

75P WHERE SOLD

Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 5 Issue 11

December 2013

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter

Milborne St. Andrew



**A Merry Christmas to all
our readers**





The Reporter team would like to thank all our advertisers and contributors for their continued support throughout the year and to take this opportunity to wish them a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NOTICE

Please note that the Village Hall Car Park will be closed for resurfacing work during week beginning 30th December

PLEASE ensure that ALL CARS are REMOVED from the VILLAGE HALL before 30th December

We apologise for any inconvenience to neighbours as a result of these works which should benefit the whole village

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The Village Hall

MILBORNE ST ANDREW

Registered Charity No: 301153



From the Chairman of Trustees
Paul Tasker
8 Coles Lane
Milborne St Andrew
Dorset, DT11 0UG
t: 07801-714619
e: p.h.tasker@gmail.com

December 2013

Villagers of Milborne St Andrew

Dear neighbours

I'm taking this unusual step of writing to you and all villagers in order to seek some new help in running our Village Hall.

Many of us use the Hall and value the facility it gives us as an important community asset. A little time and effort is needed from volunteers to ensure that the Hall is properly managed so that it remains a safe and attractive facility, and to continue with the improvements that we've enjoyed over recent years. Finding some additional voluntary help with administration and organisation will be essential if we are to keep operating costs down to an affordable level: the Hall will otherwise cease to be a viable concern for the village.

Please consider volunteering to help the community if you value our Hall. We will all only need to make a small investment of time if we can get a number of us working together. Please get in touch with me on 07801-714619, or Elizabeth Humphrey our treasurer on 0774-0201375, if you think you may be interested in helping.

Yours sincerely, **Paul Tasker**
Chairman, Board of Trustees, p.h.tasker@gmail.com

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

Deadline for the January issue is the 8th December

The editor reserves the right to edit or condense contributions

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Advertising copy **MUST** be received by the 8th of the month

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Your **Reporter** Team

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Heather V. Hogg, David Payne, Ed Richards
and Josie Wright

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Copy for the next issue **MUST** be received by the 8th December

Enquiries and copy to: **msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk**

E-copy as .doc or .pub files, pictures as .jpg files please

Paper copy to David Payne at 7 Bladen View

Shelterbox UK needs your help

MY name is Neil Clark from Milborne St. Andrew and am writing as an official volunteer member on behalf of Shelterbox UK, which is a Cornish based International Disaster Relief Agency. As you will be aware, two weeks ago there was a Super Typhoon (120mph +), in the Philippines causing massive loss of life and wiping out entire communities.

I'm sure readers will have seen the images in the media and helped out wherever possible, but it is vitally important to keep events such as this in the public eye, which is why I have written this soon after the typhoon hit so it will still be newsworthy while you're doing your Christmas preparations.

Naturally we are focussed on ensuring our loved ones are taken care of at this time, and are lucky enough to live in a relatively prosperous part of the world. Usually our houses don't get destroyed and there's something in the fridge for dinner.

Somewhere between getting your children the latest computer games, and picking up the Christmas meats, I invite you to spare a minute to think about what the Filipinos and others such as in Syria will be doing for their Christmas.

There will have been a huge amount of aid from all over the world gone to this area, but it is an on-going effort, which continues long after the media has lost interest in it and the headlines go back to normal.

Shelterbox UK do tremendous work worldwide, with up to 90% of donations going directly to the people most affected. They supply lifesaving equipment as the name suggests mainly in the form of tents, but other essentials such as blankets, water purification and tools to enable the locals to start rebuilding their lives.

If you can make the time, please go onto the website www.shelterbox.org and look at the links to find out how you can make a real difference to someone's life, and how grateful you would be if the positions were reversed especially at this time of year. Thank you.

Neil Clark

Have fun on Halloween but please have respect for others

*A message from PC2186 Dave Mullins,
the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Officer.*

I WOULD like to remind everybody that criminal damage and anti social behaviour are not acceptable at any time of the year and Halloween is no exception.

Following a couple of instances in which damage was caused to properties in Milborne St. Andrew around the time of Halloween I would like to re-iterate that instances of damage and anti social behaviour are not acceptable and can be criminal in their nature. As the local Community Beat Officer, I would like to reinforce that calls, made at the time of the incident, have proved valuable in the past and on several occasions they have led to offenders being apprehended.

Singular reports, which themselves may appear to be of little significance, can often provide a vital link with other reports and lead to the prevention or detection of crime.

I would remind everybody to respect other people's property and boundaries and to treat everyone as they would like to be treated themselves. Halloween can be a stressful time for some members of the community and leave them feeling vulnerable and intimidated.

I encourage residents to report immediately upon any incident which rouses their suspicion that a criminal act has taken place or is anticipated. Calls of a non-urgent nature should be directed to 101 with 999 being used for emergency cases only.

Any residents with any questions or queries please contact myself, PC2186 Dave Mullins or PCSO 5389 Luke Goddard at Blandford Police Station.



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The Gardening Club



ON Thursday evening on the 24th October, members enjoyed an interesting and useful talk by Tony Das from Castle Gardens in Sherborne. Part of his job is working in the greenhouse bringing on houseplants for the garden centres in Sherborne and Poundbury. He concentrated on telling us about seasonal plants for Christmas. He brought along some plants to illustrate his talk, which was helpful as he went through the various, mostly familiar plants that we see around Christmas time. Tony showed us some cyclamen plants which are grown locally unlike many plants that are sold in the garden centres which are brought over from Holland. He explained the best way to feed and water these plants and the right position for them in the house.

Other plants we looked at were orchids of different varieties and the sometimes mysterious different needs that they have, to try and emulate the forests from where they originate. Also a favourite Christmas plant – the familiar poinsettia (from Mexico). This one hates draughts, likes warmth and not too much water.

We also looked at small citrus bushes, the peace lily and amaryllis, all lovely plants to give or receive at Christmas. Overall Tony gave us some great tips on looking after and especially feeding our houseplants.

Why don't you pop along to Poundbury and see the selection for yourselves? I am sure they will be happy to help you with any queries you might have.

A reminder that our December meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5th December, as usual in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The business meeting is followed by mulled wine and homemade mince pies. This year there will also be a quiz led by Martin Young of Nectar Plants, Upwey, which will be light hearted and fun. Members and visitors welcome.

Angie Nowell

Sohani Gonzalez

B.A., M.C.H., R.S.Hom

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As seen on the **BBC**



Local Police News

Safer Neighbourhoods is a commitment by Dorset Police to improve the quality of life within our communities by working together with partners to target the issues identified by you – local people – as those that matter most.

There are a number of opportunities that the Safer Neighbourhood Team in your area will provide, on an ongoing basis, for you to voice your concerns. Get in touch with your team today to find out how you can raise your issues.

This is your chance to influence the service that we, the police, and our partners, provide. Your opinions are important to us and this process will not work without you.

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team



PCSO 5389 Luke Goddard PC 2186 Dave Mullins PS 0581 Matt Chutter PC 2201 Rich Barnes PCSO 5412 Rich Mullins

Current priorities – You are telling us that the following issues are a priority in your area

1. Acquisitive crime in rural areas
2. To set up further community speed watch groups in rural locations.

Previous priorities – You said . . . We did

1. Acquisitive crime in rural areas – High visibility patrols increased with officers tasked daily to tend locations.
2. A number of new areas have enquired about setting up a scheme in their areas.

How to contact your team

Telephone: **101**. If a crime is in progress or life in danger dial **999**.

Email: blandfordruralnorth@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @BlandfordSNT

Find us on Facebook: Blandford Safer Neighbour

Go to: www.dorset.police.uk

Caught in the act

A man, who committed a dwelling burglary in Milborne St. Andrew by smashing glass at the rear of the property, was witnessed by a member of the public who called 999. He was arrested a very short distance from the scene owing to the fact that a local officer was there within seconds. Rural South Community Beat Officer PC Dave Mullins was dealing with issues in the village when the call came in and was only a few hundred metres from the property. After rapidly excusing himself from his commitment, PC Mullins set off towards the incident. He located the offender who had crashed his vehicle nearby and subsequently arrested him for committing the burglary along with being drunk in charge of the vehicle. The quick actions of the witness being alert and calling police instantly resulted in the offender being swiftly apprehended. The offender is currently on bail awaiting a court hearing. Calling at the time of incidents really does help to catch offenders.

Rural burglaries still happening

North Dorset is still seeing a number of burglaries occur in rural locations. The vast majority of these types of crimes are to out-buildings and commercial premises rather than dwellings but are still extremely impactful on people's lives. Please make yourself as aware as possible of security around all your premises and remember to call police on 999 in an emergency, or 101 at the time of the incident, to allow an effective and quick response where possible.

Playtime at Wednesday Club

Members had an enjoyable afternoon sitting around tables playing various games brought in. Yahtzee, Upword, Jenga, Shut the Box, dominoes, cards, Ludo, etc. Good fun as many of us live alone and don't get the chance to do this. Tea and biscuits were organised by our stalwart Pearl Hallett and helped by other committee members.



Deposits for the Christmas lunch were collected along with menu choices. Drivers and passengers were sorted to save the cost of a coach and driver. 37 of us will enjoy a Christmas meal and a special raffle at the Coach and Horses, Winterbourne Abbas on Wednesday 4th December at 12 noon for 12.30pm.

