

# The Pilot

February 2026



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

# DEAR COMMUNITY,

Let me start by wishing you a Happy New Year! Already January has passed. There are less than 350 shopping days to Christmas!

In this edition, you can find the answers to these questions:

1. When is the next supermoon?
2. Was 2024 a good year or a bad year for butterflies in the UK?
3. How many arches did the road bridge over the Cerne have prior to being rebuilt?
4. Who has Tim the Teddy as a mascot?
5. Who said that Charminster is under siege?

**Francis**

## Useful local information - Bus timetable

If you use the bus to travel from Charminster to Dorchester or Yeovil, you might need to know the timetable for the CR5 service. Unfortunately, it is too large for us to reproduce in The Pilot, but it is available online. Here's the link:

<https://images.southwestcoaches.co.uk/images/pdfs/CR5service01.09.2025.pdf>.

If you are technically minded and have a smart phone, here's a QR code that will take you there without having to type that long link:



**Dates for submissions for our March 2026 edition - 5th February 2026.**  
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## THE CERNE

Charminster is named after the Cerne. We were Cerneminstre until a civil servant made a mistake many years ago. Before people came to Charminster the Cerne would have been a classic gravel Chalk Stream winding its way across a flood plain, full of waterweed and fish. If you stand on the footbridge at Higher Charminster and look North you will see it. But turn around and look across the ford: you will see it straightens. Why?

Wander along Mill Lane and you cannot see the river for some time, but when it reappears the river is pretty straight. Someone has removed the bends and the bottom is muddy. Why? The reason is that water used to go the "long way" to get from A to B compared to the "straight way" so it went faster and turbulence on the bends kept moving the silt.

A little further, below the gate to Prince's Plot, take a rest on a seat by the river and listen. A lovely sound. Water tumbling over a sluice: somebody has shoved the river up the hill to create a head of water to power a mill. In order to move the river up uphill it had to be straightened. To maintain a constant level in the millstream surplus water goes over the sluice to join the original route of the river

Our new river continues straight on and there it is, on the right, Mill Cottage with its millstones outside. Here the water goes through to where those millstones once ground grain, the water returning to its old watercourse. Look at a map of Charminster and you will see what appear to be islands: they are formed by the river and a mill stream. Who did all that work digging a new ditch for the river? It was there by 1066, so blame the Romans as they were here, needed flour, had the technology and slaves to do the work.

We next see the river by the Charminster Community (Miller's) Orchard where it meanders to the ford at Alley Bridge where children play in Summer. The ford is prehistoric, predating the bridge by thousands of years. Then something odd happens to the river as it goes past St Mary's. It is like a canal, and higher up the slope than it should be. It should be on the other side of the Church. Indeed, it was.

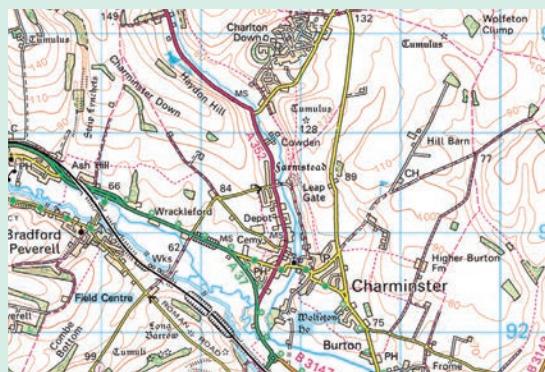
The GPS study by the Environment Agency in 2012 showed a linear anomaly in the West and North of the graveyard marking infill in the old river bed as the old river made its way from the ford across the bottom of Hayden Farm, through the graveyard and across the road.

Stand on the Grade 2 listed bridge (it had three arches, but as it caused flooding it was converted to a two arched bridge: use your maths: how much

bigger did that make the space under the bridge? My calculation is 50%)

Look downstream; the channel is deep, steep-sided and very straight. maintaining its altitude.

A mill would have needed a sluice or overflow to control the water level. Maps and aerial photographs show a small stream or ditch just a few metres past the bridge running down to where the original river was after crossing where the road is today. Aerial photographs show a clear green stripe just below the gardens of houses in North Street that mark the route of the old river. This overflow would have been clearly visible from the slope on the other side of the valley. Have you wondered how Weir View got its name! Survey maps show this sluice and other sluices further on.



