CONTACT

JULY
Deadlines
For Adverts:
5pm June 15th
For Editorial:
5pm June 19th

The community magazine For Chickerell and Fleet. JUNE 2021 – No 522
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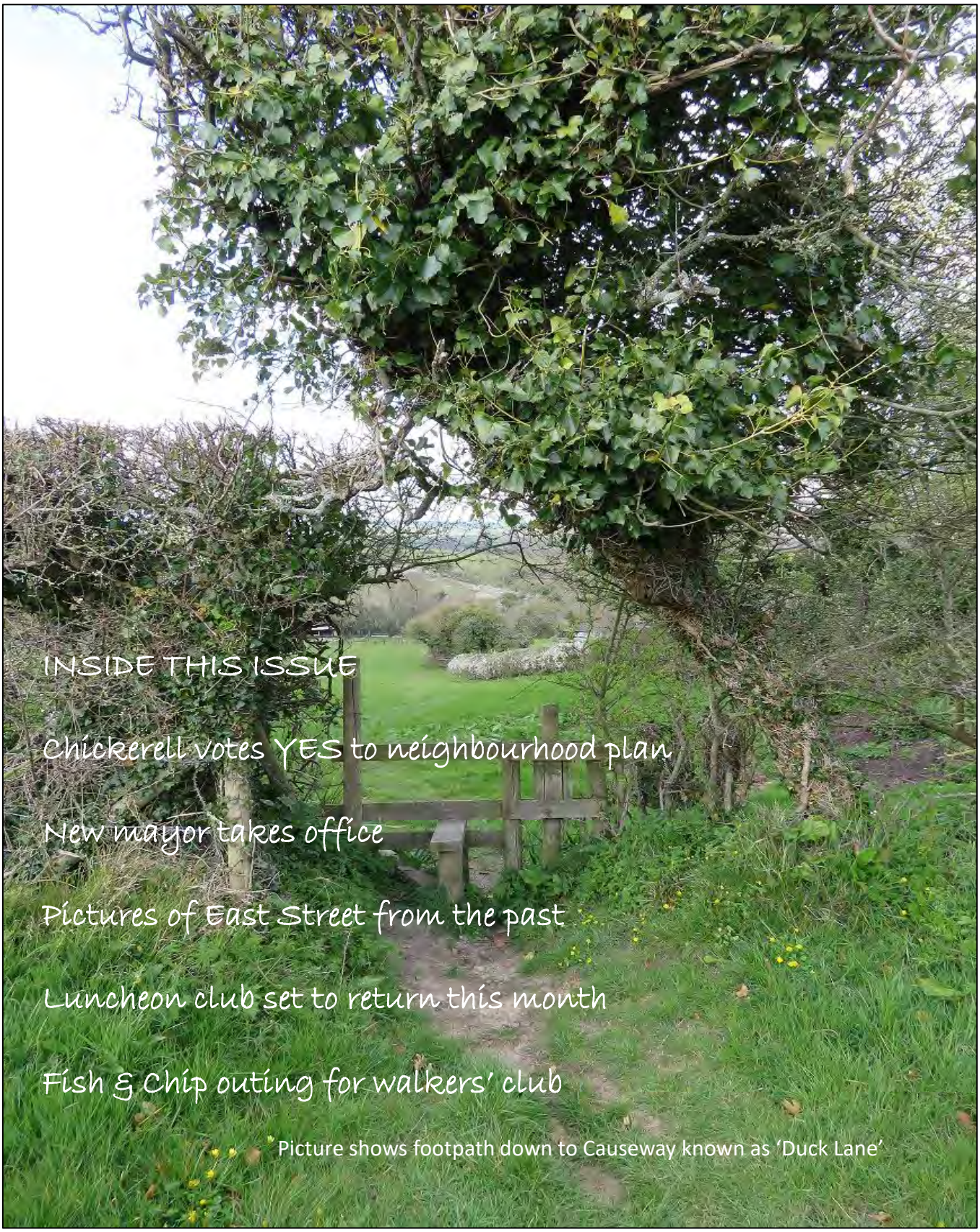

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Chickerell votes YES to neighbourhood plan

New mayor takes office

Pictures of East Street from the past

Luncheon club set to return this month

Fish & Chip outing for walkers' club

Picture shows footpath down to Causeway known as 'Duck Lane'

From the editor:

Congratulations to Coun Mrs Elspeth Turner who became Mayor of Chickerell at the Annual Statutory Meeting in May. I am looking forward to working with her for the coming year.
After my desperate appeal for help in the April Contact I am happy to welcome Rachel Bennett, Tony Dean and Peter Richardson to our team who have taken on the job of distributing Contact to our agents.
Well done to the resident for stopping the travellers from entering the football field and calling the police.
Also well done to Marion, Joe and their team for all the work at The Victory Hall; as a long time ago member of the management committee it is good to see the hall is still in safe hands.
Last month I had a phone call from a senior lady who would like to thank the young couple who helped her when she was not feeling well in the street in Chickerell. She wanted to emphasize that the younger generation were not praised enough for what they do.
We have an appeal from the organiser of the Poppy Appeal this month and an interesting article from Dorset Trading Standards about Scams – don't get caught.
And finally, from Caroline, David and myself a thank you to our readers for supporting the advertisers in Contact and to the advertisers for staying with us during the Covid 19 pandemic. It is so good to see life getting back to some sort of normality with people able to meet with family and friends. **John Dean**

