

The Pilot

March 2023



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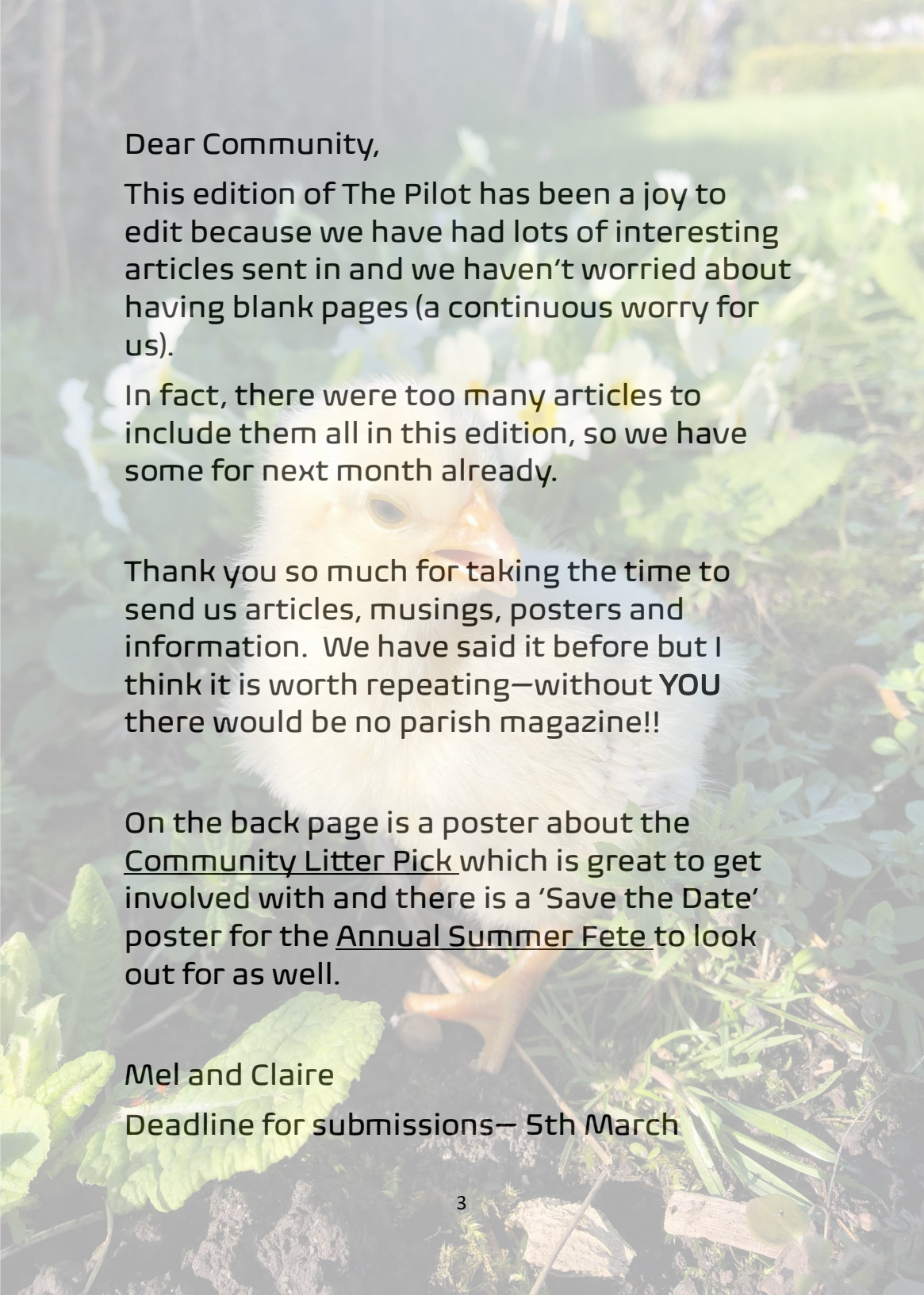
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Cover photo—Mark Simons

A fluffy yellow chick is the central focus of the page, positioned in the middle ground. It is surrounded by lush green foliage, including various leafy plants and small white flowers. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the chick. The overall scene is bright and natural, suggesting a garden or outdoor setting.

