

Char Chat News

For residents and our guests in

Whitchurch Canonicorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Morcombela

Stanton St Gabriel, Fishpond, Ryall and Monkton Wyld

November 2020

Welcome to the Char Valley Parish Council newsletter

November 2020...

We all recognise what a challenge this pandemic has been for our communities. Unfortunately, it looks like we will be facing Winter and the Christmas holiday period with a continued threat from the Covid-19 virus and, whereas in Spring and Summer, we had the advantage of warmer weather, now we are more likely to be shutting ourselves indoors.

While this may help reduce the virus spread, it also leads to more isolation and possible loneliness. So please try and make the time to call in on your neighbours—even if its only to shout through the window from under an umbrella!! The shortest contact can brighten someone's day.

The pandemic has put a considerable strain on our economy with reduced income from the hospitality sector, reduced demand for goods as the economy shrinks, activities constrained to protect health, and unemployment. This affects all of us and our friends and our neighbours.

There are many help-lines available providing advice from finance to well-being, and we have included the Dorset Council references for these on the back page of this edition, along with our regular CVPC local contacts for neighbourhood help.

To increase support and improve communications for residents and local communities, CVPC has replaced some of the older noticeboards and is moving to a new website. Both of these will have sections available for use by local community groups—see page 3

The Char Valley is still here. This is a great time of year to see the Valley as it finishes the year and prepares for winter. From the changing colours of the leaves to the mists that hang over the fields, shorter days and the quieter roads, migrating birds and muddy roads, red sunsets on the hills and beaches, and hunkering down to watch the autumn television serials... Enjoy, and see you in the New Year

Char Valley Parish Council (CVPC) is a group council made up of the civil parish councils of Stanton St Gabriel, Whitchurch Canonicorum (North and South), and Wootton Fitzpaine.

Because each separate council is small, we join up for meetings so we can take decisions together and achieve more.

The combined civil parish stretches from the Jurassic Coast to the Marshwood Vale, all falling within the West Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

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Opinions expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily represent the views of CVPC as a whole.

The Editor

CVPC Meetings

CVPC meets monthly except in August and December. Being a group council, our meetings are held in each of our village halls in rotation—James Hargreaves Hall in Morcombelake (JH), Whitchurch Canonorum village hall (WC), and Wootton Fitzpaine village hall (WF). The meeting minutes and agenda are posted on parish notice boards and website. All our meetings are open to the public and we welcome public participation.

Our meetings start at 7:30pm, with the following schedule: 16th Nov 2020 (On-line)

2021 Meetings:

11 January (On-line) 8 February 8 March 12 April **10 May – AGM** 14 June 19 July
13 September 11 October 15 November

Following Government Covid-19 guidelines, our meetings will be held on-line until we are advised otherwise. As always, our meeting is a public meeting so please contact our Clerk if you wish to take part.

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www.charvalley.org

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Char Valley information services

Parish Noticeboards for local community use

CVPC maintain eight noticeboards around the parish. Recently, we have had to replace three of these as they naturally deteriorate over time. The new noticeboards are more robust but have a key lock. As a parish council, we have a statutory duty to publicise our meetings through posting the agendas and minutes to show what we have been doing. However, this doesn't need the whole noticeboard! The remainder of the board will be available to residents and groups within our parish for their own use.

If you have a notice, an event, or a local request that you want to publicise, then the noticeboards are available to you. Please contact one of your local Parish Councillors, and they will open the notice boards for you.

CVPC Community Website

The Char Valley has a new website at www.charvalley.org and Char Valley Parish Council is supporting the website and covering its initial costs. The Parish Council also has dedicated pages on the website where you can find contact details for local councillors, details of Parish Council meetings (including agendas and minutes) and information about planning applications.

We will be migrating all our notices, information, and archive data to the new website over the coming weeks.

The new website is for much more than just CVPC news. The Char Valley website also has information on local history, local environmental initiatives, back issues of this newsletter, news about transport in the area, early warning of road closures and lots more.

All this is being added and updated now, so please visit the website and get an idea of what's available.

More importantly, we would like to offer space on the website to local organisations and community groups to maintain their own sections. For groups who cannot manage or justify the investment in a web site of their own, we are offering to provide space on the CVPC managed website.

If you are interested in taking space on our website for your organisation or community group, please contact Councillor Andrew Carey.

