





VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a while since we've published a newsletter, so welcome to this new style edition.

Arne Parish has a comparatively small electorate of just over 1,000 voters, but it covers quite a large area geographically. This rural parish stretches from the hamlet of Arne across Purbeck to Worgret and takes in Ridge, Stoborough, Furzebrook and Grange Roads. There is a lot going on in Arne Parish. There is farming, mineral and oil extraction, conservation, rivers, heath and woodland, and of course tourism. There are many small independent businesses. There is a school, a church and two pubs.

Arne Parish held elections last May. We were sad to lose Nigel Barnes and Trevor Heritage who both retired and Bridget Kenward who successfully sought election to become our Purbeck District Councillor. The remaining Arne Parish councillors were re-elected and were joined by Don Hunter. Following a door to door pamphlet delivery we were pleased to co-opt Avris Wakefield-Sutton and Richard Bessant. All were present for our AGM in June. *There is a list of Councillors and their contact details on the back page of this newsletter.*

About your council...

We are a varied collection of people, some of whom were born locally and

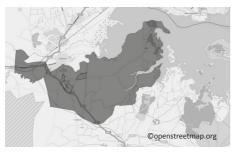
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others who have adopted Arne Parish as their home. Parish Councillors are all volunteers who of course also have other commitments. But we all have a major interest in doing what's beneficial for the Parish. Your councillors bring a variety of experience and interests to the table which leads to informed discussions on the many topics and decisions that are brought to council.

We are also fortunate in having an efficient and dedicated clerk who ensures that our deliberations are legal and democratic. Any decisions are by majority agreement and are supported by all councillors even if it's not their own point of view.

We have been on various 'walkabouts' over the months, including some with DCC Highways and Natural England. We regularly inspect The Hayricks, to check the safety of the area for children to play in and the allotments. We invited several speakers to our parish meetings including the RSPB, NT and Wild Purbeck. We have regular reports at these meetings with updates from our webmaster, the Burial Board, Resident Associations, Village Halls and Stoborough School liaison. Extra acivity has involved the Neighbourhood Plan of which more later in this newsletter; and if that wasn't enough we've had heathland consul-

Front Cover: Wareham Channel from Slepe Heath



Arne Parish shown in dark grey

tations and the Purbeck District Local Plan review too. It is not a full time job though it feels like it sometimes - but without the salary. I'd like to emphasise that we are not a political nor a church body but try to voice your opinions and deal with issues on your behalf.

Unlike some parish councils, we do get regular attendance and support from locals at our meetings; this keeps us on our toes sometimes! There is always a fifteen minute slot for public partipation.

Please look at the noticeboards and website: http://arne-parish-council. sycl.net/. These are our ways of communicating with you. You will find a complete archive of minutes on the website together with an interesting news thread.

See you at the next Parish meeting at which all of you are very welcome.

Best wishes Caroline Macleod Chair of Arne Parish Council

EDITOR'S NOTES

It's very pleasing to put together this first Arne Parish News for many years, particularly so because as you will see in this issue, there is so much going on and so many topics that affect us all. It's hoped to produce a bulletin four times per year to provide a level of continuity.

We hope that this newsletter will evolve to include a full listing of events in the Parish - I would be happy to receive details from organisers to my email listed below.

We hope to arrange some business advertising as this will help to pay for the extra costs of colour printing which certainly helps to show off our beautiful parish.

It would also be nice to receive letters and reports.

Ray Scragg rayscragg@btinternet.com

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

These are held: 3rd Thursday of every month, except August, starting at 7 pm at Stoborough Village Hall. All welcome!

THE NATIONAL TRUST ACQUIRES SLEPE HEATH

Within Arne Parish the National Trust now owns approximately 500 hectares of land, the majority of which is heathland within the Hartland Moor National Nature Reserve and the newly acquired Slepe Heath. In addition we own Middlebere Farm, which includes a large area of salt marsh on the edge of Poole Harbour, and Halfway Farm to the west of the A351.

