A photograph of Sherborne Abbey, a large Gothic church with a prominent square tower and spire. In the foreground, there is a well-manicured garden with a black metal fence and several large, vibrant pink and orange roses. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The text 'The Official Guide to Sherborne' is overlaid on the image in white, with a large gold 'S' graphic behind the word 'Sherborne'.

The Official Guide to
Sherborne

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WELCOME TO OUR TOWN

This guide has been compiled by the citizens of Sherborne and we hope it will be useful for both visitors and residents alike.

Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this guide, Sherborne Town Council does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given. Inclusion in this guide does not imply recommendation by Sherborne Town Council.
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With grateful thanks to the Sherborne and Bradford Abbas Camera Club
www.sherbornebradfordabbascameraclub.org

Front cover photograph by Brian Clarke

Designed and Printed by Shelleys 01935 815364



SHERBORNE 6

BICYCLE BYWAY

CORTON DENHAM 2 1/4
SHERBORNE 6

CORTON MILLS
N CAMERON

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'Sherborne is a delightful, small historic town'





Brian Clarke

SHERBORNE TODAY

Sherborne is a delightful, small historic town in the north-west of Dorset. It has a total population of just over 9,300 representing a growth of over 50% during the last 40 years. It lies on the northern slopes of the beautiful Yevo Valley surrounded by wooded hillsides and green pastures. Dominated by its golden-coloured abbey, the town has a number of buildings of architectural note including the 17th century castle and 18th century school. Within the town the narrow streets are lined with old grey stone buildings interspersed with early timber-framed, gable-ended houses and local Ham stone structures.

Sherborne is best discovered on foot especially during the day when the town bustles with activity. A number of antique shops and art galleries, speciality shops and clothing boutiques draw visitors to the town as do the busy street markets on Thursdays and Saturdays and the monthly Farmer's Market. The pedestrianisation of Cheap Street, the main shopping street, at the busiest times of day provides a safe environment to enjoy the street scene.

A good selection of public houses, restaurants and cafés offer a wide choice of refreshment. Three public parks, The Pageant Gardens, The Paddock Garden and the Quarr Nature Reserve, provide tranquil spaces for that welcome break.

In May, the Country Fair in the Castle grounds gives visitors a glimpse of country life with displays of prize animals and rural crafts, not forgetting the spectacle of the dragon boat racing. In July the annual competition 'Sherborne in Bloom' adds magnificent displays of colour all around the town. During August, Sherborne School hosts a splendid display of vintage and veteran cars and the Powell Theatre, owned by the school, is available for public performances of film and drama all year round.

The Digby Hall and The Digby Memorial Church Hall are used regularly for antique and craft fairs and art exhibitions as well as performances by the talented Sherborne Amateur Players. October brings 'Pack Monday Fair' when the whole town is transformed into a vibrant street market for one day only. November is firework time and the wondrous display staged by the Sherborne Area Youth and Community Centre held on the shores of the Sherborne Castle lake enthrall large numbers of spectators. Yet again the town is transformed at Christmas-time with shops adorned with festive trees organised by the Chamber of Trade, giving that 'little something' that endears Sherborne to all and hopefully instils the urge to come again soon.

HISTORY

Sherborne's name comes from the Saxon 'Scir burn' meaning a clear brook or stream. Sitting on the hillside beside this stream, the River Yeo, it is now a busy market town. Settled from Roman times, Sherborne was the gateway to rich lands lying to the west of the dense forest of Penselwood with water meadows, gentle slopes over biscuit-coloured stone and chalk down-lands. The Romans valued the pastures.

2 The Saxons sought safety here from the invading Danes and already in 705 a Saxon cathedral was founded by Aldhelm who was appointed the first bishop of the see of Western Wessex. Alfred the Great may well have been schooled in the Cathedral here where his brothers Ethelbert and Ethelbald are buried.

In 998 the Cathedral became a Benedictine Abbey and it is the teaching ethic of the monks that became a feature of the town from that time on. 500 years later, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the monastic buildings became Edward VI's Sherborne School – his crest can be seen both at the entrance to the school and on the part of the Abbey Church used by the Head Master as his private lodgings.

The Lavatorium, originally a washing place for the monks, was moved out of the Monastic cloisters in the mid-16th century

and, renamed the Conduit, it is now a Sherborne icon situated in The Parade.

In the early 1400s the monks of Sherborne Abbey wrote and illuminated the Sherborne Missal, the largest and most lavishly decorated English medieval service book to survive from the Middle Ages. Now held in the British Library, a copy of the Missal can be perused in Sherborne's Museum with a 'magic' page turner, using



modern digital technology. The erection of the Almshouses beside the Abbey also took place at that time and there are many other medieval buildings in Sherborne such as the 16th century Julian House, a stone-built hospice with mullioned windows, a famous splash stone and timber-framed chamber. This stands at the top of the town at the junction of Cheap Street and The Green.

This area of Sherborne was much frequented by travellers

over the centuries, providing a stopping-off place between London and Plymouth or Bristol and Weymouth. Hostelries therefore abounded. The Angel still has a notice stating it has a 'License to let Post Horses ' but the stabling has long since been converted into flats. Come the first Monday after 10th October the whole town heaves with visitors searching for bargains from the myriad stalls lining the streets for Pack Monday Fair. The large spaces for car parks today were once market places for the sale of sheep or cattle on the hoof. After the sales the farmers needed sustenance resulting in the numerous Public Houses.

Cheap Street provides a huge variety of shops with many buildings dating back to Tudor times but their frontages have been brought up to date through the centuries. Many of the fine houses to be seen were originally built for merchants made wealthy by the manufacture of cloth and the glove-making, button- and lace-making or silk-throwing industries to be found in Sherborne during the 15th to 19th centuries.



HISTORY

Although Sherborne was not an important German target during World War II, the town did suffer an air raid on 30th September 1940 when a number of buildings were destroyed and 17 people were killed. Their names are recorded at the town's war memorial by the Abbey. Sherborne proudly boasts two castles; one dates back to the 12th century but was besieged by Cromwell's

Army during the Civil War and now lies as an impressive ruin. The other castle was converted by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and passed to the Digby family in 1617. During World War II the castle served as Commando Headquarters for the D-Day landings.



Sherborne



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SHERBORNE SCHOOLS

In Saxon and Medieval times Sherborne's cathedral and later its monastery would have provided education. Early references to scholarships and rents confirm this, as does a misericord in the abbey showing a schoolmaster beating a boy! After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 came the licensing of the Free Grammar School of King Edward VI, originally for poor boys from the town but gradually enlarged and enriched by fees from boarders until in 1871 it became an independent public school with a wider curriculum and recruitment.

In 1640 Richard Foster, a prosperous gentleman, made funds available for a school named after him. Originally called the Blue Coat School and intended by him for young boys and girls, it became a boys' secondary school with boarding facilities in Hound Street and

from 1939 new buildings in Tinneys Lane.

Lord Digby's School which started in 1743 in Westbury but later moved to Newland then in 1932 to Sherborne House, was the equivalent for girls.

After 1944 both schools were selective grammar schools, serving bright children from the primary schools of the district. They increasingly worked together, until in 1992 they, together with Saint Aldhelm's, the Church of England Secondary Modern School opened in 1959, joined to form the Gryphon Comprehensive School. The school is a specialist Business and Enterprise College.

Sherborne is also home to the independent Sherborne School for Girls founded in 1899 and Sherborne International College for children from overseas.



Sherborne Castle

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SHERBORNE HOUSE

Part of Sherborne's rich history is hidden behind a tall brick wall on the north side of Newland.

The house has a Tudor wing but the principal building dates from 1720 when Henry Seymour Portman bought it and pulled down much of the original structure to rebuild. He employed, Sir James Thornhill a Dorset man and celebrated decorative history painter of his day with works at St. Paul's Cathedral and Blenheim Palace, to decorate his new house in Sherborne. All the walls and the ceiling were decorated by the artist based on the story from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* of the Calydonian Hunt. This mural is the chief glory of the house.

The Portman family let the house out to tenants from 1728 and it was sold to Edward, 2nd Earl Digby for £2,000. It continued to be let out and tenants included Samuel Pretor, a banker, Robert Willmott, a silk manufacturer, Miss Armitage

who ran a school and Major Boogle who won a Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny.

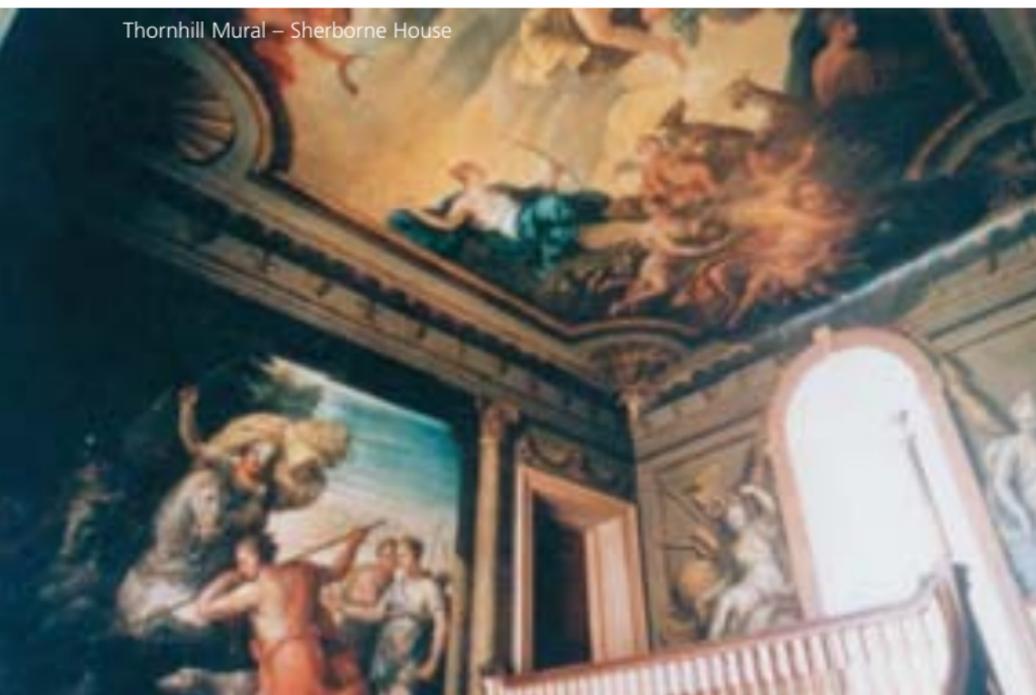
The most distinguished of the tenants who leased the house from 1850 – 1860 was William Charles Macready, a leading actor-manager of his day, who decided at the height of his career to leave the stage and retire to the country. While living in Sherborne House he was visited by friends from London including William Makepiece Thackeray and his closest friend Charles Dickens.

In 1931 the House was first leased and then sold to Dorset County Council and became the home of Lord Digby's School from 1932 until 1992.

The future of the house currently hangs in the balance as the house is to be sold, hopefully to a sympathetic purchaser who will restore it to its former glory.

7

Thornhill Mural – Sherborne House



SHERBORNE ABBEY

When people look at Sherborne Abbey, they see different things. Some see the finest building in Dorset, with its glorious fan vaulting – of which Simon Jenkins says in his book *England's Thousand Best Churches*, 'I would pit Sherborne's roof against any contemporary work of the Italian Renaissance.' Others see a place renowned for its choir and its music. Some see thirteen centuries of history, ever since St Aldhelm, new bishop of the West Saxons, chose the 'place of the clear stream' as the site of his cathedral.