WHO TO CONTACT: Editor: John Dean, 4 Rashley Road (01305) 785895.
Treasurer/Advertising Manager: David Tattersall: (01305) 761643. email: **davidtattersall2003@yahoo.co.uk**
Please contact David if you wish to place an advert or renew an advert.
Compiler: Caroline Tomlinson, 29 Fairfield (01305) 773502. email: caroline@elephantsears.org - please send all letters to the editor, articles and editorial to the compiler. No personal callers without prior arrangement please. If sending an email, you need to put 'Contact Magazine' & the appropriate month in the subject heading or it will be regarded as 'spam'. You need to add a phone number for queries.
Letters and editorial contributions, which **may be edited**, are welcome but anonymous letters will not be published. Note: the views and opinions expressed by the contributors in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor, compiler or publisher.
Every effort is made to ensure all information provided is correct at time of going to press.
Closing date for articles: 5pm on the 19th of the preceding month.
Closing date for adverts: (including amendments to current adverts) 5pm on the 15th of the preceding month.
Note: Deadlines have to be strict to get Contact completed and to the printers on time.
Advertisers note: A contact phone number **must** be included if sending via email.
PLEASE SEND ADVERTS AS EITHER A JPEG OR BITMAP, AND SIZED ACCORDINGLY. Thank you.
All artwork is accepted on the strict condition that permission has been given for its use in this publication.
Adverts are accepted in good faith in the strict understanding that goods and services described are both fair & accurate. Note: **Adverts will not be placed in Contact without prior payment**.

You can pick up printed copies of Contact at: Chickerell Post Office; Chickerell Library; Chickerell Pharmacy and hairdresser next door; Charlestown Post Office; Wessex Pharmacy; Sgt Bun Bakery, Lanehouse Rocks Road; Alf's Fish & Chips. You can also view us online in colour at the Chickerell Website every month (details below)

CHICKERELL WEBSITE – By James Bennett: Find us at www.chickerell.com and view Contact Magazine including past issues, in case you missed a month!

USEFUL INFORMATION - HEALTH

WYKE REGIS AND LANEHOUSE MEDICAL PRACTICE: (with Chickerell Surgery) Tel: 01305 782226
website: www.wykeregisandlanehousemedicalpractice.co.uk Surgeries are open but visits by appointment only after speaking to medical professional. Initial advice given via 'e consult' or by telephone.
When Doctors surgery is closed and you need medical advice, dial 111.
If you have a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste, do not go to the GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy. Follow the NHS guidance on self-isolation. www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Emergency Care Service: Dial 111. If critically ill call 999.

DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL AND WEYMOUTH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:
Accident and Emergency Department at Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester: For all serious injuries.
Injuries less serious: WEYMOUTH URGENT CARE CENTRE at Weymouth Community Hospital. Open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. Appointment only during COVID Pandemic 01305 762541.

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Contact is printed by Print Shop Express, Weymouth

News, letters and events

CHICKERELL'S NEW MAYOR is Coun Elspeth Turner (pictured left). She received her chain of office from Coun Jeff Mogg, who served for the previous two years. In her acceptance speech, Councillor Turner said: "Due to the pandemic, some planned initiatives have not been able to progress as outgoing Mayor Coun Mogg had hoped. I look forward to building on those he began – 'green Chickerell' in particular. I hope to focus on the younger people in the town and would like to involve them in a 'Pride in Chickerell' drive." Coun Turner has served as a town councillor for nearly six years. Coun John Worth was elected as Deputy Mayor & Coun John Dean as Civic Representative. (*Picture courtesy of town council*)

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CHICKERELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN RESULT: Chickerell votes 'Yes' to the neighbourhood plan: More that 1,200 people cast their vote in the Chickerell Neighbourhood Plan referendum – just under a quarter of the local electorate of 4,913. A total of 1,006 voted in favour of a yes to the plan and 184 in favour of a no to the plan. There were 20 spoilt votes, counted as spoilt as they were either unmarked or unclear. The acceptance of the plan, which sets out what Chickerell wants to protect and plan for in the area up until 2036, will mean developers will be less likely to get new Chickerell sites approved for development and there will be more protection for the area's open spaces, wildlife corridors and hedgerows.

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DORSET'S NEW POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER is David Sidwick (Conservative). The poll was carried out under the supplementary voting system, whereby voters had to rank their two favoured candidates. As the first preference vote saw no one candidate with more than 50 per cent of the vote, it had to go to a second preference vote which confirmed David Sidwick as the commissioner. The voting was as follows:
Confirmed first preference votes for the whole of Dorset: Sidwick (Conservative): 64,071. Hardy (Independent): 31,112. Seymour (Green): 21,283. Robson (Liberal Democrat): 17,837. Canavan (Labour): 16,379.
Second Preference vote in Dorset (eliminates all but top two candidates and counts second preference vote): Hardy (Independent): 43,427. Sidwick (Conservative): 70,353.
Note: Due to Claire Seymour (Green Party), being added to the list of candidates at a later date, her name was not included in the list of Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner candidates published in Contact last month.
The main role of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as set out in the 2011 Police and Crime Commissioner Act, is to secure an efficient and effective police force for their particular area. The role also includes, among other duties: Setting the force budget for their area (the police section of the council tax payment) and appointing, and holding to account, the chief constable.

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THE PLAY AREA on the Willowbed field celebrates its 10th anniversary this month. The MUGA (multi-use games area), the play area and community seating were all officially opened as part of a family fun day on Saturday June 18th 2011. A bouncy castle, music, refreshments and a barbecue celebrated all the new facilities which were funded by West Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council, Chickerell Town Council, Chickerell Primary School, Chickerell@Play (fundraising team) & Chickerell's YouFirst Youth Forum.

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NEWS FROM WYKE REGIS, LANEHOUSE WITH CHICKERELL SURGERIES: The surgery has recently welcomed two new salaried GPs to the team, Dr Griffin and Dr Akodu.
The COVID Vaccination Centres have been running well since December 2020 but faced large numbers of telephone queries which has led to some delays in answering for which we apologise.
Our Chickerell Surgery is now open for some routine appointments (such as blood tests, blood pressure checks, wound checks, Vitamin B12 injections, stitches removal and dressings) with our Health Care Assistant (HCA) team on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please contact reception (01305 782226) to see if a suitable appointment is available at the Lower Way surgery.
Weymouth Carers Group meetings are currently postponed but if you need assistance please call the Adult Access Team on 01305 221016 for advice on services such as; independent living safety & security aids/equipment, day centres, support for carers and dementia care.

