

The Pilot

September 2026



Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford

DEAR COMMUNITY,

When we lived in Lancashire, we were invited to a Jacob's Join meal. As a Sussex man, this was not a term that I had heard before. It turns out that it was a "bring and share" meal, where you are expected to bring some food to share and you can eat what others have brought. No one was able to explain the origin of the term, and Google is unusually unhelpful on this.

It makes me wonder if there are any odd Dorset terms. There are often regional words for alleys - in Sussex, an alley between hedges or fences was known as a twitten, whereas in Lancashire this was known as a snicket, or a ginnel if it ran between houses. And I am sure there are local weather words. Again in Sussex, when it looked like rain my granny would say that it was "black over Will's mother's", although as far as I know she did not refer to a particular house and it did not matter whether it was home to the mother of someone called Will. Email me if you know any local Dorset words.

The church is holding a bring and share / Jacob's Join meal to celebrate the harvest, on October 4th. Details will be in the next issue.

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

1. Who likes a Curly Whirly?
2. Where are the local defibrillators?
3. What happens to the fruit from the community orchards?
4. What is Lady's Bedstraw, and where can you see it?
5. In what way did Reverend Moule get his wish, which would have delighted Thomas Hardy?

Francis

Dates for submissions for our October edition - 5th September 2026.
Editor@charpilot.com



**Proud Winners
of the
Bridport Business
Awards 2023**



Excellence in Customer Service Category



Business • Personal • Creative • Promotional • Community

Telephone: 01308 423411 Email: office@creedsuk.com Website: www.creedsuk.com

Creeds Design & Print, 9c Gore Cross Business Park, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3UX

STINSFORD NEWS

Well this amazing summer continues, it is just how hot you like it! As I look around on 1st August the gardens do tend to suffer. I notice newly dug potatoes have set skins so no ability to scrape, fruit on the trees is generally smaller. On the other hand the 29th of June brought the large Strawberry Moon, the first beyond the Summer Solstice and on such a clear night a beautiful example. The photographs in the national press included one showing it alongside Admiral Hardy's Monument. It seems we have expert photographers nearby whether employed or freelance I know not, but often pictures appear from around the county.

A new Servedry for Stinsford Church and this faculty application steadily moves on as documents are prepared. With both the Statements of Significance and Need together with the plans as seen at the APCM, we continue to progress to the creation of a small kitchen and disabled toilet as an adjoined building to the back of the South aisle where currently the shed stands. We look forward to creating these necessary facilities and a redecoration as part of the improvements.

The North Aisle East Window, to the left of the Chancel steps, is up for debate again and conversations now taking place with a James Clarke on his work. There are also views towards a professional restoration of the detail and fabric surrounding this existing window and we await the potential costs. Both east windows to the aisles were presented by Mr James Fellowes of Kingston Maurward House as were all the chancel windows.

Researching previous church developments is interesting. I found an extract from the small booklet *Stinsford Church and Parish* by the Rev. G. H. Moule M.A. published in 1940 who relates the tale of the work carried out in 1868 and he appears impressed with the content of the east window to the south aisle representing the Apostles, Prophets, and Martyrs and the Holy Church as described in the Te Deum praising and worshipping God; he then states - though the central panel depicting the Object of their praise seems to be missing!

On the two windows in the north aisle however (now both plain glass) he comments at the time

these were put in place in memory of various members of the Pitt family. Whilst the glass gave the impression of age it was Victorian "chiaroscuro glass" and made in London. These were replaced in 2001 with clear glass as the colour of them had faded. Reverend Moule says "Unfortunately this was a bad period for Church windows and one could wish for something better to take their place today." He equally commented on a wish for more clear glass, so as to let in more light and see the trees outside, just as Thomas Hardy described in one of his poems, speaking of his early days when he worshipped in the church which then had scarcely any coloured glass.

We had a wonderful Evensong on the 26th July with both members of our congregation and delegates from the Thomas Hardy International Festival. Hugh Willis officiated and provided a great sermon enjoyed by all though we got lost with some of the Hymns. This was followed by a glass of wine and Music and Words provided by the Hardy Annuals, Dr Richard Hall, Jan Wylde and Richard Willetts - just captivating.

September will bring this year's Michaelmas Fayre on Saturday, 26th September 2026. With all its fun, music and we are so pleased Jamie Jones will again be there with a presentation of his culinary art. So looking forward to seeing you and always the plea for offers of help, items for the Provisions stall, a cake or Jams or fruit, vegetables, items for the New to you or Bric a Brac. All items readily saleable would be much appreciated.

We will have a Flower Festival with KMC Floristry Department participating all in readiness for our Sherborne and Dorset Archdeacon, Penny Sayer leading our Patronal Service on the evening of the 27th.

Moving with the thoughts of the day at the last Parochial Church Meeting it was proposed and agreed to drop the BCP Communion service as it does not appear popular. Vicars do not tend to follow a constant presentation and it makes it very difficult for the congregation to follow, so it was agreed that we would return to Common Worship Communion.

Michael Clarke



PROBUS CLUB OF DORCHESTER

The **JUNE** Probus meeting in was held, as usual, at The Gamekeeper in Charminster where 14 members sat down for lunch before the formal presentation from the Guest Speaker, Josie Dear talking about the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance (DSAA) and the vital contribution it makes to emergency care in our region.



Josie explained that there are 21 Air Ambulance charities in the UK who, in 2025, collectively made 48000 missions. The DSAA operates for 19 hours a day 7 days a week and they also have an outreach vehicle operating from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm daily. In 2025 they had 2738 call outs (1210 by helicopter and 1528 using the vehicle) and the service cost about £10m per annum to run. In 2026 to try to meet increasing demand an additional helicopter was acquired costing £10m plus £1m to fit out. To operate they have a pool of 10 pilots and co-pilots who work in shifts together with 18 critical care doctors and 19 specialist practitioners all working from the current base at Henstridge.

Josie reminded us that the funding comes from charitable donations and they have a band of very keen volunteers who work diligently to raise money needed to provide this essential service.

