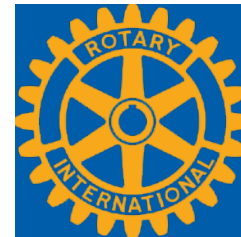




THE ROTARY CLUB OF LYME REGIS

Chartered 1950

Bulletin - August 2026



EXECUTIVE:

President: Rob Harris

Secretary: John Berry

Treasurer: Bill Taylor

President Elect: John Enticott
(President June '27 - July '28)

CONTACT:

info.lymeregisrotary@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

www.lymeregisrotary.org

FACEBOOK

Rotary Club of Lyme Regis

INSTAGRAM

rotarylymeregis

MEETINGS:

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6 pm
for 6.30pm at Hunter's Lodge,
Raymonds Hill, Lyme Regis
(meals ordered by 6.15 pm)

(as we have a variable
programme please check with
Secretary first before visiting)

For Lyme Regis Rotarians:
Pls tell Secretary if you will
be absent on any evening.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair to All?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



**SERVICE ABOVE
SELF**

Fellow Rotarians.

I trust that you are all well and enjoying the good weather. In keeping with the tradition I seem to have established, I am yet again writing to you from overseas, this time from Houston, USA. My hope is that for next month that I will be writing this from home!

July was another busy month for our Rotary club. We started with a very enjoyable evening at Beer Quarry Caves where we were taken on a tour of the caves, entertained by the Salt Weavers Folk Trio and then enjoyed a hog roast. I think everyone appreciated the lower temperature of the caves as we learned about their history and listened to the musical guests. The joint handover with Brit Valley went well and it was really nice to share the handover with them. Apparently they are organising next year's handover and are slightly concerned that we have raised the bar this year. So I will be interested to see what they suggest when the time comes next year.

Next, we had a council planning meeting hosted by Peter F to start putting our 2026/27 plan together. More will follow at the next business meeting, but in the meantime we are looking for presenters for the social evenings, so please put your thinking caps on.

Due to work, I was sadly unable to attend the talk given on Mary Anning (as a geologist by training this is a huge regret) but I believe all went very well.

Rotn. Chris Buckingham, who looks after Youth matters for the Club, attended the St Michaels CE School Leaving event along with PP John Enticott to present the Rotary Achievement Award to Ronnie Cove. The RAA recognises the pupil that the school considers has made the most consistent and impactful contribution to the school. The Club has made this award via St Michaels for over 50 years, recognising endeavour and commitment in our younger community.

Our District Governor, Rotn. Mike Kew, is encouraging us to attend the District Forum in Langport on October 3rd, 9.30am for Fellowship and a 10am start. Talk by Water Survival Box and several Breakout Sessions. He is also promoting a number of "Learning" sessions to take place around the District (Taunton, Dorchester, Frome,) on subjects ranging from Foundation to Public Image to IT. Every member should have received an email with details, please consider. These could be valuable to newer members or those changing roles.

Looking forward, we have a number of requests for help in the next month, be it supporting the fireworks and/or carnival procession, car parking or helping support the Red Arrows display. Please do let Alan Vian know if you can help out.

That's all from me for this month.

Stay safe and look forward to seeing you all soon at our next business meeting.

Rob Harris
President

CONTENTED DEMENTIA

Kate from Contented Dementia will be holding a drop in session at the Lyme Waffle House 10am until 1.00pm on Monday 7th September 2026.
I will be there with my Welcome Cafe hat on. Anyone is welcome to pop in.

Arthur Banwell

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

At the Speaker Evening on July 23rd we welcomed our **Partners and friends** to hear **Nigel Clarke** talk about the famous Lyme Regis Palaeontologist, Mary Anning. Thank you, Nigel, my apologies once again for missing your talk which, I understand, was well received by all. Welcome to you all. *Ed.*



DISTRICT FORUM AND LEARNING SESSIONS

The District Governor has highlighted, in his recent email to all members, a series of Learning Sessions designed to increase our awareness and knowledge of such things as Foundation, Public image, Admin, Secretarial duties. These will take place either in Dorchester, Frome or Taunton. I have listed them below and draw your attention to the DG's plea to book early as accommodation is limited. These sessions seem ideal for those changing roles within a club or those who are new to Rotary.

