

Conservation works – The low level works that are part of the first phase of the project will be starting in mid-Sept. work will be carried out to remove vegetation and consolidate mortar between the SW gatehouse and the Sally port. The high level rope access work will begin at the start of November around the New Bulwark and that will once again be focused on vegetation removal and mortaring.

Summer Holidays – The Summer holiday has gone well with visitor numbers up, not by as much as last year but up against our target. The Hidden histories trail has been running well and we have all but run out of Siege coins as prizes for completing the trail. We have been offering play games throughout the Summer, including Archery, tug of war, cornhole and many more. There has been a sensory play board in the accessible lodge for those with sensory needs and young children to play with.

Ancient Wessex Network – We started the Summer with the Ancient Wessex network in the castle displaying heritage crafts and cowering in the tents because the weather was so bad some days. As usual their efforts were well received by the visitors.

Goat Path and Ollie Vyes Lane – The steps to the castle on the goat path have been filled in but we are waiting for Dorset Council to consolidate the works. Additionally we are speaking to them about repairing the water damaged parts of the path at the top of Ollie Vyes lane as it is becoming quite a trip hazard. I can update when I have met with them.

Wedding Fair - We have previously hosted a small wedding fair in the castle and we will be holding another one on the 8th October. Once again, there will be a great selection of local suppliers, covering everything from wedding dresses to photography and marquee hire. There was good take up of the last one and we hope with additional advertising this one will be even better attended.

E-push/mountain trike at the Castle feedback/new Zest Plus mobility Scooter - we have been gathering feedback on our E-Push Mountain trike that we have been letting visitors with access needs use over the summer. Generally it has been positive and has led us on to purchasing a new self-controlled mobility scooter for the castle. We are expecting delivery in the next month.

Second-hand bookshop at Castleview – The Second-hand bookshop is doing well, so well in fact that we are running low on donated books. We are putting out a call for books that we can sell that are no longer needed.

Corfe Castle First School Sports day – As part of our drive to forge better links with the local schools, we hosted the village school's sports day this year. Hopefully we can make this an annual event alongside other opportunities to get the children into the castle.

Coat of Arms competition – Over this summer we have been collecting the ideas and thoughts of the general public about what makes Corfe Castle special. We will be collating all the responses and asking the village school to run a piece of work to design a coat of arms for the castle. This will then be made into an official coat of arms by a professional designer and then used throughout the castle and wider.

Morris Dancers – We are potentially having a Morris dancing display within the castle on the 8th September ahead of the Swanage folk festival. The troupes will be coming to us from all over the UK and will providing an afternoon of jangling bells and wood on wood action.

Festival of Cultural Heritage – On Saturday and Sunday 16th/17th September we are holding a Festival of Cultural heritage within the castle. It is free entry to all for the weekend and will feature exhibits, talks and demonstrations of the cultural heritage of the Isle of Purbeck. Talks will be

Autumn trail and events – Starting mid-late Sept. Working in conjunction with Arts University Bournemouth, we have a trail and exhibition surrounding the fashion of the castle. There will be life size drawings of period clothing throughout the castle and real-life recreations of the costumes at the visitor centre. This will include 'design and making of' interpretation as well as the original sketch book with all of the designs for each piece of clothing. There will be the return of the Teddy bear Zipwire and new siege coins to collect.

Changing places – we have received the tenders for a changing places facility based at Castleview. Funding is coming from the council's levelling up fund. We making the final decision on which contractor to appoint on by the end of the first week of September and take delivery of/install the unit by the end of February 2023.

Lighting up the Castle in support of Dorset Air Ambulance – We will be lighting up the castle in Yellow and Green as part of a local and national campaign to support the work of the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance on the 7th September.