

The Pilot

June 2022

Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee in Charminster,
Charlton Down and Stinsford



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Unbelievably, we're halfway through the year and looking forward to loads of activity in the villages.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is kicking off early with a craft morning for children at Charminster Community Hall from 10-12 (we suspect there might be a bit of flag and bunting making going on there!)

Then of course, there's the Platinum Fete on June 4. Read all about that on pages 6-7. And don't forget to decorate your houses and streets to both celebrate the jubilee and give yourselves a chance to win a bottle of Champagne!

Goodbye

We're saying goodbye to our Rector, the Rev'd Mark Phillips and his wife Clare who are leaving after six years in Charminster, and have a fascinating account of fly-fishing and river

management from the Dorchester Fishing Club.

There's also—fingers crossed—some good news on The Pilot front. Several people seem to be willing to take it on as a group venture and save the magazine from closure. Nothing's settled yet, but at least there is a glimmer of hope. I would be so sad to see it fold after all the work I have personally put into it, but it is time for me to move on. I will help a new editorial team in any way I can.

I hope you enjoy this edition—my penultimate at the helm. Thanks as ever go to our advertisers, contributors and the stalwarts on the delivery network.

The next deadline for copy is June 10 and should be sent to editor@charpilot.com.

Enjoy the Jubilee!

Marilyn Kay (Editor)



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“No” to estate extension

Parish councillors have given the thumbs down to a controversial extension to the Charminster Farm housing development. They said the new homes would have a damaging impact on the nearby conservation area and would add to existing traffic concerns.

The plan for Phase 4 of Charminster Farm was unveiled by Wyatt Homes at a well-attended annual village meeting in the Community Hall.

Fewer houses

Planning consultants had designed a new layout for the site off Wanchard Lane. They addressed earlier concerns about the development by reducing the number of homes from 41 to 30 and said the houses would be built around a new central green. They said that the houses at the top of the site would not intrude into views across the river valley.

But residents are worried about the impact of the development on existing properties in North Street, and there were fears of further traffic

problems in the village. There were calls for a halt to piecemeal development until a comprehensive transport strategy had been agreed.

Councillor Peter Dangerfield said that despite assurances, the first phase of Charminster Farm had proved to be a significant intrusion on the conservation area. Views across the village from East Hill were “far worse” than indicated on the developer’s original drawings. Councillor Tim Yarker said the proposed extension would also be visible from across the valley.

Detailed traffic survey

Councillor Louisa Swabey-Payne said the extra houses would generate more traffic and that drivers would use the narrow village streets as a rat-run. She said Dorset’s Highways Department should carry out a detailed review of traffic in the village and devise a comprehensive strategy before any further development was permitted.

Councillors agreed a motion objecting the planned Phase 4 extension because of its impact on the conservation area and the threat of incremental increases in traffic. The final decision on the proposal rests with Dorset County Council.

Bring out the bunting—it's Platinum Fete time!



It's almost here! The fabulous Platinum Jubilee to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne!

And villagers in Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford are gearing up to mark the occasion with fun, fetes, bunting and balloons.

The main event is the Charminster Village Fete in the gardens of Charminster House on Saturday June 4 starting at 2pm, with a family fun day at Charlton Down Cricket Club the following day.

The fete opens with music from Danny Adams – and a rush to the stalls from those first in the queue!

The family fun dog show for pooches of all breeds, ages and abilities goes on in the centre of the garden at 3pm, so you'll need to register your pet for one, or more, or all the classes before then. It's being judged by Karen Wy-

att-Bain who runs the dog walking service Dorch Paws so knows a thing or two about our furry best friends!

At 4pm, there's the duck race through the garden on that section of the River Cerne so you'll need to buy a stake in your favourite numbered duck and at 4.30, the Grand Draw winners will be announced.

£250 prize

And here's the big news, because of the generosity of the fete sponsors, the first prize is £250, the second is £150 and the third prize gives the winner £100! Also, Richard and Jenny Mulligan have kindly donated a £250 voucher for their Charminster holiday cottage (great for putting up the relatives!).

Then the afternoon finishes up with a tug o' war contest which should result in much fun and laughter all round.