For the **JULY** meeting held at The Gamekeeper, the Guest speaker was Richard Southam of Aquae Sulis Chiropractic

Centre who gave a fascinating talk and demonstration about his discipline.



Richard explained that many people associate Chiropractors with back pain but this, he says, is a very small part of what he does. Most of his work is about dealing with nervous system stress and trying to help people manage this. He says that for many of us a change in lifestyle may well be called for but in general we are not good at this. With the speed everything operates in our current world it is often very difficult to reduce stress levels but he did explain many of the ways he tries to help patients manage it. It was a very interesting talk and provoked a lot of thought in our members.

For the rest of the year the Club has some interesting speakers lined up covering a wide variety of topics. The Club is also planning a number of social events during the year, each of which are open to member's wives and partners.

Probus Club of Dorchester is part of the international Probus Organisation and is a group of retired or semi-retired men who meet on the second Thursday of each month for lunch at the Gamekeeper in Charminster. At most of the meetings we have guest speakers and a wide range of topics are covered. For more information about us please see our website www.dorchesterprobus.org or contact either Barry White at flintcombe1@gmail.com or Chris Hutton-Penman at chris@ossl.biz or on 01305753611



THE THREE COMPASSES

A friendly welcome at THE THREE COMPASSES

- A family owned and run FREEHOUSE

REAL PUB - LIVE MUSIC - PUB FOOD

SKITTLES - OPEN JAZZ CLUB

VINTAGE TEA ROOM - B & B

www.thethreecompassescharminster.co.uk

SKITTLE ALLEY AND TEA ROOM

AVAILABLE FOR FUNCTIONS

ACCOMMODATION

CONTACT ROB & TINA DIXON

01305 - 263618

9 The Square, Charminster, Dorchester DT2 9QT
thethreecompassescharminster@gmail.com

THE FRIENDLY, PROFESSIONAL & RELIABLE SERVICE

"Ensuring customers have an honest appraisal in any situation with their best interests at heart"

- MOT Centre
- Servicing & Repairs
- Diagnostics
- Brakes
- Tyres & Wheel Alignment
- Welding
- Air Conditioning
- Wax
- Clutches
- Timing Belts

All Makes & Models, New & Old Cars, 4x4's,
Classics, Motorhomes & Light commercial



MOT Online Booking System
@ www.charminstergarage.co.uk

FREE Courtesy Cars &
Collection Services Available

Unit 1 Charminster Farm Ind. Est., Wanchard Lane, Charminster, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 9RP

PARROTT LOCKS Master Locksmith

Vehicle Entry, Keys & Remotes
Safes opened & Supplied
UPVC & Wooden door specialist

07709 545701

paul@parrottlocks.co.uk

www.parrottlocks.co.uk

Trading Standards Approved
Fully Insured & DBS Checked



Hi,

Your body will last longer than the expensive car, handbag or mobile.

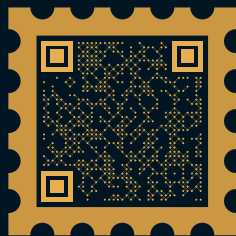
Exercise can reduce your risk of early death by 30% while boosting your self-esteem, mood, quality of sleep and energy.

READY TO INVEST IN YOURSELF?

For friendly, supportive personal training and sports massage, get in touch today!

Charlotte Pascoe x

signature-fitness@outlook.com



SIGNATURE FITNESS

PERSONAL TRAINING
SPORTS MASSAGE

07880 206880

HERRISON HALL

CHARLTON DOWN VILLAGE HALL

CHARITY NO; 1079442

Your Community Centre for

Anniversaries, Celebrations, Classes,
Club Meetings, Concerts, Conferences,
Dancing, Exercise, Parties, Receptions,
Seminars, Tuition, Weddings, WI, etc

Email: bookings@charltondownvillagehall.info
www.charltondownvillagehall.info



Charminster Village Hall

Bookings being taken now for children's parties and other family occasions in our main hall.

New lounge available for smaller groups, book clubs etc.

Well-equipped kitchen with crockery and glasses.

Competitive rates – Discounts for Charminster residents.

Contact: enquiries@charminstervillagehall.co.uk
Or call: 07918 595456

Website: www.charminstervillagehall.co.uk



STAG FENCING

- FENCING
- DECKING
- GATES
- LANDSCAPING & TURFING
- DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS & PATHS

01305 259021

WWW.STAG-FENCING.CO.UK



Stag

SHEDS and
GARDEN BUILDINGS

SHEDS
GARDEN BUILDINGS
01305 579209
www.stag-sheds.co.uk



- NEW BUILDS
- KITCHENS
- BATHROOMS
- EXTENSIONS
- CONVERSIONS

....AND MUCH
MORE

01305 263021

WWW.STAG-BUILD.CO.UK



elite

FOOTCARE
Dorset

Susannah DuValle BSC DIP RHP

mobile
foot health
practitioner

Do you suffer
discomfort from:

Nail Cutting
(including diabetic feet)
Corns
Callus
Athletes Foot
Ingrowing Toe Nails
Thickened Nails
Fungal Nails
Cracked Heels
Hard Skin Removal
Verruca

Book your home
appointment
TODAY!

07795 977648

susannah@elitefootcare.co.uk



Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

TOTAL DETAIL

Total Detail is your local expert in
professional carpet and upholstery cleaning.

We utilise the world's most advanced equipment
and eco-friendly cleaning solutions to deliver
exceptional results.

Fast Dry Times

Say goodbye to wet carpets and long drying times.
Our Texatherm system dries your carpets in just 30-60
minutes, for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Contact
us today for a free quote and discover how Total Detail
can transform your home or office.

EMAIL SUPPORT - totaldetailcarpetcleaning@gmail.com

LET'S TALK - **07359 090 734**

WORKING HOURS - 24/7 Including emergency call outs

www.totaldetailcleaning.co.uk

DORCHESTER TREFOIL SEPTEMBER 2026

It's been a busy summer for some of us during July and August! Apart from holding a tea party to which members from all over the county were invited (which raised £151 for the Teenage Cancer Trust) and holding an enjoyable Christmas themed barbecue at Wolfedale Golf Club, hosted by Alison Barlow, our Charminster Guider, some of us took part in an activity day at Foxlease, the former Guide activity centre at Lyndhurst. Foxlease is now owned by a charitable trust, trustees being mainly members of Girlguiding and Trefoil, but is still an activity and training centre for young people and their leaders.

