

CHIDEOCK NEWS

(including Seatown & North Chideock)

DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026



PARISH COUNCIL CLERK chideockparishcouncil@gmail.com
 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN Vanesse McAra, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock (07772 298422)
 CHIDEOCK W.I. PRESIDENT Mary Rogers (01297 489452)
 VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS Paul Ramsden (07749 715091)
 CHIDEOCK SOCIETY Lyn Crisp, The Farmers Arms, Mill Lane, DT6 6JS
 and Sal Robinson, 60 North Allington, Bridport (01308 426327)
 CHIDEOCK FETE COMMITTEE Keith Baylis, Seatown Cottage, DT6 6JT (01297 521430)
 CHIDEOCK CIDER MAKERS Colin Hopkins, Colrairie, Main Street, DT6 6JG (01297 489899)
 ST. GILES GOLDEN CAP TEAM RECTOR Rev. Fi Budden
 ST. GILES CHURCHWARDENS Mrs. Valerie Hunt, Longwood, Chideock Hill (01297 489417)
 ST. GILES BELL CAPTAIN Mr. Dave Symonds, Dormer Cottage (07768193030)
 ST. GILES PCC Mrs Lynn Stapleton, Greenways, Appletree Lane, Chideock (07852332938)
 FRIENDS OF ST. GILES Vanessa McAra, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock (07772 298422)
 CHIDEOCK ART GROUP Joan Emerson (01297 489416) and Ruth Christensen (07538860534)
 CHURCH OF OUR LADY & ST. IGNATIUS Bridport Parish Office (01308 422594)
 FRIENDS OF OUR LADY Gaby Martelli (01308 488348)
 CHIDEOCK VILLAGE TRUST chideockvillagetrust@gmail.com..
 SYMONDSBURY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER Mrs. Emma Roberts (01308 423502)
 FRIENDS OF CLAPPS MEAD COMMITTEE MEMBERS Anna Dunn 489242 Lyn Crisp (489098)
 WINNIFORD RIVER ACTION GROUP contact via winnifordrag@gmail.com

SERVICES AT ST. GILES

7th December	Advent 2	11am	Village Service
14th December	Advent 3	11am	Holy Communion
21st December	NO MORNING SERVICE		
21st December	CAROL SERVICE	6.30PM	
24th December	NO MORNING SERVICE		
24th December	Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Holy Communion
25th December	Christmas Day	NO SERVICE	
28th December	Christmas 1	NO SERVICE	
4th January	Epiphany	11am	Village Service
11th January	Baptism of Jesus	11am	Holy Communion
18th January	Epiphany 3	11am	Chideock Praise
25th January	Epiphany 4	11am	Holy Communion

The church will be closed during the week except for events and services during December, January and February.

A heartfelt thank you to all the people who have generously donated towards the heating in the church. Your names are in the book of Thanksgiving in Church.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF MARTYRS & ST. IGNATIUS

December:

Friday 5th :	10am Mass
Friday 12th:	10am Mass
Saturday 13th:	6pm Vigil Mass
Friday 19th:	10am Mass
Thursday 25th:	10am Christmas Day Mass
Friday 26th:	10am Mass
Saturday 27th.	6pm Vigil Mass

January:

Friday 2nd:	10am Mass
Friday 9th:	10am Mass
Saturday 10th:	6pm Vigil Mass
Friday 16th:	10am Mass
Friday 23rd:	10am Mass
Saturday 24th:	6pm Vigil Mass
Friday 30th:	10am Mass

The Church and museum are now open every day 10am - 4pm.

DEADLINE DATE :

Items for inclusion in the FEBRUARY 2026 magazine to: Ms. Ruth Wrixton, Sweet Briar, West Road, Bridport, DT6 6AE. Tel: 01308 422649 or mobile 07811672058 or e-mail me: ruthwrixton@hotmail.com (I will always acknowledge I have received them – so that you know I have!) LATEST acceptance date will be Friday 16th January 2026.