Our channel continues through where the Roman Road that once ran straight from Weir View up the hill to Westleaze, Roman Road (Margery 4f). Whoever dug the channel had to cut through the Roman Road. The Roman Road must once have crossed the Cerne at shallow gravel ford, but faced with a deep, steep-sided canal, travellers made a detour to the ford at Alley Bridge. This explains why East Hill has the two inconvenient 90-degree bends at the top and bottom. It also explains why the bed of the river from the bridge to the ford is a public bridleway open to all traffic today.

The canal continues onwards towards Wolfeton House where below the Riding House the channel widens into what would have been a mill pond. It then turns sharply right heading down to where the river ran, and still runs today. The mill was on the bend. It would have been a very large and reliable mill, giving its owner a good income.

The Normans built the original church and the Mill was built before the Church. It did not exist in the Domesday Book. So, it was the Normans that built it.

**Keith Beeson**



## PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER

### NOVEMBER

For our November meeting the guest speaker was Ian Cambrook, Company Secretary for the Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust (TOCT), which is both a charity and registered business. Ian explained that Tolpuddle was, of course, best known for its connection to the Tolpuddle Martyrs, whose story changed the course of history. But before that famous episode, in 1818, a group of local farm labourers — including some of those same men — built a small nonconformist chapel right in the heart of the village. The Old Chapel became a centre for worship, education, and community life. Ian's talk covered some of the Old Chapel's fascinating history, its remarkable restoration, and how our members could maybe help shape its future as a community asset.

The restoration story of the Old Chapel Trust really began in 2014/15 when the trust bought the building which was on English Heritage's At Risk register and close to falling down; together with the surrounding site to become a community heritage asset and thus save the legacy. To begin with emergency repairs, funded by Historic England, were carried out to stabilise the cob walls and make the building wind and watertight. The trust then spent six years on planning and consultations to develop the restoration project. After a huge effort funding was obtained from a wide range of organisations, mainly the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Architectural Heritage Fund, Historic England, and Dorset County Council overall there were thirteen funders for the project. The Covid 19 pandemic then delayed the project which meant the restoration was not fully completed until September 2023.

The Old Chapel is now open for visitors,

heritage tours, small concerts, talks, and community events. It complements the nearby Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum, by offering a quiet space to reflect on the people and beliefs that shaped the village. After the talk Ian fielded a wide range of questions from members.

For more information please see <https://tolpuddleoldchapeltrust.org/>

### DECEMBER

Our December meeting was the annual Christmas Lunch this year held at The Avenue Restaurant, part of the Catering College in Weymouth. On the second Thursday 23 members and widows sat down for a really excellent lunch served with great professionalism by the young trainee staff. It was a truly memorable experience and a real credit to the staff and college.

Our next meeting is in January where our speaker is an Eye Surgeon talking about the history of his speciality followed by the Presidents Lunch in February as we approach the AGM in March and a new President for the year to come and in April a talk about the MV Freedom boat based in Weymouth..

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 Charlminster. 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 either Bill Lowes at [williamlowes167@btinternet.com](mailto:williamlowes167@btinternet.com) or Chris Hutton-Penman at [chris@ossl.biz](mailto:chris@ossl.biz) or on 01305753611



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# UPDATE ON HEATING PROBLEM AT CHARMINSTER CHURCH

Emma Kerjenski - Charminster Church Warden

Our current heating system is not working and I am sure everyone will agree after spending the last 10 years trying to keep it going - with only limited success - we are not planning to spend anything further trying to fix it.

Instead, we have had a number of highly accredited heating experts inspect our system and we are now awaiting each of their recommendations for what is the most appropriate and cost-effective way to heat our church. Ideas range from swapping out our old air source heat pump for a new one, changing to a gas boiler (but we need to bring gas to the church for this) or considering an electric boiler with a view to installing solar panels in the future. We intend to make full use of the underfloor system that is in place, so the last heating project, post floods, was not at all wasted. Air Source Heat Pumps have evolved and improved enormously over the years, our broken one is considered to be very old tech in comparison to what is available today.

