

75P WHERE SOLD

Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 6 Issue 3

March 2014

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter

Milborne St. Andrew



Another successful Panto by The Players

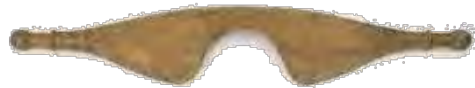
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Wednesday Social Club looks back

WHAT a contrast between then and now! All of us of a certain age can remember 60–70 years ago and Alan Maitland of Coles Farm spoke to our meeting in February of his early days on the farm. He was living at Lytchett Matravers as a young boy with no electricity until the 1970's, getting water from the well and lighting oil lamps. The toilet was of course outside in the shed.

His first farming experience was milking the cows by hand and he showed us the wooden yoke his grandfather had on his shoulders



with churns of milk suspended either side to take to the cooling

house. Alan remembers the two horses Mollie and Blackie, two very different characters but invaluable to carry out the heavy and tedious jobs on the farm.

Gathering the harvest would take 12 men several days, when the weather was suitable of course. Then there was the time-consuming job of collecting the sheaves into ricks and finally the heavy bags of grain were taken to Poole Harbour to be transferred onto boats.

As farming is now so mechanised involving less people, Alan said it can sometimes be lonely, just two or three workers surrounded by the modern machinery. The support and strength of the whole team working together is somehow missing.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 4th March when we have a talk by Verity of Southfield Vets. The following months' programmes include a games afternoon in April, and in May a trip to Abbotsbury Gardens.

Margaret Evans

New administrator joins the Reporter

WE are saying a final goodbye to Sue Gould, who although she officially left the *Reporter* team a year ago, has been continuing our admin work until we found a replacement. She has been with the *Reporter* from the start, and will be missed by us all. Thank you Sue for all your hard work.

Sue's role has now been filled by Linda Constant. Linda moved to Milborne three years ago from north Hampshire with her husband Peter. She is not however new to Dorset having lived in the county for many years prior to the move to Hampshire for work purposes around 13 years ago. Most notably her last Dorset address was just up the road in Winterborne Whitechurch.

She has spent her working life in IT, specialising in Life Assurance. It was at work that she met Peter who was the Programming Team Leader in her team. Some years later following a move from Programming to Project Management, Peter was working for her. Being married he maintains that he still is! This seems to be confirmed as Peter has also joined 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 for half page or less

Advertising copy MUST be received by the 14th of the month

msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

Advertisers will also be listed in the Business Directory at

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on

Saturday 29th March from 12.15 to 2.00pm

Wine or fruit juice/Pork, leek and wholegrain mustard pie/Strawberry Gateau/Coffee or tea/mints

Vegetarian option available

£6.50 per head, half price for children

Everyone welcome young and old alike

Tickets available from the Computer

Drop-In Centre at the Village Hall from

Friday 28th February

(10.00am to 12 noon)

or call Josie Wright any time for more information

or to reserve tickets on 839090

A fifth successful year for the Reporter

THE Milborne St. Andrew *Reporter* had a financially successful year in 2013. Once again the *Reporter* team were able to say "Thank you" to the team of distributors and "Have you met"s with a small celebration at The Royal Oak in January.

Balance Sheet Year Ending 31st January 2014

Receipts		Payments	
Advertising	£4,859.00	Printing	£3,807.11
Donations	£5.00	Expenses	£50.99
Bank Interest	£8.13	Thank you Evening	£150.00
Copies sold	77.25		
Total	£4,949.38	Total	£4,008.10
Receipts	£4,949.38	Payments	£4,008.10
B/F Cash	£65.08	C/F Cash	£5.84
B/F Bank	£6,486.12	C/F Bank	£7,486.64
Total	£11,500.58	Total	£11,500.58

Cash in Bank £7,486.64

Cash in Hand £5.84

Total in hand at 31st January 2014 £7,492.48

Surplus for year ending 31st Jan 2014 £941.78

This surplus reflects payments made early for next year of £810.00.

The *Reporter* team would like to thank Robin Keller for auditing the magazine accounts for a fifth year. We are most grateful.

Your *Reporter* Team

Janet Allen, Susan Cawley, Linda Constant, Pete Constant, Carole Fornachon, Heather V. Hogg, David Payne, Ed Richards and Josie Wright

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907

Advertising renewals: Linda Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Janet Allen 01258 837551

General enquiries, news and features: David Payne 01258 837700

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

Copy for the next issue MUST be received by the 14th March

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

Peter Vatcher-Dow

5th August 1924 – 4th February 2014



PETER died at Dorchester County Hospital after a short illness. He will be missed by his friends, of whom there are many and by his family.

He bravely served his country during the Second World War as a Commando, sometimes operating behind enemy lines. It is hoped to provide a full obituary shortly but Peter was a private individual who did not discuss his exploits or past life. He was well known in the village walking his Dachshunds. I do know this breed was a passion of his from the time he liberated one from an SS officer at the end of the war and managed to get the dog back to England. He remained a supporter of Dachshund Rescue right up to the end.

Peter was a member of the Royal British Legion and served on the committee at Puddletown.

I for one will sorely miss this unique character that enriched the lives of so many by just knowing him.

Rest in Peace

Michael Hopper

Notice of Meeting

Trustees of the Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall will hold the
Annual General Meeting for the Charity
on **Wednesday 23rd April at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Present the Annual Report for 2013 to the Village
2. Discuss plans for the Hall for 2014 and beyond
3. Agree Trustees for the year to end April 2015

The meeting is intended to provide villagers with an opportunity to influence how the Hall is managed and the plans for its future as an asset for the local community.

Nominations for new Trustees should be sent to:

Paul Tasker (07801 714619 or p.h.tasker@gmail.com) or
Elizabeth Humphrey (07740 201375 or elhumphrey@hotmail.com)
before 18th April, preferably by e-mail.

All Welcome

In memory of Dr Maggie Redmill

9th May 1931 – 30th January 2014



MAGGIE sadly passed away on 30th January at Dorchester Hospital after a short illness. Although she had not been in the best of health for a number of years, she nevertheless maintained a cheerful disposition and often talked about her many interests.

Maggie spent her early years in north Staffordshire, living in Burslem, one of the 'six towns' that became the city of Stoke-on-Trent. Her humble working class background did not prevent her studying medicine at both Leeds and London Universities in the early 1950s. Maggie specialised in paediatrics working at hospitals in London, Bournemouth, Salisbury and finally Dorchester where she became a very well respected assistant consultant. To many of the parents whose children she treated she became not just a doctor but also a friend.

Maggie had a very wide range of interests. Music was a particular love, especially opera and in her younger days she took singing lessons aimed at developing her operatic skills. Those who knew her through her long association with the Weatherbury Singers recognised this operatic bent almost as a trademark.

Amateur dramatics was another of Maggie's great interests and she was a member of the Milborne Players for nearly 30 years, taking part in shows, plays and pantomimes. One of her favourite productions was 'Wyrd Sisters' based on the book by Terry Pratchett. The dramatic performance of which she would probably have been most proud was 'Talking Heads'. The professional standard she achieved was typical of Maggie. She always strived to give her best effort to any project she attempted.

Maggie's love of books was very apparent. I doubt that I have ever seen so many books in someone's home. She greatly enjoyed any type of quiz, be it pub, village or T.V. and could be ferociously competitive. Maggie often said that she would like to get a team together to play in the T.V. show 'Eggheads'. And the name of her projected team? The Eggbeaters of course!

Finally it would be an oversight not to mention cats (not the musical!). In her younger days Maggie bred Burmese and Siamese cats to show standards. A few people in Milborne might not have known her by name but just about everyone knew who 'the cat lady' was.

Maggie made a great contribution to her community and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Bill Preston



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

Leaving on a Jet Plane

Nikolaus Pevsner is not especially kind to Puddletown. Writing in his guide to Dorset, he says, "... fearsome Victorian terraces take over, the gift of John Brymer, ... They were all designed, ... by a firm of land surveyors, Wainwright & Heard of Shepton Mallet. One is not surprised to discover that".

It is in one of these cottages, proudly bearing the Brymer coat of arms and the date of its construction, that we have lived so very happily and contentedly. Diana found the cottage one wet and dark December day in 2000. I flatly rejected the idea. At Easter of the following year, 21 High Street, still being up for sale, a further inspection on an equally wet and dismal day was arranged. A sale was agreed and we became the proud owners of a Victorian Listed Cottage in Puddletown in June 2001. Retirement was planned for the end of 2005 but such were the enchanting delights of Puddletown, contrary to Pevsner's opinion, that we arrived here in October of 2002.

One of our first visits after we had purchased the cottage was to a Weatherbury Singers' Concert in Puddletown Village Hall. Dave Walbridge, whose friendship we plan to renew in Toronto, where he now lives, was choir director at that time. Maggie Redmill, who recently died, gave a star performance, as she always did. During the interval Keith Loveless, who also died recently, but was then Church Warden at Tolpuddle, recognising we were new in the village, but not knowing who we were, invited us to Tolpuddle Church for the next morning's Sunday Service. The following day we turned into the churchyard to be greeted by Keith, standing outside the church porch, with a handshake and words of welcome. One of the finest Christian Evangelists I have ever met.

