

Winter
2012

Beneath the Vale

Published on behalf of Upper Marshwood Vale

Parish Council

Completing the Story

Optical illusion, false or forced perspective, trompe-l'œil, quodlibet.

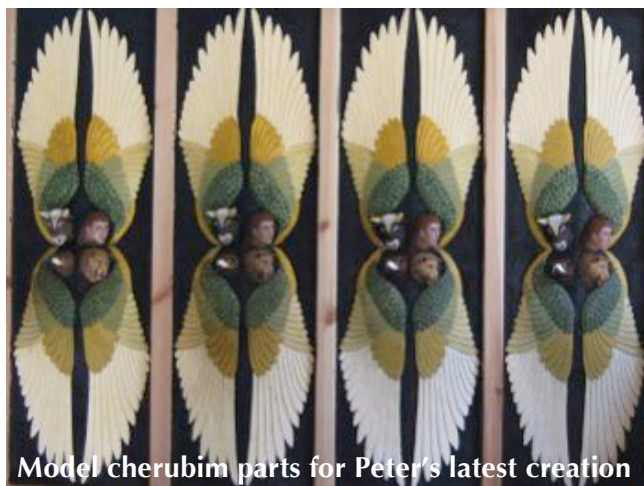
Often playfully, all explore the boundary between image and reality; in doing so the observer sees something about how he observes.

Under Lamberts Castle a complex collection of mental mayhem nestles; where a deep scene is recreated in space that does not exist, where Carl Jung's worst dreams are real and where impossible beings live and indeed are once more being created.

Welcome to the world of an artist for whom the word 'amazing' is simply totally inadequate, Peter Hand. And from January 26th you too can visit that world as he puts together 26 of his key sculptures in the Marlow Theatre at Bridport Arts Centre along with a guide to what and why he displays those impossible images. A display of his mind-bending graphics will be in the Foyer and Café Gallery from January 23rd

For Peter has regained his anima or muse. So how did he lose it and why has it blessed him once more? A year after marrying Fran Robinson they

discovered she had cancer. The best conventional medicine could offer was 5 years.



Model cherubim parts for Peter's latest creation

But she seriously impressed her Charmouth doctor and the Dorchester specialist when her espousal of a mistletoe treatment seemed to give her - and Peter - so much more. He recalls: "We lived with the possibility of her death for many years, but she refused conventional medical treatment for 15 years of excellent quality of life before she succumbed to the cancer.

Originally she was given a life expectancy of 5 years, so the 'mistletoe' treatment she chose definitely helped prolong her life."

But the cancer could not be cured only slowed and finally Fran was dying. Ever the practical one, she insisted that he learned to use a computer and signed him up to Tesco for his groceries to be delivered.

Your Vale
Newsletter

Her final, firm instruction was: "Do not spend the rest of your life on your own."

But for Peter cancer did not go away after Fran died. His lymphoma was spotted; conventional and the mistletoe treatments have been combined and he is in remission. During this he wrote a book on their time in Italy using the computer Fran had unlocked.

Does anyone know of a sympathetic publisher?



But he could not get back into his studio, his imagination had shut down and his craftwork quiescent. All he could do was look back at his own work now that it seemed complete.

Peter had a conventional arts training before joining Ford and designing bits of the Consul car, then onto wooden carvings decorating ocean liners. Toys in wood or steel tubing for children's playgrounds became a speciality;

some, well past their scrap-by date are now collectors' items and on display as pure art works. Graphic art designs explored the contrast between drawn and distorted background and an apparent reality in the foreground.

His time spent in the film industry was many years before the computer could generate artefacts or even whole scenes; in those days chunks

of China in North Wales had to be recreated in the studio or on the set for "Inn of the Sixth Happiness".

What this period did show was the power of illusion when a single point of view is permitted. The lens (or the mirror) can and should tell a story.

And as his work took him around the UK and to Italy, Fran provided the practical support that the talents of this gifted man needed and deserved. She built up her

business practicing the Alexander technique, her activities forming a business that complemented and permitted Peter's work.

They arrived in Marshwood setting up home in a small cottage with a large workshop space - and a decent sized barn to display his now complex images.

What were these models, sculptures, scenes and sets about and what lies behind the ideas that are so startlingly portrayed?

