

80P WHERE SOLD

# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 7 Issue 10

November 2015

[www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter)

Millborne St. Andrew



**WE  
GIVE  
THANKS**

**PAGE 5**

**CINDERELLA  
MARRIES HER  
PRINCE  
CHARMING**

**PAGE 29**

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## Macmillan Coffee Morning and Charity Table Top Sale

ON Saturday 7th November we are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning and a charity table top sale in the village hall from 10.30am.

The funds raised from the table top sale will be split between the Busy Bees under fives playgroup and the village hall. The tables cost £5 for sellers. Entry for buyers will be 50p per adult, children are free and this includes entry into the Grand Prize Draw. So if anyone is interested in having a table to sell any unwanted items or if you want to sell your own arts and crafts, please contact Jo Ball 07870 743538 or Leanne Brown 07899 808185.

Also if there are any local businesses that would like to donate something to the prize draw then donations will be gratefully received.

## Milton Abbas Neighbourcar

THE volunteers who drive for Neighbourcar need extra people to help with the driving. We take patients who are without their own transport up to the surgery or to hospital appointments. This is a very easy way to help fellow villagers. The system works simply; a transport co-ordinator (T.C.) will telephone or e-mail a driver with a request for a lift, giving details. If the driver can do this lift s/he e-mails back confirming it. If the driver is unable to do the lift the T.C. will move on to the next driver. There is absolutely no pressure on anyone to do the lift. The trips vary in length, most being between 45 minutes and one hour, hospital trips a little longer and they are usually arranged for local people. It is unusual for a driver from one village to be sent to another.

Driving for Neighbourcar is not a time-consuming task and it is a valuable asset for our neighbours. Drivers are reimbursed with a fuel allowance of 45p per mile, from the patient. This is a considerable saving on taxi fares.

Anyone who can spare an hour a week, a month or intermittently would be a very welcome addition to our driver pool.

Please think about volunteering. For further information telephone Nigel Hodder 01258 881709 or our driver recruiter Anne Donnelly 01258 881261.

**Deadline for the December issue is 14th November.**

## Disclaimer

THE views expressed in the *Reporter* are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Also, please be aware that articles and photographs printed in the *Reporter* will be posted on our website and so are available for anyone to access.

## VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on  
**Saturday 5th December from 12.15 to 2.00pm**

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

Paper copy to David Payne at 7 Bladen View

## Wednesday Club AGM and Himalayan talk

THE Wednesday Club A.G.M. took place on Wednesday 6th October, it was attended by 19 members and there were apologies from five who were otherwise engaged.

Ann Guy gave her Chairman's report on all the successful meetings and events through the year and thanked the committee for all their support and hard work. Ian Watts gave his treasurer's report and the, as yet, unaudited accounts were accepted. Eve Richardson has decided to resign from the committee but will continue to support the club. We would like to thank her for her work over the past years and look forward to seeing her at our meetings.

We were then treated to a fascinating talk by Percy Thorpe, accompanied by wonderful photographs, on his climbing expedition to Mount Everest. Percy has climbed Mount Everest many times over the years and we saw things that, since the earthquake in Nepal earlier this year, will now never be seen again.

Our next meeting is in the Village Hall at 2.00pm on Wednesday 4th November when Eve Richardson will give a display on making Christmas decorations and Sheila Burton will be giving us tips on making Christmas cards. Everyone is welcome.

On Wednesday 2nd December we will be having our Christmas Lunch at The Walnut Grove in Dorchester. It will be £20 for members or £22 for non members for a main course and dessert. If you would like to join us please telephone Jenny Balcon on 837121 to book a place. We will require a £10 deposit which will be non refundable. We will be arranging car sharing so would be grateful if you could let us know if you are prepared to drive.

The Wednesday Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month and we would welcome new members. Please come and join us, we will be pleased to see you. *Lis Watts*

## Year round garden colour

HAVE you ever wished you could have colourful plants all the year in your garden? I am sure we all do, no matter what size of garden we have. The Gardening Club had a fascinating talk about how to achieve this from Neil Lovesey, a Dorset nurseryman who specialises in perennial plants.

He emphasised that the most important thing when gardening for continual colour was an understanding of the needs of your plants, and what stimulates flowering. Suitable soil is, of course, essential – you cannot expect camellias and azaleas to flourish on chalk – but you can improve any soil by generous mulching in spring and autumn which introduces air, worms and beneficial insects. You should think about the conditions in your own garden; is it sheltered or exposed? Sunny or shady? Wet or dry? Fertile or stony? It could be quite different from down the road! You can then choose your plants accordingly.

However you can use these different sections of your garden to promote long flowering. Split clumps of plants and plant one section in a warmer part than the other, perhaps to take advantage of early morning sun or shade from summer foliage. Then there is the 'Chelsea Chop', it consists of trimming off an inch or two from some well grown plants which will then put out side shoots and bloom later than the un-cut ones thus lengthening the flowering period.

Deadheading is also essential. Plants flower to produce seeds and the more you trim off seed heads the more flowers will appear. Inevitably there will be gaps sometimes in your garden and this is the time to use bulbs to fill in. They can be grown in pots and popped into borders easily.

Neil grows 1,500 varieties of perennial flowers and shrubs and altogether raises some 60,000 plants each year, all from his own seed or cuttings and not bought in as are so many in garden centres. We felt very lucky to receive so many tips and advice from such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker. *Sally Dyer*

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### Yoga classes in the village hall

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Milborne-St-Andrew Village Hall

## Quiz Night



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# St. Andrew's Church Harvest Flower Festival



THIS year our theme for the flower festival was, 'We give thanks . . .' and all who contributed their talents, showed us the many things we have to be thankful for – our armed forces on land, sea and air along with the police, fire, air ambulance and lifeboat services. We gave thanks for our farmers and the harvest. We also recognised our nurses, the Red Cross and breast cancer care: we didn't forget our animals as the Ladybirds playgroup gave thanks for vets and pet care. Milborne First School gave us an exhibition giving thanks for education and friends.