In a way, that incident sums up Puddletown. A village where a warm welcome awaits all who come prepared to join in village life. A village where there are no hard and fixed boundaries, where church and village life, the library, the Puddletown Society, the Book Group, the Horticultural Society, all organisations, so gloriously overlap with one another. There has never been time to be bored or wonder what to do next. We are so grateful to all who have let us join in so many activities. The life of the church has played a key part but also; challenging the worst excesses of irresponsible housing development, keeping the library open, running Quiet Days, singing with the Weatherbury Singers, helping with Village Lunches, being Father Christmas, leading our Bible Study Group. In all these activities and more we have met the most wonderful people and leave Puddletown full of sadness but with so many happy memories.

We hoped to remain in Puddletown for the rest of our days, but when Liz, our elder daughter, married and moved to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2007, Stephanie, our younger daughter, who has been in Canada for over 27 years, suggested we went to live near her. It has been a long process, but nearly 12 months ago we finally received permission to reside permanently in Canada. So, on 30th April, we fly out of Heathrow to begin a new life (with Cookie the Jack Russell) in Toronto.

But before we go there is to be a party! And you are all invited. If you have read this far, then this is your invitation to Puddletown Church Room on Saturday 26th April. Drop in anytime between 2.00pm and 6.00pm for drinks and nibbles.

With our love and deep appreciation for all you have meant to us over 12 years

Roy and Diana Bennett

CHURCH SERVICES March 2014

2nd March – Next before Lent

9.30am	Parish Communion + APCM	Tolpuddle
9.15	Celebrate . . . Lent	Milborne
11.00	Family Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish

5th March – Ash Wednesday

7.30pm	Benefice Holy Communion with imposition of ashes	Tolpuddle
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Thursday 6th March

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Milborne
6.00pm	Compline	Milborne
6.30	Evening Prayer	Dewlish

9th March – Lent 1

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown
9.30	Methodist United Service	St John's, Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Family Service	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Evening Service – with Heidi Roberts	Puddletown
	Theme: My life and my faith: as a teacher	

Thursday 13th March

6.00pm	Compline	Milborne
6.30	Evening Prayer	Dewlish

16th March – Lent 2

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion + APCM	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Evening Service – with Matthew Moore	Tolpuddle
	Theme: My life and my faith: as a solicitor	

Thursday 20th March

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
6.00pm	Compline	Milborne
6.30	Evening Prayer	Dewlish

23rd March – Lent 3

9.30am	All-Age Worship	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Holy Communion (said)	Milborne
11.00	Family Communion with Sunday Seekers	Puddletown
11.00	Family Communion	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Evening Service – with Pam Shults	Milborne
	Theme: My life and my faith: in retirement	

Thursday 13th March

6.00pm	Compline	Milborne
6.30	Evening Prayer	Dewlish

30th March – Mothering Sunday/Lent 4

9.30am	Mothering Sunday Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Mothering Sunday Communion	Milborne
11.00	Mothering Sunday Service	Puddletown
11.00	Mothering Sunday Service	Dewlish

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
		Sue Britton
		01258 837466
		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.

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

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

Milborne St. Andrew Church Notes

WE are thankful that the very wet weather has not caused any damage to the church, but we have had a very muddy graveyard for two **funerals** during February for **Harry Riggs** and **Maggie Redmill**. Many thanks to all our church cleaners who have had a lot more dirt to deal with each week!

On 2nd February we held our '**Celebrate . . . Candlemas**' service which was let by Sarah Godfrey and 'the team'. Those who braved the weather and floods enjoyed a light breakfast and heard how the Christmas story ends as we packed away the nativity cribs for another year. Everyone seemed to enjoy a solo version of Herbert Brewer's setting of the Nunc Dimittis during the reading of the gospel. The next All Age service will be '**Celebrate . . . Lent**' on **2nd March**, starting with breakfast at 9.15am. Do come and join us and find out what Lent means to us.

During March we will be holding some extra services for Lent. On **Thursday evenings at 6.00pm** we will be having the quiet 'goodnight' **service of Compline** and on **Sunday evenings at 6.00pm** there will be a series of **services round the benefice** with the theme '**My Life and My Faith**' when we shall hear from a teacher, a solicitor, a nurse and others. The service in Milborne will be on 23rd March. The following Sunday, **30th March**, will be **Mothering Sunday** when we will be pleased to welcome all children and their mums who will receive a posy.

At our last PCC meeting we appointed a new architect to keep an eye on our church building and tell us what we need to do. I know that there are a number of jobs that ought to be done in the near future and that they will add to our normal running costs. It is clear that we will need to find people and grants to pay for it all. The PCC is also getting ready for our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 16th March** at which we will elect our churchwardens and members of the PCC for the coming year. We will be looking for new members and a new treasurer as Andy Mott is having to give up this job. We are very grateful to him for all the work he has put into keeping our accounts under control for six years.

John Wright (Churchwarden)

Dewlish Church Notes

Lent donations for relief of Syrian refugees

IT WAS lovely to see so many people at our Candlemas Service, including our friends from neighbouring villages. The church looked wonderful, lit by so many candles. And so, we now look forward to the Lent period. We are once again holding our **Lent Lunches**, and have arranged the following dates and venues:

- **Monday 10 March:** hosted by Mrs Audrey Penniston, Flower Cottage, Waterston
- **Monday 17 March:** Mrs Sue Britton, Parsonage Farmhouse, Dewlish
- **Monday 24 March:** Mrs Daphne Burg, Elm View, Dewlish
- **Monday 31 March:** Mrs Judith Bridgen, Manor Close, Dewlish
- **Monday 7 April:** To be advised

All events will start at 12.30pm. We suggest a minimum donation of £4 to our chosen charity which this year is for the relief of Syrian refugees.

Spring (Sale) is on its way!

Our **Spring Sale** will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 29th March, 10.30am-12 noon. There will be the usual stalls: cakes and produce, new goods, Mothering Sunday gifts, toys, bric-a-brac, a raffle and teas, coffees and biscuits. Please support us to raise funds towards the ever-increasing expenses in running the church.

The next day being **Mothering Sunday**, we once again shall be distributing posies at our service which starts at 11.00am. Please come along; we shall be pleased to see you!

During Lent, Jim will be leading **Evening Prayer Services** every Thursday at 6.30pm, starting on 6th March. There will also be special services each Sunday evening throughout the benefice.

Daphne Burg

Iris M. Haynes

1926–2014



IRIS was a Milborne person, born in the village on 10th March, 1926. Two of her uncles had been killed during the First World War and are named on the War Memorial. She attended the village school and later worked at the vicarage during the time Canon Brochner was vicar, and at the County Hospital in Dorchester.

She married Ernest Haynes in 1945 and was involved in many aspects of village life. She attended both the church and the chapel, her father's family being Methodists, whilst her mother's family were Church of England. Iris's mother died very suddenly in 1960 aged just 58 years.

Iris enjoyed gardening and was an extremely good cook. She also enjoyed doing Crossword puzzles and reading novels, Catherine Cookson being a favourite. Iris was also an ardent fan of the Royal Family. She was a familiar figure in the Village, making her way to Gray's Stores or the Post Office, and at one time delivering the newspapers.

Ern Haynes died in 1982 and Iris moved a short distance into one of the Hopsfield bungalows. She held very definite views, and could be quite outspoken, but she had a heart of gold and would do anything she could to help. She was very close to her brother, Harry, and missed him dreadfully when he died in 2001.

Iris died peacefully at home as she wished. Her funeral was held at Weymouth Crematorium.

The *Reporter* had asked Iris on numerous occasions to become one of their "Have you met . . ." as we knew she had lots of stories from her youth which we were sure would have been very interesting to our readers.

Margaret Atwell

1918–2014

MARGARET ATWELL, who lived at Homefield for 55 years, died in January, aged 96 years. Her funeral took place at Poole Crematorium on 15th January.

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Open Sesame!

IF you missed the "Night Boat to Cairo" from the village hall in February then it was sheer "Madness" on your part. I was lucky to have secured a ticket to this year's village pantomime and was delighted to be welcomed to the sunny climes of the Eastern Orient on such a grey and wet February day. I was a little unsure about this year's choice of "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves", never having seen it in panto form. And surely the stage was too small for all those thieves. Yet again, however, the cast of 26 brought the story to life with all the traditional elements of panto that we look forward to.

