



## *A view of Golden Cap from Lyme Regis*

### MEETING DATES 2019

DATE	VENUE
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
13 <sup>th</sup> May	James Hargreaves Community Hall (AGM)
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
August	No meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> September	James Hargreaves Community Hall
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Whitchurch Canonorum Village Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall
December	No meeting

All meetings start at 7.30pm

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATES— 2019

Whitchurch Canonorum	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April @ 19.00
Wootton Fitzpaine	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April @ 18.45
Stanton St Gabriel	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April @ 19.00

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## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR 1

Relatives and descendants of the 18 men named on Whitchurch Canonorum's War Memorial for the fallen of World War One have attended an exhibition in the village to mark the centenary of the Armistice. The exhibition was subsequently displayed close to Remembrance Sunday at the Literary and Scientific Institute in Bridport.

The exhibition, staged in the Village Hall, was entitled "One Hundred Years on: The Whitchurch Men Who Went to War". Each of the 18 soldiers remembered had their own individual board illustrated with photos, histories, family trees, diaries, medals and other memorabilia. There were also several manikins wearing army uniforms or costumes of the time. Paul Violet later modelled his Army Service Corp uniform and brought along many artefacts from WW1 for visitors to view

The exhibition was well attended on both days of the weekend with numerous people related to the fallen men coming from far and wide to pay homage to those who gave their lives. Many of them made discoveries about the men and posed for photos alongside the boards telling their stories. Several servicemen who had returned from the war had also been studied including Charles Barnes, Charles Knight and Fred and Albert Smith.

The stories of the 22 were researched by Sylvia Creed-Castle, for the Char Valley Parish Council, who would like to thank the family historian volunteers who helped over the 4 year project, the people who lent the costumes and manikins and those who helped set up and take down the exhibition.



Ralph Barnes died on 30.  
11.1917 aged 24. Buried  
at Metz-en-Couture  
Communal British  
Cemetery



Ernest Peach died on  
31.10.1918 aged 25.  
Buried in Cologne  
Cemetery Germany



Robert Harris died  
on 25.6.1918 aged 31  
Buried at St Sever  
Extension in Rouen,  
France



Zoe Cull restoring the war memorial at Whitchurch Canonichorum. This was financed by Char Valley Parish Council



A wreath commemorating 100 years since the end of World War 1 outside the village hall in Wootton Fitzpaine financed by Char Valley Parish Council

## TWO NEW COUNCILLORS HAVE JOINED CHAR VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Julia Eager joined the Char Valley Parish Council just over a year ago. She has been a member of the teaching profession for all of her working life; the last seven years as Head of a Preparatory School in Salisbury. Julia continues to participate in education as the Governor responsible for Safeguarding at St Swithun's Girls School in Winchester.

Julia lives on Hardown Hill in Morcombelake and is the secretary of the Hardown Society. She is an active member of a number of local groups including the Lyme Bay Chorale; she plays the oboe and is a keen tennis player.



'Richard Colby was born and brought up in Whitchurch Canonichorum after his parents moved to the area in the late 1950's. He returned to the family home with his wife Clare and two daughters in 2004 and the family have subsequently moved 'up the hill' to Morcombelake.

Richard is a Chartered Civil Engineer currently working for Dorset Highways and hopes that his local knowledge and professional experience will be useful to CVPC



# Chalara Ash Dieback

CVPC has received notification from a resident in Wootton Fitzpaine that ash dieback has been confirmed in two trees on his land. As the Parish Council's Tree and Hedge Officer I had been thinking about writing an article about the various pests and diseases threatening our native trees, what to look for and what to do. But, in the light of this piece of news, I think there is only so much doom and gloom one can take, so I'll restrict myself and stick to chalara ash dieback!

## Symptoms

- Dead or dying tops of trees, most easily seen throughout the summer months.
- Wilting leaves, most visible in Spring and early Summer.
- Lesions and cankers on stems, shoots and branches, visible throughout the year.
- Die back of leaves with black / brown stalks, most easily noticed during the Summer.
- Fungal fruiting bodies on fallen, blackened leaf stalks, visible from June to October.
- The staining of wood under the bark lesions, visible all year.

## The Disease

Dieback is caused by a fungus of Asian origin identified as *hymenoscyphus fraxineus* but it is generally still referred to as chalara dieback. Research suggests that the common ash, *fraxinus excelsior*, is the most severely affected species of ash and that young trees are most vulnerable. The disease causes leaf drop, die back in the crowns and, ultimately, the death of some specimens. There is no cure and trees do not recover once infected. The survival rate of infected trees varies and depends on a number of different factors including the age and location of the tree, weather and the presence in the area of other organisms such as honey fungus. Therefore, in forests where there is a higher incidence of honey fungus ash trees are at greater risk of contracting the disease.

