R

Reporter

Volume 1 Issue 10 December 2009

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter

Amonth to remember

Unsung hero – page 3





A Merry Christmas from the Reporter

The Reporter Team would like to thank the distributors, advertisers and contributors who have made our first year of publication so enjoyable and successful. May we wish you and our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year? We look forward to your continuing support in 2010. Please note that we have revised dates for advertisers and copy for the January issue:

Advertisements must be received by the 10th December and copy by the 14th December. We hope to distribute January's magazine before Christmas.

Two Milborne residents have died within days of each other

John Newton who lived at The Rings, passed peacefully to rest at the age of 79 years on 15th November in the IC Unit, Dorset County Hospital.

Mrs Sylvia Ham, who lived in The Square, Milborne St. Andrew from 1967 until about 3½ years ago died on 17th November at the age of 91 years at Elmwood Residential Home, in Colyford, Devon.

100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date - Monday 16th November 2009

£100 Rod Oaks 1st prize £50 Bruce Dyer 2nd prize 3rd prize £24 John Longman

Drawn approximately every 5 weeks The next draw is at 8.00pm, in The Royal Oak, on Monday 21st December 2009 Anyone is welcome to attend New members always welcome

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Reporter team.

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Community events at the Village Hall will be advertised free of charge Other community events at half the above rates

Advertising copy MUST be received by the 10th of this month

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'Through a glass . . . clearly'

WI November meeting

AS part of Milborne WI's drive to recruit new members, we are planning a 'chocolate bonanza feast' to be held on a Saturday afternoon in February. The actual date will be published later; we will welcome anyone who would like to come along and talk to us you don't have to be a chocaholic, but it helps! The suggestion that members hold an informal monthly lunch at The Royal Oak met with interest and Heather offered to look at suitable dates and menus.

All organisations in the village have been approached to decorate a tree in St. Andrew's Church at Christmas, the theme is 'Christmas Around the World' and the WI have chosen China. Volunteers are needed to help with the decorations and also to act as stewards in the church over the opening period.

An enthusiastic talk by Mrs J Bryant followed, who spoke about 'Lawrence, Laurence and Moreton Church'. Owing to the proximity of this historic church many members are familiar with it, but it was fascinating to hear more detail about its famous connections. Moreton is the burial place of TE Lawrence (also known as Lawrence of Arabia) and is widely known for the windows of its church, created by Sir Laurence Whistler. Apparently it is the only church in the world with clear etched glass windows and visitors come from far and wide. We are fortunate here in Dorset that there are several examples of Whistler etchings nearby (some of them by his son Simon Whistler) - Salisbury Cathedral, Mottisfont, Sherborne and even the delightful little St. Catherine's Chapel at Ringstead. Moreton Church clearly merits a visit.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 10th December, and as this will include our Christmas party, we are asked to bring along a plate of food and an optional present. Pat Bull



The WI held a publications stall selling books, cards, etc at their meeting and raised £59.30 for the Dorset Federation funds.

Your Reporter Team

Ed Frost, Sue Gould, Heather V. Hogg, Sue Marsh, David Payne, Marion Regan and Ed Richards

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Copy for the next issue MUST be received by the 14st of this month

Enquiries and copy to: reporter@milbornestandrew.org.uk E-copy as .doc or .pub files, pictures as .jpg or .pdf files please Paper copy to Sue Gould at 28 Stileham Bank DT11 OLE

Milborne Medal Winners in Karate Competition

CONGRATULATIONS were in order for six young students from the Milborne St. Andrew wing of Wessex Karate Academy. After competing in the first ever South Coast Championships, proud students Kyle Foot, Jack Joyce, Jamie Northover, Joshua Fletcher, Leah Clarke and Brendan Stuart won 10 medals between them.

The competition was held at Southill Community Centre in Weymouth and was a huge success with lots of spectators and supporters also enjoying the day.

Leah Clarke won a gold medal for her fighting in the under 10 girls group. Winning gold in the boys 13-15 years with some spectacular head kicks was Jamie Northover. In the three man team kata event Leah Clarke, Joshua Fletcher and Brendan Stuart comfortably came second to win a silver. Jack Joyce and Kyle Foot teamed up with Luke Cutler from Dorchester coming 3rd to win Bronze.



Other medals were awarded to Jamie Northover winning silver for team kata, Brendan Stuart winning bronze in the under 10's fighting group and an impressive performance was celebrated by Kyle Foot when he received a silver medal for his individual kata.

For more information or to try a free class contact Sensei Peter Thompson on 07858390479 or Sensei Mary Thompson on 01305 782673. Alternatively just visit the dojo at the village hall or take a look at the newly designed website www.wessexkarate.co.uk.

Natasha Stuart

Glossary for those who don't know

Kata is "a sequence of movements in some martial arts such as karate, used either for training or to demonstrate technique" Sensei is "a teacher of a martial art such as karate or T'ai Chi" Dojo is "a school or room for practising judo" or in this case, karate. Sue Gould **BBC Sports Personality Unsung Hero**

On Saturday 14th November it seemed like half of the village had turned out at Lane End to support Malcolm Applin's nomination

for the BBC Sports Personality Unsung Hero award.

With the BBC filming on what must have been the worst conditions of the year with winds at 80 miles per hour and lashing rain, turnout was a credit to all. Many thanks, particularly to the youngsters who put on training sessions for the cameras.



Committee members including Malcolm were interviewed in connection with the award and Malcolm also received the backing of Adrian Whiting, Assistant Commissioner of the policy in Dorset whose son is the Captain of the Milborne Under 14s and who lives in the village.

Thank you to all those who turned up to be interviewed and give backing to Malcolm.

Malcolm told the BBC that his nomination was a team effort and that while he had received the nomination he considered that it was one that should be shared among many people who do such sterling and unseen work in providing this fantastic facility for the whole community.

Grace Mexson 1913 - 2009

GRACE came from Kent to live in Milborne in 1972. She quickly became involved in village activities. For some time she was



secretary of the Village Hall Committee, a role which she carried out with great efficiency. She was an enthusiastic member of the Wednesday Club in its earlier days and also a member and staunch supporter of the British Legion. She was also involved with the W.I. and Meals on Wheels.

For many years she kept chows and if she was walking the dogs past the school as the children were coming out she always had to stop for the children to see the doges, as they were fascinated by the fact that chows have black tongues.

In later life a stroke sadly limited Grace in what she could do but she still cared for her home and still had a dog as a much loved pet. Increasing age led to increasing immobility and for the last two years of her life Grace was cared for at Castleman House in Blandford. She died there in October at the age of 96.

Grace leave three sons and a daughter and we offer them and their families sympathy in their sad loss. Pat Tribe

Father Christmas Outfit

THE Church has a Santa outfit for hire at £10. It consists of a wig, beard, hooded jacket, belt, trousers and a sack, and is generously sized. Santa would need to provide his own wellies and presents!

If anyone would like to hire it, please contact Pat Tribe on 837684.



THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE AND MILBORNE WITH DEWLISH PART OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

The True Spirit of Christmas Present!

Dear Friends

With the release of the new 3D version of Scrooge on our Cinema screens, and Christmas fast approaching, it is the ideal time to stop and reflect on what we are doing this year.

As Scrooge was reminded in "A Christmas Carol" Christmas is not a time for simply looking after our own interests, but a time to look beyond ourselves to the needs of others.

There is nothing new in that, of course - the birth of Christ is fundamentally about people giving what they can to others. We are not all Wise Men who can bring gold, frankincense and myrrh, but that should not stop us. The inn keeper gave what he had - a stable - and the shepherds simply brought themselves to visit the stable and the holy family - all giving what they could, great or small, to someone they had never even met.

So why not give an extra present this year - to someone you have never met? It might be by donating to support our troops in war zones, or by choosing something from a catalogue like Oxfam's "Christmas Unwrapped" where we can buy gifts for people in the developing world - everything from tools for farming, to books for schools - even a herd of goats! It might be simply having a conversation with one of the homeless people we see in Dorchester selling the Big Issue.

If we all take our eyes off our own concerns this Christmas, just for a moment we will share in the real spirit of Christmas, present, past and future.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Useful websites: www.oxfam.org.uk/unwrapped www.HelpForHeroes.org.uk www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk www.bigissue.com

Church Contacts

Benny Hazlehurst Vicar 01305 848216 Associate Priest Sarah Godfrey 01258 839067

Church Wardens

Milborne St. Andrew Eva Stockley 01258 837468

Pat Tribe 01258 837684

www.milbornestandrewchurch.org.uk

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

CHURCH SERVICES November/December 2009

29th NOVEMBER - Advent Sunday 6.00pm Benefice Advent Carol Service Dewlish

THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Milborne

6th DECEMBER 2009 - Advent 2

9.30am Advent Praise Family Service Tolpuddle 9.30 Family Communion Milborne Holy Communion Puddletown 11 00 11.00 1662 Morning Prayer Dewlish

THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2009

Lunch-time Communion Puddletown

13th DECEMBER 2009 - Advent 3

8:15am 1662 Said Communion Puddletown 9.30 Parish Communion Milborne 11.00 Family Service Puddletown 11.00 Family Communion Dewlish and Baptism

4.00pm Carol Service Tolpuddle

MONDAY 14th DECEMBER

7.00pm Carols in the Square Puddletown with collection for the Children's Society

20th DECEMBER 2009 - Advent 4

9.30am Family Communion Tolpuddle 3.00pm Carol Service Dewlish Christmas Tree Praise! Milborne (and start of the Christmas Church

Tree Festival)

Carol Service 6.00 Puddletown

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service Tolpuddle Crib Service Puddletown 5.00 Midnight Communion Puddletown 11.00 11.00 1662 Midnight Mass Milborne

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Holy Communion Dewlish 9:30 Christmas Family Communion Tolpuddle 11:00 Family Celebration Milborne

27th DECEMBER 2009 - Christmas 1

3.00pm Benefice Carols Milborne

MILBORNE ST. ANDREW CHURCH NOTES

Remembering the fallen . . . and those still on active service THE SERVICE of Remembrance with hymns at 10.00am in church was well attended. A member of the Royal British Legion gave the first reading. We then paraded down to the village Memorial Stone to meet up with other parishioners for readings and prayers led by Sarah Godfrey prior to the two minutes' silence. In all, there were just over 70 people in attendance.

