

**NATIONAL TRUST**  
**SOUTH DORSET ASSOCIATION**

**30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**

**NEWSLETTER**  
**&**  
**SUMMER PROGRAMME 2024**

A voluntary association of members and volunteers formed in 1994 to promote and prosper the work of the National Trust

## HOW TO BOOK AN EVENT

Cut out the appropriate booking form and complete both sides, including the full name(s) of all attending and a telephone number, together with an emergency contact.

Send the booking form to the Event Organiser enclosing **a separate cheque for each event and an SAE. Alternatively**, instead of sending an SAE please provide your e-mail address for e-mailed confirmation. Cheques should be payable to **NT South Dorset Association** and will be banked a week before each event in this Newsletter.

## Other booking information

### Cancellations

No charge will be made for cancellations prior to the banking of cheques. Cancelled cheques will be shredded unless a SAE is provided for their return. Once cheques have been banked, refunds can only be made if the place can be filled from a waiting-list. A charge of £2 will be made to cover administrative costs.

### Late Availability

Popular events sell out very quickly, so you are advised to book as early as possible. Late places are sometimes available up to the day of the event.

### Last Minute Problems

If a last-minute emergency occurs, please contact the Organiser.

### Insurance

**Please note that the insurance policies of the National Trust have been up-dated to cover “supporter group members who are aged 10 to 90 years (up to 90<sup>th</sup> birthday)”. Other people participate in Association activities at their own risk.**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

# Summer Programme 2024

## View from the Chair



During the wet winter we have just had the monthly talks and the Christmas lunch were cheery, heart-warming events as well as raising funds for the National Trust, so “Thank You” to all who attended them and thanks to all on the Committee who organised them. Severe weather had its impact: having had to cancel the September walk at Studland due to extreme heat, the November talk on Fortified Dorset was cancelled due to severe wind and rain – and the rain is coming down as I write this! Fingers crossed for a lovely spring and summer for NTSDA’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

We do hold some of our talks in Dorchester but I am conscious that the majority are held in Weymouth, for various reasons. The Committee has discussed this, and the spread of our members across the South Dorset area, and we would like to know if we have got the balance right or not; are we perhaps not catering sufficiently for members outside the Weymouth area? Do please let me know if you think this is the case – my contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

I would like to thank everyone on the Committee for their hard work since the last newsletter went out (including a big “Thank You” to Jennie for producing the newsletters!). Without this work NTSDA could not function and we do need more Committee members to help with this. If you enjoy the monthly meetings, going on trips and other social events, please consider joining the Committee. It meets four times a year and there is also a sub-committee (also four meetings a year) which puts together the events programme. If you would be interested, please contact me. In particular we are looking for someone to take the minutes at the meetings.

We are also in need of help with serving tea / coffee at the monthly talks. We have already had one refreshment-free talk recently because of a lack of volunteers, and it would be a shame for that to become a regular absence. If you could help at one or more of the talks listed in this newsletter, or would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Wrench

And lastly, I would like to promote the invitation from the Purbeck Association of the National Trust (PANT) to all NTSDA members, to go to their talks, outings and short breaks, at the PANT member admission price. The programme for these is on their website: [www.purbecknt.org.uk](http://www.purbecknt.org.uk) and includes a weekend break to Tyntesfield and Bath Christmas Market."

**Martin Stephen**

## Meet the Committee

 <p><b>Chair</b> Martin Stephen</p>	<p><b>Vacancy</b>  Minutes Secretary</p>	 <p><b>Secretary &amp; Membership Secretary</b> Diane Ramsay-Arthur</p>
 <p><b>Treasurer</b> John Bellis</p>	 <p><b>Publicity</b> Lesley Cooper</p>	 <p><b>Editor</b> Jennie Harrison</p>
 <p><b>Committee</b> Elizabeth Wrench</p>	 <p><b>Committee</b> Geoffrey Wrench</p>	 <p><b>Committee</b> Allan Cooper</p>
 <p><b>Committee</b> Yoka Ward</p>		 <p><b>Committee</b> David Charman</p>

Also Members of the Sub Committee: Martin, Diane, Lesley, Jennie, Elizabeth, Geoffrey, Yoka and Allan

## **30 Years of the NTSDA**

In 1969 the Dorset Centre was established which covered the whole of Dorset. As membership increased, six new associations were set up covering Christchurch, Bournemouth, Blackmore Vale, Golden Cap, East Dorset and Purbeck. Later it was proposed to set up another association and the South Dorset Association was founded.

