

# Annual Town Meeting

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# <u>Allotment Society</u>– Mike Grayson

We have now been in existence on the Barrow Hill site for 15 years. Originally 13 plots were designated to the 13 people who were involved in the inaugural meeting.

Since this time a number of people have given up their plots, but these have been quickly taken up by people enthusiastic to get started. The 13 original plots have now become 18 as 5 of them have been divided into two plots. At the moment we have a waiting list of 6 people who are anxious to begin.

We have a good mix of people, some from the original 13 plus a number of new young members with families. With time the aim of the allotment society has changed with the emphasis not only for fresh vegetables but also introducing the young to environmental issues, the natural world and of course the value of mental health.

New to me is the extent to which the society has grown and with it the changes in its aims. Working with the government, cities and local councils, it is emerging as a progressive force for the good encouraging councils to allow unused land to be used by groups of enthusiastic gardeners who have the opportunity of growing produce, trees and plants for the neighbourhood.

On the international scene it is no surprise to find that many European countries have the equivalent of allotment societies. No doubt, if you have travelled through France, Germany and Scandinavia, you will have seen the occasional allotment with its various style of sheds. Many of these are affiliated to the international allotment society and carry out projects related to environmental issues, climate change and well being

Finally, a big thank you to the Stalbridge Town Council for the help and the advice it has given us during the period of transition from the NDDC to the STC who have now become the landlord of the society at Barrow Hill.



# <u>Archive Society</u>-Ian Semple

Over the past 12 months we have been able to continue copying the backlog of the paper archive material into digital form which will enable us to produce a catalogue for general use.

We have been involved in a few projects this past year with St Marys Junior School, creating boards which depicts Stalbridge through the Roman, Saxon, Norman and Late Medieval times. The boards were presented to the school and now hang in the school hall. There are another 4 boards that are being worked on. The boards have, or are being, printed thanks to a generous donation from Dike & Son.

Next week we are giving a talk to year 2 at the school on the changed to Stalbridge and School over the last 100 years.

To conclude I would like to remind everyone that the Town Council is our custodian the Archive belongs to you the people of Stalbridge, and we Archivists are always looking for more material.



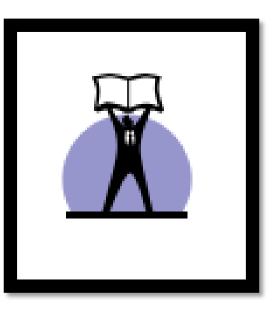
### Friends of Stalbridge Library - Jan Wardell

The Friends of Stalbridge Library was formed at a time when of the library was under threat of closure, by the (then) Dorset County Council, and the future was very uncertain. However, under the strong leadership of Tim Lee, supported by a determined team of people, the library was saved, and the running of it transferred to a team of volunteers, supported by the Library Service. That the Community Library has just celebrated its tenth year is testament to the continued need for the library, and the dedication of the volunteers running it.

Whilst the pressure has been taken off, and the threat of closure is past, there is still the need for the Friends to support the management team of the library, and where possible provide 'extras', to ensure that visiting the library continues to be an enjoyable experience for all.

Now that we are able to socialise again, the Friends have organised two author talks in the last year and hope to be able to 'host' more events in the coming months – watch this space!

As Chairman of the 'Friends', I attend the Community Library Management Group meetings, and I am as always, impressed by the work that the LMG Committee and the volunteers undertake. They are supported by the Dorset Library Service in relation to the management, and Stalbridge Town Council for all matters relating to the premises. We thank them and look forward to the next ten years (at least).



# <u>History Society</u>

The Stalbridge History Society has had yet another successful year and welcomed new members to its committee bringing fresh ideas and talents.

Since our last report it has been possible to begin rebuilding and designing the society's website, soon to be relaunched. Our gratitude goes to John Fieldhouse of John Fieldhouse Design & Print for this. We should also like to thank Stalbridge Building Supplies and the Stalbridge Community Shop for their generous sponsorship.