There will be a New Year lunch and party at The Royal Oak, here in Milborne St. Andrew on Wednesday 8th January. *Janet Allen*

Susie Edwards Blogger Extraordinaire



SUSIE Edwards, a graduate of the Constance Spry School of Floristry, internationally known for her original and non conformist style, discovered she had breast cancer in July 2013. Her clear-eyed, lucid account of her progress through diagnosis and treatment is documented in a daily blog. Through this medium, her zest for life, appreciation of nature and good food lifts the curtain on her beliefs and values enriching all who take the time to read and follow.

Described variously as a 'cosmopolitan spirit . . . a door-opener . . . [someone with] steadfast creativity . . . allowing flower culture influences from without to change the traditional styles from within' * and by herself as a 'floral fanatic'.

In 1997 Susie settled in a one time butcher's 19th Century cottage on the outskirts of Milborne St. Andrew filling it with Spode pottery.

Originating from Boston, Lincolnshire she came here via London and has a son and daughter living in Brighton and Orpington respectively, four grandchildren two boys and two girls with ages ranging from 11-4years. All have been supportive, accompanying her to treatment sessions, in constant touch either by visiting or telephoning.

She has been in demand to give interviews on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour who follow her progress through her blogs.

Her curly, russet coloured dog, Nutty (short for Nutkin) a Cockerpoo, was acquired as a small puppy at the time of Susie's diagnosis and is her constant companion and delight. She has provided a focus and distraction from the events of the past months.

Together they have embraced and rationalised whatever has occurred giving mutual support and pleasure. Their walks are well documented as are Nutty's grooming and training to often hilarious effect. These are positive passages full of Susie's delight in what she terms 'magical,' 'wonderful garden (and wild) material' for her 'quintessentially plant-led style(s)'.

These blogs from a creative and talented pen give strong, emphatic support to all those who read, not just others with the same dilemma. To read her book, 'A Flower in My Hand' is to understand this woman for whom 'flowers are (her) life blood'. To use her words for her creations is to describe their creator; 'effortlessly English . . . lively but not loud . . . understated and ever user-friendly . . . sometimes rules must be broken to give inspiration its head and particularly in art, to be able to move on and develop'. The philosophy of someone who is doing just that.

Read more of Susie's progress next month in the Reporter.

* 'Gregor Lersch' Foreword to Susie's book 'A Flower in My Hand'.

Carole Fornachon



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

The Journey's End?

In the biblical stories of Jesus's birth and childhood there are a number of journeys.

First Mary and Joseph travel from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census count. Later we hear of the wise men making the trip from the east also to Bethlehem, and then of Mary and Joseph fleeing to Egypt with their young child to escape Herod's murder of all infant boys. After Herod's death they return home to Nazareth, and later we hear about the 12-year-old Jesus found to be missing on the journey home from Jerusalem, after he and his family went there to celebrate Passover.

These are all physical journeys where people travelled from one place to another with their donkeys, camels and so on. But we make other journeys through life too, emotional and spiritual ones.

At Christmas time we are invited to share the journey to Bethlehem, not with our feet but with our hearts. As we progress through Advent we have the gift of time to reflect and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ-child.

Every journey has a beginning, a destination and the pathway between the two, which can be straightforward or a series of diversions and changed routes. However wonderful it is to reach the end of the road. We often find that it is in the travelling itself that we have found some meaning.

And every ending also becomes a beginning. The destination of our walk through Advent is Christmas. But Christmas itself celebrates the beginning of the incarnation, God becoming human, dwelling with us and sharing our lives.

That shared life is available to anyone who wants it. God's love knows no bounds. That is why he chose to share our life on earth so that we might ultimately share God's life in heaven.

As we journey towards Christmas, let us reflect on our current place and our destination, and let us walk with open eyes and hearts between the two, knowing that God travels with us.

With best wishes for a peaceful Advent and a joyful Christmas

Sarah

Milborne St. Andrew Church Notes

ON the 3rd November we held the first of our new 'Celebrate . . .' all age services. Nearly 30 of us assembled at 9.15am to share coffee and croissants, and look at the Sunday papers before the service to 'Celebrate the Saints' at 9.45am. We held it in the north aisle with the story illustrated on 'the big screen'. We were pleased with the general response to the format and hope to build on it at our next first Sunday Service on **1st December** when we will 'Celebrate Advent'.

Our benefice **service of remembrance and thanksgiving** for the lives of those who have died was appreciated by those who have lost loved ones. Many lit candles in memory of friends and relatives. On **Remembrance Sunday** we held our usual service in church and at the Memorial Stone with Scouts and members of the British Legion present to remember those who died on active service. Candles were lit for each of those who lost their life in the two World Wars as their names were read out.

It was a privilege to join graduates from our benefice at a service in Dorchester presided over by the Bishop of Sherborne. He presented certificates to those that had completed the **St. Aldhelm course** during the last year. Sarah Hillman introduced

The Church and Gardening Club would like to encourage folk to think about opening their garden for a day (end of May/beginning of June 2014). It is always good fun and very inspiring to see everyone's efforts and ideas. There would be the usual delicious Cream Teas, etc. More news in 2014 but please put the date in your diary.



Do you need a lift to church?

If you have difficulty getting to church or need transport when the Benefice Service is at another church, we can arrange transport for you. Please contact John on 839090.



CHURCH SERVICES December 2013

1st December – Advent Sunday

9.15am	All-age Worship	Milborne
9.30	Special Posada Service	Tolpuddle
11.00	Family Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish

Thursday 5th December

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Milborne
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8th December – Advent 2

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
9.30	Methodist United Service	Tolpuddle
11.00	Family Service + Baptism	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish

15th December – Advent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Family Service	Delwlish
4.00pm	Carol Service	Tolpuddle
4.00	Christingle	Milborne
6.00	Carol Service	Puddletown

Tuesday 17th December

7.30pm	Carol Service	Milborne
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22nd December – Advent 4

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Holy Communion (said)	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
3.00pm	Carol Service	Dewlish

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle
5.00	Crib Service	Puddletown
11.30	Midnight Mass	Milborne
11.30	Midnight Mass	Puddletown

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30	Christmas Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
10.00	Christmas Family Service	Milborne
11.00	Christmas Family Service	Puddletown

29th December – Christmas 1

10.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
2.00pm	Holy Baptism	Dewlish

MORNING PRAYERS (Monday–Thursday 8.15am, Saturday 9.00am)

Monday – Puddletown	Tuesday – Milborne
Wednesday – Dewlish	Thursday – Tolpuddle
Saturday – Puddletown	

Flowers – w/e Saturday

1st December – flowers removed for Advent
Tuesday 24th December – All helpers please
28th December and 4th January
Christmas flowers to be maintained



those she had led during the course in our benefice.

If you want to meet the **Bishop of Sherborne** he will be coming to our Milborne morning service at **9.30am** on Sunday **8th December** before he goes on to join the service at Puddletown.

Later we have our annual **Carol Service** on Tuesday **17th December at 7.30pm**. Everyone will be most welcome to join us for it as well as our **Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm**, and **Family Service at 10.00am on Christmas Day**. On the 29th December there will be no service at Milborne as we join with the rest of the benefice in Puddletown.

Our new **Jigsaw Swap Shop** on the **first Thursday of the month** continued to attract interest this month. Everyone is welcome to come along to church at 11.00am, have a cake and coffee or tea, and see which jigsaws you fancy. If you want to, you can stay for our mid-week Communion Service at noon.

We have now received about 400 tree saplings from **Woodland Trust** to plant as a hedge between the churchyard and St. Andrew's View so we have a lot of work to do!

Our annual **Christmas Market** and **St Andrew's Day celebrations** will have taken place by the time you read this. At the time of writing we are hoping that everything will go according to plan, and everyone will enjoy themselves!
John Wright

All Saints, Dewlish – Church Notes

Helping churches with major repair bills

JIM is delighted to report that he raised the magnificent sum of £1,472 for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride 'n' Stride. Half of this sum will be returned to Dewlish church to help with the costs of running the church. The other half will be used to help other churches with major repair bills. Well done, Jim, and a big thank-you to all who supported him so generously.

With Christmas approaching fast our first event in December is the **Christmas Bazaar**. This will be held on Saturday 7th December in Dewlish Village Hall, starting at 2.30pm. We shall be grateful for any donations to the stalls, which include cakes and produce, Christmas

Church Contacts

Priest in Charge Sarah Hillman 01305 848784
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@tesco.net
Associate Priest Sarah Godfrey 01258 839067

Church Wardens

Milborne St. Andrew		Dewlish	
John Wright	01258 839090	Jim Burg	01258 837466
		Sue Britton	01258 837218

www.milbornestandrewchurch.org.uk

Benefice Office

Keri Gray puddletownadmin@fsmail.net When in the office at Longmead on Thursday mornings she can be contacted on 01258 839190. There is an answerphone.

gifts, toys, bric-a-brac, Christmas decorations and, of course, teas and mince pies. Please put the date in your diary and come and join us on the day.

We shall, once again, be singing carols round the village in aid of charity, and this will be during the week before Christmas.