Dear Community,

This edition of The Pilot has been a joy to edit because we have had lots of interesting articles sent in and we haven't worried about having blank pages (a continuous worry for us).

In fact, there were too many articles to include them all in this edition, so we have some for next month already.

Thank you so much for taking the time to send us articles, musings, posters and information. We have said it before but I think it is worth repeating—without **YOU** there would be no parish magazine!!

On the back page is a poster about the Community Litter Pick which is great to get involved with and there is a 'Save the Date' poster for the Annual Summer Fete to look out for as well.

Mel and Claire

Deadline for submissions— 5th March



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News from Stinsford Parish Council

At our January Council meeting we discussed the councils budget for 2023/24 as we are required to do annually. This is the time to establish what we need to raise as the Parish Council component of the council tax. Over the last few years we have not raised the amount at all.

Stinsford Parish Council voted unanimously to maintain the present amount and go for a 0% increase again. It was felt that in the light of fuel, cost of living and mortgage interest rate rises, the rising cost of council tax from the claims of Dorset Council and others, however small Stinsford Parish Councils charge may be, any rise could not be justified.

The councils levy will remain at £5,500 for the year. That will mean a charge of £38.76 for a band D property. The larger part of this will be spent as usual on running costs. This includes our parish clerk, insurance, external auditing fees, professional affiliations etc. Some of these items are legal requirements that we are duty bound to pay for. To date this year the council has spent £4,435.51 so we already have an idea of the councils basic expenditure needs. Obviously at present everything is rising in price but or now we anticipate that at least for the 2023/4 year we will be able to absorb any increases.

The council does have some significant projects that require funding but wherever possible we will bid for external grants as we did successfully for the delivery of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan. The council also has adequate financial reserves for emergency financial requirements. Where necessary we are trying to use what little we have as match funding so as not to miss out on potential grant opportunities. The council is also dependent on the voluntary work of councillors and residents all of which is helpful in maintaining cost-efficient delivery.

In 2023/24 the council will, besides its routine work, continue to progress the Stinsford Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, look to how best to deliver the policies adopted in the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan and carry out a range of on-the-ground projects such as the maintenance of the playfield walls and the phone box in Lower Bockhampton. While these may not in themselves seem like big issues they are essential to maintaining the character of the area.

Sarah Pattison

Chair

Stinsford Parish Council






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MARCH QUIZ

- 1) Why do we celebrate the Olympic success of Dorset's Charles Bennett?
- 2) Which birds feature on the badge of Dorchester Town Football Club?
- 3) Dorset's Peter Wilson won a gold medal in the 2012 Summer Olympics In which sport?
- 4) Which left arm spinner in the current England Test squad played for Dorset in the Minor Counties Championship?
- 5) How many tennis grand slam titles were won by Bournemouth's Virginia Wade?
- 6) Name the newly signed West Ham striker who once played for Dorchester Town?
- 7) Where is the National Sailing Academy?
- 8) What is the Dorset Knob-Throwing record?
- 9) In which sport did Bournemouth's Geva Mentor, Captain England?
- 10) What sport is practised by the Weymouth Bay Bluetits?

Answers on p 37

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Charminster Village Hall news

The popular village hall quiz returns on Friday, March 24th at 7pm. Tickets priced £7.50 include a buffet supper and free prize draw. Don't worry if you can't get a team together, we'll pair you up on the night! Book your tickets by calling Nigel Kay on 01305 260401 or email nigelrkay@gmail.com. And don't forget to bring a bottle!

With Spring around the corner, the village hall's Thursday lunch club will be held for the last time on Thursday, February 23rd. For the past three months the hall has been offering a warm welcome and a light lunch for village "seniors".

The annual meeting of the village hall trustees will be held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday, March 22nd. If you want to find out more about how the hall is run and which clubs and societies meet there, all are welcome.

Souper Thursday's soup for you!

Souper Thursday at Charminster Village Hall may have run its course, but the popular soups can now be made in your own homes.