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CHICKERELL PHARMACY (Day Lewis, East Street) is hoping to add more services to local people: "We pride ourselves on looking after our patients in the pharmacy and also at the vaccination centre. We offer many services including blood pressure checks at a small charge of £3. Many new services are coming soon, please call us on 01305 779054 if we can help you."

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News plus Charities, Groups, Clubs and Societies

THE POPPY APPEAL NEEDS YOU! Volunteer needed to take over the Poppy Appeal in Chickerell: "I am happy to give support and help with this year's Poppy Appeal to ensure continuity. This is a very worthwhile cause and well supported by local people. Please contact me on 01305 581978." (Pat Arthars).

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POP STAR'S HAPPY MEMORIES OF LITTLESEA: From the compiler: Just as Contact was being finished I happened to tune in to Radio Solent's early morning Dorset show to hear an interview with 1980s electronic pop star Gary Numan. Apparently he used to come down to Littlesea with his parents as a child to stay in a little caravan. He said he was so happy at Littlesea, watching the helicopters take off and land at the army camp and loving the beach at Weymouth that he returned when he became famous. He said to him being wealthy meant staying in the larger six berth caravans at Littlesea which is exactly what he did.

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LITTER CONCERNS from Brian: "A Place for Everything & Everything in its Place: Litter bins are in a place to help people deal with litter 'when out and about', which is designed to keep our streets litter free. It has been observed that other items have been put in the bins causing overflowing. It is an offence to put in household waste and bulk bags of animal waste; either dog or even rabbit and cat waste. These items are classed as fly tipping (that is items put in the wrong place). On our recent litter picks in verges, ditches and hedges, we found items such as a suitcase, large cardboard box, plastic washing-up bowl and a swing bin. Clearly people are deliberately putting these items in the wrong place. The same goes for the nine bags of rubbish that was collected; the contents should not have been there in the first place. The council has organised systems to ensure that there is a practical place for everything. It's up to people to comply with those arrangements; you know it makes sense! If anyone is unsure how to deal with various unwanted items, please ring the Dorset Council West Dorset Services 251010. Thank you."

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NEWS FROM SPIRIT OF CHICKERELL: We are still planning to hold a village cafe and table top sale on Saturday 3rd July from 10am to 12noon (subject to lockdown restrictions lifting).
The usual range of cakes and snacks will be available (if we can remember how to cook bacon and sausages!)
To book a sales table call Pam on 01305 835805.

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NEWS FROM ST MARY'S: We are able to have Holy Communion at our services when we have a visiting priest, but we also have non-Communion services, led by our two recently commissioned Lay Worship Leaders: Jacqui Meadows and John Bennett. Many of you will know that John has led the Family Services for many years, but was not formally commissioned. All that changed on April 25th when he and Jacqui, after completing a training course, were officially commissioned by the Bishop of Sherborne: Bishop Karen, via Zoom, of course! Anyone who wishes to be baptised, either adult, child or baby or get married, please contact the churchwardens (Phone numbers on Church Page) as our local clergy will be happy to help, while we have no permanent priest.

Our Books, Plants and Bric-a-Brac Sale on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st May from 10am – 2pm at 11 Randall Close (off Rex Lane) is still going ahead as Contact is being printed, (weather permitting). When there is further relaxation of the Covid rules, we shall also hope to start having coffee mornings. Watch 'Contact' and posters for further details.

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NEWS FROM CHICKERELL LUNCHEON CLUB: I am really looking forward to **June 3rd** when our lunches will re-start. The prices have stayed the same – thank you to the Marquis of Granby.
Any problems or cancellations please phone Ann 783002 or Janet 750232.

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CHICKERELL WALKERS CLUB: From Brian: The rules of the club are simple: To be a member, just turn up on time as we right on the dot. If it is raining, the walk leader will turn up and if others brave it, a decision will be made at that point. Well controlled dogs allowed.
Thursday 10th June: Meet 10am, Park & Ride, Weymouth. Walk around Lorton Meadows & nature reserve (good views) and bird sanctuary.
By popular request: **Fish & Chip Walk, Friday 25th June**: Meet 5pm, Peto Garden. Walk inland along the top of the hill via Victoria Inn, Moonfleet & Fleet, then a break for fish & chips. Find your way home (if you can!).
After lockdown we look forward to meeting new walkers. Thanks! Brian 770678.

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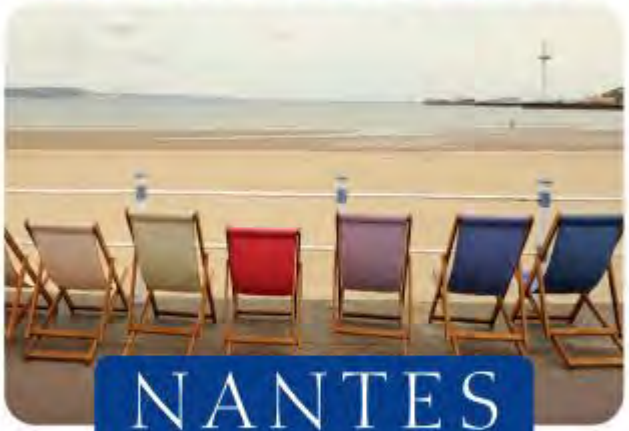

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More news, plus playgroups & school notes

CHARLESTOWN VICTORY HALL, PUTTON LANE: News from Marion: "Apologies for no news last month but work always continues at the hall maintenance-wise even if we are not fully functional as yet due to Covid restrictions. However, thanks to these being relaxed slightly, **we have welcomed back Dixie Six Line Dancers** recently. Please note that all current hirers always follow Covid risk assessments and restricted numbers. Regrettably, we are seriously considering erecting a security post in the entrance to the car park due to the anti-social behaviour of drivers who think it is acceptable to use it as a skid park and have recently broken two of the windows. Sadly, this will restrict all access to the car park.
The batteries and pads in our defibrillator have recently been replaced and the machine is now registered with BHF as well as SWAST.
Following a recent enquiry, Bingo cannot, under present restrictions, resume until after 21st June. Once we have confirmation we are allowed to continue as normal we will confirm the dates - we know that all the Bingo players will look forward to that! Let's hope we can all soon get back to a more 'normal' lifestyle. Our thoughts are always with those who have been affected by this terrible pandemic.
As always queries can be answered by Joe Castleman - 01305 789125 or me Marion Hardcastle - 01305 761744 - not forgetting our excellent Facebook page under Charlestown Victory Hall."