There were plenty of villains to "boo", romances to "ah" at and comedy double acts to make us laugh. There was a double helping of Ali Baba with Rhianna Webb introducing the plot in rhyme as she searched for the story of her ancestor the original Ali Baba, brought to life by Bill Preston. Roy Sach stepped out of the villain's role this year to don a frock, playing the "Sex Bomb" Dame Cascara much to the amusement of the audience. It was no surprise that the tailor Tinbad (Gren Elphinstone-Davis) was wooed by Cascara; it would have been a strong man to reject such advances. Lottie Cooper and Beth Leonard showed their talents as the destined sweethearts Haroun and Marsaina, helping with the battle of good over evil. And there was plenty of evil, with Larry Lagrue playing the leader of the thieves, Al Raschid, with his sidekick William Bishop as Achmed the Horrible, neither of whom you'd want to meet on that dark journey home through the Stileham Bank alleyway! Rupert Morton and Adrienne Rogers played Ali Baba's rich brother, Kassim, and sister-in-law, Rhum, until Kassim was chopped into little pieces - thankfully off stage. Jon Riddle and Jess Tasker cleverly brought the "Laurel and Hardy" element to the show as Jiggy and Hanki and the main roles were completed with good and bad fairies, with Jo Coetzee (Morgana) matching spell for spell the scheming plans of Avarice, made evil by Marie Hayter.



The younger players completed the cast, lighting up the stage with their singing and dancing as market traders, thieves and dancers. Early on in the show the cast sang out the classic "Oh What a Night" - well it certainly was, with plenty of fun for all the family. The show of course only works on the night because of all the hard work and hours put in by the cast and from those backstage and front of house. Well done to Caroline Nobbs who directed this year's performance and to all those involved. And, of course, thanks to the audiences who supported the show. See you again in 2015!

Helen Pugh

Harry Riggs

1921 – 2014



FREDERICK Harry Riggs was born at Charlton Marshall on 16th April 1921, but moved at an early age to Tarrant Rushton where he attended the local school. On his first day at school he ran away and remembered his aunt feeding him on cake!

He enlisted in the army and when demobbed came with family members to Milborne, living at a cottage not a stone's throw from the church. He had a number of jobs during his working life. He met a local girl, Primrose Blakemore, and the couple were married in St. Andrew's Church in 1948, some 65 years ago. The couple had three children, Russell, Rowena and Alan. After a brief spell in Winterborne Whitechurch the family returned to Milborne and settled here until moving to Blandford some 12 years ago.

Harry was a countryman at heart; loving the natural world and country pursuits and was very knowledgeable on the flora and fauna of his native Dorset. Harry was also instrumental in setting up the Milborne branch of the Royal British Legion and took an active interest in branch affairs.

After a short time in hospital, Harry died on 27th January, 2014, a few months short of his 93rd birthday. His well-attended funeral service took place at St. Andrew's Church when his favourite hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" was sung; Russell Riggs paid tribute to his father and Tony Fox, a family friend, was at the organ. The coffin left the church to 'Begin the Beguine', a favourite song, before interment in the churchyard.

May Fayre 17th May

The Saturday Lunch committee will be holding a book stall at the May Fayre. Please keep all your unwanted books for now and then contact David Payne on telephone 837700.

Bus2Go Weathers The Storm

ON a very wet and windswept morning, we set off for our very first outing of 2014. Passengers speculated as to where we were headed and the main concern was that wherever it was they hoped it was going to be warm and dry.

We headed out through Broadmayne and on to Osmington for our final destination which was the Sunray Inn. We did see the sun but only just a glimpse. The lunch was excellent and conversation lively; it had been several weeks since we had seen each other.

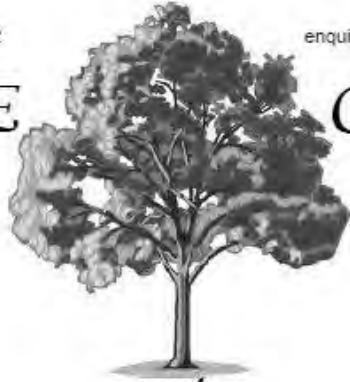
At the time of writing we are now looking forward to our shopping trip with a fish-n-chip lunch. The two outings for March are Lunch at Pamphill Dairy, Wimborne and Galton Garden Centre. Owermoigne for lunch and shopping (less 20% off at Edinburgh Woollen Mill). Looking forward to welcoming you on board very soon.

We have Saturday outings organised for when the weather improves and we can travel further afield.

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Dewlish

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Deed Day Celebrations

THIS year is the 70th anniversary of the Deed of Trust that was set up giving the village hall land to the village of Milborne St. Andrew. The Deed was passed on the 8th March 1944. To honour and remember this time the village hall committee would like to put on a 'party' for the village. As we have the ever-growing and always successful May Fayre on the 17th May this year, it has been suggested that following on from the daytime event we close the day off with a party in the village hall in the evening. Many of the village hall user groups are already involved with the May Fayre and so having the two events running one after the other seemed sensible.

So this is our shout out to all villagers for your help. We would like to have the village hall committee room filled with photographs and memorabilia to show all the goings on in the village hall, and wider village, over these past 70 years. We are sure that many of you will have wonderful tales and brilliant photos that you would be willing to share with us for the day. As long as we have permission to show the photos from the people in them or their families, we think that this would be a lovely way to have a 'look back' at the village. For those of us that have not lived in the village for very long it will be a wonderful way to see what has been going on over all these years and appreciate all of those people who have given their time and energy to develop this fantastic facility.

We are putting this next request out there and depending on the response we may or may not be able to create this next idea! We would like to ask for volunteers to come forward to either interview or be interviewed so that we can create a short film to show on the evening. We are interested in your stories, funny incidents, disasters at events and so on, so that we can record and create a short film as a record for the future and to show at the party. With today's technology you can record short films on your smartphones, tablets or video cameras and we will then be able to edit it all together for what we hope to be a real bit of fun and a headliner during the evening. Again, with suitable permissions, we can then even upload this to the internet for all to see if you are unable to make it to the party.

We propose that the party itself takes the form of a relaxed evening with music and fun with every partygoer requested to 'bring a plate' of food so that we build up a community buffet for the evening. We will run a bar in the usual way with a good selection of drink on offer. The evening will be ticketed to ensure that we can monitor numbers with a nominal £1 ticket price. Our intention is to release tickets closer to the date via myself and other outlets in the village.

So, in conclusion, please please please, get in touch with either myself, Lis Watts, Paul Tasker, or Alice Harrall to let us know what you may be able to offer for our photo gallery and memorabilia display or in the way of helping create our very own short film. You never know, Milborne St. Andrew may become famous if we upload to the internet as well! We look forward to hearing from you all.

Amy Tanswell, VH Committee member

amytanswell81@gmail.com or Telephone 01258 839110

GERRY'S PLANTS

Shrubs – Perennials – Rockery

Herbs – Vegetable – Soft-fruit

Basket – Bedding plants

12 The Rings

Milborne St. Andrew

Blandford, Dorset DT11 0HY

Tel: 01258 837386

Captain Phillips (12A)

shown by 'Milborne Movies'

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall
on Friday 7th March 2014 at 7.30pm

BASED on Phillips' memoir, *A Captain's Duty*, this film is a tense dramatisation of a true story. In 2009 Captain Richard Phillips (Tom Hanks) was aboard the US container ship *Maersk Alabama* 145 miles off the Somali coast, when he spotted two suspicious looking skiffs heading at speed in his direction. When he radioed for assistance however, he was advised only to inform his crew and ready his fire-hoses. Within minutes, a crew of Somali pirates under the command of Muse (Barkhad Abdi) had boarded and hijacked the unarmed freight vessel, taking Phillips and his men hostage. As negotiations drag on and tensions rise, the relationship between Captain Phillips and Muse takes centre stage as both men find themselves at the mercy of forces beyond their control. As Phillips spends more time in the company of his Somali captors, he gradually comes to realise that they have a story, too.

Tom Hanks gives an excellent performance as the captain of a container ship, who has to go through the famous area off the coast of Somalia riddled with pirates, whilst Abdi manages to evoke empathy from a character that could have easily succumbed to stereotypical villainy.

The action in the film from the outset is taut and breathless as Somali pirates chase Hanks ship and attempt to board it. These scenes are brilliantly directed and the camera work is first rate. The tension in the film is often unbearable. Exhausting and thrilling, Captain Phillips is all the more powerful with the knowledge that you're witnessing a true story. Paul Greengrass and his team have crafted an experiential film that you won't be forgetting in a hurry.

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



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Hambro News

We are delighted to announce that Alastair Groves has joined our expanding Kitchen Team as Head Chef. Alastair joins us from HH Restaurant, ranked 2 out of 389 restaurants in Exeter, by trip advisor.

Our ambition is to gain a rosette over the coming months. The transition to Alistair's menu is now complete and we believe that our customers are in for a treat. We will continue to offer a fine dining experience alongside Pub Classics but using fresh, predominantly locally-sourced ingredients.

Mothering Sunday 30th March

A day to treat your Mum

Our Mother's Day menu is available all afternoon. We strongly advise that you book early, as it is always one of our busiest days and tables are limited. In addition to the menu printed we will also be offering a Children's menu.