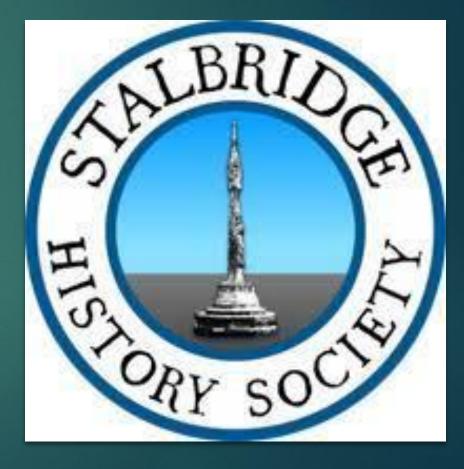
Among events organised by the society for members and non-members was a final, end-of-the-dig-talk on the archaeological work at Stalbridge House. Numerous finds have since been exhibited at the HUB.

With the Stalbridge Archive Society, our society arranged a well-attended exhibition as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was pleasing to see how previous Jubilees and Coronations were celebrated in Stalbridge! A group of scholars from Stalbridge Primary School and their Headmaster were given a much-appreciated tour of the exhibits.

Just recently, a 2-year project to transcribe and translate the Latin on the late 17<sup>th</sup> century Stalbridge manorial court rolls has been completed successfully with and online presentation using Google Meet. This ambitious project was led by Robert Ralph and carried out faultlessly by splendid volunteers Davis Harris and two of his colleagues. It is gratifying to know this important work has been received with enthusiasm by academics in the archive's world.

Membership of the society continues to grow, with residents new to Stalbridge keen to learn about the history of their new world. Their suggestions for research projects are welcome.

The society is in good financial standing, and we look forward to another interesting and successful year.



# <u>Library Management</u> <u>Group</u>

Firstly, thank you for inviting me on behalf of the Library Management Group to the Annual Town Meeting.

On behalf of the LMG, Volunteers and Patrons of the Library I would like to express our gratitude to the Town Council for their continued help and support shown to us again over this last year which overall has been a successful year for the Library.

A tea party was held in the Hub to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Community Managed Library opening. We were fortunate to have in attendance two of the leading lights in setting up the CML in the persons of Barry Russell and Tim Lee together with Graham Carr-Jones, Katie Garland, Tracey Watson, Ian Kerr and many of our band of willing volunteers.

The TC donated funds to allow us to use a caterer for this occasion and Katie Garland & Tracey Watson very kindly acted as waitresses for which we are all very appreciative.

A quiz was set by Carole Blakesmith, and we held a raffle. A special cake was made, and this was cut by Tim Lee, Graham Carr-Jones and Margaret Jackson. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Our special thanks to the Town Council for this most generous donation which was appreciated by everyone who attended.

During the year we have been fortunate to recruit some new volunteers and many new library users with these mainly coming from the new estates and some of our surrounding towns and villages. Our aim is to carry on and provide a library for the use of the whole community for another ten years and beyond.



### <u>RoWLO (Rights of Way</u> <u>Liaison Officer)</u> – Jan Wardell

We have 90 public rights of way in the parish of Stalbridge, of which 7 are bridleways, and the remainder footpaths. The total length of all of these paths is nearly 52 km (roughly 33 miles), spread over the area of the parish, which is 2,363 hectares or roughly 9 square miles.

The role of a ROWLO includes:

- Liaising with the local representatives of national bodies to promote understanding between path users, landowners and tenants
- Maintaining regular contact with council officers who are involved in making modification, diversion and extinguishment orders
- Communicating with representatives of neighbouring parishes to ensure continuity because paths generally do not recognise the administrative council boundaries
- Liaising closely with the Green Space Management Team on matters such as path signing, waymarking and resolution of problems on the network. Local knowledge is usually the key to progress
- a lot of the above is not always visible, but work is always being undertaken to improve rights of way, by one means or another. Section 106 monies from major developments in Stalbridge have been allocated to 'Rights of Way Improvement', and discussions have been taking place with the relevant Dorset Council Officer, relating to the routes and furniture for improvement within the parish.
- **NORTH DORSET TRAILWAY** Despite ongoing efforts, there has been no progress on extending the Trailway in either direction out of Stalbridge. With the increase in residents, this is an even higher priority, if we are to reduce the use of motorised vehicles on the roads, and to provide a safe environment for cyclists and walkers especially, to access neighbouring villages and towns.
- **WHITE HART LINK** The route through Stalbridge would benefit from work to Drews Lane, but as this is a low priority for Highways, it is unlikely that we will see any improvements in the near future.