DG Mike Kew also promoted the upcoming District Forum which will take place this year in Langport (Huish Episcopi Sixth Form Centre) on October 3rd, (9.30am for Fellowship and a 10am start.) Talk by Water Survival Box and several Breakout Sessions including "How to start a Rotakids Club or Interact Club", "Foundation Fundamentals," "Rotary Youth Exchange," "Writing Grants that get approved". For each Rotarian attending District will donate £10 to The Rotary Foundation on behalf of the Member's Club.

10th September 2026 – Foundation

Venue: FCDI, Taunton **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/district-1200-foundation-club-learning-opportunity>

12th September 2026 – Media, Social Media & AI

Venue: Shire Hall Museum, Dorchester **Status:** *To be confirmed*

10th October 2026 – Club Secretaries

Venue: Frome Business Centre, Frome **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/district-1200-secretaries-club-learning-opportunity-frome>

31st October 2026 – Media, Social Media & AI

Venue: Frome Business Centre, Frome **Status:** *To be confirmed*

12th November 2026 – Club Admin, Strategy & Navigating the Rotary IT Digital Maze

Venue: FCDI, Taunton **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/club-admin-strategy-and-navigating-the-rotary-digital-maze-taunton-12th-november--2026>

14th November 2026 – Public Image & Membership

Venue: Shire Hall Museum, Dorchester **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/district-1200-public-image-and-membership-club-learning-opportunity-dorchester>

21st November 2026 – Foundation

Venue: Shire Hall Museum, Dorchester **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/district-1200-foundation-club-learning-opportunity-dorchester>

6th February 2027 – Club Admin, Strategy & Navigating the Rotary IT Digital Maze

Venue: Frome Business Centre, Frome **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/club-admin-strategy-and-navigating-the-rotary-digital-maze-frome-6th-february--2027>

11th February 2027 – Public Image & Membership

Venue: FCDI, Taunton **Tickets:** <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/district-1200-public-image-and-membership-club-learning-opportunity-taunton>

8th April 2027 – Media, Social Media & AI

Venue: FCDI, Taunton **Status:** *To be confirmed*

Tickets are required due to venue capacity limits. Venues' Addresses are;

FCDI - Firepool Centre of Digital Innovation, Trenchard Way, Taunton, TA11 1FH

Shire Hall Museum, High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1UY

Frome Business Centre, Manor Road, Frome, BA11 4FN

Lyme Regis Skittles League

We have entered a team for next year's league.

Rotary District 1200 Challenge Trophy 2025-26

We await with interest to find out who are our opponents in the next round and where we will be playing.



UNDERGROUND HANDOVER

Last year we were all at sea but this year we went deep underground into Beer Caves for our Handover of the Presidential reins from 25/26 President John Enticott to 26/27 President Rob Harris. Once again we were joined by Brit Valley Rotary Club.

New President Rob had taken a big risk by organising the event himself so he had no one to blame if something went wrong. However, everything went to plan and a good evening was had by all.

Those that managed to navigate the road diversions were able to partake, firstly, of a little refreshment, made even more necessary by the heat and humidity but when we descended into the Beer Caves those of us who had heeded the advice of our Secretary and brought sweaters were thankful as it was a constant 6 deg C. temperature in there!

Then the tour, 45 mins of historical narrative covering Roman through Saxon, Norman, medieval to modern times. Who would want to be a stone mason in days gone by? Working in almost total darkness for much of the day, cold and wet with constant dripping of water from above, danger of rock falls and a host of other hazards and at the end of the day you might not get paid if the block you cut out did not "ring true".

Then 30 mins of songs from The Salt Weavers Folk. A delightful backdrop of lighting in the caves with their interesting acoustics.