(Opinions expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit material submitted for publication and all published letters and articles must be attributed unless agreed with the Editor)

CHIDEOCK VILLAGE HALL

Chairman: Richard Benjamin (489298); Secretary: Paul Ramsden (480941)

Treasurer & Table Tennis contact: Roger Carey (489782)

For bookings contact Paul Ramsden **07749 715091**

or email chideockvh@gmail.com or via our Facebook page @ChideockVH

If you wish to cancel a booking please notify us as soon as possible

For general information about the hall:

<https://www.chideockandseatown.co.uk/groups/chideock-village-hall/>

For the current availability either contact Paul Ramsden or go to:

<https://www.chideockandseatown.co.uk/groups/chideock-village-hall/>

and click on 'Check availability'

WHIST DRIVE

Chideock Village Hall

10 December.

For further information please phone 01297 48962



Val & Peter Hunt are not sending Christmas cards this year, but will instead donate money to charity.

THE CHIDEOCK CHATTERS BOOK CLUB

**AT THE CLOCK ON THE 2nd
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
7PM START**



For more information contact: Jane on 01297
489996/07759274905

EXCHANGE CAFE

17th January 2026 from 10.30 to 12.30pm

At St.Giles Church, Chideock.

**COME and BRING your UNWANTED ITEMS
for a FREE EXCHANGE
Clothes, books, bric a brac, etc (no electrical
items).**

Coffee, tea and cake - donations accepted.

Held by the Friends of St.Giles in association with St.Giles Church.

Need help with the cost of travelling to school or college this September? The Chideock Village Trust can help

As part of a new scheme, the Trust has decided to provide a flat rate grant of £500 a year to all young people in years 12 and 13 who are resident in the village. These grants are designed to support students to get to school, college or work placements - particularly vital given that public funding for school transport stops after year 11. All you need to do to access a grant is to send an email to: chideockvillagetrust@gmail.com

We also consider applications from residents for grants to cover other educational or preservation activities, for example, financial help to attend a school trip, or to preserve a historically significant public building or space. Just drop us a line using the above email address.

The trustees meet quarterly to discuss applications so you won't have long to wait to learn if your request has been successful.

The Trustees, Chideock Village Trust
Charity Number 1084576



CHIDEOCK PRAYER NET

Lockdown seems a thing of the past, even though Covid hasn't gone away, and we now have other problems to take its place. Members of St Giles have always prayed for our village and neighbours, so if you would like prayer for a concern you have, or to share thanks for something (because good things still happen!), please send an email to chideockprayernet@gmail.com. Your request will be sent on to individual members of St Giles; it will be kept confidential, and can be anonymous if you wish - even those receiving the request won't know who else is getting it. Thank you.

Peter Stapleton, St Giles PCC

CHIDEOCK SOCIETY NEWS

The Chideock History website is up and running!

www.Chideockhistory.org.uk Whilst we still have lots more material from The Chideock Society archive to add to the website, more photographs, memories, etc., we have at last made a good start. We are also grateful to Antony Broad and Neil Mattingly for allowing us to share the link to their website which shows beautiful photographs and maps of Chideock and Seatown. Please look at the website and if anyone has any photographs or memorabilia they would like added then please contact Lyn Crisp tel: 01297 489098 or lyncrisp@chideockandseatown.co.uk.

Friends Of St Giles

Mince Pies and Festive Cheer

St.Giles Church

Tuesday, 23rd December

10-12 pm

£5.00 (including refills).

Come and join us, experience the beautiful flower displays, while enjoying Warm mince pies, festive biscuits and non alcoholic mulled wine.

Fresh good quality coffee and tea.

A Christmas raffle and a warm welcome in our cozy church.

Help for Book Readers Accessing Lyme Library



Dorset's Home Library Service (HLS), run by the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) across Dorset is looking to grow its **free service for people who can't get to the library due to health or mobility issues in the Lyme Regis area**. The Home Library Service brings books to people who can no longer get to the library for free on a monthly basis and operates from Lyme Library, through a team of RVS volunteers living in the area. The volunteers choose and/or deliver books, after an initial assessment visit to establish the readers' needs and preferences. They share their love of reading with the people they visit and are a friendly face, regularly visiting those whose mobility and social interactions are limited, and they provide a useful check on the safety and well-being of their readers, too.