### <u>School Chair of</u> <u>Governors</u> – Judy Waite

At the time of writing this report the school has 189 children on roll and is able to accept up to 210.

A new chair of governors and vice chair were elected late in December 2022 (Mrs Judy Waite and Mr Graham Hart). As a church affiliated school, we welcomed two new church governors Mr Simon Witcomb (St Mary's church) and Mrs Hannah Smith (Congregational church).

The school received an Ofsted inspection lasting two days in April which resulted in a continuing grade of GOOD. The report is available on the school website.

The first paragraph of the report reads as follows:

"Stalbridge is a friendly school where new pupils feel welcome. The school's values of 'Believe, discover, aspire', underpin the curriculum and school life. Leaders are ambitious for pupils. Pupils gain the knowledge and skills they need to be successful at their next school and later on in life."

All governors continue to oversee the strategic governance of the school which includes visiting on a regular basis and attending regular meetings. Please address any questions to either the Chair of governors or the Headteacher Mr Simon Elledge.



### <u>SCARS (Stalbridge Cancer and Recovery</u> <u>Support</u>) – Tracy White

Firstly, Stalbridge Cancer & Recovery Support would like to take this opportunity to thank Stalbridge Town Council for the invite to attend at this year's Annual Town Meeting.

Tracy White has continued to work directly with Macmillan as well as having contacts within Yeovil & Dorset County Hospitals, and the Social Prescribers in Sherborne and Sturminster Newton. This work is immensely important for all cancer patients as it has flagged up areas within the various NHS providers where important information is not necessarily being shared as it should be. This type of work is vital to ensure continuity of care and support for all who have received a cancer diagnosis, and she is immensely proud that we can be a part of this important work going forward.

Tracy White remains committed to ensuring that all cancer patients particularly those in semirural locations are given the same level of care and support as those who are in larger towns and cities, this forms a great deal of the 'behind the scenes' work over and above the peer support. It is vital that we continue in fundraise as this year our running costs stand at  $\pounds1,500.00$ , these include our public liability, website hosting, the monthly hire fee for the Stalbridge drop in and our mobile phone. The accounts are audited at the end of each financial year, and these can be viewed at any time by contacting Mrs June Harman. Any suggestions for fundraising or offers to fundraise on behalf of SCARS would be gratefully received along with offers to volunteer at the various SCARS events so do contact us via our website at <u>www.scarscancerandrecoverysupport.co.uk</u>.



### SCARS Continued

#### **SHERBORNE**

As many of you may remember from the Town Meeting last year, SCARS had secured a second drop-in group at The Communal Room, Manor Park, Sherborne. Our first year has gone well and we have regular attendees, and we continue to work closely with Social Prescribers within The Grove, The Apples and Yetminster surgeries ensuring all patients with a cancer diagnosis are given our information and encouraged to consider peer support for their long-term well-being.

#### **STALBRIDGE DROP-IN**

The growth of the Stalbridge Drop-In has remained strong with new members attending regularly. We currently have a lovely chap who joined us in early 2022 who travels from Castle Cary each month as he feels that the peer support and friendship of the Stalbridge group has been an asset to him giving him a safe space to talk about his feelings with people who understand. In late 2022 a member who had been with SCARS since 2014 sadly passed away which was very upsetting for all. He was a good friend to us all as was his wife therefore it was imperative that support was offered to her to ensure that she did not feel alone at that sad time, and we continue to offer support to her. A Holistic Fayre was held at Stalbridge Village Hall in 2022 to raise funds for the continued running of the peer support group which was a great success and was enjoyed by all. In late November SCARS attended the Christmas event at Westlands in Yeovil selling many different Christmas items which was a huge success, so we have booked a place to attend again this year with our varied Christmas wares.