Apart from Middlebere Farm which is a tenanted organic beef farm, all of the land is managed by the West Purbeck team of four National Trust rangers based at Hartland Farm. In addition to land in Arne parish the team's responsibilities include management of land around Corfe Castle, including Corfe Common and the castle itself.

We manage our countryside sites with the aim of protecting and enhancing the natural wildlife and landscape features that make them so important, whilst encouraging people to enjoy them in ways that minimise damage.

Much of our conservation work is carried out by our herd of Red Devon cattle, which during the summer months range across a large block of open heath that stretches from Scotland Heath in the south to Stoborough Heath in the north. The ranger's work largely replicates the traditional practices that helped create and maintain heath for thousands of years; in particular gorse, or *furze*, cutting and maintaining tree cover at a level that doesn't smother the heather and other plants.

With only a small work force to cover such a large and important area we could never achieve our aims without the help of a team of skilled volunteers, who make a huge and varied contribution, including biological and archaeological surveying, and helping us maintain and upgrade our footpaths and bridleways.

PURBECK U3A

Purbeck U3A is a self-help organisation consisting of over forty different interest groups for people in the Isle of Purbeck and surrounding area and no longer in full-time employment. We have a membership in excess of 500 with a significant number of members from households in the parish of Arne. These members meet regularly and socially and enjoy activities as diverse as Archaeology, Bridge, Computing, Cycling, Gardening, Mah Jong, Table Tennis, Walking, Wine Appreciation and much more besides. For further details of these and other Purbeck U3A activities see the website at www.purbecku3a.org.uk or phone the Purbeck U3A dedicated helpline 07564 937871.



View to Corfe Castle from Slepe Heath

Future Plans

Our plans for the future centre on working with other partners and neighbours, such as RSPB and Natural England, to expand and link-up the fragmented areas of Dorset heathland. One of the first schemes will be to greatly expand the cattle grazed area by removing fences and repositioning cattle grids to allow free movement of animals from Hartland to the tip of Arne. Cattle have extensively grazed the heath for hundreds of years and are essential to keeping it in good condition.

Having acquired Slepe Heath at the end of 2014, our aim for 2015 is to carry out a thorough survey of its wildlife and archaeology, and then decide how best to manage it for the future. We are working with partner organisations to create a visitor management strategy for the area, but the aim for NT land will be to keep visitor numbers at current levels, principally by not expanding car parking provision. We still have work to do to decide how best to manage the increased demand for dog walking, cycling and horse riding, and to ensure that our gates, paths and waymarking are of the highest quality.

If you need further information or wish to comment on any aspect of our work please contact the Lead Ranger, Phil Stuckey at philip.stuckey@nationaltrust.org.uk or tel: 07768 865 021. You can follow our work via the *National Trust Purbeck Rangers* Facebook page.

Laurie Clark, NT Purbeck General Manager

REPORTING POT-HOLES, FLOODING AND OTHER ROAD PROBLEMS

Reporting a variety of road issues has been made much easier since the introduction of a dedicated web page shown below. On here you can notify Dorset County Council's Highways department of a whole range of issues like flooding and drainage, potholes, faulty streetlights, dangerous trees and hedges and abandoned vehicles. The more people report a fault on this site the higher the chance of the work

being scheduled in, depending on its size, nature and category.

The site has other useful information such as bus timetables and road works, so it's a useful page to bookmark.

http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/ TravelDorset

RIDGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Fifty-five people came along to the Ridge Residents' Association AGM held at Redclyffe Yacht Club on 10 March this year. They elected the Committee with four brand new members and re-appointed Karen Wright as the Chair for the third year running.

Karen noted the fantastic range of events that had been organised in the past year, including walks and talks, a visit to Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum, a visit to Furzey Island arranged with thanks to Perenco and bigger events, such as the Charity Supper, BBQ and the Big Picnic lunch. Everyone in the community was thanked for their continuing support to make these events happen.