The **Carol Service** this year is on Sunday 22nd December at 3.00pm. Jim is hoping to include as many children as possible in the Nativity and for the readings so, if he doesn't call and you would like to take part, please telephone 01258-837 466.

Dewlish community news

I would like to congratulate the Cricket Club on a wonderful firework display for our Bonfire Night celebrations. Thankfully, the weather was dry, although quite windy. To put on such a display costs a lot of money so we hope that their expenses were covered, despite a lower than usual turn-out - which was a great shame really.
Daphne Burg

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GROUP IN MILBORNE

We meet at Swiss Cottage every other Thursday for

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DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

There will be no meetings in December, but we will be meeting again in January to decide on our next topic

Please contact Chris and Angie Nowell for details
01258 837543 or canowell76@btinternet.com



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Christmas Party Menu

Starters

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Smoked salmon roulade with potato salad, pickled cucumber and a baked lemon dressing

Chicken liver parfait with tomato chutney, poached pear and toast

Minestrone soup served with a freshly baked roll

Main Courses

Fillet of salmon with parmesan mashed potatoes, purple sprouting broccoli and a lemon butter beurre blanc

Traditional roast turkey with a chestnut, apricot and sage stuffing served with roasted potatoes, pigs in blankets and seasonal vegetables

Breast of pheasant stuffed with chicken mousse and wrapped in Parma ham, served with fondant potatoes, cavolo nero and jus

Truffle-scented butternut squash and gorgonzola risotto with watercress and a pumpkin seed feuille

Dessert

Traditional Christmas pudding served with brandy sauce and vanilla ice cream

Chocolate, cherry and sherry trifle, crème anglaise and chantilly cream

Treacle sponge pudding with caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream

Cheese selection with apple, celery and biscuits

Mince pies, coffee and petit fours

Only £23.95 per person
(£5 deposit per person required)

New Years Eve Gala Dinner

7:30 pm Tuesday 31st December

Starter

Duck liver pate with poached pear, cranberry compote and toast

Beetroot stained gravadlax served with pickled beetroot, sauce gribiche and croutes

Roasted red pepper and tomato soup served with croutons and crusty bread

Palate Cleanser

Champagne sorbet

Main Course

Duck breast and leg confit served with truffle-scented mashed potatoes, savoy cabbage and a thyme and vanilla jus

Fillet of sea bream with crushed new potatoes, samphire and baby brown shrimps in a light tandoori butter

Glazed shallot tatin with spinach, poached duck egg and béarnaise sauce

Dessert

Chocolate fondant with vanilla ice cream

Lime and coconut cheesecake served with a spiced pineapple salsa

Cheese selection with apple, celery and biscuits

Coffee and petit fours

A glass of Prosecco to celebrate the New Year

All four courses and a glass of Prosecco only £34.95 per person
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Planning Matters!

PLANNING matters a whole lot in our lives; we plan to go out for the day, we plan to go to work, we plan to go to school. We plan in our lives to do a range of important things and that means there are other people around us planning to do other things which may and quite often do impact on our plans. Quite often we can't do anything about what others are planning to do and this you might think is not only wrong but also unfair.

Whilst we may not be able to influence some decisions taken by others there is a way we can start to determine how our community and parish develops in the future.

Neighbourhood Development Plans (Neighbourhood Plans)

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work.

They will be able to:

- choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built
- have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided
- grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead

The government has introduced the community right to do neighbourhood planning through the *Localism Act*.

There are already a number of towns and parishes close to Milborne St. Andrew that are well advanced in the process of being able to determine how their communities shall be developed. These plans, if accepted by the community following a referendum, become a statutory requirement for the local planning authority to adhere to. I see these Neighbourhood Plans as a way of ensuring that the people of this parish have a say in how it grows and hopefully prospers.

During the planning process developers and sometimes householders have to contribute money to improve the infrastructure of the area affected by the development, such as roads, schools, etc... In all the years I have lived in the village I have never known any money come to it from the previous housing and other developments that have been built in Milborne St. Andrew. No, it goes to the District Council who spend it on their pet schemes in the major towns of North Dorset. Under the Localism Act a new fund is established called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and if we have a Neighbourhood Plan the local authority would pass 25% of any CIL collected for projects in Milborne back to the community, much less if we have no plan.

The Parish Council has already indicated to the Planners that we want to begin the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of our parish. This will involve a lot of work and it cannot, nor should it, be done by just the Parish Council. It needs people who are interested in this village, this parish, this community to come forward to produce this Neighbourhood Plan that will allow us to determine the future of this area. It's a long process but it's worthwhile. North Dorset District Council will be helping us with a lot of the technical stuff and guiding us but not influencing our plan; it will be our plan.

The Village Plan was a useful document and a good starting point but it did not have the weight of law behind it. A Neighbourhood Plan will be the law and stands alongside the District Local Plan and national planning law and regulations.

As I said it requires hard work, consultation with everyone, villagers, parishioners, farmers, businesses and clubs, in fact all stakeholders. This will be a scheme that will, if a majority of those voting in a public referendum agree, stop some of the worst decisions in house building that have occurred in this parish and ensure developers build to our requirements and not faceless planners in Blandford. A small grant from government will allow some of the procedures and questionnaires to be produced. Unfortunately at this stage it will not cover expenses so we need volunteers to come forward who have particular expertise in

planning, business and other fields that may be useful in collating all the information. However it does not matter if you are not an expert in any field, we just need people who are interested in this parish and have a vision for how they would like to see it grow and develop now and in the future.

Do you remember how the village rallied round to buy the pub when it was closed under this Localism Act? The community would have more rights to do just that if no other option was available to us.

Again what if we wanted houses in the village for those who have a stake in the village or family but can't afford to buy or rent? Then why not stipulate that any future housing is set aside just for that purpose? The town of Lynton and Lynmouth have produced a plan that is going to referendum on 21st November and one of their policies is:

The Plan supports the development of two types of housing.

Affordable housing – housing for sale or rent at reduced price, available only to people with a local connection and unable to meet their needs in the open market

Primary residence housing which has to be used as the primary residence of the household living in it, but without price controls or any local connection requirement.

The Plan does not support the development of open market housing without any restrictions on occupation which could be used as a second or holiday home.

This is the sort of thing we could consider if this is what the people of this parish want.

This is a big subject and it is necessary to be fairly brief but if you are interested in helping please let me know. Please contact me on 01258 837642 or email michael.hopper@btinternet.com. This is an exciting opportunity for the community, please join us to shape the future. Thank you.

Michael Hopper

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A Good Read by Shirley Dunkley A Dog So Small by Philippa Pearce

THIS month's book is one for grandparents or parents to think about as Christmas looms into view. *A Dog So Small* by Philippa Pearce is one of the truest and most moving books for children that I have ever read. First published in 1962, it has a universality of experience and an understanding of young people that is as meaningful now as it was when it was written. It tells the story of Ben Blewitt, one of five children who live in Central London in a flat with a garden. He yearns for a dog of his own.

His Grandpa who lives with Granny in the country, has foolishly hinted he might give him one for his birthday, but instead he receives a framed, embroidered picture of a dog—a picture of great sentimental value to Granny, having been a gift from her now dead son Willy. Ben is furious and deeply disappointed. His parents think it might cheer him up to find out a bit more about the picture on a visit to his grandparents and their dog Young Tilly, and it's there he learns that the dog in the picture is a Chihuahua called Chiquito. From then on Chiquito becomes Ben's constant and inspirational friend 'the dog so small that you can only see with your eyes shut'. The story follows Ben's adventures and inevitable parting from Chiquito and his final acceptance of a real substitute, Brown. The themes of the book concern loneliness, even in a big family, the yearning for something special that is only yours, the bonds between animal and human and above all the difficult growing up process of moving from a secret, fantasy world to the acceptance of life's reality. I love this book, it can still move me to tears, so it's one for adults to enjoy as well, but any child, boy or girl from eight or nine years plus onwards, can identify with Ben and his very ordinary life which is transformed for a while by 'A Dog So Small'.

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News from Milborne Mini Soccer

FIRST of all we would like to give a massive thank you to all of the *Reporter* readers who supported us in our bid to try and win the £3,000 Lloyds Bank Community Grant. We will find out on the 25th November where we came and if we won.

Our four league teams are now well into the season and have enjoyed a number of successes led by the coaching of our fantastic FA qualified coaches. And our new Reception group are growing in number and enthusiasm. We would welcome any other keen young four and five year olds who would like to come along and join the Reception group.

Having maintained our Standard Charter for the third year running we now get offered a number of free tickets to international events and following on from the trip many families enjoyed in October to see the England women's team win by a fantastic six goals to nil against Belarus. Many families and friends of the Milborne Mini Soccer club went along to watch the future hopefuls of England's next Men's team this month when they saw England's Under 16 boys play at Bournemouth FC.

Work will start shortly on the new floodlights. For this we owe a massive thank-you to coach Andy Brown and to Hustings who are donating their skills and hardware to the project with minimal cost to the club. We are all extremely grateful and look forward to updating *Reporter* readers with more next month.

For further information about the Milborne Mini Soccer Club please contact Marie Hayter 01258 837241 or email Milbornestandrewfcyouth@gmail.com.