During the day it had occurred to us that we do not know if there are any Armed Service families living in Milborne St. Andrew. Perhaps if there are, those people would like to make contact with us as churchwardens (see telephone numbers below) as it would be nice to keep in touch. If any serving members from these families are on active service we could include them in our prayers at Sunday worship. We have a prayer board in St. Andrew's, and people can always leave names on it if they are unable to attend morning services themselves.

Church share going up by £1,800

Here is a short summary of some issues that came up at the last meeting of the Parochial Church Council:

The share that we have to pay to the Diocese will be going up by £1.800 to £9.772 for 2010.

STOP PRESS

Church Christmas Market a great success raising more than £1,200 for the work of the Church in our community

Trees in the churchyard that are overhanging gardens in St. Andrew's View are causing problems. Application has been made for

From time to time there will be a stall of Fairtrade goods in church. This will be staged by a new village organisation called Social Justice Group, which is headed by Eric Austen.

The required registration of church ground with the Land Registry has moved further ahead with the signing of the Statutory Declaration; this is now in the hands of the Diocese solicitors.

Christmas around the world

There has been a very good response again to our Christmas Tree Festival, with, at the time of writing, 20 places (out of 23) already taken. Others have still to report back and arrangements are ongoing. The Festival, on the theme of "Christmas Around the World", will be opened on Sunday, 20th December, at 4.00pm. This will be a service of Christingle and Blessing of the Crib.

Opening times for the Festival are:

Monday, 21st December 2.00-6.00pm Tuesday, 22nd December 2.00-6.00pm Wednesday, 23rd December 2.00-6.00pm

Thursday, 24th (Christmas Eve) 11.00pm 1662 Midnight Mass,

with carols

Friday, 25th (Christmas Day) 11.00am Family Celebration

Saturday, 26th December 2.00-6.00pm

Sunday, 27th December 2.00-6.00, with Benefice Carol

Service at 3.00pm

During the time that the Festival is open there will be an opportunity for everyone to view the trees, and enjoy refreshments of tea or coffee and hot mince pies. This will not apply on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Refreshments will cost £1, and there will be a pot on hand for donations towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

NB: Parking will be available in The Grove.

We will require some help in stewarding the church during the whole time of the Festival, and we would therefore much appreciate any offers of help.

Looking forward: Milborne First School will be performing their Nativity play in St. Andrew's on Tuesday, 15th December, at 6.00pm.

If you require further information at any time, please contact: Eva Stockley (Tel: 837468) or Pat Tribe (837684) (Churchwardens)

DEWLISH CHURCH NOTES

Magnificent cyclists on their flying machines

A HUGE thank-you to Jim, Nigel, Jo, Aishia, Adam and Ed for cycling on behalf of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. Between them they raised £1,648, of which £824 came back to Dewlish All Saints Church. Many thanks, too, to all those who sponsored them so generously. It was a magnificent sum to raise.

Our Remembrance Day service was very well attended, and was led by Norman who delivered a very heartfelt and meaningful message to us all. Thank you, Norman.

On Saturday, 5th December, we shall be holding our Christmas Bazaar, starting at 2.30pm, in the Village Hall. There will be a new and gift stall, toys, bric-a-brac, Christmas decorations and goods, cakes and produce, a raffle, teas and a stall where children can decorate biscuits. Donations will be very gratefully received, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Church Cleaning - w/e Saturday

5th December Elizabeth Walker and Pat Bull 12th December John and Ann Miller 19th December Victoria Bone and Lin Chatfield 26th December Rose and Ed Frost 2nd January 2010 Sue Lee and Val Hodges

Flowers No flowers during Advent 23rd December (Christmas) All please

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday, 20th December, at 3.00pm. If any of our young people would like to take part in any way, please let Jim know by 5th December. The collection will be in aid of the Children's Society.

We shall be singing carols around the village on Tuesday, 22nd December, meeting at the crossroads at 6.30pm. We would be pleased for people to join us. Please bring a torch - and wrap up

A very happy Christmas to you all.

Daphne Burg

Royal British Legion

Service of Remembrance and events

AT 11 o'clock on 8th November, following the church service, the annual Remembrance Service at Milborne St. Andrew took place at

the Memorial Stone. The prayers were led by Sarah, associate priest, June Maitland read a poem for the fallen and Pat laid Shipton wreath. Members of Royal **British** Legion read out the



names of the fallen from the 1914-1918 war and the 1939-1945 Second World War that came from the village.

The silence was preceded by the Last Post followed by Reveille. The event was well attended and it was pleasing to see that numbers were up from last year.

Roll of Honour 1914-1918

Charles Samuel Biles Fredrick John Lock William Henry Caines Fredrick William Northover James William Croft Percy Northover Wallace Wilberforce Derrick Harry Park Edwin Everett William Eli Park Henry George Everett Alfred John Parsons Frederick Hallett Edmund Morton Mansel-Henry Robert Hallett Pleydell Thomas Edward Jeans Henry Grove Morton Mansel-

Charles Lacey Pleydell

Augustus Arthur Lock Henry Frank Wilkins

> Roll of Honour 1939-1945 George Miller Brown

On Tuesday 10th November members of the Royal British Legion from Milborne St. Andrew, along with Sarah our associate priest, at the invitation of the Beavers and Cub Scouts, helped the youngsters understand the meaning of Remembrance and the price of peace. All of the Beavers and Cubs walked up to the churchyard and standing respectfully placed Remembrance crosses at each of the three First World War graves here in the village. The troop then proceeded to the Memorial Stone where a two minute silence was observed and again placed crosses to the fallen. Sarah led a prayer for peace. This was a moving occasion for all who attended.

The Royal British Legion wish to thank the leaders of the Beavers and Cub Scouts for the opportunity to speak to the packs.

On 11th November at 11 o'clock the Last Post and Reveille sounded again as members of the Royal British Legion and people from the village met to remember, during the two minute silence, the losses of the past and the fallen and injured of today's conflicts.

The Royal British Legion wish to thank all those who bought poppies, this will enable the work of the Legion to go on. The demands on the organisation are not just for past wars but are required now and history teaches us they will be needed long after these conflicts end. Michael Hopper



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Dick Whittington rehearsals

4/5/6th February 2010

WELL – we have started rehearsals with our young cast – and what a cast! We have over 20 young people currently dancing and singing their way through Monday evenings at the Village Hall. They are all certainly full of enthusiasm (and noise!) There is no doubt at all that all the new staging/sound/lighting changes that have been made to the Hall over the past few months will be well used during the coming months.

Our young cast are tackling characters such as Londoners, Sailors, Beach Surfers, Harem Dancers – and most importantly for Dick Whittington – they are all Rattlings with the evil King Rat as their boss! Some of our youngsters, who have been in the Milborne St. Andrew Pantomime for some years now, are additionally taking on small speaking parts. So please put the Panto dates in your diary *now* and give them and the adult cast your support (including lots of booing, cheering and singing for the audience!).

I will let you know how we are all doing next month – I have all fingers crossed! *Melva Coe*

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THEN look no further – join our successful healthy, happy group. Where laughter and confidentiality are just as important as losing weight. We meet at the Village Hall Committee Room, every Thursday between 7–8pm. £5.00 to join and £1.00 a week thereafter. Last month alone the group lost 31½lbs. Just picture 63 ½lbs of lard, YUCK! Two of our members since joining have each lost 2½ stone. All of our members have had significant weight loss and no-one has gone above their starting weight. If this is the group for you then you will be assured of friendly encouraging support on your journey to discover a new, slimmer healthier YOU!

Margaret Kirk

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Wednesday Social Club

November/December

WE had our November meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday 4th and Sohani Gonzalez gave us a talk on Homeopathy. It was interesting, she had our attention riveted. During November, we welcomed four new members to our club.

November 26th we had a table at Milborne First School, Christmas Fayre. Thank you to all members who donated prizes for the table and supported the event. We shall be decorating a Christmas tree at the Church for the Christmas Tree Festival.

Our next outing will be the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 2nd December at the Wishing Well, Upwey. We shall be stopping at Goulds Garden Centre for coffee beforehand.

Wednesday 13th January is the New Year Party in the Skittle Alley at The Royal Oak. Deanna will be entertaining us with her Country and Western music. There will be a buffet with tea and coffee £8.00 per person, all welcome, please bring a friend.

Please contact Margaret Evans on 01258 450518 as numbers will be limited for the party. *Eve Richardson*

Weather in Milborne St. Andrew October 2009

THE total rainfall in October was 108.0mm which was 98% of the average of 110.7mm for that month. There was a slight ground frost in lower parts of the village on the 17th. A dry spell of pleasant weather between the 10th and the 20th was referred to by some weather presenters incorrectly as an 'Indian Summer'. An 'Indian Summer' occurs in the north-eastern states of America in late autumn and is a period of settled weather with sharp frosts at night and warm sun by day which used to be ideal for harvesting the whole maize cobs. We do not get such sharp frosts nor have the same high day temperatures in

October and I have not noticed any Red Indians about here lately. A period of warm, dry weather around the middle of October in this country was always referred to as 'St. Luke's little summer'.

November is probably the most sad and dreariest month of the year with little happening to cheer the soul and there has been some rain every day so far this November. The British poet Thomas Hood described the month very aptly.

No sun – no moon!

No morn – no noon –

No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No comfortable feel in any member -

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,

No fruit, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! –

No - vember!

Local small-ads

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Companion required – Oberammergau Passion Play – June 2010. Lake Garda and trip to Venice included. Contact Sue Griffin 01258 837647. For Sale – Car dog guard, fully adjustable. Suitable most vehicles. £10.00. Tel: Chris Nowell 01258 837543.

