

This composite summary covers the months of April to June 2021 inclusive.

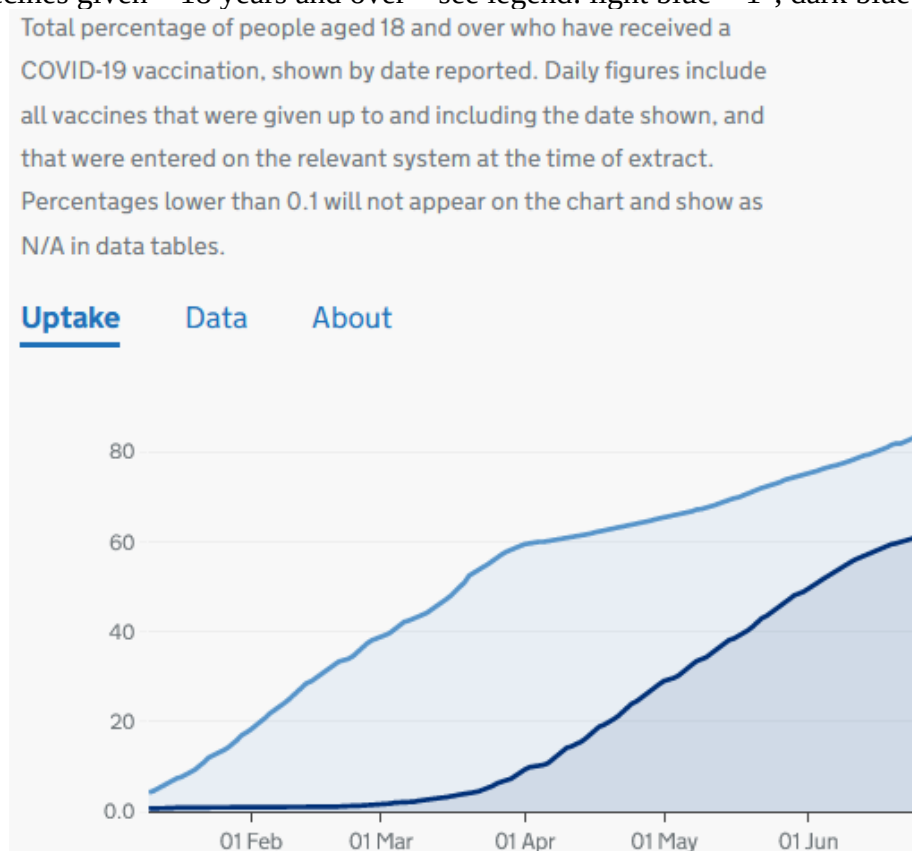
A year ago (in 2020), the UK was gripped in the near-total ‘Lockdown’ that had been initiated in late March (q.v.). Roads, shops etc., were eerily quiet, only the major supermarket chains managed to continue for ‘essential shopping’ and we were all standing along the side of the road every Thursday evening clapping for all our worth! For several weeks, I was able to cycle down our local roads with hardly a car to be seen.

At the start of this summary period (April 2021), we were technically in yet another ‘Lockdown’ ( see previous summary ), though frankly given the amount of traffic on the roads, the people out-and-about generally, bus usage etc., it wasn’t easy to see what was different from a normal early spring period. However, the big difference this year was the roll-out of the vaccines – and what a success story that has been – probably contributing to the significant drop in cases, hospital admissions, deaths etc., that was observed across most of the UK ( and certainly across Dorset ) by the middle of May.