Mothering Sunday

Starters

Cornish mussels - moules mariniere
Spring Pea velouté

Warm salad of locally produced Toulouse style sausage with blanched beans, shallots and baby gem

Smoked chicken breast served en crouete with romaine lettuce and Caesar dressing

Poached duck egg and spinach tartlet with hollandaise sauce

Main Courses

Roast rump of beef served with Yorkshire pudding, fresh vegetable, roast potatoes and red wine jus

Slow roasted lamb shoulder with parsnip puree, dauphonoise and rosemary jus

Roasted chicken breast with saffron creamed leeks and rösti

Pan fried king prawn linguini with rocket, cherry tomatoes and capers

Pan fried fillet of Pollock with crushed new potatoes

Desserts

Dark chocolate tart with orange scented crème fraiche

Bakewell tart with homemade cherry ice cream

Sticky toffee pudding with toffee sauce and ice cream

Champagne sabayon of spring fruits.

Selection of local cheese apple, celery and homemade biscuits

We will also be offering a children's menu
(By reservation only)

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01258 839230 07523 7523 53

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10 The Rings, Milborne St Andrew, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 0HY

Flooding Report

WHEN we look at news items from Somerset and the Thames Valley I believe most of us feel grateful we only have floodwaters on the road. Yet for some of our neighbours, even though the waters are only small beer compared to the Armageddon of the Levels, their homes have been flooded this year. Even for residents not personally affected by the floods and surface water on the roads, it is a trying time and I suspect fears that the extreme weather events may become the norm. So why do we flood every time there is heavy rain I hear you ask? OK so here we go! (Apologies if I'm stating the obvious).

Since first making a phone call to the Highways department in July 2012 to report water coming out of a gully I have established the following facts.

- We are a Flood Zone 3 flood valley, as calculated by the Environment Agency to flood once every 74 years.
- We have flooded three times since 2000 (I include this event as one!) with the road flooding every year.
- The EA commissioned a suitably expensive scheme involving culverts and drains but shelved it as the scheme exceeded the cost benefit ratio. No further work or schemes or village wide help was considered or allowed.
- The lower Milton Road habitually floods opposite the shop and regularly has water flowing over the drains rather than through them.
- Before 2012, the drains had not been cleaned or jetted, with two outflows severed by developers and roadworks with a major culvert previously forgotten about.
- Groundwater drainage from housing estates on both sides of Milton Road is fed into the road drains all year along with an additional major groundwater sump for the lowest part of Milton Road. This is of course in addition to the Winterborne springs and rainwater!
- This causes **four times** the amount of water to flow out of the village than flows in.
- There are drains throughout the length of the east side of Milton Road but have only **one** working gully just down from the shop.
- The outlet immediately exiting Milton Road has only **ONE** small pipe to cope with the total amount of surface water from the village north of the main road. When the road floods, this service chamber is largely empty despite the road above being covered in water with both the inlet and outlet drains using at best only one third of their capacity. Put simply the pipe goes up slightly rather than down, is too small or both.



- 'Dorset for you' have many ongoing referrals from residents on this location and as I write are looking into it (literally!).
 - The Causeway has no road drainage whatsoever – (by the way the sewers at the main road end are 6 meters deep and at the Church Lane End they are 1.2 metres below the surface – just in case someone says you can't put drains in because of services!)
- Within 12 hours of contacting Bob Walter MP for his support, he came to the village to witness the problems firsthand. Spending two

hours here, he has since written to the Director of Environment DCC and the Minister of State for the Environment, highlighting our problems and urging a solution. I remain in frequent contact with his office. In addition to many meetings I have had with the EA and Wessex Water officials, I continue to approach DCC highways and Flood departments and the local EA office.

However, after seeing the service chamber at the very end and highest spot of Milton Road, the cause of the flooding on Milton Road is just so glaring as to be untrue. I have sent a personal message to Mr Richards DCC asking for his assistance regarding this matter. Following a second phone call to the EA Blandford office on 9th February asking for assistance with a heavier pump, Mr Munroe, a senior field officer, has now seen this inspection chamber and pipework. Modesty prevents me from repeating his exact comments but put simply the drains need '*ripping up and replacing with ones that work*'.

It is clearly the responsibility of the Highways to rectify them! It is not the villagers' fault that successive councils and planning authorities have allowed unrestricted access to an infrastructure that was not designed for modern use or the vagaries of the climate. Groundwater we can cope with, flooding from defunct drains we cannot. How far we go with this must be a whole village response not just a few people (including me) influencing events. In civil engineering terms, I know there is a simple and cost-effective answer that does not have 6 noughts on the end but it must begin with the drains on **BOTH** sides of the A354 now.

The philosophic mantra '**it's always been like this**', whilst fully understandable given the authorities past and present stance, does allow them to hide behind **can't do, won't work** and the final joker in the pack **no money**. There is a relatively simple solution that would benefit everyone and not affect wildlife or nature. Hopefully, this article will help the village understand an overview of my investigations to the knotty problem of our stream. To end on a lighter note, every time I see the squashed road signs, pot holes mess and water everywhere, friends and neighbours stoically going about their business as if nothing has changed (well actually it hasn't and that's the problem!) it all is just too unbelievable. To help me keep cheery I remember the Monty Python's Dead Parrot sketch, which naturally brings to mind what part of the sentence '**The drains don't work**' does DCC not understand?!

Since sending the above copy to the *Reporter* team I am delighted to report all hell has let loose in Highways. On Tuesday morning I was desperately trying to locate a heavy duty pump, even trying to phone Mr Pickles in London (didn't work!). With Bob Walter and Malcolm Munroe's leverage, DCC suddenly found a four inch pump at 3.00pm. With the other two pumps miraculously found just in time for Bob Walter's visit on Thursday (bit like buses really, you wait 30 years and suddenly three come at once!), water levels have fallen drastically at the top of the village and even lower down, despite levels of the whole region's water table at record levels and rising! Since Tuesday I am told that the Highways department has acknowledged with the EA (Malcolm) that there is 'an issue' with the drains and that there has been, I think, a material sea change in the DCC's attitude to solving our drainage problem. I look forward to meeting with them early next week as long as they bring a shovel to start work!

Steve Lord, Flood Warden

Calling local craftspeople!

WOULD you like to make some money from your craftwork? Gray's Stores are organising a craft stall to showcase local crafts and plan to hold it outside the shop on one Saturday every month. The first event is hoped to be arranged for the end of March/beginning of April and welcome all who would like to be part of it. Please call Emma on 01258 837220 or email handmadebyme@live.co.uk for more details.

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Return of Bell Ringing

FOLLOWING a long break from regular ringing of the six bells of St. Andrew's Church in the village there have been a number of requests for the opportunity to start again. The break was brought about mostly by the small number of ringers either going to university, moving elsewhere in the country and in the case of our much-missed stalwart, Pat Tribe, her unfortunate death.

In order that those who are interested may find out more, an eight week starters' course is planned to commence from Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm for one hour. The course will consist of an explanation of full circle ringing, safety aspects, bell handling and ringing as a band. Instruction will take place mostly on the ground floor where the ringing is done as well as a view of the bells in the bell chamber. As safety is of paramount importance, all practical training will initially be on a 'one to one' basis, with other beginners looking on.

It is hoped that there will be help from experienced ringers to support the early stages of the course but this cannot be guaranteed.

Learning to ring bells consists of handling and controlling a bell which normally takes a minimum of six weeks and then proceeding to learn how to ring as a band, changing the order or position that the bells ring in. Eventually ringing methods will be taught which are a more complex sequence of position changes. (This may take the rest of your life!)

A small charge of £1 per session will go towards the cost of wear and breakage of the bell parts.

Anybody with an interest in this please contact me on 01258 837329.

Philip Bowell, Tower Captain

Milborne Allotments on Channel 4 (nearly)

ALLOTMENT Society Chairman, Jo Lovett, was delighted to receive a call from Channel 4 wanting to film an interview with one of the allotmenters about onions. They were looking at the various ways of keeping onions for longer periods of time.

Brian was volunteered and received his pre-film interview from the show's presenter.

It went something like this:

Presenter: So, Brian, you have been growing onions on your allotment then?

Brian: Yes and not a bad crop for a first attempt

P: That's really good Brian. How did you store them?

B: Well, I left them to dry out on top of the soil and then spread them out on a shelf in the greenhouse to keep them dry.

P: Great. As you know, we are really interested in how it might be possible to keep onions for more than the normal six months. How are your onions now?

B: Don't actually have any left, we've eaten them.

P: Thank you Brian. CLICK

Maybe next time!

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GROUP IN MILBORNE

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This month we will meet on March 13th and 27th with
'Growing Through Life's Challenges'

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

Ballet and Pilates . . . at the February WI

EVEN though it was still raining, a fair number of WI stalwarts made it to our February meeting. There is much on the agenda. Looking forward to sunnier days, July brings the offer of a Science Lunch at Athelhampton – the date (22nd) is already in many people's diaries. The guest speaker is Dr Zoe Laughlin, well-known for her amazing experiments with everyday things on ITV's *This Morning* programme. We will have a jarbola stall and provide the cream teas at the village's May Fayre on the 17th.