Char Chat News

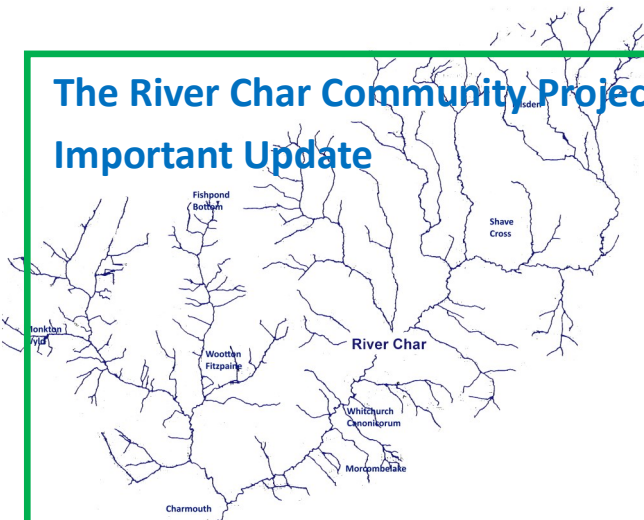
Following discussions with local residents and others, CVPC have decided that the paper copy of Char Chat News will be distributed to all residents and local organisations or businesses unless we are specifically asked to only distribute the digital copy.

This is a change of policy. Although, moving to a digital copy was beneficial in terms of both costs and environmental impact, having a paper copy available for reference was considered more appropriate for the majority of our residents.

To reduce the impact, we intend to produce only 3 issues per year. However, we will be using our website to update information and notify residents of any non-urgent matters between the issue dates.

However, we recognise that some of you will be happy to receive a purely digital copy through email. If this suits you, please email our clerk with your home address and we will remove your address from the physical circulation list.

The River Char Community Project – Important Update



Since we wrote about the River Char Project in last January's issue (www.charvalley.org/char-chat if you missed it), a lot has happened.

The good news: Dorset AONB (working with Dorset Wildlife Trust and the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group) has taken on the management of the project. Their first job is to put together a Snapshot Survey of the state of the river – identifying the latest data, gathering opinions from landowners, other stakeholders and local residents, and setting out the main threats to the local ecology and the main opportunities for improvement. Amongst others, they will talk to Wessex Water, West Country Rivers Authority, local farmers, Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission.

Ian Rees of Dorset AONB will talk to the Parish Council meeting on 16th November and take questions (that meeting is online and open to the public – see www.charvalley.org/pcmeetings for details) and then put together a fuller public briefing in the new year.

Dorset AONB are extremely well placed to handle the project for us because they have just completed the first stages of a similar project on the River Asker with great success. (You can find full details via our web page: www.charvalley.org/river-char)

If you have experience or ideas that you want to contribute, please attend the 16th November online Council meeting (details above) and/or look out for details of Ian Rees's video presentation early in 2021 (details at www.charvalley.org/river-char) or email ideas@charvalley.org now.

The bad news: On top of the alarming (but somewhat dated) Environment Agency report which listed the status of the River Char as 'poor', new local and national results have been released.

An item on the national news on 17th September reported that all the rivers, lakes and streams in England are polluted and the Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, said the data showed urgent action was needed to reduce sewage discharge and address pollution from agriculture and chemicals. The head of the Environment Agency, Emma Howard Boyd, said: "Water quality has plateaued since 2016". She added: "It isn't good enough".

A more recent survey from the Environment Agency measured levels of E Coli and Intestinal Enterococci at the pool of the River Char (just before the beach at Charmouth). 20 measurements were made over the course of the year from September 2018 to September 2019.

E Coli levels ranged from a low of 480 to a high of 18,000. They averaged 3,135. The acceptable upper limit is 900. The River Char was more than three times over that level. That's terrible.

Intestinal Enterococci levels ranged from 27 to 29,000. They averaged 2,750. The acceptable upper limit is 330. The River Char was more than eight times over that level. That's really terrible.

Intestinal Enterococci and some strains of E coli can cause urinary tract infections, gastroenteritis, endocarditis, diverticulitis, meningitis, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, colitis and Crohn's disease.

Finally, the Environment Agency has recently released new data, including a new status category called 'Fail'. In 2019 the River Char and Monkton Wyld Stream were both classified as 'Fail' for Priority Hazardous Chemicals, namely mercury and Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE). The Environment Agency says these levels of hazardous chemicals were caused by farming practices and household septic tanks. [Links to all the Environment Agency data can be found at: www.charvalley.org/river-char]

So, if we want streams and rivers that children can play in or near and that residents and visitors can enjoy, we need the River Char Community Project more urgently than ever and look forward to hearing its report and recommendations for change and improvement early next year.

Shifting Shores

Most of us have heard of the Great Slip of 1839 that formed the famous Undercliff between Seaton and Lyme. We know about the occasional landslips at Charmouth and West Bay. Such events are the result of the very particular geology of the area, the frequency and intensity of storms and the amount of rainfall. That said, I never imagined that I would be



witness to less dramatic but still marked changes to the local landscape not three miles from my door.

Since moving here over ten years ago I have got to know the Golden Cap estate, Chardown and Stonebarrow well. I walk the area regularly with the dog. At the beginning of this year I noticed that a small, existing landslip along a stretch of the SW Coast Path around St Gabriel's and Upcot Farm had increased in length and depth to an extent appreciable enough to prompt the National Trust to move the foot path further inland at that point. In February I contacted Tony Flux, the National Trust's Coast and Marine Advisor SW to find out what was going on.