Once all of the recommendations are in, the church council (PCC) will select the company most suited to working with us as a church, we will then get advice from our architect,

liaise with the Diocese Advisory Committee and make the appropriate faculty / planning applications to get permission to resolve our heating issue.

A new heating system will come at a substantial cost, and we will be actively fund raising and very glad and grateful to receive any gifts that people can offer to help us get our church warm and welcoming again.

In the meantime, I am afraid despite working as quickly as we can, it will be a lengthy process and we are unlikely to have any solutions in place any time soon. Therefore, we are keeping the church as ambient as possible with air heaters, but please wear warm clothing and feel free to borrow a blanket when visiting the church for the time being.



## CHARMINSTER AND STINSFORD CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2026

### 1 Feb

11.00 am Parish Eucharist (Charminster)  
11.00 am BCP Parish Communion (Stinsford)

### 8 Feb

8.00 am BCP Eucharist (Charminster)  
9.30 am Morning Praise (Charminster)



### 15 Feb

11.00 am Parish Communion (Charminster)

### 22 Feb

8.00 am BCP Eucharist (Charminster)  
9.30 am All Age Communion (Charminster)  
6.00 BCP Evensong (Stinsford)

### 1 March

11.00 am Parish Eucharist (Charminster)  
11.00 am BCP Parish Communion (Stinsford)

For services at other churches in the benefice, see the website <https://www.cscsvbenefice.org/about/whats-on-in-the-benefice>.

## STINSFORD NEWS

**In with the New Year 2026** and I have to say following the spectacular celebratory fireworks, and for a few days in early January, there was the best of what the sky at night's natural lighting had to offer. the Wolf Super Moon in clear skies, was something to behold illuminating all around. With Super moons on every full moon for that last four lunar cycles they were quite an experience but we will not see another display so bright until November 2026.

**With the Christmas decorations packed away the Crib in the church remained still in place awaiting the three Kings**, the Magi's arrival on 6th January 2026 on the Feast of Epiphany or Three Kings Day. They then leave to return to their homes by an alternative route so as not to go anywhere near Jerusalem and King Herod.

**I must firstly thank the third year KMC Florists** for their beautiful design and completion of the floral decorations of our church, quite wonderful and admired by all and for the Rangers at Thorncome Wood for providing the holly.

**'Going the Rounds' biennial event** organised by The Thomas Hardy Society and directed by Alastair Braidwood saw two performances, Thursday 11th December (in church) and Friday 12th walking the Parish with stops at relevant points in the story. A clear dry night saw the parish visits to include Hardy's Cottage and Visitor Centre, Kingston Maurward House, the Old Manor with a joyous Merry Christmas from the Beetons, the Old Schoolhouse with Fancy Day delightfully candlelit, wishing all present "Thank you Singers, thank you" and *Farmer Shiner* with a welcome by the new residents just moved in, although *Farmer Shiner* was his belligerent self as usual. Then to the warmth of St Michaels with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, carols and a Mummers play. Full houses on both evenings made for a great start. Stinsford's own Carol Service followed on the Sunday, with the Occasional Choir directed by Alastair Dean and 9 lessons and carols followed by

more mulled wine and mince pies and the Grand Draw, the winner of the £100 being Stuart and Sandy Spinney's son Ben who delightfully, on hearing his good news, shared it with his sister. I must say I am so pleased dishwashers have been invented thus no need to wash ten dozen glasses in three days, not quite in a row!

The following Sunday saw Christingle and the greatest number of children our churchwardens have seen for a number of years. Thoroughly enjoyed by all and the collection going to the Children's Society. Christmas Eve and the Archdeacon of Sherborne and Dorset, Penny Sayer took a well supported 8.00 pm service and a pleasure it was to all, with not so much a sermon given but more warm hearted thoughts for Christmas. Christmas Day and another full church with Rob van der Hart officiating and some heart raising carols before all returning to their homes for Christmas Lunch and the bright day. A wonderful collection of services with smiling faces and all full of good cheer.

There were a number of visitors over the festive season to St Michaels, noted in the visitors book, including ex pupils of Stinsford House when it was a school, grown up now with families of their own.

And now to the new year, and what will 2026 bring us. Hopefully peace and goodwill throughout to all.