The Home Library Service is delivered **free of charge**; it is not just for older people, but for anybody who finds getting to the library difficult, including carers, on a long- or short-term basis. To find out more or to request the service, please contact the Library switchboard on 01297-443151, email Ian on ian.rumble@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or call him on 07779-919678.

Chideock Defibrillators – Dial 999 first

These can be found at the Spar Shop in Main Street, Golden Cap Holiday Park – Alberton, Golden Cap Holiday Park - Shop and The Anchor at Seatown.

Chideock W.I.

At our November Meeting we had a most interesting talk from David Knapman of Axminster Heritage Centre regarding 'Axminster Connections to Chideock'.



David spoke about our inheritance of Roman roads, for example from Exeter to Dorchester, and their development over the years until the advent of railways.

During the eighteenth century the eight day journey from Exeter to London was reduced to three days and the introduction of Turnpike Trusts led to further road improvements on major routes but cross country routes were reported as steep, narrow, rocky and dangerous. David spoke of George III's visit to Chideock enroute to Exeter after his holiday in Weymouth. The King walked up Chideock and Charmouth Hills to lighten the carriage load, chatting to residents as he passed.

It seems that butter also played a significant role with the London populace demanding sweet, reduced salt butter: the longer the distance the butter had to travel, the more salt it needed to preserve it. Consequently Epping Forest Butter was regarded as the best. Sidmouth to Chard to Bridport became known as 'The Dairy Triangle' as it hosted an abundance of 'Milking Devons'. In 1844 when the Bristol to London Railway became available, milk could be transported to London very quickly, enabling large quantities of butter to be made there also. Rail routes were established to Dorchester in 1847, Bridport in 1857 and Axminster in 1860. Farmers then turned more to rearing beef with, for example, an exceptionally prized cow named 'Temptress'.

David's two books on our local history, 'Unsteady Progress' and 'Axminster Legacies' are available from the Axminster Heritage Centre: a nice Christmas Gift for your favourite historian perhaps....

The WI is having a break from a formal December meeting but we will be living it up at our Christmas Lunch. Get that prosecco on ice.....!!

We hope to see you at the Christmas Fayre on Sat 29th Nov.....unless we already have...meanwhile

Merry Christmas Everyone from Us All at WI.

J D-S

Chideock Parish Council



Chideock Parish Council

Parish Council Clerk -

(chideockparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Parish Council Chair -Vanesse McAra, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock

Email - chideockparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website www.chideockparishcouncil.com

Facebook Group: Chideock Parish Council

The Clerk will seek to acknowledge receipt of an email within five working days. The Council continues to lobby various individuals, organisations, and bodies regarding the A35 issues experienced by the village. Parish Council Meetings are in-person at the Village Hall at 7pm on the last Tuesday of the month. (28th October).

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2025/2026

No December meeting

27th January 2026,

24th February 2026,

31st March 2026.

28th April 2026 - Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Parish Council meeting.

26th May 2026 - Annual Meeting of Chideock Parish Council.

Three residents were co-opted to Chideock Parish Council at the Parish Council meeting held on 28th October 2025 these being Anna Dunn, Lyn Crisp and Pamela Pettifer. The Parish Council now has six Councillors leaving one vacancy. If you are passionate about making a positive difference in your local community then we would love to hear from you. For more information about being a Parish Councillor and to express your interest, please contact the Parish Council via email at: chideockparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Following a question about better signage for our new footpath / cycle path from the village up to Quarr Lane, the Parish Council has approached Dorset Council regarding this matter, and they have advised that they are working behind the scenes to progress this issue.

The Parish Council continues in its endeavours to get the in-ground trampoline back into use as soon as possible.

With the colder weather now upon us, residents are reminded that there are grit bins located throughout the village for public use.

