into winter are much reduced. Our feral colony continues to thrive however but there is no chance of sharing their stores.

Ride and Stride will saw Sally Warburton and Chris Gotel taking part. The Historic Churches Trust who support many parishes throughout Dorset with the cost of repairs to their churches raised a record £112,528 including Gift Aid in 2020. Fifty per cent of the sponsorship money goes to the rider's church and the remaining 50% is retained by the DHT who then offer it by way of grants to applicant parochial church councils.


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From the Clergy...

...with Dick Luther

BBC 4 has launched a study on 'kindness'. An on-line questionnaire asks whether we felt that there was more kindness around since the pandemic.

Apparently there has been a mixed response. Certainly, we're made aware of some unbelievably cruel words and deeds in our world today. But we also know of, and have experienced, great acts of kindness. I want to believe that ultimately good will defeat evil.

In the BBC 4 discussion, they said that we've all a responsibility to show kindness; it was a muscle that needed to be exercised. We need motivation and determination. William Penn wrote, "We pass through life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, let me do it now for I shall not pass this way again."

Milk of human kindness

The phrase "the milk of human kindness" was first coined by Shakespeare but sadly for Lady Macbeth, it was something she didn't admire about

her husband! She was not a kind woman!

At this season of 'Harvest' we might affirm that a person who sows seeds of kindness will reap a good harvest. Plants don't just need planting, they need watering and weeding. We don't always get it right and we need to root out any selfishness or pride. We need to apologise if we've hurt anyone and ask for forgiveness.

Way of life

'Kindness' is one of the apostle Paul's 'fruit of the Spirit'. He said that love is 'patient and kind'; 'patience being the length to which love goes, kindness its depth. It's not just an occasional expression but a way of life. It's difficult to love if we have not first been loved. We're all moved by extraordinary acts of kindness – people who have even given their lives for another person. Jesus said there was no greater love than this.

I want to believe that we can look forward to a kinder world – but I know it must begin with me!



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Star organist Simon at St Mary's

Musician and broadcaster Simon Lole is to perform at St Mary's Church, Charminster.

His autumn organ concert is on Saturday October 16 at 6.30, and the £10 ticket includes a glass of wine and nibbles to enjoy while listening to the composer, arranger and musician.

Simon, who started his musical life as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, is now renowned for his radio and television work, as well as working as Director of Music at St Mary's Church in Swanage.

Constant demand

Before going freelance to concentrate on his composing (he has more than 100 pieces to his name) and his broadcasting work, Simon spent 30 years working at Salisbury and Sheffield Cathedrals.



Simon Lole

He is in constant demand as an arranger for both classical and rock bands and orchestras and has helped produce a number of platinum selling albums for such stars as Aled Jones and Russell Watson. He is also a regular conductor, arranger and organist for BBC TV's "Songs of Praise"

The recital in Charminster promises a great evening for villagers. Tickets for the event are available from Bernard Tinker on 01305 213403. Places must be pre-booked—there is no admission on the door.

* And don't forget the Christmas Bazaar and Fair at St Mary's on Saturday November 20.

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Sunday 3rd The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday 5th T@SM 9am- 4pm

Sunday 10th The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30pm Harvest Festival with Breakfast Church



Tuesday 12th T@SM 9am- 4pm

Wednesday 13th 11.30am Mid-week Holy Communion

Sunday 17th Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Holy Communion

6.00pm Evensong.

Tuesday 19th T@SM 9am- 4pm

Sunday 24th The Last Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Holy Communion

4pm Messy Church



Tuesday 26th No T@SM

Wednesday 27th 11.30am Mid-week Holy Communion

Sunday 31st The Fourth Sunday before Advent

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Holy Communion

OCTOBER 2021 AT ST MICHAEL'S, STINSFORD

Sunday 3rd The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

Sunday 10th The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

11.15am BCP Mattins

Sunday 17th Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th The Last Sunday after Trinity

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 31st The Fourth Sunday before Advent

6.00pm United Benefice Evensong

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Fred's our sunflower star!

When Charminster Fete had to be cancelled because of Covid fears, one of the side events could still go ahead.

And that was the sunflower growing competition that local children were invited to take part in.

So now we have the results—and six year-old Fred Walkley of Vicarage Lane was the clear and outright winner.



Fred, who wins a £10 gift voucher, up the ladder and below, with his tallest sunflower

Fred, who features on our cover, grew the plant from seed in pots. Then in larger pots and finally in the front garden of mum and dad, Hannah and Alex's home.

The green-fingered St Mary's school Year 2 pupil also tried his hand at growing poppies and tomatoes throughout the summer, although confesses he's not very keen on gardening! For Fred, it's cricket and swimming every time!

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Residents object to additional flats.

People living in the north-east wing of Redwood House in Charlton Down have told parish councillors that plans to convert offices into six new apartments should not be permitted.

Around a dozen residents told councillors that the plans were unacceptable because of concerns about parking and the lack of refuse facilities.

The offices, currently used by the

Leonard Cheshire Charity are due to close shortly, and plans have been submitted to the County Council to convert them to apartments. But people living nearby say this will only aggravate local parking problems – particularly in the evening when people return from work. They are also concerned that the plans make no provision for additional refuse bins.

The parish council decided to lodge a formal objection to the plans. While not objecting to the change of use, members shared residents' concerns about parking and refuse management.

How to date the Harvest Festival.