The guest speaker, Laurie Clark, Purbeck General Manager for the National Trust, gave a talk on the Trust's activities in the area, its role in conservation of local heathland and plans for the future. He spoke about the land acquired by the Trust at Slepe Heath (the inspiration for Hardy's fictional Egdon Heath, the setting for The Return of the Native), which attracts rare birds such as Dartford warblers, nightjars and woodlark. He confirmed that the National Trust intends to look after Slepe Heath and to ensure that the heathland remains open and protected for everyone to enjoy and explore and shared his aim

 much appreciated by local residents
to create a footpath which will allow people to walk from Corfe to Arne peninsula.

If you are interested in joining the RRA - the cost is £2 per annum - then please contact the new Secretary Janet Toal on 01929 550767

Debby Wheatley

PS. Debby steps down after several years of wonderful service as Secretary during which period RRA has gone from strength to strength.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

This is an exciting new venture starting 19th April. We offer afternoon tea on the third Sunday of every month, at Stoborough Village Hall between 3.00 and 5.00pm. There will be a choice of freshly made sandwiches and a selection of home made cakes and scones available at very reasonable prices. This project has received initial funding from Dorset Partnership for Older People. Some people often find the week-ends long and lonely. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for seniors to take refreshments in safe and pleasant surroundings, socialise with others and feel part of the community. Other age groups are welcome too. Do come and enjoy good food and company.

Harparkash Rispin Tel: 01929 553503

NEWS FROM STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

According to the constitution of Stoborough Village Institute dated 1951, Stoborough Village Hall was built:

"for the purposes of physical and mental training and recreation and social moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms library lectures classes recreations and entertainments of otherwise as may be found expedient for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Arne ... and its immediate vicinity"

In this vein, there is an eclectic mix of events currently being run at the hall - these include: The Allsorts Play Group, Singing with Local Vocals, Art classes, Belly Dancing, Dog Training, French, Pilates, Folk Dancing, Stoborough Women's Institute and Stoborough Baptist Church Sunday School. Wareham Young Farmers and Arne Parish Council hold meetings here and the Pantomime Group has rehearsals and runs successful performances every other year – details of all of these can be found on the Arne Parish website and outside the Hall.

The trustees of the Hall are working to update the building. You may already have noticed some changes - outside lighting has been improved



Stoborough Village Hall

with the installation of PIR sensors, new guttering has been fitted, and thanks to Peter Andrews of Andrews Plant Hire we have a flatter carpark surface. Planning permission has just been obtained for a concreted finish. The main hall was recently cavity wall insulated, and further insulation work and re-roofing will be done - funds permitting - followed by interior redecoration. Any parish member is welcome to attend the trustee meetings, which are held approximately every two months and are advertised on the notice board outside the hall. The next meeting is on Monday 11th May at 7 pm.

If you wish to book the hall for an event, please telephone Lyn Burgess on 01929 556772.

Jill Scragg

NEWS FROM STOBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Stoborough School has been progressing well and kept very busy with such a short half term.

We held a wonderful lunch for grandparents of our pupils and older members of Stoborough community recently. This was a huge success with only just enough room for us all to sit down! This was a lovely occasion where children had the chance to have lunch with some of the people that are very special in their lives.

On Monday 23rd March, the school acted as host for a meeting delivered by the Bishop of Salisbury with the focus being 'Renewing Hope'. All areas of Purbeck were represented well.

Stoborough pupils have taken part in many sporting fixtures in the local area with lots of success. We are through to the Dorset finals for Tag Rugby and the semis for football. We were placed first overall in a recent cross country competition with Purbeck primaries and our girls' cricket team came second! Stoborough pupils love their sport!!!!

Other successes include:

One of our pupils won the recent Waste Wizards (ECO based) competition for the whole of Dorset.



Stoborough School

Furthermore, we entered a competition for designing ECO recycling/environmental designs for a Raymond Brown recycling lorry and there is now a Stoborough Primary recycling lorry with some of the pupils' designs on. The lorry came into school which was very exciting!

Currently, we are working on a joint project with The Purbeck School based on delivering 'Mindfulness' to our pupils as well as offering parents and staff the opportunity to develop 'Mindfulness' for themselves. We believe it is essential to support our young people in developing positive strategies to ensure their mental/ emotional well-being from a very early age.

