

# The Pilot

April 2023



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

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Cover photo—Mark Simons

Dear Community,

How lovely that Spring is here! It is such a hopeful time of year isn't it?

We bring you another edition packed with interesting articles and information about future events. Do look out for the Coronation Competition, news about the village fete and lots of band dates at The Three Compasses!

Look out for our Pet of the *Month* feature too where we tell the story of our very own celebrity!!

Mel and Claire



Deadline for submissions— 4th April



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## Stinsford News

**Only two days into March with bright sunshine and a cold north wind. Amongst the glorious crocus, snowdrops and early daffodils weeds and nettles can be seen shooting up,** the best idea I have found is to tackle the latter now before the main growing season.

**As dusk fell around 6pm there have been sightings of the wondrous Aurora Borealis in Dorset** and surrounding counties. We had knowledge that this has travelled further south than ever known. How amazing to see something like this in southern England. Then as the dark clear night sky came it offered fine views of the Moon and the planets with Venus and Jupiter around each other.

**I hear that February was the driest month for years.** Normally 50/60 mm rain is expected usually in the month and we have only received 10% of this so prepare accordingly.

**The meteorological start of spring** arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and the 21<sup>st</sup> March will be here soon bringing the **Spring Equinox** when day light hours equal that of darkness.

**Members of the PCC continue to work on appropriate amendments to the short film** to go to the DAC, indicating our desires for a new accessible loo plus some refreshment facilities in the south aisle. Taking away the present boiling copper and hotplate, warming soup or mulled wine in the north aisle where power points are available but with a shortage of space is suggested.

**The KMC Floristry Department** came along to the church early this week to test out their work display. We have always supported their use of the church and cemetery to extend their knowledge and expertise. The Head of the Department plus six students appeared with sample floral tributes for a wedding, and covered the pew ends with flowers and the same for the two piers at the gate all for their portfolios. Such beautiful arrangements and committed students and didn't the church look wonderful! (See photo attached)

**The Dorchester and Weymouth Beekeepers Association** have started to install their Association Apiary in the Hanbury extension which brings us nearer our Silver ECO award and they will help us maintain the space plus honey to come.

**This year April has five Sundays and Easter falls within:**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April is **Palm Sunday** and the first day of Holy Week with a service of Common Worship and the distribution of Palms.

**Good Friday** 7<sup>th</sup> April and of course Hot Cross Buns.

Liturgically, Easter comes after the Great Vigil, which was originally observed sometime between sunset on Easter Saturday and sunrise on Easter Sunday.

**Known also as Holy Saturday, on the 8<sup>th</sup> April** we will hold our Service of Light and Easter Vigil at 8.00 p.m. thus the bringing of fire (light) into the darkened church.

**Easter Sunday** 9<sup>th</sup> April with communion and the fun of an easter egg hunt.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April will, in addition to a Matins, be followed by our APCM.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April is the first Evensong returning to the summertime of 6.00 p.m. It is St George's Day too so a red rose is in order.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April a fifth Sunday Evensong, a benefice event followed by a drink and tasty eats.

**To forewarn everybody of the time of the service to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 which will be at 10.00 a.m. rather than 11.00a.m.** In this service we celebrate Trinity Sunday and the mystery of faith and unity on and of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is not mentioned in Scripture, but Christians celebrate the occasion often with symbols of fire, wind, and a dove.

It is also Thomas Hardy's Birthday and we see in his window in the south aisle two of these symbols of wind and fire from his favourite text from 1 Kings. Ch 19 and the story of Elijah. **The Archdeacon of Sherborne, the Venerable Penny Sayer will preach** and this will be followed by coffee, readings and the Annual Wreath laying ceremony by the Thomas Hardy Society.

A very Happy Easter

Michael Clarke



**Kingston Maurward College Students Floristry work at Stinsford.**



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## Time to get walking again!

With Spring arriving we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Dorset <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/dorset> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more.

Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Dorset (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

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## News from Stinsford Parish Council

A few weeks ago we held the launch event for the Stinsford Parish Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. I would first like to say a big thanks to all of those who attended and Kingston Maurward College for hosting us.

We started with an introduction to the strategy and its objectives. The strategy, an overview and action plan can be found on the Stinsford Parish Council web site. This was followed by a talk from Luke Rake, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Kingston Maurward College. Luke explained how they have set the date of 2025 to reach net zero carbon emissions and how this will, in the main, be achieved through ground source heat pump technology.