The 1st September is considered to be the first day of Autumn by the meteorological profession and is followed by the Harvest Moon on the 21st September and the Autumn Equinox on 22nd.

These latter two now determine the date of the church's Harvest Festival which is set closest to them. This way of determining the Harvest Festival

replaced the Anglo-Saxon Lammas Day held on the 1st August when a loaf was baked from the first harvest wheat crop .

Michael Clarke





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Pre-school welcomes families.



After a summer holiday of improving the facilities inside and out, Charminster Pre-School have welcomed back children old and new , says Emma Norman.

Our new children are settling in well and enjoying the engaging and stimulating curriculum that we offer. As Covid-restrictions have begun to lift, it has been lovely to welcome families back into the garden at drop off time.

However, having an exciting curriculum and ongoing improvements means that we are constantly fundraising.

Thanks go to the families and friends of Charminster Preschool as in the last academic year they were able to raise over £2000. Whether it was helping to buy or sell raffle tickets, a sponsored run dressed as Superwoman or buying plants, it really has been a case of every little helps.

We have also had some generous donations recently from local companies – Greg Walker from County Town Aggregates donated a vast quantity of play sand, which the children have already been digging into, and fencing from Jamie at Bradford's in Dorchester means that our children remain safely inside our boundary. And Ian Harrison, who runs Tai Chi classes in Charminster, donated a wonderful £120 as his classes are not -for-profit and he made one! Thank you to you all.

We do have more fundraising events planned, so please follow us on our Facebook page. You could also add us as your chosen charity when you shop online, either with Amazon Smile (where we get 0.5% of each of your orders) or through Easy Fundraising. Last year our supporters raised nearly £300 for us without spending an extra penny!

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Apple juice and cider on tap

It's apple-pressing day at the Charlton Down orchard on October 3, when everyone's invited to bring a glass and sample fresh juice and some of the cider from previous events.

And, courtesy of the village's cider king, Dom White, there's a brand-new press to do the business.

Dom, who has been making cider for 14 years, is clearly something of an expert when it comes to apple-pressing ... unlike your editor. When living in the New Forest we had several huge, old apple trees which produced gazillions of apples enjoyed by local deer, ponies and birds.

Sticky mess

One year we decided it was our turn, so hired a press and bought an apple-chopper - a plastic bucket with a blade fixed to the underside of the lid. You filled the bucket with apples, then fixed your electric drill to the hole in the lid and off you'd go.

In theory.

In practice, most of the apples stayed whole with just a few turning to mush, the press leaked and the amount of sticky juiced spilling all over our garage left us cleaning for weeks!

And we don't even like apple juice!

Dom, who was brought up in Herrison Cottages as both his parents were nurses at the hospital, will ensure the Charlton Down day is far more successful, so get along there from 10.00—4.00 and don't forget a container to take some freshly-pressed juice home with you.



Dom's newly built press

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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

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

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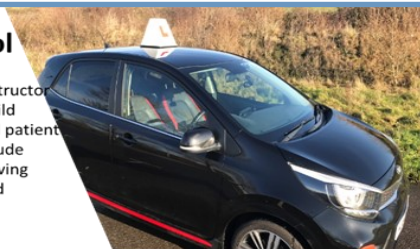
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The October Quiz ... the answers

1. Munich
2. Adge Cutler and the Wurzels
3. Roger Moore
4. Thomas Hardy
5. Thomas Hardy
6. An Octet
7. She's the pantomime dame
8. A simple wind instrument often made of clay and resembling a goose's head
9. Tom Clancy
10. World Conker Championships

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	Parish Clerk: Sarah Davies	07947 622326
Flood Wardens	Keith Beeson	264032
	Bob Brinton	260511
	Tim Yarker	265942
St Mary's First School	Headteacher: Suzanne Garner	263880
	Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	266598
Pre-School	Vanessa Thomas	251512
Village Hall	Bookings: Sarah Bird	266478
Women's Institute	Judy Thompson	263783
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CHARLTON DOWN CONTACTS

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CD Women's Institute	Brenda Down	251499
Jellytots	Emma	07791 204323
Flood Warden	Carol Matthews	751535

STINSFORD CONTACTS

Stinsford Parish Council	Parish Clerk: Kirsty Rigler stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com	268818
--------------------------	--	--------

Charminster & Charlton Down

Q. Is there an Apple day in the Community Orchard at Charlton Down this year?

A: Yes, there will be an apple day in the Charlton Down orchard again this year, after missing last year due to Covid restrictions. This year it will be on **Sunday 3rd October between 10am and 4pm**. Do come along and take part in the pressing of apples into fresh juice. Make sure you bring containers to take some juice home with you! There should be plenty of apples in the orchard but you can always bring some from your own garden if you wish. It is always a fun event so don't miss it.



Three well known Charminster faces from the Queen's 2002 Golden Jubilee party held at the golf course in Charminster



Q The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is expected to be marked in June next year. It is proposed that there will be an extended bank holiday from 2 June to 5 June. The question is how would Charminster and Charlton Down like to celebrate this historic milestone of 70 years on the throne. Would people like to organize street parties, a larger event or events? Please tell us. How can the Parish Council support these events to make this a real celebration in our community.

South Ward (Charminster village)

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

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Carol Matthews (Vice-chair)	751535
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Susan Fraser	TBC
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Charminster Parish Council