Infection occurs via spores from fruiting fungal bodies in leaf litter. The spores are produced on fallen, infected leaves and shoots in the next growing season after infection. Currently, evidence suggests that trees need a high dose of spores to become infected. The fungus appears to cause the infection from June to October but mainly in July and August, and moist conditions favour the production of the fruiting bodies.

Significantly, infecting spores are principally wind blown. The risk of transmission by other means (on clothing and footwear, via untreated ash wood products) is thought to be slight. The spores can also exist in seed material.

## What to do?

The Forestry Commission advise that **you are not required to take any particular action if you own trees unless you are advised to do so by the Commission or by another plant health authority. Felling and pruning are only necessary if the affected tree's branches threaten to cause injury or damage.** In gardens the spread of the disease can be slowed by removing and disposing of affected plant material by collecting and burning (if permitted), burying or composting. This breaks the fungus's life cycle.

The above is a summary from the Forestry Commission's website.

Carolyn Peck

Councillor—Char Valley Parish Council



## The White Gates



The White Gates are situated at the junction of Champernhayes Lane, Wootton Fitzpaine and the B3165 Raymonds Hill to Marshwood Road. They are at the very western edge of the Char Valley Parish. When this area was part of the Pass Estate, the gates represented the estate entrance to a private road which was later adopted by Dorset County Council. The gates were always maintained by the Estate, which was sold in 1971. The then owners of Tempest House nearby agreed to maintain the gates, and subsequent owners have continued this tradition on a voluntary basis.

Time passes and the general appearance of the White Gates deteriorates. Outside help is sorely needed to stop the decay. Why not let them rot away, they are relics of a past era, the money can be spent on more “worthy” projects. They are an iconic symbol of the local area, of important historic interest, they represent only 1 of 3 such gated entrances in all Dorset, they must be preserved for posterity. They are an important safety feature on a road prone to fog. Such a dilemma. What to do?

The sale of the Pass estate came about due to the death of Alfred Douglas Pass in 1971. He has many living relatives and it seemed a good idea to approach them for their collective view on the matter. I knew the answer before I had even picked up the phone. Without exception, all those approached agreed to give a donation towards the maintenance costs. Additional donations have been provided by Char Valley Parish Council, Wootton 2000 Group, Wootton Best Kept Village Competition Group, and local residents.

David and Alex Brooks are tasked with restoring the gates to their former glory. The original hinges and decorative metal components will be used as well as wood from cedar and/or chestnut, sourced from within the area of Wootton Fitzpaine and Monkton Wyld. It is anticipated that work will be completed sometime in Spring 2019.

Debby Snook

Councillor, Char Valley Parish Council

January 2019

## THE CLOSURE OF THE POST OFFICE AT MORCOMBELAKE

This business was situated on the A35 en route from the Charmouth Bypass, through to Bridport. It is very close to the Jurassic Coast and from the premises can be seen Golden Cap (the highest cliff on the South Coast) and the sea.

Martin Legg took over the post office in 1980. Gill was helping Martin part time by the end of the 1980s. She already had a lot of experience having owned and run the Symondsbury Post Office for five years. Romance blossomed and they were married in September 1993. Martin and Gill purchased the property from the landlord in 1995. They soon restored the décor and quickly turnover increased and the future looked bright.

In the early days when Martin ran the business on his own, trade in the summer was boosted considerably by the campsites in the area. In addition to the public the sites were used by parties of scouts, guides or schools, and they would pre-order provisions for their stay. However over the years trade diminished and by the end of the 1990s the groups stopped coming to the campsites. Another factor was the arrival of Safeway (now Morrisons) which opened in Bridport. Their business dropped by 20% on that day. Also the opening of Tesco in Axminster affected their business. So they had to diversify. By 1993 Gill began doing a lot of the bakery items in the shop – sausage rolls, quiches, steak and kidney pies, sponges and a whole host of other goodies. This was a great hit with the local people.

In the mid 1990s there was a threat of Post Office closures, so Martin went back to running the business on his own, while Gill diversified. She had to give up her baking which upset a lot of her customers. She started working at Denhay Farms with a 6 am start when she worked full time. Later she worked three days a week. This continued for 19 years until Gill retired in 2015. From that time until recently they again worked together at the Post Office.

During the 38 years and 8 months that Martin was involved in the Post Office there were other diversifications: From 1988 to 1996 he did window cleaning but sold the round for health reasons. In 2001 Martin trained to become a masseur and following qualification he gained a client base of over 250 people. His training covered remedial, therapeutic and sports massages, and later trained in Indian head massage. Martin and Gill also did wedding photography and offered a complete service from photos to albums from 1999 to 2009. They ran a dry cleaning and laundry service for a time.

By 2006 Morcombelake had lost several important social facilities being the closure of Frodsham Motors and the Ship Inn. Since then Felicity's Farm shop and the Art Wave company have taken their place.

Gill and Martin decided to semi-retire in November 2018 and the last day of business was on the 24th and the last customer to be served was Nigel Carter.

Martin and Gill are continuing to deliver newspapers, milk and bread to existing customers in their familiar white van. A farewell party has already been held by villagers for them at the village hall in Morcombelake. It will be the end of a 38 year career for Martin, but no doubt they will both find plenty of other things to do in their semi-retirement. It is hoped that another local business in Morcombelake will take over the Post Office business in the very near future.

Sylvia Creed-Castle  
Councillor—Char Valley Parish Council



## A35 Diversion Volunteer Group

A volunteer group aiming to minimise the effects of blockages on the A35 continues to work together.

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### Countryside codes, farm visits and dogs

Those of us lucky enough to live in West Dorset are reminded daily of the beauty of its spectacular rolling countryside. No doubt we know that it is manmade and not a 'natural' landscape but how much do we know about how that landscape is maintained by local farmers and how best to respect it when walking through it?

To help you access your landscape, Char Valley Parish Council (CVPC) has included a copy of the Countryside Code with this edition of Char Chat.

If you have holiday accommodation or would like **extra copies** for visitors, friends or family, please order from the CVPC clerk (below).

A request too - please ensure that your own and visitors' dogs are kept on a lead at all times. Recently, there have been several traumatic maulings and death of sheep and deer due to uncontrolled dogs. Some people don't realise that even the most well-behaved dog can be tempted by the smells and animals of the countryside and it only takes a couple of minutes of abandonment to kill.

We are also compiling an email list of farms and land-based businesses who are happy to have you visit by arrangement and we can also send you land-oriented information throughout the year. Emails about work road closures and other parish matters are also sent out.

Please send your email address to the CVPC clerk if you wish to join the mailing list.

[charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:charvalley@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)

Hilary Joyce

Councillor—Char Valley Parish Council

### **Benefits of the new Dorset Unitary Authority**

The starting point when considering the formation of the Unitary Council for Dorset was to find a solution to the question of how to reduce costs and improve public services, coupled with the opportunity to improve people's quality of life through social and economic wellbeing.

The vision for Dorset was to promote a place where people would want to live and work in, where aspirations can be encouraged and achieved.

The Unitary Council will achieve sustainable housing growth through unlocking housing sites and the effective use of land assets.

There will be improved digital connectivity and strong local accountability with Town and Parish Councils with the support of your Dorset Council Ward Councillor.

The Council will be structured around communities, with connected councillors and Parish Councils who will listen to the concerns of the local community and take due account of the opinions of the Town or Parish Council on planning matters.

The Council will provide a consistent, effective and efficient delivery of health, wellbeing and social care services for adults and children, indeed the larger part of the budget will be used to achieve this. Any increase in the Council Tax will be largely used in dealing with the need to finance key demand led services.

Two Councils instead of nine across the county means clarity over roles, decision making and responsibilities. Benefitting from the economies of scale and the reduction in management structures, significant revenue saving will be achieved year on year without reductions in front-line services.

Residents will be able to take their concerns directly to the Dorset Council or via their Ward Councillor. The Unitary Council will take on the responsibilities previously undertaken by the County Council and District Council, as one council. We are getting bigger, but we are staying local. Dealing with key services such as revenue/benefits; adult or children's social care issues; housing; planning matters and homelessness.

Working to look after the most vulnerable in our communities.

Simon Christopher

Councillor West Dorset District Council



**Daryl Turner,**  
**County Councillor for The Marshwood Vale; Our County Councillor;**  
and also District Councillor for Charmouth & Lyme Regis



In June 2017 Daryl, from 206 Councillors, was selected to be one of twenty Members of The Shadow Authority Executive Committee, instrumental in developing the creation of our New Unitary Council.

As Dorset County Cabinet Member for the Natural and Built Environment, including the infrastructure, Daryl's portfolio commands a budget of over £30 million bringing him responsibilities in areas such as: highways, emergency planning - flood & water management, transportation, Dorset Travel, minerals and waste planning, property design and construction, county farms & Country Parks, coastal & rights of way network.

Daryl's determination moving towards a 'New Culture Dorset' and securing for us an effective, efficient, strategic 21st Century Council will over the next five years mean for him a huge amount of effort, much additional work - and a plethora of difficult decisions. His successful army career has already stood him in good stead, as evidenced by the 14 years then spent serving on District and County Councils, representing Dorset in over 25 external bodies.