We give thanks for our church, for our flower arrangers and our bellringers who welcomed us to the festival.





**Do you need transport for surgery and other medical appointments? If so, we can help.**

Milton Abbas Neighbourcar is an established voluntary transport scheme covering the area served by Milton Abbas surgery. We can take you to medical appointments and certain social events.

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## SYBIL FOX

12.06.1928 – 21.09.2015

SYBIL was born at The Paves in Milborne St. Andrew, a row of cottages long since demolished, along the Milton Abbas Road. She was the younger of two sisters. She was baptised at St. Andrew's Church by the legendary Rev Lloyd Evans.

She attended the Village School and had a fund of stories from that time. School days were happy, as shown by a report dated 1936, which stated she enjoyed Geography, but loathed Needlework!

She went to the Sunday School during Canon Brochner's time as Vicar and his daughter, Jane, attended the funeral service. She also attended the Methodist Sunday School with her friends Rose and Pam. One of the hymns she chose for the funeral service was remembered from those times.

Sybil had many friends made at school and also formed life-long friendships with a young woman, Violet, who came to work at Gould's Farm in the Land Army. That was a friendship which lasted until Violet's death last year, but her daughter and husband travelled from Kent for the funeral. She also maintained contact with two evacuees from Southampton, sent to Milborne in 1941.

Sybil married Maurice Fox at St. Andrew's Church on 12th September 1953, celebrating 62 years of marriage shortly before her death. They honeymooned in London. It was at this time that Sybil spent a year away from Milborne, firstly near Salisbury and secondly at Piddletrenthide, before returning to her birthplace for the rest of her life. Sybil and Maurice had two children, Tony and Denise, and later three granddaughters and three great-grandsons.



Sybil loved travelling, to begin with in England and Wales, but later to France, including three visits to Paris; Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. She was a fan of "The Sound of Music" and visited the film locations whilst in Salzburg one year. She also went to Oberndorf, where her favourite Christmas carol "Silent Night" was first sung; it was sung as a solo at her funeral.

She was much involved in Church affairs during the incumbency of John Spruyt (his widow, Paddi, came from Stroud for the funeral) and then at Winterborne Whitechurch when Alan Gill and later Robert Green was Rector.

Profound deafness had always been a handicap to socialising and with declining health her world revolved around her family. When she became bed-ridden she expressed a wish to be nursed at home and Tony and Denise ensured that this was possible. She died peacefully, with her family (and Maisie the dog) at her bedside on 21st September, aged 87 years.

Sybil's funeral service took place at Harbour View Woodland Burial Ground and was conducted by a long-standing friend, Rev. Colin Hodge. Tony Fox played the organ and gave the eulogy, David Pye and Michael Miller read the Lessons. Amongst the large congregation were representatives of all strands of her life - family, friends from school days, her Godchildren, past Vicars and many friends from Milborne and beyond. She was laid to rest in sight of the Purbeck Hills and Poole Harbour.

Maurice, Tony and Denise would like to thank all who sent cards, letters and messages of sympathy and all those who attended Sybil's funeral service - a fitting tribute to a daughter of Milborne.

## Dorset says no to loan sharks

THE Illegal Money Lending Team England (IMLT) working in partnership with Dorset Trading Standards have teamed up with advice and support services across Dorset to raise awareness of the dangers of illegal lenders, also known as loan sharks.

During November organisations across the county including Weymouth College, East Dorset Council, Homestart and care providers will be hosting training sessions and delivering the anti loan shark message.

The IMLT investigates and prosecutes illegal money lending criminal activity. They also help people understand finances so they are aware that there are other options available and how to access legitimate forms of credit, making them less vulnerable to loan sharks in the first place.

An estimated 310,000 households across the country are in debt to a loan shark. These criminals usually appear friendly at first but quickly trap their borrowers into spiralling debt. As the debts can't legally be enforced many lenders will resort to the most extreme and callous methods to enforce repayment including threats, violence and intimidation. Paperwork is rarely offered so victims are often in the dark as to how much they are actually paying.

Jacqui Kennedy, head of the IMLT says "If you or anyone you know has been approached by a loan shark, we need to know. The IMLT has been very successful in prosecuting illegal lenders; we know there are more out there and we need your support. Please report them, so we can stop them. Loan sharks should never be a consideration if you need to borrow money. We urge you to contact our hotline 24/7 on 0300 555 2222 with any information - calls are confidential, and can also be anonymous. The team also offers victim support for anyone involved with a loan shark. We are here to help you - it's the loan shark who is in trouble."

If you'd like to book a FREE training session for your organisation please contact your local Liaise Officer - Lin Fisher by emailing [lin.fisher@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:lin.fisher@birmingham.gov.uk) or calling 07825 904 587.

Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service check and approve businesses so you don't have to.

To report or seek advice about problems you have experienced when dealing with a trader call 08454 040506.



## 100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date - Tuesday 22nd September 2015

1st £100      Darren Francis

2nd £50.00      Lin Chatfield

No third prize this month

27th October winners will be published in the December issue.

**We are in desperate need for more people to join the 100 Club.**

The next draw is at 8.00pm in The Royal Oak, on Tuesday 1st December  
*Everyone is welcome to attend*

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

Payments may be made by a cheque payable to MSA FC and Church 100 Club  
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## A Royal Night Out (12A)

shown by 'Milborne Movies'

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

on Friday 6th November at 7.30pm

*A Royal Night Out* is a film about one perfect, glorious evening in the lives of two real-life princesses. They are Elizabeth and Margaret Windsor and the night is 8th May 1945, V-E Night. It is an affectionate 'what-if' story about the adventures Elizabeth (Sarah Gadon) and Margaret (Bel Powley) might have had on that joyous night. Elizabeth is on a mission to gauge the true mood of the people and to see how the King's radio speech has gone down, while Margaret is merely intent on following every available distraction.