The inaugural meeting was held at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1994 at 7.30pm.

Over 600 members had joined the Association and at that first meeting Jim Dick was elected to be the first Chairman of the Association.

The Association covers from Evershot in the north-west, Blandford Forum in the north east, Ringstead Bay in the south east and West Bexington in the south west. This includes Portland, and the area around Dorchester and Weymouth.

Their first programme consisted of a Christmas Party, a Post Christmas Lunch, a tour of the Dorset Records Office and a six day tour to the South of Wales organised by Rosemay Hunter.

Subscription was £3 a year or £5 for a family and a charge of £1 for each lecture which included coffee.

Over the past 30 years the NTSDA has organised hundreds of lectures, as well as holidays, day visits to historic buildings and sites, guided walks and many varied social events. This is all down to the dedication and hard work of all the Committee members who organise this.

The aim of the Association is still the same today, to support the National Trust as well as providing an entertaining and informative programme for their members to enjoy. To date NTSDA has raised £96,301 for the National Trust over the last thirty years.

We need help to keep the South Dorset Association going. If you enjoy the monthly meetings, going on trips and other social events that are arranged then please consider joining our Committee or offering to help with teas and coffees, distributing the Newsletters, and pinning up notices about forthcoming talks.

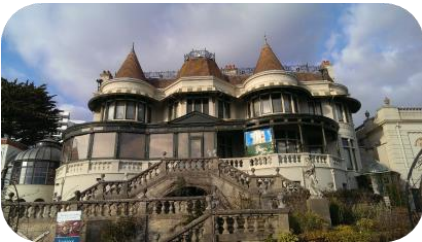
## **Committee News: Minutes Secretary**

Anne Tracey (Membership Secretary) has decided to stand down and Diane Ramsay-Arthur has offered to take her place, relinquishing her role as Minutes Secretary.

We are therefore looking for someone to take the Minutes at our Committee Meetings, Sub-Committee meetings and AGM. The Committee meets four times a year. The Sub-Committee plans the programme for the next six months and meets each January and September, with a follow-up meeting about two weeks later. The AGM is in November.

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### **Some of the places we have visited in recent years:**



**Russell Cotes Museum**



**Tyntesfield**



**Saltram House**



**Gilbert White's House**



**Breamore House & Museum**



**Broadlands House**

## Event No. 6

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 Hardwick Hall & Anniversary Cake!



Those of you who saw our DVD presentation of Waddesdon Manor some time ago will remember how interesting and informative it was. We are going to repeat this event, with a DVD of Hardwick.

Built between 1590 – 1597 for Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury (known as Bess of Hardwick), the architectural masterpiece is located on top of a hill between Chesterfield and Mansfield, overlooking the Derbyshire countryside. It was owned by her descendants until the mid-20<sup>th</sup>C.

Bess was the richest woman in England after Queen Elizabeth I, and her house was built to reflect both her wealth and power. On display within the house are significant collections of fine 16<sup>th</sup>C and 17<sup>th</sup>C tapestry and much of the present furniture and other contents are listed in an inventory dating from 1601. Of particular importance are the Sea Dog Table dating from around 1600, and the Eglantine Table which has an inlaid top of interest to musical historians. Architectural historian Dan Cruickshank once selected Hardwick as one of his five choices for Britain's Best Buildings.

The presentation will take about an hour and afterwards we will enjoy home-made cakes as a treat to celebrate the Association's 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

**Venue:** St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW  
(parking is available at the rear of the Church)  
Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Cost:** NTSDA members: £3.00                      Non-NTSDA members: £4.00

**Organisers:** Geoffrey & Elizabeth Wrench

## Event No. 7

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**“Sticks and Stones” – The Killing of William Allen, 1850**

**Talk by Philip Browne**



Landowner John Farquharson



Judge Thomas Talfourd

A violent disturbance over the Corn Laws, on a wet February day in 1850 in Dorchester, resulted in the killing of a 19-year-old youth by an irate farmer. The subsequent manslaughter trial at Dorchester Assizes at Shire Hall revealed a deep split in Dorset society and led to a verdict that many saw as a miscarriage of justice.