Bookends have finished '*Madame Bovary*', which received a mixed reception ranging from tedious to fabulous. We are moving on to Rose Tremain's '*Music and Silence*'. Various sub-committees for programme and 70th birthday party celebrations are to meet later. The organising skills of June Maitland and Nelda Oakes are being brought into play to revive the popular monthly lunches at The Royal Oak, and our annual dinner, respectively.

The grace and obvious athleticism of our speaker, Olga Vikhrova, showed her training as a ballet dancer from an early age at the Kirov Ballet School in St Petersburg, Russia. As she chronicled her life of discipline and hard work, she was keen to stress how much ballet called for complete physical and mental commitment. At the same time it introduced her to a magical and totally absorbing musical life through which she met many ballet legends of her time. She also



*Jenny Preston, President; Olga Vikhrova, Russian Ballet;
June Maitland, Secretary*

taught in Lithuania before moving to the UK 30 years ago to marry an ice skater. Her prowess was much in demand at the National Ballet School and Richmond College and later her ballet skills were easily converted to Pilates which she has also taught for some years. What a fascinating career!

Refreshments and time for a chat are always welcome, this time supplemented with a generous donation of yummy chocolates – many thanks, June!

We were saddened to hear of the death of one of our former long-standing members, Maggie Redmill, and we joined with our President, Jenny Preston, in offering our sympathies to her family.

At our next meeting, on **Thursday 13th March**, Lucy Jones will talk about '*Garden plants as medicines*'. Please feel free to come along and join us.

Pat Bull

A date for your diary – Saturday 10th May
Village Hall Quiz
teams of four – so get swotting now
more info to follow in next month's *Reporter*



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Year of the Horse

IN the Chinese calendar 2014 is the year of the horse so Ladybirds have enjoyed horsey activities during February. The children have made pictures of horses using shapes, cooked cheesy horse shoes, made and painted beautiful horse shoes out of clay and enjoyed a visit from two ponies. A big thank you to Amy of Pound Cottage Riding stables in Milton Abbas for bringing two gorgeous very well behaved ponies to the Hall. The children went out in small groups to learn about care, feeding and parts of a horse. The ponies put up with being brushed by the children and having labelled stickers put on them. It was not only the children who enjoyed the visit – several people passing by stopped to watch.

We have also talked about China, looked at the globe to see where it is, read stories, made lucky red envelopes (filled with chocolate coins) and cooked moon cakes. *Liz Dyer*



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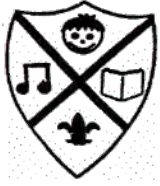
Jayne Hamilton (Secretary) 01258 837260

Liz Dyer (Playgroup Manager) 01258 839117

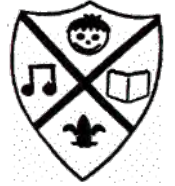
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Milborne St. Andrew First School



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

School News

THIS half term has been challenging for so many people locally with the extreme weather and flooding. We are very grateful to everyone who has worked together to help keep it as "business as usual" at school. We are very much looking forward to an improving picture for everyone when we return after half term.

A team of year 3 and 4 children visited Prince of Wales School in Dorchester to take part in a football festival. Scoring 15 goals during the afternoon they



finished third overall, so well done to all involved.

On 7th February children had a non-uniform day to raise funds for UNICEF on their annual Day for Change. In 2014, Day for Change is all about education. Going to school gives children the chance of a brighter future, but about 68 million children around the world still don't have access to education. UNICEF is working to change this. They want every child to have the opportunity to go to school. We are delighted to be able to send £72 to UNICEF from our fundraising day to support their work.

Dolphins class have been learning about food this half term. As part of the topic they were able to visit Pizza Express in Brewery Square, Dorchester. They were shown how the pizzas are made and had an opportunity to make their own, before bringing them back to school for lunch.

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

e-mail: office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk Tel: (01258) 837362 Fax: (01258) 837170



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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		
A354 problems contact the Highways Agency		0300 1235000
Dorset Direct		01305 221000
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 Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Jo Lovett	07960 854155
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
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
Circuit Training and Pilates	Claire Barratt	01929 550244
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	or 07540626174 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	07801 714619
Booking Secretary:	Sandie Sach	01258 837033

HEALTH


Bere Regis Surgery		01929 471268
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NHS for emergencies		111




Milborne Movies

Friday 7th March 2014
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

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Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

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

- March**
- Wednesday 5th** **Wednesday Club** talk by Verity of Southfield Vets. Village Hall 2.00pm – see page 2.
- Friday 7th** **Milborne Movies Captain Phillips** Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 9 and 16.
- Tuesday 11th** **100 Club Draw** The Royal Oak everyone welcome to attend – see below and pages 21
- Thursday 13th** **WI** 'Garden plants for medicines' with Lucy Jones Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 13.
- Friday 14th** **Reporter** latest date for copy and adverts for the April issue. Please sent via e-mail to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk.
- Wednesday 19th** **Parish Council** Village Hall. Everyone welcome 7.30pm – see pages 31.
- Saturday 22nd** **Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm all welcome. Tickets from Drop-in Centre in Village Hall Committee Room on Fridays – see page 2.
- Thursday 27th** **Gardening Club** 'Fresh ideas for summer bedding, hanging baskets and containers' with Chris Evans Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 21.
- Saturday 29th** **Spring Sale** Dewlish Village Hall, in aid of church funds 10.30am–12 noon – see page 5.
- Sunday 30th** **Clocks go forward 2.00am**
Mothering Sunday Communion St. Andrews' Church 9.30pm – see pages 4 and 5.
- May**
- Saturday 10th** **Village Quiz.**
- Saturday 17th** **Village May Fayre.**



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

March 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.

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John Sanderson Football Club 837049
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Denise Sanderson Collector 837049



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Have you met . . . Adrian Whiting

ADRIAN moved to Milborne with his family in 2006, during the final shift in his distinguished and eventful career in policing, as Assistant Chief Constable of the Dorset force. His working life encompassed the full gamut of policing; from a PC on a Soho beat, riots, counter-terrorism, traffic cop and firearms work to name a few. But it culminated with the planning and delivery of security and safety to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Weymouth in 2012, part of Britain's biggest peacetime police operation.

Adrian was born in 1963 in Epsom hospital and has one sibling, Julia, who is three years younger. His early life was fairly itinerant – Adrian's father worked for the MoD on projects and was regularly moved to different locations, but the family settled for a while in Winchester, when Adrian was 13. After secondary school there, he went on to sixth form college, where he met another Julia, who later became his wife. During this time, they both enjoyed rock climbing and undertook training of scouts and other groups. It was this that led Adrian into his first job; the mountaineering advisor was a headteacher at a special school, and there was a vacant temporary position for a residential child care officer. The pupils were termed 'educationally subnormal and maladjusted' and their energies were channelled using manual skills and sports. His time here taught him a lot about social control which proved useful in his policing career. Adrian used a reward-based system, whereby the boys would get to play football or go kayaking with him if they behaved.

But policing was what he had set his heart on and an episode in Portsmouth was the turning point. As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, he was with a patrol with Hampshire Constabulary which was called out to pick up a shoplifter who had been caught by a store detective. As they arrived, the shoplifter got away to which Adrian's response was to leap from the van, give chase and bring him to the ground with a rugby tackle. He says, "I thought afterwards, 'I'm quite enjoying this'".

So he was accepted into the Metropolitan Police aged 19 in 1982, with his first posting at Vine Street police station at Piccadilly Circus. At this time, Julia was being trained in nursing at the Middlesex hospital, near to Adrian's Soho beat. He says, "We had a lovely life living there – we'd go to Leicester Square in the afternoon and buy cheap tickets for that night's show." It also made for an interesting walk back to Julia's nursing quarters, via his beat. The girls working there would say things like "Ooh 'ello Mr Whiting, is that your girlfriend, ooh she's gorgeous, isn't she?"

From beat bobby he went to the traffic police which, he says, was "a marvellous thing, as I got to drive faster cars and bikes and could travel to any hospital to see Julia!" The control room was aware his girlfriend worked at the Middlesex and so Adrian was often the officer assigned to travel in the ambulance to collect the details of the incident.

After working for a considerable time in the East End – nine years as a constable – Adrian became a Superintendent posted at Merton, with Brixton being his final station within the Met. Here he was running a policing team and was restructuring how policing was developed. Specialist command work which involved armed policing and public order meant he was posted to a variety of locations, including the miners' dispute at Shirebrook, riots at Brixton and also at Broadwater Farm. There were more traumatic experiences, with good friends losing their lives whilst serving; Yvonne Fletcher was at the neighbouring Bow Street station and other friends were killed in other incidents such as the Harrods bombing.