Co-starring Emily Watson as the Queen Mother, the idea that the two princesses could slip out into the streets unnoticed might seem ludicrous, but Jarrold's film never lets this fairy-tale fantasy get out of hand, balancing the story with just enough plausibility.

Rather like director Julian Jarrold's 2007 film *Becoming Jane*, it takes a real-life royal incident and runs with it. With its tongue pressed firmly in its cheek, *A Royal Night Out* is a prettily decorated, politely outrageous piece of cinematic confectionary.

Playing the leads are two fine young stars: Canadian actress Sarah Gadon gives a delicately etched turn as the feisty but fiercely loyal Elizabeth, but it's British newcomer Bel Powley who steals the show as a fun-loving, party-hopping Margaret. Credit is also due to Laurence Dorman for his production design, which brilliantly recreates war-torn London. Bright, breezy and charming to the last, there's not an ounce of cynicism here.

The village hall and bar is open from 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £3.50 can be obtained on the door.

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## Flood works: we're nearly there

AT the time of writing, I am reliably informed that the final stages of the drain on The Causeway are finally to be connected. The delay has been caused by ecologist requirements of the water vole population before any further work can be done. When finished, this will complete the planned drainage system for the village starting at Huntley Down and ending below March Bridge. Also it is hoped that all riparian owners will now have received an Environment Agency information file reminding us all of our joint responsibility to maintain the river for the benefit of all. I am pleased to say that this is nearly done and with everyone's support by having an autumn clear up of the Bere, keeping leaves and debris away from drain covers plus the promise of a pump (if we need it) and our usual stoic response with sand bags and of those properties with PLP, when we next have a wet winter we can indeed protect our community and homes. Further outstanding investigations for ongoing river management are continuing with the EA and Flood Teams at DCC and a short report will be given to the Parish Council as soon as their investigations are complete.

Looking back, I am amazed at just how many people have worked on our behalf. It is never easy to publicly acknowledge any one individual so in the time honoured Strictly Come Dancing style and 'in no particular order' I would like to extend a public thank you to Andrew Gill, Stephen Malpass, Malcolm Munro and Sarah (EA), Brian Richards and Chris Osborne (DCC Flood Team), Martin Hill, Paul Eastwood, Steve Mephram and 'Dave' (Highways DCC), numerous officers and engineers from Wessex Water and finally Bob Walter, Oliver Letwin and their respective PAs.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to Jenny Balcon, David Payne, Brian Burton, Mike Brown, Rob Sawdy and Nicky Hagan for their support to me and agreeing to be part of the village Flood Group.

Please contact them or me if you have any worries or concerns.

*Steve Lord Flood Warden*

## Celebrating 70 years at the October WI

THE Women's Institute movement in Britain is this year celebrating its centenary year. Seventy years ago, in January 1945, Milborne held its own Formation meeting where 30 members enrolled and have met regularly every month since, making it one of the longest serving organisations in our village. A similar number of members and partners recently met to celebrate the occasion in the delightful surroundings of Athelhampton House, where a delicious supper and



the accompaniment of the Moonlight Swing Band all contributed immensely to the evening's enjoyment. Thanks were expressed to Jenny Preston for her not inconsiderable time and effort spent in arranging this.

Lesley reported that the skittles team, despite being resoundly beaten over the last three matches were much enjoying their get-togethers and thanked those who had turned out, sometimes at the last minute, to take part. With another match due, maybe our luck will turn!

*Coming up:* We are hosting the Carol Service on 9th December. Pub lunches will re-commence on Wednesday, 11th November. As usual, 12.30 for 1.00pm at The Royal Oak.

*Looking ahead to Christmas:* We agreed that at our annual 'bring and share' supper, at which we always exchange presents, we would instead contribute to our local charity, Mosaic. St. Andrew's Church is to hold a Christmas Tree Festival, with the theme of 'Looking forward to . . .', so, on behalf of the WI, Shirley volunteered to co-ordinate a small working party for our tree.

Gerry Spivey, local plantswoman, demonstrated how to create a winter hanging basket, by using evergreen and hardy perennials, so that by transferring the plants to the garden in spring, there would be an extra splash of colour. Finished in a very short time, the resultant basket was donated to our raffle and Sheila Burton was the lucky winner.

At our next meeting on Thursday, 12th November, Annette Williams will be looking at 'Christmas and Celebration Crafts'. Please do come along and join us at what promises to be a very seasonal meeting.

*Pat Bull*

## Divas Festival Friday

LAST year the Divas choir, (based at Winterborne Whitechurch) performed a concert in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI for the British Legion. It was a great success, and by popular demand the Divas will be returning to Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall on Friday 4th December. Musical Director Debbie Cassell will be leading a night of Carols, Christmas songs and Sing-a-longs. The doors open at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start. Tickets are £6.00 each and all profit will go to the Dorset Air Ambulance this year. There will be also be a bar to lubricate your vocal chords. So put the date in your diary, and start Christmas off with an evening of fun, laughter and song on Festive Friday Night.

You can telephone Ann Guy on 837959 to book your tickets.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning & Charity Table Top Sale**

Raising funds for Busy Bees Playgroup & The Village Hall

Includes draw buffet 50p

Where: Village Hall  
When: Saturday 7th November 10.30 - 14.30

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING 7th Nov

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Leanne - 07899808185 | Jo - 07870743538

The advertisement features a central illustration of a table set for a coffee morning. On the table are several red teacups and saucers, a chocolate cake, a stack of books, and a teddy bear. In the background, there is a display stand with various items for sale, including a doll and a teddy bear. The text is arranged around and over the illustration, providing details about the event, including the date, time, location, and contact information for bookings.