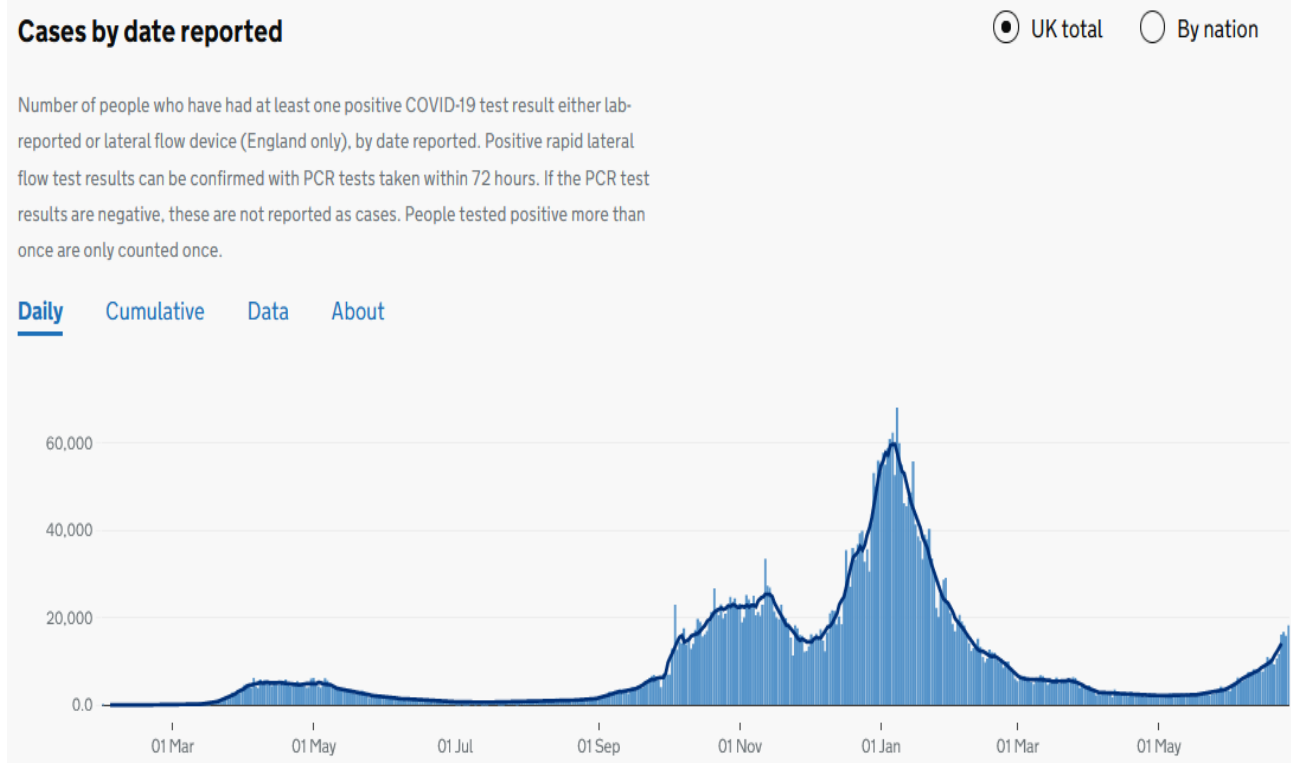
However, the release from restrictions had begun: schools/colleges had returned full-time and limited outdoor gathering was allowed. And everyone was getting excited at the 12<sup>th</sup> April changes – when more retail ( including non-essential ) were due to re-open.

The vaccines in use at this summary end were: Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/AstraZeneca and Moderna: by far the majority the first two, but the third is thought to be better for younger adults – lower risk of clotting of the blood etc., though that risk has probably been overblown somewhat. The UK is way out ahead of European nations in its vaccine rollout – see the graph below.

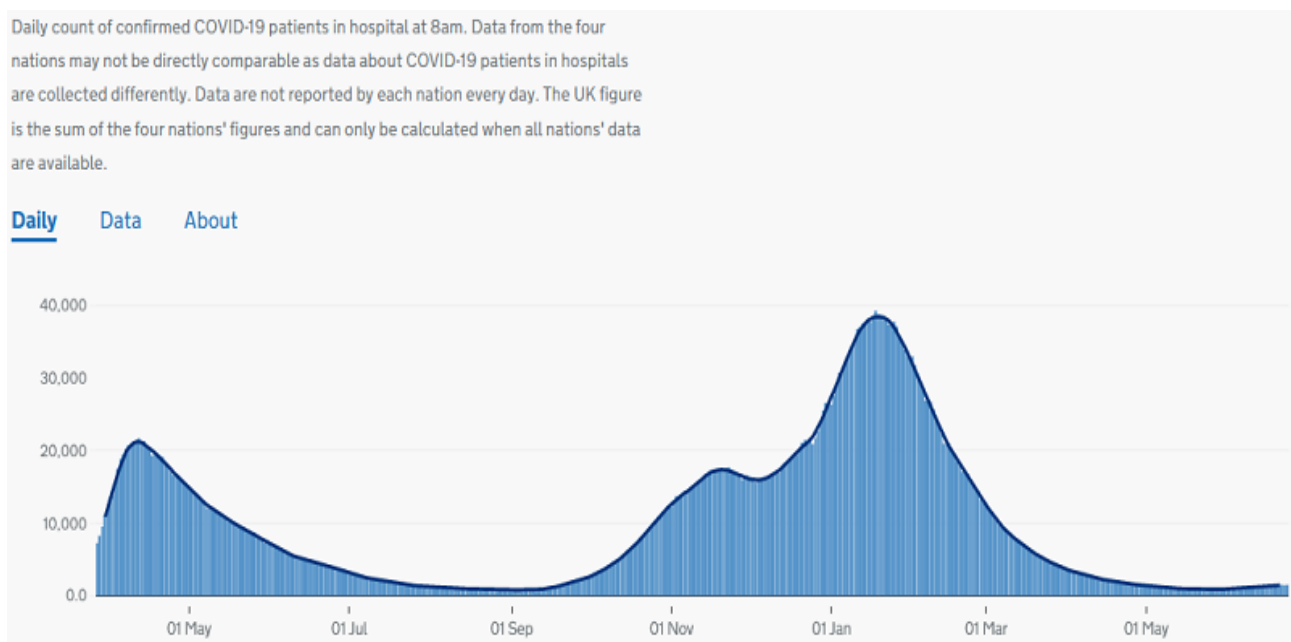
[Graph of vaccines given – 18 years and over – see legend: light blue = 1<sup>st</sup>, dark blue = 2<sup>nd</sup>]