It was at this point that he decided to seek a transfer to another area to see how policing was carried out. He was selected as Divisional Commander at Aldershot for the Hampshire Constabulary and although

enjoying it, he moved to Professional Standards within the county and was promoted to Chief Superintendent. After three and a half years with Hampshire, a move was on the cards for the next step up. Whilst it was the vacancy that would ultimately determine their next home location, he felt supremely fortunate that not only did Dorset require an Assistant Chief, but that they selected him for the job. It was the



Whiting family's dream location and was a homecoming of sorts for Julia, who had gone to school in Talbot Heath and had had a childhood home in Dorchester.

The difference in the dynamics of policing was striking – he had come originally from the largest UK force to Dorset, one of the country's smallest. This meant there were advantages and also challenges to how operations were carried out. In Dorset, when a major incident occurred, the police response happened quickly as the top level team that coordinated events on the ground generally comprised the same set of people, so working relationships grew that aided operations. 'Mutual aid' was relied on more than at larger forces as

resilience in certain policing areas needed to be brought in from neighbouring counties.

But 2012 brought the Dorset forces biggest operation in its history; delivering security and safety to the Olympic and Paralympic Games at the sailing events in Weymouth and Portland. Adrian set up a planning team early on and, whilst on a different scale, modelled it on the successful policing events of party political conferences in Bournemouth. The concept of an 'island site' was at the heart of the plan, with concentric rings of security set up radiating from the sailing academy and athletes' village. Adrian was 'Gold Commander' for the Games and had a senior Royal Naval Officer seconded to the team, which was responsible for policing the waters against 'upper threat level' – terrorism. It was a unique set of circumstances: operational military assets under the control of a police individual. There were comical moments though: the International Olympic Committee had many requirements of his team, one being to reserve all the available five star accommodation in Weymouth and Portland. Adrian says he was able to explain to them that this would be one of the shortest tasks required of them.

Just after the Olympics, Adrian, together with Julia and children Emma, Tom and Christian were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive his award, the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. It was to honour a range of duties he had undertaken, including searching for explosives, counter-terrorism and training, firearms and explosives control – which Adrian had the national responsibility for – as well as operational duties in Dorset, such as policing the party conferences.

Adrian retired from the force in August of last year but continues to work part time in the training of security personnel in searching for explosives. Does he miss his former role? "I'm really enjoying retirement but I do miss it – I miss the level of decision making; the challenge of balancing all these things in a relatively short space of time, making a sequence of decisions that are relevant to other people's safety", he says.

Why did you move to Milborne? We've lived in villages before and liked living in smaller communities. It's got a pub, shop, church: great!

What do you like about Milborne? The people. We've got plenty of friends in the village – I go walking with Martin and his group, and there's quite a lot going on, isn't there? People are really welcoming.

Is there a downside to Milborne? I thought about this and although there are a few relatively minor points – having worked in the East End; China (for Olympics-related work); South Africa for a few days; being shot at in Northern Ireland . . . in comparison, there are no downsides. *Would you change anything about Milborne?* It would be things like

how the watercourse arrangements are in Milton Road and, as a walker, there are probably issues to do with land use and where you can go and footpath maintenance – but in the grand scheme of things, no. It's really good to live here.

Do you have a nickname? Yes, 'Flipper' – I was on a motorbike in the Blackwall tunnel, drifting through the lanes with blue lights. I couldn't get past a lorry and a car, so the truck driver helpfully moves to the left, but has to go right at first to avoid a bollard – which means his lorry's wheel moves onto my foot. The lorry then can't move and I'm stuck on the bike with the lights flashing. I call up on the radio and say, "Oscar, do you know there's a lorry on my foot?" to which the controller replied, "No son, but if you sing it, I'll hum along". The first copper to turn up has a look and sees my motorcycle boot is squashed flat – he takes it off (the worst thing you can do, but luckily for me, my foot's not broken) – he holds up the boot and starts laughing saying, "We should call you Flipper!"

What's your most embarrassing moment? My worst calamity involved a car transporter. When I was in Traffic, we received a briefing about too many cars on them. I thought I'd got one – it caught my attention because it had loose chains swinging. So I start to pull on these chains and the driver said, "I wouldn't do that" and I said, "Well, you'd be telling me all sorts of things to make me go away" – and with that I give it an almighty tug – which would've been fine had it not controlled the top deck and dropped it onto the lower deck and I single-handedly totalled four cars . . . so I got into a bit of trouble over that.

Do you have a claim to fame? Apart from receiving the medal from the Queen, my real claim to fame was when I was in the East End – we were called out to an accident on the Essex border. A guy had smashed his car into a tree, avoiding a badger – though he had hit it and killed it. So we put the badger in a body bag and into the boot to dispose of later that night. Our last call is uptown, a crash on Birdcage Walk, adjacent to St James's Park. We then remembered about the badger in the boot – all the tips were closed by this time. So we think 'they'll be cleaning the streets soon, we'll just leave the badger by the side of the

road and it'll get picked up'. We thought no more of it until a few days later that we found out that the University of London have had it reported to them and that they were unaware that badgers had colonised St. James's Park and had decided to put up cameras – so we put our hands up, 'sorry'!

Do you have a hero? Yes, Field Marshall Viscount Slim who ended up commanding the 14th Army in Burma in the harshest of conditions. He used all arms available to him and he coordinated them in a way that revolutionised how campaigns were fought in that environment. He was successful, of course, and turned his own soldiers' beliefs around; in that the jungle was a hostile place and that the Japanese were incapable of being defeated. In particular, he made the responsibility for combating malaria the responsibility of his regimental officers and not the medical orderlies; malaria casualty rates dropped from 70% of his men to around 5%. It doesn't seem a very military thing, and it isn't, but it's coming at it from a tangent and that's why it fascinates and inspires me. *This was a similar answer Adrian gave in his first interview, for the Metropolitan Police. He was asked further about Slim's strategies and answered in depth; it turned out that the interviewer had actually served under the Field Marshal in the 14th Army!*

Who is your fantasy dinner date? Julia – because she's not here; she's in Ethiopia until March, working on medical aid on a two month posting. So, with any luck, I'll get to live out my fantasy dinner come March – all I've got to do is plan where to take her!

Do you have any hobbies and interests? Amongst other things, I enjoy target shooting with Victorian rifles that I also restore – it's quite an intriguing and all-consuming pastime. I have fought Zulus in South Africa, helped garrison a fort in Malta and I've marched out of Halifax (*in Nova Scotia*) as part of the 1906 independence commemorations – whilst dressed as a Victorian soldier.

Do you have a preferred charity? Yes, Facing Africa – it's the charity Julia is working for on her assignment in Ethiopia.

Do you have any pets? Two cats – and a diminishing number of fish!

Ed Richards

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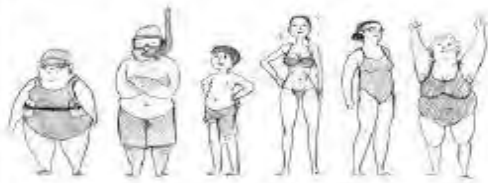
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Gardening Club news

ON Thursday 23rd January, members enjoyed a talk by Joy Michaud from West Bexington where she and her husband run a nursery specializing in Chillis.

The talk was entitled 'Choosing the Right Vegetable'. Joy had selected a few vegetables and salad crops to tell us about. Much of it may seem obvious but sometimes its hit and miss when you choose seeds and end up with a disappointing harvest or flavour. She spoke about lettuce and the many varieties, perhaps chosen for flavour, colour or texture and encouraged us to try something different for a change, always remembering how much space they need and keeping the seed packet for future reference. At the West Bexington nursery they grow lettuce in poly tunnels all the year round; most of us haven't got that sort of space, so we plant on a much smaller scale, but its good to experiment with a different variety.

Joy also showed us some lovely slides and gave us helpful tips about beans, courgettes, tomatoes, peppers and chillis. She helped us realize the importance of choosing the variety that suited us and our garden, and the varieties that are available to buy – e.g. dwarf beans, climbing beans, runner or French, pod colour and flat or round shape. We all found the talk very useful and Joy finished by answering various questions from the members.

As it was the first meeting of the year we renewed our subscriptions (still time for those who couldn't get to the meeting). We also had a look at the 2014 programme and discussed ideas for the Summer Outing and plans for a Mini Open Gardens in June.

Annual Dinner – Saturday 8th February.

17 members gathered at The Royal Oak for the Annual Dinner. The floods didn't deter anyone, cars had to do a detour, folk had to wear their wellies but when there is food involved we have to meet the challenge. Anyway we had a super meal and enjoyed a relaxing evening together. Shem had put together a special menu including pigeon breast, duck in red wine and that old favourite treacle pud. All delicious and hard to make a choice, but we managed and were not disappointed! We send our thanks to him and the staff for all their hard work.

Next Meeting. Thursday 27th March, Village Hall. 7.30pm.

Spring isn't that far away and our speaker Chris Evans will give us a talk entitled 'Fresh Ideas for Summer Bedding, Hanging Baskets and Containers'.