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Have you met . . . Alison Riddle

ALISON was born in Alton, Hampshire in 1970, but most of her schooling has been in Dorchester, at St. Osmond's, and Castlefield (Girls) School. Her parents were "relief milkers" for the Dairy Industry, and were able to move around, and Alison lived on several farms, with all that associated freedom, for most of her

childhood.

In her adult working life, Alison used to work at the Tank Museum at Bovington, in charge of the ground floor museum and shop. She now works up at the village school, doing the hot meals at lunch time, taking and organising all the bookings and being caretaker for the village hall.

How long have you lived in Milborne St. Andrew? We've lived here four years almost exactly now (19th November), and my mother moved into the village four months ago too. I cannot think of any downsides to living in Milborne St. Andrew. School days and surprising facts

My nickname at school was "Miss Piggy" – not as bad as it sounds – it was all to do with my hair, long, thick, and pushed back just like Miss Piggy. Mind you, my friends then shortened it to "Piggy". One of my classes at school had two Alisons in it, quite unusual, so I was called by my second name, "Jenny". Even now, I have friends who know me as Jenny, which can be confusing for others if both sets of friends are in the same room!

What do you think is your claim to fame?

I expect it must be doing the TV presentation for the "People's Millions" last year, we had to go for a training session, and that was when I realised I could not talk to camera and remember words as well, even if it was only a couple of lines, I had to have a cue card! I felt really guilty, until the professional presenter from ITV had to do his bit at the village hall several times, as he kept getting it wrong! Other claims to fame



This was established as law by the lawyer and politician Sir Edward Coke in *The I nstitutes* of the Laws of England, 1628

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were meeting Samantha Fox when I worked at the "Streamside" in Weymouth, I took her breakfast in bed! At the tank museum I met Murray Walker, and was very impressed by Jeremy Clarkson and his wife, they were really nice, he was running a bit late, I suggested it was

the traffic, he admitted "No, we just got up late!" Who is your hero or inspirations or fantasy dinner date - and why?

Tom Hanks - he just seems ordinary and pleasant, and a really good actor - I think he would be good company.

What is your most embarrassing moment? I used to belong to a drama group, I was playing a scantily clad "Madam" running a Wild West saloon (yes, it was Panto!), who then had to have a "dramatic encounter" with a male actor. The problem was that that male actor was my

boyfriends brother-in-law! We had to have private lessons to try and do the scene – I can't tell you how embarrassed I was! Have you any pet hates?

I suppose untidiness really grates, and I dislike "tittle tattle", always thinking it's best to get the proper facts first!

Funny things about my family

It was only last year that my 7 year old son, Peter, realised that Nanny (my Mum) couldn't count to 10! Why? Nanny jumped off a tractor when I was young, and left her ring finger behind. It may sound gruesome, but to a 7 year old boy, it is a source of great interest! Hobbies? Keeping the garden tidy (once someone else has done the initial sorting out!), plus shopping, cooking and entertaining.

My favourite TV programme is Emmerdale, and my favourite charities are anything to do with animals, like the RSPCA.

Thank you Alison for a lovely chatty evening! Sue Gould





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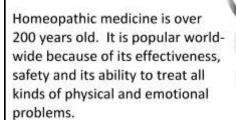
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Liz has got her BA (Batchelor of Arts Degree)

LIZ has got her BA (Batchelor of Arts Degree) - Liz who? Liz Dyer, the person who many of the village children know through "Ladybirds" playgroup. She's been involved with it since 2002, firstly on the steering group to get it all set up and with Debbie Steele as a deputy leader.

Liz had been connected with young children in the past, firstly as a mum, and preschool treasurer, also helping in the group when they were short. She then did child minding as her children were small, and ended up being entrusted with small traumatised children, through social services, which was a great responsibility. All the time she was still helping out at the Pre-School, it was when the supervisor left at the preschool, and she had a chat with Liz, she realised that, quite by accident, that she was doing things properly, it was obviously in her

Liz says:

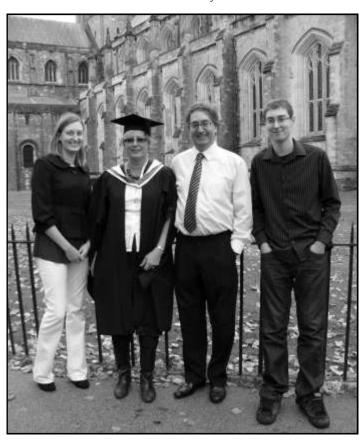
When I moved here in 2000, I wanted to do some work, I started working in the shop, and in 2001 I saw the notice about starting pre-school, and went to the meeting – I had hoped to use my experience to help them set up - like a committee member. But when we advertised for a supervisor for three mornings a week, nobody applied. So muggings here said I would train for a year! In 2002 I went straight in to do the NVQIII, doing some training at MSA School so that we could open. We had to borrow a supervisor from Blandford Camp Pre-school, and I acted as deputy. Once I had qualified I took over.

It was 2005 when I decided to do my Foundation Year Degree Course (Early Years), I had to learn more! I wanted to know WHY children do things at different ages, how do they develop. I really didn't know how much effort it was going to be, but learning with others was such a good experience, all working in the same "industry". That was one night a week for three years – a big commitment. So now we're up to 2008, some of the group were thinking of doing another year to do a BA (Batchelor of Art), I was going to take a year out, but that meant I

Milborne Players Written by Limelight Scripts Milborne St Andrew Village Hall 4th 5th and 6th February 2010 Evening Performances 7.30pm Saturday Matinee 2.30pm Box Office Sid Coe 01258837453 www.milborneplayers.org.uk

would be with a different group! So six of us registered for the top up! It was based in Winchester, but most of the work was done at Bournemouth Learning Centre. Trouble is, to do the BA, I also had to agree to do the Early Years Professional Status (to get the funding). The government has a 10 year child plan to have one EYP in every children's centre, and in every full day care centre by 2015.

I'm nearly there – a few more hoops to jump through as I am waiting for a visit to show that all that learning has been put into practice, then 16 weeks later they will give me my results, hopefully a pass. So we are WAY ahead - Milborne will have an EYP by 2010!!



Liz with her husband, Bruce, daughter Nicky and son Mark at her graduation at Winchester Cathedral.

The Milborne Players www.milborneplayers.org.uk

Dick Whittington

REHEARSALS are now underway for this seasons panto. This year Alice Brock takes the lead as Dick supported by a cast of familiar faces and characters. Another traditional pantomime full of laughs, music and a record number of junior chorus members.

This production will see the new hall improvements in full use. The Players are also pleased to be working with local pianoman Sam Ryall who directs and plays for local shows, is director of music at three churches, plays in various function bands and teaches privately and in schools

Not a good idea to leave ticket buying to the last minute. The tickets have already been printed and are available from Sid Coe (01258) 837453) and will be released to the Londis Store in the New Year 2010

Get the dates on your Calendar 4th, 5th and 6th February 2010 including as usual a Saturday afternoon matinee. Thursday evening £5.00 Friday/Saturday evening and matinee £6.50 and £5.00 (OAP/U16)

Don't forget to check out our website for ongoing information regarding productions and to take a peep at past productions

Caroline Nobbs

Parish Council progress frustrated by bureaucracy

THE last Parish Council meeting lasted 2½ hours and was characterised by paper shuffling and decisions that couldn't be made because of a need for more information or because replies from other local government agencies were still awaited. Matters arising lasted 35 minutes and many of the items raised will have to be

re-presented at future meetings. Our Parish Council is run by volunteer villagers, who, it seems to me, have to jump through more and more bureaucratic hoops and climb Everest-sized walls to get any decisions finalised. Does this have to be like this?

The effectiveness of the Parish Council contrasts enormously with that of the Village Hall Committee who have succeeded,

over the past few months, in producing major changes to the facilities available to our community. But . . . the Village Hall Committee answers

only to itself.

ITEMS OF INTEREST - BUT FEW DECISIONS

- Planting of Borders at Milton Road junction in hand
 - ☐ If carried out, the groundwork would be done by the District Council, plants to be decided upon and maintained by the village Horticultural Society.
- Discussion about sale of Parish Land no decision
 - ☐ In the open half hour Richard Lock cautioned against any decision to sell in the near future. Future land use in and around the village is currently being reviewed and a redesignation that allowed domestic or commercial building on the land would have a massive impact on its value. However, the Parish Clerk pointed out that the sale of the land, even at its current value, would provide funds to completely pay off the Parish Council's debt for the Sports Field and facilities.
- Footpath Warden retiring and so a new warden is needed. A name was put forward but the Council were reminded that the vacancy should be publicised so that other people might come forward and be considered for the post. - no decision
 - ☐ Mr and Mrs Snape are stepping down as the footpath wardens, the Parish Council expressed their appreciation for their work over the last few years.
- Parish Council to provide some support for Play Equipment at
 - ☐ The Village Hall asked the Parish Council for a grant for grass

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cutting, plus a small amount that would help with the maintenance of the play equipment. - a decision to grant £900 was made! This amount includes a small amount towards the maintenance of the play equipment.

- Lane End road footpath
 - ☐ This footpath is planned to go along Lane End to connect the main road to the Sports Club to provide safe access for all users – to be revisited at a later meeting
- St. Andrew's View footpath link to original footpath along the boundary. The Clerk had looked at the original plan, which shows a line - apparently blocking the path, but, as Michael Hopper commented, in the open half hour, the wording of the planning consent should also be looked at - may well be revisited at the next meeting.
- Parking at Gray's Stores white lines on the car park agreed in principle by Mr Tony Lages (owner), cost of hiring a machine is to be investigated - held over to the next meeting.
- Improvement to Sports Club footpath from the gate to pavilion to allow pushchair and disabled access - more information awaited - held over to the next meeting
- Cllr Simon Curtis stated that the Parish Council should have a system to log and monitor the progress of the various projects that they are involved in.