At one point Peter suffered what he describes as a breakdown and underwent psychotherapy, finding that the ideas of Carl Jung worked both for his own spirit and as a counterpoint to his powerful creative demands. Thus many of his portrayals illustrate or exemplify myths and mankind, folklore, fears and fantasies, loosely gathered if not explained as Jung's Collective Unconscious, something shared by all mankind.

In each scene Peter creates a small segment of a miniature world that, superimposed over ordinary life, adds something to our own self-knowledge. This sounds pretentious. It is not; his work is so accurate that it is real, so precise it is life like even if you don't believe what you are seeing. No pretence at all.

Wow.

And there are a lot of them!

But on Fran's death all this flow ceased.

So how did Peter find his muse?

True to Fran's wishes, Peter advertised for a housekeeper and Audrey Sansick drove into his life. Now at their home they are close, but the balance she brings to his life has reopened his imagination, freed his hands and returns him to the ideas if not illusions that he makes almost real.



Image maker: Anastasia Diavasti with Peter

Along with the exhibition, he and his work are to feature in a major art film. Independent Greek director Anastasia Diavasti, recently visited Hill Farm House to produce a permanent record of his work and ideas.

Some of this will be shown as an accompaniment to the exhibition. It is not yet known precisely where the full programme will be distributed, but BTV is determined to spend time photographing man and models, so watch out for a small sample of the real Peter Hand on the parish council website.

For now his Anima is back and (she) is taking no victims.

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Council News

Lengthsman threat

The success Marshwood's lengthsman project - widely held as exemplary thanks to the efforts of lengthsman Steve Lee and co-ordinator Cllr Bob Wyatt, is the cause of great concern as other councils have failed to make their scheme work now seek to save money by cutting funds for all such schemes and thus hide their own shortcomings.

It would seem that many fail because they do not stick to the basic reasons for lengthsman, asking them to clear up litter for example. Marshwood now contracts our

lengthsman to work on the lanes and around the Vale and re-hires him out to other neighbouring councils to do the same sort of repair and clearing work that reduced the problems of flooding in the Upper Marshwood Vale during the recent wet weather.

But with Dorchester officials determined to cut budgets, the poor performance of other parish and town councils now threatens the whole scheme. Our parish council has put aside extra funding but clearly cannot sustain the whole cost of this money-saving and efficient scheme.

Bean Counters!!

Parcel delivery scam

If a card is put through your door saying a company called PDS (parcel delivery service) suggesting they were unable to deliver a parcel, they give a premium

telephone number (0900 -) to ring to arrange delivery. **Do not call this number** - as soon as you do you will be charged £315.

Should you get one of these cards please inform ROYAL MAIL on 0207 239 6655

The Alternative Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard,
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay, poor Gran is looking old,
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, we ate the turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died,
The children fought and bickered, we had turkey rissoles, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince,
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

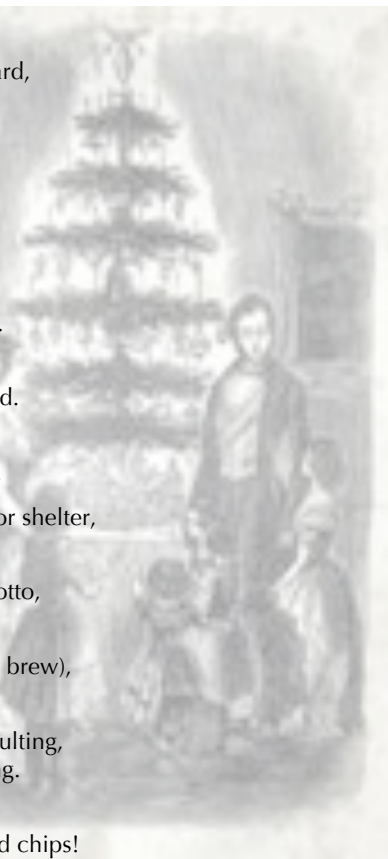
Day eight dawned and nerves were frayed, the dog had run for shelter,
I served up turkey pancakes, with a glass of Alka-Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the booze had gone (except our home made brew),
And if that wasn't bad enough we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,
The mince pies were hard as rock and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips -
The guests had gone, the turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips!