8

Tradition certainly runs like a stream through the Abbey. Two Saxon kings are buried here; for over 800 years the chanting of Benedictine monks filled the air. Thomas Wyatt, Tudor courtier and poet, has his grave here; Sir Walter Raleigh worshipped here. But it is a *living* tradition: the Abbey today is still the spiritual home of a large and vibrant Christian community. It remains above all a place of prayer and of worship. That has never changed.



St Aldhelm, Sherborne Abbey

Brian Clarke

TOUR OF SHERBORNE ABBEY

First, a little history. The See (or Diocese) of Sherborne was created in AD 705 when the great Diocese of Winchester was divided in two, and Aldhelm, Abbot of Malmesbury, was appointed as the first Bishop of the West Saxons. Aldhelm chose the place of the *Scire-burne* – the ‘clear stream’ – as the site for his seat, or *cathedra*.

The new Cathedral of Sherborne served St Aldhelm and twenty-six succeeding Saxon Bishops. Probably very small at first, it was later enlarged and a few important Saxon features still survive (when you come into the Abbey, see the fine **Saxon doorway** in the NW corner).

However, soon after the Norman Conquest the Bishop’s seat was moved to Old Sarum, and later Salisbury. Earlier, in 998, St Wulfsin had ejected the community of secular canons who served the Cathedral, and invited monks of the Order of St Benedict to replace them. Sherborne Abbey remained a Benedictine house until 1539 when Abbot John Barnstaple and his sixteen fellow monks surrendered it to King Henry VIII.

Relations between the monks and the people of Sherborne were not always good, which is why the best place to begin a visit to the Abbey is to walk round the outside to look up at the **West End**. It was here that the Church of All Hallows was built by the monks, actually joined to the Abbey itself. To the left and right of the West End

the ‘joins’ can still be seen. This smaller church was for the use of the townspeople – who always resented being pushed out of what had once been ‘their’ church. Tensions between the monks and the town came to a head in 1437 when the people decided they had had enough of having to go cap in hand to the Abbot every time they wanted to use the font for a baptism, and decided to erect a font of their own in All Hallows. The Abbot was enraged, and according to the contemporary chronicle sent a ‘stout butcher’ armed with a hammer into the smaller church to break the font.

This caused a riot, during which a burning arrow was shot into the east end of the Abbey, at that time full of wooden scaffolding for the rebuilding of the roof. The fire that resulted permanently reddened the walls of the **quire** and the **crossing**. It took the Pope himself to settle the conflict – and the people had to pay for the repairs! No wonder that at the Reformation they were delighted to regain possession of what has ever since been their parish church. They immediately pulled down All Hallows as being surplus to requirements. Ironically, as you now enter the Abbey by the SW porch, you will see not only a large Victorian **font** just inside the door, but if you look straight down the south aisle you will see in the distance another font, in the **Bow Chapel**. The bowl



of this is clearly medieval, and just possibly all that remains of the broken font from All Hallows. But do not walk down to look at it yet. Instead go to the west steps and look up at the **fan-vaulted roof**. This is the earliest great fan-vaulting in England, and possibly the finest.

Walk slowly down the centre of the nave, looking up as much as possible. Then when you reach the quire steps, turn back to look at the **Great West Window**. By the eminent stained-glass artist, the late John Hayward, this was dedicated in 1998 at a service attended by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

In the quire itself you can see the medieval **misericords** in the back stalls on either side (please do not handle them) and the painted ceiling, glorious coloured glass and fine **reredos** of the mid-19th century restoration. If you go out of the gates on the north side, you can then walk round to see the **Lady Chapel**, with its fine engraved glass reredos by **Lawrence Whistler**. The **Bow Chapel** with the second font is on the right. If you now walk down the south quire aisle you will come to the doorway of the **Sepulchre Chapel**. If entering this, please mind your head and also enter quietly – this chapel is reserved for private prayer. There is a book here in which you can write your own prayers. They will also be offered at our daily services.

Emerging from the Bow Chapel, pass through the curtained archway to the south transept, sometimes known as the **Digby Chapel**. Here is a fine monument to **John Digby, Third and Last Earl of Dorset**, and his two wives. He played an important part in throwing Dorset behind William of Orange at the time of the 'Glorious Revolution' in 1688 which led to the flight of King James II and the accession of William and Mary.

Move next to **St Katherine's Chapel** which contains most of the Abbey's surviving medieval glass, and the fine **Leweston monument**. Then cross over to the north transept, under the **organ**, and look at the **Horsey monument** on the right. Sir John Horsey was the man who bought the Abbey estates from the Crown at the time of the Reformation. The massive release of monastic lands led to many a rich merchant acquiring a great country estate at a knock-down price and contributed to the rise of a gentry class in England. Look at the effigy of Sir John and his son. This tomb is only twenty years earlier than that of Sir John and Lady Leweston and yet the two Horseys appear to be wearing the armour of a century earlier. Are they trying to suggest a longer pedigree than perhaps was the case?



There is so much more to see in the Abbey that you really should purchase one of the excellent **guide books**. There is an informative 'Walk-round Guide'. In addition there are some exciting trails for children which are absolutely free. They can choose from **Birds, beasts and animals; Symbols and textiles; Science; Heraldry; Maths; Stained glass and Faith**. Children can also collect a free 'Passport' from the Abbey and a sticker for every Trail they complete. Both the Trails and the Passport can be downloaded free from the Abbey's website: www.sherborneabbey.com

Enjoy the tour – and please do not leave without adding your own prayers to those that have been offered here for over thirteen centuries.



PLACES OF WORSHIP



Keith Lane

St Mary Magdalene, Castleton – Church of England
Consecrated in 1715
Sunday service: 11:00am

STPAULS@THEGRYPHON – Church of England
A lively and evangelical all age church which is committed to becoming a new, exciting and evolving expression of a church. This congregation meets to worship every Sunday at 10:30am including a full children's and young people's programme. They meet at the Conference Centre at Gryphon School, Bristol Road, Sherborne.

The Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Aldhelm in Westbury was begun in 1891 by Catholic

sisters from Belgium and completed in 1894. As 'The Religious of Christian Instruction' their main work, however, was the provision of St. Antony's convent school. After moving out to Leweston Manor this is now known as Leweston School. For details see www.sacredheartstaldhelm.atspace.com

Cheap Street Church has a long heritage of Methodism from back in 1842 when the present building was established. In 1994, the Methodist and URC congregations joined together to work more for the community as a 'Servant Church'.
Sunday Service: 10:30am
Thursday Prayer: 9:45am
Thursday 'Thought for the Day': 10:30am
Tel: 01935 813220.

Sherborne Baptist Church in North Road consists of a group of outgoing Christians who meet every Sunday to worship together with modern songs, relevant Bible teaching and prayer. There is also a range of mid-week activity for all ages.
Sunday worship: 10:30am
Tel: 01935 813430.

Sherborne Community Church
The West End Hall, Sherborne
Tel: 01935 817575.

The Gospel Hall
Finger Lane
Sunday services: 11:00am and 6:30pm
Thursday prayer meeting: 7:00pm

SHERBORNE OLD CASTLE

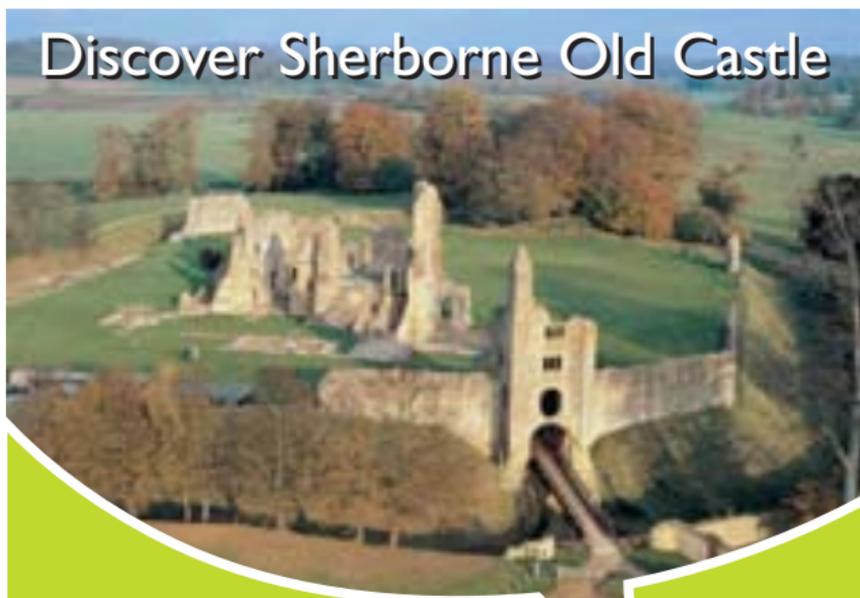
*'A malicious
and mischievous castle'*

Built on a grand scale in the 12th century, by the Bishop of Salisbury. Sherborne Old Castle was coveted by bishops and rival noblemen alike and had a long and chequered history. In 1592, Queen Elizabeth I gave it to Sir Walter Raleigh and he built his country home in the grounds. When Cromwell attacked in the Civil War, he took 16 days to capture it – hence the quote above.

Since 1646 the castle has remained a noble ruin in the midst of peaceful parkland. The imposing gatehouse, parts of the keep and outer walls stand proudly as a testimony to days gone by, when the then Sherborne Castle was a palace for the most powerful in the land and defied the might of Cromwell's army.

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Discover Sherborne Old Castle



Built on a grand scale, with a long and chequered history, once besieged by Cromwell! Delight in the great gatehouse and stroll where Sir Walter Raleigh entertained.

Open daily - 1 Apr – 31 Oct, from 10am

Sherborne Old Castle, Castleton,
Sherborne DT9 3SA

For further information call 01935 812730
or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/sherborne



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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SHERBORNE CASTLE

Sir Walter Raleigh built the 'new' Sherborne Castle in 1594 and his original lodge forms the core of the present structure. Accused of treason, Sir Walter died on the block and his estates were forfeited to the Crown. James I allowed Sir John Digby to purchase the Castle in 1617 and it has been the stately home of the Digby family ever since. The four distinctive wings were added in the 1630s. During the Civil War the neighbouring Old Castle was reduced to a ruin and the name Sherborne Castle transferred to the new building.

Prince William of Orange was entertained here in 1688 and George III visited in 1789.

'Capability' Brown created the 50-acre lake in 1753 and developed much of the current gardens and parkland into one of his finest lakeland landscapes. During World War I the Castle became a Red Cross Hospital and in World War II it served as Commando HQ for the D-Day landings.

Today, Sherborne Castle reflects a glorious variety of decorative styles from over 400 years of English history, with splendid collections of art, furniture and porcelain. The Castle and Gardens are open to the public during the summer season and are a popular venue for weddings and events.

Sherborne Castle

Come and explore Sherborne Castle and its beautiful Lakeside Gardens, just a short distance from the town centre

Built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 ~ home of the Digby family since 1617

- * **Discover splendid collections of art, furniture and porcelain in the Castle's fine state rooms**
- * **Enjoy 30-acres of landscaped gardens around Capability Brown's spectacular lake; perfect for a picnic ~ dogs welcome on a lead**
- * **Tearoom and Gift Shop**

Open April to October: daily except Mondays & Fridays 11.00am - 4.30pm last entry (on Saturdays, castle interior from 2.00pm) (open Bank Holiday Mondays) Admission charged (children free) Season Tickets available

- * *Special Events through the season*
- * *Available for Weddings & private functions*

www.sherbornecastle.com

Sherborne Castle, New Road, Sherborne DT9 5NR

T: 01935 813182 enquiries / 01935 812072 castle **E:** enquiries@sherbornecastle.com



SHERBORNE CASTLE ESTATES

The Estate Office, 9 Cheap Street, Sherborne DT9 3PY T. 01935 813182

SHERBORNE CASTLE WINE

The Estate's own vineyard produces fine English still table whites, an award winning Quality Sparkling wine and a wine brandy.