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Thank You!

I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all those who supported my Macmillan Coffee Morning on Sunday 27th October and for their particularly generous donations. We managed to raise £166.10 for a worthy cause.

Jane Sach

Dear Editor of the Reporter

I am writing to you because I think people ought to know about something very strange that's happening in this village. When I was in the shop, I heard someone say they'd enjoyed their breakfast last Sunday - actually in the church! Apparently people had been sitting around eating, gossiping and reading the papers. When the vicar arrived, there was a slide show and a talk. I understand this wasn't an isolated incident - it's going to happen once every month!

Is this what we want the church used for? Anyone could have come in!
From a concerned villager

To the Editor

Richard Lock and a right of reply. I really think that the Editorial team need to reflect more carefully about what is included between your sheets. To my recollection there have been three occasions of late where individuals have had cause to write to the Editor to

correct comments being made against them or people they know.

Eric Austen felt the need to pick up his pen in October and now it is my turn to come to my own defence. This time the response to my unnamed Millie problem resulted in a highly personal response that was five times longer than the problem posed and certainly not written in the same vein as other responses!

Clearly Millie and whole of the Reporter team knew that it was me that posed the problem about timed lighting and the decision to publish such a barely hidden personalised rant is disappointing. It is sad that the opportunity seems to have been taken to try and give me a public dressing down on my supposedly dubious antics whilst Chairman of the Village Hall.

Anyway, I see that Millie started off her rant by saying that she is willing to be corrected, so providing she is sitting comfortably, I will begin.

1. Millie, do not believe everything that you read in minutes; it doesn't always give you the whole story. Check out the VH minutes of 20th June 2012 on the village website for instance.
2. Timed lighting was not dismissed purely on the ground of being too costly, it was more a planning application issue. When the Village Hall was applying for the grant in 2009/10 the Parish Council at the time would only give qualified support and reserved the right to object to the scheme at the planning stage. To have included timed lighting would have complicated the planning application process and might have led to a delay that would have scuppered the entire project.
3. The achievements of the VH committee between 2006 and 2012 were not, as alluded to, my own personal agenda but were based on the outcomes of two community based Regeneration Surveys conducted in 2002 and 2006. We delivered on what the community felt was needed, and some! The committee did not just make do with a MUGA

similar in size to that at Milton Abbas or Greys bridge Dorchester but achieved a high class facility built to LTA standards
4. Timed lighting was actually included in the Parish Plan questionnaire and received positive support from the community so it should be a priority issue for the Council to support.

As for some of the other pointed comments and suggestions:

Volunteering for the Parish Council: . . .
Been there, done that, very frustrating
Being tolerant and patient with those with different views: . . . I always remain focused and ensure fair play.

I think that it is also worth mentioning to readers that in respect of the Village Hall whilst the many user groups benefit from the facilities the sole object set out in the Charity trust deeds relates to the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Milborne St. Andrew with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants. That was my focus and that did cause tensions with some user groups.

Put some effort into fundraising: . . .
Been there, done that, still doing it for worthy causes.

I think that the 'Millie' concept is excellent but maybe the time has come for the editorial team to consider excluding the identity of the sender to Millie to avoid such personal conflicts in the future! I also think that providing the opportunity of a 'right of reply' in the same edition ought to be given serious consideration by the Reporter team

People in glass houses shouldn't use the cloak of anonymity to snipe and criticise other people's positive contribution and efforts.

Richard Lock

The editor reserves the right to edit or condense contributions but would recommend letters to be no longer than 300 words.

Yoga for you: individual lessons

Yoga has so much more to offer than increased flexibility and strength, though it can do that very well. It increases general health, can help with things like anxiety and insomnia, and helps you to be more self-aware and to think more clearly. Contact me to find out more:

Sarah Ryan

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saryan6630@gmail.com

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Run with the wind at your heels

When you adopt a new sport it feels like hard work and running is no exception. You may have procrastinated for a good month before investing in new trainers and copious fitness magazines, but what next?

The first thing is to walk a lot! walk:run programmes are an increasingly popular and effective way for new runners to start. In principle it is as easy as it sounds, you warm up, then jog or run for an allotted time period before reverting back to walking again, then simply keep repeating. The normal process is to build up this session to thirty minutes over the first month or two, starting with 4 minutes walking and 1 minute jogging. The aim being to gradually reduce the walking elements whilst increasing the jogging.

This mechanism allows your heart, lungs, muscles and mind opportunity to catch up, repair and cope with a new set of challenges. Ploughing headlong out of your house for a lung bursting thirty minute run, without any build up, normally leads to either injury or "never again" outcomes. Gradually increase the intensity in this measured way and before you know it you will be working towards realistic and achievable goals.

Who you are, your aims and starting point will all ultimately dictate how you set out your programme. Just bear in mind a few simple points before you cross the threshold of your front door though; avoid running if you are injured, wear something bright which fits the conditions, resist the temptation to wear headphones (it's safer), spend time warming up, stretching and warming down, let someone know where you are going and take a phone.

Remember, if you are on the comeback trail, start slow, listen to your body and rest if you need to. Be relaxed, take sensible measures to avoid injury and gradually build up. A full ten week schedule can be seen on the *welltroddenpath* website blog, but above all, have fun!

Matt Briars is a conservationist, horticulturalist and personal trainer who has worked outdoors for the last decade. He has a passion for the Dorset countryside and runs a lifestyle approach to being fit and well. You are welcome to email Matt with any queries (muddyrunner@hotmail.co.uk).

Fitness Classes at Ansty Village Hall – Wednesdays 7–8pm.
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If you have information on possible terrorist activity call the anti terrorism hotline in confidence on 0800 789 321.

Trading Standards news

CHRISTMAS is on its way. It's a time for giving and receiving gifts but how do we make sure that the gifts we give and receive are safe?

Shopping has changed dramatically over the past few years with many of us trading the traditional melee of the high street for the tense wait for items ordered over the internet to arrive in time.

Today's marketplace now offers us an almost limitless amount of choice. With this comes a variation in safety standards. In the UK we are protected from unsafe goods by a large array of European based legislation and vigilant enforcement bodies. But there is still the chance that poor quality or unsafe goods can find their way onto the shelves.

Best advice is always check the labelling on a product. Always look for a CE mark, a reference to a safety standard and any warnings – especially those restricting their use by young children. As a rule of thumb most products should also come with the name or trademark of the manufacturer and an address of the manufacturer or supplier within the EU.

Whether dealing with an internet trader, a market stallholder or buying from the high street, be sure who you are buying from. Always remember to keep your receipt or invoice as proof of purchase and remember that if you have any concerns about the safety of a product make sure you contact the Citizens Advice Service on 08454 040506.



Look out for the Buy With Confidence logo – trading standards check traders so you don't have to.

Visit the website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call The Citizens Advice Consumer Service **08454 04 05 06**.

PLEASE NOTE: Any copy for the **January** issue should be received no later than **8th December**.



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Community Contacts

Please let the *Reporter* know if any of these details change

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

Councils

North Dorset District Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
	Jane Somper	01258 471089
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council – Milborne St. Andrew	Clerk: Colin Hampton	01258 837011
	Chair: Jenny Balcon	01258 837121

Floods

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dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems		
Environment Agency Floodline		0845 9881188
South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk		01404 821500

General – Adult

Computer Drop-in Centre	Rose and Ed Frost	01258 837921
Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 881709
Wednesday Social Club	Margaret Evans	01258 450518
Women's Institute	June Maitland	01258 837235

General – Youth

Hazelnuts out-of-school club	Hazel Barrett	01305 848588
Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group	Mike Mullett	01258 837114
Secretary:	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Hayley Davis	07919 156578
Youth Club age 8 – 14 years	Lianne Summers	01258 839081

Police

Police – Non-emergency contact		101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard	101

School

Milborne 1st School		
Headteacher:	Neil McDermott	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Kevin Connolly	
Friends of School Chair:	Becky Hunter	

Special Interest

Bellringers	Pip Howell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Jo Lovett	01258 837957
Secretary:	Sue Gould	01258 837575
MSA Friendly Art Group	Elaine Anthony	01258 837089
MSA Gardening Club	Richard Lock	01258 837929
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Modern Sequence Dancing	Brian Webber	01935 812347
Ranters' Folk Session	Roger Harrall	01258 837371
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044

Sport

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
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Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
Circuit Training and Pilates	Claire Barratt	01929 554999 or 07946 732769
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Andy Smith	01258 880310
Cricket – Junior (U11 – U13)	Andy Smith	01258 880310
Football – Adult	Matt Hall	07846 262717
Football – Reserve Team	Tom Lane	07786 156335
Football – Under 11s	Marie Hayter	01258 837241
Ladies Netball	Jane Williams	01258 839291
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club Chairman:	Phillip Hayter	07830 125610
Bookings:	Dean Hamilton	01258 837370
Tap Dancing for Adults	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Tennis	Dennis Nelson	01258 837734
Tennis (Members Secretary)	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Yoga	Sue Chapman	01305 848053

Village Hall

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Secretary:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Paul Tasker	01258 837590
Booking Secretary:	Sandie Sach	01258 837033