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CHICKERELL LIBRARY, 51 East Street, Chickerell, Weymouth DT3 4DT. Tel: 760095
NEWS: We will be keeping to restricted hours until Saturday 26th June, then we can review the situation:

Tuesday 10am-12 noon
Thursday 2pm-4pm
Saturday 10am-12noon

Our public computers are not in use at the moment due to restrictions. You can book the use of one at Weymouth or Dorchester libraries.
We are doing photo copying: the price is 10p black and white; 50p colour.
The summer reading challenge will be on this summer starting in July. Further information will be given out through your school and library, so encourage your children to join; it is important that children read. Why not start coming to the library after school on Thursdays.
We have plenty of books for all ages and have new ones coming in all the time.
May be Mum and Dad would like a book read too, so do come down to the library; it's there for everyone to use.
The Peto Garden by the library is looking beautiful; there are benches for you to sit and relax, enjoying the bird songs.
Happy reading!

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PLAYGROUPS

DUCKLINGS PRE-SCHOOL: Methodist Church Hall, North Square, Chickerell, DT3 4DX. Tel: 766920. Our email address is ducklings.pre@btinternet.com or visit our Facebook page.
SESSIONS: Full days available from Monday to Friday 8.45am until 2.45pm.
Mornings available from Monday to Friday 8.45am until 11.45am or 12.45pm.
Places for two year olds are now full for September. If you would like an application form for Spring term 2022 then please contact us. We do have some availability in September for three and four year olds.
NEWS FROM DUCKLINGS: As we enter the summer term, we are supporting some of our children so they are ready for the transition to 'big' school, which they are very much looking forward to. Over the last few weeks, they have been busy helping with the gardening and planting new flowers or herbs. Many thanks for the kind donations from the community. We have been learning about different occupations and practicing yoga moves. The children have been making their own obstacle courses and creating rockets, animal hotels and boats etc., using their creative imaginations. We have also been celebrating Eid-al-Fitr and trying some homemade traditional foods which the children really enjoyed.
For further information about registering your child with us please contact Michelle or Sharon.

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CHICKADEES: For registration forms/questions please call Clare Ash on 01305 773103 or contact via pre-school@chickerell.dorset.sch.uk

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More news from in and around Chickerell

CHICKERELL FOODBANK UPDATE: Thank you to all who donate to us; without you we wouldn't be able to supply essentials. At present we are in need of the following: Cereal, long-life milk, puddings, peanut butter, biscuits, crisps, sweet treats and tinned meats.
Drop off points for any donations are: Chickerell School, Chickerell Pharmacy, 56 Lilly Lane, 15 Marshallsay Court and 11 Randall Close. Remember if you find yourself in need for whatever reason please call/text 07872861523 or email placemarys4@gmail.com. You do not need a referral number or note from GP or other agencies. We are here to help with most of our parcels being delivered at this time. God bless you all: Jacqui & the team at Mary's Place Pantry.

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WYKE REGIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: The Trading Post in Rylands Lane is open on Wednesday afternoons 2 - 4pm and Saturday mornings 9.30am - 12.30pm. The Café remains closed.
If the advice from the Government changes, we may close again. Please check our website www.wrhs.org.uk for updates or join our Facebook page. A good range of compost and plants is in stock. Membership costs £5 a year. Contact enquiries@wrhs.org.uk or answerphone 01305 759668.

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NEWS FROM WEYMOUTH'S REPAIR CAFÉ: Weymouth's Jubilee Clock Tower on the seafront was lit in orange lights last month to celebrate the anniversary of Repair Café's first live event on May 11, 2019.
Meanwhile committee members are pleased to report on the progress of Weyshare, the new 'Share Shop' for Weymouth, currently operating from temporary premises in the crypt of Holy Trinity Church. The aim of the shop is to enable people to borrow donated tools instead of buying and storing ones infrequently used. For more information: #weyshare or see Weyshare on Facebook. There is also a Google website coming online at weyforward.net/weyshare.
The Repair Shop is still hoping to be back with its next event – a double length event – on September 11th.

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Cinema, theatre and film

Cinemas re-opened in May – Weymouth Cineworld, Dorchester Plaza and Dorchester Odeon, still with restrictions on seating and other measures due to Covid.
Weymouth Pavilion also opened for business and in June Rapunzel, the Christmas pantomime, is set to be on stage for children from 2pm on the **4th, 5th & 6th June** with adults only shows from 8pm on **3rd, 4th 5th & 6th June**.
Sunday night comedy is also set to return to Weymouth Pavilion on **June 20th**
Some shows scheduled for this summer at the Pavilion have been delayed until next year, so it is worth checking the website for up to date information apart from bookings. Tickets: boxoffice@weymouthpavilion.com or 01305 783225.

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FILM REVIEW

Nomadland (12A) (showing at Weymouth Cineworld as Contact went to press): This Oscar winner is a film to be seen on a big screen to appreciate the American wilderness that Fern, (Frances McDormand), sets out into after losing her husband and seeing her whole town shut down when its only source of employment closes.
Packing up her old van with a few treasured possessions, Fern takes whatever work she can as she journeys round the big wide open spaces, meeting a whole community of spirited folk who survive with little in nowhere.
Frances McDormand is excellent as the grief stricken, weary widow who manages to stay resilient despite everything but she is not the only star. Each individual Fern meets has real heart and soul plus nuggets of wisdom to pass on. As a result you are left with a sense of hope for all the rootless folk and an appreciation for what you do have. The credits at the end of the film are revealing, too. 'See you down the road'.
Contact welcomes film reviews and contributions from readers.
FILMS ON SCREENS INCLUDE: (advertised as Contact went to press): My New York Year, starring Sigourney Weaver. Set in the 1990s, it tells of a girl fresh out of college who has to deal with a reclusive author in her first job. A coming of age drama for all those with a creative streak.
There is also **Tom and Jerry: The Movie (PG)** and two films delayed from last year: **Peter Rabbit 2 (U)** and **Dream Horse (PG).** Dream Horse (due in cinemas from June 3rd) tells of how a group of people not normally associated with racing pin their hopes on a four legged dream.