We were all feeling the cold when we emerged into a welcoming warm evening to enjoy a hog roast and the real reason we were gathered there - Handover of the reins of President and President Elect for the new Rotary Session, for both Lyme Regis and Brit Valley Rotary Clubs.

Congratulations, Rob Harris, on becoming our new Lyme Regis RC President until June 30th 2027, and to John Enticott as President Elect. Also to Adrian Scadding who continues as President of Brit Valley RC for another year, with John Clegg as his PE.

John McCallum



Each of the blocks weighs 2 tons, eight horses need to take them to the beach for onward transport



Hard hats on, ready to descend into the depths of Devon



Glad of warm clothing as we listen to the guide in the gallery at the entrance to the quarry caves



Some of the tools and signatures of the last of the masons. Our guide gives us an idea of the size of the blocks quarried, how it was done and the hardships of the quarrymen

Contd over



The Salt Weavers Folk Trio. Photo courtesy of Adrain Scadding



Rob Harris and John Enticott congratulate each other, and themselves, on their technological skills in successfully clipping the chains of office round their respective necks. Rob is now President of the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis for Session 2026/27 and John is President Elect, looking to be President for Session 2027/28.



ADG for District 1200, Lindsey Luxton, congratulates Adrian Scadding on (again) becoming President of the Rotary Club of Brit Valley, this time for Session 2026/27.



Two happy campers - the evening went off without a hitch, now they can enjoy the bar and hog roast. Congratulations to you both. Photo courtesy of Adrain Scadding.

OUR DAY OUT

You've probably heard people say that you should not think about going abroad until you fully explore this country and certainly a sentiment I support and practice. In my case this is driven by a fear of flying which means that in my 75 years on this earth my venturing abroad amounts to just two one-day trips to France (Calais and Boulogne with the School) and a package holiday in Spain in the summer of 1972!

Some of you may know that I'm also the full-time voluntary Steward at the Lyme Regis Bowling Club which means that my opportunities for travel are further restricted. However the Club's recent tournament week provided an ideal opportunity for me to at least make the effort to explore the countryside beyond the Charmouth Road and that's exactly what I did in the company of one of our much valued volunteers, Penny Morgan.

After some quick searching on the Internet, we opted for a "Round Robin" all-inclusive ticket offered by the Dartmouth Steam Railway and River Boat Company. www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk. This is a circular tour starting out from Paignton station so irrespective of whether you choose to travel clockwise or anticlockwise, your day out



includes travel by train, ferry, river boat and an open top bus. We made an online booking and were given a booking reference and advised to collect our tickets from the booking hall at Paignton Station. We opted for the anti-clockwise route so simply walked around the corner to the bus station and boarded our bus for what was a very pleasant 20 minute journey to Totnes. We were dropped off right at the quayside. There was a 30 minute wait for the river boat, so we took the opportunity to have a coffee at one of several cafés with plenty of outside seating available. We boarded the river boat (make for the back of the upper deck for the best views) and

enjoyed a 90 minute trip down the river Dart with a helpful commentary. Refreshments are also available on board if needed.



On landing at Dartmouth, we enjoyed a lovely walk along the quayside and estuary and chose a quiet spot to have a picnic lunch. We took a short stroll through the town before boarding a ferry for the five minute crossing to Kingswear. The train station there is something straight out of the pre-Beeching era



and full of architectural character. We didn't call-in at the station buffet but opted for a platform bench where we watched the approaching train hauled by a steam locomotive..... wonderful. We boarded the train and paid a small supplement for a seat in the rear observation car. The journey back to Paignton station was about 25 minutes during which time we made a couple of station stops and enjoyed views of the Dart estuary and coastline. Once back at Paignton, we made a short walk to the car park for the journey back to Lyme.

It all made for a wonderful day out and I thoroughly recommend you experience it for yourself.

John Enticott.

A TYPICAL DAY'S ITINERARY

- 1 Bus from Paignton – 20 minute bus journey to Totnes.
 2. Cruise from Totnes – 90 minute cruise to Dartmouth.
 3. Ferry from Dartmouth - a 5 min ferry crossing to Kingswear but allow 30 mins beforehand
 4. Train from Kingswear - a 30 min train journey to Paignton
 5. Arrive back in Paignton.
- (or go round the other way - train, ferry, cruise, bus)

There are separate timetables (see them on the web) covering the bus, ferry and train elements of the journey. As part of the booking process you simply select the departure time for each service depending on how long you wish to remain at each location. The ferry does not have a published timetable as it runs every 15 minutes. Our selected service gave us about 30 minutes between each segment so a comfortable pace. We left Lyme at about 9 am and got to Paignton at about 10.15. There is a station car park, but the maximum stay is three hours so we elected to park in one of several nearby long stay car parks and I think we paid about £8 for the day.

SPORTING LYME SUPPORTED BY ROTARIANS

We may be in our 70's and 80's but many of us still have a love of sport, memories of times past spent running, rowing, climbing, falling, throwing, cycling - you name it - and if we can participate we still do.

So when the Mayor of Lyme Regis announced his "Sporting Lyme" concept, promoting sport across Lyme and environs, we embraced the concept. As well as the legendary (poetic licence allowed) Rotary skittles team many of us participate in other sports or actively support them and encourage all sporting activities in the town. The Club has supported many youth sports groups over the years and I remember with pleasure the excitement shown by the U12's football team when they took part in the Rotary organised U12's National competition in Burton on Trent in 2017. Such a pity covid and other factors came along and stopped so many events such as that.

The Mayor, Councillor Philip Evans, himself an ardent supporter of Rotary and once active sports enthusiast, opened the Sporting Lyme event in Uplyme's King George V Playing Fields on Sunday 5th July, extolling the health and social virtues of sport, how participation in individual or group sports much improves physical AND mental health and social well being. Rotarians John Enticott, Steve White, Peter Fortnam set up and manned a stall promoting Bowls, Rotarians John McCallum and John Marjoribanks (Axminster Rotary Club) demonstrated how to play Croquet on the dedicated Croquet lawn and Rotarian Alan Vian acted as MC for the whole afternoon. A new Pétanque pitch was formally opened, there were demonstrations of Taekwondo, Maypole Dancing, Tennis, Scottish Country Dancing, Basketball, Football, Rounders and other sports.



Rotarian John Marjoribanks of Axminster Rotary Club demonstrates how to play croquet.



Mayor Evans formally opens the pétanque court.

Thanks to Fletcher Hulbert of the KGV Fields Committee for all the work he did to make this a successful afternoon and to others who worked so diligently for the various sports groups. I think Mayor Evans can be well pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm shown in his very worthwhile project.

John McCallum



AND - continuing a sporting theme -

Today's answer to Strictly Come Dancing best legs competition (Lyme Regis style)

Spotted at the Welcome Cafe in Charmouth Road

GET READY FOR THE ECLIPSE

The last time there was a solar eclipse in the south of England was in 1999. I remember it well. I watched it leaning out of the window of my office in London using a piece of card with a pinhole in it to view the shadow of the sun on another white card as the moon passed in front of it. I was so intent on getting a good view I nearly fell out of the window. For most of Devon and Cornwall it was a total eclipse.

We are due another one on 12th August 2026 and if you miss it then, unless you are Generation Z you will miss the next one, because its not until 2090.

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon moves between the Sun and Earth, resulting in the Sun's light being blocked either partially or fully for viewers in certain locations on Earth. On Wednesday 12 August 2026, people in the UK and Ireland will see a **partial** solar eclipse, when around 90% of the Sun will be covered by the Moon.