OPEN HALF HOUR FRUSTRATIONS

The public half-hour was characterised by frustration verging on despair as Tony Dyer attempted to get support to allow the Village Plan to be completed. Mr Dyer explained that data had been collected, the replies analysed and all that was left was the publication of the findings. Additional funding was needed to allow this to happen. Mr Dyer commented that the Village Plan should be a key element in providing a clear direction and focus for the activities of the Parish Council. Mr Dyer also expressed frustration that the Parish Council minutes and agenda were no longer being submitted to the village website. He added that the Parish Council had supported the development of the site, and that it provided a vehicle to communicate information to our community, but only if it were used. The Parish Council made no comment.*

Richard Lock enquired about the use of the Parish Council emblem. Cllr Curtis said that it was the Parish Council Emblem, but could be used by other community organisations.

Mr Lock asked for support for the purchase of the new play equipment. The Parish Council had met with the Village Hall committee to seek ways of managing the purchase of the equipment on more favourable terms. Mr Lock stated that "The Parish Council should be supporting play equipment used by village youngsters, not equipment at the Sports Field used by people from outside the village!" The Parish Council responded by saying that NO Sports Field equipment had been purchased by the Parish Council.

IN CONCLUSION

Parish Council meetings are public, they should be reflecting the community's wishes, but they are ham strung by following an increasingly bureaucratic list of requirements. The public don't go because they do not connect with what the Parish Council does, but they should, each and every councillor is there because they care about the village. Maybe more of us should volunteer, and maybe influence they way things are done. Write letters, send emails, communicate with our Parish Council! If we don't stand up and communicate or volunteer, we have no right to complain!

Sue Gould and Ed Frost

*The *Reporter* is pleased to note that the outstanding minutes have now been made available and are published on the village website (www.milbornestandrew.org.uk) and that the clerk has undertaken to provide them in future, as a matter of course.



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Horticultural Society Report

IN October about 45 members and visitors enjoyed an excellent talk by Paul Atterbury (of Antiques Roadshow fame) on the making of the English landscape. We heard that there is very little of the natural landscape left in England, as for hundreds of years we have been tearing it apart and imposing our ideas. Paul showed how paintings by the Old Masters recorded the way people changed the world about them. Then about 20 members took advantage of a 10% discount on everything during an evening event at Poundbury garden centre.

Our November meeting is the AGM so by the time you read this we will have a new chairman and some changes in the committee, and we may have decided to change the name of the society.

Our next meeting will be on 28th January when David Smith from the National Trust will talk about the restoration of Kingston Lacy park and gardens. We will be very pleased to see visitors and new members at this meeting, and as treasurer I will be more than happy to receive subscriptions (£10) for 2010. Happy Christmas to all our members! John Wright



Cheselbourne Theatre Club



WE wish all our members a very happy Christmas.

A newsletter will be going out later this month with details of plays we will be seeing in 2010. Any new members who would like a copy should phone one of the numbers below.

We are going to The Salisbury Playhouse on January 25th to see PRIVATE LIVES. Noel Coward's passionate and witty love story remains one of the most successful and popular comedies ever written.

> Ann Allum, chairman 880074; Stephen Terry, treasurer 881524 Chris Higgs, secretary 880073



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837 536

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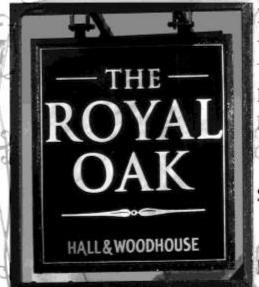
The £5.00 Menu is Back By Popular Demand! Enjoy a £5 main course every Monday - Friday

CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN! Festive meals available 7 days a week Plus our Popular Christmas Carvery Every Fri and Sat Night Throughout December - Booking Advisable

> NEW YEARS EVE Join us for a Wild West Themed Party Just £25.00 Per Person

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Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Draw, Saturday 19th December:

Christmas Meat Draw AND Karaoke

Christmas Eve ~ food served until 8.00pm ~ bookings only Opening times for Christmas:

Christmas Day ~ 12 noon ~ 2.00pm ~ drinks only

Boxing Day ~ 12 noon onwards

New Year's Eve ~ Village Hoolie ~ from 7.30pm Bring your own talent and musical instruments to make the Anything Goes in our real Village Hoolie party happen. Bring your grandparents or your kids, wear a tux or your wellies and bring a plate of something for us all to enjoy. Please let Sarah or Jo know what instruments/talents/ food you will be supplying so we don't have too many drums

card tricks/cheese straws.



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It's a dog's life . . .

WHEN the patter of tiny feet arrives in a dog's life, it's often thought that this new family member will spell trouble for the household's canines. Attention and affection may seem lacking, it being lavished elsewhere; the usual crack-of-dawn walkies may be more erratically timed (some time before noon, maybe); and yikes, the noise that that new thing makes! But just a few months down the line it's Pooch's payback time: weaning. Or, to put it into canine-speak, Manna from the High Chair.

I'm happy to say that our three Springers have fared well on the aforementioned snag-list (apart from maybe the pesky new noises). But we were always conscious of the problems that can be caused when a baby arrives, which is why we have tried to carry on 'life as before' as far as our dogs are concerned. Dogs, by their nature, are very adaptable and always quick to capitalise on new situations. And all the more so when it involves food.

And dogs being dogs, their idea of food is virtually all encompassing. Anything is fair game (especially game!), apart from maybe lettuce - that's definitely rabbit food. So when after feeding baby the inevitable happens, the dogs have discovered that there's a quick takeaway to be had, if the sick is floorbound. In fact, they have developed a conditioning reflex that Professor Pavlov would be proud of: baby belches, dogs come running - twelve paws race to the dubious prize of a milky puddle on the ground.

But dogs, as we know, excel in 'disgusting'. Recently, one of ours had found something particularly 'savoury' (to his palate) on morning walks in The Grove. Whether it was a rabbit that was well past his sell-by date, bovine-related or species unknown, he would return to the same spot day after day. But when you consider the fact that the average dog

has 220 million scent receptors in his nose to our five million, it's no surprise. Added to that, the taste of food (or 'what a dog eats') is fairly unimportant to it given that the average mutt only has 1,700 taste buds to our 9,000. (Which puts pay to any claims from dog food manufacturers that their concoctions are 'delicious' or that 'dogs love the taste of it'). It's accepted that smell by far is the deciding factor for a dog's appetite, then the texture of said meal, then lastly, taste. Quite why cat poo is considered the foie gras of the dog menu is anyone's guess though.

> So now we've progressed to the high chair, the pickings on offer are of a far wider variety. Yes, they may be more vegetable-based at the moment, but early dexterity of baby means that there's a constant supply. So whether it's Apricot and Pear Compote or a Sweet Potato and Pea Puree that's being whizzed up in the kitchen, there's enough to go round. It's all swings-and-roundabouts though, as dog has to endure 'vigorous stroking' (ear tugging) and

the coming terror that is crawling; the rewards of jettisoned scraps from up high certainly seem to be a well-deserved trade-off.

They don't know it yet, but this symbiotic relationship should mature into an enduringly fruitful rapport - when baby, then toddler, starts to play with their food there'll be easy pickings launched from above. And, if baby is anything like his mother was, there'll be even more dividends. Those Brussels sprouts that you have to eat and are not allowed to leave the table until you've done so? Well, there'll be a very willing, furry accomplice to help out when mum and dad aren't looking. But at least there's one big advantage of having canine hoovers - exactly that, no need to get the vacuum cleaner out. Ed Richards



Community Contacts

More information about many community organisations can be found on www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

Councils		
Environment Agency Floodline North Dorset District Councillor Parish Council – Dewlish Parish Council – Milborne St. Andrew	Cllr Michael Cox Clerk: Pat Gubbins Chair: Cllr Mike Claydon Clerk: Colin Fletcher Chair: Cllr Simon Curtis	01258 450639
General – Adult		
Drop-in Centre – POPP IT Club (Connecting Dorset) Ladies Group – Dewlish Memory Lane Swing Band Wednesday Social Club Women's Institute	Rose and Ed Frost Sue Gould Judith Bridgen Bob Boorman Margaret Evans Heather Hogg	01258 837921 01258 837575 01258 837157 01258 839077 01258 450518 01258 837392
General – Youth		
Beavers and Cubs Hazelnuts out-of-school club Ladybirds (Playgroup) Ranger Guides Scouts Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees Youth Club age 8 – 14 yrs	Sue Mullett Hazel Barrett Marion Bishop Adrienne Jim Burg Jane Williams Sallie Maitland-Gleed	01258 839076 01305 848588 01305 848427 07870 887049 01258 837466 01258 837442
Police		
	PC Dave Mullins PC Charlie Dale CSO Angie Partridge PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard or rdruralsouthSNT@dorse	
School		
Milborne 1st School Headteacher: Chair Govs: Friends of School Chair:	Anne Purdy George Legg Sally Taylor	01258 837362
Special Interest		
Bellringers Food & Wine Society Healthy Eaters Horticultural Society MSA Friendly Art Group Milborne Players Ranters' Folk Session Round Robin Ramblers	Pip Bowell Tony Dyer Heather Gipps Shirley Dunkley Sue Marsh Roy Sach Roger Harrall Steve Lord	01258 837329 01258 837061 01258 837058 01258 837446 01258 837414 01258 837033 01258 837371 01258 839222

Archers – Crossways Athletics – Junior Badminton British Horse Society (Dorset) Circuit Training and	Michelle Jones David Pearson David Payne Carol Shoopman Claire Barratt	01258 837045 01258 837057 01258 837700 01258 880318 01929 554999
Pilates Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	07946 732769 01258 837696
Cricket – Junior (11 – U13)	Derek Lamb	01258 880523
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Derek Lamb	01258 880523
Football – Adult	Paul Morgan	01258 837619
Football – Reserve Team	Andy Draper	07824394436
Football – Under 15s	Grant Taylor	07879841518
Football - Under 11s	Daryl Sims	01258 881397
Modern Sequence Dancing	Grace Davies	01258 837261
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club		
Chairman:	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Bookings:	Jenny Balcon	01258 837121
Table-tennis (over 50's)	Geoff Hodgson	01258 837472
Tap Dancing for Men and Wom		01258 880523
Yoga	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
-	·	

Village Hall

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Sec:	Paul Prickett	01258 839097
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Richard Lock	01258 837929
Caretaker/Booking Sec:	Alison Riddle	01258 837030

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Pat Cowan

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01305 268029

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Abbey Swimming Club

Community Events Diary

Add your event to this diary by contacting the Reporter - tel: 01258 837921 or email: reporter@milbornestandrew.org.uk

November Thursday 26th Saturday 28th

Horticultural Society AGM Village Hall 7.30pm. Ladybirds Baby Sale Milborne St. Andrew Village

Hall 10.00am - 11.30am.