He confirmed that this section of the coastline is significantly threatened by erosion and went on to explain what action the Trust is taking:

We have seen higher than average rainfall recently and this rain is falling onto very soft geology that is prone to slippage (i.e. erosion) anyway. Soft, porous sandstones can hold a large volume of rainwater but the underlying clay bands prevent the water from reaching the true water table and thus a slip layer can form between the two forms and eventually the cohesion of the slope begins to fail and down it comes!! Such falls can be either small, and gradual or sometimes large and very episodic. Either way, the precise time and quantity are very hard to predict with any certainty. The fall events are often delayed and seemingly quite random.

For stretches of open coast (which is predominantly what the Trust owns), we try to follow our well-developed 'shifting shores' approach....which, in essence says, that we will 'work with the grain of nature' and not undertake engineered, preventative interventions.

The problem is that once you interfere with a natural

process, nature will 'fight back' and so structures such as sea walls, gabion baskets and rock armour always need ongoing upkeep and maintenance and eventual replacement or even removal. So unless there is a lot of high-value infrastructure such as roads and houses, interference with the natural process cannot be justified either on financial or environmental grounds.

Our staff are tasked with monitoring how the coast is behaving, especially after big storm events etc. just to make sure that the coast path, any signage or fencing etc. is all still intact and safe for the public to use but other than that, the policy is still to let nature take its natural course with as little human interference as possible.

Neither the cows that graze nor the dogs that walk with their owners seem unduly concerned but I can confirm that the land has slipped a further 12" to 18" since I first contacted Tony. Watch this space!

The shifting shores approach is key to the National Trust's handling of coastal erosion and further information can be found at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/living-with-change-our-shifting-shores> and <https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/shifting-shores-report-2015.pdf>



Artwave West: From the Beginning

Residents who have lived in the Char Valley for many years will remember The Ship Inn in Morcombelake and the neglected state it was left in after its closure. It seemed to take an eternity waiting for someone to



© Copyright Mike Crowe

come along with the imagination to take on a different business on the edge of the A35!

Finally in 2008, in entrepreneurial spirit, Martin and

Donna Goold from Charmouth made the brave decision to transform the derelict building into a Contemporary Art Gallery. They had already decided to open a Gallery, and having scoured the area for the right premises, it wasn't until they viewed The Ship that the true possibilities of their venture materialised. The idea to make the space completely open plan introduced the potential to display large artworks without interruption and transform the upstairs former flat into office space for local businesses to use provided an added bonus.

They sourced local builders, electricians, carpenters and plumbers to help make their dream a reality and converted what had now become an eyesore for Morcombelake into a modern, clean, uncluttered space ready to display paintings. As their vision emerged, so did a little bit of scepticism; gossip circulated about these 'newcomers' and the oddity they were planning to introduce into the community. Undeterred, they continued with their project and on the opening day in June 2009, saw more than 300 visitors!



Having both exhibited in other galleries nationally, they were committed to approaching the project from an awareness of what it is to work as an artist. All artists dream of seeing their work hung in well curated exhibitions on white walls with lovely lighting focussing on their hard work and displaying it to its full potential. Understanding this desire, and having a respect for

fellow artists and their skills helped Martin and Donna to create a supportive atmosphere in the gallery.

The selection of art they decided to focus on has also been the key to their success. Choosing works that are



not photographic in their depiction, but equally not so abstract that the viewer cannot identify their origin either. Sticking rigidly to this idea has meant that several different artists' works can sit well together and customers have been able to build up a cohesive collection over the years.

Remarkably the gallery still represents artists that were in the very first exhibition, cementing the commitment and belief in an artist, as well as confidence for the customer.

2016 saw the business grow even further as the old barn adjacent to the gallery underwent its own remodel into a large workshop. This became The Academy and a wonderful diverse range of art classes and workshops commenced. This was a great asset to the area as many attendees required accommodation and feeding whilst here! Felicity's, the wonderful Farm Shop a bit further up the road in Morcombelake provided delicious packed lunches whilst local B&B's sorted the overnights! Sadly, Covid has caused an abrupt stop to the Academy for the time being.

Over the last eleven years, Artwave West has become a landmark not only for Morcombelake but also worldwide as arrangements are made for art to be couriered all over the globe. It is now one of the most prominent galleries in the South West attracting established, award winning artists to exhibit alongside new, up and coming talent.

(Full article available on www.charvalley.org)

St Candida's Clock



It was with great trepidation that I watched the clock on St Candida and Holy Cross church being taken down, or rather, I should say abseiled down in September. If you look really closely at the photos you may be able to spot that there is one person at the top of the tower and two guiding it down.