One of the Souper Thursday regulars' favourites was the easy-to-make Leek and Potato Soup ... with a twist. So here's how to do it.

You need (for about six servings): 55g butter, 1 chopped onion, 3 sliced leeks, 225g peeled and cubed potatoes, 850ml vegetable stock, salt and pepper, 200ml single cream plus (and here's the twist) a good glug of sherry.

Melt the butter in a large saucepan and add all the vegetables. Sauté gently for 2-3 minutes until soft but not brown. Add the stock, bring to the boil then simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly, transfer to a blender and process to a purée. Return to the rinsed-out pan and reheat gently, adding the salt and pepper to taste, sherry and most of the cream. Save a little cream to swirl on the soup as it is served.

Sherry, or white wine, seemed to feature in nearly every soup served on Souper Thursdays – perhaps that's why they went down so well!

Marilyn Kay

1st February 2023

Update from Dorchester & Sherborne offices of Central Dorset Citizens Advice

Attendance Allowance

With the present cost of living crisis and pressures on the NHS and social care, do you live with someone, or know someone perhaps living on their own, who needs daily help or supervision to look after themselves?

If so, you could be eligible for Attendance Allowance (AA) if you have reached State Pension age and have a disability or health condition that makes it hard to look after yourself. It is currently worth between £61.85 or £92.40 per week dependent on how much help you need. It doesn't affect your pension and can be claimed if you are still working or earning money. You cannot claim AA if you are already in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Most helpfully it's up to you how you spend your AA; use it to help you remain independent at home or just to make your life a bit easier. For example, by paying for taxis, helping towards household bills, or paying a gardener or cleaner.

On the application form you will have to show that you need help or supervision through the day, or at times during the night, with tasks such as getting dressed, showering, eating or drinking, going to the toilet, or just staying safe.

A key factor is that you have had these care or supervision needs because of your disability or poor health for at least 6 months before you claim. People with a terminal illness can claim straightaway.

Whilst you can apply for AA online, it is best to phone the claim line 0800 731 0122 to request an application form as if you are eligible your payments will be backdated to the date you phoned. An award of AA can also be a 'passport' to other benefits and support..

Further information about this benefit can be found online at the Citizen Advice website but if you would like help and advice with this, including support with filling-in the application form, or another problem that is bothering you, telephone our free-phone Dorset Adviceline number on **0800 144 88 48** between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, or check our local offices times on: www.centraldorsetca.org.uk

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Stinsford News

Almost all will have caught site of the full moon on 6th February, called the 'Snow Moon', and a micromoon to boot, opposite to a supermoon because at this time it is at its greatest distance from the Earth. On this frosty cold clear evening observers would have not easily been able to tell the difference with the unaided eye, however it was 14% smaller than a supermoon. It was a cold night with a frost and a beautiful day followed with the promise of an early Spring. March's full moon will be with us on the 6/7th March and referred to as the 'Worm Moon'. Arriving before the spring equinox and referred to in certain quarters as a Lenten Moon it is spectacularly bright and if there is a rain shower in the late dusk of evening look out for a moonbow created by moonlight through raindrops as opposed to sunlight.

The broad beans are growing exceedingly well and germinated regardless of how cold it was. I started these in root trainers and after six weeks they were showing, then outside to harden off and with heavy rain and frost, in that order, I found myself knocking ice off the roots as I planted, but at present they are looking pleasingly good.

Regardless of the weather all around there are sightings of bright primroses, early celandines, and vast spreads of snowdrops on banks alongside the road or in hedgerows or churchyards or carpeting the grounds of our grand houses, just the perfect pick-me-up to see at this time of year. A flock of sheep in the Park over the last weeks has been a pleasure to observe. They appear to prefer nights on the high ground then stroll down into the sun and warmth of the Frome valley meadow.

With March arriving it brings much promised happenings so here are a few reminders.

The 17th is Saint Patrick's Day, Patron Saint of Ireland and who favoured the Shamrock, a clover plant with three leaves and a stem as a symbol of the Trinity.

The 19th is Mothers' Day this year and the date is also the much neglected **St Joseph's Day, (legal father of Jesus)** which falls each year on the 19th March.

