

Centre Open Day

for local residents

10th May

Help needed from Friends

Please reserve some time

Total number of visitors to the Centre for 2009

as of 14/03/2009

5492

plus schools 453

Grand total: 5945

Newsletter of The Friends of Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre
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Forthcoming Events for your Diary

NB. All lectures will take place at the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre.
Tea will be available from 3.30 pm. Lectures start at 4.00 pm.

AGM

Thursday March 26th - 4pm in the Centre

Followed by Tea & Cakes.

Public Meeting

Wednesday 6th May Charmouth Primary School 7.30pm
Scientists from Bournemouth University will show their findings of the laser survey that they have carried out checking the Charmouth coastal erosion. *All welcome.*

BBQ's

Thursday June 4th 6 pm until dusk.

On the grass to the West of the Centre .
BBQ, salads, bread provided.
BYO drink, food, cutlery, chairs etc.
All Friends and Guests welcome.

Thursday August 27th 6 pm until dusk.

Lectures

Thursday October 15th 2009 TBA

Thursday November 26th 2009 TBA

Chris Horton Chairman of the Friends writes:

The Annual Lunch was well supported and very enjoyable with excellent food and company. We were able to welcome our new Warden on his first day and say farewell and thank you to Sam as he has now taken up his new post. We were also able to welcome one of the original members though very few knew him – Rex Vick was Clerk to the Council at the time when the Centre was being created and worked with people like Alf Twelftree and Stan Sivers to set it up.

Some members will know that a team of scientists from Bournemouth have been carrying out surveys of the cliffs. They have, over a period of time, made observations using laser technology to precisely record the position of rocks, mud flows etc. They are now ready to show us their results and discuss their findings with us. Initially we thought of having the visit as one of our winter lectures but the topic should be of interest to many others so a Public Meeting has been arranged. Chris Vincent, the Headteacher of Charmouth School, offered the use of the School so there will be a meeting there at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th. May

Another date for the diary is Sunday 10th. May. The committee is concerned that more volunteers are needed from the local area as it is becoming increasingly difficult to organise the desk rota. It was, therefore, decided to have an Open Day for local people and families when activities would be provided free of charge. By then the two Summer Wardens will be here but help from Friends will be absolutely essential to ensure adequate support and supervision. The arrangements for the day are being planned but as the tide is low near the middle of the day there will be a special fossil hunting walk separate from the scheduled public walk. There will be other activities provided as well. Nearer the event a list will be put up in the Centre for offers of help to be recorded – please help if you can.

The next event, on Thursday 26th. March, is a very important one – our Annual General Meeting. This is the occasion when members are able to suggest changes to improve the way we operate and also to elect a new Committee. The Constitution requires that each year a number of members to stand down though they are eligible for re-election. You will find details and the Agenda included with your Newsletter. It is also important that new people join the Committee so please consider whether you could take part – there are only five meetings a year so it is not a big



Fifteenth Annual General Meeting

Date:- 26th March 2009

Time:- 4 pm

Place:- Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2008 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman’s report
5. Treasurer’s report
6. Committee reports
 - i) Social Secretary
 - ii) Newsletter Editor
 - iii) Maintenance
7. Wardens report
8. Chairman of Trustees
9. Any other business
10. Election of Committee

Members not due for election:	Existing Members for re-election:
Kay Churchman	Chris Horton
Pat Davy	Jean Kesterton
Pat Stapleton	
John Berridge	
Ian Keith	To be elected:
Jackie Martin	Geoffrey Sell
Clive Hunt	Don Steward

-----Please cut along this line-----
To: Kay Churchman, Wilderswil, Meadow Way, Charmouth. Telephone 560 980

I nominate the following members with their explicit agreement
.....
.....
For election a) to the committee b) to the post of:
(Please delete (a) or (b) as appropriate)
Signed: Tel. No:

- Arrange volunteer open day once / twice a year
- Link with other local voluntary organisations

5. Junior Wardens / Environment Club

- Investigating whether there is a demand for this activity amongst the local community especially children's groups
- Sessions to run throughout the year with a wide focus just not on fossils but other environmental issues
- Research funding available for activities such as recycling workshops, sustainability issues
- Working as a team with the Wardens in regard to organisation and activities

6. Website Manager

- Data entry e.g. events programme, advertising
- Further development e.g. online shop

7. Super Volunteers

- Assisting the Warden team on the running of the Centre during opening hours
- Assisting on walks / events

time commitment!

Please make a note of the date and attend the meeting.

Chairman of Trustees

We have had a steady start to 2009 and hopefully the economic climate will mean that people will holiday in the South –West, instead of going abroad, and that the Centre will benefit this year with a large number of visitors.