I was amazed to see how large the clock actually was – virtually the size of the door!

The clock is being repaired as part of a large project on the tower, including



removing buddleia growth at the top, which again necessitated abseiling skills. Unfortunately, once the clock was down it revealed more repair was needed than was at first thought so has been referred to Salisbury diocese for further advice.

We were lucky to have received grants from Dorset Historic Trust, Morcombelake, Ryall and Whitchurch Flower and Dog Show and Church Lands Charity to be able to finance this project, which had been identified by the Quinquennial Inspection in 2018 (a five yearly church inspection carried out for the diocese).

It has been very quiet in Whitchurch as many of us use the clock to tell the time when out in our gardens. I am looking forward as I am sure all the residents are to having the clock back in its rightful place again looking resplendent in its restored state. I will update everyone with photos and I am promised a description of what it is like to abseil from the top of church towers for a living!

author: Ros Woodbridge

Char Valley Lifelines - Update

Since its launch earlier this year, local householders, residents, farmers and landowners have already signed up 105 parcels of land in the Char Valley, totalling 1,680 hectares (that's almost six and half square miles). Recent additions include parts of the National Trust's Golden Cap Estate, Lambert's Castle and Coney's Castle, as well parts of the Symondsburry Estate, which is scheduled to become certified organic in the near future. If you garden, farm or maintain all or part of your land without using chemical pesticides (insecticides, herbicides or fungicides), why not contact Lifelines and get your land added to the map?

More details at www.charvalley.org/lifelines

author: Andrew Carey

Highways England steps in to help pedestrians in Dorset

Residents in the Dorset village of Morcombelake can now safely negotiate the busy A35 thanks to a new pedestrian crossing funded by Highways England.



The village is bisected by the A35 and for years residents, including schoolchildren, have had to wait for breaks in the traffic before crossing the road close to two bus stops at the western end of the village near the Ship Knapp junction.

For the past seven years, residents in Morcombelake have called for safety improvements, including a second crossing at the western end of the village.

Following a petition led by Norma Groombridge and Sue Warren, years of lobbying by Chris Everidge (former CVPC Councillor), and numerous meetings with Highways England and the parish council, a study was commissioned and now, after design and construction of the signalled crossing, the new crossing is operational.

The crossing, funded by Highways England's Users and Communities Fund and constructed by the company's contractors, has been welcomed by both Morcombelake residents and the Char Valley Parish Council.

Steven Wright, Highways England's Users and Communities Fund lead, said: "We're committed to

significantly improving safety across our road network, and the newly completed pedestrian crossing is a glowing example of how this funding can make life better for communities living and working near our roads."

The work has been completed during the pandemic lockdown, and, as part of the scheme, technology has been integrated into the crossing to detect fast-moving vehicles on the approach to the junction, along with high-friction surfacing and additional warning signs along the A35.

In recent years Highways England has also carried out A35 safety improvements at Charmouth roundabout and Hunters Lodge, near Lyme Regis, and is currently undertaking a study of the A35 to identify further safety measures for all road users along the route between Honiton and the Tolpuddle Bypass.

Highways England manages four designated funds, allocated by the Government, to deliver benefits above and beyond building, maintaining and operating England's strategic roads.

A Patchwork Quilt Landscape

The Marshwood Vale is almost wholly surrounded by hills including Lewesdon, (at 279m, the highest hill in Dorset) Pilsdon Pen (277m, second highest), Lambert's Castle (258m, 9th) and Hardown Hill (207m, 30th,).

Both Pilsdon Pen and Lambert's Castle are Iron Age hill forts. The summit of Pilsdon Pen was also the site of Celtic horse races.



It is thought that farming existed in the Vale at least as early as the Iron Age, with those early farmers keeping sheep and cattle, and also cultivating barley and peas. At the beginning of the 12th century much of Dorset was still heavily forested. But during that century agricultural activities had expanded so there was massive forest clearance as the population increased. This expansion was not systematic. This resulted in irregularly shaped fields which are a typical result of forest clearing enclosures of the Middle Ages. Hence the term patchwork quilt landscape.

Some of the roads were already winding their way crookedly through the Marshwood Vale before this expansion, being made in the late Saxon and early medieval times to link ancient farmsteads by the easiest route possible.

In 1206 Marshwood Castle was built on a site now occupied by Lodge House Farm. It was a motte and bailey construction. The earthworks that remain today are protected and show remnants of a castle wall and sections of the moat.



The mainly clay soil in the Vale determined the type of farming followed. The dominance of dairying and the determination of farmers to stick to their pastures goes back a long time. Historians tell us that from time immemorial this area of West Dorset has been a dairy district and was reputed to contain the greatest number of yeomanry (small farmers) in the country.