The 20th and the Spring Equinox with the Druid Festival celebrating when the hours of daylight equal those of darkness. The Green Man figures at this time as a symbol of rebirth and has historic pagan roots adopted by the early Christian church whereby Spring is on its way and all hope for a glorious harvest. The start of the planting season is well underway so prepare in good time for this. To my mind there is nothing better than home grown peas, climbing French beans and Runner Beans and they only need a corner.

25th March is Lady Day, the first of the traditional quarter days, two of which are close to an equinox and two to a solstice. These have been around since medieval times ensuring that debts and unresolved lawsuits were not allowed to linger on. Accounts had to be settled and publicly recorded on the quarter days. By contrast the cross-quarter day holidays fell between the quarters namely, Candlemas (2nd February) May Day (1st May) Lammas (1st August) and All Hallows (1st November). Now only one of these has remained a public holiday.

The weekend of the 25/26th March sees us move from GMT to BST and the clocks go forward and we lose an hour. It also means that at Stinsford Church come April, Evensong returns to 6.00 p.m.

Michael Clarke



CHARMINSTER WI REPORT

At our January meeting members discussed and voted on national resolutions out of a shortlist of four, votes then being forwarded to the national office. After the serious stuff, we had a fun quiz and games evening.

We also enjoyed sharing the box of Celebrations chocolates that we won for overall best Christmas tree in the Church Christmas Tree Festival!

In February we are looking forward to welcoming Lucy from Margaret Green Animal Rescue to deliver a talk and PowerPoint presentation about the work of the charity.

March 14th is the date we celebrate Charminster WI's birthday. The New Hardy Players will be coming along to give us a 'Celebration of Spring' – Dorset poetry and prose, folk songs and traditional music.

On 11th April it is our Annual Meeting when members vote for our committee for the forthcoming year. Linda Gundry, a local entertainer, will join us for the rest of the evening.

Plans for the rest of the year are currently being put together, so we hope to be able to offer a full programme for 2023/24.

Judy Bird



Last month's quiz in The Pilot featured natural history questions inspired by a new book about West Dorset. Nigel Kay has been taking a closer look:

Brian Jackman was a Sunday Times travel writer for more than twenty years. He has a passion for Africa, its wildlife and especially big cats. But it's wildlife closer to home that is the subject of his latest book.

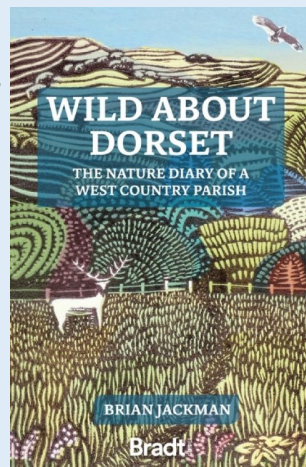
In *Wild About Dorset* Jackman writes with admiration and affection about "Wild West Dorset". He moved here 40 years ago, and in recent years has been writing about wildlife for his parish magazine *The Eggardon and Colmers View*. His monthly nature notes describe the passing of the seasons in the parish of Powerstock and provide much of the source material for the book.

Take the month of March, for instance. In a single chapter he mourns the loss of large areas of Dorset's open downland to the plough and the impact this has had on the hare population. And he celebrates the Dipper, an extraordinary bird that feeds off nymphs and larvae while submerged under water, walking along the stream bed.

The book is divided into chapters – one for each month, and they're all full of remarkable insights. They are also beautifully illustrated by Carry Ackroyd and Liz Somerville.

This is a love letter to West Dorset, its unique landscape and the extraordinary diversity of the wildlife that lives here. For Brian Jackman, the hills, woods and streams of Powerstock are every bit as fascinating and important as the mountains, desert, and rain forest of Africa.

Wild About Dorset – The nature diary of a west country parish, by Brian Jackman is published by Bradt, price £12.99.





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Pet of the Month ...

This is Millie.

She's 13 years old and belongs to Finley and Sophie.

She has the sweetest nature and loves to be snuggled up in the warm with her family .



PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER

Our first meeting in 2023 was held on Thursday 12 January when our guest speaker Peter Fry talked about the life of Samuel Ryder who was the man behind the famous golfing Ryder Cup. Peter explained how Samuel made his considerable fortune from the business he created selling 1 penny packets of seeds distributed through the UK from his base in St Albans. He, apparently, later in life needed distraction from work and was encouraged to take up golf largely teaching himself and practising in his rather large back garden. It seems that Samuel was concerned at the pretty poor treatment of the Golf Professionals so he arranged a competition where they would be paid for both attendance and expenses. Peter explained how the original cup was put in place as a result of this first competition and it was only later that it was awarded to the winning team in a match between the UK and USA. These early competitions were held at the Verulam Golf club near Bristol where he was Captain but as the Ryder family used to visit Weymouth for their holidays in the 1920's staying at the Imperial Hotel Samuel played regularly at Came Down Golf Club.

This was a fascinating talk especially for those members, like me, who are not Golfers and had no knowledge of the role Came Down played.

Probus Club of Dorchester is part of the international Probus Organisation and is a group of retired or semi-retired men who meet on the second Thursday of each month for lunch at the Gamekeeper in Charminster. At many of the meetings we have guest speakers and a wide range of topics are covered.

We are keen to welcome new members and if you are interested in coming along please in the first instance contact Chris Hutton-Penman at chris@ossl.biz or on 01305753611

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR MARCH 2023

St Mary's Church, Charminster

For more information see: www.stmarys-charminster.org.uk

Wednesday 1st March - 12.30 pm - Lent Lunch

Sunday 5th March 2023 - Second Sunday of Lent

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 am	Marriage in Holy Communion (CW)



Tuesday 7th March - 9 am – 12 noon T&SM - Tea, Coffee and Cake

Wednesday 8th March - 12.30 pm - Lent Lunch

Sunday 12th March 2023 – Third Sunday of Lent

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 am	Café Church

Tuesday, 14th March - 9 am – 12 noon - T&SM

Wednesday 15th March - 12.20 pm - Lent Lunch

Sunday 19th March 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Lent - **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
4.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)



Tuesday, 21st March - 9 am – 12 noon - T&SM

Wednesday 22nd March - 12.30 pm - Lent Lunch

Sunday 26th March 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)

Tuesday, 28th March - 9 am – 12 noon - T&SM

Wednesday 29th March - 12.30 pm - Lent Lunch



CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR MARCH 2023

St Michael's Church, Stinsford

Sunday 5th March 2023 - Second Sunday of Lent

11.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 12th March 2023 - Third Sunday of Lent

11.00 am Matins

Sunday 19th March 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Lent – MOTHERING SUNDAY

11.00 am Holy Communion (CW)



Sunday 26th March 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

4.00 pm Evensong (BCP)



CHARLTON DOWN CRICKET CLUB

It's starting to feel like the dark days of winter are well and truly behind us now. A hint of Spring is in the air and our minds are turning to playing cricket again. This month, I'm focussing on the Youth Section of the club – something I mention regularly, but often not in much detail. Proper youth cricket coaching started in 2013 and it is good to see some of that original cohort still regularly playing for the club in the evening and weekend 1st teams. Last year our U15's were runners up in the West Dorset District youth league which was a great effort considering most of the players were U13's!

We are always on the lookout for U13 and U15 players (Years 7, 8, 9 & 10) for the coming summer and we would encourage anyone who is interested in trying cricket to get involved. Training is on a Tuesday evening 6.15 to 7.30pm, starting in late March. Training sessions are led by local legend Tommy Tucker and his experienced team of coaches and assistants. Matches start in late April and run until mid-July, with matches on Mondays (U15's) and Thursdays (U13's), both 6pm to 8pm. We are also looking for U11 players (Years 5 and 6) and if we have enough numbers we will run an U11's team in the hard ball league. If not there will be various U10's soft ball festivals for the youngsters to get involved in.

For the real youngsters, we will again be running All Stars (5-8 years olds) and Dynamos (8-11 years olds) on Sunday mornings from 15th May for 8 weeks. For this, online registration is required (search for ECB All Stars) and choose the Charlton Down CC All Stars/Dynamo's centre.