December Friday 4th Saturday 5th

Sunday 6th

Moviola "Morris" 7.30pm - see below. Christmas Village Lunch Village Hall 12.15pm. Christmas Fair Sherborne Girls Oxley Sports Centre,

10.00am - 4.00pm. Free parking and entry.

Round Robin Ramblers Milton Abbas Heritage Walk 1.30pm - see page 23.

Wednesday 9th

Parish Council Meeting Village Hall Committee Room 7.30pm.

Thursday 17th

Christmas Carol Service First School, 2.00pm. All

welcome.

Friday 18th Saturday 19th Ranters' Folk Session MSA Sports Club 8.00pm. Childrens Christmas Party, Christmas Draw, Karaoke The Royal Oak - see advert page 14. 100 Club Draw The Royal Oak, 8.00pm.

Monday 21st Monday 21st-Sunday 27th

Christmas Tree Festival, St. Andrew's Church - see

Thursday 31st Village Hoolie The Royal Oak from 7.30 – see advert

page 14.

January 2010 Sunday 3rd

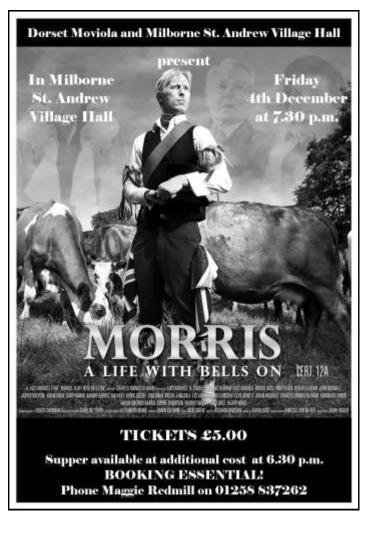
Round Robin Ramblers Cheselbourne and Dole's Hill

Plantation 1.30pm - see page 23.

February Thursday 4th-

Dick Whittington Pantomime Village Hall – see

Saturday 6th pages 7 and 11.



Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

Computer Club Monday 6.15 – 7.15pm CR (term time only)

Ladybirds Playgroup Monday – Fri 8.45am – 1pm MH (term time only)

Players every Monday 8.00 – 10pm MH

Village Hall Committee meetings 2nd Monday of month ABC Line dancers every Tuesday 7.30 - 10pm MH

Scouts Beavers/Cubs Tuesday 5.45 – 7.15pm MH/CR (term time only) Exercise and Relaxation Class Wednesday 1.15 - 2.45pm MH (term

time only)

MSA Friendly Art Group 2nd and 4th Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm CR

Wednesday Club 2nd Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30pm MH Horticultural Society 4th Thursday 7.00 – 10pm MH Healthy Eaters every Thursday 7.00 - 8.00pm CR Karate every Thursday 5.10 - 6.40pm MH WI every 2nd Thursday 7.00 - 10.00pm

POPP Drop-In every Friday 10.00am - 12 noon CR

Youth Club every other Friday 6.30 – 8.30pm MH (term time only)

Sequence Dancing 3rd Saturday 7.30 – 10.30pm MH

Village Lunch Last Saturday of the month 11.00am - 2.30pm MH/CR

Milborne Praise! 3rd Sunday 3.30 - 5.30pm MH

Moviola and supper about every 6 weeks, look out for the posters,

6.30 - 10.30pm MH/CR

Artsreach Events - look out for the posters.

Check Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

Pilates Monday 7.00 – 8.00pm (term time only) Yoga Tuesday 6.15 - 7.45pm (term time only) Badminton Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm (term time only) Circuit Training every Thursday 7.00 - 8.00pm

Ranters' Folk Session

Milborne St. Andrew Sports Club Friday 18th December 8.00pm All welcome

Coffee, Cake and Computers 10.00am-12noon Village Hall Committee Room

The last session before Christmas will be on Friday 11th December and we will re-open on Friday 9th January 2010. We offer free help and advice not just with computers but also digital cameras, mobile phones, iPod touch/iPhones, MP3 players, Mac Book/Sony Readers, digital weather

stations and any other technological Christmas presents which are proving tricky to use. Rose and Ed Frost



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came to help me on Saturday 15th (storm day).

It was quite a shock to wake up and find the back wall along my garden was lying in Milton Road! I was glad no one was hurt and heart-warmed by the friends and neighbours who just turned up and helped me clear everything up. Without you I could not have managed. It's what makes living in Milborne so good. Thank you. Lin Chatfield

Bezique- card game.

If anyone in the village would like to learn a new card game called Bezique I would be happy to teach them. This is a very old game, quite similar to whist and easy to pick up. It's a game for two people only, but as I have two packs I can teach three others. I can be contacted on 837164. Nicky Hagan.

Dear Editor,

Can anyone help a failed but enthusiastic acoustic guitar learner?

A couple of years ago my husband bought me a guitar so I could keep up with my three sons and join with them in fabulous party entertainment when they travel home (from abroad). I tried - I really tried hard! Learnt a few chords and managed a very simple rendition of Greensleeves! But that was over a year ago - and I have not picked it up since. I need a kind, patient Milborne St. Andrew based person (complete with ear plugs!) to give me a few lessons to get me started again. There will be a small fee on offer and I am available during the day. If you can help please call Melva on 01258 837453.

With reference to the article on Greyhounds in "It's a dog's life" in the October issue of the Reporter.

My daughter, has for the past 25 years been living in Australia and has spent all her working life with animals. She first lived in Sydney and adopted a young cattle dog whom she found wandering in her garden. With no apparent owner in sight, the dog was guite happy to make its home with her and the family.

A few years later, the family bought a substantial plot of land and moved to Queensland. The dog of course went too, after a while it was decided to have another dog. My daughter looked in the local paper and saw an advert from the "Greyhound Society" they were appealing for homes for their retired Greyhounds. The family went to have a look, met and fell in love instantly with a fawn and cream Greyhound named "Snuffles". Having so much space she soon settled in to home life and likes nothing more than to be where you are. As soon as you sit down, she is there and lies across you. "Snuffles" is now 14 years old.

My daughter was so impressed with "Snuffles" loving and

gentle nature that she decided to join the Greyhound Society. Her job, with the help of "Snuffles" is to retrain retired dogs for home-life. This takes a lot of time and patience, getting them used to people and busy shopping areas. Quite a different environment from the race tracks. Two of the many dog's that my daughter has retrained over the years now live permanently at home with "Snuffles". They are gentle and loving dogs and make ideal family pets.

One of the Greyhounds that she retrained went to America. The owners already had one from the Society and they were so impressed with its loving and docile nature. They came to Queensland to collect the dog and escort it back to America themselves, complete with all its travel documents, which my daughter organised.

Once a year the society hire a field and hold a Greyhound party for their dogs and owners. This is a great opportunity for owners and dogs to get together with plenty of ice cream (for the dogs) not the owners.

Audrey Anderson

Dear Sir,

How much longer do we, who live in a row of sheltered housing on Milton Road, have to put up with inconsiderate dog owners who leave their dog faeces for me to clear up.

On Monday I came out of my gate only to find three - YES three - different piles against my hedge. And one cheeky owner pulled some ivy out of the hedge to cover it up. If he reads this he will know it's referring to him!! It's the size that a Labrador upwards would do.

WHERE IS THIS SO CALLED DOG WARDEN.

But then I don't suppose he will get up early enough to catch

I have just been to the shop (Tuesday 10th), and saw another lot outside my neighbours gate.

Yours disgustedly Frank Coppen

Grumpy

Oh dear - here we go again Grumpy waxing prolific with selfindulgent, so called philosophical musings on life.

Stating the obvious is easy, and I for one can grumble as well as the next person as my long suffering friends know, but it is easy to dwell on the negative which does seem to be a national pastime. Of course it is clear that this situation has not just "happened to us". Who created the "me", the blame and greed culture that exists predominantly in this country and generally the rest of the world, other than the people who live there?.

So why not think of this as a wake up call and with a real change of attitude, something could come out of it all. If only more people believed that a whole shift in values is needed, positive change may happen, instead of fuelling the age of

So come on Grumpy if you really feel the need to write to the Reporter lets have something that really stimulates positive discussion, even a little humour, and you might find that there are others who would be behind you and it is possible to make things better. If enough people believe things can change they can. Please note that throughout I have not honoured our esteemed friend with a gender.

Cheerful, (name and address supplied)

Dear Sir,

Procrastination: the act of procrastinating; putting off or delaying or deferring an action to a later time

Dilatoriness: slowness as a consequence of not getting around

One of the most thankless tasks I have undertaken is to be a member of the Parish Council and it is with this previous experience I write this letter.

It is important that we acknowledge the people who put themselves forward to serve on the Parish Council. Those of us who criticise the actions and work of the Council must be aware that there are far too few who are willing to serve and vacancies are still to be filled. There must be hundreds of people in this village of ours who for their own reasons are unwilling or unable to put the community needs before their own.

Having commended the members of the council for their willingness to serve it is important that we address issues that are not being resolved in a proactive and timely manner. Far too many issues are, because the current infrequency of the council meetings, previously monthly now six weekly, dragging on and on.