[Graph of cases ... see legend – note the increase (again) through June]



[Graph of hospital admissions – the link between ‘cases’ and ‘hospital admissions’ appears to be much weaker.]



Through this 3-month summary period great concern was expressed over the rapid increase in incidence across England & Scotland of the “Indian” variant ( now known as the “Delta” variant ). It is clear both from this country, and elsewhere around the world, that the Delta variant is going to be a difficult strain to cope with.

Holidays within UK were beginning to be taken up, but there was a great deal of confusion regarding whether people could travel and return to the most popular destinations, such as Spain, France, Greece & Italy. Portugal was 'allowed' but even that was withdrawn during June.

All was going well .... until the final weeks of this summary, when the mood from scientists & some politicians became less optimistic .... what will the next 3 months bring?

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days ( to Sunday 4th April 2021 )

- Easter weekend ( Good Friday = 2<sup>nd</sup>, Easter Day = 4<sup>th</sup> ): chilly, breezy, but dry with extended period of strong sunshine. Plenty of people about – supermarkets busy, but roads not excessively so? A lot of concern about over-visiting and litter but as of Easter Sunday, no major problems have been notified, despite the stunning sunshine.
- West Moors seems to be 'behaving' itself this past weekend – people about, but no disturbances / stresses noted.
- A very important set of changes began this week on the **29<sup>th</sup> March**: outdoor gatherings allowed – including in private gardens - from that date, though with restrictions ("Rule of 6" /two households only returns), outdoor/amateur sports can take place (with appropriate 'Covid-secure' practices) etc. For the time being, people are still being encouraged to work from home, but effectively, the 'Lockdown' (No. 3) ends.
- From this date, all Town Council owned sports facilities have now become available again.
- From **31<sup>st</sup> March**: the shielding scheme for 'clinically extremely vulnerable' people ended – they are no longer advised to stay and home and NOT go to work, shop, etc., but will join in with the 'general' restrictions of the rest of the population. Many in this category have been stuck at home for over a year!
- Pinehurst Community Church food bank ceased 31<sup>st</sup> March: donation boxes removed and excess food distributed as appropriate.
- Vaccination data: as of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> ... total 1<sup>st</sup> dose = 31.5mn [ just over three-fifths of the adult population over age 19 ]; total 2<sup>nd</sup> dose = 5.4mn – the second dose is being rolled out very quickly.
- Dorset/BCP data: as of 1<sup>st</sup> April ( Thursday – earlier because of holiday weekend ) ... a slight fall in case rates – both areas now below average rate for the SW and significantly lower than the all-England average. Some concern surrounding what happens after the holiday weekend.
- West Moors data: as of 30<sup>th</sup> March, fewer than 3 cases, so for another week, we are 'suppressed': long may it continue!
- The PM is due to announce confirmation/amendment of the 'plan' for relaxation on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April.
  
- Forthcoming changes (to be confirmed / amended 5<sup>th</sup> April): From **12<sup>th</sup> April**: more changes - includes non-essential shops/retail ( allowed to remain open until 10pm if required ), hairdressers, public buildings [ e.g., Memorial Hall ], libraries, outdoor bar/restaurant facilities, zoos, theme parks, indoor leisure like swimming and gyms etc. ) provided improvement continues ( following the opening of the schools ). Also, an easing of rules around visiting residents in care homes: more than one person, and some family members may visit – though with testing in place. This is, for many people, the critical easing date of the latest Lockdown. Holidays (self-catering and/or self-contained) within England will be allowed for example.
- From **17<sup>th</sup> May** (to be confirmed) ... further easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but probably with some sort

of maximum number. More people allowed at weddings, funerals & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially it is an outdoor venue.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days ( to Sunday 11th April 2021 )