The Parish Council will be holding a Finance & General Purposes meeting on Tuesday 2nd December at 7pm to discuss the budget and precept request for 2026/27. The meeting will be open to members of the public as observers;

there will however be no democratic period. The next Full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th January 2026.

And finally, Chideock Parish Council are recruiting for the position of Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact the Chair via email at:

chideockparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Reporting Issues to the Relevant Authority

Sewage / Water Leakages in Public Areas - Ring Wessex Water Operations on 0345 600 4600 with as much information on the location as possible e.g.

Post code

Environmental Issues - Environment Agency 0800 80 70 60 with Post Code if possible

Rights of Way Issues -

<https://mapping.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem>

Highway Issues - except for the A35 - including blocked drains

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement> - excluding street lighting

Emergency phone 01305 221000 (24 hours)

Highway Issues A35 - including street lighting -

<https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk>

Street Light Issues (apart from on the A35) -

<http://www.lightsonindorset.co.uk/ReportFault.aspx>:

If you do not have internet access, then please contact the Clerk or a Councillor with as much information as possible.

Chideock Village Hall 2024/25 AGM

Chair's Report

The Village Hall is still standing and continues to serve the community in Chideock.

I have been told on a number of occasions that my report is long and boring and no one is interested in it. However it is the one time that I can publicly thank all the people who have supported the hall and worked hard over the past year to keep it operational.

The Village Hall could not function without its helpers and supporters, so please forgive me if I miss thanking someone as the list is a long one.

Firstly, there is the Management Committee. I am sure villagers do not always appreciate the amount of administration and regular maintenance required to run the Hall; it would not operate without Roger looking after our finances,

Paul who keeps us up to date and in-order and David doing sterling work supporting me with general maintenance. Then there is the wider Committee made up of members representing the various village groups, also the village representatives, their collective support enables the Hall to maintain its various regular activities.

These activities include:

Dance, two weekly sessions of Table Tennis, Tai chi, the Art Group, a monthly Film night and Whist night and the weekly Short Mat Bowls Group. This latter group were very happy to receive two mats and bowls equipment from the Bowls Group in Charmouth. In addition, the Hall has hosted events for key village groups, the W.I. meetings and events, Quiz nights for St Giles PCC and catered events for the Friends of St Giles.

Fund Raising Events:

In March of this year a 'Village Games Night' was held, which was a great fun evening that included a fish & chip supper.

In July an excellent evening talk by Alison Ward. The Rise & Fall of a Chideock Cottage" included refreshments, Home-made homity pie (by Suzy) and cider from the Cider Shed (thanks to Dave Warren). Both events were very well attended and I want to give a big thank you to Suzy, Graham, Rob, Nicky and Jane for all their work to make events like this happen.

My annual report would not be complete without a big thank you to Gloria and her band of helpers, Julia, Jane, Frances, and others who help to run our monthly Community Café. Once again, from donations at the café, over a thousand pounds was able to be given to various charities. The Café is great meeting point for its regulars and welcomes new faces.

Works carried out during the year:

Replacement of the rear exit hand railing & repairs to the wall.

Repairs the to the foul water drain.

Installation of a bike rack.

Still to be fully investigated is the crack in the external wall of the north-east corner of the building.

Other:

The purchase of 5 chairs with arms, which have received good feedback. In addition, we have received a donation of four chairs with arms from Moira for which we are most grateful.

We received a donation of an art work by Gillian Moores which will be hung in the Hall.

General thanks once again go to the guys at Travis Perkins, Top Sparks and Hussey & Briggs who continue to support us with necessary maintenance work.

.../

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to say that despite some unexpected expenditure we still have a healthy bank balance and decent reserves set aside for a rainy day.

Thank you so much for generous donations from Chideock W.I. and the late Ray Hamilton. We also received a major repair grant from the Chideock Parish Council and together these have already been spent towards the necessary replacement of the salt glazed clay sewage pipework external of the hall. In addition, we had to arrange for some expensive repairs to be carried out to our dishwasher and fridge.