The agendas are, because of the infrequent nature of the meetings, far too long.

The meetings when they do take place are too long and are not business like, because time is not managed sufficiently well.

Communications to the Council go unanswered by the parish clerk and reason for the tardiness in replying to requests for information is poor and lack credibility.

The actions noted in the minutes are not time limited and are in danger of being lost because they are not tracked through to their conclusion.

When advice is given to the Council by members of the public it is quite often dismissed or not considered and in some cases actively discouraged...

Planning matters appear to be dealt with on the day of the meeting and not seen by members of the council prior to the meeting, in most cases. The public have no opportunity to view the planning submissions, except at the parish meetings or by visiting North Dorset District Council offices.

I understand, and this is only hearsay, that there are meetings held by the Council without members of the public being present and to which notes are not available. Decisions made behind closed doors which are not open to debate are of some concern, if this is happening. Meetings that exclude the public and press are covered in legislation but these still have to be minuted for members only. They cover issues surrounding commercial sensitivity etc.

My concern is that undertakings on keeping the upcoming precept on a level with inflation or below will not be kept and that the village precept will again cause those with fixed incomes to be hit hard at a time when national and other local taxes rise above RPI and other inflation indices.

There are other matters which I shall not go into here but I believe I am not the only person worried about the future of our Council if it fails to improve.

I expect some will be angry with my words but I honestly want the Council to succeed and obtain due recognition for the work it does and the way it represents the views of the majority of the population of Milborne St. Andrew. However, if it carries on in its current manner then I see no future for this form of democracy. There needs to be a tightening up of procedures, a forceful approach by the leadership to the requirements of the Council from the parish clerk and other authorities here in Dorset, and less willingness to except the mediocre and feeble excuses for lack of action.

This is meant as constructive criticism with the aim of allowing those within to know of the views of at least one of their electorate.

Yours regretfully, Michael Hopper

Dear Reporter,

Now that we have almost completed three months in the village we wanted to drop a line to convey our thanks to you all, not only for making us all feel so welcome in Milborne St. Andrew but also for the continuing support that is shown to The Royal Oak. It is only through you all that our nights are filled with crib, skittles, the Milborne Players, birthday parties, darts, pool

and laughter to name but a few. We have some fabulous regulars who are getting dangerously close to having to report in by telephone if they are not seen on a daily basis or on their regular nights/days out!

We think that you will agree that our original strategy of offering friendly service, good value quality products and traditional pub grub seems to have been the right way to go. This can only move forward and we are committed to becoming more involved in village life and developing the pub further with regular music events and the introduction of new services, theme and event nights in the New Year.

Many of you have made suggestions for products you would like to see on the bar and on the menu and we have tried as much as possible to action these, and whilst we cannot carry out all requests we believe that our improvements so far have been well received. Most importantly we have been told of events within the village that we can support such as the Milborne 10 mile and the Village Lunch. Knowledge such as this is invaluable and we welcome any suggestions or ideas that you

We look forward to welcoming you here over the festive period and once again say Thank you for making us feel so much a part of the village.

Sincerely

Andy, Sarah, Lily, Ronnie & Jo Jo

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THIS month I thought I would give you an alternative to walking, something you can do at home when the weather is too wet to go out or when the fire just looks too welcoming.

iSpot is an online forum for wildlife enthusiasts to share their observations and photos and take part in discussions about all sorts of topics related to wildlife and the environment. Devised by the Open University, it is part of the Imperial College's Open Air Laboratories Project (OPAL), funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund.

Launched this summer, the site has quickly attracted several thousand users from all over the UK and of all ages - including a six year -old girl from Berkshire who found a species of moth never seen before in the UK!

The site caters for beginners who would like help with identifying their sightings as well as experts willing to share their knowledge and experience with others. Users just have to go through a five-minute registration process before uploading their own wildlife observations and adding their own comments on sightings made by others.

Outdoor events are also being organised to provide help with identifying difficult species. In this area they include:

Saturday 12th December Seabirds Workshop, Portland Harbour Saturday 30th January Woodland Birds Workshop, New Forest Saturday 27th February Gull Identification Workshop, Weymouth Saturday 27th March Heathland Birds Workshop, Wareham Forest Saturday 1st May Reptiles Workshop, Portland

Full details at www.dorsetwalks.com or from Bob Ford at 01305 750118

What a life

IT can't be morning - still dark - but it's no good, I've got to get up, shouldn't have had that cuppa last thing.

Oh G*d now I've got cramp! Start calling on Deity, punctuated by foul language and leap out of bed - land on dog, how the hell did he get there. Must have crept in when I checked if the gas was off without putting the light on.

Now do I cross my legs while I try to get shot of the cramp? Or hobble to the loo. Must keep clothes peg by bed for such times as this.

Dash to the loo before it's too late which shifts the cramp, but kick the dog's water bowl in the process. G*d the water's cold – I've now got two wet feet. Never get back to sleep after this, and it's too early to put the heating on.

Another thing to think about – why don't I bring a flask to bed for times like this. If the "To Do/Have You Done" list gets any longer it will be morning before I get to bed.

Go back to bed only to find I've got a lodger – kick dog out. Turn radio on, that's all I want - some cheerful young "B" making stupid jokes about the foul weather "You'll need your wellies today" - damn it - I needed mine on to go to the loo five minutes ago. Then the music jungle, so I try Classic FM. It's not my day, who wants to listen to a funeral dirge at 5.00am with cold feet. I give up, turn light on and go and make a cup of tea.

It's the start of another happy, cheerful day in Milborne, "Hooray"! Grumpy B's Grandad



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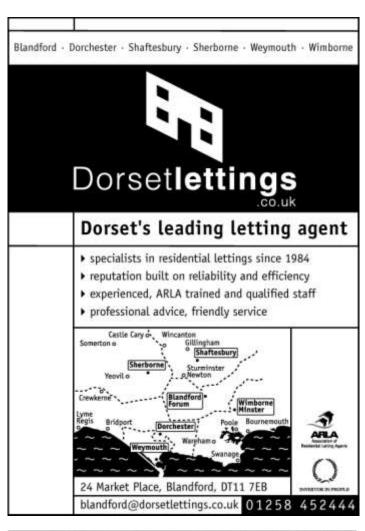
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The local villages' walking group Come with us and enjoy the Dorset countryside

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER - 1.30pm (Note earlier time) Milton Abbas Heritage Walk Meet near the church

Grid reference: ST 806 018 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (Approx. 4 miles)

SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY - 1.30pm (Note earlier time)

Cheselbourne and Dole's Hill Plantation

Meet near Cheselbourne School

Grid reference: ST 760 001 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (Approx. 4 miles)

Contact Steve Lord on 01258 839222 for more information.



Rainbow News

Report by Verina Cutler

ON Wednesday 11th November Rainbow Pre-School invited all parents to stay and play with their children. There was a good response and many parents came to enjoy refreshments instead of dashing off in the usual manner!



There was a lovely relaxed atmosphere as the children and parents played together, some getting soggier than others . . . But such fun! The morning was such a success there will certainly be more stay and play sessions in the future. Half-term Rainbow!

Rainbow Pre-School 01258 880795

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VINTER NEV

End of an Era!



Dr Malcolm and Dr Ethel Hillier have announced that they are hanging up their stethoscopes, and intend to retire from the surgery in March 2010. This will be the end of an era for the practice and the beginning of a well earned retirement for them. Those of you who have been with the practice since their arrival will have seen many groundbreaking innovations in the surgery throughout those years. Their shared vision of developing a service where the patient matters most has led to the introduction of our Integrated Nurse Team, The Friends of the Practice Volunteers, the Patient Participation Group, the award winning Healthy Pulses Programme (including the Surgery Health Walks), the Mother and Baby Clinics and the Mums and Babies coffee hour. They have been prime movers in establishing these projects. Dr Martin Longley and Dr Julian Rees are in discussions as to how to fill the Hillier's role and we will keep you all posted on how we aim to achieve this. The Hillier's do not plan to move at present as Malcolm hopes to continue his minor surgery role in the Practice and Ethel plans to continue her work in the Breast Clinic in Dorchester.

Our challenge is to move in a direction that is fitting for the future of the practice in an ever changing NHS. Our aim will be to develop a clinical team, which will keep us at the 'cutting edge' of these changes while continuing to provide a personal service for our patients, which we have always sought to do in our rural practice.

PATIENT TRANSPORT

If you have no other means of getting to the surgery and need us to ask the Friends of the Practice to organise a car and driver for you please remember that they need at least three working days notice. Please bear this in mind when booking your appointment and requesting transport.

Change of Telephone System

Our telephone system has changed. The main changes are that you will now be able to telephone directly to Milborne St. Andrew and speak to the receptionist by dialling 01258 837383. The number for Milton Abbas has not changed. There is no longer a call gueuing system. Your call will either be answered directly or you will be asked to try again if all receptionists are already taking telephone calls.

Please Remember that if you have a life threatening situation or if your call is an emergency, such as chest pain, an unconsciousness patient, large loss of blood, or extreme breathlessness dial 999 for an ambulance.



The Milton Abbas Patient Participation group have raised funds for the purchase of a van. From 2nd November deliveries will take place as follows:

Monday AM	Wed AM	Friday AM
The Winterborne Valley	Ansty and Hilton	The Winterborne Valley
Milborne St. Andrew	Milborne St. Andrew	Milborne St. Andrew
Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas	Milton Abbas

Please Note:

- All home deliveries will need to be signed for.
- The service cannot deliver controlled drugs.
- Refrigerated items will no longer be left at drop off points such as post offices.
- Deliveries to Winterborne Stickland Post Office will be discontinued.

Our new delivery is Paul Clements, who has been employed by the practice. He is a retired police officer and also works as a driver for the Dorset Urgent Care Service. The surgery would like to express its thanks to the Friends of the Practice drivers who have done a valiant job in the past, getting medication to our patients often in bad weather conditions, and to those who continue to accept medication into their homes and businesses.