Philip Browne, a retired education advisor and local history author, explains what provoked such strong feelings, pitting Dorset landowners against the free traders and the poor of Dorchester. His account of the trial reminds us of a long-forgotten dramatic event.

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(parking is available at the rear of the Church)  
Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Cost:** NTSDA members: £3.00 Non-NTSDA members: £4.00

**Organiser:** Martin Stephen



## Event No. 8

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### **“Pomp, Politics & Power: The Peculiar Life of ‘Squire’ Drax” Talk by Luke Moulard**



J.S.W.S. Erle-Drax

Picture courtesy of Sherborne Museum

J.S.W.S. Erle-Drax (1800-1887) was arguably one of the most controversial figures of 19<sup>th</sup> century Dorset. He was elected MP for Wareham on three occasions between 1840 and 1880 but is best remembered for his bullish and eccentric manner. Legends have accreted around him to such an extent that he has assumed an almost folkloric status. This talk seeks to assess whether Drax was an anachronism or merely a product of his time.

Luke is a freelance genealogist and research consultant based near Sherborne. He founded Kith and Kin Research in 2010 and has undertaken consultancy work for a range of clients. Luke is also Chair of the Board of Trustees of Sherborne Museum.

**Venue:** St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW  
(parking is available at the rear of the Church)  
Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre.

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Cost:** NTSDA Members: £3.00                      Non-NTSDA Members: £4.00

**Organiser:** Allan Cooper

## Event No. 9

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cream Tea at Potter's Café Bistro



To celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trust South Dorset Association we will again visit Potter's Café in Dorchester for a Cream Tea comprising two locally-made fruit scones, jam and clotted cream with either Breakfast tea or filter coffee. Gluten-free scones will be available if notice is given in advance on the booking form.

Potter's Café Bistro is a delightful venue, located in Durngate Street, Dorchester close to Acland Road Car Park and we are assured of a delicious and generous tea with friendly staff. We will have the use of the downstairs area (although please note that the toilets are located on the first floor via stairs). A map showing the exact location of Potter's Café Bistro will be provided with booking confirmations, if required (please indicate).

The cost includes gratuities and a small donation to National Trust.

#### **Booking essential, by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

*If anyone has special dietary requests, please put them on your booking form.*

**Venue:** Potter's Café Bistro  
19 Durngate St, Dorchester DT1 1JP

**Time:** 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

**Cost:** Members: £10.50      Non-NTSDA members: £11.00

**Organisers:** Geoffrey & Elizabeth Wrench

## Event No. 10

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**

### **“Dusting & Digging: The Revelations of a Wages Ledger, 1796-1829”**

**Talk by Dorset History Centre Volunteer, Valerie Brenton**



An un-indexed wages ledger for the Kingston Lacy Bankes estate in East Dorset presents a snapshot of the employment of a rural workforce. Day rates and hours allow trends before and after the Napoleonic Wars to be clearly identified for named and un-named workers.

The payment of board wages helps identify not just the role, but the name of trusted domestic staff. Fascinating case studies are used to show young women changing occupation from an outdoor day labourer to domestic staff and widowed women continuing to ply their husband's trade.

Valerie is a volunteer at the Dorset History Centre.

**Venue:** St Aldhelm's Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW  
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Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre.

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Cost:** NTSDA Members: £3.00                      Non-NTSDA Members: £4.00

**Organisers:** Geoffrey & Elizabeth Wrench

## Event No. 11

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 "National Trust Coast & Countryside" Talk by John Hallett



The coast and countryside have always featured very prominently in the work of the National Trust and it now owns, throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, around 750,000 acres of land as well as 950 miles of coastline.

The challenge of climate change may be large but so is the opportunity for the Trust to make a significant contribution. Carbon in the wetlands cared for by the Trust can be locked up and more space for wildlife to thrive can be created. To do this the Trust will plant millions of trees while continuing to champion renewable energy and slash carbon emissions. From their gardens to their coastal cliffs the Trust will change how they do things.