Late News

Superfast Broadband gets EU go ahead at last. Brussels officials have declared UK plans for rural broadband not to be state aided. This allows long held plans to be started, authorities to sign up with their choice of contractor - BT or Fujitsu - and to get on with cabling up our towns and villages. Since the proposed coverage does not include 5% of Dorset

residents, those living in difficult rural sites are not promised superfast and will languish at speeds more than 10 times as slow as their neighbours. Led by Marshwood Broadband team under Charles Somers, activists are seeking funding to get more areas such as UMV the speeds we all deserve.

Marshwood Community Land Trust takes control

The full steering committee that steered the affordable homes project towards formation is now a Community Land Trust and is pushing forward with plans for the Thane Farm site. They are preparing to offer CLT shares to all interested residents and to propose more detailed plans to their membership and then to the whole community for approval.

Statement from the Marshwood CLT - 1 December 2012

The Marshwood CLT was registered with the FSA in late August, initially with three directors and a secretary. One of the directors has since been asked to resign and three further directors have been appointed, one as treasurer and another as chairman; this situation is expected to remain until a planned general meeting in mid-February 2013 when all present directors and the secretary will step down and a new board will be elected by all of the CLT members.

A campaign to attract further CLT membership will be started soon, together with a campaign to get local people onto the West Dorset District Council (WDDC) housing list, i.e. those who have not yet registered.

The chosen site for the affordable housing project remains Thane Farm which, as explained at the 28 June public meeting at Blackdown, was the only suitable site out of several considered which met all of the planning criteria, namely that only affordable housing would be built on the site (AONB area),

that the site was suitable for the planned number of houses and that the landscaping issues would be acceptable to the WDDC planners.

Several meetings have been held over recent months with Hastoe, our preferred Housing Association, and with WDDC's planners to discuss the site layout and it is hoped that an 'agreement-in-principle' will be given by WDDC in mid-December. This will allow the Marshwood CLT to call a public meeting in mid-January to explain to the local community further detail of the plan.

The project comprises 7 houses, one of which will be built and funded by the land owner. All seven houses will be of the same design as the two or three bedroom units and will remain as affordable houses in perpetuity open to local people registered on the WDDC housing list.

Anyone interested in knowing more, or in becoming a member of our CLT, should contact Emma Turner, Marshwood CLT secretary on 01297 678768 or emt74@live.co.uk

One area seen as needing immediate attention is fundamental - how many houses are really needed?

Emma Turner, the CLT company secretary, and treasurer, Ali Edwards, realized that accurate figures of those families that need homes are vital - after all the Parish Plan survey is bound to be well out of date by now.

To be offered one of these homes an applicant must be on the WDDC housing list.

So this poster appeared in John Walther's shop:

Do you want a home in Marshwood?

Do you have a family member who would like to stay in this village?

Have you no chance to get one of those affordable homes on the Thane Farm site?

Do you know someone from Marshwood who wants to live once again in our village?

Well before the CLT has a chance to hold its initial public meeting, your steering committee is reaching out to all local families who could get their name on the list.

In a concerted effort anyone with local links single, married, partnered, with children or dependents, is invited to register their interest in getting a local home. As the CLT clears the way to getting real homes in our community all those who could or should become an occupier must take the first step:

Register your interest with the District Council so to get on their housing list.

Under the funding agreement and as part of the planning procedures that will be needed, all occupants of affordable homes must be drawn from that housing list.

Now the CLT has arranged to borrow Marshwood School for a Saturday for a sign-up session. Open to all who would like to live in Marshwood, they can find out if they qualify - and if so, they can do something about getting into the list and signing up. A team from the CLT will be there to help, computers and photocopiers will be available, councillors and council officers will be there to answer questions - it will be a one-stop way of getting your own home. Anyone can raise questions on behalf of friends and others in their family.

Next will come plans for the CLT itself to go on sale to the community.

Shares will be £1 each + £1 annual subscription and will be offered to all

in the community. Each shareholder will have a single vote in key matters, such as the detailed plans for the houses at Thane Farm; work is proceeding with ideas, which will be put to all residents for their approval at a public meeting early next year.