Milborne Movies

Friday 13th December
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

Supported by



Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

David Tennant – Pam Ferris
Jessica Hynes – Marc Wootton

Tickets £3.00

Community Events Diary

Add your event to this diary by contacting the **Reporter** – tel: 01258 837700 or email: msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

December

- Saturday 7th** **Christmas Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm.
- Wednesday 4th** **Wednesday Club** Christmas meal at the Coach and Horses, 2.00pm – see page 3.
- Thursday 5th** **Gardening Club** Annual General Meeting followed by mulled wine and homemade mince pies. Village Hall 7.30pm. – see page 3.
- Monday 8th** **Reporter** deadline for copy. Please send your stories and pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team – see page 2.
- Thursday 12th** **WI** 'hands on' cake decoration with Eva Stockley – see page 21.
- Friday 13th** **Coffee and computers** final session before Christmas when the draw for our Christmas raffle will take place – see page 26.
'Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger' Village Hall 7.30pm – see below.
"2 for the price of 1" Christmas Concert St. Mary's Middle School, Puddletown 7.00pm – see page 19.
- Tuesday 17th** **Carol Service** St. Andrews Milborne 7.30pm.
- Wednesday 18th** **Parish Council** Village Hall 7.30pm.
Carol singing at The Royal Oak 7.00pm.
- Sunday 22nd** **Carol Service** Dewlish Church 3.00pm.
- Tuesday 24th** **Christmas Eve Midnight Mass** St. Andrews Milborne 11.30pm.
- Wednesday 25th** **Christmas Family Service** St. Andrews Milborne 10.00am.
- Monday 30th** **Village Hall Car Park** closed – see page 2.
100 Club Draw The Royal Oak, 8.00pm.

'Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger' (U)

shown by 'Milborne Movies'

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall
on Friday 13th December 2013 at 7.30pm

A TENACIOUS new teacher, Mr Peterson (David Tennant) arrives at St Bernadette's Primary School in Coventry, after Mr Poppy (Wootton), a classroom assistant and nephew of the headmistress (Ferris) has just scared off another applicant for the teaching job.

This Christmas, the unforgettable pupils of St. Bernadette's have set their hearts on competing in the National choir contest "A Song for Christmas". But with the headmistress not in favour of the plan, Mr Peterson has his hands full trying to curb the enthusiasm of the children, not to mention Mr Poppy. The children will face competition from a rival private school Oakmoor with Mr Shakespeare (Watkins), as well as Peterson's estranged twin brother Roderick (also Tennant), a snooty composer with a professional choir and it all ends up with a competition hosted by the celebrity Angel Matthews (Jessica Hynes). As a result Mr Peterson, his pregnant wife, and the schoolchildren, embark on an epic road trip that ends up with a birth and a donkey, where he must embrace his fears and become a hero. Most of the characters are as simple as you'd expect, and Tennant bears the brunt of the most frantic gags with exasperated good humour. Wootton generates just a tenuous hint of humanity in the infuriatingly dim-witted Poppy. And Hynes steals the show as the vain compere of the big competition, where children's choirs sing a series of riotously funny parodies of Christmas songs. This film provides lots of innocent fun for everyone to enjoy.

The village hall and bar is open from 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets £3.00 for adults and £2.00 for children can be obtained on the door.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Ladybirds Playgroup** Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)
- Beavers** Monday 5.00–6.30pm MH (term time only)
- Scouts** Monday 6.00–8.00pm CR/MH
- Players** Monday 8.00–10.00pm MH
- ABC Line Dancers** Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Cub Scouts** Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)
- MSA Friendly Art Group** second and fourth Wednesday 7.00–9.00pm CR
- Wednesday Club** first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
- Gardening Club** fourth Thursday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Karate** Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH
- Village Hall Committee** third Thursday every two months 7.30–10.00pm
- Women's Institute** second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm
- Coffee, Cake and Computers** Friday 10.00am–12.00 noon CR
- Youth Club 8–14 years** every other Friday MH (term time only)
- Ladies' Netball** Saturday 9.30–10.30pm MUGA
- Village Lunch** last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm MH
- Sequence Dancing** third Saturday 7.30–10.30pm MH
- 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

December at the Sports Club

The Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Hayley Davis (07919156578).

Milborne Mini Soccer

Training on Wednesdays. Reception children aged 4 and 5 years old 3.30 until 4.00pm; Year 1 and 2s at 4.00pm; Year 3 and 4s at 6.00pm.
Year 5's who now train in two groups one at 4.00pm on Wednesdays and the other at 6.00pm on Thursdays.



Please let the Reporter know if there are any alterations to this list or you would like something added.

Milborne 100 Club

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3rd PRIZE depends on number of members paid

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John Sanderson Football Club 837049

June Maitland Church 837235

Denise Sanderson Collector 837049

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Chocolate orange truffle torte serves at least 12

I'VE made Delia's truffle torte for years because it is quick and easy and also freezes well. This adaptation seems to give an even more Christmassy twist to an old favourite.

75ml (5 tablespoons) liquid glucose
75ml Cointreau
450g dark chocolate
570ml (1 pint) double cream
4 (or more) Jacob's Club orange biscuits
Cocoa powder for dusting
Mandarin orange slices



Grease and base-line a 20–25cm or 8–10 inch cake tin.

Crush the Jacob's Club biscuits by putting them in a plastic bag and bashing them with a rolling pin. I find this most therapeutic, especially just before Christmas. Sprinkle the crumbs evenly in the bottom of the lined cake tin.

Put the chocolate, liquid glucose and Cointreau in a heat-proof bowl over a pan of barely simmering water and stir from time to time until the chocolate has melted and the texture is smooth. Remove the bowl from the pan and cool for about five minutes.

Meanwhile, beat the cream until only slightly thickened, fold half the cream into the chocolate mixture and then fold this chocolate and cream mixture into the rest of the cream. When it is evenly mixed, spoon it all carefully into the cake tin on top of the crumbs. Cover with cling film and put in the fridge overnight to set. Next day, run a knife round the edge and turn out onto your serving plate, dust with some cocoa powder and decorate with mandarin oranges.

Because it is very rich and chocolatey, serve in very small slices, perhaps with some pouring cream or vanilla ice-cream. It freezes perfectly and defrosts very quickly. I often cut up any leftovers and freeze slices individually – it can even be nibbled from frozen!

Rose Frost

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The Weatherbury Singers invite you to "2 for the price of 1" Christmas Concert on Friday, 13th December 2013

7.00pm at St. Mary's Middle School, Puddletown

Get into the Christmas spirit and join us for our first joint Concert with St. Mary's Middle School. We will be joining forces with the musically talented students at St. Mary's to give you an eclectic mix of music (including some festive items) from the School's orchestra, brass band, strings and choir and The Weatherbury Singers. Licensed Bar.

Proceeds of the raffle will help provide musical opportunities to the pupils at St. Mary's Middle School.

Tickets: £5.00 are available from the School Office (01305) 848293, and The Weatherbury Singers: Judy (01258) 837120 or Diana (01300) 345434 or email: weatherburysingers@gmail.co.uk.

PLEASE NOTE:

Any copy for the **January** issue should be received no later than **8th December**.

Have you met . . . Amy Tanswell

AMY was born in Essex in 1981. Her mother was a social worker and her father an engineer. The family moved to Donhead St. Mary in 1987 for a better quality of life. She attended primary school in Ludwell, near Shaftesbury, King Alfred's middle school and Shaftesbury Upper School leading on to four years at Bournemouth University studying computer aided production design, leaving with a first class honours degree.

She then got a job in Poole before leaving university to work full time. As soon as she left education In 2005 she started to work at Packline as a design engineer, designing lifting and handling equipment for food and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries, with clients such as Unilever, Rolls Royce, GlaxoSmithKline and Nestle. She travels the whole of the UK doing site visits and designing bespoke solutions for operators.

Amy and her husband Lee, a Pharmacy Stocktaker, have lived in Milborne for four years, previously living in Blandford, but moving because they prefer village life. Amy and Lee have been together for sixteen years and were married in Donhead St. Mary in 2008, after eleven years of courting. During her degree she spent a year in France alone, leaving Lee in Shaftesbury working for Ford, designing air conditioning units for the automotive industry. During this time she made some very good friends that she and Lee still visit in France when they can.

She says, "The best thing about living in Milborne is the fantastic community spirit and all the activities to get involved in. We just love it and having a good, friendly pub is a Godsend! The only downside we are thirty-five minutes drive from my family – yes, that feels too far."

Amy is very close to her wonderful family, her dad is now a mechanical fitter at Bovington camp and her mum is the manager of the Edinburgh Woollen Mill shop in Shaftesbury, her brother Joe, three years her junior is a, "fantastic person", having a huge passion for fitness, running and owning his own gym in Shaftesbury for personal training. Amy and Joe have always been grateful to their parents for bringing the family to Dorset for a safer and healthier upbringing than they both had in Essex.

The only thing she would change about Milborne is to have a better public transport system.

Her pet hates are, inconsiderate people and a lack of organisation. "I am the queen of the, 'to do' list, but always get things done in the end. I cannot stand doing nothing, my weakness is a lack of relaxation. Doing 50,000 miles a year driving for my job, I spend enough time on my bottom doing nothing already, so when at home I am always busy, much to Lee's annoyance."