## CHURCH SERVICES November 2015

### God and us

I wonder how you might define the word "prayer", if I asked you to. The usual quick response to that question is "talking to God". But that is a very limited definition. Prayer includes talking to God, and listening to God, but I think it is much wider than both of those.

Someone once wrote that prayer is "wasting time with God". While I don't agree that any time spent with God is a waste, the sentiment behind this is that prayer is essentially about nothing more than being with God.

Prayer is not just about a shopping-list of our needs or desires. Just imagine how faulty a human relationship would be, if the only conversation was one person telling the other what they wanted. The relationship would probably not grow or develop very far.

Being with another person involves all sorts of communication, but the most important part of it is to make time for one another. The best sort of time is that which is uninterrupted by other demands and concerns, when the people can focus entirely on each other. We need times like that with God too.

But relationships with other people do not only grow and develop when we have uninterrupted moments together. People enjoy doing things with each other or sharing experiences with family and

friends. There is no reason why our being with God cannot also happen when we are with others and when we are engaged in activities.

Of course the other thing to be aware of is that God is with us wherever we are, so in that sense our whole life can become a prayer, as our awareness of God's presence increases day by day.

This month of November often brings people to church who are not usually with us on Sunday mornings. First we have the service when we remember and give thanks for all those who have died – this year on 1st November in Milborne church at 3.00pm, followed by tea. Everyone is welcome to attend, and there will be the opportunity to light a candle for the people we love who have gone before us.

And then there is Remembrance Sunday, when we focus on conflict and its casualties and pledge again to working for peace.

Both these occasions are opportunities for prayer, a chance to join with others, aware of God's presence, to remember, give thanks, and express our desires and wishes for the world and its people to God. Do come and join us.

With best wishes

*Sarah Hillman*

#### 1st NOVEMBER – All Saints' Day

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Patronal Festival Songs of Praise	Dewlish
3.00pm	Service of remembrance and thanksgiving for those who have died plus tea	Milborne

#### 8th NOVEMBER – Remembrance Sunday

(No 8.15am Service at Puddletown this month)

9.30am	United Methodist Service	Tolpuddle
10.00	Service of Remembrance (followed by procession to the Memorial Stone for 11.00am)	Milborne
10.50	Remembrance Day Service (starting at the War Memorial at the Crossroads)	Dewlish
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
3.00pm	Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance	Puddletown

#### 15th NOVEMBER – 2 before Advent

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Prayer (said)	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion with emptying of Children's Society Boxes	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

#### THURSDAY 19th November

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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#### 22nd NOVEMBER – Christ the King

9.30am	Coffee, Pastries + Worship Together (10am)	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown
11.00	Family Communion	Dewlish

#### 29th NOVEMBER – Advent Sunday

10.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
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#### MORNING PRAYERS (Monday – Thursday 8.15am Saturday 9.00am)

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



## News from St Andrew's church

### Harvest Flower Festival at St Andrew's

OUR annual Harvest Flower Festival at the beginning of October was a great success. The flower arrangers, some experienced and some doing it for the first time, excelled themselves and the church looked beautiful with arrangements on the theme of 'We Give Thanks to . . .'. There was a good stream of visitors over the weekend who availed themselves of tea and cakes, and there was a good congregation for the 'Celebrate Harvest' service on Sunday. We have been able to take a good quantity of 'dry goods' to the Longmead Community in Milborne and the Blandford and Dorchester Food Banks. Food parcels were delivered to a few people in the village, and the rest of the garden produce was taken to Dewlish to be auctioned in aid of Water Aid and Christian Blind Mission.

### Confirmation Classes in Milborne

A series of confirmation classes will be held at a time and place suited to those who wish to take part. If anyone is interested in confirmation, or would like to join us for a 'refresher course', please get in touch with Sarah Hillman. Confirmation is open to anyone who has been baptised in the Church of England, and who is now ready to make a public commitment of faith. It is also possible to be confirmed if you were baptised in another denomination recognised by the Church of England. If you have not been baptised and would like to be confirmed, it is possible for both to take place during the same service or for us to arrange a baptism locally before the confirmation service.

### Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those who have died

Our annual service for the benefice is at 3.00pm on Sunday 1st November in Milborne St Andrew church. Relatives of those who have had a funeral in church or through the church at the crematorium have received invitations to this service. However, everybody is welcome. If there is someone in particular you would like named and remembered at the service, please let Sarah know. Tea and cakes will be served afterwards.

### Result of Milborne's 'Ride and Stride' for DHCT

The 'Ride and Stride' sponsorship money collected by Milborne cyclists and walkers in October's event has reached £447. This will be shared between the fund for our church building and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust who gives grants towards the cost of maintaining old churches like Milborne.

### Annual Christmas Market

Our Annual Christmas Market will be held in Milborne village hall on November 28th between 12.00 and 2.00pm. Father Christmas will be there with games for the children (and adults) to enjoy. As well as lovely home made refreshments and a tombola, there will be cakes, gifts, and Christmas decorations to buy. If anyone would like to help please contact Eva (01258 837468).

### Christmas Tree Festival

This year the benefice Christmas Tree Festival will be at Milborne. It will be opened at the carol service on Saturday 19th December. We would like to encourage all groups in the village to decorate a tree on the theme 'What I am looking forward to'.

### We need your Support!!

Do come along to support St. Andrews Parish Church at all these events. If you would like to help you would be most welcome – we are not all church-goers! The church is a village asset and as there may be some expensive repairs required to the church building we need the village to help us restore it to a useable condition.

*Pam Shults and John Wright*

## Dewlish Church Notes

### A wonderful array for Harvest Festival

ALL SAINTS' Church looked splendid for Harvest Festival: full of beautiful rich-coloured flowers and a wonderful array of fruit and vegetables (not forgetting Jim's now-famous harvest loaf!). Thank you so much to our very talented flower arrangers, and to all who gave so generously.