We do hope you can come and why not bring a friend, all welcome. Refreshments available.
Angie Nowell



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100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date – Tuesday 4th February 2014

1st prize	£100	Richard Crisp
2nd prize	£50	Pat Shipton

**We are in desperate need for more people to join
the 100 Club. Our numbers have dropped so
much that we are unable to give a 3rd prize**

The next draw is at 8.00pm in The Royal Oak,
Tuesday 11th March 2014

Everyone is welcome to attend

New members always welcome. Contact
June Maitland 837235 or
Denise Sanderson 837049

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Flood meeting with Bob Walter MP 13th February 2014

THIS meeting was convened at the home of the village flood warden Steve Lord at 2.00pm.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Environment Agency (EA), Dorset Highways Agency (DHA), North Dorset District Council (NDDC), the local Medical Practice, the Parish Council (PC), BBC Radio Solent's Tristan Pasco (*pictured with Bob Walter*), the proprietors of the village shop, some victims of the flooding as well as Bob Walter MP and his agent and some other interested parties.

The meeting started in the absence of Bob Walter with a discussion about the causes and effects of the most recent flooding as well as that in a number of previous years. The environment agency was keen to point out the significant difference between surface water and groundwater as they have a different effect on how increased amounts of water arrived and could be removed as well as the delay there may be in the effect of groundwater accumulating over a period of time and then taking some time to decrease. There were some alarming facts and figure presented concerning the increasing levels in the water table over the last three years and that this year there had already been 254% of the expected rainfall at this time. The EA observed that a number of physical restrictions existed on the stream which impeded the flow but was unable to enforce action on riparian owners on constructions done prior to 2006. It was also noted that developments of more houses in recent decades had been made without any increase in the capacity of systems to deal with runoff from roofs and hard surfaces. A question was asked about the possibility of withholding some water further upstream in the form of a flood plain dam or increasing the capacity of the lake at Milton Abbas. The EA representative explained that as the water table involved in creating these events was so high this would be ineffective. There



was a further question asked concerning the existence of a second borehole that had been drilled by Wessex Water at the Milborne pumping station but was not currently being used for extraction. Would it be possible to activate this to help reduce the groundwater level? As

there were no Wessex Water representatives present no satisfactory answer was forthcoming, although the question of where to send the extra water was not answered. There was concern expressed regarding difficulties encountered throughout the flooding problems that telephone calls and e-mails to official bodies received little or no response and this was coupled with a concern that the multiple agencies involved were all 'passing the buck' to avoid taking any action. It was suggested that only following an appeal to the MP was a significant improvement in pumping power forthcoming.

There was some discussion with DHA about their ability to make improvements and questions were asked concerning the resurfacing of the Milton Abbas road without any consideration being made for the effect of springs which commonly appeared in the road surface. It appears that although a permeable membrane road surface could be used it was deemed too expensive. It was stated that the DHA will undertake a CCTV survey of all of the routes the water is taking and of the culverts to ascertain what works could help alleviate the problem.

As the political will had been activated, Bob Walter MP spoke of money being available in the form of grants of up to £5,000 for affected households and delaying payment of some tax and other

benefits. It is significant that some homeowners are reluctant to come forward and admit to being flooded as there was a concern that this admission may affect their future insurance. It was therefore difficult to come up with a true number of households that had water into the house in this year's flooding, although the number of fourteen was mentioned from previous floods.

The meeting then left the house to view section by section the various places that were affected, or had been affected during the last six weeks. The house of Steven Lord is the first dwelling in the village that the stream reaches and the presence of sandbags round the house was clear evidence of the successful prevention of flooding inside although the garden all round was sodden. From there the meeting viewed the water coming from the vicinity of the exit onto the Milton Road as well as the flow down towards the village. The party stopped at various points to view where water was in some cases flowing down drains, in some cases flowing out of drains and in some cases flowing past drains unaffected. The inference from this was that there was no proper synchronised flow through the road drains and that in some cases they were either not connected or were blocked. Some may have been totally ineffective soakaways below the current water table.

The existence of multiple sites where water oozed or spouted from the road, pavement and gardens was noted and commented on by the EA representative. The size of the flood in the area of the shop was noted to have fluctuated over the time of this flood. In this area three pumps have just been installed and are pumping from a low point in the water opposite the shop to a culvert cover on the corner by the main A354. This cover currently above the level of the flood appeared to be taking the pumped water away very effectively. The assumption from this was that if there were to be a more direct connection between the low point in the flood and this culvert, water would not accumulate as it does at present but be conducted away to the south side of the main road. A short discussion was held with the owner of the property opposite the Milton Abbas road, as in the highest level of flooding, the water had overflowed over the brow of the main road into his property. After crossing to The Causeway, the effectiveness of the stream transport was noted to be good until the bend in the stream at Brookside and the limited height of the access bridge causing the excess water to overflow and run down the road to make a further flood in the vicinity of the war memorial and March bridge. This water then returned to the stream by the bridge, which itself, again during high water levels, restricted the flow to cause a back up. The meeting then followed the footpath to view the flows in the vicinity of the Manor House. There was a good flow here despite a bend. The possibility of opening up the old, straighter route in front of the house for improved flow was discussed and approved in principle by both the landowner and the EA representative. In the area at the back of the Manor House it was noted that the flow had been considerably improved since the owner had taken it upon himself to clear and widen the stream for up to a mile downstream. A very sincere vote of thanks was made to the landowner for this work done at his own expense.



The meeting then broke up at 4.30pm with many views aired and ideas voiced. Steven Lord commented at the end that, "I am not interested in committees, I want to see men digging holes in the road".

Philip Bowell

Village shop gives it some welly

THE village Londis store, marooned for much of the past two months, has initiated a 'flood delivery service' to serve those unable to wade through the floodwater in Milton Road. The service – 'delivery by welly boot' – has enabled elderly and infirm customers to continue to be supplied by Gray's Stores, despite the past watery weeks.

Co-owner, Emma Bratley, says, "We are a convenience store –



although at the moment our shop is not that convenient! We are aware that some people cannot get to us and so we want to offer a delivery service to those who do not want to or cannot wade through the water." With husband Glenn, they have begun to deliver essentials to customers who have requested it – with the aid of wellingtons, of course. They also aim to provide the service at all times of the year for those in need, whether elderly, sick or in any emergency.

The couple have been hit hard, as trade has dropped off significantly as the water rises – and hits a low point when the road is then closed. Glenn says, "As the water level drops back and the road becomes passable, customers return – but it takes a while to get back to normality as people's habits change." Generally, customers have been very supportive though, making extra efforts to shop there and even spending more than usual mindful of Glenn and Emma's plight. Some potential customers have assumed the shop is closed when the water is lapping at the front step, so the couple invested in large 'Londis Open' signs to get the message across and the facebook page is regularly updated to keep customers aware.

The floodwater has also created a problem for their deliveries, with drivers unable to make it through to the shop car park. The milkman is met at the junction at 4.00am by Glenn and then the dairy produce is lugged in on foot. The main Londis delivery has to be laboriously pulled through in caged trollies – and villagers have helped out to do this. Early morning customers have also helped by bringing in the papers from the junction, which the couple are very appreciative of. Some deliveries have come unprepared though; Emma says, "Our poor cake man got very wet feet the first time he came to us – he's learned now to bring his wellies!" Their kitchen has become quite used to having delivery men in their wet socks warming hands on hot cups of tea after a soggy delivery.

The floods have meant that the planned refit of the store has been temporarily shelved. Glenn says, "We had big plans for the shop this year; a refit, more chiller space and lots more exciting lines – it is very disappointing. It does give us more time to plan though – so who knows what will happen!"

But despite the flood-induced stress, worry and tribulation there is a positive side; Emma and Glenn are full of praise for villagers

who have helped them keep running and in flood protection more generally for the village good. Emma says, "The camaraderie has been brilliant, from people pitching in filling sandbags to the guy

who stood in the road slowing traffic down so that the school children didn't get soaked." She has special praise for Philip Smith at the Post Office

who "has worked tirelessly to arrange sandbags and pumps and is out there in all weathers clearing drains and maintaining the pumps." Flood warden, Steve Lord, is also specially thanked for all the work he has done.

Emma also says, "Our staff have been wonderful too, making their way in every day – and remaining cheerful throughout. Special thanks go to our customers as well, wading in regardless and showing us great support." The feeling is mutual; the village is extremely grateful that Gray's Stores has remained open and fully stocked, with newspapers in the racks, milk in the chiller and chocolate on the shelves!

Ed Richards

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The flyer (above) the Bratley's are distributing.

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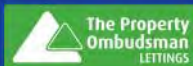
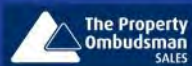


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Coffee, Cake and Computers

A RECENT UK study found that only 32 percent of parents felt very sure about how to keep their children safe online and even more have no idea how to install parental controls. Just a thought, but I wonder how many grandparents know how to keep their grandchildren safe online when they are visiting? So please don't stick your head in the sand, just ask any of the mentors for advice and guidance about this.