Her claim to fame is raising £10,000 for her school's Kenyan exchange programme using her contacts. She was able to raise a

cheque from none other than the late King Hussain of Jordan! Sometimes it's not what you know, it's who you are prepared to ask, she says. Keen readers of the *Reporter* will recall that Amy, along with some members of the Village Youth Club, met Prince Edward during the Summer.

Her inspiration would be a mixture of her parents and the design consultancy Alessi. "My parents always do and try their best and have



sacrificed so much in their lives to give me and my brother everything we could want. The design consultancy Alessi is Italian and just has the most beautiful products – I love them, our house is full of them!". Amy is also indebted to the Dorset Air Ambulance and retains a soft spot for them, as they were involved in airlifting Lee from a remote football pitch when he broke his leg. There are several surprising things to know about Amy, she can speak French, she once worked in a drugs rehab as a cleaner and was the year six hurdles champion, despite being half the size of the other competitors!

Amy's ideal dinner party would include Rhod Gilbert and Jack Whitehall, because although they are clever she would be guaranteed to have a laugh as well as being serious. She says she can't remember her most embarrassing moments, as they mostly involve alcohol. However, she did admit to spending a day visiting customers this week with a large split unseen in the seam of her trousers.

Amy's hobbies – "I like baking – I do a mean tarte au citron and I enjoy gardening. My guilty pleasure is watching Eastenders – you can never take the east end out of the Essex girl and I have a strange love of Mariah Carey albums, I know, strange! Lee and I really enjoy volunteering at the Youth Club in the village and have met some lovely people there. It's been an excellent gateway into the community. I am also a member of the village hall committee, where I enjoy fund raising." Many readers may have been lucky enough to attend the enjoyable Race Nights at the Village Hall, which Amy has organised and hosted.

Amy's final quote:

"Lee and I love the movies in the village, as you can watch a fun film with a glass of wine – amazing! We love Milborne and hope we never have to leave!"

Susan Cawley

Would you like to be our next "Have you met . . ." then contact the Reporter at msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk. Remember you can always see the Reporter in colour at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index

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Cheese and Wine . . . at the WI

TO celebrate Christmas, we look forward to: Lunch at The Royal Oak on the 9th December and our buffet and gift exchange at our next meeting on 12th December. Also the Group Carol Service at Lytchett Matravers on Monday 16th December.

Looking further ahead: Arrangements are already going ahead for next year's Milborne St. Andrew May Fair, and as well as a stall, we have agreed to look after the refreshments.

Ongoing: Shirley Dunkley reported that 'Bookends' members had expressed a very wide range of opinion on last month's book by Helen Dunmore and were now moving on to an Ian Rankin crime thriller. The skittles team continues its winning streak, Nelda reporting four out of five wins, with only three more matches to go.

There was an undeniably Christmas theme to the array of organic and farmhouse cheeses and selected wines which Andy and Roxie had brought along for us to sample. All the old favourites were there, some with an added twist, including Wensleydale with salted caramel and with cranberries, organic Stilton, Wookey Hole Cheddar, Cornish Brie and 'Old Amsterdam' Gouda. Among the accompaniments, the stuffed dates, figs and chocolate dipped dried apricots proved remarkably popular! Thanks went to the Dorchester branch of Waitrose, and to Andy and Roxie for their friendly and helpful advice.



At our next meeting, on Thursday 12th December, we look forward to joining in with Eva Stockley's 'hands on' cake decoration. Don't forget to bring along your buffet contribution, either sweet or savoury, and any gifts and cards you might want distributing. We look forward to a festive meeting.

Pat Bull

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Fire Engine and Fire-fighters

DURING November Ladybirds have talked about fireworks and keeping safe. The children have had fun doing splatter paintings and spinner pictures to get firework effects. They have enjoyed singing and doing the actions to the firework song.



There was always the fire engine on hand with willing fire-fighters to put out fires. Some of you may recognise the fire engine; it started life as a TV in a sketch performed by the Milborne Players and was subsequently painted red by us. It has been used as a bus, an ice-cream van and a puppet show. How's that for recycling!

In support of Breast Cancer research the children and staff came to Ladybirds dressed in pink and decorated cakes with pink icing.

The children were shown poppies and told that in November we wear poppies to remember the brave men who fought in wars. Some of them did pictures of the poppies which were displayed in the church on Remembrance Sunday.

Christmas will soon be here and we will be practising for our popular Nativity show – watch out for next month's photo and write up of how it goes.

Liz Dyer



Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

Registered Charity no. 1087441

We are a friendly community preschool with highly qualified, enthusiastic staff who help children to achieve their potential through fun activities

Opening times:

Early birds 8.30 to 9.00 --- Sessions 9.00 to 12.00 --- Lunch Club 12.00 to 1.00



Contact Details:

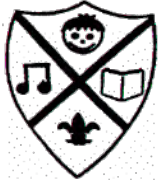
Jayne Hamilton (Secretary) 01258 837260

Liz Dyer (Playgroup Manager) 01258 839117

www.milborneladybirds.org.uk

Ofsted Registered no. 217717





Milborne St. Andrew First School



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

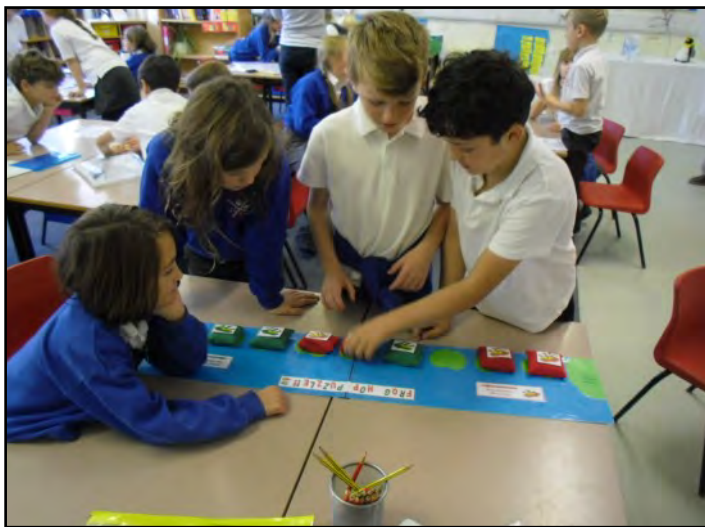
School News

Once again this year we supported the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox appeal. The shoeboxes received were forwarded to local coordinators of this project which provides gifts to children in some of the poorest places worldwide, where they would otherwise receive nothing. Our thanks to everyone who supported the charity.



This month our year 2 children have visited the Streetwise Safety Centre in Bournemouth. They had the opportunity to learn how to keep safe around the house, out in the street, on the beach and at the farmyard.

On Wednesday 6th November we welcomed prospective parents to school during our open day. Mr McDermott met with parents, who then had an opportunity to tour the school. If you were unable to attend an open day session and would like to visit, please contact the school office to arrange a convenient time.



On Wednesday 13th November we welcomed back to school Barney from House of Maths. After two shows in the morning looking at how maths can be fun, Barney worked with the classes helping the children work together to solve mathematical problems. School also provided two meetings for parents about how maths is taught to the children in school.

On Friday 15th November we joined with many others around the country in supporting the annual BBC Children in Need Appeal. Everyone was encouraged to come to school dressed as a hero in exchange for a donation to the charity. There were heroes of all kinds in school for the day – from Batman to Bradley Wiggins. Our thanks again go to all who gave their support raising over £130 which has been forwarded to the charity.



CONTACTS

If you require any information about the school, including admission details or would like to arrange a visit please contact Mrs Pugh in the school office.

Headteacher: Mr Neil McDermott **Secretary, School Office:** Mrs Helen Pugh

Chair of Governors: Mr Kevin Connolly **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Becky Hunter

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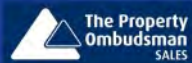


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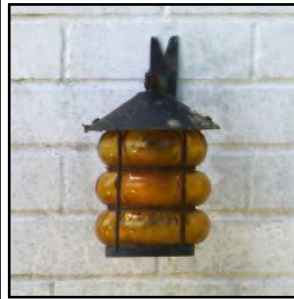


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No prize, just a bit of fun.
Answer in the January *Reporter*.

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Bus2Go Motoring Along

THE end of October, we had a tour of Weymouth Fire and Safety Centre. Dave Alan, Community Education Officer (Firewise) kindly gave us a tour through various rooms in a property and the fire hazards that may be awaiting there for us due to carelessness. The possible scenarios seemed endless and the message was loud and clear. Thoughtlessness can cause fires in the home by lit cigarettes, overload of the electrical circuit and leaving unattended appliances resting on the bedding eg laptop, hair straighteners. The heat generated from these devices can quickly become ignited if left in contact with flammable materials. Dave's other message to us was, do NOT attempt to tackle a fire yourself. Make sure everyone gets out safely and leave the rest to the highly trained professionals. Several of us signed up for a free check-up of our homes by the Fire Service.

Remembrance Sunday at Bovington Tank Museum was an opportunity for us to take time out and remember all those who have given their lives from the First World War to present day. 'We Will Remember Them'.