The position of the college, as a major employer in the parish, is very inspiring but from a parish position we need to establish a reliable way of monitoring carbon emissions. The position of the College is mainly based on emissions from its buildings rather than the overall position involving travel to and from the site, tractor usage etc. Most models of carbon emissions data collection fall into one of two approaches. First it is possible to analyse what we use in our own homes, consumption patterns, travel etc. Secondly emissions data can be considered for a geographically defined area. The second is difficult for Stinsford because there are numerous carbon producing factors in the parish, such as the A35, that we have no influence over. We need to establish clearly what data will be collected to show parish emissions, what will be offset by woodland and other natural features in the parish and how we will monitor this over time to show if we are achieving our objectives or not.

The issue of what projects could be carried forward was discussed in the second half of the meeting. There are the big idealistic potentials. If the college can go, to a greater extent, off the electrical grid why can we not explore the potential for taking the whole parish off grid through non intrusive renewables such as ground source heat pumps? Is this practical and if so how would it be funded? How would it be collectively managed by residents? This is exciting but requires a great deal of work.

There are luckily many smaller projects that we could all easily get started on. Residents were given a copy of the 'Action Plan' and asked to identify projects that are suitable for priority or suggest alternative projects. In a very short period of time ideas started flowing.

Transport was a big concern with suggestions including the safety of the Stinsford Hill Roundabout; cycle paths; improved public transport; speed limits in the parish including the A35; secure bike storage at Kingston Maurward and electric charging points.

Ecological issues were also identified including encouraging land owners to promote biodiversity; working with other organisations such as the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust; establishing a community orchard and hedgerow recovery. It was suggested for health and well being, walks could be established to key sites in the parish and a parish bounds walk could be re-established.

In all, the event identified a great deal of work to do but it was great to see so many suggestions coming forward. As usual we will do what we can but we do need volunteers to contribute to this alongside those superb people who put their names forward at the end of the meeting. If anyone is interested in getting involved in all, part of or some other potential arising from this please let us know. Please contact the council at

[stinsfordclerk@googleemail.com](mailto:stinsfordclerk@googleemail.com), through the Parish Council website or myself at [sarahjanepattison@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahjanepattison@btinternet.com).

Sarah Pattison (Chair - Stinsford Parish Council)



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Saturday 22nd - 6pm MASAU'U

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Saturday 29th - 7pm THE HAZE

Sunday 30th - 6pm STACY LOU



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## Dorchester Trefoil

Thinking Day (22<sup>nd</sup> February) was celebrated in Poole by 4 of us who took part in the lovely walk from Parkstone along the coast path to the Baden-Powell statue on the quay in Poole. This was followed by a celebration with Guiding songs and readings. Locally, our Trefoil Thinking Day was remembered at our café catch-up in the United church hall and later, in the Brewers Arms in Martinstown, where our Evening Section enjoyed a meal and took part in the pub quiz. We didn't win any prizes but we had fun. And that is what Girlguiding's all about!

The County Walk, at the end of March, starts and ends at The Sun Inn. We'll be doing a circular walk to the county show ground and then a circular route

finishing via Higher Burton Farm. Members from all over the county will be joining us and seeing our lovely area. Hopefully there'll be a few lambs about.

In March we delivered more memory blankets, shawls and twiddlemuffs to Barnes Ward at DCH for sharing between Barnes, Day-Lewis and the Stroke wards. I believe some might have been taken to Evershot ward too. As ever, we appreciate donations of wool and knitted squares and twiddlemuffs. (Whole blankets and shawls are welcome too). Squares are perfect for using oddments of wool. An 8" square is our ideal size as our lap and memory blankets are 40" by 48". I would love to hear from you!

Judy Thompson

e-mail: [jct231@outlook.com](mailto:jct231@outlook.com)  
(or via Charminster WI)



Charminster Brownies have had a creative start to the new year, painting plastic sun-catchers and cards and making 'stained glass' look rabbits in celebration of the Chinese New Year, the year of the Rabbit. We decided, having chosen lots of different things for the term's program' to follow this with some fun and sporting Unit Meeting Activities. The girls were so ready to use up their energy!

We have welcomed 4 new girls this term, which we are very excited about! The badge Brownies have chosen was a skills builder called Innovate! This is part of the Expressing Themselves skills builder! Back to First Aid will be continued later in the term

If you have any interest in becoming a leader or joining as a Brownie please do look on our website for any information you may like to know about Brownies

[www.Girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.Girlguiding.org.uk)

We are always happy to hear from you.