SHERBORNE CASTLE STONE

Traditional building stone from two local quarries; available for commercial, garden and domestic use; www.sherbornestone.co.uk



SHERBORNE MUSEUM

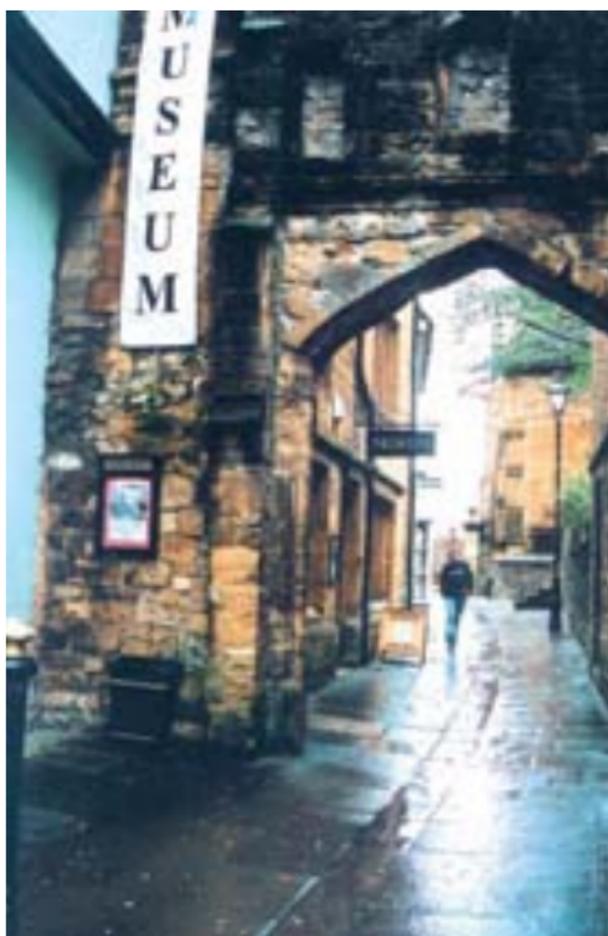
The Sherborne Museum is centrally located between the Market Place and the Abbey. It is a fully accredited, voluntary run museum which concentrates on displays directly related to the town and surrounding district. Making use of its extensive collection of artefacts, textiles, costumes, photographs, paintings and so on, at least half of its displays are changed each year reflecting all aspects of local life through the ages. This rotation ensures that there is always a bright and fresh atmosphere in the museum.

Features include an Oral History Booth and the Sherborne Missal touch-screen. Major displays range from costumes, gloving and the silk industry to lighting through the ages, a range of agricultural and industrial tools, botanical paintings, a fully-furnished Victorian Dolls House, geological and archaeological exhibits and many items to attract children of all ages.

The Museum is open between Easter and October – Tuesday to Friday.

www.sherbornemuseum.co.uk

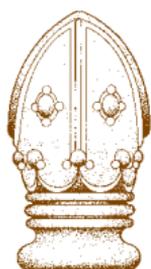
17



Betty Deavin



ST JOHN'S ALMSHOUSE



The Almshouse has provided shelter and care for the people of Sherborne for over 500 years. It is dedicated to

St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist and was basically built between 1440 and 1445 and extended and restored in 1864. It is run by trustees elected from local citizens.

There is a wonderful painted triptych in the chapel which

dates from c 1480. Guided tours to view this triptych and the historic building, including the original dining room and examples of the traditional uniforms, are available from May to September inclusive on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons.

For further details contact Sherborne Tourist Information Centre.



Linda Shuaib

SHERBORNE WATERWHEEL

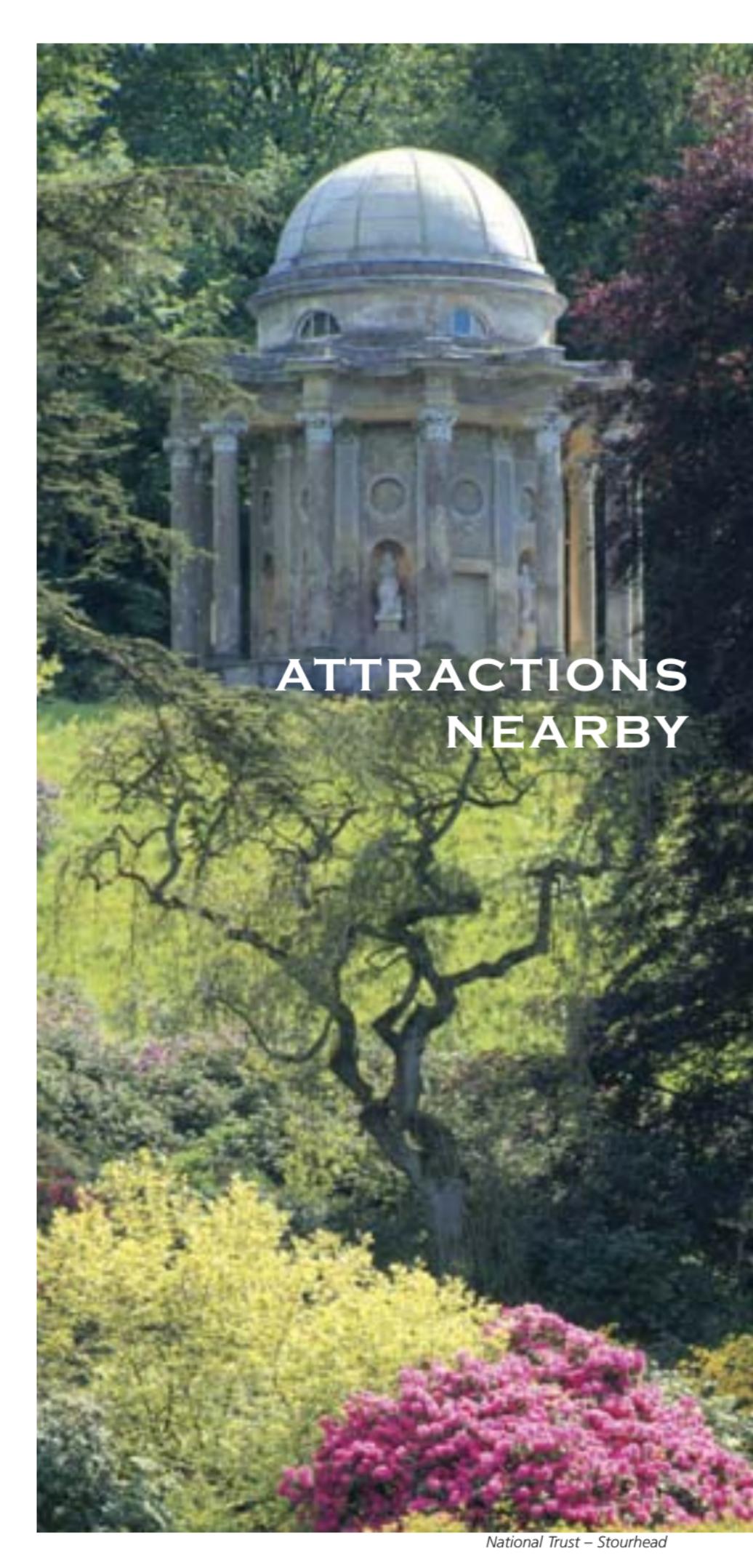
This is probably the largest working waterwheel in Dorset, measuring 26' (66cms) in diameter and 3'9' (114cms) in width. It has a special place in Sherborne's history because of its role in providing a water supply for the town from 1869, after which the death rate from water-borne diseases was reduced by more than a half. It continued as a very efficient method of pumping water to the reservoir in the Bristol Road until 1959 when it went out of use.

In 1981 an organisation was formed to restore and repair the wheel which was re-installed in early 2008 and can be seen on open working days.



Access is from Osborne Road, down a lane 100 yards from the Castleton / Long Street / Newland junction.

For opening times and entrance charges please refer to their website.

A photograph of a classical stone building with a large dome, surrounded by lush greenery and flowers. The building is the central focus, with a large tree in the foreground and a dense forest in the background. The text "ATTRACTIONS NEARBY" is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**ATTRACTIONS
NEARBY**



FLEET AIR ARM MUSEUM

The Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovilton will change your perception of aircraft museums.

The Museum's award winning 'Aircraft Carrier Experience' is where museum meets theatre. You will be 'transported' by helicopter to the replica flight deck of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal.

On board the Ark Royal you will see fighter aircraft and two enormous projection screens showing a Phantom strike fighter and a Buccaneer fighter-bomber.

You will see the Royal Navy in action and experience the thrills and sounds of a working flight deck and feel the wind in your hair. You will even see a nuclear bomb which makes this a truly unforgettable attraction.

Inside HMS Ark Royal is a series of faithfully reconstructed cabins and operational areas.

The museum has the largest collection of naval aircraft anywhere in Europe and the first British-built Concorde which you can board allowing a visit to the cockpit.

Outside, there is a children's adventure playground, a licensed restaurant and a shop, ample free parking and excellent disabled access.

The museum is located alongside Europe's busiest military air station, RNAS Yeovilton in Somerset, situated on the B3151, close to the junction of the A303 and A37, 8.5 miles north-west of Sherborne.

For more information:
Tel 01935 840565
or consult:
www.fleetairarm.com

HAYNES MOTOR MUSEUM

The prestigious Haynes International Motor Museum at Sparkford in Somerset (8 miles from Sherborne) offers an excellent day out for everyone. With more than 350 cars and motor-bikes displayed in stunning style, dating from 1886 to the present day, it is the largest international motor museum in Britain.



For those interested in a nostalgic trip down memory lane, the museum offers a host of familiar names such as Austin, MG, and Morris. Whilst for those seeking something more exotic there is a vast array of performance cars, from modern classics such as the Dodge Viper RT10 and the

Jaguar XJ220 to the more historic Lamborghini Countach, Jaguar E Type and AC Cobra.

There are also lots of activities for the family including the 'Top Trumps Trail' and Autogame Experience where visitors can play arcade games of the 50s and 60s, retro 80s classics such as 'Sega Rally' and 'Manx TT' to the latest cutting edge technology – such as Cycraft, the ultimate race car simulator. Outside there is the 'Kids' Race Track', 'Super Diggers', a themed play area, soft play-bus and many other activities.

Throughout the year the museum also hosts lots of exciting events including amazing stunt shows or the chance to go for a dream ride in a supercar.

22





Cheap Street Church



Denholm Elliott filming 'A murder of quality'



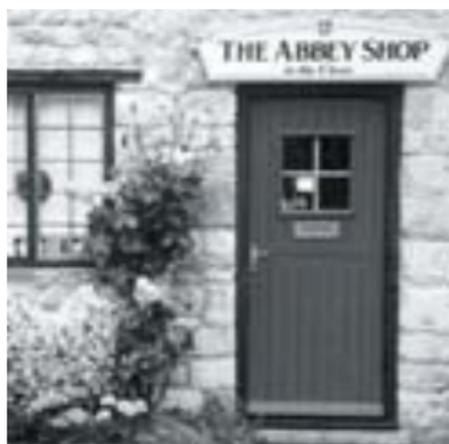
Olivers Coffee House



The Town Market



Part of old public weighbridge



The Abbey Shop



The Three Wishes café/bistro



Parsons butchers





Norman Crabb

CADBURY CASTLE

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The best known and most interesting of the reputed sites of King Arthur's Camelot, this 18-acre iron-age fort at South Cadbury offers spectacular views over the Somerset countryside to Glastonbury Tor. Evidence suggests that the Romans evicted the first Iron Age inhabitants after a siege in 70AD and for much of the Roman period the hill-fort was abandoned. After the legions left Britain, and with the onset of the Dark Ages, the hill-fort was reoccupied, probably around 500AD. Legends of King

Arthur abound and it is said that 'on Midsummer's Eve the hill turns clear as glass and inside can be seen Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table'.