Our 2013 programme finishes with the Christmas party lunch at the Marquis of Granby. Two buses will be taking us. There are a couple of seats left.

Panto at Weymouth Pavilion: in partnership with Spectrum Housing, five buses have been booked to take us all there.

We have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Skipton Building Society, Grass Roots Giving. Over 1,000 applicants applied and 160 were chosen by region and Bus2Go was one of them.

We wish everyone a 'Happy, Safe and Peaceful Christmas.' Looking forward to welcoming you on board Bus2Go in the New Year. From the 'Team' at Bus2Go 01258 837749 follow us on Facebook and Twitter @bus2gonow

Cheselbourne Theatre Club

Join us on a trip to Salisbury Playhouse

A COLD, dark winter evening is the traditional time to enjoy the terror of a spooky fireside story. However, on **Monday 10th February** (7.30) **Cheselbourne Theatre Club** is keen to persuade us to leave our hearths to enjoy the creepily atmospheric tension of *Gaslight* at Salisbury Playhouse. Although *Gaslight* was written in 1938 it is a very successful re-creation of a Victorian thriller. By Patrick Hamilton, who also wrote the classic thriller *Rope*, *Gaslight* is set in fog-bound London in 1880.

The play combines the traditions of nineteenth century melodrama and twentieth century psychology. Indeed the term "gaslighting" has come to describe the situation in which a victim is presented with false information in order to make them doubt their memory and perception. Expect some great stage effects as the avuncular Inspector Rough uncovers the dark demons beneath the antimacassars of the Manningham's home in south London. To book tickets and transport (£25 per person) please contact John Widdowson (01258 837791) as soon as possible (closing date 10th December).

Pot pourris for Christmas

I WAS perusing my gardening books (as you do) and came across some recipes for homemade pot pourris which looked rather interesting and easy to make. The most difficult thing would be getting together some of the ingredients, but with our friend Mr Google – it shouldn't be too hard. Healthfoods shops would also stock a lot of these things.

A Winter Woody Seed Mix

2.5 litres (5 pints) mixture of small pine cones, fragrant pine sprigs, star anise, cinnamon sticks, nutmegs, dried oak leaves, dried rosehips and love-in-a-mist seedheads
2 tbsp ground cloves
2 tbsp ground cinnamon
2 tbsp tonka beans – used as a fixative (could also be ground orris root, frankincense, or gum benzoin.
4 drops cedarwood oil
4 drops vetiver oil

Mix all the ingredients together.

Seal in a jar and shake every day for 8 weeks.

Christmas Pot Pourri

1 litre (2 pints) partially dried deep red rose petals
300 g (10 oz) coarse salt
250ml (1/2 pint) preserved ivy leaves
250ml (1/2 pint) dried moss
125ml (1/4 pint) love-in-a-mist (Nigella) seedheads
20 small pine cones
4 tbsp dried juniper berries lightly crushed
2 tbsp fresh or dried mint
2 tbsp gum bensoin
3 drops pine oil
2 tbsp ground cinnamon
4 drops lemon geranium oil
2 drops rose oil.

Method:

Partially dry the rose petals on newspaper for three days. Layer with coarse salt in a sealed jar for 10 days and then add the rest of the ingredients.

Reseal and shake daily until Christmas (ideally 8 weeks).

Maureen Lock

100 CLUB WINNERS

The result of the Tuesday 26th November draw will be published in the January 2014 *Reporter*

The next draw is on Monday 30th December at 8.00pm in The Royal Oak



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Round Robin Ramblers

The local villages walking group

WALKS are normally held on the first Sunday and the third Wednesday of each month, although in December the Wednesday walk does not take place. Please join us as we enjoy exercise, good company and the wonderful Dorset countryside, irrespective of the weather.

Any questions, please feel free to contact Ian Bromilow, 01258880044.

Sunday 1st December – 1.30pm (note earlier time)

Tarrant Crawford

Meet near the church in Tarrant Crawford which is about 3 miles SE of Langton Long when driving from Blandford Forum.

Grid reference: ST 923035 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Sunday 5th January – 1.30pm (note earlier time)

Puddletown Forest

Meet at the Forest parking area SW of Puddletown, near Beacon Hill.

Grid reference: SY 744936 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Please note:

Who All welcome including well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners.

No pre-booking required just turn up.

Wear Suitable clothing for wet conditions and location, walking boots or Wellington boots.

Bring Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

Pace We go at the pace of the slowest.

Terrain Expect mud, inclines and stiles.

Aim Keep fit, enjoy the Dorset countryside and each other's company.

Legal We look after one another but in the end you are responsible for yourself.

Coffee, Cake and Computers

Our final session before Christmas will be on Friday the 13th of December, when the draw for our Christmas raffle will take place. We are grateful to everyone for their most generous contributions to the Christmas hamper, thanks to all of you it will certainly be a prize well worth winning.

Also a reminder that there are still Christmas puddings for sale, please collect your order between the 1st and 13th of December. (Telephone 837921)

As well as the usual tea and coffee there will be home made mince pies and complementary sherry for all our drop-in friends, old and new – even if you haven't been able to make it for a while we would love to see you again! We will re-open after the Christmas break on Friday 10th January and hope to welcome both old and new friends as we all strive to get to grips with those pesky new technological Christmas presents.



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Ask Millie

– your problems solved



When Millie pressed "send" to speed November's column by email on its way to the *Reporter* and then indulged in a small pat on the back for having not written anything even slightly controversial last month, alas, Millie was sadly misguided. Shortly after publication of the November issue a very puzzling email winged its way into Millie's email box. Much of the rant was incomprehensible and not at all relevant to Millie's column but actually quite funny to read in that the writer had jumped to the erroneous conclusion that Millie was writing about them personally.

Millie would like to point out that, as a relative newcomer to Milborne St. Andrew, Millie is not presently and indeed has never been a member of the *Reporter* team, a village hall trustee, or a parish councillor. Millie has little knowledge and no interest whatsoever in the past petty machinations and repetitive ramblings of yesterday's men or women.

Millie finds writing the column amusing (and hopes at least some *Reporter* readers do too) and welcomes emails, letters etc., but if you are of a nervous or paranoid disposition don't read or, indeed, write to Millie.

In reply to last month's central heating temperature control problem. Millie would suggest wearing sensible, warm, woolen underwear to the shivering spouse and cooler, diaphanous, flimsy layers for the hot-blooded partner. Also you could try turning the central heating off early two or three times a week and having an early night. Or if neither of those alternatives appeal you could always toddle off to the warm and friendly Royal Oak and in a very short time you should both be glowing with goodwill and all differences (including the temperature at home) will be forgotten.

Dear Millie

Thank you for your response to my letter. I am sorry that you were not able to meet with me. I appreciate that you need to maintain your anonymity. I had hoped

that someone else might turn up. I waited three quarters of an hour but no one did, but I did enjoy my pint of beer even if it was on my own. No doubt I will 'bump into' people from the village from time to time who can correct the errors in my thinking and actions, as was, presumably, your intention in your original and subsequent letters. As I said before, I try, however inadequately, to be open to learn. I think that is a necessity for all of us as we seek to live in this rather crazy world.

In your comments I think you have mistakenly thought that I was referring to Nelson Mandela's previous wife who, as you imply, certainly lost the plot with her treatment of Stompie Moeketsi and others.

I was, of course, referring to his wife Graca Machel. As Desmond Tutu said – she is "a strong woman of enormous stature. But graciousness is the first word that comes to mind when one thinks of her: gracious wife, gracious feminist, gracious human being". She is, of course, an international advocate for women's and children's rights and in 1997 was made a British Dame for her humanitarian work.

Thank you for your concern for truth and justice.

Yours sincerely, Eric Austen

Millie says –

Thank you for your comments Eric and I am sorry the original writer of the letter didn't show up.

Hi Millie

I've been invited to a festive season party by a neighbour and I really don't want to go as I'm just not a party person. How can I get out of this without seeming rude?

Millie says –

Accept the invitation, have a suitably bracing drink or two before you go and set your mobile phone's alarm to ring (with the same ringtone as your phone) about half an hour

after you expect to arrive at the party. You never know, you could end up telling your mobile that you can't possibly leave the party now as you are having a really good time.

Dear Millie,

Further to your letter published in the November edition of the *Milborne Reporter* I would like to point out that although the Parish Council have given permission for floodlights at the Sports Club at the request of the Mini Soccer Club all fund-raising and work is being arranged by the Mini's with the generous assistance of Hustings Electrical. This comes on the back of the Mini's having had their rent increased three-fold after the Sports Club had agreed to keep the rent at a lower level owing to the substantial amount of money raised by and put in by the Mini Soccer Club to redevelop the three acres of waste ground at the rear of the club-house. However the Sports club had no alternative than to increase rent at the end of the agreed period after the Sports Club rent changed from a pepper-corn rent to a standard rent with the promise of grants which are no longer available!

Phillip Hayter, Chairman of both the Mini Soccer Club and Chairman of the Sports Club Committee

Millie thanks the Sports Club for clarifying the issue of Floodlight Provision, following the letter to Millie in the November *Reporter*.