- Easter Monday passed peacefully as far as I can ascertain. The local police community patrols reported that they were pretty happy with how people behaved over the holiday weekend. Shops not as busy as I would have expected.
- Morebus restored services to pre-pandemic levels last Sunday, though because that was a Bank Holiday weekend, effectively it was from Tuesday that services were effectively ‘back to normal’. The important change for West Moors is that the X6 now runs to/from Bournemouth for most journeys ... rather than being truncated to Ringwood.
- The PM announced on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> ... ‘Road Map’ is confirmed as regards April 12<sup>th</sup> re-opening (see entry below) ... with addition of twice-weekly tests (“rapid flow”) available for ALL who want them from Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. I ordered mine on Friday (on-line), it was delivered Saturday – and I performed the first [negative] test that evening, so working well ... but a lot of doubt about whether they are that reliable or ‘value for money’.
- Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, consort to the Queen, died on Friday (9<sup>th</sup>).
- Figures for infections etc: this taken from the PH Dorset web site ... “The Dorset Council case rate has fallen this week, whilst the case rate for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area has risen slightly. We expect to see small fluctuations week-on-week whilst we have relatively low transmission. The number of COVID-related hospitalisations and deaths also remains low.” West Moors also remains low – as do large areas across the south of England. There is growing evidence that the link between cases and deaths/significant hospital admission numbers has been broken. More people taking the vaccine => fewer suffering serious effects. As of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, first-dose totals = 32.1mn and second-dose totals = 7.5mn. The rate of second-dose issue has dramatically increased this past week. Overall, 61% of the 18+ population have had at least one dose as of Sunday and just over 14% the second dose ( or effectively ‘fully’ vaccinated. )
- Forthcoming changes: From **12<sup>th</sup> April**: more changes - includes non-essential shops/retail, hairdressers / barbers, public buildings [ e.g., Memorial Hall, though no word on their web site about re-opening ], libraries (ours will open on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to normal/pre-pandemic hours but with restrictions), outdoor bar/restaurant facilities, zoos, theme parks, indoor leisure like swimming and gyms etc. ). Also, an easing of rules around visiting residents in care homes: more than one person, and some family members may visit – though with testing in place. This is, for many people, the critical easing date of the latest Lockdown. Holidays (self-catering and/or self-contained) within England will be allowed for example.
- Wool Shop will re-open **12<sup>th</sup>**, no others noted as yet ...
- From **17<sup>th</sup> May** (to be confirmed) ... further easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but probably with some sort of maximum number. More people allowed at weddings, funerals & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially it is an outdoor venue.

Summary of newsy items from past 7 days ( to Sunday 18th April 2021: next issue in two weeks time – to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – see statement below. )

- From Monday **12<sup>th</sup> April**: changes - reopening - includes non-essential shops/retail, hairdressers / barbers, public buildings [ e.g., Memorial Hall, though no word on their web site about re-opening – the latest statement on their web site is the closure notice in January ], libraries (ours will open on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to normal/pre-pandemic hours but with restrictions), outdoor bar/restaurant facilities, zoos, theme parks, indoor leisure like swimming and gyms etc. ). Also, an easing of rules around visiting residents in care homes:

more than one person, and some family members may visit – though with testing in place. This is, for many people, the critical easing date of the latest Lockdown. Holidays (self-catering and/or self-contained) within England will be allowed for example.

- Pinehurst Community Church re-opened for in-house worship on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>: this church has been closed (physically) since March last year – but with lots of on-line worship! And of course they were heavily involved with the food bank/food distribution schemes earlier in the pandemic, and also in the last three months. Now only the United Reformed Church is not yet allowing in-house access (but see later).
- Case numbers/deaths, though low, have ‘bottomed-out’ recently. Whether this is significant or not remains to be seen. West Moors specifically is still doing well as we ( and many council areas roundabout ) are in the ‘suppressed’ category. The latest PHD advisory is here  
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**Published: 16 April 2021**

#### **This week's overview**

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council case rate has fallen this week, whilst the case rate for the Dorset Council area has risen slightly. We expect to see small fluctuations week-on-week whilst we have relatively low transmission. The number of COVID-related hospitalisations and deaths also remains low.

With restrictions easing, it's great that we can all do more of the things we enjoy. Please remember that you should only meet outside where the risk of transmission is much lower, and you still need to keep your distance from anyone who isn't in your household or support bubble. If we all play our part now, we can help make sure that the government's roadmap for easing restrictions can continue as planned.

Vaccination data: ( as of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> ): 1<sup>st</sup> dose = 32.8mn (62% of adult population); 2<sup>nd</sup> dose = 9.9mn (18% of adult population). Second dosage has climbed remarkably over past couple of weeks.