Of course, there are lots of stalls and games going on all afternoon, along with a Posh Pigs barbeque, beer tent thanks to the Three Compasses, and the ever-popular tea and cakes courtesy of Charminster WI's brilliant bakers.

You can also have a try at Tai Chi, meet hearing dogs for the deaf, watch Punch and Judy and admire classic cars among many other things.

So get along to Charminster House,

where owners Tim and Gwen Yarker have been working tirelessly to get their garden fete-ready as well as organising all the insurances, portaloos, and helpers needed for the event.

And if you any energy left, you can take part in sack races, egg and spoon races, leap around on a bouncy castle and enjoy much needed refreshments at the cricket club on Sunday June 5.

Let's just hope the weather is kind!



The poster features a central title 'CHARMINSTER VILLAGE FETE' with 'CHARMINSTER' in blue, 'VILLAGE' in red, and 'FETE' in a large, stylized black font. Above the title is a gold crown, and below it is a yellow banner with the date and time. To the right of the title is a purple circular logo for 'THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022'. Below the date banner is a list of activities in red text, followed by the entrance fee. At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors: M. Christopher, Hardy Tree Surgeons, and Charminster Stores & Post Office. The entire poster is decorated with red and blue bunting flags.

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Could planning changes and water fears kill off Norchester?

Threats to Dorchester's water supply, first disclosed in The Pilot last month, have been confirmed by Wessex Water. In an email sent to Dorset councillors, the company said that a major new development of 4,000 homes between Charminster and Stinsford poses risks to the public drinking water supply which cannot be mitigated without significant investment.

The company expressed concern that the aquifers feeding the Eagle Lodge borehole in Stinsford may become so contaminated that the borehole has to be abandoned and new reservoirs constructed.

The Dorset Echo said the water com-

pany's concerns may have dealt a "fatal blow" to plans for the huge new development.

Campaign groups opposed to Dorset Council's draft Local Plan are also assessing the implications of the Government's proposed Levelling up and Regeneration Bill announced in the Queen's Speech. According to the Daily Mail "Ministers will look at how the planning inspectorate handles targets on local housing requirements, with greenbelt and areas of natural beauty no longer forced to meet 'unrealistic' goals as long as they produce a plausible plan."

How the Dorset Echo reported the Wessex Water email:



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It's The Pilot June Quiz!

Try this month's royal-themed quiz:

1. In which year did Elizabeth II make her first visit to Dorset as Queen?
2. When did the town of Lyme become Lyme Regis?
3. King George V was a keen sailor and Patron of the Royal Dorset Yacht Club. What was his yacht called?
4. The Queen came to Dorchester in 2016. Which supermarket did she visit?
5. Who were Monty, Willow, and Holly who made a brief appearance in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics?
6. What is the link between the Queen and Dorset crispbread manufacturer Ryvita?
7. How was the Golden Jubilee of King George III marked in Dorset?
8. The reigning monarch has always been the patron of which well-known Dorset institution, since its founding in 1824?
9. Where is the headquarters of the Royal Corps of Signals?
10. What links footballer Bobby Moore with the Queen Mother?

***Answers on
page 43***



Memory of first fete unearthed

Charminster's first village fete was held at Charminster House to celebrate the Queen's Coronation.

And as plans were being formed for this year's Platinum Jubilee event, workmen installing new gates at Gwen Yarker's home made a poignant find.

A metal crown badge, that was clearly a lost memento of that 1953 event!

Said Gwen: "It's a bit bashed after



The Coronation crown badge

being underground for so long, but interesting that it was discovered at this time."

Early Bird catches bookworms!

Hats off to Sarah Bird for organising a special treat for book-lovers.

Charminster Village Hall is the venue for Sarah's first ever charity book sale. It promises to be a great way to pick up a bargain or two.

Doors open on Saturday, June 25th from 1 – 4 pm. (And if you don't fancy a book, Sarah is planning to have cakes on sale too.)

Depending on the success of the first sale, Sarah is hoping to make the event a regular feature at the Village Hall.



Hats off to Charminster WI

We had been looking forward to welcoming Sue Outhwaite from Snooks hat shop in Bridport to talk to us about the History and Care of Hats, write Judy Bird.