The next evening we held our Harvest Supper and Auction, which was, once more, a resounding success. About 60 people sat down to enjoy a superb supper prepared by the ladies, and we cannot let this pass without mentioning Marg's lovely apple crumbles. Indeed, she worked extremely hard in the organisation of the supper, so a well-deserved especial thank-you to her.

The auction of produce, again conducted so wonderfully and amusingly by Andrew, raised £332. This is to be divided between Water Aid and the Christian Blind Mission.

Thank you, Andrew, for doing such a great job, and a huge thank-you, too, to all who worked so hard to make the evening a big success. The supper raised £358.50 and this will be used towards the expenses of running our church.

Jim has been busy collecting in his sponsor money from the Dorset Historic Churches Trust's "Ride and Stride" day. At the time of writing it looks as if he has raised just over £2,000, which means that Dewlish Church will benefit by £1,000. He visited 34 churches and rode over 60 miles, so well done, Jim, and, of course, many thanks to everyone who sponsored him so generously.

### November services in Dewlish

Our service on Sunday 1st November will be a **Patronal Festival Songs of Praise** at 11.00am. This year it will fall on the actual day – All Saints' Day.

The **Service of Remembrance** is on Sunday 8th November, beginning at 10.50am at the War Memorial on the crossroads, and then in church. Please come to remember those who gave their lives for us all.

And looking forward even further, here's a date for your diary: our **Christmas Bazaar** will be held on Saturday 5th December at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Further details next month. *Daphne Burg*

## ALAN AVERY 1931–2015

Alan Avery was born in Bristol in November 1931. During the war he and his sister were evacuated to Street and Ilchester in Somerset, and he then won a scholarship to the Cathedral School Bristol. He loved his maths and science and won a scholarship to Jesus College Oxford where he read Physics before doing three years of National Service in the RAF, after which he worked at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell for about 15 years.

Rugby football was a passion of his from a young age and he played at school, university and Harwell. Alan then moved to his bungalow in Wetherby Close some 45 years ago when he transferred to work at the UK Atomic Energy Authority, Winfrith. His sister has many happy memories of holidays here with days out and about in Dorset. Alan joined the Dorset and Wilts Society of RFU Referees' committee in 1974 and was the Dorset Area Organiser from 1975 to 1984. He served as Hon Secretary of Dorset and Wilts Referees' Society from 1984 to 2011 – a total of 27 years – and he was elected a Life Member in 2011. On the field Alan refereed until 1986 and continued to coach, assess and advise referees until 2011.

Alan was also a keen Bridge player and in Milborne always enjoyed his Village Lunch each month, but his health deteriorated at the beginning of this summer and by August the care that was provided for him at home was not enough so he moved to a care home in Gloucestershire to be near his sister. Sadly he died four days later.

I have only known Alan for a few years but he was always kind, patient, courteous and grateful for all the help he received. He was highly respected by all who knew him at work and on the rugby field and will be widely missed. A large number of friends attended his funeral in Bristol at the beginning of October.

*John Wright*

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### Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784

E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@tesco.net

### Churchwardens

*Milborne St. Andrew*

John Wright 01258 839090 Pam Shults 01258 837203

### *Dewlish*

Jim Burg 01258 837466 Sue Britton 01258 837218

### Benefice Office

Marion Bishop puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

or by telephone on 07812 687266

### Do you need a lift to church?

If you have difficulty getting to church or need transport when the Benefice Service is at another church, we can arrange transport for you. Please contact Pam on 837203 or John on 839090.



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## A Christmas Carol

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on Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm

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*Christmas is coming, The Goose is panicking  
Living Spit are back to start your Christmas with a zing*

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We all know the story. We've all seen the film(s). But who's the best Scrooge of all time? Albert Finney? Alistair Sim? Patrick Stewart? Well, just hold your horses there, Sir/Madam! Because you've yet to witness the actor Howard Coggins's unique take on the eponymous anti-hero of Dickens' festive masterpiece. Like a coiled spring he waits in the wings, ready to take up the mantle and give the performance of his career as the mean miserabilist, Ebenezer Scrooge. And he's brought Stu McLoughlin along for the ride to dress up, sing, dance and generally act like a complete idiot whilst playing ALL the other parts.

With silly songs, pitiful puppetry and more Dickensian daftness than you can shake a selection box at, Living Spit's Christmas Carol promises to be a feast of festive foolery that you will never forget.

Age Recommendation 14+. The village hall and bar is open from 7.00pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

**Tickets £9** which can be obtained from Londis Village Shop in Milborne St. Andrew or from Alice and Roger Harrall by phoning 01258 839230.

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## Foodie Quiz . . . part 2

The answers all have something to do with food or matters pertaining to food. Think ingredients, veggies, fruit, cheese, meat, fish, recipes, desserts, sweets, booze, celebrities, anything vaguely connected to food and drink. May seem hard to begin with, but crossword *nuts* will be in there like a *shot* so get the little grey cells working

26. Pop eye's lass .....
27. Eat all.....
28. Ocean singer.....
29. Rubbish and.....
30. Old haircut.....
31. Charred pain.....
32. Handy tool.....
33. Russian ass .....
34. Spoken greeting for older Spanish relative .....
35. Wrong fruit for coniferous tree.....
36. The Irish winner minus an atom.....
37. Astronomer's dish .....
38. Reply to head cook's orders .....
39. All kinds of sweet cold drinks .....
40. Insect, sort of not singing .....
41. From age, Marie Antoinette's alternative .....
42. Twice Dr Foster's destination .....
43. Complicated funny story .....
44. Veronica on her own - with fruits of the vine and the sea .....
45. Normally on the clock.....
46. Me coughing at art in the round .....
47. Mother's transport on me speaking for the camera .....
48. On line swearing.....
49. Flash tie .....
50. Old fashioned muscle.....

Answers can be found on page 35. Look out for part three in a future edition of the *Reporter*.