One of our activities was rafting – but we had to build the rafts first, using our square lashing skills learned in Guiding, then add the barrels, which as well as being floats, acted as our seats. Once finished, we had to lift and push the rafts into the lake – not easy – and hold them tight against the landing stage so they didn't float away. Easier said than done! And the hardest part was getting onto them. Falling backwards onto the barrel, sitting up and twiddling round seemed to work for me – then shuffling forward to the front of the raft so that someone could sit behind me. I was so glad I have short legs – everyone else's feet were in the water! After paddling round the lake we had races and obstacle courses, one of us (not me) even stood up and sang 'Heads Shoulders knees and Toes, and did the actions – all without falling in. Getting out was as hard as getting in, but we managed it with each others' help. Lifting and pulling the rafts out was heavy work – but what fun we had. And not bad for 60 – 85 year olds.

Other activities on offer included orienteering, fencing and archery. I did archery – all I can say about my aim is that it is having a go that counts! Some people stayed for a traditional campfire with supper and singing before bed, and others, like me, returned home as they had commitments the next day.

If anyone would like more information about either our evening or our afternoon groups, please just e-mail me using the e-mail address below and I will get back to you. They are both Dorchester Trefoil and if you join one you can attend the meetings of both. People can visit for up to 3 times before joining. Our October afternoon speaker is our MP, provided he not required in parliament that day.



CHARMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

July Community Newsletter

MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATION

- The Parish Council strongly objected to the outline application for up to 500 homes on land west of the A35.
- Councillors are concerned about increased traffic through Charminster, pressure on local roads and infrastructure, and the cumulative impact of major development.
- Dorset Planning Co will assist with the Council's formal objection, and neighbouring councils will be encouraged to work together.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

- New "No Through Road" signs for Charlton Down are in production and will be installed when ready.
- The Stiles to Gates project starts at Princes Plot and near the church.

LOW CARBON DORSET

- The Council has secured free technical advice from Low Carbon Dorset to explore possible energy-saving projects. An initial meeting will take place on 28 July, with recommendations reported at the September meeting.

FINANCE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- The Council renewed its insurance with Zurich Municipal after reviewing three comparable quotations.
- An instant-access account with the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund will be opened to improve returns on Council funds.
- Donations were agreed for Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley and the South Western Ambulance Charity.

COMMUNITY SPACES AND LOCAL WORKS

- Five recycled benches have been purchased for community locations.
- Cemetery path works have been completed, and works will start soon for the Community Hall bin store and bus shelter roof.
- Tree works at the Charlton Down Cricket Club entrance and near White Beam Close have also been approved.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

- The Community Emergency Response Plan Working Group is making good progress.
- Further volunteers and local emergency contact details are needed to help complete the plan.

COMMUNITY DATES

- Community Apple Pressing: Sunday 27 September in Charlton Down.
- Community Apple pressing: Sunday 4 October in Charminster.
- All equipment is available and everyone is welcome to take part.

AROUND THE PARISH

- Updated allotment regulations are being reviewed by the allotment associations.
- A resident has kindly provided drone photographs of Charminster, Charlton Down and Forston. A selection may be displayed in the Community Hall.
- Alternative drinking water provision for the Community Hall is being explored.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 1 September 2026, 7.00pm at Charminster Community Hall

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT

Clerk: Michele Harding
Email: clerk@charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07946 489488
Website: [Charminster Parish Council](https://www.charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk)

COMMUNITY HALL BOOKINGS

Becky: Charminster Community Hall, Weir View, DT2 9QY
Email: communityhall@charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07947 622326
Website: [Charminster Community Hall | Charminster Parish Council](https://www.charminstercommunityhall.co.uk)

Keeping Charminster, Charlton Down and Forston informed



Expert support for Letting Agents and Landlords

Our experienced property litigation team help letting agents & their landlords navigate possession matters with confidence.

- Advice on Tenancy Agreements ➤ Evictions
- Rent Arrears & Disputes ➤ Repair & Maintenance Obligations

hklaw.uk

A Dorchester T 01305 251007 E dorchester@hklaw.uk



A and P Drainage

AandPdrainage1@hotmail.com

BLOCKED DRAINS CCTV

DRAINS SURVEYS DRAIN REPAIRS

Tel: 01305 835949

Mobile: 07887 572504

24 hour service, No callout fee, 20 years experience



FOND FAREWELL VETS

We offer a gentle and dignified home visit euthanasia service for dogs and cats in and around Dorset.

If we can help, please contact us on

01300 320 332

07442 27 27 28

info@fondfarewellvets.co.uk

www.fondfarewellvets.co.uk

Frome Valley Kitchens

of Dorchester



Style, quality & attention to detail

Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom
————— **Specialists** —————
01305 264490

Call into our showrooms today:
Grove Trading Estate
Dorchester DT1 1ST
www.fromevalleykitchens.com





PUGSLEY REVILL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Please telephone Nick Gill or Kevin Andrews
Home visits to suit.

- Accounts Preparation
- Taxation advice
- VAT Returns
- Sage & QuickBooks support & training
- Company formation & secretarial services
- Audit
- New business advice
- Bookkeeping & Payroll

Email: admin@pugsleyrevill.co.uk

Tel: 01305 267353

Address: 18 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1UW

Matthew Lucas

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons



*A family business providing a Dignified, Professional and
Caring 24 hour service*

Pre-paid Funeral Plans available

DOWN HOUSE, WIDCOMBE STREET, POUNDBURY, DORCHESTER DT1 3BS

Tel: 01305 753533

www.dorchesterfunerals.com

Members of the National Association of Funeral Directors
Recommended by The Good Funeral Guide and The Natural Death Centre





A family run garage offering servicing, repairs and MOT's for your car or commercial vehicle. Our lead technician Gary has been servicing Charminster and the local area for over 25 years, now heading his own team of mechanics and qualified MOT testers