Cadbury Castle can be reached by taking the lovely country route from Sherborne via Corton Denham, about 6.5 miles. There is a steep climb to the hill fort and the lane can be muddy so walking shoes or boots are essential.

Ordnance Survey Map ref: ST 628252.

SANDFORD ORCAS MANOR

Just outside Sherborne, this enchanting Dorset house, built of local honey-coloured Ham Hill stone, is a lovely example of the small manor houses that once studded England in Tudor times. It was built on the foundations of a mediaeval house in the 1550s and has changed little with the centuries, having been owned by only three families since the 1380s. The interior has

fine panelling, furniture, stained glass and pictures. The attractive terraced gardens are specially recommended for the laburnum and lilacs in May and shortly afterwards when the many roses are at their best.

For opening times and details contact Sherborne Tourist Information Centre or tel: 01963 220206.

NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES AROUND SHERBORNE

Sherborne is an ideal location from which to enjoy some of England's finest visitor gardens and properties, looked after by the National Trust.

To the west, find the intimate garden of **Tintinhull**. Created in the last century around a 17th-century manor house, this oasis of small pools, secluded lawns and beautiful borders is among the most harmonious gardens in Britain. An inspiration if you have your own small plot. Highlights include a fine azalea display and attractive kitchen garden.

For the art enthusiasts, there is **Montacute House** to the west. This magnificent Renaissance mansion showcases some of the finest Tudor and Elizabethan portraits from the collection of the National Portrait Gallery. The house is no less a work of art with splendid staterooms, carved parapets, heraldic glass and the longest Long Gallery of its kind in Europe.

Lytes Cary Manor and its fine garden can be found to the north-west. The enchanting manor house spans centuries; from the medieval chapel and Tudor great hall, to the intimate Arts & Crafts garden. It was once the home to herbalist Henry Lyte and many of the plants he cultivated and featured in his famous directory, **Lytes Herbal**, still grow here today. The wider estate can be explored through sign-posted walks.

And one of the finest landscape gardens in the world can be found 14 miles to the north-east of Sherborne at **Stourhead**. Its magnificent lake, classical follies and exotic trees have captured the imagination of visitors for over two centuries while the majestic mansion houses Chippendale furniture and an exquisite Regency library. Across the wider estate, discover two Iron Age hill-forts and climb up to King Alfred's Tower for spectacular views across three counties.

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For directions and more information check
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wessex



CERNE ABBAS GIANT

Cerne Abbas is a quintessentially English village and formed the basis for Thomas Hardy's 'Abbot's-Cerne', set in the heart of Dorset. Today the village is a bustling community of over 700 people with a flourishing school, a rural Post Office, the village store (which is a local tourist information point, and where you will find a Town Trail of Cerne Abbas), three historic public houses, tearooms and a number of other shops to attract the visitor.

The village is famous for its Giant, the 180 ft high chalk figure carved out into the steeply sloping hillside to the north of the village. He can best be seen from the viewpoint on the main Dorchester to Sherborne road (the A352).

The origins of the Giant are a mix of fact and speculation. Some believe that he represents the Roman god, Hercules, and is over 1500 years old. However, there is no known historical record about him before 1694 and it has been argued that he is more recent and a caricature of any one of a number of possible historical figures. Whatever the truth, he is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the care of The National Trust. (Please note that, to prevent erosion, visitors are not allowed to walk on the Giant.)

Cerne Abbas is about 12 miles south of Sherborne.

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ST CUTHBERT'S OLD CHURCH

Open the door and unlock the past at St Cuthbert's Old Church in Osborne, little more than a mile to the east of Sherborne. An enchanting small building in golden stone sandwiched between the A30 and the main line from London. Only the chancel survives of the 1553 church which must have been one of the last to be built before the Reformation; interesting inscriptions over the east and north windows testify to its origins. Inside are mediaeval slip

tiles and 17th century communion rails, pulpit and monuments; the pillar piscina comes from the redundant church at North Wootton. There are 17th century monuments in the churchyard.

Just out of town on the A30 at Osborne

OS Map Ref: ST 653 178

Open daily



SHERBORNE IN BLOOM

The town of Sherborne is a Royal Horticultural Society Gold class winner, a great accolade celebrating the superb efforts of local gardeners, volunteers and sponsors. In 2007, for the second year running, Sherborne was voted the most outstanding market town in the region. A stroll down Cheap Street, the thriving main street, complete with its seasonal hanging baskets, bears testimony to the pride and endeavours of local businesses. The Sherborne in Bloom event is firmly established in the cultural calendar of the town where work continues all year round as local people united by a shared love of gardening come together to produce some truly stunning displays.

Take a seat in the award winning Paddock Garden in Newland and enjoy its tranquil surroundings or stroll a little further along to Newland Gardens. Take a wander around the town and you will find many examples of floral celebrations on plots adopted by local groups. Visit Culverhayes Car

Park and see the flower planter adopted by the Sherborne Outreach Group, follow this with a visit to the Pageant Gardens where the bandstand makes a pleasing vista of stunning blooms and colours. Out of the gate into Digby Road you will discover plots taken over by the young people of The Gryphon School and Sherborne Boys who work with Castle Gardens the main sponsors of Sherborne in Bloom, to rejuvenate dust and shingle into horticultural wonder.

Sherborne in Bloom is at its very best during the month of July and it is always worth checking with the Tourist Information Centre to find out whether the annual photographic exhibition, Growing For Gold, is open. Held in the Cheap Street Church Hall, it displays the work of the Sherborne Bradford Abbas Camera Club whose members have been busy photographing gardens, blossoms and blooms throughout the seasons.

More information from:
www.sherborneinbloom.com



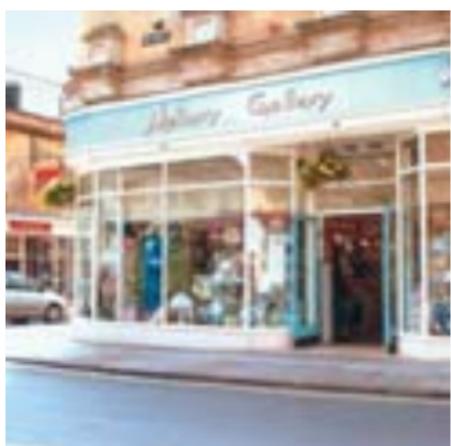
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GARDENS TO VISIT

The National Gardens Scheme was begun in 1927 as a way of obtaining extra money to further the work of the Queen's Nursing Institute which organised and funded the district nurse service in pre-NHS days. In 2008 the scheme has over 3600 private gardens open to the public providing interesting days out, sometimes with teas and plants sales in addition to the enjoyment and pleasure of the gardens. The funds raised nowadays go primarily to cancer and hospice charities.

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In Dorset there are nearly 100 gardens participating in the scheme and details can be found in 'The Yellow Book' available from bookshops or through the NGS county booklets available free from libraries and garden centres. All 3600 gardens can also be found on the NGS website

www.ngs.org.uk

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www.thegardeneronline.co.uk



MINTERNE HOUSE GARDENS

About 10 miles due south from Sherborne, the Minterne Valley was landscaped in the manner of Capability Brown in the 18th century. The gardens are laid out in a horseshoe below the Elizabethan-styled Minterne House with a chain of small lakes, waterfalls and streams. They contain a unique collection of Himalayan rhododendrons and azaleas with spring bulbs, cherries, maples and many fine and rare trees. The garden is noted for its spring and autumn colours.

Of particular note are the large plants of Magnolia Campbelli which flower in March and April together with a profusion of spring bulbs. Many flowering cherries were brought from Japan in 1920 and the Pieris Forrestii with their brilliant scarlet shoots, originally came from Wakehurst. A very fine collection of Davidia Involucrata (the pocket handkerchief tree) produce striking bracts in late May and early June when the streams are lined with primulas,

astilbes and other water plants. Over 1.5 miles of walks with palm trees, towering rhododendrons framed by tall cedar and beech trees provide a new vista at each turn. The changing seasons make each visit to Minterne a memorable experience.

Free parking and picnic facilities are available but please note that some of the paths are uneven and steep making access for wheelchairs difficult.

Minterne House has been the home of the Churchill and Digby families for the last 350 years and is now the seat of the 12th Lord Digby whose sister Pamela Harriman was American Ambassador to Paris. The house is open for organised parties only.

Open daily
1st March – 31st October
10:00am – 6:00pm

For further details:
www.minterne.co.uk



WHERE TO STAY

Bed and Breakfasts in Sherborne:

Bridleways (3*)

Osborne Road
SHERBORNE
DT9 3RX
(Also offer self-catering cottage)
Tel/fax: 01935 814716
www.bridleways.biz

Cumberland House (4*)

Greenhill
SHERBORNE
Dorset
DT9 4EP
Tel: 01935 817554
Fax: 01935 817398
www.bandbdorset.co.uk

The Pheasants B&B (4*)

24 Greenhill
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DT9 4EW
Tel: 01935 815252
Fax: 01935 812938
www.thepheasants.com

Stoneleigh Barn (4*)

North Wootton
SHERBORNE
Dorset
DT9 5JW
Tel: 01935 815964
www.stoneleighbarn.com

Cross House (3*)

North Street
Milborne Port
Sherborne
Dorset DT9 5ET
Tel: 01963 250032

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Lydlinch
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Tel: 01258 471624
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www.bfcbednbreakfast.co.uk

Bed and Breakfasts around Sherborne:

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www.longbarfarm.co.uk

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Village Vacations (3*)

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Rimpton
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Tel: 01935 850241

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Chilton Cantelo
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Somerset BA22 8BE
Tel: 01935 850213

Venn Farm (3*)

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Sherborne
Dorset DT9 5RA
Tel: 01963 250598

The Alders

Sandford Orcas
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Dorset DT9 4SB
Tel: 01963 220666

www.thealdersbb.com

Self Catering:

Blackberry Cottage

Bristol Road
SHERBORNE
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Tel: 01963 250380

www.millersloft.co.uk

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Tel: 01963 251365

www.wctb.co.uk

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Tel: 01935 813131

Fax: 01935 817296

www.theeastburyhotel.co.uk

A noted landmark in the quiet, lower part of Old Sherborne, five minutes leisurely walk from the Abbey.

The Sherborne Hotel (2*)

Horsecastles Lane

SHERBORNE

Dorset DT9 6BB

Tel: 01935 813191

Fax: 01935 816493

www.sherbornehotel.co.uk

Modern hotel situated on the outskirts of Sherborne.

Hotels around Sherborne

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Holbrook House (3*)

Wincanton

Sherborne

Somerset

BA9 8BS

Tel: 01963 824466

Fax: 01963 82681

www.holbrookhouse.co.uk

Holbrook House is a traditional country house hotel set in seventeen acres of beautiful parkland and gardens. Just outside the racing town of Wincanton, Somerset.

The Grange at Osborne (3*)

Osborne

SHERBORNE

Dorset

DT9 4LA

Tel: 01935 813463

Fax: 01935 817464

www.thegrangeatoborne.co.uk

The Grange is a country house built 200 years ago of stone from the Purbeck Hills. Just one mile from Sherborne. Small, privately owned hotel and restaurant.