Surgery Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Thursday 24th Dec	Normal Opening
Friday 25th Dec	CLOSED
Saturday 26th Dec	CLOSED
Sunday 27th Dec	CLOSED
Monday 28th Dec	CLOSED
Tuesday 29th Dec	Normal Opening
Wednesday 30th Dec	Normal Opening
Thursday 31st Dec	Normal Opening
Friday 1st January	CLOSED
Saturday 2nd January	CLOSED
Sunday 3rd January	CLOSED
Monday 4th January	Normal Opening

If you need medical advice when the surgery is closed telephone NHS direct on 0845 4647 or visit www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

If you need urgent medical treatment contact the Dorset Urgent Care Service on 0845 600 10 13



If you have pain in the middle of your chest (this could feel like a dull ache, or heavy, tight or crushing), or pain that is spreading from your chest to your upper back, neck, shoulder blades, arm, or jaw DIAL 999 immediately. It is important that you get an immediate diagnosis and the correct treatment as soon as possible.

Who should I see?

At the last meeting of the Patient Participation Group it was reported that many patients are confused about which doctor they should see, i.e. should it be the doctor they are registered with, the doctor they usually see, or does it matter? Also patients have reported that they are not always able to see the doctor of their choice as soon as they would like and are concerned about loss of continuity.

Under the new GP contract patients are registered with the practice, rather than a particular doctor. Therefore patients can choose to see any of the GP's at the surgery. Whilst the surgery likes to encourage continuity of care with the same GP we realise this is not always possible. There may be times when it is not possible to see the GP of your choice at a time suitable to yourself, or as quickly as you need. Many patients worry that another doctor will not know their history or understand an ongoing problem. You may find some reassurance in the fact that all of our GP's meet on a daily basis and update themselves with patients who have any special problems, this is called the daily handover meeting. In particular very ill patients that have been seen that day or any patient who has been treated regularly by another doctor will be highlighted to ensure the whole team are aware of any issues. When you are seen by a doctor or nurse the consultation notes are also updated to ensure that if a different person sees you on your next visit they will be up to date with your past and recent history and any particular medical conditions you have. This may help to reassure you that, when you see another doctor or nurse you are not starting from the beginning, they will already know your medical history and in particular any ongoing problems. Whilst we understand that you may have a particular relationship with a certain doctor we hope that it will be of some reassurance to you that communication levels at the surgery are of the highest standard between all clinicians and that any doctor unfamiliar with your case will usually make the effort to discuss it with and update your usual doctor.

KEEPING PEOPLE IN THE LOOP!

The Patient Participation Group have raised funds to provide a hearing loop at the reception desk of both surgeries. These are portable and, if necessary, for those patients who are particularly hard of hearing and have problems hearing the doctor during consultations, can also be taken into the consulting room. If you are a patient who would like the loop taken into the consulting room please notify the receptionist when checking in.

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ABBEY SWIMMING CLUB

The Club is based at Milton Abbey School, Milton Abbas, which has a 25 metre indoor swimming pool.

Membership is open to anyone. Members range in age from less than a year to over 80. This is a social and friendly club. Join us and keep fit.

The pool is hired for 4 sessions a week. Lifeguards supervise all sessions. RLSS National Lifeguard and Bronze Medallion courses are available as well as swimming lessons for adults and children.

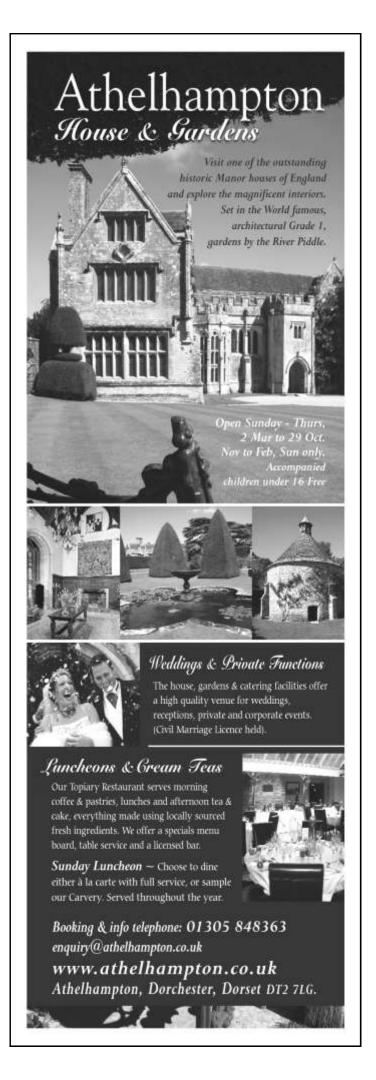
Annual Membership

Adults £80. Senior Citizens £60. Juniors (17 and under) £28 as part of a family, £45 individual. Children (3 and under as part of a family) free.

Club Sessions

Tuesdays: 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Fridays: 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm Saturdays: 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Sundays: 8.00 am - 9.00 am

Come to the pool during any club session for a free swim and pick up an Application Form or contact Robert (01258 880192) or Pat (01258 880601).



MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL



Learning together, playing together; all for one, one for all



SCHOOL NEWS

The first autumn half-term went by very quickly, but not without us celebrating Harvest. It was a pleasure to have members of the local community join us for our special assembly, where a bountiful table of produce had been donated by the children. Thank you to all of the parents who helped deliver the harvest bags locally and thank you for the kind messages that have come back to school from the recipients. We do hope more local people will join us for our Christmas carol service which will be held at school on Thursday 17th December at 2.00pm. Congratulations also to Louie Brown in Hedgehogs who won the harvest picture competition for his age group at the Apple Day run by Kingston Maurward College.

Tom Leech completed his sponsored bike ride around the UK, despite a few running repairs to the bike. In total he cycled some 900 miles. On Friday November, Tom and in turn, the school was presented with a cheque for £700 to go towards improving the outdoor environment of school in the spring. Many thanks to all those who raised sponsorship money and especially to Tom for parting gesture.

On Tuesday 10th November 16 teams competed in the 11th Dorchester area first schools Years 3 – 4 football festival at Milborne St. Andrew First School. Each team played 5 matches and every player received a certificate to say they participated in the special event. Anne Purdy, headteacher, said how grateful she was to Tom Leech who returned to organise the tournament yet again this year and show Anne the ropes for future years. Anne said that in her first year as head she was delighted that the weather stayed fine enough for the tournament to carry on - the warm drinks provided by the Friends of School were very much welcomed by the spectators on a

FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

blustery day. It was a pleasure to see such fun being had by all and so many well mannered children taking part from school Dorchester. The festival is always an opportunity for children to enjoy a feast of football with pure enjoyment as the main goal and we will look forward to further successful tournaments in the future.



The Milborne squad ready for action.

CONTACTS

If you require any information about the school, including admissions details for children please contact the school office. Headteacher: Mrs Anne Purdy, Secretary, School Office: Mrs Helen Pugh Chair of Governors: Mr George Legg, FOS Chairman: Mrs Sally Taylor e-mail:office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk Tel: (01258) 837362 Fax: (01258) 837170



Milborne Sports - Ten years on

IT IS now ten years since the Parish Council put out a plea to the village for people to come forward to help take on the sports field project.

At that time the Parish Council had acquired the site but work in converting it to a sports field had ground to a halt.

Milborne St. Andrew did have a football team however who were playing in Division IV of the Dorset League with home matches being played at Puddletown School.

This small committee took on following the plea from the Parish Council the Sports Club Committee was formed and the task of the challenge of developing sport within the village.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- A magnificent Sports Pavilion has been built partly funded by the Football Foundation and the fund raising efforts of the Sports Club
- A football pitch that is recognised as being probably the best playing surface in the whole of Dorset.
- Two adult football teams, one of which is now topping Division II and likely to be promoted for the third consecutive year – the highest league position that a Milborne football team has ever achieved.
- Two youth teams playing in Dorset League football.
- Regular training sessions and soccer schools for youngsters in the
- Football Club awarded Standard Chartered Club of the year for the Southern Region.
- Sports Club Grounds man Malcolm Applin has been shortlisted to the final three in the BBC Sports Personality Unsung Heroes Award for the Southern Region.
- Dozens of coaches have been put through Football Association Coaching Courses and achieved level 1 with three coaches having achieved the Football Association Standard Level 2.
- A Thriving Table Tennis section meeting every Monday 7.00pm, all welcome.

User Groups include: Toddler Group: Doctor Barnados. Starting 2nd Week January, Dancing, ballroom, Latin, etc.

Over the years of fund raising not only has Milborne Sports Committee been able to develop its own facilities, it has also made donations to Click Sargent and Children's Heart Foundation charities.

There is still much to be done, not least the completion of the bottom site, but the whole village should be rightly proud of the achievements to date. John Kane







Dorset League Division Two Sturminster Marshall O Milborne Sports 1

MILBORNE'S visit to the league leaders did not auger well with their leading scorer missing, keeper Wayne Gifford suffering with injury and also midfielder Simon Kibler out injured. With other players not arriving until just before kick off due to an accident, their preparation was also minimal. Sturminster seemed to sense this and right from the kick off they looked dangerous. A swift move down Milborne's left flank led to a cross to the far post but the chance was scorned. After about five minutes the Lane-Enders won a corner and Ed Evans delivered a perfect cross which found Kevin Seal who headed home via a post to give the visitors a surprise lead.

Sturminster's pole position in the league was not unwarranted and they continued to play some fine football. However, a combination of missed chances and a superb performance by Milborne's back four of Heaton, Seal, Lochrie and Lambert meant that there was no further score at half time. The second half continued in a similar vein with Steve Walker ploughing a lone furrow up front and Milborne packing their midfield. The injured Gifford made some excellent saves whilst the young Cormac Lochrie belied his years with an outstanding, assured performance at centre back. Sturminster always looked as though they might get an equalliser as they pressed hard and Milborne had a couple of half chances on the break with Dean unlucky with a speculative volley, whilst both Carl Tewkesbury and Paul Myatt worked hard to try and stem the Marshall tide. Time finally ran out for Sturminster and, although Milborne were unable to play their usual slick passing game, they nevertheless showed great team spirit and character in finishing up winners by the narrowest of margins against the league leaders in what was a real 'six pointer', at the same time continuing their unbeaten run.