There has been a substantial change in our staff at the Centre. I would like to thank Meirel for coping by herself for the last 2 months, and she must be very relieved that we shall be up to a full complement of staff by the middle of this month.

A very warm welcome to Phil Davidson, the new permanent Warden, to Alison Ferris and Nikki Hills our two seasonal Wardens, and to Jacky Martin who has taken over as our Administrator. I hope they all enjoy their time with us and I am certain that Meirel has a very good team to support her in all the activities of the Centre.

Easter is not far away when the Centre will be fully open for the season. The new Donation Box, financed by The Fine Family Foundation, should be up and running by then, hopefully it will attract plenty of donations.

Thank you Clive Hunt and his work party for all the hours put in over the winter on maintenance, and thank you in advance to all the Volunteers who will be helping during the coming season, we couldn't cope without all of you.

Richard Salisbury

Meirel Whaites—Senior Warden

Another year...another season.....Sometimes I feel like a hula hoop...I'll be around forever ha ha.

Well it's all change for the 2009 season, a whole new compliment of staff (apart from me) to welcome to the Centre, with Phil Davidson on board as our new Assistant Warden and Nicola Hills and Alison Ferris joining us in the next week or two as our Seasonal Wardens. I'm sure you will all make them feel very welcome as you always do at the Centre and by the way.... Phil makes a mean cuppa tea, so he's off to a good start and he's full of ideas for the Centre...a fresh pair of eyes and all that, which is great!

Centre news wise, our new donations box is coming along nicely

and we have now secured funding from the Jurassic Coast Trust for our new digital microscope which should be in place hopefully by Easter.

Gill Fifield (one our Friends) is coordinating a new Fossil Club which will be run from the Centre. All you need to have is an interest in fossils and a desire to learn more. No specialist knowledge is needed to join and there is no age limit, that is to say it doesn't matter what age you are, if we have enough interest for both a kids and adults club we will run both. If you are interested at all then please contact Gill Fifield on (01308) 456081 or fill in a form down at the Centre and I can pass your details on. We are also planning a Village open day at the Centre so that the whole community can come and visit and see what we do here, which will include a free fossil hunting walk for Charmouth residents and lots of activities to keep the younger children entertained too. We think it is important for the village community to come and see what we do and who knows, it may encourage a few more new Friends to swell our numbers! We have decided on Sunday 10th May for this event so hopefully it will be a busy day for the Centre.

On a final note, since Sam left in January and I had been on my lonesome until Phil arrived I would especially like to thank those Friends who stepped in and helped me out on school groups and events, and as always during the winter months, a huge thank you to the Working Party for their precision plumbing in the creation of a revamped toilet area (it's looking very swish in there these days!) and the rest of those jobs that they have carried out. They are definitely worth their weight in the gallons of tea, coffee and tonnage of chocolate biscuits they get through (Only joking...and for their significant others who may be reading this....half fat rich tea biscuits honest! Ha ha)

Here's to the 2009 season and it will be great to see all the faces again both Friends and visitors!

Phil Davidson - Geology Warden

Well, I have to say I have had a fantastic time settling in at the Heritage Centre. Meirel has been great looking after me and showing me the ropes. I am slowly getting to get to grips with everything and I would like to thank everyone I have met so far for the very warm welcome.

I guess I should tell you all a little about myself. I was born in St. Albans and have been collecting fossils ever since I could walk. The older I became the more I was fascinated by ancient creatures and I decided to

try and live the dream and to study Palaeobiology and Evolution at the University of Portsmouth. I graduated in 2007 and since then I have been volunteering at various museums in London and St. Albans. Before I moved down to Dorset I worked as the palaeontology enquiries officer at the Natural History Museum in London and decided to swap the office for the lovely view of the beach!

I was left to hold the fortress without Meirel over the weekend and survived thanks to the Friends who helped out. I am finding my feet and meeting lots of new faces, so you will have to excuse me if I forget the odd name here and there. I am looking forward to the season ahead and to meeting the new Seasonal Wardens. Hopefully I will be able to take some of the workload off Meirel and add something new to the centre. My first toy dinosaur, Norman the stegosaurus, has joined me on my new desk and we are both enjoying the view and are ready for the busy summer ahead.

Meirel's Wish List.....again!

Volunteer roles needed at the Centre

1. Press and Publicity Officer

- Promotion materials
- TIC and holiday mail shots
- Hotels
- Website
- Radio and press

2. Legislation

- Update of Staff and Centre handbook in regard to current legislation including Health and Safety, Employers responsibilities and Disability policy

3. Funding Researcher

- Researching new sources of appropriate funding for the Warden team to compile bids on the internet and through publications
- Sponsorship
- Dorset County Council e.g. Art initiatives
- External bodies e.g. Natural England

4. Volunteer Recruitment

- Active recruitment of new volunteers