## Run For Your Wife

THE Milborne Players generally stage a play or two in the autumn season and this year they took on Ray Cooney's "Run For Your Wife". This was a directorial debut for Harry Thomas with the Players and was a riot of laughs from start to finish.

The play centres on bigamist taxi driver John Smith (Andy Coetzee) and the unravelling of his complex life shared between Wimbledon and Streatham. His wives Barbara (Adrienne Rogers) and Mary (Jo Coetzee) know nothing of each other, but come very close to discovering the secrets after their husband suffers a bout of concussion. The detectives in the suburbs, played by Bill Preston and Anita Wareham, come close to unveiling the truth, but they are regularly thrown off course by neighbourly interventions from Stanley - "that's another fine mess you've got me into" (Gren Elphinstone-Davis) and Bobby (Jon Riddle).



Written back in the early 1980s this was an adult play, not without a few lines that might make you wince in this more politically correct era. The Players dealt with the challenging fast paced script admirably under the direction of Harry and the background production team and front of house staff ensured it was a high quality event. I thoroughly enjoyed the play on its first night when the village hall rang with laughter as the story took shape. Well done to all the Players. We're all looking forward to panto time in 2016!

*Helen Pugh*

## Winterborne Whitechurch Wind Farm – No Appeal

THE planning application for a wind farm consisting of four turbines with a tip height of 125 metres, was turned down by the planning committee in a meeting on 17th March this year. The developer, Renewable Energy Generation, had until 17th September to appeal that decision. As no appeal was received by that date, the planning process is now regarded as concluded and the project will not go ahead. This does not preclude anyone making an entirely new application. For now those who spent a lot of time and effort in opposing the siting of these very large turbines so close to both Winterborne Whitechurch and the Area of Outstanding Natural beauty can relax.

In the meantime, at the time of writing this in late September, there is still no news about a decision on the Tolpuddle wind farm application. The lack of movement has however put in doubt the level of subsidies that would be paid for any electricity generated by the wind farm should development go ahead. This is because Amber Rudd, the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change, has put in place a planning permission deadline of 18th June 2015 for onshore wind farm developments to receive the full subsidy. *Pete Constant*



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# The Hambro Arms Milton Abbas

## Christmas Party Menu

*Amuse Bouche*

Chefs' chicken liver parfait

*Starter*

Smoked salmon & crab rillettes with mixed leaves

Whole roasted garlic with basil and pine nut pesto and toasted homemade bread

Roasted parsnip and chestnut soup with croutons and crusty baguette

Oven-baked camembert with a cranberry and hazelnut crumb served with mixed leaves

*Main Courses*

Traditional roasted turkey served with pistachio and apricot stuffing, "pigs in blankets", seasonal vegetables & red berry jus

Slow-roasted pork belly served with homemade sweet apple sauce, seasonal vegetables and a red wine jus

Pan-fried sea bass served with saffron dauphinoise potatoes, pan-fried samphire and a creamy fish veloute

Balsamic-glazed goats cheese and caramelized onion wellington served with wilted spinach and seasonal vegetables

*Desserts*

Traditional Christmas pudding served with a brandy crème anglaise

Dark chocolate fondant served with a winter berry compote and Madagascan vanilla ice cream

Crème brûlée served with cinnamon shortbread

Sticky toffee pudding served with a butterscotch sauce and Cornish ice cream

All three courses £24.95

(£10 non-refundable deposit per person required)

## Christmas Day & New Years Eve

We are offering a full 5-course Christmas Lunch that is already almost fully booked. We are also holding a New Years Eve Gala Dinner.

Both menus are now available to view on our website.

## November Sunday Lunch

We are now serving food from 12 noon until 7:30pm every Sunday. We are offering our normal a la carte menu supplemented by a choice of roasts.

This offer has proved so successful that we are extending it through November. It gives readers a voucher which entitles you to two or three courses at a substantial saving of up to 40% on the normal price

All tables must be booked in advanced mentioning that you will be using the voucher.

The voucher must be produced when the bill is requested

## Sunday Lunch Offer

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**Sunday 8th November**   
**Remembrance Sunday - Tank Museum, Bovington**  
**£7.50 return**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 18th November**  
**Stewarts Garden Centre, Wimborne**  
**£6.50 return**

**Sunday 29th Christmas Party - Sorry, fully booked**

## A Feast of Folk Songs

from the Briantspuddle Singers with Sam Hanson and Bryony Purdue at West Lulworth Village Hall, BH20 5SG 21st November 7.30pm

A DELICIOUS pre-Christmas Feast which will satisfy, without piling on the pounds . . . a dream? Not for the Briantspuddle Singers and their musical director Rob Dishington, who will serve a banquet of British and American Folk songs, arranged by composers on both sides of the global village pond.

Music lovers may recognise some familiar arrangements by Vaughan-Williams, Grainger, Copeland and Barber. However there are also some lesser known surprises, with Cecilia McDowell's stunningly dramatic and humorous version of *Oh No John*, and the hauntingly expressive arrangement by Holst of the Cornish folk song, *I Love My Love*.

The feast will be seasoned to perfection by jazz, blues and opera soprano-soloist Bryony Purdue, who has performed with Consortium Musicum, a Dorset-based vocal quartet as well as choral and classical solo concerts, weddings, fashion shows and other events. Bryony is currently setting out on a promising career in singing, both classically and through writing and recording her own compositions. Our pianist will be the amazing and versatile Sam Hanson - director of music in Bournemouth Town Centre Parish - who has performed widely throughout the South West.



The banquet will be served piping hot in Lulworth Village Hall, West Lulworth (BH20 5SG) on 21st November at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 on the door, or from the Box Office 01929 554055, or mail@briantspuddlesingers.co.uk. *Angela Goodman*

## Faster Broadband for Milborne

OVER the summer, BT have been busy upgrading the Milborne telephone exchange from ADSL to ADSL2. This means that the theoretical maximum download speed has increased from 8mbs to 20mbs. As before, the actual speed that you will get will depend on several factors including time of day (peak times), the distance you are from the exchange, the condition of your household wiring and the equipment that you are using.