John has been a room guide at Kingston Lacy for many years. His talk will cover the whole country and seek to show what has been achieved and how the Trust is facing up to current and future challenges.

Venue:                Brownsword Hall, Pummery Square, Poundbury DT1 3GW  
                             (free parking is available in the vicinity of the hall)  
                             Bus No.6 from Dorchester and bus No. 10 from Weymouth  
                             and Dorchester both stop close to the hall

Time:                2.30 pm

Cost:                NTSDA Members: £3.00                Non-NTSDA members: £4.00

Organisers:        Geoffrey & Elizabeth Wrench

## Event No. 12

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 “Fortified Dorset – Castles and Hillforts” Talk by Chris Stevens



In Dorset, there are fascinating stories of bygone times to be discovered everywhere! Have you ever wondered how certain places became ruins or who lived in the grand castle on top of the hill?

Dorset is particularly rich in hillforts which appeared from the late Bronze Age and reached their peak in the middle Iron Age and the sites at Badbury Rings, Hambledon Hill, Hod Hill and Maiden Castle are amongst the most famous. This will be a talk on the history and stories of lost and existing fortifications in Dorset. Chris Stevens retired in 2013 and since then he has volunteered at the National Trust property Montacute House.

This talk was postponed from November last year, due to bad weather.

**Venue:** St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW  
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Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Cost:** NTSDA Members: £3.00                      Non-NTSDA Members: £4.00

**Organiser:** Allan Cooper

## Event No. 13

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 “Upwey: Down Memory Lane” Talk by Sue Virgin



Stottingway Street c.1920 looking west

Upwey was an almost self-sufficient community 70 and more years ago. This presentation recalls the shops and businesses and what has happened since; using pictures and memories from people who lived there.

Born and bred in Upwey, Sue Virgin's family farmed in the village for almost 100 years from 1918. Her interest in family history developed into village history following chats with older residents.

**Venue:** St Aldhelm's Church Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW  
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Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Cost:** NTSDA Members: £3.00                      Non-NTSDA Members: £4.00

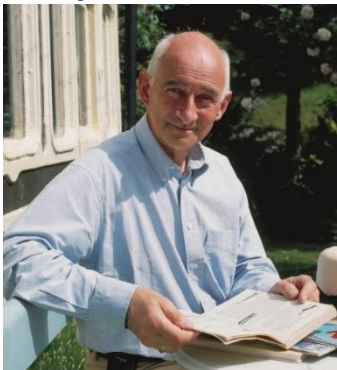
**Organiser:** Lesley Cooper

## Event No. 14

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

### **“Speed to the West: The West Country through Railway Posters”**

**Talk by Antiques Expert & Lecturer, Paul Atterbury**



Nothing better captures the golden age of railway travel than the great posters of that era. Colourful, evocative and alluring these images, often by famous artists, emphasised concepts of comfort, luxury and speed at a time when train travel was universal.

The routes from London to the West Country, and the expresses that ran on them, were among the most famous in the country. This talk brings those journeys to life via the posters produced by the Great Western and Southern Railways to promote travel on their competitive routes.

Over the last forty years Paul has given over 2000 lectures, to societies, groups, universities, museums, galleries and other institutions all over Britain, and in the Netherlands, Belgium, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, where he has completed six lecture tours.

**Venue:** St Aldhelm's Centre, Spa Road, Weymouth DT3 5EW  
(parking is available at the rear of the church)  
Bus service No.10 from Dorchester stops at the Spa Hotel in Weymouth – a short walk from St Aldhelm's Church Centre

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Cost:** NTSDA Members: £3.00                      Non-NTSDA Members: £4.00

**Organisers:** Geoffrey & Elizabeth Wrench



## Busy beavers in Purbeck! – NT Up-date

Yes, that is exactly what we have been since we discovered that beavers have arrived at Little Sea. We only found out about them in January when we saw evidence around the lake of felled and gnawed trees. Our trail cameras have since established that there are two – it has been tricky to get any clear footage because beavers are nocturnal.