- St. Martin's URC have issued the following notification: “ Dear members and friends of St Martin's, I feel sure many of you will have watched the funeral of HRH Prince Philip yesterday, a solemn and emotional occasion which graphically highlighted how the restrictions of the last 13 months have affected all of us in some way or other. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Her Majesty The Queen and all her family. However, since last Monday the ‘stay at home’ rule has been relaxed and the shops are able to reopen and if all goes to plan, we will be able meet indoors in just over a month's time. So, St Martin's plans to reopen for worship on Sunday May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday. Social distancing will still be in force so our numbers will be restricted for the time being. St Martin's Community Gospel Choir Assuming the lockdown roadmap continues as planned the choir will start rehearsing at St Martin's on May 18th. We are recruiting new members so please visit the choir web page [www.urb-eastdorset.org.uk](http://www.urb-eastdorset.org.uk) and click on the Gospel Choir button. ”
- The weekend past was the first with the ‘relaxed’ restrictions; as far as I can tell, things have gone fairly well. I suppose that as pubs etc., can only open for outdoor service, and the evenings have been chilly, that might have reduced the chance of disorder!

[ Forthcoming changes ]

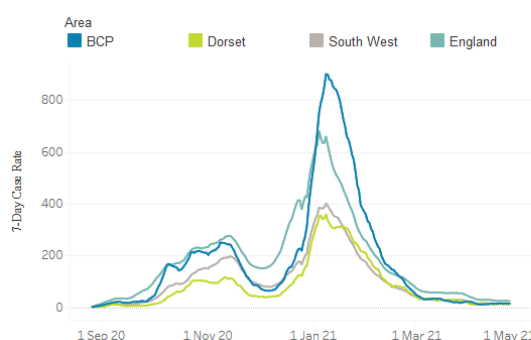
- From **17<sup>th</sup> May** (to be confirmed) ... further easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but probably with some sort of maximum number. More people allowed at weddings, funerals & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially it is an outdoor venue.

Summary of newsy items from past 14 days ( to Sunday 2nd May 2021: next issue in *two weeks* time – to Sunday 16th May. )

- As of this update, the Memorial Hall has NOT restarted: presumably they are following the ‘indoor entertainment venue’ route, which means they can’t reopen until 17<sup>th</sup> May, rather than the ‘Community centres’ which were allowed to open ( along with the Library ) from the 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- Road traffic ( and bus usage ) seems to be back to pre-pandemic levels. More caravans/motor-caravans on the roads as well.
- The Town Council has opened ( with effect Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April ) but *only by prior appointment*.
- Tap & Railway open, but Elephant & Castle not opening until well into May ( probably 17<sup>th</sup> ). Most shops have re-opened, but the cafe on Station Road has not, presumably couldn’t make money from serving outside.
- Bank Holiday weekend (1st-3rd May); will be interesting to see if there is an increase in case/death numbers in a couple of weeks time. However, the ‘mood music’ from the scientists is that with the vaccination programme going so well – and the squashing of any new variants – we may be well past any threat of another peak ... and the May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> relaxation dates may go ahead without amendment. A lot of people will be hoping it is so!
- Quite noticeable how many caravans/motorhomes etc., are on the roads this past week. Apparently it’s been ‘boom time’ for the trade recently.

Vaccination data: ( as of Saturday 1st ): 1<sup>st</sup> dose = 34.5mn (65.5% of adult population); 2<sup>nd</sup> dose = 15.3mn (29.1% of adult population). The vaccination programme is accounted a great success and contributing hugely to the containment of the pandemic in the UK.

- St Martin’s plans to reopen for worship on Sunday May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday.
- Over the past fortnight, case, deaths and hospital admissions have remained low. The cases are around half the all-England average. Many council areas across Dorset are in the ‘suppressed’ category ( 2 or fewer cases ). See the graph appended below.
- West Moors has had another two-weeks in the ‘suppressed’ category, as have most of the immediately surrounding council areas. The ‘case rate’ across Dorset is running at around 12 per 100k. This means that you’d have to meet the entire population of West Moors and interact closely with each one to expose yourself to Covid-19. At the height of this latest surge, in early January, the case-rate was around 360 per 100k, or roughly 1 in 280 people.



Positive cases for the latest 7-day period (18/04/2021 to 24/04/2021)

	Count of Cases	Case rate (per 100,000)
BCP	56	14.2
Dorset	46	12.2
South West	856	15.2
England	13,810	24.5

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- [Forthcoming changes ]
- From Tuesday **4<sup>th</sup> May**, care home residents will be able to leave their home for a low-risk visit ( e.g., visit to a garden or accompanied walk ) without having to self-isolate on return.
- From **17<sup>th</sup> May** (to be confirmed ... probably this coming week) ... further easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but probably with some sort of maximum number. More people allowed at weddings, funerals & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially it is an outdoor venue. Pubs/restaurants/cafes can re-open to indoor (seated only) customers – museums, theatres, etc. can re-open along with children’s play areas. Accommodation such as hotels, hostels and B&B can re-start. Adult indoor group sport and exercise classes can resume ( individual activity has already been allowed ).
- From **21 June** ( to be confirmed) ... It's hoped all legal limits on social contact will be removed - No legal limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events - Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen

**[ \*\*\*\*\* These ‘diary’ entries are now issued fortnightly, unless of course something dramatic happens! \*\*\*\*\* ]**