St. John's Almshouse



Swan Yard shopping – Cheap Street



A garden – Long Street



The Digby Memorial – Sherborne Abbey



Recycling



The Town Market



Swan Yard shopping



A wedding at Cheap Street Church

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

From Sherborne 'Stodgers' to Seared Scallops!

At a time when high streets seem to have exactly the same shops next door to exactly the same shops and where 'big brands' jostle for space with even 'bigger brands', Sherborne is a breath of fresh air.

As far as food is concerned, Sherborne has a huge menu offering all sorts of produce from the top of Cheap Street and beyond to the very edges of town. You can find everything from fine dining to a jacket potato – local, of course – and with reference to all the different world cuisines.

On the menu . . .

Sherborne has its fair share of award winners including the restaurant in the beautiful walled garden at **The Eastbury Hotel** on Long Street and **The Green**, a fine restaurant at the very top of Cheap Street. Both serve exceptional food with local distinctiveness, fish caught off the Dorset coast, locally reared meat and game, and superb cheeses from local dairies.

For a relaxed coffee, lunch or supper, **Aspire 2 Eat** on Digby Road has tables outside with great views of The Abbey, and the **Three Wishes Bistro** in

Cheap Street has a walled garden for pre-supper drinks. There are bistros, tea rooms and coffee shops dotted amongst the shops – so a tasty snack or a delicious meal is never far away.

Anyone for Espresso, Latte or Earl Grey?

Sherborne is spoilt for choice when it comes to refreshment with the unique atmosphere of **Oliver's** where the morning papers are always to hand, **Mortimer's** Coffee Shop, a traditional family-run business and **The Three Wishes** where the Sherborne 'Stodger', a huge bun with dried fruit and spices, is on the menu along with superb seasonal and local food each day. **Café Fontana** is perfect for a slice of delicious cake and the much loved **Pear Tree** Delicatessen and Café offers an exceptionally good deli lunch or proper home-made soup from its blackboard, often causing queues at lunchtime. Finally, do not forget the **Abbey Friar** for great traditional fish and chips and the **The Station Café** – guess where that is!



Watering Holes

Sherborne also has some excellent pubs including; **The Crown Inn, The George, The White Hart, The Swan, The Cross Keys, The Half Moon, The Plume of Feathers** and the famous **Digby Tap** – where a small charge is made for charity when you use your mobile phone!

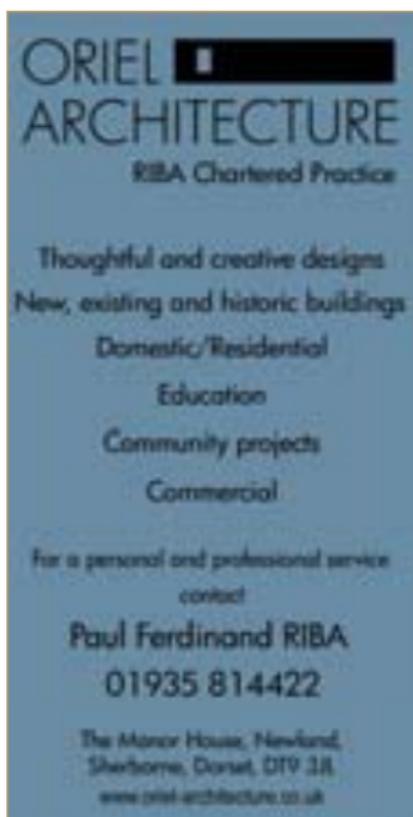
World Flavours

There are also two Indian restaurants, – **Rajpoot** and **Paprika**, both serving Indian cuisine with a contemporary edge. **Cinnamons** provides an Indian take-away service, **Mandarin** is the Chinese take-away and the popular late night take-away is the **Sherborne Kebab House**.

A butcher, a baker . . .

Sherborne is also fortunate to have **Parson's**, a family butcher, the local **Oxford's Bakery, Sabins Delicatessen, The Pear Tree Delicatessen** and coffee shop, **Verbena** natural and wholefoods shop, **Stokes** and **Mortimer's** all selling fresh food and giving friendly service so daily food shopping in Sherborne is a real pleasure. Added to this is a twice-weekly market (Thursday and Saturday mornings by The Conduit) and a monthly Farmers' Market (the third Friday of every month). Both markets provide a great opportunity to buy fresh food from people who know their onions!

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Corking!

Vineyards, Sherborne's independent wine store, has shelves filled with exceptional wines, champagnes and local ales, sourced from smaller niche vineyards, growers and brewers while **The Wine Rack** stocks well respected labels from around the world. Don't forget Sherborne's own 'house' wine produced by Sherborne Castle Estates. The table wines, a wine brandy and award-winning sparkling wine and all are available from the Estate Office, Cheap Street or Castle Gift Shop.

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ART AND MUSIC

Sherborne offers a wealth of musical performances both for the participant and for the listener. The majority of the concerts and recitals take place at the Abbey, Cheap Street Church and at the nearby independent schools. Choirs include Sherborne Chamber Choir, Sherborne Abbey Choir, Sherborne Young Singers, Sherborne Girls Madrigal Society, Schola (Leweston School), Sherborne School Choral Society, The William Slogrove Singers and Chorus and the Sherborne Festival Chorus. There is a community orchestra, a Sing for Pleasure Choir and even a weekly singing session for toddlers.

The Abbey is the venue for at least one concert a month and Sherborne School stages a weekly Friday lunchtime concert during term time in Cheap Street Church. The Dorset Music House, a Sherborne-based music agency, runs a series of four winter concerts each year. The Abbey hosts an annual Music



Jay Armstrong

Festival each May. Sherborne also boasts a jazz club and an excellent town band together with two youth bands. Canford Summer Music School is now based at Sherborne School each summer. Casterbridge Music Tours is based in Sherborne and so too is the Dorset Opera Summer School (now performing at Bryanston School).

The Dorset Music House in Cheap Street acts as an agency for most concerts in the area. Tel: 01935 816332.



SHERBORNE TOWN BAND

Formed in 1961 to celebrate the retirement of the Boys Brigade Bandmaster, Charlie Parsons MBE, the Sherborne Town Band has provided a musical backdrop for the town and the surrounding villages ever since. There are founder members' sons, grandsons and nieces still playing in the band today.

The Sherborne Town Youth Band has always been an integral part of the band's community work. This continues with a new education scheme for aspiring young brass players. The guiding principle behind the youth scheme is to give children an understanding and lifelong love of music.

The Band performs at many events in and around the town: The Sherborne Castle Country Fair, the Historic Vehicle Rally organized by Rotary, the Armistice Day of Remembrance, Christmas carol services and its own 'Last Night of the Proms' concert at the end of September to name but a few.

For bookings and general enquiries:
Tel: 01935 850039
Email
info@sherbornetownband.co.uk

www.sherbornetownband.co.uk



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SHERBORNE ARTSLINK

ART, CREATIVITY AND FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Artslink is a community arts organisation that serves Sherborne and its surrounding villages. It is run by a director and an administrator and its office is Room 13 on the first floor of The Manor House in Newland.

Artslink provides a wide range of activities and courses. The regular weekly courses currently include creative watercolour painting, life drawing, calligraphy, general drawing, stained glass and jewellery. There are also regular workshops on oil painting, water-colouring, stained glass and dance. Artslink also runs occasional workshops on creative writing, both short stories and poetry. Art history and appreciation is covered with a course on Art and Design 1850 -1914 and new classes are always being arranged. Classes and courses mostly take place in the Digby Hall but there are other venues for some workshops.

In addition to courses, Artslink runs the monthly Sherborne Flicks on the second Wednesday of each month when recently released films are shown on a big screen. Artslink also arranges coach trips to theatres and concert halls in Poole, Bath, Bristol and Salisbury.

Children are catered for by Artslink, in particular by the very popular Art Buffet which takes place during the school holidays. Other courses for children include Painted Paper Lanterns, Mosaic Flower Pots and The Big Draw. So there are many opportunities to encourage children to enjoy the fun of being creative.

Three times a year Artslink publishes a full colour brochure which includes details of all of its activities including films, concerts and theatre trips. To get a brochure, call the office on 01935 815899.

www.sherborneartslink.org.uk

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sherborne is a lively town and there is always something going on. The Tourist Information Centre has full up-to-date details of all events (See page 67).

Regular events in Sherborne's year:

- May** Sherborne Castle Country Fair incorporating a Rare Breeds Show. www.sherbornecountryfair.com
Sherborne Abbey Festival
www.sherborneabbey.org
- July** Canford Summer School of Music.
www.canfordsummerschool.com
- August** Cavalcade of Vintage and Veteran cars and motorcycles
Sherborne School quadrangle
- October** Pack Monday Fair. The streets of Sherborne come alive with dozens of food and trade stalls, music and a funfair for its annual Pack Monday Fair. The event is always held on the first Monday after Old Michaelmas Day when historically farmers would hire casual labourers for the year ahead. Although no longer an agricultural event it attracts thousands of visitors.
- November** Sherborne Firework Extravaganza at Sherborne Castle.
www.eventscrow.com

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Traditional events:

On **Ascension Day** each year the Abbey Choir ascends the tower, weather permitting, and sings Ascension Day hymns to the four points of the compass. Despite taking place at 7:00am, a small crowd usually assembles in the Close to listen to them. If it is wet they sing in the Abbey but needless to say the boys are always disappointed when they cannot sing from the top of the tower!

June: The entrance arch to St. John's Almshouses is decorated with a floral wreath to celebrate St. John's Day.

October: At midnight on the night before Pack Monday, 'Teddy Roe's Band' marches through the streets of Sherborne

blowing horns and whistles and banging saucepans. This dates from the 15th century when after fire severely damaged the abbey workmen, under foreman Teddy Roe, carried out repairs. When work had been finished the labourers packed up their tools and celebrated by marching through the town blowing on cows' horns.

December: On every Christmas morning, 'pennies' are distributed to the public by the Digby family. This tradition has been observed as long as anyone can remember and may go back to the early 19th century. Old pennies are no longer available so new-minted decimal coins are offered.

SHOPPING

Sherborne provides a unique and diverse collection of independent quality shops that genuinely specialise in unusual gifts and products. These range from art to kitchenware, beauty treatments to food delicacies, Georgian silverware to antique and contemporary furniture and designer fashion to hardware.

Alongside this there is a choice of individually owned establishments that also includes a butcher, a baker and a greengrocer and Sherborne also has smaller retail chain shops and two supermarkets.

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The town is known for its numerous charity shops where bargains can often be found, there is also an excellent bookshop and a worthwhile second-hand bookshop whilst monthly auctions attract much attention.



A Truly Fine Lingerie Shop

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Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3BJ

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E: jane@bellissimalingerie.com
www.bellissimalingerie.com

The town plays host to regular markets on Thursdays and Saturdays and a Farmers' Market takes place on the third Friday of each month.

You can be assured that Sherborne will provide a rewarding shopping experience for all ages.



Chapter House Books and The Sanctuary Coffee Shop

Trendle Street

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RECREATION AND SPORT

As with all towns sport is of a huge importance for the community, for the social aspect of meeting people and making friends, the health benefits of regular exercise, the thrill of representing your local town and eventually through the coaching of future generations. Sherborne is no different and offers a wide range of sporting facilities.

There are three sports centres:

Sherborne Girls

www.oxleysc.com,

Sherborne School

www.sherbornesports.ukgo.com

and The Gryphon School.

other sporting facilities including badminton and squash courts as well as astroturf pitches. There is also an extensive range of exercise classes suitable for all ages and abilities. There are two swimming pools in the town at Sherborne Girls and Sherborne Boys schools, both of which are available to members of the public and these have various swimming sessions for beginners through to advanced swimmers.