### SCARS Continued

#### THE BALSAM CENTRE, WINCANTON

The most exciting news to bring to the Town Meeting is the continued growth of SCARS with The Balsam Centre being the latest addition to the peer support work of SCARS. Tracy White met with the CEO of The Balsam Centre to discuss a joint plan with them and the local medical centre to offer support to cancer patients after the previous support group had closed permanently. It was clear from the discussions that The Balsam Centre felt there was a need for this type of support, and they felt that SCARS could offer this without the need for the Charity to secure funding as SCARS are an established group with only a requirement for a safe space to hold the drop-in meeting each month.

The first drop in is now set to take place on Friday the 9<sup>th of</sup> June between 2-4pm and the marketing of this new location will start in earnest with hopes that the local area will benefit from a safe space to come and be around like-minded people. In time Tracy White is hopeful that this location will provide one full day per month where SCARS can provide cancer patients, survivors, family & friends with art therapy, holistic treatments and other options for relaxation, exercise and more supporting their well-being and long-term health going forward. As Tracy White is a cancer survivor herself it is her passion to ensure that all cancer patients receive the care they so desperately need, therefore the plan is to continue to work with Macmillan, local hospitals, and cancer charities to secure funding for this vital long-term plan.



### **SCARS** Continued

#### **Upcoming Events**

The remainder of 2023 will focus on our continued efforts to and the events we have booked are as follows:

-Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Shaftesbury Town Hall we have tables selling handmade items etc.

-Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023 we are attending Marnhull Fest, and we are holding a Tombola and a Childrens Lucky Dip.

-Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 we are holding a 'Brew & Bake' in aid of Prostate Cancer at the Henstridge Village Hall between 9am – 11am where you can have a cuppa and cake with proceeds being shared between SCARS and Prostate Cancer, there will also be a Raffle with fabulous prizes to win.

-Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Christmas Craft Fayre @ Westlands, Yeovil.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Tracy White is holding an Afternoon Tea in her garden for the SCARS Committee and all those who attend the drop-in meetings as an opportunity for all to spend time together celebrating how far they have come since their diagnosis and to enjoy laughter and quality time together. A huge 'thank you' goes out to Dike & Son and Making a Difference Locally for the £250 donation towards the Afternoon Tea as well as the support that has been given to us with donations that support cancer patients, survivors, family, and friends.

SCARS would also like to offer sincere thanks to anyone who has supported in offering raffle prizes for this year's events, your support is truly appreciated by the Committee and all those who benefit each year.



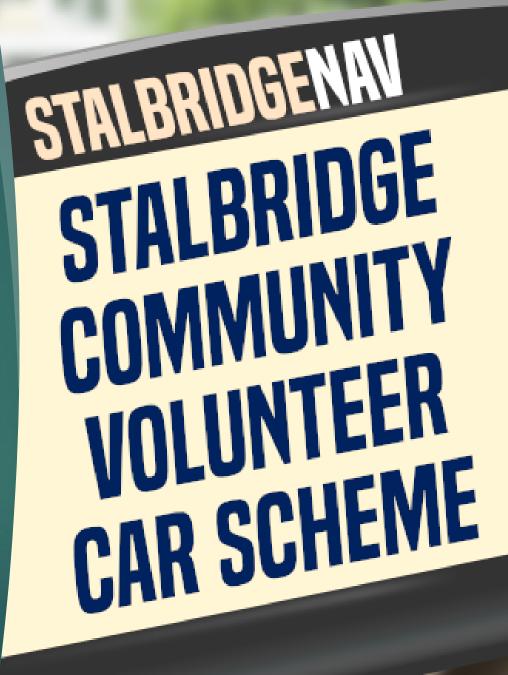
### <u>SCVS (Stalbridge Community</u> <u>Voluntary Car Scheme)</u> – Annie Dumper & Helen Hitchins

SCVCS was set up in 2018 by Tony Bishop and Mary Moore to provide voluntary transport for Stalbridge residents who, because of the demise of public transport and the closure of Stalbridge Surgery, found it difficult to attend hospitals, surgeries, dentists, etc. Tony Bishop and Mary Moore have both since stepped back and passed the everyday running of the Scheme to Annie Dumper and Helen Hitchins, who have been joint co-ordinators since 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The Scheme is run entirely by volunteers, drivers giving their time for nothing but being paid for petrol funded by suggested voluntary donations by passengers.