In the meantime other local ideas for Marshwood Community Land Trust to consider are starting to form an orderly queue behind the affordable homes. A community orchard project now has roots, new footpaths are finding a way and ideas for a community sewage will not go to waste.

Broadband news and an appeal

This email sets out progress in getting us all involved in something for the future - Superfast Broadband; it appeals for more to join in the campaign as it affects everyone - even if you don't have a computer! So here is the email - ignore the gobbledygook - get the message!

Dear all,

Sign up for superfast broadband! The countdown to local superfast broadband has begun. Superfast Dorset will help the local economy grow by letting residents and businesses run more devices on the internet, access services, operate increasingly interactive websites, work and shop from home more efficiently.

We have taken the first steps in the process to find a supplier, and are on track for upgrades to begin in rural areas from next summer. But to make Dorset commercially attractive to broadband suppliers we need approximately 20,000 people to register their interest in having access to superfast broadband. We currently have over 3000 signatures, which is fantastic but we need many more, so please join in at www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast or by ringing 01305 221048. Also, if you work directly with the public or community groups, you could help us by joining our band of Superfast Champions and encouraging people to register. Please email us at superfast@dorsetcc.gov.uk or come and see us in the County Hall entrance hall in Dorchester at lunchtimes 12-16 November for more information on how to do this.

Kind regards,

Pete Bartlett, Delivery Officer

If too few of us register their interest in Superfast, not good things will happen to our community. Contractors building the new network will look at those areas that show the greatest interest and, as funds are limited, ignore those that don't seem to care.

West Dorset is so rural that we are already behind other areas yet for local businesses it is even more essential that we all access the sort of speeds Cornwall is already enjoying, and where small businesses are seeing a real advantage turn into hard cash. If you are not reading this from a screen and have never computed, it may seem you are

not affected - **but you are**. Local farmers who have to go online with their returns, the garage that does your MOT; the doctor/vet/nurse/pharmacist, all work better with proper broadband - and that affects you...or your neighbour...or your family ...everyone who depends on you and on whom you depend.

Registering is free & easy and we can help, so please show interest, for the sake of our community, the sake of your friends and neighbours for the sake of your family and yourself.

Septic Scepticism

64 feet 10 inches long, 18 feet wide and 7 feet in depth, the first recorded septic tank in full use was installed in 1896 under the supervision of Mr Donald Cameron, City Surveyor for Exeter and served the entire town. District Councillor Mike Robinson brings us up to date

"I have not emptied my septic tank for 20 years and I have had no problems". If you said this to a prospective buyer of your house, or to your local Environment Agency officer, you may not get the positive reaction you were hoping for!

Currently there are no regulations on the frequency of emptying, or a process whereby they get inspected. This is not the case in Europe, and regular checking and emptying are part of the regulatory regime.

- Soak-away gets blocked because of sludge and build up of sediment
- Non-human waste gets flushed down the toilets
- Flooding of the system because of high rainfall
- Tree roots block either the pipes or outlets
- Over usage by household and tank not big enough
- Over use of bleach and other bacteria killing substances
- Grease and fat being flushed down sinks.

The process of bacteriological breakdown of the waste is dependent on a certain amount of sludge being in the primary tank, but if this builds that waste will either flow back into the house, or block up the secondary "black water" tank, or the filter bed or herringbone pipe drainage system.

It is recommended to empty the primary tank and remove most of the sludge at least every two years. At the same time it is as well to empty the "black water" tank and any sediment that has accumulated.

Selling your home with a septic tank (fosse septique) in France requires a certificate proving its condition and adherence to the regulations. Whilst there seems no immediate likelihood of this being the case in the UK, a white paper has been published suggesting a regime of certification could be introduced in the future.

Septic tanks will eventually fail, for a number of reasons generally at a very inconvenient time.

This should obviate all of the common accidents. However, at some point the soak-away system may fail and you will have to have another one constructed or laid within your property.

It pays to look after your septic tank, as to replace it with a modern small-scale sewage treatment plant could cost you several thousand pounds. Emptying the average septic tank system should cost around £140.

Problem to benefit - waste to power

Your editor looks at a new idea for Marshwood Village

You may recall Beneath the Vale covering this subject

previously - in an area without public sewage systems this has to be a concern and other areas such as Whitchurch have looked at community solutions to this under-discussed problem. In that case Wessex Water were asked for scheme for the centre of the village. Those directly involved wanted mains sewage collection but those not in the village did not agree and the scheme lapsed.