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CHICKERELL TOWN COUNCIL

CHICKERELL TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.chickerelltowncouncil.co.uk
PUBLIC NOTICE: In response to COVID-19, Chickerell Town Council office is currently closed for public access. If you need to get in touch, please email townclerk@chickerell-tc.gov.uk
It is hoped in-person meetings will begin again in June.
We want to reassure you that all agencies in Dorset and nationally are working together to take all the necessary steps to contain and delay the virus and to ensure we are well prepared for any potential spread.
CITIZENS ADVICE is open and available to speak to by telephone and email only. Full details can be found on their website www.westdorsetca.org.uk
WILLOWBED HALL AND THE SPORTS PAVILION: Closed for public use until further notice.
Council meetings in the office still suspended at time of going to press.
WILLOWBED FIELD ENCLOSED PLAY AREA: Please follow the strict guidelines on use posted on the gates and in the town council office window.
CCTV: Around the Willowbed Hall and field are constantly monitored.
DOG FOULING: Report to the dog warden on 01305 252244.

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL COUNCIL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

REFUSE/RECYCLING, RUBBISH BIN PROBLEMS: Call Dorset Waste Partnership on 01305 221040.
FLY TIPPING can be reported at: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/flytipping or call 01305 221040.
The main number for Dorset Council is 221000. The main number for Dorset Council West Dorset Services (at South Walks) is 251010.
HIGHWAY ISSUES: Roads, verges and hedges, public footpaths, streetlights, road signage, winter maintenance and bus timetables – if you have any queries regarding any of these phone Dorset Council.
STREETLIGHTS: If there is a streetlight out, please phone 0800 0684145.
FLOODING: For sandbags please call 01305 251010 and ask for emergency planning who will advise where sandbags can be purchased.
PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT: Dorset Council on 01305 251010 or see website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Anti-social behaviour: Please report all incidents no matter how small immediately to the police on 101. This is the non-emergency number available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Remember, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999.
Water problems: Report to Wessex Water – 0845 600 4 600. **Electric Emergencies: 105.** Call this number for emergency help and advice.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: At the time of going to press, Contact could not find any new applications on the Dorset Council website for the Chickerell area still open for comments.

****

FROM COUN JOHN WORTH: If anyone needs to contact me they can phone or email. My contact details are: Mobile: 07787229052 Phone: 01305 835805 Email: Cllrjohn.worth@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

****

NEWS FROM DORSET TRADING STANDARDS

HOW DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS SUFFER WITH SCAMS: "Scams can affect us all, but certain types of scams are more likely to target people by age. Young people aged 18 to 24 don't represent the largest group of people falling victim to scams, but numbers of scam victims in this group is rising. In particular, young people are a growing proportion of victims of online and identity fraud. Having grown up with technology they are often confident in their ability when using the internet. This can lead to them feeling that they are unlikely to fall for internet scams, making them complacent and increasingly vulnerable. Research shows that over half of young people are unlikely to report scams. People in their 40s to 60s are the group most affected by scams. Part of this is because they are most likely to report scams, but also because of their circumstances. For example, 40 to 60 year-olds are more likely to have financial assets. This makes them more likely to be targets of pension scams, dating scams and property scams. The over 70s are more likely to fall victim to phone and mail scams. Figures from National Trading Standards show that older people are deliberately targeted and more are recurring victims of scams. If you have fallen for a scam and you want advice on what to do, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline freephone 0808 223 1133 or visit their website at Citizens Advice Consumer Service Why not become a 'Friend Against Scams?' Over 2,300 people in Dorset already have. Visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

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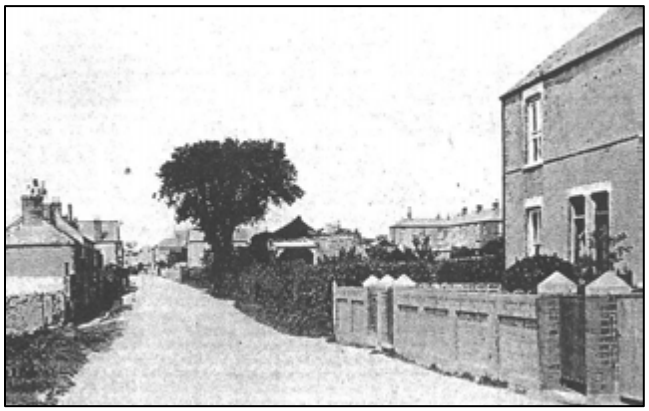
Remembering the past - East Street, Chickerell

These photos of East Street; left, the 'lower end', and right, looking down the street from the Post Office end, show that some parts of Chickerell have not changed very much, just been infilled with houses over the years. The house in the left hand side of the picture, standing on its own, did have a large garden to the side of it on which a house in a similar style was built in recent years. Note the brick walls and pillars in the gardens remain unchanged, despite the passing of the years. Many thanks to the reader who supplied the historic pictures.