- Class 4 MOT's for cars and smaller vans
- Class 7 MOT's for commercial vehicles weighing 3,000 to 3,500 kg
- Servicing, repairs, welding and diagnostic facilities
- Seasonal vehicle checks, including underbody rustproofing
- Hybrid Electric Vehicles
- Supply and fit new tyres, with over 100 in stock
- Agents for Terraclean™ DPF Cleaning
- Vehicle collection and delivery service
- Courtesy cars available for booking

Now incorporating our new venture Dorset Performance Exhausts and Tuning Ltd



- Bespoke Stainless Steel Exhaust systems, including Longlife™ Exhaust Systems
- Tuning & Engine Remapping

REAR OF FILLING STATION, A35 WINTERBOURNE ABBAS,
DORCHESTER, DORSET DT2 9LJ

wataasltd@gmail.com winterbourneabbasautos.co.uk

01305 880013



NEWS FROM THE CHARLTON DOWN NATURE AREA

In summer, a visitor's first glimpse of the Nature Area from the roadside is screened through cascading grey-green Willow boughs in the Swale, and deep purple leaves of a young Copper Beech at the entrance. But once through the gate, the path curves to the right between Oak and Field Maple trees to reveal a mostly open space of tall seed-headed grasses surrounded by trees like Wild Cherry, Whitebeam, Hazel, Ash and Elder, with lower-growing Blackthorn, Bramble, Hawthorn, Dog Rose, Spindle and Wayfarer bushes.

The structure of the old wooden footbridge marks the position of the pond just beyond the pictorial information sign. In the last few months, additional aquatic plants, such as Soft Rush, Water Plantain, Wood Dock, Water Avenas, Greater Spearwort and Amphibious Bistort have been added to the shallow margins to help dragonfly nymphs emerge. Floating plants like Frog Bit, and Yellow Fringed Water Lily now supplement the larger lily varieties to provide cooling shade for underwater organisms in hot weather; and extra submerged plants like Curly Pondweed, Mare's Tail, Dwarf Hair Grass, and Starwort will help keep the pond naturally oxygenated. Filamentous algae that first took hold in last summer's heat has been controlled by manual removal and water treatment as it can blanket and suffocate other plant and animal life.

The more spectacular of the pond-loving insects like Blue Emperor, Broad-bodied Chaser, and Common Darter dragonflies, with Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles, Common Bluet and Red Damselflies

were frequently seen this June and July - most having emerged after development underwater in our pond - evidenced by their many empty nymphal skins left clinging to upright stems and even on water lily petals. Birds have been making good use of the pond too, with swifts flying low to scoop a drink in passing, while green and gold finches join others to perch on the border stones and semi-submerged vegetation quenching their thirst. Bats in the evening fly over the surface to capture small bugs.

Beyond the pond and hidden from immediate view by a slight rise in the ground, the scything and reseeding work of late autumn and early spring has paid dividends with a clearer vista of the central wildflower zone, now devoid of much of the obscuring longer grass. It has been colourfully carpeted with the pink and purple hues of Knapweed, Wild Marjoram, Hedge Woundwort, Self Heal, and Musk Mallow flowers with the occasional welcome Spear Thistle, together with splashes of yellow Bird's-foot Trefoil, Meadow Buttercup, Lady's Bedstraw and Common Toadflax. The blooms provide nectar and pollen for a plethora of pollinating insects like Honeybees, Red-tailed and White-tailed Bumble Bees. Day-flying moths like the Silver Y have been common; together with Brimstone, Orange-tip, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Comma, Small Skipper, Small Copper, and Marbled White butterflies to name the most frequently seen - and not forgetting the wonderful Peacock butterflies from our own caterpillar colony in the nettles. In all, a splendid result from all the hard work put in by our volunteers.



Peacock Butterfly



Wild Marjoram and Lady's
Bedstraw flowers



Banded Demoiselle



The Pond

CHURCH SERVICES

CHARMINSTER AND STINSFORD - **SEPTEMBER 2026**

6 SEPTEMBER - TRINITY 14

11AM PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

11AM PARISH COMMUNION - STINSFORD

13 SEPTEMBER - TRINITY 15

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

9.30 MORNING PRAISE - CHARMINSTER

11AM MATINS - STINSFORD

6PM EVENSONG - CHARMINSTER

20 SEPTEMBER - TRINITY 16

11AM - PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

11AM - PARISH COMMUNION - STINSFORD

27 SEPTEMBER - EARLY MICHAELMAS

8AM BCP COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

9.30AM PARISH COMMUNION - CHARMINSTER

6PM PATRONAL EVENSONG - STINSFORD



Michaelmas, or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is celebrated on the 29th of September every year. As it falls near the equinox, the day is associated with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of days; in England, it is one of the “quarter days”. These were traditionally the four dates on which servants were hired, rents due or leases begun. It used to be said that harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas, almost like the marking of the end of the productive season and the beginning of the new cycle of farming. Michaelmas also was the time for electing magistrates and also the beginning of legal and university terms. The church remembers this day on the nearest Sunday.

As the church in Stinsford is St Michaels, it is also their patronal feast day when a special service is held to remember the history of worship in that place.

For services at other churches in the benefice, see the website

<https://www.cscsvbenefice.org>. For most Church inquiries, see the website or email rector@cscsvbenefice.org or call 01305 263761 / 07876 868862

STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR OF COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

1. Planning Applications - The council commented on a steady but reduced number of applications as statutory consultee. Of 10 applications, many concerned tree work in conservation areas, often involving old or decaying trees requiring limited consideration. It is pleasing to see work at Kingston Maurward helping preserve its parkland and gardens.

2. Neighbourhood Planning - In May we considered updating the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan, particularly its possible influence on development north of Dorchester. We concluded the existing provisions remain relevant, but have limited influence where developers and Dorset Council can disregard parts of the plan. Funding an update was therefore not considered in the public interest.