Since the news broke, Gen Crisford, Project Officer for Wetlands, has led the investigations, and is looking at what we need to do to ensure their well-being. You might remember that Gen was leading on the project to release beavers into the wild in Purbeck – but we were waiting for a licence for an unenclosed release from Defra.

Although we know this site is highly suitable for beavers, we did not introduce them ourselves. They are already colonising waterways across Dorset so they could have got there by natural dispersal, or it could have been an unauthorised release.

So what happens now? Beavers are a native species, so do not have to be removed from Little Sea. We are working with partner organisations and stakeholders on the management of the site now that beavers are present. We are also still keen to gain a licence for a 'wild' release, to ensure a viable breeding population of beavers on Little Sea.

Many species benefit from the habitats that beavers create and there is also evidence that they can play a role in helping manage flood risk, help with drought resilience and improve water quality.

### Images:

- *Beaver by Terry Bagley (not photographed at Little Sea)*
- *Beaver evidence (felled birch) by Gen Crisford.*



**PLEASE ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR  
CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS**

There may be times when we need to contact you and e-mail is by far the best means of doing this.

To provide us with your current e-mail address please e-mail NTSDA Membership Secretary, Diane Ramsay-Arthur on: [diane.ntsda@gmail.com](mailto:diane.ntsda@gmail.com)

**A reminder that our membership  
subscriptions run from  
1<sup>st</sup> September.**

**An application form can be found  
on pages 23-24 or set up a  
Standing Order.**



## QUIZ

1. Corfe Castle is believed to be the inspiration for which fictional castle in much loved children's book?
2. What is a Dorset Naga?
3. The grave of the writer Mary Shelly is found in which Dorset town?
4. A 'yaffle' is a Dorset dialect word for which bird?
5. Which company makes Dorset Knobs?
6. Where was the first Scout camp held?
7. What year did Bournemouth and Christchurch become part of Dorset?
8. Casterbridge, Port Bredy, Knollsea and Budmouth are Thomas Hardy's names for which Dorset towns?
9. "She sells seashells by the seashore" tongue twister is thought to be inspired by whom?
10. It is considered very unlucky to mention which creature on the Isle of Portland?

*Answers on page 21*

## **DORSET APPLE CAKE**

225g butter (softened), plus extra for greasing  
450g Bramley apples  
Finely grated zest & juice of 1 lemon  
225g caster sugar, plus extra for dredging  
3 large eggs  
225g self-raising flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
25g ground almonds  
1 tbs demerara sugar

Preparation time: 25 mins  
Baking time: approx. 1 hour  
Serves 8

Preheat the oven to 180°C / fan 160°C / Gas 4. Line a 23-24cms springform cake tin with baking paper. Peel, core and cut the apples into 1cm pieces and toss with the lemon juice.

Cream together the butter, caster sugar and lemon zest in a bowl until pale and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, adding a little flour with each addition to keep the mixture smooth.

Sift the remaining flour and the baking powder into the bowl and fold in with the ground almonds. Drain the apple pieces well, then stir into the mixture.

Spoon into the prepared cake tin, lightly level the top and sprinkle with the demerara sugar. Bake in the oven for 1 hour or until well-risen, brown and a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. If the cake starts to look a little too brown, cover with a sheet of baking paper after about 45 mins.

Leave to cool in the tin for 10 mins. Remove the cake from the tin and place on a serving plate. Dredge heavily with the extra caster sugar.

## ***Have You Visited These National Trust Properties?***



©

Exterior of Loughwood Meeting House, Devon ©National Trust Images/John Miller

### **Loughwood Meeting House, Dalwood, Axminster, Devon, EX13 7DU**

This is an atmospheric 17<sup>th</sup> Century thatched Baptist meeting house and is one of the earliest surviving Baptist churches in the country with the first record of the chapel in 1653. It was founded in secret during a time of great persecution towards non-conformists. Attending services was risky and guards were often posted outside to warn of approaching soldiers.

There is a small 3 space car park with gravel surface. Level access. Uneven flooring in some parts. No toilets. Please check website / National Trust handbook for opening days/times details before visiting.