**Michael Clarke**



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# PLANNING REPORT

**"Charminster is under siege."** Those were the words of Parish Council chairman Mark Simons at a meeting to discuss a proposed extension to the Charminster Farm development.

Several dozen residents crowded into the Community Hall to express their concerns about a Wyatt Homes plan for Phase 5 of the development. Wyatts have applied for permission to build another 71 homes in fields off Wanchard Lane.

People living in Highfield Close said the new houses, on higher ground behind Highfield Close, posed a threat to the environment, would jeopardise their privacy, place an extra burden on unsuitable local roads and cause further flooding and drainage problems.

Similar concerns were expressed at an exhibition in the village hall when residents were invited to comment on new proposals to build 133 houses on land behind Ellerslie Close. Villagers wanted answers to questions about the impact of additional traffic, the availability of school places and GP waiting lists.

Phase 5 of Charminster Farm and the Ellerslie Close proposal are just two of several planning initiatives which could result in over 4,000 new houses being built in and around Charminster.

Dorset Council's recently published draft local plan lists the following "opportunity sites" for development in Charminster:

1. Extension of existing development east of Wanchard Lane as far as Drakes Lane – 200 houses
2. Extension of existing development west of Wanchard Lane as far as Sodern Lane – 140 houses
3. Land of Ellerslie Close – 140 houses
4. Dorchester Vineyard site – 50 houses
5. Charminster Depot site – 30 houses

The biggest planned development is between Charminster and Stinsford. The so-called "Norchester" proposal includes provision for 3,600 houses.

In response to this "siege" of Charminster, the Parish Council has appointed a planning consultant to prepare its objections. Her report on Charminster Farm Phase 5 is

now on the council's website <https://www.charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council/minutes-and-agendas/> and will be updated in the light of feedback at the council meeting.

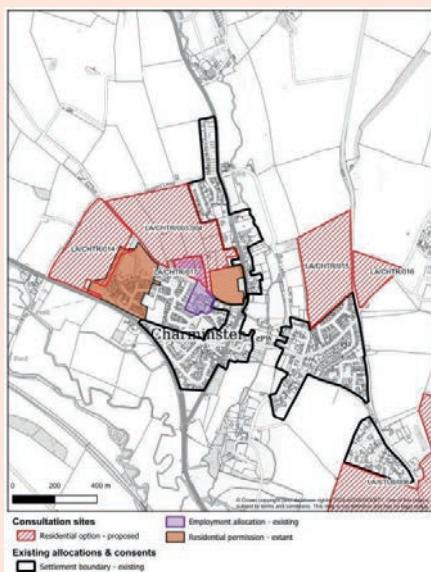
Cllr Simons told the planning meeting that the County Council's delay in agreeing the local plan mean that developers were coming forward with applications now, before the final plan was in place. They also faced fewer restrictions because Charminster lay just outside the designated Dorset Area of Outstanding National Beauty.

Steve Chalk of Wyatt Homes said Phase 5 was a suitable site for development which would make a positive contribution to housing need, including 25 affordable homes.

Councillor Peter Dangerfield told the meeting that Charminster had been "amazingly receptive" towards incomers, and remarkably tolerant of the impact of so many new homes. But he said it had come to the point where the village should accept no more development'

He said: "Charminster is changing out of all recognition. We don't want social cohesion damaged by one development after another."

**The deadline for registering objections to the Phase 5 proposal has passed, but concerned residents should contact their County Councillor David Taylor at [cllrdavid.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdavid.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)**



## NEWS FROM THE CHARLTON DOWN NATURE AREA

Occupying a small corner of the village, next to the Community Orchard on Herrison Road, Charlton Down Nature Area is dedicated to wildlife conservation and an improvement in biodiversity. It is owned by Charminster Parish Council who initially set it up when the village was developed in and around the old Herrison Hospital at the end of the 90's and the beginning of the Millenium. Three North Ward Councillors and a small group of residents have been volunteering their time in the last three years to make the area a better place both for Nature to thrive and for visitors to enjoy.

In recent years, the Nature Area's importance has been recognised as a means of preserving all manner of existing local wildlife and encouraging a wider variety of species by habitat improvement. When we talk of preservation, we mean holding on to the species of plant and animal that have been traditionally found in this part of Dorset, promoting their proliferation in numbers, as well as encouraging new species to settle or use the area. Why is all this important right now?