3. Highways - Highways remained a major concern, particularly Cuckoo Lane, Hollow Hill, Slyers Lane, London Road and the A35. Local roads continue to be used as alternatives when the A35 is blocked, with added pressure from heavy traffic and events at Kingston Maurward. We have asked the college and organisers to better consider residents and have received positive responses. Events such as Ironman continue to disrupt London Road and Slyers Lane. National Highways changed A35 signage and lanes but did not act on the parish council suggestions, leaving inconsistent speed limits and other concerns.

Highways are now a standing agenda item. Cuckoo Lane and Hollow Hill remain unsuitable for current traffic volumes, with inadequate passing places and road edges. London Road and the B3143 junction are also unsafe, with excessive speed limits, damaged edges and heavy vehicles. Despite support from Cllr Taylor, Dorset Council Highways has not worked effectively with the parish council, despite being made aware of serious risks. We have little confidence the situation will improve soon. Our concerns were included in the Local Transport Plan consultation response, though it is unclear whether they were accepted.

4. Footpaths and Bridleways - We continue to monitor and maintain public rights of way across the parish.

5. North of Dorchester Development - The year began with a resident's Freedom of Information

request on community engagement in the garden community programme. We held a well-attended consultation at Kingston Maurward House and found continued strong opposition to around 4,000 homes north of Dorchester. A summary was sent to all parish households. We responded to the July EIA Scoping Report, arguing it was not fit for purpose, and noted that Dorset Council later raised similar concerns. A revised December report made few significant changes. In March, developers held a two-day public consultation, but there remains little evidence that the site east of Slyers Lane or the wider North Dorchester scheme is viable.

6. The Studio School - We have met several times with the DoE and the school's development and expansion, establishing a working relationship. We raised concerns including parking provision and believe these can be addressed through continued dialogue.

The council continues to monitor progress.

7. Coastland College (Kingston Maurward Campus) - We meet regularly with college representatives and support its future development, including continued access to the gardens, animal park and lake. We look forward to maintaining a positive working relationship.

8. Consultations - We contributed to consultations including Dorset Council's Minerals and Waste Plan, Local Transport Plan and Local Plan options. By January 2026, another National Planning Policy Framework consultation followed soon after the last update. With 250 questions and limited likely influence, we did not have the resources for a full response.

9. Lower Bockhampton Play Area - The play area is little used and the annual inspection identified significant maintenance needs. It was closed over winter while we consider the best way forward.

10. Funding - The council again delivered services without increasing the local government precept.

Sarah Jane Pattison

Chair - Stinsford Parish Council - May 2026

The Stinsford Parish Council received the resignation of Sarah Jane who has moved from the area, we wish to thank her for her sterling work whilst a councillor and the very best wishes for the future.

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER CHARMINSTER CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAR-UP



Can you free up an hour on the morning of Saturday 3rd October to help us tidy up the church grounds in Charminster? Our main aim is to take all vegetation off the church building but there are lots of areas that would benefit from some time and attention!

If you can make it, please turn up with any gardening equipment you favour and if you can manage it, a container to take away some of the resulting debris.

We will be there from 9am - 12noon - please join me if you can at any point, we will be most grateful.

Don't forget your gardening gloves!

Emma Kerjenski
Church Warden, Charminster



**SPECIALIST IN THE WATER INDUSTRY &
WATER PIPE RENEWALS**



GROUNDWORKS | EXCAVATION
UTILITY SERVICES
TRENCHLESS SOLUTIONS
CONCRETE SURFACES

 **07967 630 044**

 **DORSETUTILITIESGROUNDWORKS.CO.UK**

**EMERGENCY 24 HOUR
RESPONSE AVAILABLE**



**WESSEX CARPENTRY
AND BUILDERS LTD**

OVER 25 YEARS BUILDING EXPERIENCE

- All aspects of carpentry and building work undertaken
- Quality workmanship • Free estimates
- Traditional Carpenters & Builders

Tel. 01305 251 255

Mob. 07733 226 547

www.wessexcarpentryandbuilders.co.uk

shaun@wessexcarpentry.com



2 Pomeroy Buildings,
Grove Trading Estate,
Dorchester DT1 1ST

Established 2003

JTM LANDSCAPES

www.jtmlandscapes.co.uk

Garden Landscaping	Stone Walls
Patios & Paths	Turf
Decking & Pergolas	Hedge Cutting
Fencing & Gates	Shrub Pruning

Telephone James
Dorchester 757077
Mobile 07879 491479



Interior & Exterior

Painting & Decorating

Contact Gary on 07881493755

www.portdecor.co.uk

Email: garyroberts64@portdecor.co

Public Liability Insured & member of PDA



40 Years Experience, Holywell, Dorset

The wrong phone number
was printed in June & July.

To apologise for any
inconvenience, we will be
offering a **£5 discount** during
August & September for
anyone who brings in a copy
of The Pilot.



S JOHNSON FOOT HEALTH Foot Health Practitioner

New Charminster Clinic

2 Greenacre, Mill Lane, Charminster, Dorchester, Dorset,
DT2 9QW

From maintenance to problem feet,
we're here to help!

www.sjfoothealth.co.uk

07376 254 150

Open Wed & Fri 10am-6pm



Quality Picture Framing

30 Years experience

WE CAN OFFER

- reasonable prices
- large stock of frame mouldings
- wide range of acid free coloured mount card
- 5 types of glass including water white non reflective and UV protective
- needlepoint a speciality
- box frames and medals

Quotations given

No obligation

Please telephone us for an appointment
or we can arrange a home visit

Roger Clarke-Williams

44 Manor Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2AX

Telephone: 01305 265137

email: roger.clarke-williams@talktalk.net



PROFESSIONAL & FRIENDLY SERVICE



**SALES AND REPAIRS
TO ALL MAKES OF TV,
AERIALS, SATELLITES
& RECORDERS**

- FAST SAME DAY SERVICE
- EXPERTS IN DIGITAL TV
- STANDARD REPAIR CHARGES
- ALL WORK GUARANTEED
- COLLECTION SERVICE AVAILABLE
- FRIENDLY HELPFUL ENGINEERS