Before Covid we had a total of 21 drivers, but this dropped to eight at the beginning of 2022. We currently have 15 but still need to increase this to cope with the number of passenger requests. Passengers now total 182 and since its inception the Scheme has carried out a total of 1506 journeys.

We hope with additional drivers this Scheme will continue to go from strength to strength, providing much needed transport to medical centres for Stalbridge residents.



### <u>St Marys PCC</u> - Rev Canon Richard Hancock

It's been ten months since I joined you all in the benefice and I'd like to start by saying thank you for making Kate, Alex, Ben and me so welcome. Despite the disaster of the Rectory refurbishment, poorly overseen by the diocese, we have now truly settled in and are enjoying life here.

Having got my first Christmas and Easter under my belt, I have a much better idea of the benefice, what works well and the challenges we face together. The first thing I would like to highlight is how well I believe we work as a benefice (and I have known plenty of benefices which don't). There is a true spirt of cooperation, affection, and support from our different parishes. This is particularly evident in our Wardens and Treasures working together to meet the challenges we all face, as well as our congregations regularly sharing worship together. This is a wonderful thing to have inherited and one which can be built upon, particularly as we develop into the Pilgrim Group Ministry.

I have also been encouraged by the way our PCCs have been thinking creatively about how we can better develop the life of our churches in each of their parish contexts and in the benefice overall. This was very evident in our Vision Day in February where we worked creatively on our new 10-year Mission Action Plan which will be launched on Pentecost Sunday at a Benefice Service followed by a bring and share BBQ at the Rectory.

I have been lucky enough to inherit a great ministry team of dedicated lay people and retired clergy. This has made the celebration of Christmas and Easter a real joy, something I have not experienced for some years. Sharing the leading of worship, along with team members developing worship and giving input into our new liturgies, has been a very positive experience which I'm sure will lead to new and interesting things in the future. On the pastoral front, it has been good to share this work with others, particularly our LLM Judy, our assistant priest Angela and our LPA Rachel, the latter of whom is working hard to develop new outreach project in Stourton Caundle. As a result, I feel very much a part of a team working together as Jesus instructed us to in the Gospels. Luke 10.1.

### St Marys PCC Continued

I would like to pay particular tribute to Stuart Waite, former Church Warden of Stalbridge, who sadly died last year. I was lucky enough to get to know Stuart (and Judy) in my role as Rural Field Officer. His energy, enthusiasm, sense of humour, as well as his no-nonsense approach to things was one of the key reasons I came to this benefice. Also, to Janet Minikin, former Church Warden of Stock Gaylard with Kings Stag, who also sadly died last year. Janet's sense of duty and her love of the church and the people of her parish are a Christian example to us all. Finally, to Derek Bollen, Church Warden and Tower Captain of Stalbridge, who is retiring at the APCM. Derek is as much a part of the fabric of St Mary's as the stone itself having been born in the shadow of the church. His tireless attention to duty, often wearing several different hats, along with his gentle manner and a good yarn about every character in the community has been a pleasure to work with. In this he has been ably support by his wife, Sarah. He has, over many years, made an indelible mark on the church and community. I'm grateful that he has agreed to remain as Steeple Keeper for one year to train up an apprentice Steeple Keeper and will be close at hand to answer any question I may have about the locals.

The appointment of a new Benefice Administrator, Helen Hitchins, at the beginning of April is already taking a lot of general admin off my hands, as well as enabling me to better develop things moving forward. In time, this will also lighten the load for our busy churchwardens.

I'm delighted by the new focus we have begun to develop in reaching out to our communities: for us as church to be "guest" rather than just host. This is exemplified in our work with Stalbridge school and now Bishops Caundle school (which although not part of our benefice is where many of our children from Stourton Caundle and Purse Caundle attend) and in my work with the Scouts and other community organisations such as the Stalbridge Singers, WI, British Legion, Stalbright etc. As we develop these relationships, it will not only help build our churches but strengthen our communities.

The challenges that face us in the future should not be underestimated: a decline in church numbers, particularly from young families; financial challenges and the responsibility of looking after five historic buildings. However, like Nehemiah, we have a plan and God is with us so I'm confident that as we journey together as fellow pilgrims, with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, we will meet these challenges and build God's Kingdom.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work, love, and support.

# STARS (Stalbridge Trailway and Reserve Supporters) – Nick Brown

Stalbridge Trailway and Nature Reserve lies mainly on land owned by Wessex Water, comprising a section of the former Somerset and Dorset railway line, together with the site of the old town sewage works. The area has been designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, and contains a diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats including grassland, hedges, reedbeds and a small wood. Over 400 species of plants, animals, invertebrates and fungi have been recorded to date.

The voluntary group works with the Dorset Rangers to maintain and improve habitats, and to encourage public access and enjoyment. Anyone with a local interest in wildlife and conservation is welcome to enrol, and to help with practical management work or recording of species.

Through the autumn and winter of 2022/23 we removed a collapsed section of chainlink fence opposite Hunt's food store, and planted a hedge using a variety of native trees including wild service tree and spindle. We are continuing to clear dead and fallen growth from the small wood, and have planted hornbeam, small-leaved lime and bird cherry supplied by the Rangers.

In Sept. 2022 we were fortunate to be joined by 12 volunteers from the Wessex Water Force team, who came to help clear invasive scrub from the reedbed. We hope they will return again this year.



### Table Tennis Club – Chris Watkins



The club entered 4 teams in the Blackmore Vale League (2 adult teams and 2 junior teams). The juniors continue to make great improvements and we hope to blood some of them in the Div 1 teams next season. The senior teams were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league. In addition, we entered a team in the Yeovil & District League, who also won their league. A number of individual awards were also won by players within the club.

At the start of the season we were successful in getting a grant from Dykes which enabled us to purchase a basic feeder robot to help develop our juniors.

We still have training sessions for juniors every Tuesday evening (September to April) and currently have a range of youngsters from age 11-18 with some playing in the league and others hoping to do so in coming seasons.

### Ward Councillor – Graham Carr-Jones

As advised to the Clerks & Chairman, at the beginning of May I stepped down from my Cabinet post for Housing Community Safety & Emergency Planning as the portfolio role has been enlarged to include Adult Social Care (an enormous undertaking). This was not something I chose to do lightly, but my own health comes first, both physical and mental. I remain as Dorset Councils Cabinet lead for Housing & Homelessness. I remain fully available by Phone, Email, Messenger, WhatsApp, or Teams, on request.

Loontinued attending Town and Parish Council Meetings, although taking a short breather now. I am always sharing Council information with local Councillors, as this is key for them to be able to disseminate information to residents. I also have regular weekly telephone calls with the Chairmen of the Town and Parish Council. I operate an open-door policy for those wishing to meet face to face. At Dorset Council I have attended training on varying subjects, from planning training, recycling, Libraries, Parking & Highways to name a few. I have chaired all the Community Safety Partnership meeting with Dorset Police, Dorset Fire & rescue, the Probation Service and Health Partners. I also attend the pan Dorset Public Health Beard, keeping up to date on the wider Dorset Health issues. In my Housing role we have again Increased Council owned Temporary accommodation Units Successful rolling out the Govt Grant: For Ukrainian and Afghan Refugees Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.

The New Build programme with Registered Providers exceed target and has delivered 504 units of social housing. Our New Housing Strategy is Taking shape, The Housing Team have restructured to boost Homeless prevention Investing 900K & we are Developing Care Leaver Protocol with Children's Services.