Hall hire, whist and short mat bowls receipts were all up from last year, but surprisingly film night and table tennis were down, the later due to some long-term sickness among the players. However, two highly successful fund-raising events helped to save the day; the Games Night with Fish and chip supper in March, plus the Rise and Fall of a Chideock Cottage talk in July were both very well attended.

Both gas and electricity expenditure are down on last year; we have now started a new 2-year fixed contract for gas with E-On which should give us a further saving. However, we have been advised by Dorset Council that we may be losing our discretionary rate relief for our council tax from April 2026. To maintain our resilience to this and every increasing running costs we will be raising our hall hire session charge to £25 from 1st January 2026

Finally, as many of you will know, Chris Walliker sadly passed away earlier this year. He had been our auditor for many years, champion and friend to the hall so he will be sorely missed. However, many thanks go to our new Independent Financial Examiner Cliff Allen for ably stepping in to freely give his time in checking and certifying our year end accounts.

Winifred River Action Group 2025 Round Up

What we've been doing

During 2025 we have continued to do Citizen Science (CSI) testing, E.coli testing, and riverfly monitoring. We have also participated in quarterly meetings of Clean Rivers of West Dorset (CROWD) which is a forum for local river groups, our MP, Dorset National Landscape, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss water matters.

CSI testing

We carry out CSI testing once per month at three sites (Brighthay bridge in North Chideock, Mill Lane and Seatown) measuring turbidity, temperature, total dissolved solids and phosphate. Results have generally been good, the only significant variation being in phosphate levels at Seatown. Normally we

see around 100 parts per billion (ppb) of phosphate, good news as less than 300 ppb is considered good quality by the EA. But during the summer months this rose to over 2,500 ppb due to an increased summer population and less rainfall (dilution). Thankfully we have not seen any algal growth resulting from the high levels of phosphate at Seatown during the tourist season.

E.coli testing

We carried out E.coli testing at North Chideock, Clapps Mead and Seatown.

- * **Seatown:** The average result for the year was 1,900 cfu/100ml, above the EA's 1,000 threshold for good water quality, but a massive improvement over 2022 when the average in summer was 75,000. These results show that the temporary repair to the leaking sewer connecting Alberlon to the treatment plant by Wessex Water in 2023 is still holding while we await a permanent repair to be carried out by West Dorset Leisure Holidays.
- * **Clapps Mead:** E.coli results averaged 3,100 which is similar to previous years.
- * **North Chideock:** The most surprising result was at Brighthay Bridge in July when a value of 92,000 cfu/100ml was recorded. This was the highest that we had ever seen and was a huge increase on the 1,400 seen earlier in the year. A subsequent test at the same location in August recorded 3,000 and showed a return to more normal levels. We don't know what sparked the extremely high level in July. Higher upstream at Venn Farm, where the owner paid for his own test, recorded 700 in August which was very pleasing.

Riverfly monitoring

Riverfly (the larvae of mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies) are used as a good indicator of how healthy a river is and monitoring is recommended by the EA. Analysis has been done at Seatown and Clapps Mead with only low numbers found, and the Winniford compares badly with other local rivers. The low levels may be due to the lack of sunlight the river receives due to the tree cover along much of its length.

Update from Wessex Water

Both Seatown pumping station and the treatment plant are on the 2025-2030 improvement list. Next autumn 75 cubic metres of additional storage will be created to reduce the number of sewage spills from the pumping station to two per year rather than the eleven that we normally experience. Improvements for the treatment plant have yet to be published.