Of course the patchwork quilt pattern has changed somewhat since the 1960s. At that time farmers were encouraged to 'rationalise' their field sizes by bulldozing hedges out to make fields larger with fewer hedges and gates to maintain. If you gaze from one of the surrounding hills into the Vale you will see some large fields which once were 5 little ones with corners jutting out (which means the boundary of three 'old' fields) and oak trees growing in the middle of the fields. As these trees are protected they were saved from the bulldozers.

It is hoped that this trend has stopped or at least completely slowed down in recent years. Farmers are now encouraged to plant new hedges with native species which are fenced to make them stock proof. Some farmers have insisted that a new hedge be planted on a new high bank as the Saxons did over twelve hundred years ago.

Some of these old hedges are still in existence in the Vale today.

This hedge is only 20 years old. It is being 'cut and plushed' by the old fashioned method to encourage strong new growth. A



ditch is dug on one side to aid drainage, and a sturdy fence erected to make sure the hedge is stock proof.

Running a Campsite After Lockdown

As with many of our residents working in hospitality, re-opening for visitors after lockdown was a challenge, but often a necessity both for their own income and for the economic benefits of bringing tourists into our area. Here is a short account from a local campsite.

It was with trepidation that I approached 4th July 2020 being the day that campsites were allowed to open after lockdown. I wasn't even sure whether I should be opening at all. The thought of having all the communal areas spotless and disinfected ready for campers was just too daunting. The cabin hadn't been used since the previous November. All the water and facilities had been turned off for the winter.

Eventually I decided to start slowly by only having camping units with their own facilities for the first week.



Fortunately the first couple on site (and returners) knew a brilliant local cleaning team, Bibi and Alex, who came during the first week and spring cleaned the cabin and shower unit down at the side of the farmhouse. After this I felt quite positive about facing the summer season. So it was a case of sanitisers and antibacterial surface cleansers at the ready! Additional signs were put up to remind people about only one

SOCIAL DISTANCING

2 METRES APART
BE CAREFUL



ONE METRE APART
BE VERY CAREFUL



family using the kitchen at a time and the inevitable social distancing signs.

During that same week I invested in 4 portable

toilets and tents so that there would never be queues outside the cabin at the height of the season. The most expensive toilet tent seemed to be the most susceptible to the high winds we experienced during the summer. One camper flatly refused to use any of them for fear of this happening to her. By the end of the summer season it was obvious that this extra facility had hardly been used by the campers, so it was an expensive 'experiment' that wasn't at all successful!

I must say that during the first few weeks I was still rather nervous about having too many people stay, and didn't always answer the phone, knowing that I would be missing bookings. Also one website sent 8 bookings into my junk folder so they disappeared too. But by the beginning of August I was in top gear and two thirds full and a lot of the campers were returners!



On 10th August I broke my right wrist so after that I had to do everything left handed. This meant I had to employ Bibi and Alex a lot more than I had anticipated. I also got them to spring clean my kitchen, bathroom and utility room. All very necessary jobs as housework is not my forte!

Both children and adults enjoyed all the things that the farm had to offer – pick your own blackcurrants and grapes, visit the cows and calves on an apple safari, herd the geese, watch the antics of the piglets and go on the orchard walk to see the sheep and possibly a deer. The big field was used for exciting games of football, badminton and cricket and I even sold a lot of dahlias from my garden.

All in all it was a good season and I really enjoyed having such interesting people on site, despite the restrictions.



Local Lives

Continuing our occasional articles about our local residents, here is an extract from an interview with Llwelyn Davies, a local student, just before he went off to university this year.

Before moving to Dorset, Llywelyn Davies lived in Enfield, North London. Once in Dorset, the family lived first in Loders and then Bridport, above Bella's in Buckydoo Square which he says 'was great and which does gluten free cake which was wonderful for me' [Llywelyn is coeliac].

The family moved to Orchards in Whitchurch Canonorum in 2015.

What do you like about living here?

I suppose I like that everybody knows each other which is quite nice after the experience of living in a place where that is definitely not true.

What about what you miss here in the country?

What I really really like about London and cities and which I'm quite nostalgic about is the diversity of people. Thinking about in my primary school, there were only five white British people in my class of 30 in my school. And in Colfox I can only think of 6 black or ethnic minority people in the whole of the school of 800.

In 2019 Llywelyn visited Africa with Camps International. Why Tanzania?

The fundraising [here in UK] prepared me for some of the work I did there, the grunt /manual labour as it turned out to be ... Tanzania was the option that the school gave us ... I would have preferred Costa Rica if I'm honest ... perhaps I watch too much Extreme Dreams. Talking to some of the people who went on both it was a lot harder in Costa Rica because there was 7 hours jet lag and it was rain-forestry, so more difficult for various reasons.



Had his experience of working in Tanzania changed how he saw the developing world?