# Ward Councillor Continued

#### Some of the Headline items from the past 12 months are:

#### Calling all property professionals, forum re-starts for 2023, April 20, 2023 -

Property professionals, particularly landlords and letting agents or those thinking of joining the profession, are invited to kickstart the 2023 Landlord Forums on 18th May. Tickets have sold out already, but you can still attend online.

#### Rough sleepers helped off the streets of Dorset for good, March 16, 2023 -

The number of homeless people in Dorset is declining thanks to a range of new services and accommodation options for people on the streets.

#### Helping to bring empty properties back into use, February 24, 2023 -

Extensive works to renovate a long-term empty property in Blandford are nearing completion, to provide much needed accommodation and the chance for residents to make plans for the rest of their lives.

#### Dorset landlord pays the price for renting a dangerous home, February 22, 2023 -

A landlord of a home with unsafe electrics has been issued with a significant financial penalty of £7,500 by Dorset Council.

#### Dorset Clirs visit completed affordable homes in Hazelbury Bryan, February 15, 2023 -

Members of Dorset Council led a celebration to mark the completion of 21 new affordable homes in Hazelbury Bryan. Cllr Graham Carr-Jones, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety, Andrew Billany, Director of Housing and Community Safety at Dorset Council, Cllr Pauline Batstone for Blackmore Vale ward and the Chairman of Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council

#### Dorset's care leavers in search of rental properties, November 30, 2022 -

Dorset Council is inviting private landlords to work in partnership with them to provide good quality accommodation for young people leaving the care of the council.

#### More rough sleepers helped with funding, November 11, 2022 -

Dorset Council has successfully secured more than  $\pounds 1.5$  million to help continue excellent work supporting rough sleepers. As well as continuing to support existing projects, such as the Bus Shelter and our advice and support services, the additional funding will help establish a new rapid assessment unit for vulnerable people providing accommodation and bespoke assistance



### Ward Councillor Continued

#### Some of the Headline items from the past 12 months are:

#### # I've got a text, September 28, 2022 -

Your next text message might be from our housing service with an important update, after the introduction of the new way to communicate.

#### Derelict building to be transformed to provide homes, September 7, 2022 -

Work is set to begin on an empty building to provide much needed accommodation and the chance for residents to make plans for the rest of their lives. The doublefronted property has been unoccupied for several years and is in a state of disrepair. The West View property, in The Plocks, Blandford Forum, was identified for temporary accommodation.

#### Opportunity for landlords to partner council, August 26, 2022 -

Landlords are being encouraged to work with Dorset Council to give families a stable home, improve the quality of properties and benefit by having access to a dedicated service. There is high demand for available homes from families in the council area and landlords who sign up and commit to making their property safe

#### More funding for Safer Streets in Weymouth, August 12, 2022 -

Initiatives to protect women and girls from violence will continue to operate after almost £250,000 of funding has been secured. Safer Streets will see more CCTV cameras installed to get greater street coverage, a safe space will continue to operate as a sanctuary for women and girls, and more work to prevent and support women.

#### Purbeck Gateway latest to be showcased at Wareham Market, July 20, 2022 -

The latest information about the future of the former middle school site in Wareham will be shared with residents at a Purbeck Gateway engagement event, led by Dorset Council, next month.

#### Housing Services to better support those most in need, July 1, 2022 -

People most urgently in need of housing help from Dorset Council are being better prioritised with new single points of contact and a triage system.

#### Charity partner highly commended in awards, June 13, 2022 -

Providing life-saving and life-changing access to doctors and dentists has led to a charity partner being highly commended in a national award. The Lantern Trust helps rough sleepers with health provision and assists residents unwilling to attend medical appointments, in addition to helping with housing solutions. The Trust's work to rectify health inequalities has been...

#### 75 per cent increase in the number of affordable homes built in a year, May 26, 2022 -

Dorset Council can announce a strong step forward in its work with Registered Provider Housing Associations, responding to the growing need for affordable housing. In the year to March 2021, 301 new affordable homes were built by Housing Associations or acquired by the council. In the last year, to March 2022, there was success increasing the number of affordable homes.



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