For many reasons the UK is experiencing a rapid decline in all forms of wild creatures and plants. These reasons include the increasing use of herbicides and pesticides, expanding urbanisation, and agricultural encroachment, together with significant changes in weather and climate.

Did you know that 2024 was one of the worst years on record for butterflies in the UK (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology 02.04.2025)? More than half of butterfly species in the UK are now in long-term decline and over a third are in significant declines.

Or that half of British freshwater ponds have



The Charlton Down Nature Area pond last summer

disappeared since 1900? Ponds store water, support biodiversity and help buffer floods and droughts. Losing them undermines both nature and our ability to adapt to climate extremes. (Inside Ecology 3 December 2025).

The appearance of increasing numbers of foreign species by accidental introduction, or by natural northwards migrations following warmer weather conditions, threaten to outcompete many of our natural inhabitants. Harlequin ladybirds, chestnut leaf-miner moths, New Zealand pygmy weed, and of course the very dangerous Asian Hornet, are some of the problematic introductions locally (GB Non-native Species Secretariat - The GB Non-native Invasive Species Strategy 2023-2030).

As a result of the renewed interest in the potential the CD Nature Area and the work that has been taking place there, it is now part of the Nature Recovery Dorset network and has been designated as a Wildlife Friendly Space by Dorset Wildlife Trust. If you are interested in Nature and would like to lend us a hand now and again, we would be delighted to hear from you. For more information about the work we are doing, you could join the Charlton Down Nature Area and Orchard Facebook Group. Or go online to our website and blog at <https://charltondownnaturearea.uk>.

**Jessica Winder**



The Charlton Down Nature Area pond this winter

## DORCHESTER TREFOIL FEBRUARY 2026



Jeane, Pam and Angela at our Christmas lunch



Trefoil teddy being used as a DCH mascot

Dorchester Trefoil's Christmas lunch at The Junction was great fun as you can see from the photograph above where Jeane, Pam and Angela were enjoying a joke. We all enjoyed ourselves and came away feeling well fed. So we can justify two special meals, our evening section always has a New Year meal, usually at the Sun Inn where we always have a good meal. Our other Christmas event was carol singing, this year with residents of Southfield House, who seemed to enjoy singing along with us despite the fact we haven't all got good voices, and we were treated to mulled wine and mince pies. What a treat! I felt it was a bit of a misnomer on their poster advertising us as Trefoil Singers!

Our community knitting project for the elderly has, since it began in 2019, donated over 1,500 items including lap blankets, shawls, twiddlemuffs, teddies and other animals to Dorchester County Hospital (DCH) and several of the town's residential care homes. Yes, knitted or crocheted elephants, puppies, dinosaurs and even a frog have been given. In early November, I had a stock of 54 lap blankets about 30 shawls and by 7th December they had all gone. Including some to Casterbridge Manor at Cerne Abbas, Wolfeton Manor and DCH. I'm glad they are still needed.

DCH asked if we could provide a bear to use as a fund raising mascot, and Maureen Holmes, another of our fantastic knitters made the mascot in the picture, which went with one of the doctors to Combe Valley Race track. He has called it Tim. Christmas teddies were specially made and were used by DCH as presents for patients with dementia.

Anyone who enjoys knitting can make things for our project and two of our Charminster WI members do. Blankets are 40" by 48" so they can be used as both lap and memory blankets – or you can make 8" by 8" squares which we sew up. Almost all of our wool is donated – we always appreciate donations of double knitting wool.

A date for your diary. Our annual quiz for Foxlease will be on Tuesday 19th May 2026 in Charminster Community Hall. Teams of up to 6 people booked in advance. £8 per person including a Ploughman's supper and dessert.

For more information about Trefoil just contact me on:- [jct19336@gmail.com](mailto:jct19336@gmail.com)

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It is financed by our loyal advertisers and our parish and parochial church councils.

Grateful thanks to all of them.



Charlminster, near Dorchester.

### We warmly invite your contribution!

Articles, news stories, memories, photographs, events – anything, however long or short, that might be of interest to readers

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# STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Photo: Tony Escott

## Flood warning

Heavy rain falling on saturated ground led to flooding in the Parish in December. With climate change the likelihood of more intense and more frequent rainfall is increasing and so more flooding in 2026 and beyond is almost inevitable.

Stinsford Parish Council has a climate and ecological emergency strategy and action plan which highlights this risk and stresses the importance of being prepared. A key element is to have Flood Wardens who can help prepare for flooding by raising awareness, monitoring local conditions (e.g. blocked drains) and acting as a link between the local community and the emergency services in the event of a flood. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this role, please let us know.

The flooding in December where Slyer's Lane (B3143) meets the B3150 and Stinsford Hill served to highlight the potential increase in risk of surface water flooding if North Dorchester goes ahead. Thousands of houses and associated infrastructure would significantly increase the amount of run-off in this area. This is just one of many reasons why we remain opposed to this development. The water meadows do an amazing job, acting as a natural sponge absorbing, storing and filtering huge amounts of water during floods, but they can only do so much.

## Dorset Studio School traffic management – an accident waiting to happen

Now that Government funding for the replacement Studio School building has been secured, there is renewed focus on this project. At the invitation of Stinsford Parish Council, a team from the Department for Education (DfE) attended a Parish Council meeting late last year to provide a progress report.

We learned that a contractor is likely to be

appointed in early 2026 and will be responsible for submitting the planning application to Dorset Council. Subject to the necessary approvals, construction is expected to start in late 2026 with completion in early 2028.

The site will accommodate the current 375 students, but staff numbers will increase to around 60 (roughly a third of staff are based at Poundbury at the moment).

Residents and Councillors alike are concerned about the amount of traffic linked to the Dorset Studio School. Current drop-off and pick-up arrangements for coaches and private cars raise major safety issues. These have to be resolved before someone is seriously injured. Councillors also stressed the absolute requirement for adequate on-site parking for all staff and visitors so that there is no need for anyone to park on the verge on Hollow Hill.

The DfE team reassured councillors that a detailed traffic plan would be prepared by the contractor and the Parish Council has asked to see this at the earliest opportunity to ensure that all of its safety concerns have been addressed.

## Other news in brief

*North Dorchester:* Stinsford Parish Council has learned of a new map from academics and archaeologists that details all known roads from the Roman era. It has identified a section of road that was, effectively, a Dorchester bypass in Roman times. This is exactly the route where North Dorchester would be constructed. We have called on Dorset Council to ensure that a full archaeological survey is carried out in advance of any development. Arguably this should be done before designating the site as viable in the local plan.

*Lower Bockhampton playground:* A recent inspection has highlighted the need for maintenance to be carried out on some of equipment. There has also been some misuse. Councillors have therefore decided to close the playground for the remainder of the winter. It will reopen at the start of the Easter holidays in March 2026.

## Get involved!

North Dorchester, the Studio School and dangerous roads that are putting people's lives at risk are all key issues for a tiny Parish Council. Please consider joining us and help make a difference. Contact any of the Councillors to find out more (our contact details are on the Stinsford Parish Council website).

# VILLAGE HALL NOTES

Charminster Village Hall Presents an Evening of

## Old Charminster in Pictures

by Gwen Yarker MA, FSA, FRHistS

Friday February 27 2026  
at 7.00pm



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Raffle

At a time when some locals are expressing concern about the future of Charminster as a village, there's a chance this month to hear more about its colourful history.

Historian Gwen Yarker is giving an illustrated talk at the Village Hall on Friday, February 27th. Entitled "Old Charminster in Pictures" it's a rare opportunity to see how the village used to look.

Tickets, priced at £12.50, including light refreshments, are available from hall chairman Nigel Kay on 01305 260401 or by emailing [nigelrkay@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrkay@gmail.com).

---

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the Charminster Charity Golf Tournament taking place at Wolfedale Golf Course on Saturday, March 28th.

Local businesses are warmly encouraged to show their support by **sponsoring a hole for just £100**. All proceeds will benefit the many groups who meet at the Village Hall - a great way to give back to the community while gaining visibility among attendees and supporters.