At the Terrace Playing Fields on the outskirts of the town there are facilities to enjoy rugby, tennis, cricket and football.

Sherborne Rugby Club

www.sherbornerugby.co.uk

runs two senior teams that compete in the Dorset and

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All three have up to date fitness suites and offer a variety of

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Wiltshire Leagues. There is a ladies' team and a junior section from Under 7s upwards. There are over 150 children regularly training on a Sunday.

Sherborne Tennis Club
www.sherbornetennisclub.talktalk.net offers excellent all weather facilities and coaching for all standards. There are currently over 160 senior and 200 junior members.

Sherborne Cricket Club
www.sherbornecricket.co.uk has various sides both junior and senior. The two senior Saturday sides play in the Dorset Leagues and there is a thriving Junior section as well.

Sherborne Football Club won the League and Cup double in 2007-08.

Yeovil and Sherborne Hockey Club www.yshc.co.uk has 5 men's teams, 4 ladies' teams and over 100 juniors. The Men's 1st team were County champions in 2008 and the Under 15 boys reached the semi-finals of their National Cup competition.

Sherborne Golf Club
www.sherbornegolfclub.co.uk is a par 72 course with interesting holes and some fantastic views of the surrounding countryside. The club has a strong tradition in

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QUARR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



48

both the Ladies' and Men's sides of the game. There is also a strong and growing Junior Section.

There is an active rambling group www.dorsetyoungwalkers.org.uk which has many events all over the county.

Within easy reach of Sherborne there is sailing at Sutton Bingham reservoir and a little further away at The National Sailing Academy in Portland, host venue for the sailing events in the 2012 Olympic Games.

Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt opening meet 3rd week October. Meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and alternate Mondays to beginning March. Social events for the year include Point-to-Point, Hunt Balls, Horse and Dog/Terrier Show, Pleasure ride and Skittles League. The Hunt operates in Somerset and Dorset and offers a well-hedged challenging country requiring a bold horse. Further information from Hon. Sec. Vicky Mathews 01935 872379.

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NATURAL SHERBORNE

The Quarr is Sherborne's own designated Local Nature Reserve. Find it going north on the B3145 Bristol Road where you will see its main wheelchair accessible gate (map ref ST636175). The Quarr is supported by a Friends Group and the town council is committed to improving its varied habitats to attract and support wildlife whilst providing a community green space.

The area is an old landfill site and before that was a quarry from which the town's building stone was extracted. The low exposed Jurassic limestone cliffs, with small fossils visible, are a reminder of its ancient past. Today the woodland area, well stocked with bird boxes made by the Gryphon School, attracts a wealth of birdsong, contrasting with the generally quieter adjacent agricultural land. The exception is the unmistakable and ever present skylark which rises above the nearby fields and is heard all over the Quarr. Below the woodland is an area of mown grass with seats, popular with dog-walkers. This runs into a meadow where the grasses and flowers are left to grow throughout the spring and summer to attract butterflies, insects and small mammals. Paths are mown through the grasses to create pleasant walks and to reach the copse where young native trees have been planted to create another woodland in the future.

There is a hard surface path around the lower part of the reserve making the 2 hectare site accessible to all whatever the weather and conditions underfoot. The hills of Dorset's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty form a backdrop to the south-west. Two illustrated information boards, one at the main gate and the other by the exposed cliff, help to interpret the site, highlighting the wildlife to look out for through the changing seasons providing the background to the Quarr's geological history and its links to the town and to the wider Dorset landscape.

In early summer an area around the Terrace playing fields is a fine sight of common spotted orchids and later of pyramid orchids. The abundant clumps of yellow birdsfoot trefoil growing around the edges of the field attract large numbers of marbled white butterflies which can be seen roosting in the long grasses. A wildlife sight not to be missed on a warm summer evening is the exciting acrobatic display of swifts, screaming and swooping in gangs around the Abbey, their black scimitar wings scything through the air as they show off their skills to each other and to onlookers.





Gillian Gunner

WALKS AND CYCLE ROUTES

50

Sherborne has 27 footpaths and 6 bridleways, many of them with beautiful views passing listed buildings. Nine of the footpaths are called 'Lanes'. Coldbarbour Lane runs from The Avenue to the A30 and Powys Lane from Acreman Street up to Richmond Green after which the path continues on its way to Lenthay Common with diversions created by post war housing developments. Finger

Lane and Church Lane both lead to the Abbey; Stony Lane lies to the east of the town near Dodge Cross. More unusual names are Gravel Pits from School Lane to Westbury and its junction with Lower Acreman Street. Priestlands Steps, 58 of them, connect Priestlands with Blackberry Lane below and Acreman Place's 6 steps link Acreman Place with Horsecastles.

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The advertisement features a central logo for 'Mid West Office Equipment' with a stylized 'MW' in a cube. To the left, there's an image of a wooden desk and a black office chair. Below that is a white filing cabinet. In the center, there are various office supplies like pens, paper, and a stapler. To the right, there's an image of craft supplies including markers, a glue stick, and a paper cutter. The text is arranged around these images, providing contact information for both the office equipment and hobby & crafts sections.

Pleasant countryside walks include one to North Wootton (3 miles S) and Haydon (4 miles SE), returning through Sherborne Park past the New Castle. Another takes the walker up Watery Lane (the main road southwards until 1848) through Honeycombe Wood to Lillington, Leweston and Longburton, then back down Gainsborough Hill.

A northward walk up Quarr Lane offers a short return down the steep valley's Sandford Orcas Lane, or a middle distance one through Coombe or a slightly longer one (less than 5 miles) returning by Trent Path Lane to Coombe.

Country lanes from Osborne to Poyntington (2 miles N) and Sandford Orcas (3 miles) provide views north-west over the Somerset Levels. A walk through Lenthay Common (on which commoners' cattle are often grazing) leads to Wyke, a 17th century farmhouse with its moat and medieval tithe barn, the largest in Dorset. A track from there leads to Thornford (4 miles SW), past its old mill site on the River Yeo, through the village and up to Ratcombe Wood, where a millennium bench with a table and viewfinder offer a break. Lillington can be visited on the way back to Sherborne through Honeycombe Wood.

To help walkers on four of these excursions leaflets are available

free from the Tourist Information Centre with two further leaflets suggesting cycle routes: 14 miles off-road to Trent and Nether Compton and a 35 mile return ride to Cattistock.

The Macmillan Way, which runs from Abbotsbury on Dorset's coast to Boston in Lincolnshire passes through the middle of Sherborne. So does National Cycle Network 26, coming down from Honeycombe Wood and leaving northward beside the Quarr, a local nature reserve, to Sandford Orcas and beyond where sections of its route coincide with the Monarch's Way and the Leland Trail, attractive to those who prefer longer walks.

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SHERBORNE FOR THE YOUNG

At the bottom of Culverhayes car park is the recently refurbished recreation ground offering fun and rides for all. This easily accessible, fully enclosed play area has specially designed and adapted facilities for less able children up to 12 years of age.

Another excellent play area can be found at the playing fields on the Terraces, this one has a super wooden obstacle course/climbing frame, a ride-on horse and two sets of swings for children and toddlers. There is also a picnic table for al fresco dining, tennis courts to hire and cricket nets to practice in.

52 Pageant Gardens is the place for a spot of hide and seek where lots of fun can be had playing between the tall shrubs and bushes. A great spot for a family picnic too. If horses are your thing then make a beeline for Bridleways who specialise in hacking out and cater for children aged 4 years upward. Equipment is provided. 01935 814716 www.bridleways.biz

How about a bit of fossil spotting in the Jurassic cliff faces of the Quarr Local Nature Reserve where you can also enjoy the flat grass area and spot some wildlife too. Further down Blackberry Lane is the stuff for the bigger kids, the skate park is open for all with an interest in boarding, blading, bikes and scooters. Equipment includes, a Flat Bank, The Box and The Volcano. Hidden among the grassy slopes in the

same park is a host of recreation equipment ranging from slides, swings, obstacle course to climbing frames; whilst the devil slide is not for the fainthearted! From the end of July to the end of August you will find the Maize Maze at Crackmoor Farm where getting lost has never been so much fun. The farmer will take you on a farm tour on his tractor and trailer and delicious home-made cakes and refreshments are available. Located on the A30 between Sherborne and Milborne Port. www.crackmoorfarm.co.uk

Revels Fishery at Buckland Newton, near Sherborne welcomes anglers over 7 years of age. 01300 345301 www.revelsfishery.fsbusiness.co.uk

Finally, an evening you will never forget, watch badgers and other creatures in their natural habitat at Buckland Newton. 01300 345293 www.badgerwatchdorset.co.uk

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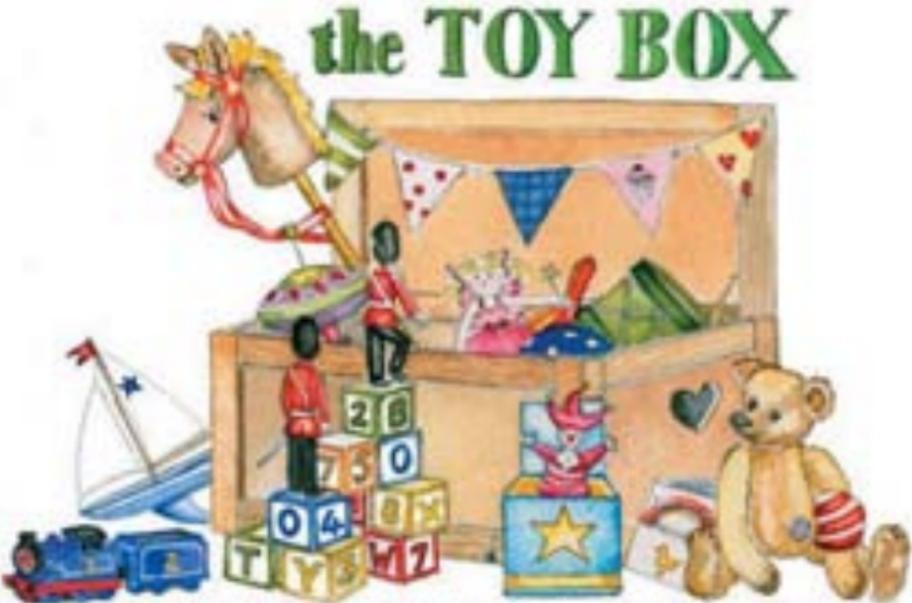
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SHERBORNE FOR THE LESS ABLE

Cheap Street, the main shopping street, inclines gradually and is pedestrianised from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm Monday to Friday and 11:00am to 4:00pm on Saturdays. There are narrow pavements each side of the road widening out towards the bottom of Cheap Street near the Conduit.

Temporary disabled parking permits and location details of car parks with designated disabled bays are available from the Sherborne Tourist Information Centre or at

www.sherborne.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

Disabled badge holders are advised to refer to the disabled parking notices in each car park. RADAR toilets can be found in 3 locations in the town and RADAR keys can be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre as above. Access to the

town's gardens are suitable for wheelchairs; Pageant Gardens is close to the town centre with sloping access and a level access point from South Street. There are several seats in the garden and the paths are level and suitable for wheelchairs and motor scooters. Access to the Paddock Garden in Newland is suitable for wheelchairs as all parts of the garden can be reached by sloping gravel paths with a scented garden area with seating.

A permissive walk round the Terrace Playing Fields is being negotiated as are several routes in the town. More kissing gates have been erected to make footpaths easier for the physically disabled; new signs will replace previous ones to make the direction of the footpaths round the town clearer.