Further information

To find our website and Facebook page google **Winniford River Action Group**

Identifier

You can choose your own pronoun and how you are called,
Some people get angry, and some are appalled.
We try very hard not to be an offender
By naming a person with the wrong gender.
I know a man, known as a he
And a woman known as a she.
In the past we referred to the birds and the bees,
But in today's world, it is they, them or these.
It is quite hard to tell because it never shows,
So perhaps you could try, thou thy or those.
And if one is unsure, a word that will fit,
Of course, you could choose to be known, purely as, it.
And in a world full of sorrow, shown in the news
Should we spend energy, concerned about the words that we use.
With so much to upset us, I find it absurd
That people are offended by hearing a word.
Our language is just an arrangement of letters.
Just think like that if you want to feel better.
I would like to be called a thing I am not,
So, henceforth, you should know, that I am a teapot.
Please take me seriously, you must regard
This is how I'll be known on my new I.D. card.
I am not being obtuse, I don't want to defy,
but Teapot Robb Harris, is how I identify.
I will not be a Mr, neither a Mrs
And the authorities will have to respect my own wishes.
I have discarded the He and discarded the She,
I would rather be considered as a nice pot for tea.
We will all need a card, we are in the same shoes
So, try to be creative with the identity you choose.

Robb Harris, October 2025



Chideock Community Café

Held in Chideock Village Hall

Friday 19 Dec

From 2.30pm until 4.30pm

Come along with friends or to meet some
new ones

Everyone is welcome

Tea/coffee & Cakes/biscuits available

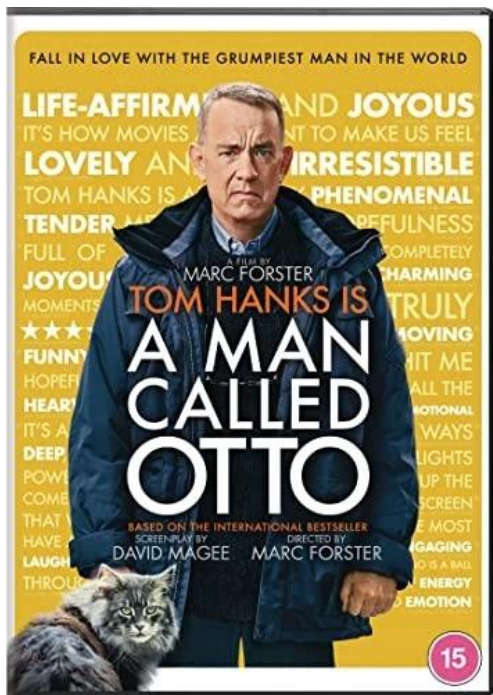
We look forward to seeing you!!



CHIDEOCK HALL FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 20th January

7.00pm for 7.30pm



Based on the # 1 New York Times bestseller "A Man Called Ove," *A Man Called Otto* tells the story of Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks), a grump who no longer sees purpose in his life following the loss of his wife. Otto is ready to end it all, but his plans are interrupted when a lively young family moves in next door, and he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol. She challenges him to see life differently, leading to an unlikely friendship

that turns his world around. A heartwarming and funny story about love, loss, and life, *A Man Called Otto* shows that family can sometimes be found in the most unexpected places.

£5.00 Entry – cash or card payments accepted which includes free Tea/Coffee & Popcorn

Wine by glass or bottle, beer, cider & choc ices on sale during interval.

QUIZ NIGHT

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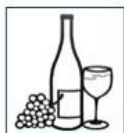


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CHIDEOCK VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 30th January 2026

7.30 pm prompt start!

£10.00 a head INCLUDING SUPPER



**B.Y.O. drinks, glasses,
tipples & nibbles**



• PRIZES FOR TOP FIVE TABLES • RAFFLE

**BOOK YOUR TABLE EARLY TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT! (max 4 people)**

CALL OR MESSAGE 07852 332938

IN AID OF ST.GILES' CHURCH

CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD & RAFFLE PRIZES WELCOME
(please tell us when booking)

STEP OUTSIDE WITH A NATURE BUDDY

If you've ever wanted to spend more time outdoors but felt unsure about how to start, you're not alone, and help is at hand.

The Nature Buddies Network is a Dorset-wide initiative designed to support people to get outdoors and enjoy nature to improve their health and wellbeing. Whether you're feeling isolated, anxious, or lacking the confidence to get outside alone, Nature Buddies can help.