But on checking my emails at 8am on the day of the meeting, Sue had unfortunately had to cancel her visit due to illness.

A lot of work by committee members ensured that we had an enjoyable evening after all. Members came along with loads of scarves, hats, bags, jewellery etc for our bring & buy accessory stall. Some of us left with 'new to you' items to replace the ones we had donated!

New groups

The business part of the meeting included information about new groups – these include art, mah-jong, singing for fun, and history of art. These are added to our thriving groups already running. We continued with a session of cheese tasting (blue, brie & cheddar) which gave some interesting results. The evening ended with a

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quiz which tested members' brains!

We hope to have our talk on hats sometime in the future. In the meantime, in June we look forward to welcoming our speaker, Deb Fullbrook, and her dog, Elmo, from the charity Hearing Dogs.

Our meeting is always held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Presently we are meeting at Charminster Community Hall. So, the next meeting will be held on 14th June and we would welcome any visitors who may like to join us.

Important! Don't forget to visit the WI stall at the Jubilee Fete for your tea and homemade cake!

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Rev'd Mark off to pastures new

Rev'd Mark Phillips, Rector at St Mary's Charminster and St Michael's in Stinsford, is leaving the parish after six years in the villages.

He and wife Clare are off to harbour village Watchet and small town Williton in north Somerset to take on two churches.

"I shall be sad to leave everyone here but am looking forward to new challenges there", he said.

Mark, who also looks after four other churches —in Stratton, Frampton, Burton Bradstock and Sydling St Nicholas— had not planned on leaving the local benefice yet, but when a good friend showed him the advert for the Somerset incumbency he realised the profile fitted him to a T. And the church authorities there evidently agreed.

Hampshire-born Mark, 55, says his main aim is to get out into the communities and meet people. "I want to

open the church up for everyone and have other things going on there. A bit like we have done here with Messy Church, Breakfast Church and other activities."

After coming to the ministry following a career in social care and education, Mark spent three years as a curate on Portland before arriving in Charminster for his first incumbency. "I've particularly loved working with the school here, and with Kingston Maurward College and their studio school", he said.

His teacher wife Clare, who works for the Salisbury Diocese Rural Help initiative and is training to become a licensed lay minister, will also miss all friends in Charminster, he added.



Rev'd Mark at St Mary's

Challenges and conservation for fishermen

Retired dentist Bryan Sennett, who lives in Westleaze, Charminster, has been fishing the local chalk streams for decades, and chairman of Dorchester Fishing Club since 2010.

He's been looking at the history of the club and the future conservation of the rivers in the face of ecological threats and water abstraction.

He writes: Dorchester Fishing Club was founded in 1877 by 14 gentlemen from Dorchester which makes it one of the oldest fly fishing clubs in the UK.

Fool the fish

They formed the club to fish for brown trout using only a technique known as "upstream dry fly". This means an imitation of an insect is cast at the end of a floating line upstream of a feeding fish in the hope that the trout will be fooled into thinking the fly is real, try to eat it and be hooked.

It is probably the least effective and most difficult way to catch a trout and therein lies its challenge for the fisherman! It is generally considered to be the most demanding of all angling techniques.

The founding members of the club originally leased part of the River Frome close to Dorchester from the Duchy of Cornwall. The club still has the same water and with additional leases, purchases and two very generous bequests from members, now has 12 miles of superb chalk stream fishing. 75 members and more than 100 on the waiting list. We still have the same single upstream dry fly only rule, but members are permitted to use other techniques for pike and grayling in season.

Conservation

The club's ethos is conservation of our precious chalk streams and the creatures that live in them. We do not introduce trout from fish farms and all fish caught are now safely returned to the river.

DFC is fortunate in having as our river keeper John Aplin, one of the most able and knowledgeable keepers in the country. John, with a small team of assistants and occasional help from

club members maintains the river banks, deals with fallen and overgrown trees, broken down fences, and maintains stiles and bridges. Eroding banks are protected with flow deflectors and groynes made on site from fallen timber and the current redirected to create pools and speed the flow to clear the spawning gravels of accumulated silt. The keeper also works as a bailiff to discourage poaching (a criminal offence since 1986).