TEL: (01305) 785017

WWW.TOUTSOFWEYMOUTH.CO.UK

GRASSBY FUNERAL SERVICE

*Still a family run business,
serving the local community since 1861*

8 PRINCES ST,
DORCHESTER
Tel. **01305 262338**
(24 Hour Service)



MEMORIAL MASONS
located at
Grassby Memorials
Dorchester Rd, Grimstone

www.grassby-funeral.co.uk

GRASSBY MEMORIALS

CARVING MEMORIES IN STONE SINCE 1861



- MEMORIAL MASONRY
- MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS
- COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES
- BESPOKE LETTER CARVING
- MEMBERS OF NAMM, BRAMM & RQMF



MASONRY WORKSHOP & SHOWROOM:

Dorchester Road, Grimstone, Dorchester, DT2 9NA

- Tel: 01305 269678
- Email: info@grassby-stone.co.uk
- Web: www.grassby-stone.co.uk

Need a tree surgeon? Give us a call on 01305 848881



Knighon
Countryside
Management

WOODLAND • ECOLOGY • LANDSCAPE

Our services include:

Tree surgery
Reductions and felling
Emergency tree work
Stump removal and wood chipping
Tree risk assessments
Hedge laying and fencing

Fully qualified and insured staff

All jobs undertaken both large and small

Friendly advice, free no obligation visits and quotes

Contact us now on 01305 848881



Licence No.
AC2167



TRUSTMARK
Government Endorsed Quality

Unit 37, Enterprise Park
Piddlehinton DT2 7UA

office@knighoncountryside.com
www.knighoncountryside.com

Wood Burners, Multi Fuel Stoves, Gas & Electric Fires

FIREPLACE & STOVE CENTRE



Millers Close, Dorchester DT1 1SS • 01305 751700

Tuesday to Friday 9am - 5pm Saturday 10am - 2pm

www.fireplaceandstovecentre.co.uk

FIREPLACE SURROUNDS • CHIMNEY LINERS • TWIN WALL FLUE SYSTEMS • ACCESSORIES

DEFIBRILLATORS

It is good to plan before an emergency arises. If you ever need a defibrillator, you will by definition be in a stressful situation and thinking logically might be impacted. So plan now, in case you need the information one day.

There is a useful website, <https://www.defibfinder.uk/>, which shows the nearest defibrillators to your location.

This shows that there are 4 in Charminster:

1. At the Church, in the porch, accessible 24 x 7.
2. At the Community Hall, accessible 24 x 7.
3. At the council depot, accessible 7am to 5pm.
4. At the school, available when the school is open.

There are 4 in Stinsford:

1. In the Main House, Kingston Maurward College, available when the college is open.
2. At the Animal Park, available when the park is open.

3. In the Sticklefords Building, Kingston Maurward College, available when the college is open.

4. At the Dorset Studio School, available when the school is open.

There is one in Charlton Down, at Herrison Health Club, available 24 x 7.

The website shows the exact location on a map, and gives the full address. You can also check for anywhere in the country, if you are minded to do so.

Let's hope these devices are rarely needed, but it is good to know they are nearby just in case.

Francis



Ride, Stroll, Roll – Your Way!

Everyone is invited to take part in this year's **Ride + Stride on Saturday 12 September**, raising money for Dorset's historic churches, whilst enjoying a great day out. The money you raise is shared between Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) and a church of your choice, so your participation will help directly with repairs to your local church or chapel.

Traditionally people walk or cycle between churches, sponsored by family and friends but there are many ways to take part. You can travel however suits you – walking, cycling, using an electric scooter or other motorised vehicle or even catching the bus! The event is open to people of all ages and abilities. Whether you visit one church or several, every journey helps support these important community landmarks.

Both Charminster and Stinsford churches are taking part and will be open on the day along with the others in the Benefice. If you would like to join the walkers from either church, or to sponsor them, details can be found on the church notice boards.



Stinsford Village Fete

Saturday 26th September 2026

11 am to 3 pm



**At The Old Vicarage and
Stinsford Church DT2 8XW**

BBQ

BAR

Local band

Community choir

Dog show @1pm

Cookery Demonstration @ 11am

Skittles Teas Cakes

Morris dancing (tbc)

Plants

Home grown produce

Classic cars

Bric-a-brac

Flower festival in church

Flowers in a shoe/boot competition.

And much more!!! Everyone welcome

£1 entry adults, children go free!



Any gifts of plants or cake donations to contact
Sally Warburton 07587177735 or Mike Clarke 01305 267611

JURASSIC
— COMPUTERS —



*The incredibly friendly
computer people*

**Call Darrell Hounsome or
Lee Thompson for
jargon free, patient, friendly
computer help for
home and business users.**

Whatever your computer problem, call us... we can help!

01305 755668

*Repairs • Servicing • New PCs & Laptops
Training • Virus Removal*

*Are you ready for a new PC or Laptop? If so, come and see us.
We offer a complete service and will guide you through the whole
process. We can supply, update, set-up and then transfer your
documents/emails from your old system. We will give you the
benefit of our combined 37 years experience gained whilst
working for Kingston Maurward College in Dorchester.*

Email: info@jurassic-computers.co.uk

Website: www.jurassic-computers.co.uk

**PROSPECT HOUSE, PEVERELL AVENUE EAST, POUNDBURY,
DORCHESTER, DORSET DT1 3WE**

WOODS & TAPPER FUNERAL SERVICE

serving the community since 1878

We offer a comprehensive range of
services from practical assistance in
arranging a funeral through to sympathetic
advice and expert support.

Funeral Directors:

- **Pauline Guy**
Dip FD MBIFD
- **Becci Wiles**
- **Harry Godden**

6 Albert Road, Dorchester,
Dorset DT1 1SF

www.woodsfuneralservices.co.uk

01305 250425

Woods Funeral Services is part of Tapper Funeral Service.



Internal plastering, rendering, dry lining,
coving and cornice works, painting and
decorating services.

Committed to a high quality finish and
complete customer satisfaction.

17 years experience, offering plastering and
decorating services to customers across
Dorset and surrounding areas.