A recent discussion among some regulars at the drop in about "my favourite apps" was entertaining for everyone. A few of the favourites were:

1. Magic puzzles (free) – jigsaw puzzles without losing any pieces! No need for sharp eyesight or nimble fingers, something for everyone, easy or tricky. Highly addictive, be warned!
2. My Fitness Pal (free) – calorie counting made easy, exercise tracking and more.
3. UK tides (69p) – check out high and low tides anywhere for that walk on the beach.
4. Bubble level (free) – spirit level works anywhere, anytime.
5. Newspaper apps (various prices of subscription, but always cheaper than the paper edition) – no newsprint on your fingers, adjustable size of print (at last!) and delivered to your tablet in the middle of the night, or at least very, very early in the morning – great for insomniacs, people who can't find their specs and crossword addicts (no pen or pencil and rubber required!)

More favourite apps next month.

Every Friday morning in Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall Committee Room, 10.00am–12.00 noon. Entrance 50p, coffee or tea 50p, home-made cake £1.00 per slice. There is no charge for help and advice and everyone is most welcome. Please tell us about your favourite apps so we can all share our knowledge and enjoyment of what's new.
Rose and Ed Frost

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A Good Read by Shirley Dunkley

'Her Brilliant Career' by Rachel Cooke

CHRISTMAS can be a booklover's delight-will someone pick up the heavy hints and give you one of the longed-for new books or will you be surprised by a gift which brings unexpected pleasure and satisfaction? My treat this year was *Her Brilliant Career* by Rachel Cooke. This is a collection of biographical essays about career women of the 1950s, written to counteract the popular myths to be found in *Mad Men* or Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach* which imply that women then were 'old fashioned, unambitious, docile, emollient, inhibited, clenched, prudish, thwarted, frustrated, repressed . . . and obsessed with baking'.

Rachel Cooke looks at the lives of ten very successful careers of the fifties including the gardener Marjorie Fish, racing driver Sheila van Damm, journalist Nancy Spain and finishing with the renowned lawyer and judge Rose Heilbron. She writes with liveliness and empathy of the battles against male prejudice, of the varied (and surprising!) sexuality of her subjects and of the great satisfaction to be found in career success. In the course of the telling of these tales, a great deal of the social history of the period is revealed – she includes a whole chapter on the fashions of the time from New Look to the Sack! It is, incidentally, interesting how often the Festival of Britain of 1951 seems to be a link between these women.

As someone who left school, graduated from University, earned my living, married and became a mother during the decade I found it of particular interest. However, this book will entertain and enlighten anyone whether alive at the time or born into more liberal days. Go out there and have a conversation with a woman in her 70s or 80s and prepare to be surprised!

Remember you can always see the Reporter in colour at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index

Informal hearing for Chapel Street development

THE proposed development on Chapel Street rumbled on with an informal hearing at NDDC offices in Blandford recently. The hearing was the final opportunity for the developer, Ankers and Rawlings, representatives from North Dorset's planning department, MSA parish councillors and concerned residents to discuss the aspects of the appeal, being adjudicated by the Planning Inspectorate. This follows the refusal of two applications for planning permission for two detached houses, each with four bedrooms over three storeys with a detached garage on land adjacent to Bramble Cottage.

The main focus of the hearing were two different drainage solutions for surface water, which includes underground storage tanks and collection by bowser and piping water underground to the stream at Church Hill. Other aspects of the appeal include nearby residents' loss of amenity, scale and out of keeping with the Conservation Area. The six hour hearing ended with a site visit in torrential rain, which included viewing the proposed drainage outfall at the flooded Bere stream and an appreciation of the local architecture. A final decision is expected in seven weeks' time.

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In your Garden

Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *designerGardens*

March in the Garden

TRYING to keep the garden tidy in this awful weather we have been having is just about an impossible task. When it's pouring down, digging, pruning and planting is not really a very high priority. But the hardy gardeners amongst us know that whatever the weather there are still jobs to be done – not least sowing flower and vegetable seeds for the coming season.

As I'm looking out into my garden, the evergreens in the borders are providing the structure I want, the yellow and variegated plants are providing colour on an otherwise dull day and the evergreen grasses are giving me colour and movement. All of the hellebores are looking great this year and they look even better if you cut off the leaves with the black marks leaving the flowers to shine above.



There are some positives to this horrible weather – it's much easier to pull up weeds such as dandelions, buttercups and thistles, and it's a good time to turn your compost heap to combine the wet and dry layers. And I don't suppose we will get a hosepipe ban anytime soon!

You still need to plant any bare root trees, hedges and shrubs preferably before the end of March, and preferably not into waterlogged soil. If your garden has been flooded, it may be better to wait until the autumn in the hope that we have a good summer and the ground dries out. Other jobs you can be doing are pruning your roses – aim for an open centre and always prune to an outward facing bud. As soon as you start to see the new leaves emerging spray for blackspot and start to feed them regularly for a good display later on. March is the best time to prune late flowering clematis by cutting them down to about 30cm (1ft) from the ground.

Garden centres are starting to stock up for the coming season with wonderful shrubs and perennials in flower – but exercise caution! Many spring flowering shrubs have only a brief display and the rest of the

year can be quite boring; many grow very large and need constant pruning – so check the height and spread before you buy. In a small garden everything must 'earn its place'



so you need a balance of plants that will flower successively over the seasons or provide some additional interest such as autumn colour or berries. Visiting gardens can help you see how plants can work well together and how they grow in different conditions.

The arrival of spring (not before time!) will see the arrival of daffodils, anemones and tulips poking their heads through the forget-me-nots, brunnera and newly emerging perennial foliage. If you haven't been there before Kingston Lacy has a huge display of snowdrops – well worth seeing. If you miss the snowdrops, you might want to see the blaze of colour provided by camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas at the wonderful Exbury Gardens in Hampshire. There is also a spectacular Daffodil meadow where you can walk along the grassy pathways to the Beaulieu river and enjoy the view.





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Any questions, please contact Ian Bromilow, 01258 880044.

Sunday 2nd March – 2.00pm

Milton Abbas and surroundings

Meet outside St. James Church, Milton Abbas.

Grid reference: ST 806018 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Wednesday 19th March – 11.00am

Winterborne Houghton

Meet outside the church in Winterborne Houghton

Grid reference: ST 820045 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 6.5 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 6th April – 2.00pm

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.
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Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 19th February

VILLAGERS expressed concerns about white vans parking on corners of road junctions. This is dangerous to other road users, obscures road signs and the view of oncoming vehicles, and is both inconsiderate and illegal. Councillors will contact the owners/drivers with a polite request to desist before raising the matter with the Police if the behaviour continues.

District and County Councillors were not present but sent a report. Their disparaging responses to Cllr. Hopper's 2013 flood report could not therefore be questioned by councillors. Parking charges in North Dorset are set to increase again.

The Allotment Society's Meeting Report was read. Community digs are planned in April.

Flooding was discussed at great length (see pages 11 and 23). It is now possible that an adequate drainage system will be installed and the sewers will be lined thanks to the efforts of Mr Lord and our MP Bob Walter. Steve Lord was thanked for his efforts. Wessex Water was praised for their help with sewage tankering and for having a pro-active approach unlike the other agencies which only reacted once the press were involved.

A list of villagers prepared to help out in a similar crisis is being prepared. Please contact Steve Lord, Flood Warden, Jenny Balcon, Chairman of the Parish Council, or Colin Hampton, Parish Clerk if you are willing to be included.

Diverting the Obelisk Fund towards equipment for flood alleviation would need a vote by villagers at the annual Parish Meeting. The Lions Club are also to be approached for funding.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NOT a Village Plan, which had no Statutory Authority) is a Statutory Document which has to be regarded by developers, planning authorities and inspectors, as it controls what happens within the village. The contentious Bramble Cottage planning application, for example, could have been rejected easily had a Neighbourhood Plan been in place. Without such a plan we will have little sway with developers or planning inspectors. No villager has volunteered to help Cllr. Hopper with the plan - will we get the village we deserve? If you are interested, please contact Cllr. Hopper.

Gould Farm Development (Fox View) - The developers are receiving a £50,000 grant from NDDC to complete the low-cost housing.

The Parish Meeting on 16th April - agenda will consider use of the Obelisk Fund for something which will meet more urgent local need. Other agenda items will include reports from the parish footpath, tree, and other wardens.

Number-crunching: The UK Overseas Aid budget in 2013/14 is 0.7% of GDP, i.e. £11 billion and in 2014/15 £12.2 billion. The Budget for Flood Prevention is £2.3 billion over 4 years, i.e. 0.04% of GDP or £575 million per year.

Susan Cawley

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Did you identify this?

February's picture was of Millwood Cottage in Chapel Street.
Nobody came forward with the correct answer.

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What's on in March

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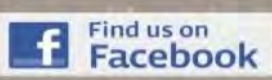
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