A similar scheme for Marshwood proposes running a sewer pipe not very dissimilar to the new mains water pipe that Wessex installed a few years ago.

It would follow the main road so all along that road would get direct access. As most homes have a disposal arrangement at the rear of their site this would involve reversing the outflow pipe to wards the road or even the wide verge - where applicable. Wessex Water has a legal duty to work out the most economical and practicable way to provide effective drainage where the current drainage for two or more properties is unsatisfactory.

We would in future pay more for our water rates (and nothing for pump outs) but we would have to pay £328 for the 'y junction/saddle' mains connection.

Wessex will develop a scheme to suit the village but would like to deal with a community group of council - another job for the CLT perhaps

But this is only half of a solution. The waste needs processing and here there is interesting news. If we had mains gas here we would already be burning gas produced from a biodigester.



Sited just outside Dorchester off the Martinstown road at Rainbarrow Farm, is tank of grass, maize, & waste potato, muesli, chocolate and farm muck. Odourless and hidden from public view, the German-made plant reduces this to clean biomethane gas, 5 Mw/day of electricity and an organic digestate the farmers love.

Local farmer Nick Finding, said: "Growing maize for the anaerobic digestion plant means we can produce

much more energy per acre and we no longer have to send crops abroad to convert into biodiesel. Growing energy crops is an important additional income stream for local farmers like me." Fellow Dorset farmer Howard Mason said: "We know the digestate is full of nutrients, and we're excited to find how it improves our soils and increases the yields from land producing food."

A deal by Prince Charles between Poundbury and local farmers shows what can be done and is the first UK site feeding gas to the public. Water, heat, and carbon dioxide is also produced and soon greenhouses will take advantage of this bonanza.

All well and good for high profile Poundbury, but Marshwood is rural,

small and out of the public eye. But in Germany there are hundreds of smaller anaerobic digesters serving small communities.

Peter James of Duchy of Cornwall: "In Germany if you drove a distance of say from here to Honiton then you would pass 6 or 7 such miniplants."

So could Marshwood waste and Vale farms produce power and gas at a price we could afford?

At present so many people are in the present distribution chain that even pioneering Poundbury finds it hard to make a profit.

But cut that chain and distribute electricity and gas directly to the village and the answer becomes a resounding Yes!



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Working Horses



Vet Matthew Bowditch tells us about one of his favourite animals

If you were at the Melplash show at the main ring you could not have missed my favourite kind of horse - the Heavy Horse. They were judged in hand in the main ring and then did a display in turnout.

The heavy Horse is classified as a large working horse of certain breeds, the British Breeds are the Shire, Clydesdale and the Suffolk. The Percheron was a French breed but has been in the country for so long it is almost native. There are other breeds from abroad that are popular such as the Ardennes or the Breton.

These great big powerful creatures were until 100 years ago the motive power for most heavy transport and agriculture. 300,000 horses lived and worked in London alone! The logistics of maintaining that many animals must have been

so complex. The importance of a horse Veterinary Surgeon to keep the horses on the road was immense. The rewards must have been adequate as the surviving instruments from that time are beautifully lacquered and boxed in mahogany.

The internal combustion engine was the cause of their decline. It is said that the feed needed to maintain working horses on a farm was one third of the acreage. In the push for food production of the Wars this land could feed people instead without the skilled horsemen.

The role of the horse in modern Britain could be said to be recreational but there are people making a living with working horses. This can be with short journey delivery of heavy materials such as coal and barrels, Bus and tram services, and environmental management of sensitive countryside

such as logging and clearance of bracken or The world of the Heavy Horse is balsam. Riding the big horses is also becoming extraordinarily friendly relaxed place. popular they are renowned for their temperament. I recommend anyone to go to

Many residents will remember Charlie Pinney from Bettiscombe who was a champion of the role of the working horse. He refused to look backwards and designed modern machinery for the horse that made work easier.

ploughing matches, shows, workings and of course the Great Steam Fair. You can touch the horses and talk to the owners it is a great day out. A great reference is the magazine Heavy Horse World which has addresses of open days and hands on days for anyone.