Call Josh for a quote on 07876308316 or
email oconnor87@hotmail.co.uk

WENDY SOUTHAM

LWCMD, ALWCMD

Singing, Flute and Piano teacher

20+ years experience

Help with aural and theory also available



11 Cedar Road 07811 417820
Charlton Down 01305 266283

wendysoutham@btinternet.com



Gardiners
Gas & Plumbing



TEL - 01305 594132

Mobile – 07929 071106

Email – Gardinersgas@gmail.com

Appliance Servicing
New Boiler Installations
Bathrooms
Power-Flushing
Radiators & Plumbing
Free Quotes

Local Family Business
Established Dorchester
1995.



Andrew Darby Building Services

All types of building work undertaken:

*Extensions, structural alterations,
kitchen, bathrooms*

01305 757162

07974 260938

Email: adbsltd@gmail.com



P. D. S.

Planning. Drawing. Service.

Site surveys, design drawings and
Planning Applications.
Applications for larger home extensions.
Building regulation drawings and applications.

Contact Paul Dollery: 01305 753538
or 07787 560133,
email: pauldollery@hotmail.com

BURTON LANDSCAPES LTD

An established professional team of landscapers undertaking all aspects of landscaping and maintenance including fencing, pergolas, artificial and wooden decking, artificial grass, turfing, walling, paving, steps, groundworks, drainage and site clearance.

**Contact Mike on
07717 685951
01305 854603**

burtonlandscape@hotmail.com
www.burtonlandscapes.co.uk



HARDY TREE SURGEONS

EST. 1988

The Professional Arboricultural Service

Specialising in Tree Surgery, Landscaping Garden Management & Utilities
Throughout the South

- Tree Care for Residential, Commercial, Forestry, Agricultural & Estates
- Tree Surveys, Inspections, Reports & Consultancy
- Highways, Roads & Street Clearance
- Dismantling & Felling
- Pollarding & Veteran Tree Management
- Reductions, Thinning, Pruning & Reshaping
- Crown Lifting & Dead Wooding
- Site Clearance, Garden & Hedge Maintenance
- Tree & Hedge Planting
- Stump Removal
- Logs & Wood Chippings
- TPO & Conservation Applications
- Fully Insured - £10 million Public Indemnity
- Fully Qualified - NPTC
- Tree Works to BSI 3998 : 2010 Standards
- Friendly, Reliable & Efficient Service
- Free Quotations



24 Hour Emergency Call Out

Tel. **01300 341471** - Mob. **07774 477435**

www.hardytree.co.uk

The Office @ Unit 1 Charminster Farm Industrial Estate, Wanchard Lane,
Charminster, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 9RP

email: nickie@hardytree.co.uk



Hairdressing Salon at the heart of the Piddle Valley

Offering men's, women's & children's
cuts, colours and restyles

Experienced stylists who take the time to listen

Free on-street parking

Mainstreet, Piddletrenthide DT2 7QL

www.jaspershairsalon.co.uk

01300 348569

Contact us today to discuss your hair needs



MCS Laundry

OUR SERVICES

- Service Washes
- Duvet / Pillow Washes
- Ironing Service
- Wet Cleaning a Dry Cleaning alternative
- Ad Hoc and Regular Services Available
- Businesses inc Holiday Lets & Personal Clients All Welcome

Gift Vouchers Available

Free Parking in the car park on
Victor Jackson Avenue

Free Collection & Delivery T&Cs
Apply

CONTACT US

01305 796974 / 07508 459060

info@mcslaundry.co.uk

www.mcslaundry.co.uk

8 Dinham Walk
Poundbury DT1 3WU



Stuart Kemp

Plumbing & Heating Services

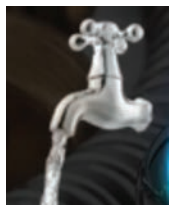
07968 961376 01305 265956

◇ General Plumbing

◇ Bathroom Installations

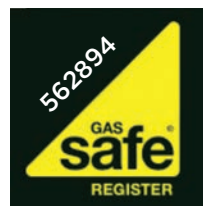
◇ Boiler and Full Heating Installations

◇ Gas Safety Certificates and Servicing



Free quotations

No VAT
(for a limited
period only)



www.kempplumbingandheating.co.uk

Charminster Action Group Opposition to Bellway Homes Application for 153 Houses at Wanchard Lane / Drakes Lane

Worried residents in Charminster have said the increase in traffic caused by a proposed new housing developments poses a threat to the safety of their families.

The Charminster Action Group has expressed strong opposition to the planning application submitted by Bellway Homes to construct 153 new houses on land bounded by Wanchard Lane and Drakes Lane. The Group, representing residents from across the village, warns that the proposal poses a serious and unacceptable threat to road safety, heightens the risk of flooding in the village, and threatens the character of the local countryside.

A Development in the Wrong Place

The proposed site sits at the junction of two narrow, winding country lanes that were never designed to accommodate modern traffic volumes. These lanes have limited passing places, poor visibility, and with no pavements, put at risk vulnerable road users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders, and schoolchildren.

The Bellway development together with a proposed extension to the Charminster Farm site would result in a thousand extra car journeys a day. Changes to the road layout would mean all traffic having to use Sheridan Rise or Drakes Lane. The group says the consequences would be felt immediately and persistently: increased risk of collisions, damage to verges and hedgerows, reduced air quality, and the erosion of the quiet rural character that defines Charminster.

Safety Concerns Cannot Be Ignored

Residents have repeatedly raised concerns about the suitability of Wanchard Lane and Drakes Lane for any significant increase in traffic. These lanes are wholly unsuitable for large volumes of cars, let alone construction vehicles and service traffic associated with a major housing estate.

The Group notes that emergency access, school transport, and everyday journeys would all be compromised. The risk to pedestrians—many of whom rely on these lanes due to a lack of pavements—would rise sharply.

A Cumulative Impact on Charminster

This application comes at a time when Charminster is already facing multiple development pressures. The Action Group stresses that the cumulative impact of successive large-scale proposals threatens to overwhelm the village's infrastructure, identity, and sense of place.

Statement from the Charminster Action Group

Rob Goldhawk, the group's chair said: "Our village is united in its concern. These lanes



cannot safely absorb the traffic from 153 new homes. Dorset Council must listen to residents and protect Charminster from inappropriate development that puts people at risk and damages our rural environment."