What I think I most took away from it was that the people who populate third world countries have a lot more drive to progress themselves, which I hadn't really appreciated fully before. I think a lot of the culture is about the grind of living there and not the drive. In Moshi (which is a city basically and it's unusual for campus groups to visit cities because of the logistical challenges) there were a lot of things 'off brand'. Self-moulded Crocs you could buy that were clearly rip offs and super illegal. There were a lot of things that people were selling, just to get money on the side, hustle and gain, which I thought was interesting. You see WaterAid adverts with like 15 people living in a hovel and that's the only kind of aspect that you see. You know that they travel 15 miles to get to school each day and back but what do they do with their time other than these things?

Would you recommend it to other young people?

Yes, in all aspects. Be aware it will be really weird and occasionally super awkward and unlike anything else. It's also indescribable.

You are going to Falmouth to study photography.

Yes. At A Level I was studying photography, Geography and Drama and also an EPQ [Extended Project Qualification] which is a big essay about whatever you like. And I got Bs in all of them after the government's sort of algorithm fiasco.

Do you have a favourite photographer, someone whose work you admire?

I like Matty Smith who is a British underwater photographer living in Australia and does these very cinematic style things. I like Thandiwe Muriu who is an African photographer [Kenyan]. She does saturated, very bright colourful things.

Currently, Llywelyn is happily ensconced in a seven-person flat, with a shared kitchen but his own 'en suite' room. Due to Covid he has a room to himself, furnished with two 'study beds'. To explain: this is a desk that flips up at night and turns into a bed. This means clearing your desk before you can go to sleep - no-one is quite sure how practical that is!

The full transcript of this interview is available on line www.charvalley.org/char-chat

Census 2021

CVPC have been contacted by our local Census Engagement Manager for Dorset in preparation for the **National Census** to be held on **Sunday March 21st 2021**.

This will be "Digital First" meaning that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) would like the vast majority of people to complete the form online. This may be challenging for some of our residents so to make sure the census is as accessible and inclusive as possible, the ONS will offer a full range of support services:

- comprehensive guidance and support in many languages and formats
- help in local centres with trained staff and online access
- a contact centre to provide help via telephone, web chat and social media
- field staff contacting households that have not yet responded

- accessible census questionnaires, for example in large print

- the option to request paper questionnaires

ONS will automatically issue paper questionnaires in areas where they have identified residents who are highly likely to need them.

No one from the ONS or working for the census will ever ask for payment to help anyone fill in their questionnaire.

census
2021

There will be a lot of publicity and information made available nearer the time of the census. CVPC and other local groups and organisations will be making sure that everyone has the opportunity to complete the questionnaire

without causing undue stress and difficulties.

More information at www.census.gov.uk

Charges at Dorset Council-run car parks set to change

Changes are being brought in across the Dorset Council area to make car parking charges more consistent.



From early next year, drivers using any Dorset Council car park will be charged for parking 8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday. This extends the chargeable period by two hours in most areas and introduces paying to park on Sundays for car parks in Beaminster, Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sherborne and Sturminster Newton.

In Lyme Regis (Charmouth Road and Holmbush) and West Bay (East Beach, Station Yard and West Bay Road), car park charges will be increased from £2 for all



day parking to £4. All other existing car park tariffs will remain unchanged at this time.

Shoppers' permit consultation

Residents in the former West Dorset District Council area have been able to purchase permits for several years. All Dorset residents are now being asked if this should be extended across the Dorset Council area, or ***if the existing scheme should be brought to a close.***

The consultation ends at midnight on 6 December 2020.

Paper copies of the survey will be available in Dorset libraries and online at

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/consultations

Shopper's parking permit holders in the former West Dorset District Council area currently get 2 hours parking per day (or 3 hours if a disabled badge is also displayed), 7 days a week.

If a decision is made to stop the scheme, the western Dorset permits will remain valid until their expiry date.



Dorset Council Consultation on Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

Dorset Council has launched a consultation, asking people to let them know what they think about their recently published draft *Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy*.

The strategy presents eight key areas for action to ensure that the Council's services and estate become carbon neutral (i.e. they save more carbon than they produce) by 2040, and across the whole Dorset Council area by 2050. www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate-and-ecological-emergency.aspx

The Council wants to gather feedback from residents, organisations, and partners, in order to further develop their plans and initiatives to achieve a carbon neutral Dorset.

Responses must be submitted by the end of **Wednesday 9 December 2020** to be included in the consultation feedback. CVPC will be submitting a formal response to this strategy and we welcome input from you.

Extract from Dorset Council:

We strongly recommend reading the strategy and action plan (or at least the parts you are interested in). This will provide important information that will enable you to better respond to the questions in the survey.

When you are ready, please visit www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/climate-survey and follow the on-screen instructions. Make sure you click the Submit button when you are finished.

Some questions must be answered before you can proceed, but most sections are optional.

The survey can also be filled out online at all Dorset Libraries, and paper copies are available upon request.

There is also an additional shorter survey available, which is aimed at younger people and optimised for use on a mobile phone.

The results of the consultation will be collated and considered by Dorset Council members and officers as they finalise the strategy and action plan, which will be taken back to Cabinet early next year for approval and implementation.

Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said:

"We've done the research, listened to the ideas, had the discussions, and come up with a broad, ambitious and deliverable plan for how we propose to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. We now need to know what our residents think of it.



Dorset
Council

**CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL
EMERGENCY STRATEGY**

DRAFT for consultation | 15 JULY 2020

This consultation is vitally important, as the strategy will directly and indirectly affect virtually every service we deliver in the future. We want to hear from as many different people as possible, from students to retirees, working families to businesses, community groups, town and parish councils and everyone in-between.

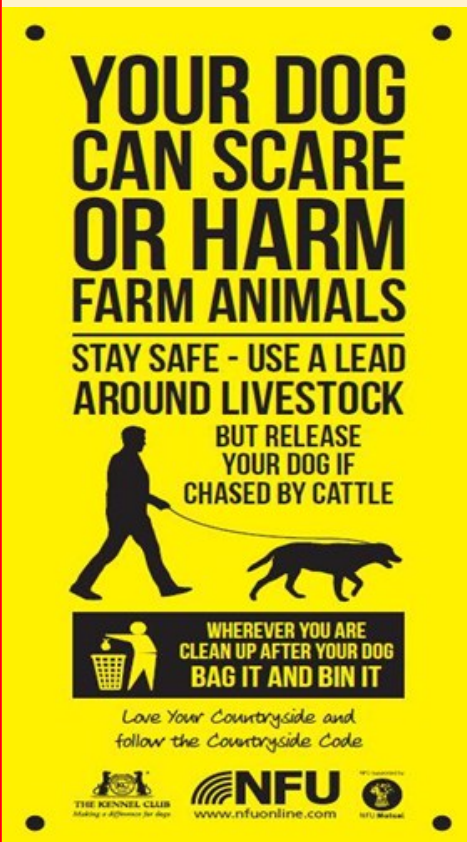
We recommend taking the time to read the whole strategy before filling out the survey, but if it's simply too unwieldy and/or you don't have time, just read up on the sections you are interested in and only respond to the questions that cover those.

Dorset Council believes that this work is incredibly important. Just sitting by and letting others address this crisis is not an option. We need to work together to overcome this monumental challenge. What we all do – or don't do – to address this climate and ecological emergency will impact our children, grandchildren and every other generation for centuries to come."

UPDATE: Countryside Code

It is disappointing to have to report more cases of sheep worrying by dogs. This is a very serious issue, and unfortunately, it is not just visitors who have been acting irresponsibly **but also local residents**.

No matter how well behaved you think your dog is, it must be on a lead around areas with livestock present.



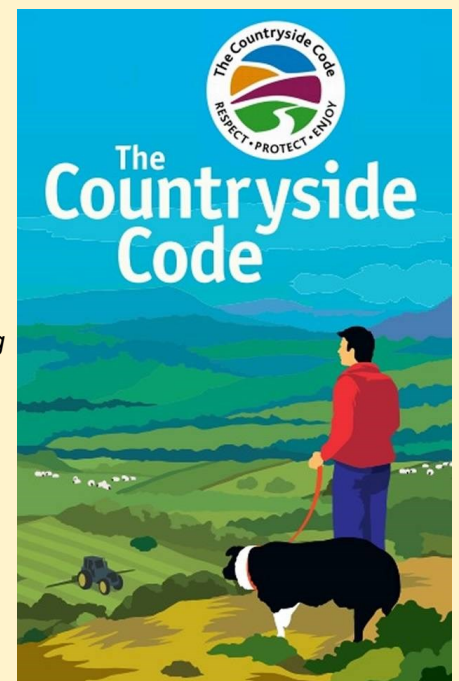
Here is an extract from taken from the National Sheep Organisation web site:

"Under the [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) Act 1953](#), if a dog worries sheep on agricultural land, the person in charge of the dog is guilty of an offence. The Act considers sheep worrying to include attacking sheep, chasing them in a way that may cause injury, suffering, abortion or loss of produce or being at large (not on a lead or otherwise under close control) in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep. "

Some people mistakenly believe that open land has different rights—here is clarification:

"The [Countryside and Right of Way Act \(CROW Act\)](#) sets out public rights of access to open land and the restrictions to these rights. Although CROW allows anyone on to open access land (land you can access without having to use paths, including mountains, moorland, heaths, downs and registered common land) for recreation, the Act states that the

*public can only go on this land **if they keep dogs on a fixed lead of 2 metres or less near livestock**. The owner of open access land can close areas containing sheep to dogs for up to six weeks once a year, as a safeguard during lambing. Trained guide and hearing dogs are still allowed in these areas during this closure. "*



The Countryside Code offers advice on walking your dog near livestock, as well as other information on how to enjoy a safe and responsible trip to a rural area in England and Wales.

All dog owners should be aware that

"a farmer 'may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner'."

Obviously, no one, least of all farmers, wants to have to take such drastic action, so it is very rare but not unknown.

Please *take responsibility* both for your own dogs and if you see others who are not following the law, please help them and help our farmers, by politely informing them of the countryside code.

PLEASE ensure this message is passed to your guests and visitors

CVPC Updates

Local Transport

The X51/X53 bus service along the A35 has been re-instated for Sundays until December. In addition, there has been a welcome change to the timetabling of the first bus to Axminster on a weekday morning so that commuters can catch the early train into Exeter. This follows considerable pressure from WATAG and other local groups.

Don't forget the DCA PlusBus service calling Wednesdays every other week—its free for pensioners and picks you up from your house—call 01258 287980—could be weekly if more people use it !! (<http://bit.ly/DorsetPlusBus>)

CVPC are very concerned that our area has poor public transport connections and, as illustrated by previous timetable reductions by First Wessex, we are vulnerable to having our current services severely curtailed. Other parishes locally have the same issues, and nationally, there are many rural communities who are forced to rely on private cars as their only means of travel. CVPC is working with WATAG to better understand what can be done but we



would like to hear from yourselves about what you think is needed locally.

The Playground at Whitchurch Village Hall

The recent Playground inspection has highlighted some problems which need repair and, in some cases, replacement to maintain safety levels. This will be completed over the next few weeks as the replacement parts become available. There are still restrictions on use and the numbers of children allowed in, but, hopefully, we'll have it ready soon.



Parish Council Activities

Our Parish Council continues to operate using digital forums and following national guidelines for public organisations. Our work includes review of all local planning applications and CVPC responses can be viewed on our website charvalley.org. If you have any concerns, issues, etc, please continue to contact us.

VACANCY

Annette Marks, Clerk to our Parish Council, is leaving at the end of 2020 and we're looking for her successor. This is an important and interesting part-time job that ranges from administering and minuting council meetings to managing the Council's financial accounts; from preparing reports for councillors to dealing with correspondence, emails and documents on behalf of the Council. If you're interested or know someone who might be, full details are at www.charvalley.org/clerk (but hurry, applications close on 13th November).

**Clerk to
the Council**



..and, of course, many thanks to Annette who has supported the Council for the past four years

COVID vigilance

There is considerable uncertainty about how this “second wave” of the COVID pandemic will affect us. Our local response has been , and continues to be, very effective in keeping local infections at a very low level.

We must be doing something right as we see more and more of our visitors showing the same respect through social distancing, regular sanitising and cleaning, and a much higher level of mask wearing in public now.

Our local population has a higher level of vulnerable people than the national average and, as always, our actions are not just for our own safety but also for those around us so thank-you to everyone, visitors and locals, for continuing to show that respect for others that has kept us relatively safe so far.



Please remember to leave your contact details when you visit places. This is a legal requirement and the venues must maintain that data for 21 days. The NHS App on your mobile phone is an easy way to do this, but some places also have their own system, and good old pen and paper works too.

If you are a venue, you can print your own QR code that allows your guests and visitors to use the NHS App here: www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster

CVPC are maintaining their contact points for help and advice if you or friends need help with the continuing challenges of life during COVID. Here is the list:

Morcombelake:

Clare Mahaddie clare.mahaddie@icloud.com 01297 489813

Ryall:

Rachel Coney rachelconey0@gmail.com 01297 489825

Eddie Hall edwardhallhome@gmail.com 07971 225873

Fishponds:

Jeanne Coates jeanne@coates2.com 01297 678303

Monkton Wyld:

Sarah Drewer info@monktonwyld.org (please ask for Sarah) 01297 560342

Stanton St Gabriel:

Andrew Carey andrew@westhay.com 01297 560057

Whitchurch Canonorum:

Carolyn Peck carolyn56peck@gmail.com 01297 489185

Wootton Fitzpaine:

Debbie Snook debsnook@aol.com 01297 561395



Alternatively call any one of our Parish Councillors listed on page 2.

[In the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council area, please contact Matthew Bowditch - m1bowditch.vets@virgin.net 01308 862758]

Dorset Council are producing an online Covid update—CVPC will send details to all residents on our electronic lists.

Char Valley Parish Council

Dorset Council Covid Support

For general support, please phone Dorset Council on 01305 221000, 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or access their website (www.bit.ly/34s33to)

For well-being and mental health issues, please phone Dorset Healthcare on their 24-hour helpline, 0300 123 5440 or access their website (www.bit.ly/3dWaNqH)