With all youth cricket, the more helpers, the better! If anyone has spare time we are looking for helpers on training sessions and matches – cricket expertise is useful but not essential. Please contact Tommy Tucker if you need further details on anything related to youth cricket. Phone 07810 275847 or email: tommy.tucker501@btinternet.com

On a different topic, our social secretary Rachel has been devising a jam-packed social calendar for 2023. Some of the old favourites will be returning (cheese and wine night, gin night), we're going to give Italian Night another go and there will be some new additions too (Spanish Night, Nachos, cocktails and mocktails). Next up will be Nachos Night on Friday 17th March, with club secretary James' home cooked chili (beef or veggie/vegan options), freshly made salsa and guacamole all served up on a bed of tortilla chips. This might well be Dorset's first ever Mexican themed St Patrick's Day celebration, so give yourselves an evening off and come and get your dinner at the cricket club! Food will be served from 7.30pm and costs £7 a plate. Our next Quiz Night and monthly draw will be on Friday 31st March. This might be a good time to remind you that social membership for the year is just £5.

James Pretty

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, CHARMINSTER

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PCC Secretary	Jean Garrard	259083
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Churchwardens	Shirley Churchill	260159
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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



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1st Charminster Scout Group

I would like to give a very belated thank-you to all who helped with the Scout Christmas Post this year. Without the help of advertising from the Pilot, the post boxes at the Compasses, Charlton Down Stores and the Game Keeper, the volunteers who delivered the post and John and Gill Townson who sorted over 2,000 cards.

A fantastic community effort to support our local Scout Group.

Thank-you again.

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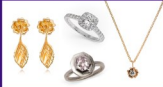
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Quiz Answers

- 
- 1) **Bennett, who was born in the village of Shapwick, near Blandford, the first British athlete to become Olympic champion, winning the 1500 metres in 1900.**
 - 2) **Two magpies.**
 - 3) **Trap shooting.**
 - 4) **Jack Leach.**
 - 5) **Three, including Wimbledon in 1977, when she beat Chris Evert in the final.**
 - 6) **Danny Ings.**
 - 7) **Osprey Quay, Portland.**
 - 8) **31.9m set by James Vincent-Smith in 2019**
 - 9) **Geva captained England at the 2015 Netball World Cup, and has played for some of the top professional teams in Australia.**
 - 10) **Outdoor swimming.**

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Villages' Directory

DORSET COUNCILLOR

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LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

All villages are covered by Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPT). We're looked after by Support officer (PCSO 5410) Sarah Pilcher. If you want to contact one of the team for any reason then go online to Dorset Police website at dorchester-rural-npt@dorset.police.uk and follow 'Do It Online' to access a range of services. Or there's always 101 or 999 or via [Do IT Online / Dorset Police](#)

CHARMINSTER CONTACTS

Parish Council	Chairman: Mark Simons	260055
	Vice chair: Carol Matthews	751535
	Parish Clerk: Sarah Davies	819429
Flood Warden	Tim Yarker	265942
St Mary's School	Headteacher: Suzanne Garner	263880
	Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	266598
Pre-School	Vanessa Thomas	251512
Village Hall	Bookings: Sarah Bird sarah345bird@aol.com	266478
WI	Judy Thompson	263783
Bell Ringers	Captain: Chris White	07783555199
Girl Guides	Alison Barlow	07483429596
Brownies	Alison Barlow	07483429596

Scouts,Cubs,Beavers	Ruth Young	268208
Scottish Country Dancing	Val Scriven	265177
Charminsters Stores	Louise Christopher	264312
& Post Office		
Art Group	Dudley Kemp	757151
Community Hall	communityhall@charminster.info	07947 622326

CHARLTON DOWN CONTACTS

Village Hall	booking@charltondownvillagehall.info	
Jellytots	Emma	07791204323
Flood Warden	Carol Matthews	751535
Charlton Down Cricket	Peter(Tommy) Tucker	07810275847
	youth/senior	
	James Pretty: booking/hire	07810275847

STINSFORD CONTACTS

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

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