Man of the Match - Cormac Lochrie

Dorchester Sports O Milborne Sports 3

IN WHAT were intimidating surroundings at Sandringham Sports Centre Milborne finally laid the Dorchester Sports voodoo to rest with a workmanlike perfornance against a particularly robust Dorchester outfit. Playing their fourth consecutive away game, Milborne prepared themselves for a physical struggle and so it proved to be with Karl Dean having to leave the field as early as the first couple of minutes. However, Milborne were not to be denied and took the lead after about fifteen minutes when Luke Braund scored on his debut after turning his man and sweetly hitting the ball past the home keeper. The game then became somewhat uneven due to an abundant number of free kicks and the interval arrived with Milborne retaining the narrowest of leads. Early in the second half Paul Myatt showed some great control on the flank to beat two defenders before dragging the ball from the by-line for McLements to side foot home from close range. The Lane-Enders defence then ensured any Dorchester comeback was stifled with Gifford again impessive in goal and the back four of Lambert, Walker, Lochrie and Seal shutting down their opponents well. When Dorchester's top scorer was substituted the writing was on the wall and Carl McLements finished the game off with his second of the game controlling a bad bounce and pouncing from close range to add to his impressive tally for the season. In what was an excellent team performance from Milborne, Carl Tewkesbury and Simon Kibler also

gave important individual perfornances to enable them to take top spot, along the way defeating old adversaries

With a third of the season gone, Milborne are now well placed although they do have a lot of tough games to come, and will therefore need to continue with their renowned passing game matched with resilience to retain their lofty position in what is a *Mike Lathbury*, Chairman tight league.

Milborne supremacy in cup

Cranborne 1 Milborne Sports 5

AFTER a run of good form, Milborne's attention was diverted to the Intermediate Cup in this second-round game against higher league opposition. Playing away for the fifth consecutive game Milborne's game proved to be one of a few played after horrendous overnight and morning conditions. The pitch, however, was a credit to Cranborne and the Lane-Enders were able to play their renowned passing game. However, their hosts were in no mood to concede defeat and were also playing the ball around well despite Milborne's defence ably marshalling any attacks. Milborne looked certain to take the lead but Cranborne's defence performed heroics in clearing the ball off their goal line three times during one attack. Their keeper then made a great save from a McLements shot that looked destined for the corner of the net, and then Gifford had to be alert in the visitors goal following a speculative effort. The strong wind was causing some problems but, at half time, neither side had broken the

With the wind behind them after half time, and manager Hammond's words of encouragement, Milborne came out for the second half with intent and, almost immediately, when Paul Myatt's corner somehow eluded the home defence the impressive Cormac Lochrie was on hand in a crowded goal mouth to prod the ball home from close range. Although Milborne scored again the referee spotted an infringement before the ball had entered the net and Carl McLements calmly sent the keeper the wrong way to give Milborne a two goal cushion. Although with 60 minutes or so passed the game looked safe for the visitors, Cranborne still competed and after a good move down the left the ball broke fortuitously for their striker to finish from about twelve yards out. This goal seemed to spur Milborne on and after a fine passage of play, and a defensive back header that caught in the wind, McLements got behind the defence to poach his second of the game, drilling the ball into the corner of the net. The Cranes goalkeeper then had to make several excellent saves as Carl Tewkesbury and Simon Kibler dominated the midfield whilst full backs Evans and Lambert provided great support. Any further Cranborne resistance was broken after about thirty-five minutes of the second half when Steve Walker hit a free kick in from near the halfway mark. Although initially it looked as though McLements had got a slight headed touch to the ball, Walker claimed the goal to make it 4-1. Walker then made it five and grabbed his second when from fully fifty yards his powerful free kick found the net billowing. Chris Pavey was also unlucky not to score after a wonderful piece of control and Sports finished the game in total control playing with assured football and going forward to the next round in style. *Mike Lathbury*, Chairman

Under 14s Division three

Heathlands 2 Milborne St. Andrew 3

AFTER a difficult start to the season the rapidly improving Milborne notched up their first win of the season with a 3-2 victory over Heathlands: a team who have previously resoundingly beaten Milborne on several occasions.

The first goal came after an impressive throw in from the commanding Jake Climo, which after a mad scramble was put away by Jamie Badley. A few minutes later Declan Murphy scored the goal of the match in a four-pass move which saw the ball move from Ben Sache in Milborne's goal, to Climo, to lightning fast winger Charlie Rideout, who played the ball in front of Murphy who blasted the ball into the net from 15 yards. As half time approached, Rideout scored a third by passing the keeper and sliding the ball into the empty net. The half ended with Milborne three goals to the good after a majestic team performance.

The second half saw a stunned Heathlands regain their composure. Despite solid performances from Tom Whiting and Jason Jones supported by impressive play from Chris Taylor, Matt Smith, Lewis Gear, Joe Cook and Henry Jeff, Heathlands were able to find the net on two occasions as the Milborne lads visibly tired as a result of their herculean efforts.

Milborne man of the match was Ben Sache for an inspired performance in the Milborne goal.

Corfe Mullen Colts 3 Milborne St. Andrew 4

MILBORNE chalked up their second win of the season in an exciting battle with old rivals Corfe Mullen Colts. It was Corfe Mullen who scored first following a hesitant start from Milborne, a defensive error leaving Milborne's goalie, Ben Sache with no chance.

The shock seemed to rouse Milborne and they dominated for the remainder of the first half with a narrow miss from a curling Jake Climo shot followed by Declan Murphy hitting the bar. The equaliser finally came when Laurie Stevens picked up a long ball, broke free of the defence and calmly beat the advancing Mullen keeper.

The second half started like the first, with Mullen the stronger team, looking to use Milborne's own tactic of scoring on the break against them. Soon, bright play between Jamie Badley, Climo and Stevens saw Milborne go close. Then Jason Jones, Milborne's blisteringly fast central back picked up the ball on the edge of his own area and headed off on a run all down the left side of the pitch culminating in him slotting home as the Mullen keeper advanced, to score the goal of the match. Milborne continued the pressure and in one five second period were denied a third goal by a series of incredible point-blank saves by Mullen's exceptional goalie. A few minutes later Antony Tucker, having his best ever game for Milborne played the ball to Charlie Rideout who knocked in Milborne's third goal with his usual clinical accuracy.

But Corfe Mullen are not a team to give up without a struggle and a few moments later caught Milborne sleeping and belted in a second goal. Stung back into action Rideout scored Milborne's fourth goal when a misplaced explosive shot from Climo fell at his feet enabling him to bury the ball in the net for the second time. As the final whistle approached, Mullen again struck back chipping Sache to score their third goal.

Jason Jones was awarded Milborne man of the match for his resolute defending and amazing solo goal, assisted by resolute performances from Chris Taylor, Sam Holmes, Joe Cook, Henry Jeffs and Lewis Gear in the Milborne defence and midfield.

Grant Taylor

Next first team game: Home at Lane End 28th November

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Proceeds shared equally between St. Andrews Church and the Football Club



The partners and staff of the Hambro Arms, invite you to join them during the festive season. Whether it is a christmas party, or a smaller lunchtime gathering, we have menus to suit every occasion. Our Christmas Day menu is five courses, while our New Years Eve gourmet dinner will enable you to see in the New Year in style.

ChristmasDay

A welcoming champagne cocktail

To start

Roasted vine tomato soup served with a basil cream and a warm roll (v) Tian of smoked salmon and crab with a rustic slice Game terrine with a red onion marmalade and crisp leaves

> Intermediate Course Barford Farm lemon sorbet

Main Course

Traditional Dorset roast turkey served with chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets and a cranberry and port jus, served with roasted potatoes and winter vegetables

Fillet of Beef Wellington with a wild mushroom and red wine jus served with fondant potatoes and winter vegetables

Field mushroom, asparagus and parmesan risotto served with rocket leaves (v)

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce Homemade Dorset apple cake with creme anglaise Poached pear with local ice cream

Cheese Course

Local cheese selection served with onion marmalade and crackers

Coffee and Mince Pies

All six courses £59.95 A £25 per person deposit is required with the booking

Christmas Party Menu

Starter

Roasted vine tomato soup with a basil cream served with a warm roll (v) Tian of smoked salmon and crab with a rustic slice Game terrine with a red onion marmalade and crisp leaves

Main course

Traditional Dorset roast turkey served with chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets and a cranberry and port jus, served with roasted potatoes and winter vegetables Fillet of Beef Wellington with a wild mushroom and red wine jus served with fondant potatoes and winter vegetables Tield mushroom, asparagus and parmesan risotto served with rocket leaves (v)

Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce Homemade Dorset apple cake with crème anglaise Fresh fruit salad with cream All three courses only £19.95

New Years Eve Gala Dinner

To Begin Assiette of Canapés

Lobster and saffron bisque Tian of smoked salmon and crayfish tails served with ciabatta Dorset blue vinney tart served with rocket leaves and a honey mustard dressing (v)

> Intermediate Course Barford Farm fresh lemon sorbet

Main Course

Tillet of Beef Wellington served with fondant potatoes and a wild mushroom and Madeira sauce. Pan-fried sea bass served on wilted spinach and mushrooms with a Provencal sauce Field mushroom, asparagus and parmesan risotto served with rocket leaves (v)

> All served with potatoes and a melange of seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate brownie served with vanilla ice cream Sticky toffee pudding Fresh fruit salad Platter of local cheeses with onion marmalade and a selection of biscuits

Coffee and Mints

All five courses £37.50 A £20 per person deposit is required with the booking

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