As a school, we are continuing to strive for the very best education for all our children and are keen to further develop links with our community. Please contact me if you have any ideas!

Deborah Corbin Headteacher

SUPERFAST BROADBAND - FOR SOME, BUT MORE TO COME

High-speed fibre-optic broadband is being rolled out in Dorset through both private sector programmes and the Superfast Dorset programme. Most homes in Stoborough Village have access to fibre broadband as a result of BT's commercial rollout of the new technology. Some properties in Ridge can also access the service as part of this work. Speeds at individual properties will vary and not all properties in a community will have access at the same time. Residents need to check with their provider to see what is available at their property.

Some homes in Ridge may be at such a distance from the roadside cabinet in Stoborough Village that a 'superfast' fibre service (24mbps and above) is not available. However some residents will be able to access a fibre broadband service at lower speeds from some providers. It is important to shop around and see what is available to you.

Superfast Dorset has work planned in 2016 to connect more properties in Ridge, subject to detailed surveying. More information on who will benefit from this work will be available in 2016. Additionally, as technology improves and more resource is available, Superfast Dorset hopes to extend speed and coverage into the more difficult to reach areas. Better broadband brings many benefits to communities. Faster upload and download speeds allow business to grow and thrive. And for residents, better broadband makes staying connected, shopping, paying bills and streaming TV even easier. The project team is working closely with local area partnerships and community groups to ensure everyone benefits and no one is left behind.

If no fibre service is currently available to you, there may be alternative solutions for faster, more reliable broadband. Visit https://www.dorsetforyou.com/broadband/alternative-solutions for more information.

Abby Gordon-Farleigh, Marketing & Communications Officer for Superfast Dorset, Dorset County Council

SINGING THE PRAISES OF EMBROIDERY An interest in embroidery can blossom like a flower. Indulge in the colours of the threads, styles, textiles, and history. See for yourself West Country Embroiderers. at We have monthly meetings (second Tuesday of every month at Carey Hall, Wareham BH20 4BA) where our excellent visiting and inhouse tutors can lead you through to this other world. For more details contact Gill Heritage on 01929 554070 e-mail: trevandgill@heritage1.eclipse.co.uk

RIVER FROME TOWPATH RIDGE/REDCLYFFE TO WAREHAM

The popular walk along the Frome at Redclyffe had got into a very poor and muddy state. Thankfully due to a project coordinated between Arne Parish Council and the Wareham and District Development Trust and funded by Viridor with extra monies from Dorset County Council a resurfacing project was finished by April 2013.



Storm damaged banks in 2014

However all this good work was put under pressure during the southerly storms of February and March 2014 which seriously eroded the floodplain side of the bank. On advice from the Environment Agency, temporary repairs were carried out by local volunteers only for this work to be threatened by further storms. This time the local volunteers were supported by Dorset County Council and a better temporary repair affected.

We were very pleased that the Environment Agency (EA) were then able to make much more substantial repairs in the Autumn of 2014.



Repaired banks 2015

These works were completed under a 'storm recovery programme' project funded by central government. The EA report that some minor movement and cracking will be addressed by the project team in the near future.

BESTWALL BANK WORKS

These are much needed repair works to the north bank of the River Frome from the boardwalk to a point opposite the Redclyffe slipway. The crest of the bank has become eroded and is regularly topped at high tide. These works had been delayed by the legal restrictions on working on land inhabited by water voles. Tree clearance was needed because willow roots seriously erode the banks with leakage along the major roots. This work has now been carried out. The EA hopes to be starting the main bank improvement works as soon as the ground is suitably dry enough for machine access.

TURNERS COVE SLUICE AND ARNE MOORS

Turners Cove sluice is a device for controlling the flow of water regulating the water levels around the Arne Moors and has been failing for some years. There was significant washout of embankment material around the sluice, exacerbated by the large differential between water levels on the landward and the seaward side at high tide. Previous repairs had been only successful in the short term, and a more substantial repair was planned. These repair works are now finished. The tidal embankment and sluice system will be kept serviceable until any longer term 'managed realignment' of the flood banks in the Moors area come to fruition.