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Esme recalls her war work in Dorset

More memories from Esme. This month : Memories of being a Land Girl: Esme joined the Women's Land Army in May 1942 when she was seventeen. She had never been away from home before and was sent for four weeks of training at a farm in Church Knowle, near Corfe Castle. The farm was owned by a Miss Graves, the sister of Robert Graves, the poet. Esme's day began at 5.15am in the kitchen making tea before walking nearly a mile to the farm. She was then met by the dairyman and taught how to hand milk cows using a contraption that consisted of a canvas bag on a stand with four rubber teats representing the cow's udder. She had to sit on a milking stool and practice for three days each morning before breakfast. After breakfast she had to clean out ferrets then go muck spreading until lunchtime. Milking her first real cow took place after about three days. She also had to, with one other girl, then move the cows and the bull each day. One day the herd was startled by 12 Bren Gun Carriers coming down the road from Bovington: "The cows went beserk and the bull charged on top of a gravel heap by the side of the road, head down and very angry". The two girls managed to regain control, leaving Esme with a damaged finger so sore that she nearly fainted with all the pain and shock once back at the farm: "Someone pushed my face in the water trough to revive me!"

STONE PICKING AND D-DAY

After training, Esme was lucky enough to work on a farm a mile from home: "After feeling very proud of myself milking three cows I went to a farm where there were over 40 and three milkings. I did all sorts, thistle cutting, me in a 14 acre field; stone picking (I'm convinced stones grow overnight) haymaking, hoeing, harvesting and milking morning and evening.

The farm was situated by the sea, beautiful. I'll never forget D Day – looking out to The Channel. The horizon was one black line as far as you could see with ships. Planes were coming over, seemed like hundreds; we knew that something big was happening, it was so emotional, proud to be British I suppose. At the time I was chopping down thistle – my war effort!

A LOOK BACK TO CONTACT MAGAZINE - June 1989

- The parish council announced that a Dorset County Council Centenary Tree, donated to the parish to commemorate 100 years of councils, was to be planted in the grounds of the Victory Hall.
- Parish council news this month in 1989 also included a proposed industrial site between Putton Lane and Chickerell Road which had resulted in 28 letters of protest from residents of the two mobile homes which would have been directly affected by the plan. The council decided to fight the proposal.
- The headmaster of the primary school, Mr J Griffiths, was retiring in July after 18 years at the school. Pupils past and present were invited to donate a small token of thanks.
- Andy Highfield from the Tortoise Trust, a representative from the British Association Tortoise keepers and a local vet were all due to attend Chickerell's Methodist Church hall one afternoon this month for post-hibernation tortoise check-ups. There was a small admission charge of 50p per tortoise.
- Weymouth College was launching a new course 'Access to Higher Education' and because of the lack of evening transport during winter months, was hoping to put on a programme of courses in Chickerell starting that September: "We would be interested to hear the views and interests of people in Chickerell and surrounding areas."
- A concert of chamber music was due to be held in Holy Trinity Church, Fleet in July 1989 to raise funds for the church roof.
- St Mary's Church planned themed services from July 1989 which included, for August of that year, 'Clouds have silver linings'.
- John Lant & Co, the 'family estate agent' and agent for Chelsea Building Society, was to have a grand opening at Lower Way, Chickerell, on June 16th, 1989.
- Bluebird Coaches was advertising a 5am departure to Alton Towers on June 25th and a weekend in France: 'Paris Nightflyer', setting off at 7.30pm on August 18th

****

DID YOU KNOW THAT (with thanks to Chickerell Yer Tiz, produced by the Parish Council): The Post Office's Dorset Postal Directory of 1855 notes numerous traders in Chickerell including butchers, farmers, shoe and boot makers, a blacksmith, agricultural implement maker, beer retailer, wheelwright and cooper, baker and stonemason, shopkeeper and postmaster, carpenter and Crickmay Geo. Hayter, a manufacturer of red stone ware potteries. Mention is also made in the directory of gentry residing at The Rectory, The Elms and Montevideo House plus the large trade in mackerel caught 'on Portland Beach, West Bay'.

The Police record for Chickerell dated at the end of the 19th century/turn of the 20th century also has details of nine Beer Houses and Public Houses in Chickerell: The Lugger Inn; Turks Head; Victoria Inn; Red Lion (Licence abolished); Three Mariners; Alexander Tavern; Marquis of Granby; Fisherman's Arms & Wellington Inn.

****

NATURE NOTES: What has been seen in Chickerell since the last issue of Contact Magazine:
It has been good to see the return of the swifts, swallows and house martins, although so far (as Contact went to press) they do not seem to be stopping in the village, just passing through.
It was glorious to see the blue sheen on one particular swallow that darted around so close to me as I walked across the Willowbed field on a good day in May. One notable event on another reasonable day of weather was a whole sky full of an estimated 50 to 60 swifts swooping and swarming over the Willowbed field.
Early one morning I also saw the interesting sight of rooks sat in a tree on the football field with a host of gulls circling over them. The gulls have been quieter of late as many are now sat on nests high up on the roofs of buildings around Chickerell.
It was lovely to hear a blackbird sing its heart out, on quite a few early mornings, high up on a roof on Lower Way; and to continue to hear the Goldfinches chatter to each other as they fly around the village.
The hedgerow by the school and around the boundary of the football field continue to be very valuable for a whole host of birds, particularly sparrows.
Finally, in the early hours of one morning in May, a very large badger was seen trundling along Rashley Road. Please take care on the roads because of badgers and hedgehogs. I have also been startled early one morning on Coldharbour by a deer jumping across the road.

****

Looking back at the old days in Chickerell and Fleet

More memories from Esme: Village Life – Tommy the Cycle Man: Tommy lived in a little cottage, on his own, at the corner of East and West Street. By day he worked at Montevideo House as a gardener cum handyman. Weekends and evenings he repaired bicycles in his house. If children had a puncture they knew that Tom would fix it for them for a charge of sixpence, or a 'tanner' as Tom would call it. He spoke with a lisp so it came easier than saying sixpence. Tommy was a very happy and contented little man. His table was choc-a-block with every imaginable bicycle part from wheels, chains, saddles, screws, handlebars and so on. He would just push it all to one side when he had a meal! He would willingly pump up your tyres with a little brass pump which I always thought was gold! I don't suppose he had much money but he was such a happy little individual, all the children loved him.
The Drover: Early on Wednesday mornings Billy drove the sheep to Dorchester Market. I believe he lived at Wyke Regis. He had to walk behind the sheep. He must have had great patience as sheep have a mind of their own when it comes to direction! The poor man always looked so ill, scuffing along in his hob-nailed boots….