There are several websites you can use to check your broadband speed, such as, but not limited to...

<http://www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk>

<http://www.speedtest.net>

If you believe that you are not benefiting from the changes, then the advice from BT is to contact your internet service provider.

Further good news is that the village is currently scheduled to get Superfast Fibre broadband as part of the Superfast Dorset project by the end of this year. This should mean a minimum of 24mbs download speeds for those who want to switch to cable.

For further details on the Superfast Dorset project, visit <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/superfast> *Pete Constant*

## Bus2Go

### A New Partnership is Formed

DURING the summer Bus2Go met and worked alongside RVS (Royal Voluntary Service) befriender for Blandford and DT11, Dee Bonham Christie. We are pleased to report that the service continues to develop. More to follow next month.

In September, our busy schedule continued for us as we waved a fond farewell to summer. One of our extra outings and a first for Bus2Go was a matinee performance of 'When You're Smiling' at The Exchange in Sturminster. Neil Sands, compère and 'lead' of the travelling show certainly did that. For our last outing in September, we went to Goulds Garden Centre, and a very special guest joined us for the outing, Charlotte Foot, weather and travel presenter from BBC Radio Solent. Charlotte interviewed our volunteers and



passengers including Nona (she is 102 years young). Our Christmas Lunch and Show at Bashley is sold out; we have 50 passengers booked for an afternoon of fun. Due to popular demand we are off to the panto at Weymouth Pavilion on the 19th December £23.00 per person to include show, ice cream at interval and return bus fare.

Since our launch in spring 2012, we have visited 122 locations, the majority of them being in Dorset and have hired 186 buses. This figure is set to rise as on our now weekly outings we hire at least two buses for each outing.

We look forward to welcoming you on board very soon.

*Margo* [www.buszgodorset.org](http://www.buszgodorset.org)

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10 The Rings, Milborne St Andrew, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 OHY



## Are you interested in fun outdoor activities and working with children? If so, then Milborne St. Andrew Scout Group are looking for you!

BASED at our Village Hall, Milborne St. Andrew Scout Group offers a full Scouting programme to boys and girls from six to eighteen years. We are presently seeking both Cub and Scout Leaders and assistant leaders to help run those sections, meeting in the Village Hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings. A brief description of the role is given below, if you might be interested, or would like more information, please contact: Brian Burton, Group Scout Leader on 01258 839033 or email: msascoutgroup@yahoo.co.uk

### The Role of Scout Leader

A Cub or Scout Leader is responsible for *managing* and *leading* a Cub Pack or Scout Troop. The leader's main tasks are:

- working with assistant leaders, young leaders and other helpers, to deliver a fun and active programme for the Cubs and Scouts.
- to ensure that the programme is both safe and legal.
- to keep records of membership, achievement, finance, etc.
- to attend meetings of the Group Executive Committee and Group Scouters Meetings.
- to complete training appropriate for the role.
- to maintain good communications with Scouts and their parents.

### Notes:

This amounts to a direct commitment for the two hours of the normal weekly troop meeting, and about one additional meeting a term – Executive Committee, Group Scouters Meeting, or District Scouters. There is, of course, a certain amount of preparation and background work associated with the weekly meetings.

Leaders are expected to complete their training during their first three years, usually starting with a couple of weeknight evenings, followed by up to three residential weekends. (If residential weekends aren't convenient for you, there are other ways of doing the training.)

Some parts of the leader's roles can be delegated to others – **No new leader will be left without support**, and apart from within the Group, there is always an active District team available to provide help and advice. The Group Executive Committee (drawn from parents and leaders) is also there to provide help and support.

Finally, the role description does *not* require the Scout Leader to be expert in traditional Scouting skills, able to light fires by rubbing two sticks together or improvise a comfortable tent out of a handkerchief and a bit of string. Outdoor activities such as camping, fires, hiking, pioneering and tracking form part of the scouting programme, but the running of these activities can readily be delegated, or learned very easily.



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## A Good Read by Shirley Dunkley "The Last Chronicle of Barset"

by Anthony Trollope



I HAVE been indulging myself this summer re-reading Anthony Trollope and this book is the last of the six book Barchester series. It is also probably the finest from a literary point of view. The novels are set in the imaginary county of Barsetshire and concern the army of clergymen in the diocese and their relationship with the local gentry. There are many characters in this book whom we have met in the earlier books: Septimus Harding from *The Warden*. Lily Dale and John Eames from *The Small House at*

*Allington*, the Thornes from *Dr Thorne*, Bishop and Mrs Proudie who crop up in all of them and, above all, Josiah Crawley who appears briefly in *Framley Parsonage*. The Reverend Crawley is the impoverished minister of a slum parish called Hoggerston, a proud, highly intelligent but difficult and embittered man who is accused of stealing a cheque for £20. He cannot account for how it came into his possession and throughout the novel we watch his first appearance before the Magistrates and then his committal to the Assizes and the effects his situation has both on him, his family and the wider clerical establishment. His determination to resist any kind of help drives a painful narrative – he is a hard man to like.

In between the chapters which focus on this powerful and near tragic tale there are others set in London where Trollope's satirical eye rests with comic pleasure on the nouveau riche, the husband seeking, would be genteel ladies and the lazy and pompous members of the Civil Service. John Eames is the character who links the two worlds together and Trollope shows consummate skill in the way he brings those familiar from other novels into the narrative so that the reader never feels under informed. Several different marriages are explored in detail and, before psychoanalysis was ever developed, Trollope presents psychologically interesting and complex characters, moral themes on the nature of goodness and godliness, the reality of two deaths. Reading this extensive (900 pages) and profound novel is like opening a vast plum pudding and pulling out luscious morsels. If you have the time and appetite I urge you to share my passion.