Sluice Repairs

STOBOROUGH LOCAL FLOOD RISK

The EA reports that they are working with Dorset County Council to look at any flood risk issues arising from the ditch systems and the outlet tidal flap valves.

Ray Scragg

STOBOROUGH WI

Our WI continues to enjoy fun, and interesting and



well-attended meetings. In February we had a brilliant talk by Bob Sharpe about the History of Crime Writing. Our March meeting saw us learning about the street children of the Philippines and how Jan Shaw is funding homes and educational and training projects for these extremely poor children.

April is our Annual Meeting, followed by indoor kurling, a form of the original curling game, but adapted so that it can be played indoors and suitable for both able-bodied and disabled people of all ages alike. We have craft, skittles, walking and book groups. Our aim is to have a varied programme of events but the friendship and mutual support we enjoy is the thread running through the WI and any woman living in Stoborough and beyond is made very welcome.

We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm at Stoborough Village Hall. Please come along and visit us! Email: jillscragg@btinternet. com for more information.

Jill Scragg

FLOOD MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Parish of Arne has been very fortunate in so far not having a repeat of the flooding issues of early 2014.

The most recent problems have occurred at the junction of West Lane with the by-pass, and thanks must go to the DCC Highways Department, whose employees struggled through foul weather to clear out ditches and resolve the issue. Other problem areas include fluvial flooding on the causeway, blockages at the bridge in New Road, ditches in Arne Road, Soldiers Road and Nutcrack Lane, as well as several residential issues.

Whilst progress always appears to be very slow, various issues have been resolved mainly due to persistent pressure from the Parish Council, Local and District Councillors and members of the public:

1) A section of footpath and kerbing was raised to prevent residential flooding on Corfe Road opposite the School.

2) A gully in the road outside the School, which regularly flooded after heavy rainfall, was cleared and rerouted into the stream.

3) Funding from Licco - a recent 'Living with a Changing Coastline' project - enabled the Parish to acquire a quantity of flood barriers, which will be used to protect properties by the causeway and act as a barrier to road traffic in the event of road closure. This equipment can also deployed elsewhere in times of emergency.

4) After lengthy negotiations, the ditch running through woodland from Stoborough Green to Scott Close was eventually cleared and deepened.

5) The vegetation alongside Arne Road has been cut back, but still requires remedial works.

The Parish Council also monitors updates and progress in respect of the Environment Agency's Strategic Policy for future flood protection/management of the Lower Frome. The Parish Council recently held an inaugural meeting of the Flood Committee, comprising members of the Parish Council and residents. The aim of this Committee is to explore ways of dealing with flooding problems, as well as considering resilience issues.

Residents might feel that the level of general highway ditch maintenance throughout the Parish has fallen over the years. But residents and landowners must be aware that ditches on their property are their responsibilty. A greater onus is now placed on landowners to maintain the ditches in front of their own properties. The following guidance has been received from Dorset Highways:

"The duty of the highway authority is only to make reasonable arrangements for discarding water which has fallen onto the highway itself in order to keep the highway free from flooding and make provision for runoff from highways in a proper manner. The owner of the land adjoining the highway has a common law duty to scour and cleanse the ditches that adjoin the highway to prevent them from causing a nuisance to the highway and, notwithstanding the statutory remedies available to the highway authority, it can bring an action in nuisance against a landowner."

If any residents would be interested in organising ditch clearing parties, or require further information or advice regarding flooding issues, please contact the Clerk. The Parish Council is keen to recruit volunteer Flood Wardens, whose prime role would be to keep a watchful eye on their local area during flooding, identify problem areas, identify those who might be at risk from flooding, and report these issues to the Parish Council. It is not necessarily a "hands on" role! Any residents who wish to volunteer, please contact the Clerk.

If any residents wish to report flood issues directly, they can do so by going online to www.dorsetforyou.com/ travel-dorset/contact-dorset-highways.