Next month's problem –

Dear Millie

Have you any suggestions on what can be done about the wheelie bins in the village? Round me they are put out for collection and left out sometimes for days before they are wheeled back home again and look very unsightly as well as blocking the pavement.

Questions for Millie and further responses can be dropped through the letterboxes of any of the *Reporter* Team or e-mailed to millie@milbornestandrew.org.uk.

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Escape to freedom

by Josie Wright

THE wind pushed and forced them along, great savage gusts of it, stinging their ears, penetrating their scarves, whipping their uncovered hair into fierce tangles, slicing through their coats and chilling their small bodies so completely they were crying and gasping for breath before they ever reached the steps.

The old boat rocked wildly below in a savage swell that one moment lifted it halfway up the wet stone stairs only for it just as suddenly to drop back again. James tried to calm the others, they *must* leave – and now. The next time the boat reared up towards them, he lowered Peter in. As it receded his brother's terrified eyes locked with his. 'Brace up, young 'un, get ready for the girls.'

One by one the frightened children were reunited and life-jackets hastily fastened. James cast off and gritted his teeth as he tried to stop the trembling that now shook his body.

'We're on our way, keep your chin up. Just across the harbour and we're free and clear.'

Once away from the wall the swell subsided dramatically. The boys took the oars and started to make slow progress towards the steamer in the distance. They dared not raise the sail for fear of detection.

The unexpected invasion that April had been swift and ruthless. Much of the city had been reduced to rubble from the relentless bombings. Then ships had disgorged hundreds of Russian soldiers. James' mother had managed to hide her sons and she and her friends had gone to great lengths to arrange an escape route for the young survivors. A steamer would wait each evening for those that could manage to row out beyond the harbour entrance. James was put in charge of his brother and three girls, friends from school.

The girls huddled together silently in the well of the boat. Suddenly, Nancy, in a thin reedy voice, started to sing, 'Row, row, row your boat.'

'Good girl, that's the spirit.'

They could see they were making progress as the ship near the harbour mouth became more distinct. A sudden flash of light shone out across the water. With shaking hands James raised his flashlight and signalled back. Two answering flashes told him they were seen. Relief flooded through his body, they were safe.

At first they didn't hear the drone of the aircraft or the sound of the steamer's engines coughing into life.

But the air was suddenly filled with ear shattering sound as in its frantic haste to escape, the steamer had hit a mine.

The shock wave struck the children's boat, it lurched sickeningly and flung them into the water. Lights streamed out from the shore, a clatter of boots and harsh guttural voices shouted orders.

Miraculously, though shocked and dazed, they managed to cling to their upturned vessel. James realised they were drifting along the coast towards a sheltered bay – amid all the confusion they had been overlooked. If they could right the boat, with luck, there'd be another chance and another steamer, tomorrow.

Change your password regularly





Dear Friends

If you have received a suspicious message from me on 15/16th November please do not open it or reply. It was not from me. My email account has been hacked and my contacts used. I shall be closing my address down and issuing a new one in the very near future. Very best regards to all, Steve and Helen Lord, Orchard Lodge



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In your Garden

Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *designerGardens*

Roses at Christmas

CAN you have roses at Christmas? The answer is YES, but not as you might know them. Christmas roses are in fact *Helleborus niger* with their pure white flowers which are such an attraction. They do appear in the winter so are good for a bit of winter colour, but don't always appear at Christmas sadly (a bit like Easter cactus). Christmas roses actually do well in containers and can be treated as individual plants – so, to help them bloom at Christmas, grow them in pots in a cool greenhouse. As they come into flower, bring them indoors to a cool room or to a sheltered place on the patio or porch. Voila – your Christmas Rose!



Plant Facts

The plant is called *niger* (which means black) because the roots are black even though the flowers are white. It is thought to have been cultivated around 1753 so it is a *very* old cultivar indeed. There are some lovely new cultivars such as *H. niger* 'Potters Wheel' with flowers 10–12cm (4–5 inches across) and even double flowered varieties *H. niger* 'Hugh Nunn'.

The Lenten Rose *Helleborus x hybridus* has been successfully crossed with *H. niger* to produce the best of both plants – the outward facing flowers of *H. niger* with the robustness of *H. x hybridus*. It is also more disease resistant.

You will often find that the leaves of your hellebores turn black or get black spots on them. This is a fungal disease and the best way to deal with it is to cut off the leaves and dispose of them – don't put them on the compost or leave them lying around. This way you will expose the flowers and they will look stunning. In fact, I do this to my hellebores even if the leaves haven't got black spot. Although some of the varieties now have outward facing flowers, I still like the ones that look down. I like lifting up their heads and seeing the pretty flower patterns inside. Hellebore flowers also look fantastic when placed face-up in a bowl of water as a table decoration.

These days there are a huge range of flower colours available from the basic single flowered white to bright yellow, red, speckled white, pinks and yellows, and even green flowers. There are also some stunning double flowered varieties such as *H. x hybridus* Party Dress

Group. *H. x hybridus* 'Harvington Double Red'. *H. x ericsmithii* has very attractive foliage and looks interesting all year.

To grow hellebores you need a good, well-drained soil that doesn't dry out. They grow well in the shade or light shade under trees or in the shelter of a north-facing wall or fence. They will even grow under mature conifers provided the soil isn't too dry.

Planting Partners:

The ideal situation is to use hellebores in the area of the garden planted for spring – under deciduous trees with a backdrop of evergreen shrubs. They look lovely planted with dwarf bulbs such as snowdrops, *Narcissus* 'Toto', *Eranthis aconites*, *Scilla*, *Chionodoxa*, *Erythronium*, *Cyclamen* & *Crocus*. They also go well with shade loving perennials such as *Pulmonaria*, *Epimediums*, *Primula* (primrose) and ferns.



Perhaps you will be able to get some to flower at Christmas this year!



Did you identify this?

The November picture was taken at Saddlers Thatch, Little England. Try your luck this month on page 00. Send your pictures, news and articles to the Reporter at m.s.a.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Team

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Firemen Artists 1940-45 **by Anthony Kelly**

THIS book addresses a perspective on the second World War that hadn't occurred to me before – the number of artists who joined the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS), particularly in London, and painted their colleagues in action and at rest at a time when Fire and Rescue were so important to the nation.

It's a large-format hardback book, with lots of photographs of firefighters and the pictures being portrayed. I like the layout, which is clear and easy to read, and the writing style of the author makes the stories engaging.

The firemen often painted immediately after working, giving the pictures the immediacy that we have become accustomed to from photography nowadays. The cover photo is a particularly thrilling depiction of a firefighter rescuing a girl from a blazing building as his wooden ladder burns from the top, an act for which the man involved received the George Medal.

As most of the artists were London-based, most of the pictures and portraits show the London Blitz, but there are pictures from Devon, and the Blitzes in Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth and Liverpool are also mentioned.

I learned a lot from this book. I hadn't known that collections of firemen's art toured the United States and were very persuasive in showing the involvement of non-military people in defending the UK against Nazi Germany. Many of those paintings were sold from the exhibitions, and benefited the Firemen's Benevolent Fund. This was particularly important at a time when an injured member of the AFS had his pay stopped if he couldn't fight fires. The firefighters touring with these art exhibitions gave valuable advice to the Mayors and firefighters in American towns and cities regarding fighting of fires caused by incendiary bombs. As a result of the Canadian leg of the tour, a party of Canadian firefighters came to London to help the London Fire Brigade.

I particularly like a painting by Rudolf Haybrook – 'London Fireboat Massey Shaw rescuing troops from Dunkirk', which is now in the London Fire Brigade museum. The smoke of battle above the boat forms a skull hanging over all the activity below. I also like the painting by Mary Pitcairn 'Driving by Moonlight', showing the tense face of AFS Firewoman Gillian Tanner driving a 30cwt lorry full of 150 gallons of petrol during intense bombing (think shrapnel!) and around major fires, to reach the fire engines for which it was needed. The pale face and intense concentration are captured in the small dark picture. Firewoman Tanner was awarded the GM for this bravery. Two pictures were painted to commemorate her award, this one and another showing her in the 'more womanly' environment of the tea urn and teacups at her base. Perhaps a 21-year-old lady HGV driver with a GM was some sort of a threat to society and she had to be put back into her 'rightful' place?

The book shows a wide range of art, from pencil drawings, cartoons, sketches, watercolours and full scale oil paintings full of drama and the excitement of moving fire and sparks. A pencil sketch of 'Rest after Blitz' and a watercolour of 'Firewoman Dressing' show the quiet side of their lives, and there is a whole section on formal portraits, showing how some of the artists developed, for example Bernard Hailstone, who went on to paint a superb portrait of Sir Winston Churchill in 1955, having painted a very thought-provoking portrait of Christian Vlasto, Canal Boat woman, in 1944. The L.S. Lowry painting of the tired, pale, red-eyed firewatcher was similar to one I've seen at The Lowry in Manchester, and which my son found particularly appealing as a small boy.

I'd recommend this book to anyone with an interest in Art, or in slightly unusual aspects of the second World War. It's full of beautiful pictures, has an informative but unpretentious commentary, and contains lots of hitherto unknown information. *Susan Cawley*

PLEASE NOTE: Any copy for the **January** issue should be received no later than **8th December**.

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