For team registration or sponsorship enquiries, please contact:

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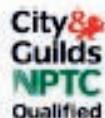
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## CHARMINSTER WI: CHARMINSTER WHISPERS

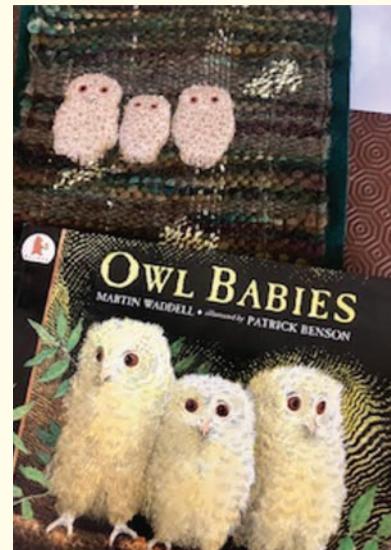
Shortly after moving to Charminster and joining the WI, I was asked if I wanted to take part in Charminster Whispers. I had heard mention of this, but had no idea what it was – an organised method for circulating the latest village news or gossip? But no, the parallel is with the game Chinese Whispers. The person at the start of the chain is shown a photo and uses that as inspiration to produce a whisper to pass on to the second person in the chain, who takes inspiration from the first person's whisper to produce something to pass to the third person, and so on.

The content of a whisper is extremely varied. There are some talented artists and craftspeople in the WI who produce some beautiful items, others may use the activity to explore a new craft or skill – but there is no need to have any creative leaning at all. Some will download photos and /or information from the internet, others may take their own photos of a place or a possession... Often a whisper will relate to a place, a cause, or an event that has personal significance for the whisperer, and it is then lovely to find out a bit more about others in the group – but the primary aim is that it should be fun! And I guess I've found that to be generally true

of Charminster's WI – primarily a fun social gathering, with the bonus of being able to share with, and learn from, each other.

The photo is of a whisper from our latest round: a favourite children's book and wonderful recreation of its cover. But a photo of the book on its own would be just fine to pass on to the next person – there is no pressure at all to exhibit creative talent, we just enjoy seeing the works of those who can!

**Julie Kates**



## THE THREE COMPASSES BAND NIGHTS

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THURS 12th 7pm - OPEN MIC - Si Genaro  
SAT 14th 7pm - TBA  
SUN 15th 4pm - SHADY BEARD

WED 18th 8pm - JAZZ JAM

SAT 21st 7pm - TBA

SUN 22nd 4pm - STEVE WILSON BAND

SAT 28th 7.30pm - RUNNING WYLDE



## Pet of the Month ...

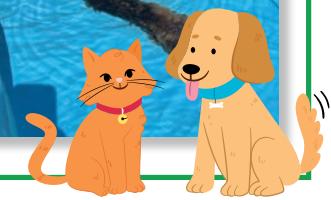


This is our dog Rolo and he is going to be 10 on 24th February. We are giving him a special birthday dinner!

His favourite walks are by the river. He swims whatever the weather (even in our paddling pool!) and usually splashes us when he gets out.

He is very cuddly (even when he is wet!), joins in our games and always makes new friends.

**Lily & Holly Overment (age 8 & 7)**



## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



## CHARMINSTER VILLAGE FETE

6th June 2026

2 – 5pm

If you'd like to help

please contact Susan McCrea – email:[susanmccrea@icloud.com](mailto:susanmccrea@icloud.com)

**More information next month!**

# VILLAGE'S DIRECTORY

## DORSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr David Taylor 07905 352710 [cllrdavid.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdavid.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

## LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

All villages are covered by Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPT). We're looked after by Support officer (PSCO 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](mailto: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

<b>Parish Council</b>	Chairman: Mark Simons Vice chair: Carol Matthews Parish Clerk: Michele Harding	260055 751535 07946 489 488
<b>St Mary's School</b>	Headteacher: Mick Homer Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	263880 266598
<b>Pre-School</b>	Vanessa Thomas	251512
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## STINSFORD CONTACTS

<b>Stinsford Parish Council</b>	Parish Clerk: Kirsty Rigler <a href="mailto:stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com">stinsfordclerk@googlemail.com</a>	268818
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Julie Jackson

Tim Yarker

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### North Ward (Charlton Down & Forston)

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Tony Murrell

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Peter Mauger

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