MAJOR TOPICS AND CONSULTATIONS 2014-15

Consultations that Arne Parish commented on over the last year include: Navitus Bay, minerals and waste, transport and in particular the buses, Dorset Waste Partnership about street cleaning and litter, provision of a SANG* in Arne Parish for Wareham's new development at Westgate; the Heathland Planning Framework and Purbeck District Council's Partial Review of the Local Plan. We are currently examining DCC's Consultation 'Delivering Dorset's Economic Potential'.

Other major topics included planning applications from Imerys and Perenco, Binnegar Quarry, 'Welcome to Purbeck' Signs [ongoing], and planning applications from householders including treework in our conservation areas or with TPOs. Our partnership working includes: Wareham and District Development Trust, resulting in much excellent work with the towpath, extensively the Environment Agency regarding flooding and provision of flood barriers and the recent formation of the Flood Risk and Resilience Committee. Last but not least we liaised with DCC Highways regarding surface water, ditch clearance and parking issues.

Caroline Macleod

* Suitable alternative natural greenspace

Vivienne Ward

ARNE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have come a long way since embarking on Arne Parish's Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process at our first Information Evening on Thursday 24th April last year. The vision is now securely in place and often highlighted. There was a very good response to our October parish survey and much has already been achieved through the efforts of the steering group and our various working parties. In writing this first article it might be an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the government's planning practice guidance:

"Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead."

When drawing up the plan, we need to identify what is desirable, then what's essential, then what's realistic. However, we have all realised that the main strategic focus in the NP is clearly the provision of extra housing. Our survey showed that residents favoured: • Suitably sized and structured homes with 1-3 bedrooms, some flats

• Developments of no more than forty houses, to be within the by-pass and within existing settlement boundaries

• Developments that do not inhibit active food production, farming or cultural activities, nor disrupt other existing economic activity

• Ease of access to road system

• Building near to existing infra-structure, e.g. proximity to bus routes, shop, school, etc.

• A cohesive relationship between old and new settlements

Members of the parish council have also recently considered both the Purbeck Local Plan Partial Review, Issues and Options consultation and the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework. The findings from our survey have informed our responses to these two plans extensively, based exactly on what residents actually feel about local development.

As these two plans demonstrate, it has become increasingly clear that, in line with government guidance, our Neighbourhood Plan needs to be *"aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area"*, responding to district, county and national priorities. Although this may seem counter to the localism agenda that empowers a parish-based response, the parish council assures you that your views will be delivered in a rigorous and effective manner to ensure that good community-based judgements are made.

Currently, there is a push from the NP steering group to start writing some of the first draft of the plan. As a result, working group chairs have undertaken to agree the objectives that have arisen from their discussions and, if possible, to start thinking about the policies that may arise from these objectives, based on all the evidence that has been gathered so far. These will eventually be put to all residents through a parish referendum.

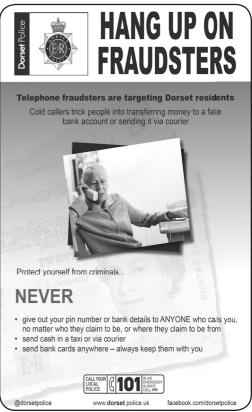
To this effect, we will be seeking support through an agreed service level agreement with Purbeck District Council, to help us bring the final plan together.

There is still time to go and, although it will be a challenge to meet the original deadline for publication in a year's time, we can assure you that all members of the parish council and the NP steering committee are doing their very best to achieve successful publication as soon as possible.

We can assure you that, as residents, you will see the draft plan before it goes to referendum. You will also be continually updated on the plan's progress through the website and the parish magazine. The NP is always discussed at our meetings which you are cordially invited to attend.

We ask you to continue the dialogue with your parish council so that our Neighbourhood Plan becomes a robust and accurate document, benefitting the residents of Arne Parish and its future generations.

Ashley Pellegrini Neighbourhood Plan Chair



ARNE PARISH COUNCIL



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OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

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Ridge Residents' Association Secretary

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Stoborough Meadow Association John Ives john.c.ives@btopenworld.com

Stoborough Village Hall Secretary Jill Scragg jillscragg@btinternet.com Bookings Lyn Burgess Tel: 556772