"We urge Dorset Council to reject the Bellway Homes application and to recognise the overwhelming evidence that this is the wrong development in the wrong location. The Group calls for planning decisions that respect the capacity of rural lanes, protect residents, and preserve the unique character of Charminster."

Councillor David Taylor, who represents the Charminster St Mary's Ward on Dorset Council, said: "I will not and cannot allow developers to build in our area regardless of the damage they will cause. They place communities in danger and create significant transport issues. Dorset will become a massive car park, causing environmental issues and huge pollution problems across the county, including Poole Harbour. Profits must not come before people and communities."

You can comment on this planning application via <https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/>. The reference number is P/FUL/2026/03770. While you are there, you might want to comment on another application, for another 71 houses in Wanchard Lane, under reference P/FUL/2025/07085, and on the first phase of the North Dorchester development under reference P/OUT/2026/03215.

The Parish Council is holding a meeting on September 1st 7pm in the Community Hall to discuss both the Bellway application and the North Dorchester plans. Make your voice heard

Rob Goldhawk

Pet of the Month ...



Betsy is 9 years old, but still an adventurous Jack Russell Terrier who loves swimming so is enjoying taking a daily dip in the river and fetching her floating toys. She has her own Facebook page called Betsy Barnes' Diary and Instagram account @betsyb_jrt. You might see her commenting on the local Charminster page because I accidentally joined the group in her name.

Debbie Barnes



CHARMINSTER CHARACTERS - HUGH WILLIS

There are many interesting characters in Charminster, Hugh Willis is one of them.

Born in Wales in 1939 to a mining family, Hugh became a military dental surgeon in 1963, serving for 39 years while raising four children alongside his wife, Lyn. After a nomadic life with the military, they finally settled in Charminster, where he was ordained as a Church of England priest 26 years ago, where he still takes occasional services. Hugh was up for the challenge of answering some odd questions about himself...

Q. What do you like most about living in Dorset?

A. *No motorways. Nice people and gentle countryside. This is our 19th married home and it's so nice to not have to move again - despite the fact that our house has flooded four times!*

Q. What is your favourite day of the week & why?

A. *Friday evenings – because you have the weekend to look forward to*

Q. What's your favourite chocolate bar?

A. *Curly-whirly*

Q. Are you a morning person or a night owl?

A. *My peak mental activity is 11pm until 2am. Unfortunately this results in insomnia!*

Q. What super-power would you choose and why?

A. *Healing – having been in healthcare all of my working life, there have been too many occasions where I have felt inadequate.*

Q. If you could re-live one day in your life, what day would that be?

A. *January 4th 1964 – the day of our marriage – I couldn't believe my good fortune – and amazingly it still goes strong.*

Q. What career did you dream of doing when you were a child?

A. *Teaching physics – a subject that I loved, but my mother, who was a teacher, advised me that I didn't have the right temperament. She was right.*

Q. If you could go back and talk to your 16 year old self, what would you say?

A. *Have you heard of this wonderful treatment for acne?*

Q. What is one of your favourite memories?

A. *Becoming a Dad for the first time*

Q. If you could travel to any country tomorrow, where would you go?

A. *Land of my fathers of course...Wales.*

Thank you Hugh for taking part – Curly whirly on it's way to you!



VILLAGE'S DIRECTORY

DORSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr David Taylor 07905 352710 cllr david.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 and follow 'Do It Online' to access a range of services. Or there's always 101 or 999 or via Do It Online / Dorset Police

CHARMINSTER CONTACTS

Parish Council	Chairman: Mark Simons Vice chair: Carol Matthews Parish Clerk: Michele Harding	260055 751535 07946 489 488
St Mary's School	Headteacher: Mick Homer Caretaker: Belinda Bessant	263880 266598
Pre-School	Vanessa Thomas	251512
Village Hall	Bookings: Julie Seeney charminstervhbookings@gmail.com	07896 326076
WI	Mary Hayes	251503
Bell Ringers	Captain: Chris White	07783 555 199
Girl Guides	Alison Barlow	07534 309 595
Brownies	Alison Barlow	07534 309 595
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers	Joanne Hunns	07738 539 929
Scottish Country Dancing	Val Scriven	265177
Charminsters Stores	Louise Christopher	07533 251065
Art Group	Maria Cole	07923 504295
Community Hall	communityhall@charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk	07947 622 326

CHARLTON DOWN CONTACTS

Village Hall	bookings@charltondownvillagehall.info	
Jellytots	Emma	07791 204 323
Flood Warden	Carol Matthews	751535
Charlton Down Cricket	Peter (Tommy) Tucker youth/senior James Pretty: booking / hire	07810 275 847 07810 275 847

STINSFORD CONTACTS

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

THE PILOT CONTACTS

Editors - editor@charpilot.com **Advertising** - advertising@charpilot.com



Looking for a Venue to hold a party, wedding reception, exercise, dance or sports class, meetings, conference?

Charminster Community Hall could be what you are looking for. Boasting an expansive main hall 20x12m, large and small meeting room, fully equipped kitchen, ample parking, easy one level access.

Purpose built with the community in mind, modern and spacious with up-to-date technology to keep you connected. Competitive rates for businesses and discounts available for residents of Charminster, Charlton Down and Forston (T&C's apply)

Available to hire for badminton and pickleball at £3 per person per hour.

To check availability and provisionally book:

<https://venuehire.scribaccoun.com/Charminster-Parish-Council>

Location: Weir View, Charminster DT2 9QY

Email: communityhall@charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk Call: 07947 622326



South Ward Councillors (Charminster)

Mark Simons (Chair)
Julie Jackson
Peter Dangerfield
Alan Rolls
Tim Yarker
Kevin Fairey
Helen Aves

North Ward Councillors (Charlton Down)

Carol Matthews (Vice Chair)
Susan Frazer
Tony Murrell
Peter Mauger
Andy Harris

Contact: Parish Clerk (Michele Harding) c/o Community Hall, Weir View, Charminster DT2 9QY phone: **07946 489488** or email: clerk@charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please see our website for contact details and more info on meetings

www.charminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk