



Welcome to the Winter Edition of the West Parley Parish Newsletter.

The village has been looking very festive thanks to our volunteers and our local businesses. We also appreciate the efforts of residents in keeping the areas outside their homes in good order by ensuring the Summer's growth of vegetation is trimmed or is not obstructing paths.

2016 was a momentous year for many reasons with so much to celebrate here in West Parley. Earlier this year we entered two major Dorset competitions for the first time, achieving great success in both!



Volunteers with our Prize Awards and a £100 cheque

The judges of the Best Kept Village category noted the effort made by the large number of village volunteers who maintain the road verges and public parks, make and maintain roadside flower planters and litter pick in all weathers. Also noted were the efforts of the many residents who mow the verges outside their houses, the smartness of business premises and the All Saints Churchyard. As a result of this West Parley was awarded second prize!



Parley Tinsel Trees

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The Environmental Champion Award was made following five years of winter work to clear dense invasive holly, birch and hazel from the 17 acre Parley Wood to restore the natural oak woodland setting. Cut wood has been chipped and used to improve pathways round the Wood and extensive boardwalks have been built using pre-used timber to create all weather access to encourage more residents and visitors to visit the Wood. West Parley won this award outright.



West Parley Volunteers... Literally Pathfinders!

This is a great testimony to the sterling work of the volunteers from West Parley Residents Association who keep our verges in check, clear our paths of litter and undertake bigger projects such as the clearance of Parley Wood. Not forgetting the efforts of every West Parley resident who also take pride in their environment by tending to areas outside residential properties. **Well Done ALL!**

Also, during this year, we have erected 2 smart new signs celebrating the nature, geography and heritage of the village: one outside Parley First School and one as you enter Parley Woods from the Parish Council car park. A big thank you to Kenny from Kaptivate, who collected and then formatted all the information and images over 18 months in order to put these designs together.

We have welcomed two new Councillors during the latter part of 2016 Councillor Malcolm Plascott re-joins the council after a brief absence. He will be keeping our notice boards up to date and we have recently welcomed Philip Bamborough.

We still have two vacancies...



Kenny Pearce & John Cullen Looking for the hidden 'Pears' in our new signs?



WEST PARLEY NEEDS YOU
Councillors wanted

If you feel that you have skills that would be useful to the council please contact:
Linda Leeding at enquiries@westparley-pc.gov.uk

In November the council was approached by the Girl Guiding Division Commissioner, Debbie Thorpe.

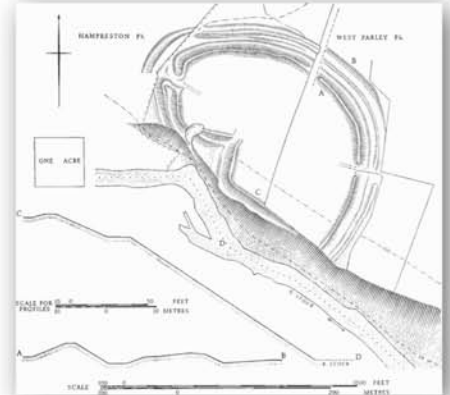
The Guides are working in collaboration with the Heritage lottery fund and Bournemouth University to uncover some of the mysteries of the ancient hill fort at Dudsbury.

More news!
Winter 2017

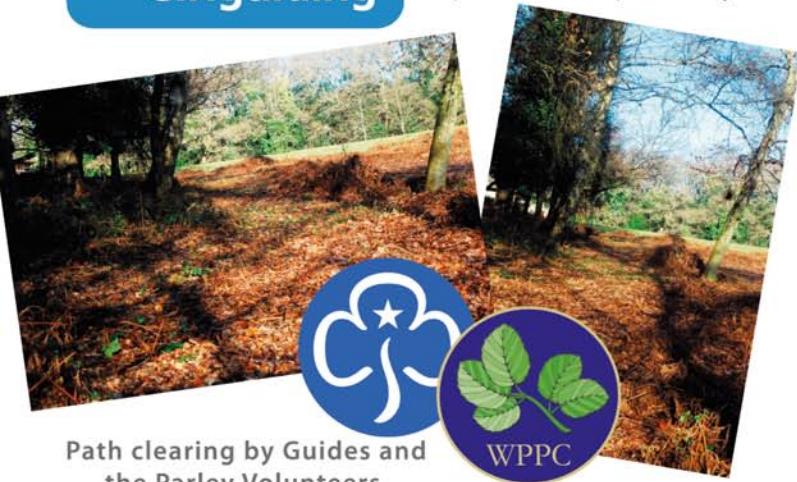
WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding

To assist the guides the Parley Volunteer group have cleared approximately 250 metres of bracken, brambles and rhododendron as the guides hope to construct a permissive pathway along the southern edge of the fort's ramparts. This will reveal some of the commanding views from

Christchurch to Wimborne that made this such a strategic site for a fort. A new footpath is to be created in order to help local walkers take in these views and a team from Bournemouth University is to



Old Fort relief map



Path clearing by Guides and the Parley Volunteers



undertake a geophysical ground survey to determine some of the archaeology under the subsoil. Ultimately a heritage trail will explain the role played by the fort as walkers traverse the footpath. There is little photographic evidence of the campsite before 1931 so **if any local residents have any old photographs** please contact the Girlguiding Division Commissioner Debbie Thorpe at debbiethorpe@hotmail.co.uk

You may remember that the council has been planning to erect some outdoor cardio-vascular/fitness apparatus on the Recreation Ground. We can now announce that we have been successful in securing a bid from Tesco to assist with the funding of this project. How successful will depend on **YOU!** All our local



Outdoor fitness kit

Tescos will be holding a 'vote for your favourite' election in their stores during the month of January. There will be 2 projects in competition with us. Every time you shop at a Tesco store you will be able to drop in a counter to support our cause.

Councillor Kay Bundy has been hard at work, this year, putting together a parish guide for West Parley for the first time in our history. This will provide an essential source of information especially for new residents to the area. It should be ready for publication early in 2017. Also, early in January, work will commence to repair Parley Sports Club after the fire that damaged parts of the building in August last year. The works are expected to be



New Guidebook for Parley

complete by the Spring. **Please Note:** Although the Council does not manage the Sports Club, it is the landlord and has legal responsibility to ensure the Covenants under which the land was gifted to the Council are complied with, and the terms of it's Lease fulfilled. It should operate as a members club, and membership is open to all ratepayers of West Parley.

Weekly Events

Coffee Morning, Weds 10am - 12 noon at the Parley Sports Club. Everyone very welcome.
Parley Health Walks, Weds 10am - 12 noon at the Parley Sports Club, coffee & biscuits after!
Parley Rotary, Thurs 7pm at the Parley Sports Club.
St John Ambulance Cadets and Badgers, Tues 7pm - 8.30pm at Longham Church.



For more information please visit the Parish Website at:
www.westparley-pc.gov.uk

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Proudly Serving our Historic Village



Kingfishers seen in Parley Gardens