The clubs conservation work appears to be paying off as in 2021 almost 2000 brown trout were caught and returned, with some specimens up to 4lbs.

Eyes and ears

The club members, apart from fishing, also act as the eyes and ears of the river. Anglers are the first to notice any signs of pollution or illegal activity that may be a threat to the river, and our waters are used by various agencies for regular scientific monitoring of fish and insect life which makes the Frome the most rigorously studied chalk stream in the UK. Another of the keeper's jobs is a yearly count of spawning redds to assess salmon and sea trout numbers.

We need our chalk streams to remain

in good health and at present they are under threat as never before. Agricultural run-off chokes the water plants and silt clogs the gravel. The run -off also contains agrochemicals which affect weed growth and insect life.

Biggest danger

But probably the greatest threat of all is abstraction from the aquifers which feed them. With every person now consuming more than 150 litres of water each day I doubt if the aquifer can possibly supply the future demand if Dorchester and surrounding villages continue to expand to the size our planners and politicians have in mind. If this is allowed to happen then the result of one or two dry winters and hot summers will be that the smaller rivers like the Cerne will probably dry up and the Frome reduced to a trickle.



Quiet times on the Cerne



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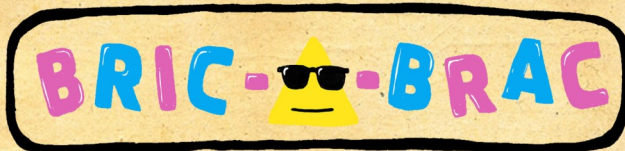
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News in brief...

Mark Simons has been re-elected as Chairman of Charminster Parish Council for a further term. Carol Matthews, who serves as vice-chair, was also unanimously re-elected.

The survey to test residents' support for lasting tributes to the Queen and her Platinum Jubilee has had an excellent response. There was an 80% approval for the Charminster scheme and 73% were in favour of the Charlton Down plans. The proposal for Charminster includes a commemorative piece of engraved Portland stone set opposite the village hall, while in Charlton Down, four large engraved Portland stone seats will be placed in the enclosed field behind the cricket pavilion which will become known as Jubilee Field.

Help is needed on the evening of Friday June 3 at 5pm to set up all the stall awnings and tables ready for the Platinum Jubilee fete the following day at Charminster House. If you can lend a hand, please contact Gwen or Tim Yarker by phone, text or message on 07740045558.

The annual meeting of the Village Hall Trustees takes place on Wednesday June 22 at 7pm at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

If you think Charminster and Charlton Down look tidier than other places you might go to, it's because the parish council gave a resounding "no" to No Mow May.

And parish clerk Sarah Davies raised more than £4000 in her 100k bike ride around London's night-time streets. Well done Sarah!

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Like many a pretty country church, St Mary's in Charminster has it's share of visitors and tourists.

Now, they can take home something by which to remember their visit, thanks to the efforts of family worker Vicky Lawford.

She has commissioned a range of memorabilia—mugs coasters and tea towels—complete with a sketch of the church.

"Our first lot all are a limited edition and have the Jubilee logo on as well, so that makes them a double memento. And if people want them as a gift, we can make up packages—for example, a coaster, a mug and some chocolates." said Vicky.

The mugs and coasters, which retail at £10 and £3.50 each, are being sold to increase church funds.



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Chocolate and chums at the Guides and Brownies

Charminster Guides had a lovely fun end to their term making owls out of cream eggs, writes Leader Alli.
Not sure how many made it home!.



A chocolate egg owl

We also followed instructions on a candle unit meeting activity. We found this a little challenging as it wasn't working as well as the activity suggested. But with perseverance we achieved it.

We decided there were many better ways we would have chosen to decorate these candles, but did enjoy trying something new and working out what we would have done to make this more successful .

New activities

Trying new activities and trying new things is all part of Guiding and extending our boundaries.

We are looking forward to this term and seeing what adventures lie ahead. If you have any enquiries check out our website. There is lots to look at. To get involved look on Girlguiding.org.uk. and choose options available,

Or contact Alli on 07483429596

Charminster Brownies had a lovely end to the term, having great fun just playing with chocolate, making nests for Easter nests .