Summary of newsy items from past 14 days ( to Sunday 16th May 2021: next issue in *two weeks* time – to Sunday 30th May. )

- From Tuesday **4<sup>th</sup> May**, care home residents are now able to leave their home for a low-risk visit ( e.g., visit to a garden or accompanied walk ) without having to self-isolate on return.
- All figures ( case rates, deaths, hospital admissions ) across England are more or less stable – West Moors showed up with 3 cases over the past fortnight, but broadly, Dorset has done well. (But see comment below regarding the ‘Indian’ variant).
- The Friday 14<sup>th</sup> weekly summary is: ( applies to last 7 days ... but also pertinent to the past fortnight )
- “ Both Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council areas have seen a small decrease in case rates this week, remaining at low levels. In turn, the number of people in hospital with COVID-19 continues to be very low (currently at two people), and we have seen zero deaths within 28 days of a positive COVID test in recent weeks.”
- “ Our local situation is positive news, and we'd like to thank everyone for playing their part in keeping our cases low. As we start to open back up, we know the virus is still with us and things can change quickly, so we can't relax completely yet ..... [ On that note, there is considerable concern over the ‘Indian variant’ that has popped up in parts of London, NW England and elsewhere; the PM gave a presentation on Friday (14<sup>th</sup>) in which he confirmed the stage relaxation beginning this Monday (17<sup>th</sup>), but said that the ‘final’ relaxation in June (21<sup>st</sup>) much be in serious doubt. There is not a lot of consensus among the scientists about how quickly the new variant spreads, how potent it is, whether it can be controlled by the current vaccines etc.
- [ **Forthcoming changes** ]
- The Elephant & Castle pub/restaurant will reopen on Monday **17<sup>th</sup> May**. ( Tap and Railway opened for outdoor users in April ... they have a larger outdoor space available. )
- St. Martin’s URC will open for ‘in person’ worship on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** ( Pentecost Sunday). This will be the last of our four churches to reopen – though with many restrictions in place; for example, no-one is allowed to sing!

- From **17<sup>th</sup> May** (now confirmed ... on Monday 10th) ... further easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but with a maximum number – 2 households/6 people indoors for example; overnight stays now allowed. More people allowed at weddings (up to 30), funerals (no specific number but governed by the size of the venue) & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially it is an outdoor venue. Pubs/restaurants/cafes can re-open to indoor (seated only) customers – museums, theatres, etc. can re-open along with children’s play areas. Accommodation such as hotels, hostels and B&B can re-start. Adult indoor group sport and exercise classes can resume ( individual activity has already been allowed ). Care home residents allowed up to five named visitors and more freedom for visits outside the home. And something that’s not been ‘allowed’ since March 2020 ... hugging is back! But with lots of caution advised!!
- **From 21 June** ( to be confirmed – considerable doubt about this phase) ... ***It's hoped all legal limits on social contact will be removed - No legal limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events - Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen. If the data allow, then the “ work from home where possible “ guidance will be scrapped ( which would help towns/cities to recover trade ) and the “1m+” distancing guidance would also go ... this would allow all venues the run to their pre-Covid capacity. It might though require residual ‘mask wearing’ and other restrictions to be in place.***

Summary of newsy items from past 14 days ( to Sunday 30th May 2021: next issue in two weeks time – to Sunday 14th June. )

- The Elephant & Castle pub/restaurant reopened on Monday **17<sup>th</sup> May**. I seems to have returned gently and in a ‘controlled’ manner. Unfortunately last summer (July), the return of customers did occasion some disorder which hasn’t been repeated this year.
- The Memorial Hall declared themselves ‘open’ during **the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May**, though with appropriate ‘Social Distancing’ measures. I am not aware of individual clubs etc., re-opening as yet – and it may be that many don’t feel able to assemble given the continuing restrictions on inside meetings.
- St. Martin’s URC opened for ‘in person’ worship on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** ( Pentecost Sunday) – this seems to have worked well.
- From **17<sup>th</sup> May** significant easing of restrictions, with most legal restrictions on meeting other people lifted both indoor and out – but with a maximum number – 2 households/6 people indoors for example; overnight stays now allowed. More people allowed at weddings (up to 30), funerals (no specific number but governed by the size of the venue) & sports facilities will see spectators – provided essentially it is an outdoor venue. Pubs/restaurants/cafes can re-open to indoor (seated only) customers – museums, theatres, etc. can re-open along with children’s play areas. Accommodation such as hotels, hostels and B&B can re-start. Adult indoor group sport and exercise classes can resume ( individual activity has already been allowed ). Care home residents allowed up to five named visitors and more freedom for visits outside the home. And something that’s not been ‘allowed’ since March 2020 ... hugging is back! But with lots of caution advised!!
- Reported in WMTC minutes: Health Walks resume ( from Penn Court Cafe ) **from 13<sup>th</sup> May**; Youth Club re-open from **25<sup>th</sup> May**.
- Vaccine roll-out: the great success of this scheme continues ... as of the update on Sunday (30<sup>th</sup>) a total of just over 39mn (~75% of adults) had the first vaccine, and just over 25mn (~48%) had the second. More vaccines have been approved for use ... starting in June and July, e.g., the Johnson & Johnson version, which apparently only needs one application.
- Dorset/BCP figures: as for several weeks past – the numbers across Dorset, BCP and adjacent counties/districts have remained very low. For example, for Dorset the ‘case rate’