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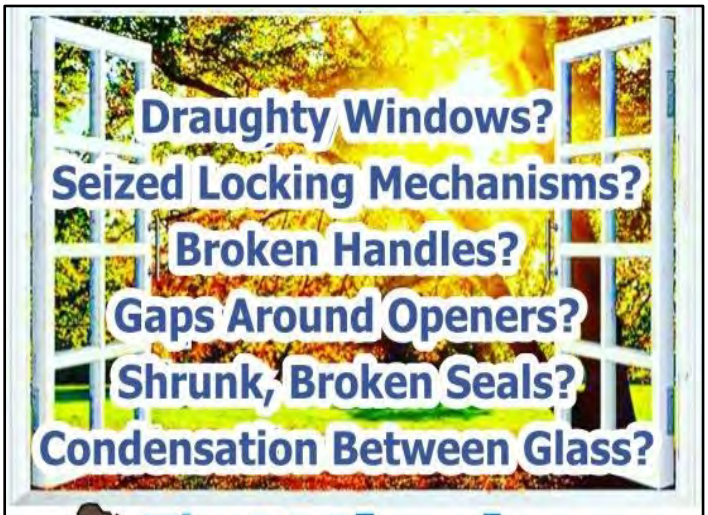

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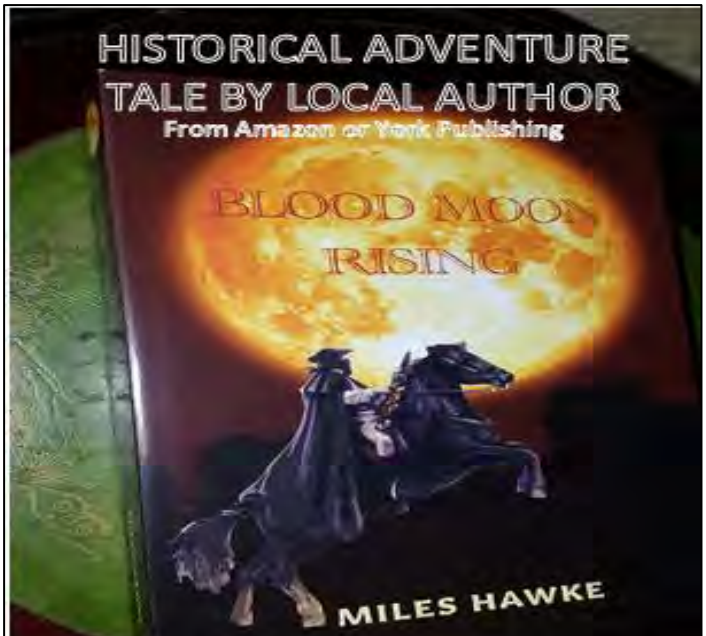

Pirates, highwaymen & smuggler yarn in this swashbuckler, including Monmouth Rebellion circa 1685 landing April, Cobb Quay, Lyme Regis.

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CHURCHES PAGE FOR JUNE

ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHICKERELL & HOLY TRINITY, FLEET

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We have started to have two services a week since lockdown was eased.
This enables us to have the correct social distancing and masks are worn.
Anyone wishing to come to church, who is not already allocated to a Sunday or a Wednesday at 10am, please contact one of the churchwardens, to see if there is space available.
We have visiting clergy taking our services, but not all will be Holy Communion. Please check with the churchwardens, if you would like to know:
Valerie Hale: 01305 781096
Elizabeth Eames: 01305 774405
Anyone who wishes to be baptised, either adult, child or baby or get married, please contact the churchwardens as our local clergy will be happy to help, while we have no permanent priest.

****

CHICKERELL METHODIST CHURCH: DT3 4DX

The Methodist Church is situated on the corner of North Square and West Street in Chickerell and is home to the Ducklings Pre-School.

6th June Rev Gwyneth Owen (H.C.)
13th June Peter Jenner
20th June Janet Amey
27th June Flora Stewart

Our services start at approximately 10.30 and close by 11.15. Please do not come before 10.20. A one-way system is in operation when entering and leaving the building. Masks are still required and social distancing is observed. Hand sanitiser is available and details are taken for the track and trace system. Sorry, but still no singing at present. In line with Government and Methodist Guidelines, numbers have to be limited and it is helpful if seats can be booked in advance (phone Pam 01305 782429).
In the meantime, we continue to deliver the written service if required and with the Zoom service on Sundays at 5pm.
We are hopeful that we will be able to restart our coffee mornings and craft meetings in person as guidelines allow, and we look forward to meeting up with old friends and hopefully seeing new faces.

****

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PRAYERHOUSE CHICKERELL, East Street, (by library). Contact David and Caroline White at chickerell@theprayerhouse.co.uk or 01305 759968 www.prayerhousechickerell.