Brown owl and the Guiding team.

Charminster Guides have had a fantastic start to the new year! Patrol leaders and seconders have changed, giving others the opportunity. They had to write a piece about why they should or should not be considered for the post! It was a great evening and a fair vote! We also celebrated the Chinese New Year with making jelly using agar and using fresh smoothies so it was healthy as well as tasty! Then we went straight in with their Skills Builder badge which has just been completed! This has pretty much taken up the whole of the first half of term; next half they are working on their Confectioners Badge so more on that next month. We have sadly had to say goodbye to a couple of older girls, but also welcomed a new Guide, so there is always some sunshine!

Anyone needing information on guiding can log onto our website [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Alli, Ann, Lauren and Lulu

If you would like information about Charminster Brownies or Guides please call Alli on 07483429596. We have spaces in both Guides and Brownies.

## **April Quiz**

Answers p37

- 1. Easter Island is part of which country?**
- 2. Jeweller famous for lavishly ornate eggs?**
- 3. Judy Garland stars with which Hollywood star in Easter Parade?**
- 4. The White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland always carried what?**
- 5. What is the name of the Cadbury's workers' village near Birmingham?**
- 6. At Easter, the British monarch distributes small silver coins known as what?**
- 7. Other than hot cross buns, what is the traditional cake eaten at Easter?**
- 8. Which company made the first chocolate Easter eggs in the UK?**
- 9. What is the traditional flower of Easter?**
- 10. What household chore should you NOT do on Good Friday if you want to avoid bad luck?**

## Try The Bus

Unless more people use the No. 5 (was X11) bus the service will never improve and those who rely on it will be the losers.

But actually for many journeys the bus will be more convenient than a car, and far cheaper, and for those with a bus pass, free. Give it a try: have a day-out. The route from Charlton Down goes along North Street to the crossroads where it turns right into Weir View and does a loop down Pound Close and back up to Weir View. (The best stop for Charminster Farm is opposite the Compasses). Then it is East Hill up to the C12 and into Town.

Going into Dorchester there is a stop at the bottom of the hill, convenient for Lidl, the Poundbury Industrial Estate and the Antiques Centre. The first stop after Top O'Town is good for an amble through the park, the second stop in the High Street is outside the Museum (highly recommended), the next is very convenient for the library and the last stop before the Station is opposite the Market (Wednesdays).

Coming back it starts from Dorchester South Railway station, the stops are: near the Co-op in Trinity Street (make sure it is the 5 to Yeovil and not the 5 to Weymouth); in the High Street just before the roundabout and at the bottom of the Hill near the carwash. And if you ask the driver nicely, you may be able to get off where you want, even if there is no official bus stop.

Going the other way the bus takes you the "pretty way", first to Cerne Abbas, a good place for walks and places to eat, and then to Sherborne where there is plenty to do before ending its journey in Yeovil. Yeovil is not my favourite place but there is a good walk if you get off near Mole Valley and go into town via the Country Park.

The service is not very frequent, and non-existent at weekends, and sometimes it runs late despite the valiant efforts of the excellent drivers. The trick is to plan your day (the South West Buses website for the timetable) and the link [5 - Dorchester - Sherborne - Yeovil – South West Coaches – bustimes.org](https://www.bustimes.org) gives you a map showing where your bus is in real time. You don't need to get to your bus stop until just before the bus arrives, no matter how late. The map shows a circuitous route into southern parts of Dorchester: this only applies to the bus when it is also the school bus: something I try to avoid as it gets crowded (term time only).

Keith Beeson





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# Pet of the Month...



This is Ed the jackdaw!

I'm Lily Irwin and I'm 16 years old and I own Ed and I've had Ed since 4th June 2022.

It all started when my brother Rory went to stay at his friends house and found a baby jackdaw. We sneaked him home without telling Mum!! We made a nesting box for him. Ed is actually disabled and his full name is Special Ed because of his crossed over beak and deformed tail feathers.

Rory and I taught Ed to eat and once he had gained strength and started to grow we took Ed into the garden to teach him how to fly—this involved me running up and down the garden flapping my arms and he copied me. We then got a parrot cage so he could fly in the day and put him to bed at night. His cage is outside now and he is let out more in the day time and now he stays out day and night but always comes back for food. He likes to visit people in the village and loves to play with the children in the playground!



## **CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR APRIL 2023**

### **The Benefice of Charminster, Stinsford & the Chalk Stream Churches**

#### **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Palm Sunday**

Bradford Peverell	4.00 pm - Soul Food
Charminster	8.00 am – Holy Communion (BCP) 10.45 am (at The Gamekeeper) 11.00 am - Palm Sunday Procession & Service
Frampton	NO SERVICE
Stinsford	11.00 am – Holy Communion with procession of Palms
Stratton	10.45 am for 11.00 am - Holy Communion & Procession of Palms
Sydling St Nicholas	NO SERVICE

#### **Holy Week - Midweek Services**

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	8.00 pm – Night Prayer at Stratton
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 pm – Night Prayer at Sydling St Nicholas
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 pm – Night Prayer at Bradford Peverell
Maundy Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 pm - Eucharist and Vigil at Charminster
Good Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	12 noon - Reflections at the Foot of the Cross at Charminster
Holy Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00 pm – Service of Light with Easter Bonfire at Stinsford

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day**

Bradford Peverell	9.30 am – Family Communion
Charminster	8.00 am – Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00 am – All-Age Communion
Frampton	11.00 am – Holy Communion (CW)
Stinsford	11.00 am – Holy Communion (CW)
Stratton	9.30 am – Holy Communion (CW)
Sydling St Nicholas	9.30 am – Holy Communion (CW)



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Bradford Peverell	11.00 am – P&W! with Baptism
Charminster	8.00 am – Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00 am – Holy Communion (CW) 6.00 pm – Evensong (BCP)
Frampton	NO SERVICE
Stinsford	11.00 am - Matins
Stratton	5.00 pm – Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sydling St Nicholas	9.30 am – Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Bradford Peverell	6.30 pm – Evening Prayer (BCP)
Charminster	8.00 am – Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00 am – Holy Communion (CW) 4.00 pm – Messy Church
Frampton	9.30 am – Holy Communion (CW)
Stinsford	6.00 pm – Evensong (BCP)
Stratton	NO SERVICE
Sydling St Nicholas	NO SERVICE

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Bradford Peverell	9.30 am – Chalk Stream Communion Service
Charminster	11.00 am – Holy Communion (CW)
Frampton	9.30 am - Chalk Stream Communion Service at Bradford Peverell
Stinsford	6.00 pm – Evensong (BCP)
Stratton	9.30 am - Chalk Stream Communion Service at Bradford Peverell
Sydling St Nicholas	9.30 am - Chalk Stream Communion Service at Bradford Peverell



## **Charlton Down Cricket Club**

April is upon us and it feels like Spring has most definitely sprung – the birds are singing, the lambs are gambolling and Pally is rolling the pitch in earnest. Also springing into life (or at least crawling out of dormancy) are Charlton Down's cricketers. Outdoor practice sessions will soon be starting on Friday evenings from around 6pm, and for many of us it will be the first time we've picked up a bat or ball since last September. The League season gets under way in the last week of April, but before then we have a couple of friendly games lined up against Abbotsbury on 15<sup>th</sup> April and Cerne Valley on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A full fixtures list can be picked up from the club and will also be displayed on the village notice boards.

Given the success of our monthly Quiz Night through the winter, we have decided to keep them going through the Spring and Summer months, possibly even going al fresco if the weather is kind to us. This might require some creativity in fitting them around the cricket matches, but we will do our best to keep them on a Friday towards the end of each month. The next quiz will be on 28<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 8pm but it's best to get there early to nab a comfortable spot. Before that is our Cheese & Wine Night on 7<sup>th</sup> April, hopefully making your Good Friday even better.

Jumping ahead slightly, May will see the start of our All Stars & Dynamos Cricket sessions. From 14<sup>th</sup> May you will hear the excited cries and whoops of enjoyment drifting up from the club – and that's just from coaches Sid and Tommy, let alone the gaggle of 5-11 year olds who will be joining them for fun-filled Sunday mornings of cricket activities and games. Over the last two years we have had over 130 children join us for these sessions and places quickly get taken up, so register early to avoid disappointment. Further details on the next page:

**What is it?** All Stars and Dynamos cricket is a national programme run by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) providing a creative way to learn the basics of the game in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

**When?** Sunday mornings 10am to 11am, starting May 14<sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks (Should weather interfere we might extend the duration).