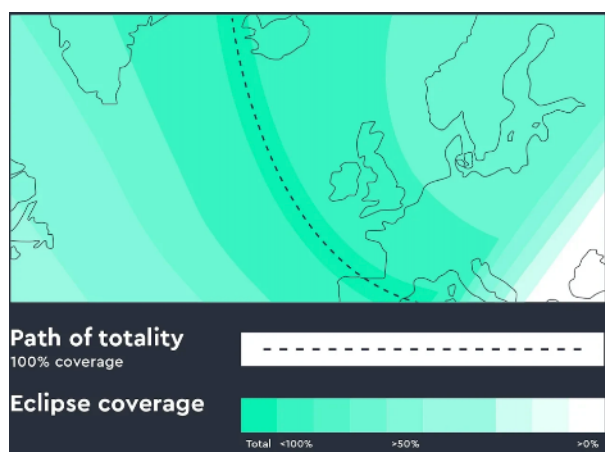


The new Moon and the Sun will gradually move closer together in the sky in the late afternoon. As the side facing us will be dark, the Moon will be invisible without specialist equipment.

At 18.18 in Lyme Regis (timings vary slightly from other parts of the UK), 'first contact' will occur, when the Moon first covers part of the disk of the

Sun. The Moon will move slowly in front of the Sun until roughly 90% of the Sun is covered (the eclipse's maximum). This will be at 19.15 from Lyme Regis.

At the maximum, enough of the Sun will be covered to make a noticeable difference in the temperature and light levels. However, unlike with a total eclipse, the sky will not become dark – it will feel more like a cloudy day or close to dusk or dawn. After the maximum, the Moon will then slowly move off the Sun's disk until the eclipse ends, at 20.08 in Lyme Regis. The partial solar eclipse will take place as the Sun is setting, and the Sun and Moon will become increasingly low on the horizon as the eclipse goes on. Getting to a high point with a clear view of the western horizon will allow you to see the whole event.



How to see the 12 August 2026 solar eclipse

Don't go into this much-anticipated event unprepared!

It's important to note that you should never look directly at the Sun, even during an eclipse when some of its intense light is blocked. Doing so can severely damage your eyes.

Here are several ways you can safely watch the 12 August partial solar eclipse:

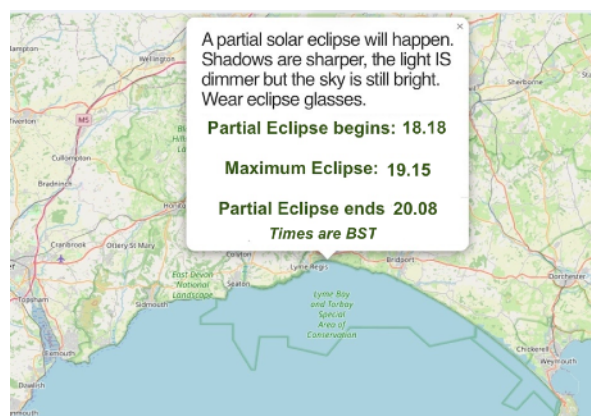
1. Watch the Royal Observatory Greenwich's live stream – it will be broadcasting a free, live feed of the eclipse from London.
2. Use eclipse glasses – Buy or borrow a pair of special eclipse glasses. These block out the Sun's harmful rays and enable you to look at the eclipse safely with your own eyes. Regular sunglasses are not safe to use, as they don't have adequate UV protection to protect your eyesight. To ensure your eclipse glasses are legitimate, make sure that they have safety certification 'ISO 12312-2' or 'ISO 12312-2:2015' printed somewhere on the glasses. Be careful if you're planning on reusing an old pair of eclipse glasses: these may not be safe, especially if the lenses are creased or scratched, as their filtering properties may have been compromised. Don't take risks – buy yourself a fresh pair.
3. Make a pinhole projector – There are a few ways you can go about making a 'pinhole projector', which will allow you to see the eclipse by projecting the Sun's light, and the bite being taken out of it, onto another surface.
 - Take two pieces of white card or stiff paper: Make a small hole in one piece of paper and hold it above another piece of paper to see the shadow being cast on the Sun replicated in miniature.

Don't delay, get ready, don't miss it, the next one will be 2090!!

..... And for those who cannot sleep there will be partial eclipse of the moon on 28th August, between 3.33am and 5.12am. It will be low on the horizon and so the moon will appear reddish, get up on high ground with a good view westward if you want to see it best.

If this weather continues it might be nice to take a cold bottle of Pino and some glasses up on to Stonebarrow to watch it from there.