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20th June P Woodland
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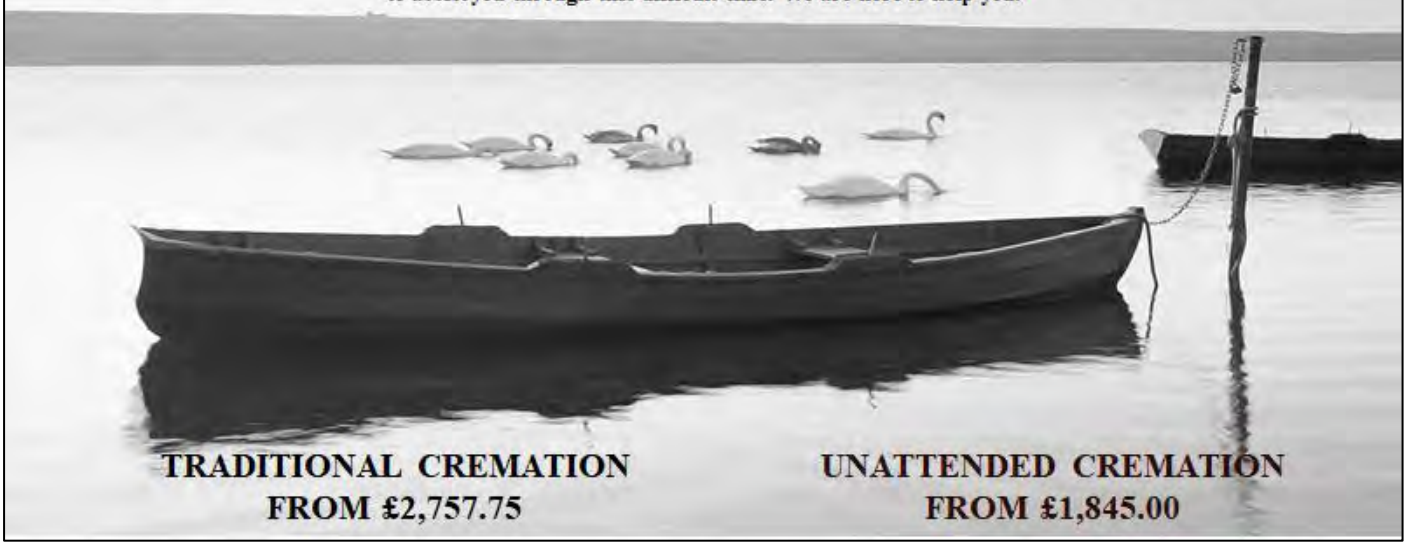

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Gardening Notes for June – from Carrie Dalby, Wyke Regis Horticultural Society

We have had rain! Late frosts delayed planting out and many plants are slow to get going, as they wait for the soil to warm up. This has altered our normal timings, but nature will catch up. Repeat crops sown now will enable succession of harvests. Water when required. Feeding should be increased to once a week for all plants. Bulbs need feeding after flowering before the leaves die down - this enriches the bulbs for next year's blooms.

Bedding plants are available for adding colour, especially in tubs and baskets. Keep them fed and watered and remember to deadhead. New shoots are beginning to emerge on shrubs and herbaceous perennials and softwood cuttings should be taken now. Please use 'peat free' compost unless they are ericaceous plants. New shoots will be soft and may require staking or other support before they get too big. Check carefully for nests, before trimming hedges and shrubs - it is illegal to disturb a nest.

Keep ponds topped up. Use rainwater if possible, but tap water can be used if it is stood in a bucket for 24 hours to allow toxins to evaporate. Ericaceous plants can be watered using water from a filter jug in dry spells.

Greenhouses and tunnels get hot in the sun, so add shading, keep them humid and ventilate well.

Volunteers are needed to help with food growing projects this year - please respond to calls for help if you can. An hour or two a week is valuable and appreciated.

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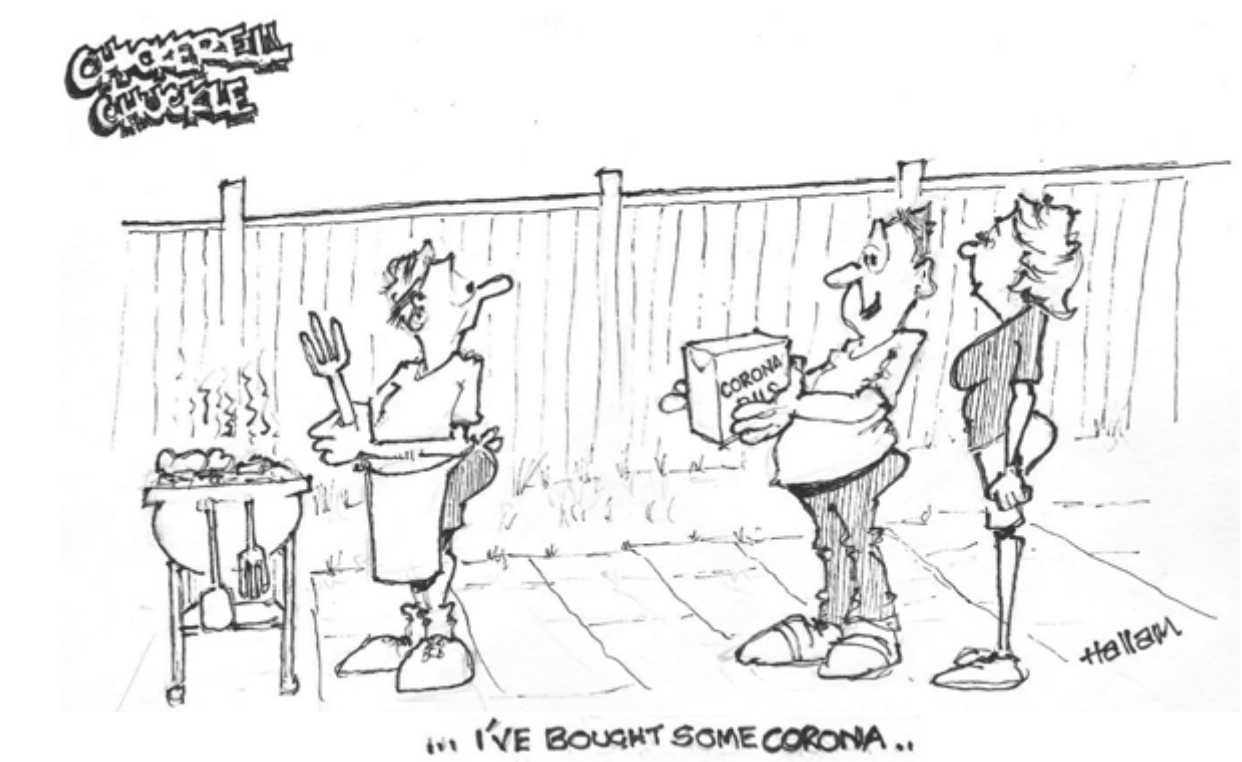

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