Some words and phrases that will help when you go to a Heavy Horse event:

A working is an event where heavy horses are shown working machines and the soil. A great day out!

Shown in Harness: this is the wonderful decorative brasswork on the leather harness that has bells and brasses shining like gold in the sun.

This is judged on cleanliness as well as beauty!

In Hand: is shown on a halter to the judge.

Turnout: This is horse and wagon paraded for the Judge.

Feather: the hair around the bottom of the legs. The Shire has lots the Suffolk has none.



More characters from Stoke Abbott in 1895

These recollections include the oral history gathered by Frederick Swaffield from older residents of Stoke Abbott (probably between 1895 and 1924) - much of which relates to the late 19th century. Phonetic spelling was used to convey an impression of the local dialect.



Horsehill Mill as it is now

Tom Swaffield

Horsehill Mill used to be a spinning mill - years ago a lot of Stoke people worked there. It used to be driven by a water wheel - it is not many years the old wheel has been taken down. I met old Mr Slade the other day - he was a dairy man for Mr Bowditch one time. He is now about 90 years of age and he said "I mind when they used to work there a young woman falled in the pond up behind the water wheel and they thought she would be drawed in under the wheel and they all rushed out of the mill and got up on the bank.

Tom Swaffield - thas your Uncle in et. Well he pulled off all his clothes he had on and jumped in and got her out. However he done it I don't know. They nearly got sucked in under the wheel. Course ader he got out all the men and women started laughing at Tom cos he

was naked but he didn't care a bit and pon my soul if he didn bide there and danced and kicked up all manner of capers in front of them wet and mud all over as he was."

Jim and Martha Meech used to live at Rose Cottage. Jim was a good mower with the scythe and when they used to mow he always went in front. Once up in Long Moor some of his sons on

holiday from Wales took their old father up to see the men cutting corn with scythes. So one of the men offered Jim his scythe to see how he could get on with it in his old age.

Of course Jim wanted to go in front though he was crippled up - so he took off his jacket and waistcoat. When he got on some way his trousers began to come down, but he wouldn't stop to pull them up. The men behind him being young and strong were driving close to him until directly his trousers came right down on his boots and there he was with only his shirt on blowing about in the wind, but he wouldn't stop till he got to the end of the field. Jim didn't like being beaten.

The men laughed and said they'd never seen a man mowing with only his shirt on before. Jim told me how old Nanny Morey, who was supposed to be a witch, stopped him and his horses down Elwell road. She used to live in a cottage at the bottom of the field Elwell, about halfway between the gate and Horsehill Lane. Jim used to tell her she couldn't stop him if she stopped others.



Water wheel end of the mill

One day he said he was going on with three horses and a waggon, when Nanny came out and walked across the road and then stood in her doorway. When the horses came to her house they stopped and he could not get them to move. He hit them lightly with the whip but they wouldn't move. Then he did pat them - wouldn't go. By and by she said "Why doan ee go on wi em Jim?" and I jist spoke to them and on they went.

Charles Canterbury

When we were confirmed Mr Sarjeant the Parson hired Charles to drive us boys and girls to Netherbury Church with two horses and two traps - boys in one and girls in the other. Coming home along one of the girls got out of her trap. We was in the hinder trap she came running back and tried to get in over the tailboard of our trap. Charles was driving our trap he hollered to her and said "Where be gwine! Where gwine! Gid out a there!"

She said "Tidn room up in tother trap. I be gwine a git up wi tha boys."

Charles said "All be eye all me eye room when you come on. Whad ee had too much ver tea?" - because we all had tea at the Brandon.

We tried to stop her getting in. Charles shouted "Gid out! Gid Out!" All at once two or three of us got hold of her and dragged her right up over the tailboard and her went down flop in bottom of the trap and didn't laugh and so did we.

We couldn't help it we could see the comical side of it but Charles couldn't. "There there there" says Charles, "I never seed sich a gwine on never in my life. Greed job, Greed job, Greed job, Greed job, as what tis. Gwine a be a tidy gwine on till we git da Stoke. Shove her out o et. Shove her out o et. Shud up you boys. Bide there kicking up sich a row. I dunno; whatever Mr Sarjeant da think o ee. I just as well a hauled a lot of coalbags down there to be confirmed as you lot sure jist as well."