per 100 000 people was 5.0 and for BCP 7.3; hospitalisations remain very low ( 5 or less ). However, this is a Bank Holiday weekend so let's see what transpires. Bournemouth beaches were very full on Sunday!

- And the wider south of England is now doing very well! Using the latest map on the official gov.uk web site, large swathes of southern England, from Cornwall & Devon in the west to Kent, Sussex and Isle of Wight in the east, are in the lowest 'case' category: only Hampshire sticks out as being somewhat higher.
- A note of caution is being sounded though regarding the 'Indian' variant, which is pushing numbers ( cases, hospital admissions ) up in some places in the country, though, as yet, it doesn't appear to be a factor in the south of England. The Bank Holiday weekend ( with its good weather ) will be key to whether the progress made in recent weeks is maintained.
- [ **Forthcoming changes** ]
- ***From 21 June ( to be confirmed around 14th/15th June – considerable doubt about this phase) ... It's hoped all legal limits on social contact will be removed - No legal limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events - Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen. If the data allow, then the " work from home where possible " guidance will be scrapped ( which would help towns/cities to recover trade ) and the "1m+" distancing guidance would also go ... this would allow all venues the run to their pre-Covid capacity. It might though require residual 'mask wearing' and other restrictions to be in place.***

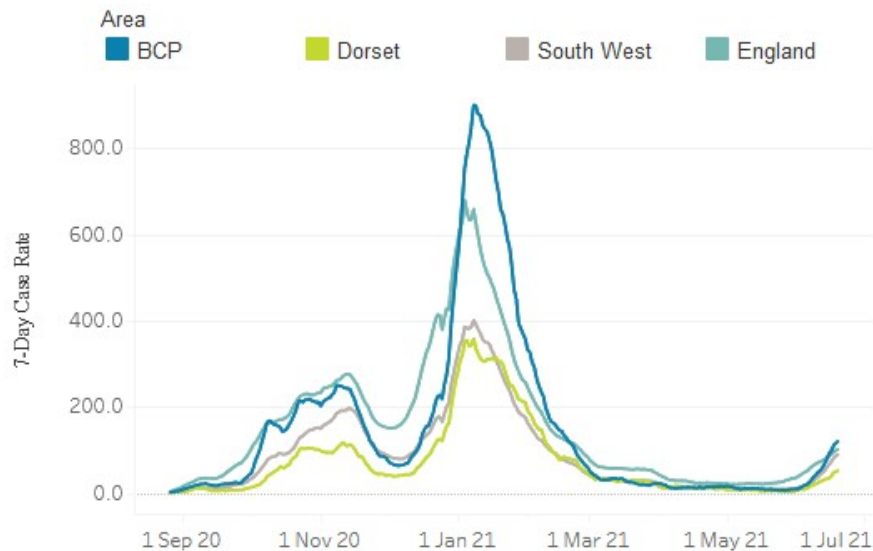
Summary of newsy items from past 14 days ( to Sunday 13th June 2021: next issue in two weeks time – to Sunday 27th June. )

- Local changes are not too evident: obviously a lot of visitors around (Bournemouth beach packed on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>) ... more caravans/motor caravans, different accents in the shops etc., and the weather this past week has been very good. If the virus is going to spread about it's now!
- In the 7-day period ending Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June, case numbers across Dorset ( excluding BCP ) remained low, but BCP started to rise ( ? holiday influx ? ) and England is certainly of concern as numbers are rising once again.
- In the 7-day period ending Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June, little has changed *locally* apart from the case numbers: those have risen, in line with the rest of the country, but importantly the deaths & hospitalisations have remained at or just above zero ( I.e, 1! - zero in the past week, and the last time it was above 1 was in early April) It would be a shame ( see below ) if the 'release' from final restrictions were delayed due to problems elsewhere – but this is increasingly likely.
- West Moors case numbers have been 'suppressed' for the past 2 weeks.
- The vaccine 'uptake' across Dorset County is now above 81% for first dose, and around 66% for second ( or 'full' ) dose. This is above the national average.
- Little real 'news' locally – but the main talk has been whether the 21<sup>st</sup> June relaxation in regulations/advice will go ahead. It now seems that the 'Indian' variant ( now known as the 'Delta' variant ) is much more potent than earlier variants – both in ability to be passed on, in its effect on people and rapidity of spread. It is almost certain that the relaxation / removal of restrictions on the 21<sup>st</sup> June will NOT go ahead as planned.
- [ **Forthcoming changes** ]
- ***From 21 June ( to be confirmed around 14th/15th June – considerable doubt about this phase) ... It's hoped all legal limits on social contact will be removed - No legal limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events - Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen. If the data allow, then the " work from home where possible " guidance will be scrapped ( which would help towns/cities to recover trade ) and the "1m+" distancing guidance would also go ... this would allow all venues the run to their pre-Covid capacity. It might though require residual 'mask wearing' and other restrictions to be in place.***