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SHERBORNE WITH YOUR 'BEST FRIEND'

Dogs are very welcome in Sherborne as are responsible owners who 'bag it and bin it'. No-one, even dog owners, want to step in dog mess.

When visiting the town please note that due to the narrow and ancient streets there are few places for shops and businesses to provide water bowls and there is little shade in the car parks.

However, there are some lovely walks where dogs may run free including the Quarr Nature Reserve (See page 49) and, by courtesy of the Digby Estate, Purlieu Meadow between the

railway line and New Road. Dogs may also be taken into the beautiful grounds and gardens surrounding Sherborne Castle providing they are kept on leads. Sherborne is surrounded by wonderful country walks which are perfect for dogs (See page 50) but please adhere to the countryside code and keep your dog under control.

www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

Vets:

Kingston Veterinary Clinic:
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Newton-Clark and Watson:
Acreman Street
Tel: 01935 816228



Denholm Elliot and Glenda Jackson in the Digby Tap



Sherborne School



Newland Gardens



Enjoying the river – Purlieu Meadow



The Julian – Cheap Street



Abbeylands – Cheap Street



Pageant Gardens



View from Long Street



OVERSEAS LINKS

SHERBORNE TOWN

TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in 1982 to encourage contact with Granville in Normandy and the Twinning Charter was signed that same year. From that time the link has flourished and very many lasting relationships have been forged.

The main objective has always been to foster family friendships with the citizens of Granville and to learn more about their way of life. This has been achieved by staying in each other's homes during annual exchange visits. Links are also encouraged between clubs and societies in both towns and there is much interest in introducing families to each other so that private arrangements can be made for children to travel and stay 'en famille'.

During the annual visit by Sherborne members to see friends in Granville there is usually a short extension to see

something of other areas. Over recent years this has included short excursions to the Loire region, Brittany, La Sarthe, Le Mans and La Rochelle.

A social programme also takes place during the year including garden parties, joint pub meals, boules matches and autumn theatre visits.

New members are encouraged to join and there is no annual subscription. Neither is there a necessity to be able to speak French although a little does help.

A regular newsletter is published and this can be sent to anyone living in Sherborne or one of the surrounding villages who might be interested in the Association's activities or who might wish to become a supporter.

Enquiries through Committee members listed at the Sherborne Tourist Information Centre or through the town website:

www.sherbornetown.com

SHERBORNE DOUZELAGE



Douzelage

is a multi-polar

European

town twinning organisation with

one member town from each EU country – Sherborne being the United Kingdom representative.

The movement was conceived in 1989 by the Sherborne / Granville Twinning Association and received pan-European recognition with the award of a Twinning Gold Star by the European Commission in 1993.

As the EU expands, so new member towns are invited to join **Douzelage**.

Douzelage fosters opportunity and friendship amongst all the people of the member towns. Cultural, educational and sporting exchanges lie at its heart as well as potential for commercial and tourism initiatives.

For more details:

www.douzelage.org

At the time of printing there are 22 member towns:

Altea	Spain
Bad Kötzing	Germany
Bellagio	Italy
Bundoran	Ireland
Chojna	Poland
Granville	France
Holstebro	Denmark
Houffalize	Belgium
Judenburg	Austria
Karkkila	Finland
Köszeg	Hungary
Meerssen	Netherlands
Niederanven	Luxembourg
Oxelösund	Sweden
Preveza	Greece
Prienai	Lithuania
Sesimbra	Portugal
Sherborne	Great Britain
Sigulda	Latvia
Sušice	Czech Republic
Türi	Estonia
Zvolen	Slovakia

AMERICAN LINKS

Sherborne's links with America go back to Sir Walter Raleigh who, though he never reached America's shores, was responsible through his agents for introducing potatoes and tobacco to England. It is said that Sir Walter was enjoying a pipe of tobacco when one of his maids poured a bucket of water over him, thinking him to be on fire. A number of local sites are claimed as the setting for this event.

Sherborne's War Memorial in front of the Abbey displays two plaques commemorating the 294th Engineer Combat Battalion of the United States Army. One commemorates 29 members of 'C' Company who were killed on 20th March, 1944 in an anti-tank mine explosion while training in

Sherborne for the D-Day landings. The second plaque is inscribed: *On June 6th, 1989, surviving members of the 294th Engineer Combat Battalion presented this plaque to commemorate its members killed in action and to express its gratitude to the people of Sherborne for their friendship in 1944 while the Battalion completed its preparations for the invasion in Europe. The Battalion left this town to serve as part of the V11 Army Corps in the battles in Normandy, northern France, the Burtgen Forest, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and central Germany. We recall those killed during these campaigns.* During the Remembrance Sunday parade in November a major from the U S Corps of Engineers, on attachment to the School of



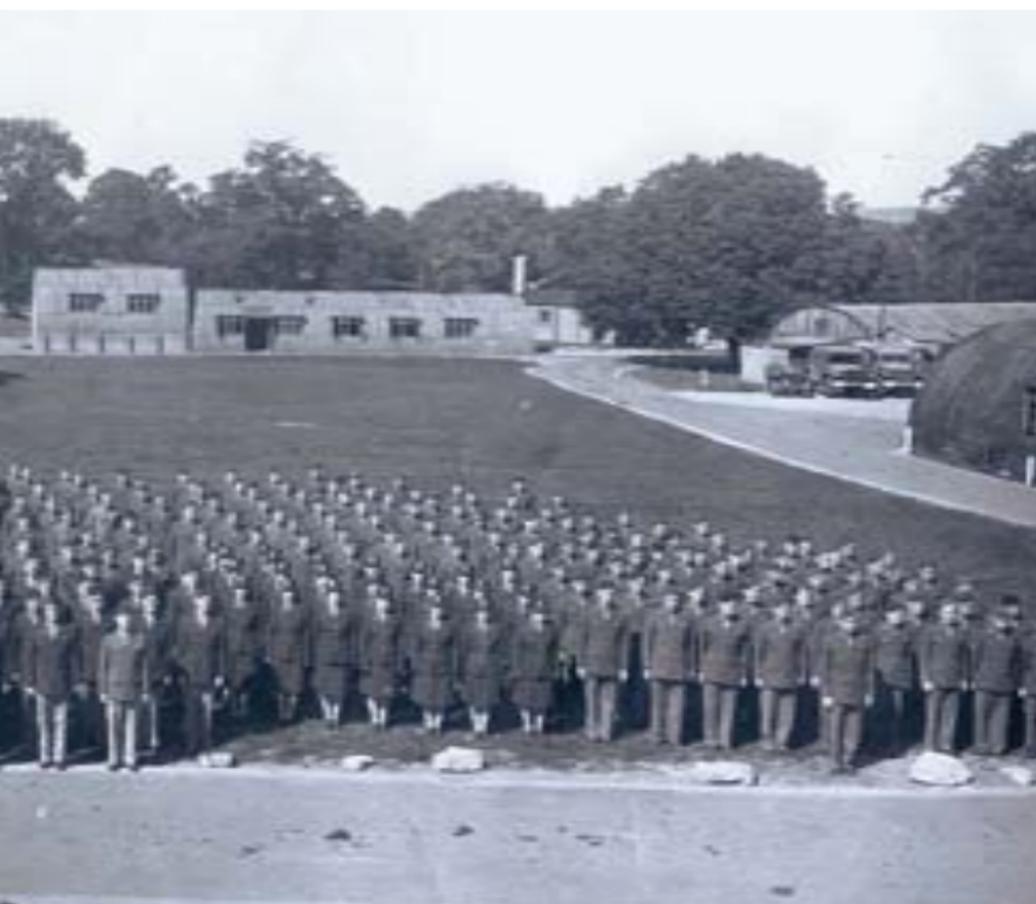
Infantry in Warminster, places a wreath on the War Memorial.

The 228th American Hospital was built in Haydon Park in 1943 and treated over 22,000 patients both Allied and POW before it was disbanded in 1945. Sherborne library contains Jean Treasure's excellent book about her experiences as a young secretary working for the Americans at the hospital.

The town has links with Sherborn, Massachusetts, which was founded by folk from Dorset. Indeed in the great Sherborne Pageant of 1905 a crowned lady depicted Sherborne and another her god-daughter Sherborn, Massachusetts. Sherborne Museum proudly displays the copy of a formal address sent by

the American Sherborn in 1905 on the occasion of the twelve hundredth anniversary of the founding of the 'Mother Town', Sherborne, England. There is close contact between the two towns' museums who regularly exchange information and members from both organisations visit each other from time to time.

It seems that American visitors enjoy Sherborne and a popular local story tells of a couple who stopped off to sightsee en route from London to Exeter. The gentleman so enjoyed the atmosphere of the town and particularly its hostelries that he stayed for 6 days and was collected by his wife on her return journey.



FAMOUS PEOPLE WITH CONNECTIONS TO SHERBORNE

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552 – 1618): He called Sherborne his 'Fortune's Fold' and purchased a 99-year lease on the Old Castle and its park in 1592 after his marriage to Elizabeth Throckmorton. However, finding the property to be too damp he abandoned it in 1594 and started building the New Castle. After the death of Queen Elizabeth I he fell out of favour with James I and his Sherborne estates were forfeited. They later came into the hands of the Digby family who still own the New Castle today.

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The living link between the Old Castle and Sir Walter Raleigh is the clove pink which grows in clumps on its banks. Sherborne tradition credits Lady Elizabeth Raleigh with having introduced *Dianthus caryophyllus* 'Simplex Major' which is known in the town as Lady Betty's Pink. For special occasions, flowers are cut to decorate Leweston Chapel in Sherborne Abbey where Sir Walter and Lady Betty sat for services.



Sir Walter Raleigh

Alexander Pope (1688 – 1744): This 18th century English poet visited the gardens laid out by Lord Robert Digby at Sherborne Castle in 1724. On the lakeside walk is 'Pope's Seat' where he wrote an account of the gardens as they were.

William Macready (1793 – 1873): Famous actor-manager who lived in Sherborne House from 1850 to 1860 and whose guests included **William Makepiece Thackeray** and his close friend **Charles Dickens** who gave one of his famous readings in the drawing room of the house.

Thomas Hardy (1840 – 1928): The novelist and poet in whose book 'The Woodlanders' Sherborne features as 'Sherton Abbas' where Giles Winterborne sold his apple trees in the Market Place and which also includes references to Sherborne Abbey.

The boys and girls of Sherborne's famous schools are



Thomas Hardy – Author

a familiar sight on Sherborne's ancient streets and, over the years, many of those young faces have become instantly recognisable including: **David Cornwell (John le Carré)**, the author of 'The Spy who came in from the Cold', 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' and 'Smiley's People'. **Tom Bradby**, author and a senior correspondent for ITN. **Cecil Day-Lewis**, Poet Laureate. **Sir Richard Eyre**, film, opera and theatre director. **Sir Michael Hopkins**, architect of the bicentenary stand at Lords Cricket Ground and Glyndebourne Opera House. **John Le Mesurier**, BAFTA award-winning actor (Dad's Army). **Jeremy Irons**, Oscar winning actor. **Dr. Colin Lucas**, Master of Balliol College, Oxford. **Chris Martin**, lead singer and founder member of the band, Coldplay. **Sir Alastair Pilkington**, inventor of the 'float glass' system. **James Purefoy**, **Hugh Bonneville** and **Charlie Cox** actors. **Lord Sheppard**, former Bishop of Liverpool and England test cricketer. **Alan Turing**, Enigma code breaker.