Poor old Charles wasn't he wild.

Editorial - Respect and how to earn it

We should really know better but it seems that affordable housing brings out the worst in some people. In Whitchurch those encouraging newcomers into their community swapped sides and attacked the whole project; perhaps they found that a theoretical idea had suddenly came too close to home.

Those of us involved in Marshwood's affordable housing thought they had avoided that trap, when in our first public meeting we did not make personal attacks and respect was given to all who did not agree.

This is now history as those who now oppose the chosen site are on the attack and this time it is personal. The article in a recent Bridport News made many claims, all since denied by those who really know the facts.

The article claimed planners would prefer the homes to be located at Colmers Farm, but that landowner also wanted homes for sale on the open market, contrary to long-held Council policy. Thus the Colmers Farm site could not be considered let alone their choice.

The parish Council was not 'asked for its views' as claimed, it merely heard a report on progress that is similar to that set out by the Community Land Trust on page 6. The council will only consider the matter when planning consent is sought next year. No doubt the impact of these plans on the community at large will be part of that thinking.

Beneath the Vale does not seek to put over a particular line. One authoritative source of information is the CLT; others may contribute as happened in the past - we welcome their input.

As a resident, I have my own opinion which is irrelevant, but as editor I try to ensure fair coverage since BTV is about villages and the people who live there. We will continue to give you your say, subject only to adherence to the law and decency.

Opinions that are supported by facts not rumours are most welcome, which is why it was so sad to see the long-established, well-reputed Bridport News printing such a biased and inaccurate report.

Now with a far better idea of what the affordable homes will mean to us as individuals and as a community, the real facts should be beyond dispute or casual and thoughtless rumours.

So let us debate the project as it really is and make democratic decisions - joining the CLT would be a good way of finding out the facts and expressing your opinion - but let us ALL respect those that disagree with us and cease to demean and humiliate them.

Which is why this editorial is so restrained.

Ash Dieback

Our vale may be famous for our oaks but we love all the trees and are worried about the new threat to our ash trees. Dorset County Council advises.



Nature enthusiasts, walkers and gardeners are being asked to keep watch on their local ash trees for signs of a new disease. Ash dieback disease, caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*, was found in the UK for the

first time earlier this year and residents should report any suspected cases as quickly as possible.

Although the disease has not yet been found in the wild, with known infected trees being young ash plants in tree nurseries and recently planted sites, the fungus spores are carried in the wind and so the chance of the disease spreading is high.

Symptoms include the premature loss of leaves from the outer parts of the crown (top and sides) and long diamond-shaped lesions or areas of sunken and discoloured bark on twigs.

These lesions girdle twigs and small branches, starving the leaves above of water and nutrients and causing whole branches to die. In mature trees, it is the new growth that is affected. Dorset County Council arboricultural manager Steve Maros said:

“We’re asking residents to be vigilant for signs of the disease and report any ash tree they suspect has been infected. Obviously it will be difficult to spot at this time of year and is more likely to be identified in the spring when the trees should come into leaf.

“It’s important that people are aware of ash dieback, which is now one of many pests and diseases that pose a threat to our native woods and trees, but there is currently no need for the preventative destruction of ash trees.

“There is also no reason that some ash trees can’t continue to be planted as some varieties are more tolerant of the infection – but residents should buy from a local, reputable retailer and ensure that the tree hasn’t come from a site where the disease has already been found.”

Further information about ash dieback disease and details of who to contact in the event of a suspected case can be found at

www.dorsetforyou.com/ash-dieback-disease





Sponsored Cycle Ride - Dorset Historic Churches

Mark and I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who sponsored us for the cycle ride. We had a great day and met some very nice people during our ride. We were greeted at the churches with refreshments, homemade cakes, and friendly smiles. We started off at Broadoak and then cycled on to Symondsbury.

Next stop was Bridport and then on to West Bay, where we had a pit stop. No, sorry pub stop! Then we cycled to Bothenhampton, Bradpole, Dottery and finally back to Broadoak and Marshwood, visiting eleven churches on the way.

The total raised was £210. We are looking forward to next year and hope we can raise even more for St Mary's Marshwood.

Jo and Mark Pillinger

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