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Summary of newsy items from past 14 days ( to Sunday 27th June 2021: next issue in *two* weeks time – to Sunday 11th July. )

- Confirmed Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June: government *delays* relaxation of regulations, originally scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> June, now postponed until 19<sup>th</sup> July: see below.
- Library has ( apparently since 10<sup>th</sup> June ) abandoned the requirement to ‘quarantine’ returned books; previously we had to deposit books in a box, then a few days later they would be booked-back by the staff. Now we’ve gone back to the standard procedure of booking them in yourself. Still ‘checking-in’ though, but frankly if we don’t check in shops etc., I’m not sure what the benefit of that procedure is!
- West Moors Town Council held its first ‘in person’ Full meeting since February 2020, ( just before the pandemic took hold fully ), on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021. To make sure that distancing could take place, the meeting was held in St. Anthony’s church hall which has larger capacity than the ‘normal’ meeting place in the Pavilion. Future meetings also have to be held ‘in person’ apparently and may use the same venue.
- Summary for Dorset/BCP week-ending: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> .... “ Throughout the past few months we have experienced low case rates across Dorset, but in line with the rest of the country, the local situation has changed in the last couple of weeks and cases have risen quickly. The Dorset Council case rate is now 28 per 100,000, up from 11.1 last week. In Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, the case rate is now 57.7. We currently still have a low number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals in Dorset. This will be closely monitored over the coming weeks, but we expect the link between cases and hospitalisations to be weakened due to the vaccination rollout. At the moment our case rates are highest amongst younger, largely unvaccinated age groups.
- Summary for Dorset/BCP week-ending: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> ... “We are continuing to see a rise in COVID-19 infections across Dorset. Case rates in both the Dorset Council area and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area are now around double last week's figures and BCP Council is higher than the South West and England average rates. The situation has changed quickly in recent weeks - at the start of June case rates were around 5 per 100,000 in Dorset and 10 in BCP.
- Cases are highest amongst the younger age groups, particularly 15-24 year olds. We know that these younger age groups are less likely to have protection against COVID-19 as many will still be unvaccinated. We aren't seeing the rise in cases have a significant impact on our hospitals yet. There are currently five patients in hospital with COVID-19 across Dorset. “
- The changes are probably best summarised in the graph below .....



- Vaccination data (Dorset-specific) .... (27<sup>th</sup> June ) 1st=86% [ all UK=84% ] / 2nd=71% [ all UK=62% ]: ALL adults (age 18+) have now been invited to have the vaccine ... and over this last weekend, several 'pop-up' centres offered walk-in facilities without booking.
- Although the general relaxation of restrictions was postponed (see above), one change that will take place on **Monday 21st June** is that the 'cap' on numbers attending a wedding ( or similar ) is removed. However, guests etc., will need to observe general 'social distancing' restrictions - such as no singing in a church, no dancing ( apart from the 'first dance' by the married couple ), masks must be worn when guests are moving about ( but can remove them when sitting down ) & general restrictions that might be observed in, for example, a restaurant.
- **It must be noted here that after several weeks of marked improvement across the UK, the situation has taken a turn for the worse. Only the rapid roll-out of the vaccines has saved us from another lockdown ... and with the 'Delta' variant now proven to be more potent, that may not be as helpful as maybe. Very disappointing.**
- [ **Forthcoming changes** ]
- From **19 July** ( *to be confirmed – considerable doubt about this phase – already postponed once from June 21st* ) ... It's hoped all legal limits on social contact will be removed - No legal limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events - Nightclubs will be allowed to reopen. If the data allow, then the “ work from home where possible “ guidance will be scrapped ( which would help towns/cities to recover trade ) and the “1m+” distancing guidance would also go ... this would allow all venues the run to their pre-Covid capacity. It might though require residual 'mask wearing' and other restrictions to be in place.

[ \*\*\*\*\* *These 'diary' entries are now issued fortnightly, unless of course something dramatic happens! \*\*\*\*\** ]

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