**Where?** Charlton Down Cricket Club

**Cost?** £40

**What does this include?** 8 sessions with our team of activators (instructors). A personalised T-shirt, an All Stars kit bag with bats, balls, stumps etc. Lots of adults making fools of themselves and if previous years are anything to go by, an assault course and water fight on the last day.

**Who?** Boys and girls from the local area or further away. We don't mind who comes along, so if you have friends or family from a bit further away that would like to sign up, we would be delighted to have them join us for the fun.

**Age ranges?** All Stars ages 5-8, Dynamos ages 8-11. The age ranges are only guidelines, so if you have any queries about which would be best for your children (or any other questions about the programme), please contact our All Stars Co-ordinator Sid on 07769 620968.

**How to sign up?** Visit the ECB All Stars website <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Type in Charlton Down where it prompts you to search for your nearest cricket centre, and then select either All Stars or Dynamos to book your space.

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Rector	Vacant	
Curate, Charminster, Stinsford & Chalk Stream Villages	The Reverend Leila Mather	263761
Hon. Associate Minister	The Reverend Dr Hugh Willis	262940
Associate Minister	The Reverend Dr Rob Van der Hart	852130

### ST MARY THE VIRGIN, CHARMINSTER

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

### ST MICHAEL'S, STINSFORD

Churchwardens	Shirley Churchill	260159
	Sally Warburton	07587177735
PCC Treasurer	Michael A Clarke	267611

### FOR BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES

Contact the Administrator for the Parish of St Mary's Charminster and St Michael's Stinsford, Jean Garrard [stmaryschurchcharminster@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryschurchcharminster@outlook.com)

**Organiser & Quizmaster – Richard Wareham is delighted to report another successful Charity Quiz.**

'Redwoodentops' of Redwood House, were victorious again in the Second 'Inter-House Quiz' between Greenwood House, Herrison House and Redwood House in Charlton Down, held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**£363.50** was raised for this year's charity: 'Dorchester Poverty Action' (covering DT1 & DT2).

But, spare a thought for 'Napolean Solo' (a.k.a. Nigel Pashley) who once again was happy to sit on his own and came joint second, missing out by just 3 points !! (Nigel, on his own last year, came second then too).

Last year's Winning 'House' - Greenwood House, were ousted by Redwood House, who now have bragging rights over the other two for a whole year! A huge Thank You to all who attended and all the donations received. (100% of the proceeds have gone to the charity)

Until next year.....



Left to Right—Pete Austin, Loraine Kerridge, John Austin (no relation) and Bob Mills.

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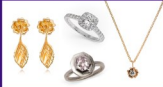
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The background of the page is a dense collection of colorful Easter eggs. The colors include shades of pink, light green, yellow, light blue, and orange. Some eggs are decorated with white patterns, such as polka dots, zig-zags, and small floral motifs. The eggs are arranged in a somewhat chaotic but overlapping pattern, filling the entire frame.

## Quiz Answers

1. Chile
2. Fabergé
3. Fred Astaire
4. Pocket watch
5. Bourneville
6. Maundy Money
7. Simnel cake
8. JS Fry & Sons
9. Lily
10. Washing clothes.

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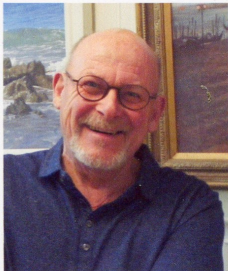
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The Charminster Fete was created to support and encourage people to come together as a community after the second world war. Every penny the organisers raise is used to support the community. Charminster grounds were registered in the famous Domesday book 1086 just 20 years after the Battle of Hastings and at one point were owned by monarchs from Henry VIII onwards.

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	Vice chair: Carol Matthews	751535
	Parish Clerk: Sarah Davies	819429
<b>Flood Warden</b>	Tim Yarker	265942
<b>St Mary's School</b>	Headteacher: Suzanne Garner	263880
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### **STINSFORD CONTACTS**

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flags, bunting and more to celebrate this incredible  
national occasion.**

**For a chance to win one of two family tickets to the  
Dorchester Keep Museum all entries should email a photo of  
your decorations to [clerk@charminster.info](mailto:clerk@charminster.info)  
by Monday 8th May**

**Two winners will be announced by the Parish Council.**



**1st - 8th**

**May**

**cpc**

Charminster Parish Council  
Serving Charminster, Charlton Down & Forston