We kept it relaxed, making the best of scooping the cereal and adding the melted chocolate with a little bit if butter, then spooning into the cases before decorating with eggs etc. Very tasty I must add.

We started the new term just playing some games and doing a little colouring.

We had planned to make bracelets, but enjoyed some chill time instead, so have left them to finish next time. A great beginning to our new term!



Chocolate nests by Brownies

If you need to get in touch with Brown owl the mobile is 07483429596. If you wish to join us contact Girlguiding.org.uk then Join Us. We're looking forward to this term and some nicer weather

Brown Owl and the Guiding team .

We do have spaces, especially in Brownies! If anyone would like to get involved in Guiding or enrol their child.

Members of Trefoil, the organisation for ex-Guides or those who have always had an interest in Guiding, have also been busy.

Our April meeting was an excellent and interesting talk by Richard Baker on his time as a prep school teacher in Devon, writes Judy Thompson.

Some of us attended the County Annual meeting where the afternoon theme was the Commonwealth games. Each guild had to choose a country – ours was Canada – and base an activity on it. The star of the show was Weymouth Trefoil with its Maori welcome shout and a demonstration of weightlifting using balloons.



We're back in St George's hall 2.30 – 4pm on the first Wednesday of most months now but we do have outings, so if you're planning to visit us, please check we're there.

If you would like more information about Trefoil, please contact me.

Judy Thompson. E-mail:- jct231@outlook.com (01305 263783)

JUNE 2022 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHARMINSTER

Sunday 5th June - Day of Pentecost

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30 am Service for Pentecost and Jubilee,
followed by Parish Jubilee Picnic at 11.00 am

Sunday 12th June - Trinity Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30 am Breakfast Church with Baptism

Sunday 19th June - First Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)
- 6.00 pm Evensong



Sunday 26th June - Second Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 3rd July

- 11.00 am Rev'd Mark Phillips' farewell service
All welcome



JUNE 2022 AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, STINSFORD

Sunday 5th June - Day of Pentecost

10.00 am Pentecost and Jubilee Service with guest preacher, the Revd. Canon Richard Franklin, on the occasion of Thomas Hardy's birthday.

Sunday 12th June - Trinity Sunday

11.15 am BCP Matins

Sunday 19th June - First Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 26th June - Second Sunday after Trinity

6.00 pm Evensong



A special message from the Rev'd Mark Phillips ...

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last 'from the Clergy'. As I do the beginning of the classic song from the Sound of Music reverberates in my head ' So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu....

At the beginning of July, and after six years, Clare and I will be leaving the Parishes of Charminster and Stinsford .

We have enjoyed our time here immensely and will be sad to move on. We have felt welcomed and supported and have so valued being part of strong and thriving communities in such wonderful surroundings.

God's calling

However, we must all follow God's calling. 'For everything there is a season, and time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). We believe that our time and season has come, and that God is calling us to go and serve him in the two communities of Watchet and Williton, Somerset.

It has been an immense privilege to serve God and the communities here in Charlton Down , Stinsford and Charminster. I would also like to take this opportunity to say how wonderful it has been working alongside St Mary's first school. All the staff and governors are so dedicated in all aspects of the children's education and welfare, and mention must be made of their outstanding dedication and sheer hard work through COVID-19. It has also been a wonderful opportunity to be chaplain at Kinston Maurward college.

Covid challenge

Although COVID-19 was unprecedented in modern times and extremely challenging, affecting people in many different ways (some still ongoing) I believe our communities rose to the challenge and supported each other wonderfully. I was proud to be part of such caring and resilient groups of people who showed compassion and unity in difficult times. I do believe that the experiences of

Covid and our responses will in the long run make our communities stronger. Therefore, although we will be very sad to leave, we know that we leave our church communities behind in the safe hands of a strong church team until my successor is appointed – our wonderful curate Revd Leila, our steady and wise associate priests, Hugh, Dick and Rob, and our hard-working churchwardens and PCCs.

We acknowledge that change is never easy, and we ask that you pray for Clare and I as we move and adapt to different circumstances, as we will pray for you and your communities.

Thank you all for all your many kindnesses, it has been a wonderful few years, and we shall remember you all most fondly.