John McCallum
with thanks to The Royal Museums, Greenwich,
and John Berry



LENDWITHCARE UPDATE

It's been another busy month for our Rotary Club helping more small entrepreneurs achieve their business objectives, which have long lasting impacts to improve the lives of their family and their customers in their community. All 4 of the entrepreneurs are now fully funded through the Lendwithcare scheme.

The new **Ntolonga 1401 Group** has been formed by a group of women based in central Zambia running various businesses including grocery sales, tomato trading and salons together to help them to achieve financial freedom. They care for forty eight dependents by providing shelter and schooling and are all married. Jenipher (on the left of group photo) is a mother to ten children of which four are orphans and has requested the loan to take her business to the next level, by purchasing salt, sugar and cooking oil to sell through her grocery store to meet increasing customer demand and she captures the spirit of the Group.



Jean Bosco is 51 years old and lives in Western Rwanda with his wife and three children of school age. He works through his shoes trading business, which he has been running for five years and he has been meeting a consistent demand for footwear across all age groups, for all seasons. He is looking to expand his business by selling to smaller traders and has requested the loan to purchase a bulk quantity of shoes including trainers, as well as work boots for agricultural activities. He also plans to hire one person to assist him in his shop and four more people for sales distribution in his rural area around his home town to increase his income.

Ali Raza is 34 years old and is a craftsman from Lahore in Pakistan living with his parents. He works hard to support them through providing high quality shoe uppers from artificial leather called raskin and has been doing this for eight years earning around £75 sterling a month. He supplies local shoemakers who value his reliability and precise work and this has earned him a loyal customer base. Ali has applied for the loan to replenish his stock of raskin and other essential materials to help him to meet the growing demand and expand his production capacity, while improving his product quality. His aim is to strengthen his position in the market and to increase his sales.



Rolito is 58 years old and married with four children, three of which are married and the youngest already working. He is based in Borbon in Cebu province in the Phillipines. Rolito works with his wife to manage a vegetable smallholding providing food for his family and generating income of £14 sterling per month from produce sold to his neighbours. He also raises chickens for additional income. Rolito is requesting the loan to move into pig farming and purchasing ten piglets, feeds and vitamins to help grow this new business, with the aim to increase his family income and meet new customer demand.

All these entrepreneurs showing great ambition to achieve success in their community and our Club is playing an important role through the Lendwithcare scheme to help them to achieve their goals

Steve White

Charmouth & Lyme Community Links

On 21st July Rotn. Arthur Banwell attended the inaugural meeting of this new group, on behalf of Rotary, and reported back to the Club on the outcome. The meeting was organised by The Lyme Social Prescribers and was held at the Old Town Mill hosted by Lyme Regis Mayor, Councillor Philip Evans. The group is formed by all the organisations involved in the welfare of the West Dorset community to come together monthly, get to know each other and promote their activities.

The following organisations attended, with contact details noted. **Thanks, Arthur.** for representing Rotary at the meeting and keeping us informed.

Access Wellbeing, established presence in Lyme Regis offering 1:1 mental health support

Email: tomasz.m@theharmonycentre.org.uk

At Home Library Service (Royal Voluntary Service)

Email: ian.rumble@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Axminster & Lyme Cancer Support

Offers support to anyone diagnosed with cancer as well as their families and those bereaved by cancer

Email: kate@axminsterandlymecancersupport.co.uk

Dorset Council Carers Case Worker

Completes carer assessments for Dorset Council. First point of call for carers

Email: sheila.biddlecombe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

Email: KateG@bridport-cab.org.uk

Key focus is cost of living support.

Clarity

Clarity, commissioned by Dorset Council, is about providing ongoing support to people who are seeking help with any kind of addiction

Email: andy.r.edney@gmail.com

Contented Dementia Trust

Support for people with dementia and their families/carers

Email: kate@contenteddementiatrust.org

Dorset Mind

Runs programmes in schools to support young people aged 10-18 who show signs of mental health struggles

Email: carol-ann.wheeler@dorsetmind.uk

Help & Care

Offers Health & Wellbeing coaching – appropriate for anyone 18+ with low to moderate mental health needs.