Daryl has regularly attended and contributed to Char Valley Parish Council meetings remaining readily contactable. We have benefitted from his long standing involvement, perseverance and commitment in pushing for all that strengthens Dorset as an exciting, healthy place where people want and are able to live, visit, learn and work.

Ask Daryl a question, present him with a problem and he has come back with an answer.

We understand that Daryl has been selected to put himself forward for election in a his home ward of Lyme Regis. Char Valley Parish Council appreciates the tireless contributions and endless support that Daryl has given over the last five years; may he long continue to enjoy the challenges of public office.

February 2019



## Ecology Team complete a nature conservation assessment of the National Trust's Golden Cap Estate.



Green winged orchid meadow at Westhay Farm

The National Trust's Golden Cap estate contains one of the largest areas of lowland unimproved grassland of its English and Welsh properties. Stretching along the Jurassic Coast from Eype Mouth in the east to the Spittles at Lyme Regis, the team surveyed over 170 fields, twelve woods, heathland, a few ponds, streams and the coastal soft cliffs, which are home to many rare insects due to its south facing clay cliffs. As an organisation, the National Trust would like to re-survey each property every twelve years, but with the very large properties this is very expensive.

John Newbould has been volunteering here since 2005 doing ecological surveys, sometimes on his own but also with other volunteers but always writing up their findings to be incorporated in a nature assessment in the future. At the start of 2016, the then head of biological survey asked John to start filling in the gaps in the data already held with a view to completing a report by the end of 2017. The previous 1995-part survey made a list of twelve priorities, which needed addressing, one of which was to visit all unsurveyed places. During May of that year, the West Dorset team appointed Gemma Baron to prepare a management plan working in parallel with John. She was also tasked with increasing and managing the number of volunteers.

The arrangement worked really well with volunteers developing many new skills and John managing the data produced each week. We had a little professional help with the report on the invertebrates of the soft cliffs, which are of international importance. Bryan Edwards from Dorset Environmental Records Centre was commissioned to prepare a lichen report. Gemma and John worked together to produce all the habitat maps and condition assessments, which were then processed by our head office data management team.

This is a summary of the principle findings of the 475-page report.

- Fourteen species of bats have been confirmed on the Estate with the help of licensed bat workers from Dorset Bat Group. We have a large winter hibernaculum of the rare lesser horseshoe bat. Beckstein's bat was found breeding in the woodlands.
- Special surveys have discovered protected species such as water vole, dormouse and greater crested newt.
- Twenty-six species of waxcap grassland fungi have been reported, including eighteen species in one field near Eype making the Estate the 15<sup>th</sup> best place in Britain and of International Importance.
- Around thirty species of butterfly have been recorded including the Endangered wood white. Over 300 species of moths have been recorded.
- The grasslands around Westhay Farm support large numbers of green-winged orchids as well as many other rare plants, including the only Dorset site for greater broomrape, parasitic on gorse whilst the clay of the soft cliffs have probably the only British population of slender centaury.

The ecology volunteers meet every Tuesday as a group, whilst some of the invertebrate specialists' survey alone when conditions are suitable and keep adding to the Estate's large list of rare insects.

John Newbould is a volunteer specialist supporting the National Trust's wildlife reporting team.



Recording lichens on an ash tree



John Newbould hands over the Nature Conservation assessment to Hannah Jefferson General Manager

## **Why is it important that everyone votes in local elections?**

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in influencing what services are and are not provided - and that affects you and your family!

Parish and Town Councils are responsible for many things like: bus shelters, litter bins, local halls and community centres, parks, public clocks and footpaths to name but a few. They are also consulted on planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, grant funding and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives.

Local councils are delivering more services for residents than ever before and with District/Unitary/County Council reviewing their services, Parish and Town Councils will be in a position to do even more in the future.

Everything we come into contact with on a daily basis affects how we feel and what we do - so how much effort do you actually make to get your opinions known? Voting in local parish and town council elections takes so little time, but will have a daily impact on you for the next four years, because councillors remain in office for a four year term and their decisions affect the future for your whole community. If you leave voting to others your opinions and wishes will not be heard and simply by voting for a candidate you feel will reflect your view sends a clear message of your opinion to the decision makers.

It is said 'people get the local council they deserve'. Do you know who in your community is standing for election and what they hope to achieve? The names of your councillors should be on your parish notice boards, in local post offices or displayed around your community. If you cannot find this information locally your District/Unitary Council may be able to advise you.

Councillors live side by side with you in your community; they are the most local level of government, being easily contacted and directly answerable to the community every time they walk out of their front doors. They raise money primarily through your council tax to administer their decisions and you need to be sure that you have voted for the right people to look after your community.

If you do not vote, others will and their views may change your life.

## **Have a voice - vote in the local elections on 2 May 2019**