Managed by Dorset National Landscape in partnership with Volunteer Centre Dorset, and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project matches trained volunteer Nature Buddies with people who could benefit from FREE, gentle, friendly support to enjoy the outdoors.

Nature Buddies can accompany you on a walk, help you visit local green spaces, support you to try an outdoor activity or even take part in nature-based activities with you at home.

It has been proven that spending time in nature - even just a couple of hours a week - can lift your mood, ease stress, boost your immune system and improve your physical wellbeing. Whether it's a stroll through a local park or simply sitting among trees, let nature be your natural health service.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a Nature Buddy please visit: <https://www.dorset-nl.org.uk/project/nature-buddies-network> to find out more, or call Kate on 01305 228246 / email: kate.townsend@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

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About Dorset National Landscape:

Dorset National Landscape covers over 40% of Dorset, stretching from Lyme Regis in the west, along the coast to Poole Harbour in the east, and north to Hambledon Hill near Blandford Forum.

The Dorset National Landscape is beautiful, but people make it outstanding. Our mission is to protect and regenerate this designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. And to make sure everyone can enjoy it.

As a small team, we work in partnership with many others. Bringing together landowners, the local community and other organisations to create and deliver our Management Plan. Through this plan, our team and partners make sure that Dorset National Landscape is a beautiful, thriving place that all people feel they can be part of. Find out more www.dorset-nl.org.uk

About Stepping into Nature:

The Dorset National Landscape has been running ground-breaking health and wellbeing projects since Stepping into Nature was set up in 2016. .../

The Dorset landscape is full of opportunities to enjoy nature in fun, social and creative ways. For some of us though, finding opportunities to enjoy nature that suits our needs are harder to come by. Ability, confidence, and age can all influence what we can and can't do. The Stepping into Nature project is about listening to our community in Dorset and working in partnership to enable everyone to enjoy nature.

Find out more: www.stepin2nature.org

About the National Lottery Heritage Fund:

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past. Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities. heritagefund.org.uk Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter/X, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery #HeritageFund

TRADING STANDARDS ...Food traceability from farm to fork

Food traceability has become a cornerstone of the UK food industry, ensuring safety, quality, and consumer confidence.

Food traceability involves documenting and verifying each stage of production, processing and distribution. For the UK meat market this means that when farmed livestock such as sheep, cattle and pigs are born, each is given their own identification, such as unique ear tag numbers. All the animal's movements are then recorded throughout its life. When given feed and medicines this too is recorded, so checks can be made to make sure that nothing compromises the safety of the finished product that we eat.

The Dorset Council Trading Standards Animal Health and Welfare Team regularly check livestock keepers to make sure that all necessary records are kept. When on farm they also check on the welfare of the livestock to ensure that they are fit and healthy and are kept in suitable conditions. In other areas of food production, the Animal Health and Welfare Team carry out checks on arable farms to make sure herbicides and pesticides are used safely, and also to check that the finished products are stored in a safe environment, so preventing any chance of contamination.

Advanced technologies like blockchain and radio frequency identification tags are increasingly being used to enhance food traceability. These tools allow real-time tracking and can provide consumers with detailed information about the meat they buy. Consumers can scan QR codes on some meat packaging to view its full history. This helps people make more informed choices, supporting local farmers or opting for ethically sourced products.

The importance of traceability became clear during past food safety crises, such as the horsemeat scandal and more recently with animal feed contaminated with botulism. These incidents showed the importance for robust systems to maintain trust in the food supply chain.

Chideock Stores

SPAR



**Proudly serving
our community**

Stocking local
produce and well-
recognised brands

Find our opening times
displayed outside the store

Visit the shop at



Symondsburry Estate



Elegant, timeless handcrafted jewellery
from the jurassic coast of Dorset

www.wrixtonsmythcreations.co.uk

[facebook.com/WrixtonSmyth](https://www.facebook.com/WrixtonSmyth) [WrixtonSmythCreations](https://www.instagram.com/WrixtonSmythCreations)

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