[loughwood@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:loughwood@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Tel: 01752 346585

[nationaltrust.org.uk/loughwood-meeting-house](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/loughwood-meeting-house)



Exterior view of Loughwood Meeting House, Devon ©Catherine Congreve



Autumn leaves at Shute Barton, Devon ©National Trust Images/Rob Skinner

## **Shute Barton**

### **Shute, near Axminster, Devon, EX13 7PT**

Shute Barton is a medieval house with a later Tudor gatehouse and battlement turrets set in the rolling Devon countryside. It has a great kitchen containing what is believed to be the largest fireplace in England as well as many other original features including panelling, spiral staircases and medieval windows. Many parts of the house have not changed since it was abandoned for the new Shute House in the 1780s.

Shute Barton is open for guided tours 8 times a year. Members can book for free, but non-members need to pay when booking. You **must** book before visiting so please check website / National Trust handbook for details.

[shute@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:shute@nationaltrust.org.uk)

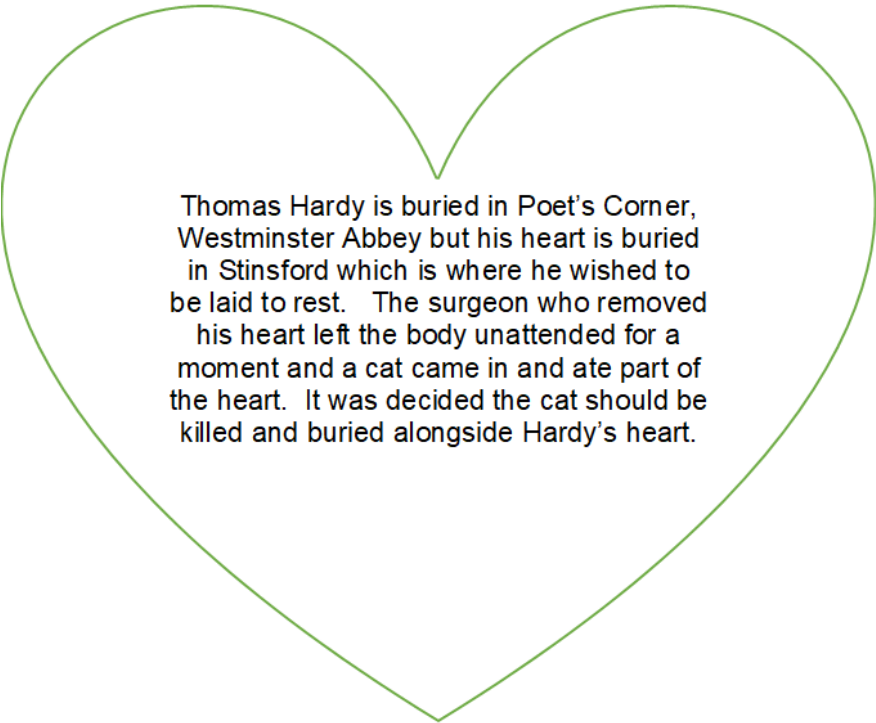
[nationaltrust.org.uk/shute-barton](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/shute-barton)

Tel: 01395 265514

## **Quiz answers**

1. Kirran Castle (Famous Five)
2. A chilli, one of the hottest peppers in the world.
3. St. Peter's Church, Bournemouth
4. Green Woodpecker
5. Moores biscuits
6. Brownsea Island
7. April 1974
8. Dorchester, Bridport, Swanage, Weymouth
9. Mary Anning
10. Rabbits

## Fact or Fiction?



Thomas Hardy is buried in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey but his heart is buried in Stinsford which is where he wished to be laid to rest. The surgeon who removed his heart left the body unattended for a moment and a cat came in and ate part of the heart. It was decided the cat should be killed and buried alongside Hardy's heart.

Here lies the heart of  
THOMAS HARDY OM  
Son of Thomas and Jemima Hardy  
He was born at Upper Brockhampton 1840  
And died at Max Gate, Dorchester 11 January 1928  
His ashes rest in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey

The remaining pages of the Newsletter have not been reproduced here as they contains the addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of Committee members.

If you have lost your copy of the Newsletter and want to get in touch, then go to the 'Contact Us' page of our website