Old Girls from Sherborne Girl's School include: **Dame Emma Kirkby**, soprano. **Camila Batmangheildlh**, founder of Kid's Company. **Sophie Kinsella**, author and **Maria Aitken**, actress.



Hugh Bonneville – Actor



Dame Emma Kirkby – Soprano



Chris Martin – 'Coldplay'



Jeremy Irons – Actor



FILMS MADE IN SHERBORNE

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Sherborne is no stranger to film and TV crews and the buildings and the quads of Sherborne School have been used as a feature film location on a number of occasions. These include 'The Guinea Pig' (1948) starring Richard Attenborough, Sheila Sim and a young Anthony Newley. The film tells the story of a working class schoolboy who is sent to a public school as an educational experiment.

This was followed by 'The Browning Version' (1951) based on a play by Terence Rattigan and starring Michael Redgrave and Jean Kent. In 1994 the film was re-made and again filmed in Sherborne, starring Albert Finney and Greta Scacchi.

Peter O'Toole and Petula Clark came to Sherborne in 1969 to film the musical version of 'Goodbye Mr. Chips' for MGM. Many boys of Sherborne School went on summer holidays late, preferring to stay and take advantage of an invitation to take part as extras in the film which was centred on the

School. Besides the boys, numerous local residents also agreed to take part, mainly in crowd scenes on the Terrace Playing Field where a superb pavilion had been erected for the duration of the filming. Several local people were invited to the premiere of the film in London and everyone was pleased that the town and the school were represented so well. The filming encouraged the local newspaper, the 'Western Gazette', to publish a special edition, the first in the paper's 200+ years' history.

In 1991 the made-for-TV movie 'A Murder of Quality' starring Denholm Elliott and Glenda Jackson was filmed in Sherborne. This thriller was written by John Le Carré (John Cornwell) a Sherborne School old boy.

Film makers are welcome in Sherborne and should contact the Town Clerk for details of available facilities.
Tel: 01935 816961



GENEALOGY

Sherborne is home to the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society whose research centre is run entirely by volunteers and is located next door to the Town Museum just off Cheap Street. The centre contains many records covering the two counties, village and town histories and perhaps more exclusively, the results of members' own research into Somerset and Dorset families.

The modest annual subscription includes four quarterly editions

of the award-winning journal 'The Greenwood Tree', a sort of local family history exchange and market. Membership also means free entry to the centre's library, reduced-cost use of its computers and the added bonus of having someone there to help you if you need it.

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SHERBORNE ONLINE

Sherborne is supported by an excellent, up-to-date website, which balances the needs of the local community and its businesses with points of interest for visitors and shoppers.

www.sherbornetown.com acts as a comprehensive platform of information for anyone wanting to know more about the town, its services, facilities and events. The website provides details of all shops, businesses, services, organisations, clubs and societies within the Sherborne area. Many of these contacts have opted to have a more detailed entry, which instead of showing simply as a listing, appears as a mini homepage with a location map and a link to the business's own website.

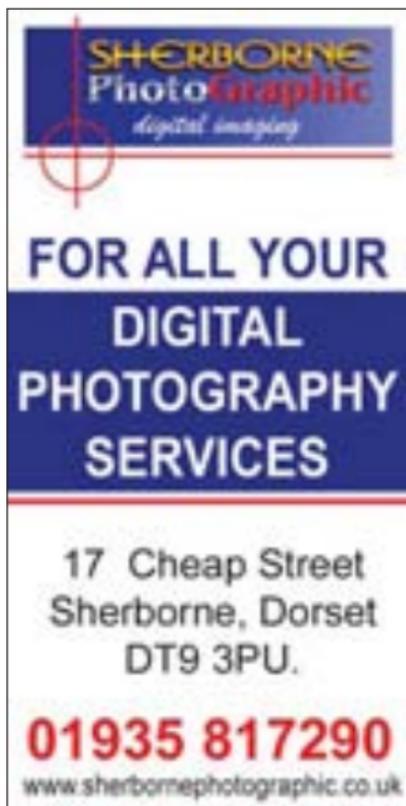
As well as providing general information about Sherborne, the website also outlines the town's extensive and significant history which has played an important part in the architecture and characteristics of the town today. Local photographers have also provided the website with images, illustrating the picturesque views in and around Sherborne.

Especially important for visitors new to the town is the 'locate Sherborne' facility that uses Google maps. Users can simply enter where they want directions from and the website will provide the route to Sherborne and the estimated travel time and mileage.

The website www.sherbornetown.com provides information about the Sherborne Town Council, the Sherborne Area Partnership and the Sherborne Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

The businesses listed also benefit in an increasingly competitive environment through enhanced search engine listings. As the Sherborne website includes live and changing data with hundreds of links it is easily picked up on Google and other search engines allowing the companies listed to be found more easily and increasing their chances of obtaining business. The Events and Announcements pages are regularly updated by

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the website managers, Third Dimension, and the subscribing organisations themselves. The website has recently been organised so that subscribers have the ability to easily edit and update their entries easily whenever they need to. This has ensured that the latest information is available to users.

Visitors can also locate helpful and important facilities such as car parks, public toilets, churches, the hospital, the Tourist Information Centre, schools and the emergency services with the use of the visitor information pages.

The aim of Sherborne's website is to have one area which

provides in depth information about the town at the touch of a button and which can be accessed by anyone, anywhere in the world. Ensuring that Sherborne is on the map and that there is a complete guide to all the town has to offer can only be of great benefit to its community and the surrounding area.

If you have suggestions about additions you would like to see on the website or if you would like more information please call Third Dimension on 01963 251222 or email anthony@thirddimension.co.uk



TOURS FEATURING SHERBORNE

Alfa Travel

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www.alfatravel.co.uk

Footscape

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www.gbtours.com

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www.jewelstours.co.uk

Leisuretime Tours

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www.leisuretime-tours.co.uk

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SHERBORNE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Sherborne TIC is a winner of South West Tourism's prestigious gold award for the best tourist information centre in the South West. It provides a comprehensive information service for visitors and the local community including:

- Local and national accommodation booking service
- Advice on what to do, where to go and how to get there
- Booking agent for coach and ferry operators
- Ticket agent for local events, attractions and theatres
- Maps, local interest books, parking permits, gifts and souvenirs on sale
- Guided walks of Sherborne with a blue badge guide leave from the Tourist Information Centre every Friday at 11:00am from April to September.

Open year round:

April – November

Monday – Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm

November – March

Monday – Saturday 10:00am to 3:00pm

Located opposite the Abbey at: Digby Road, Sherborne, DT9 3NL

Tel: 01935 815341 Fax: 01935 817210

Email: sherborne.tic@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

Laundrette

Unit 3, Westbridge Park, Sherborne DT9 6AW

Tel: 01935 816040

Open 6:00am to 6:00pm daily

Brian Clarke



HOW TO GET TO SHERBORNE

The nearest airports are at Bournemouth (32 miles)

www.bournemouthairport.com

and Bristol (42 miles) www.bristolairport.co.co.uk

From London (Heathrow) Airport there is a bus/rail link via Woking and from London (Gatwick) Airport change at Clapham Junction to connect with the train to Sherborne.

South West trains operate a regular service taking about 2hr 15mins from London Waterloo to Sherborne. Trains from Exeter and other points in the South West are also regular.

For information: www.southwesttrains.co.uk

Taxis are available at Sherborne railway station should you need them. However, the station is in the centre of town within a very short walk of the Abbey, shops and restaurants.

Beaver Cabs: 01935 816620

BWP Private Hire: 01963 250897

H & H Cars: 01935 817766

Mikeys Taxis and Limousines: 01935 816527

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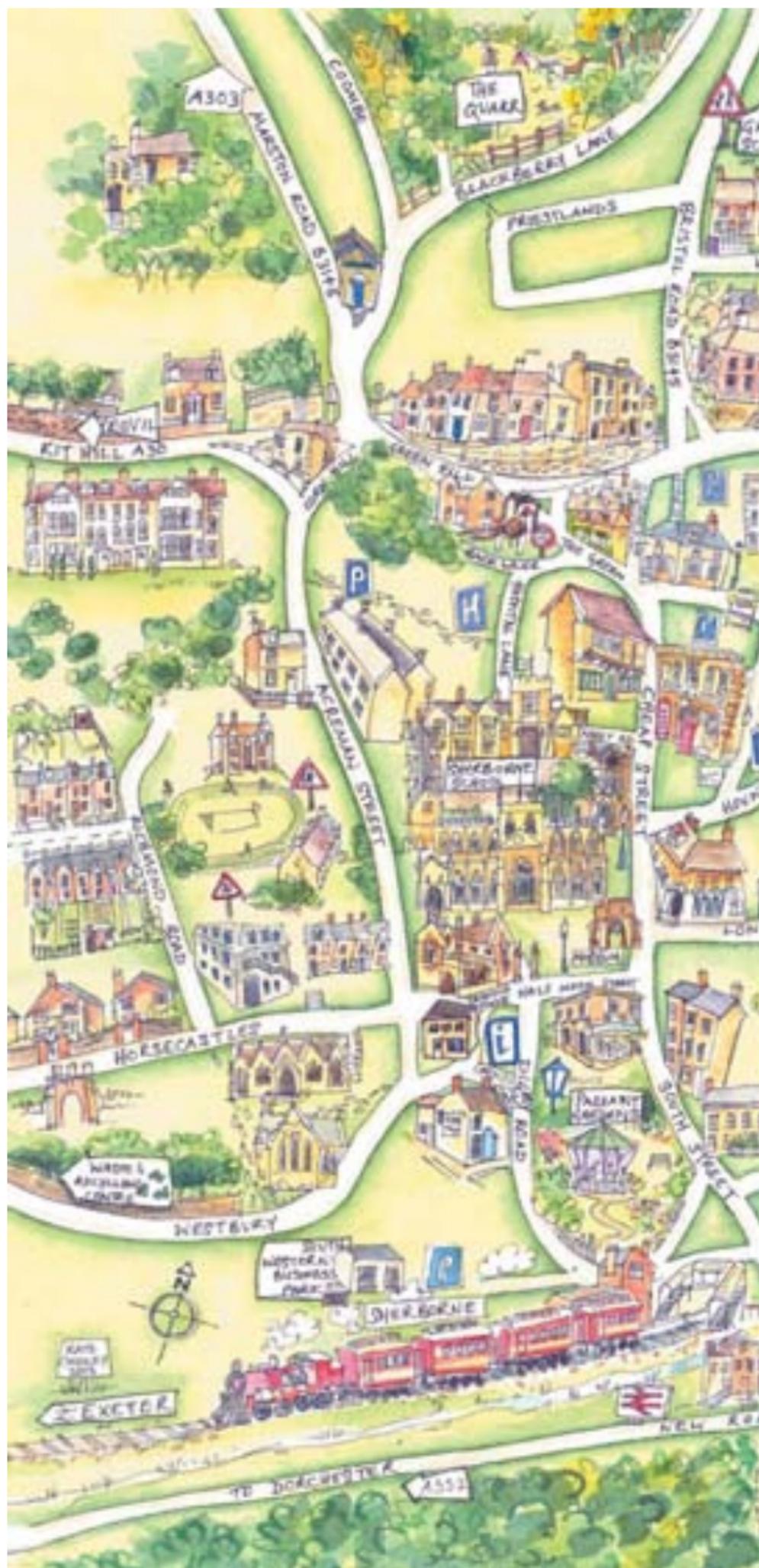
By road Sherborne is situated on the A 30 between Shaftesbury and Yeovil and can be easily reached from the A 303 at Wincanton.

www.sherbornetown.com (locate Sherborne)

Sherborne is an ideal place to break the journey for those travelling to Devon and Cornwall.



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