Email: kulbir.bhandal@helpandcare.org.uk

Lyme Regis Development Trust

Offers a range of support for local community, including the Welcome Cafe.

Email: ceo@lrdt.co.uk

Parkinsons Support Group

Working with the National charity Parkinsons UK

Email: lymepdhelp@gmail.com

Skills & Learning (Adult Education)

Email: richard.walker@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Social Prescribing

Email: will.slocombemorency@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

sylvie.lord@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

STARS - Sexual trauma & recovery service

Service operates out of Dorchester and Poole, self referral and agency referral, independent support where needed

Email: joanna.keats@starsdorset.org

Waffle Lyme

ruth@waffle.org.uk

The Waffle ethos is all about social health. A variety of groups are run in the building. Some are mainly social and others more about support. All advertised on their extensive notice board inside the cafe

Charmouth Youth Club

Email: soatham@hotmail.co.uk

Slow Carb Support Groups & Low Carb Lyme

Email: suebeckers10@gmail.com

Volunteer Centre Dorset

Help with DBS checks, Training for Volunteers

Email: m.rayner@volunteeringdorset.org.uk

PROGRAMME for August 2026 -October 2026.

Date	Event	Grace
Aug 1-8	Assist with car parking in St Andrews Field - Carnival Week	
Aug 6	Business meeting	PF
Aug 8	Assist with Carnival Procession Stewarding	
Aug 16	Red Arrows - Red Arrows Stewarding	
Sept 03	Council Meeting	
Sept 10	Business Meeting	RC
Sept 15	Activity Meeting at LR Bowls Club (with Fish 'n' Chips)	
Sept 24	Speaker meeting TBA	JMcC
Oct 1	Council Meeting	
Oct 3	DISTRICT FORUM - Langport 0930 for 10am	
Oct 8	Business Meeting	SW
Oct 15	Speaker Meeting TBA	PF

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nov 7	Marshalling and Collecting at Fireworks
Nov 8	Remembrance Day parade
Nov 21	Assist with Christmas Lights Switch on
Dec 22/23	Collecting in LR and Carols Round the Christmas Tree.
Dec 24	Collecting in Charmouth

MARY ANNING - HER LIFE AND FOSSILS

A talk by Nigel Clarke

Nigel kindly gave a talk to the Club on 23rd July on one of his favourite topics - palaeontology. Unfortunately I had to miss the evening but I am assured it went well. For those interested in follow-up may I refer you to Nigel's excellently rated book on the subject - "Mary Anning 1799 1847 A Life on the Rocks" by Nigel Clarke 2011.

John McCallum

ROTARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2026

The **Rotary Achievement Award** is a special award presented every year to the member of year six in Saint Michael's Primary School who, in the eyes of the school, has made the most consistent effort in their work and contribution to Saint Michaels over time. The award was presented by Chris Buckingham and John Enticott on July 22nd at the end of term Leavers and Thanksgiving event, We congratulate **Ronnie Cove** as the recipient of the 2026 award.

CATARACT OPERATIONS UPDATE

Regular readers will recall the support the Club has given to the Dnipro Novyi Rotary Club in Ukraine, coordinated by the Rotary Club of Brit Valley and with support of District 1200. We have recently received confirmation that the latest contribution of funds sent to Ukraine has been enough to fund **20 cataract operations**. In addition, one of the patients whose sight was significantly improved by the operation had a narrow escape in this war torn country, described as follows: ***"Just yesterday, the home of one of our patients—who had her cataract surgery only three days earlier—was struck during a drone attack. Naturally, she is devastated that her apartment has been destroyed. At the same time, she is deeply grateful to be alive. As she was returning home, she was able to see smoke near her building and hear the terrifying sounds of explosions. Because she could now see clearly again, she decided not to enter the building and waited for the attack to end. Moments later, she witnessed a drone strike her home. In this case, the gift of restored sight quite possibly saved her life.***

John McCallum