My final service will be on Sunday 3rd July 11am at St Marys Charminster. All are welcome to attend. There will be refreshments afterwards.

May the road rise up to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

The rains fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

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Stinsford News...

...from Michael Clarke

The outcome of the vote on the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan has been revealed.

There were 261 parishioners eligible to vote and 124 cast them which was a 47.5% turnout, 113 votes **for** the Plan and 11 **against**. The Neighbourhood Plan is the only way we as a Parish can influence the future activity within our boundaries by upholding the agreed policies it contains. There has been enormous commitment and effort put into producing this quality document. Nick Cardnell, Senior Planning Officer, Spatial and Community Policy Service, Dorset Council has informed us that the Plan will go to the next Cabinet Meeting to be held on 21st June for formal adoption.

KMC at Chelsea

Kingston Maurward College's excellent Horticultural department will once again display at the Chelsea Flower show in May. We all wish KMC well and hope they can better their last silver gilt award with a superb GOLD .

And more local people should be able to see an element of the KMC's entry in the RHS Chelsea Show as it will form part of St Michael's Plati-

num Celebratory Flower Festival.

The flower festival is just one of the events planned for the Jubilee – which coincides with the Thomas Hardy birthday celebrations.

Jubilee tree planting

Morning service on June 5 will be at 10 a.m. at St Michaels with the Rev. Canon Richard Franklin, Chairman of The Thomas Hardy Society preaching, followed by the wreath laying and readings. Refreshments will then be served before the Parochial Church Council plants three new trees to mark the Jubilee. The Parish Council also supports the garden party event proposed to take place in the play area in Lower Bockhampton.

June 12 is Trinity Sunday, a Christian festival widely celebrated by western churches. It celebrates the mystery of faith and the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And just an aside, glorious summer sun has been warming and lighting the multitude of colourful wildflowers, flourishing blossoms and encouraging fresh green growth all around. It's wonderful what this scene can do for you.

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Local Probus Club looking for new members

Dorchester Probus Club, the local association of retired and semi-retired professional and business men “and others who have had some measure of responsibility in any field of worthy endeavour who are of character and respected in their communities”, wants to up its membership.

The Probus club movement - each club is autonomous and there is no central organisation—was formed in 1965. It started in the newly-created Welwyn Garden City when an early resident who retired after travelling to work every day realised he didn't know anyone in the town.

Lunch and speakers

Now, says local Probus secretary Bill Lowes: “We meet for a monthly lunch at the Gamekeeper, North St. and after the meal have speakers on a

wide variety of subjects. We also organise social events to which guests and widows are also invited. Our current membership is 25 ranging in ages from 60 to over 90 who come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

“ The primary objective is the chance to mix socially on a regular basis. The cost of membership is very modest and we do not exist to raise money for charity, said Bill.

He added: “We are looking to increase our current membership and applicants can be assured of a warm welcome.”

If you are interested in joining or require further information, contact the secretary Bill at billlowes@sky.com or call 01305 261417.





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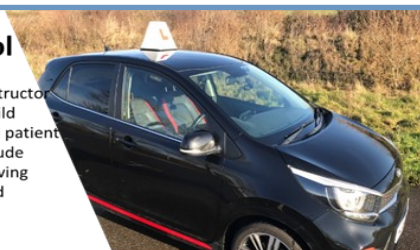
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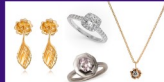
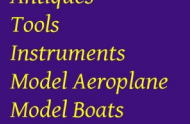
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1. In July 1952, shortly after the death of King George, the Queen visited Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Poundbury and Maiden Castle.
2. A Royal Charter was granted by King Edward I in 1284 when "Regis" was added to the town's name.
3. HMY Britannia.
4. Waitrose, Poundbury.
5. Three of the Queen's corgis who featured in a sketch with Daniel Craig as James Bond.
6. They have been awarded a Royal Warrant for the supply of crispbread to the Royal Household.
7. By the erection of the King's Statue on Weymouth seafront.
8. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution based in Poole.
9. Blandford
10. Sculptor Philip Jackson was responsible for the statues of Bobby Moore outside Wembley Stadium and the Queen Mother in Poundbury.



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