ANKERS & RAWLINGS, the owners of the remaining undeveloped land at Fox View, are anticipating that they will start development towards the end of this year or very early next year. The development will consist of four terraced properties and one detached. All the properties will be privately owned. Completion is planned for September 2016.

In the meantime, the site has been noticeably tidied up following the theft of the original fencing surrounding the site. It is believed that one person has been arrested for the theft, but the stolen fencing remains missing.

Pete Constant

# 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](http://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
<b>Floods</b> A354 problems contact the Highways Agency		0300 1235000
Dorset Direct		01305 221000
<a href="mailto:dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk">dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems">www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems</a>		
Environment Agency Floodline		0845 9881188
South West Highways <a href="mailto:hello@swhitd.co.uk">hello@swhitd.co.uk</a>		01404 821500
Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline		0345 8505959

## GENERAL – ADULT

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	Josie Wright	01258 839090

## GENERAL – YOUTH

Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group	Mike Mullett	01258 837114
Secretary:	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Leanne Brown	07899 808185
	Lianne Hall	07846 256694
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
Home watch Co-ordinator	Joy Robinson	01258 837661

## SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Hunt	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Miss Jane Pope	
Friends of School Chair:	Becky Hunter	

## SPECIAL INTEREST

Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	John Maddell	01258 837954
MSA Gardening Club	Richard Lock	01258 837929
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
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	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Colin Chastey	01258 882162
Football – Adult	Jamie Haylock	07894 685893

Football – Treasurer	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Football – Minis	Nicola Malone	07788 217579
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07540626174
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club Chairman	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Bookings:	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Table Tennis	Pauline Pitfield	01258 839123
Tap Dancing for Adults	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Tennis	Dennis Nelson	01258 837734
Tennis (Members Secretary)	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Yoga (at school)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at village hall)	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230

## VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chairman/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
Milborne St. Andrew Surgery		01258 837383
Milton Abbas Surgery		01258 880210
Puddletown Surgery		01305 848333
NHS for emergencies		111
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 881709



### Milborne Movies

Friday 6th November  
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

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## A ROYAL NIGHT OUT

IN CINEMAS MAY 15



Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

Tickets £3.50

# Community Events Diary

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

## November

- Wednesday 4th** **Wednesday Club** making Christmas decorations. Village Hall 2.00pm – see page 3.
- Friday 6th** **A Royal Night Out** shown by 'Milborne Movies' at Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 8 and 18.
- Saturday 7th** **Macmillan Coffee Morning** and a charity table top sale. Village Hall 10.30pm – see pages 2 and 9.
- Thursday 12th** **WI Annette Williams** will be looking at 'Christmas and Celebration Crafts' – see page 9.
- Saturday 14th** **Reporter** latest date for the November issue.
- Wednesday 18th** **Parish Council** Village Hall Committee Room 7.30pm see October's report on page 27.
- Thursday 19th** **Gardening Club Discovering Dorset and AGM** with mulled wine and mince pies *Rev Timbrell* Village Hall 7.30pm.
- Saturday 21st** **Village Quiz** Village Hall – see page 3.
- Saturday 28th** **Annual Christmas Market** Village Hall 12 noon to 2.00pm. Village Hall – see pages 11 and below.

## December

- Tuesday 1st** **100 Club** draw The Royal Oak 8.00pm – see page 27 for latest winners.
- Wednesday 2nd** **A Christmas Carol** with Living Spit in partnership with Artsreach Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 12.
- Friday 4th** **Divas Concert** Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 9.
- Saturday 5th** **Christmas Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm. Everyone welcome. Tickets and information from 839090 or 837543 – see page 2 for menu.

## 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)
- Wednesday Club** first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
- Yoga** Thursday 1.30–2.45pm MH
- Gardening Club** third 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
- Youth Club 8–14 years** every other Friday MH (term time only)
- Village Lunch** last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm 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 6.30–8.00pm (term time only)
- Badminton** Wednesday 7.00–8.30pm (term time only)
- Circuit training** Thursday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only)

## November at the Sports Club

- Every Saturday football Milborne or Corfe Mullen 2.30pm.**
- Table Tennis** Monday 7.00–9.00pm. Information from Pauline Pitfield 01258 839123
- The Busy Bees** Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Wendy Britton on 07867 720283.
- Milborne Mini Soccer**  
Our training sessions will be altering slightly with all training sessions on a Wednesday night, and additional training for next year's under 11's on a Saturday morning. Matches will be played on Sunday morning and afternoons.  
Under 11s Stuart Joyce 01258 456594.  
Under 8s Nicky 01258 837919.  
Under 7s Nicky 01258 837919.

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



## St Andrew's Church



## Christmas Market

**28th November 2015**  
**12.00 — 2 pm**  
In the  
**Village Hall**

Father Christmas  
will be in Milborne  
again this year.  
Come and meet him



**Kids craft activities**  
**Games**  
**Toys and lucky dip**  
**Gifts** **Craft sales**  
**Mulled wine**  
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**Mince pies**  
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## Milborne 100 Club

1st PRIZE £100    2nd PRIZE £50  
3rd PRIZE depends on number of members paid  
For only £1 a week you can have three chances for a prize in every draw (minimum £5.00)  
*Please make cheques payable to*  
MSA FC and Church 100 Club  
For information contact:  
John Sanderson    Football Club    837049  
June Maitland    Church    837235  
Denise Sanderson    Collector    837049

## Chuck out those Marigolds

AFTER a lot of consultation and discussion the village hall committee have agreed to buy and install a dishwasher so there will be less need to roll up your sleeves and put on your rubber gloves in the near future. Frequent users will be contacted, once the machine is in place, as they will need to be instructed in its use.

A big thanks for all those who helped and supported the fabulous Barn Dance, it has helped towards the funding needed to install a new play park. Upcoming fundraising events this year include a Race night, a Bingo night and of course the regular films and the Artsreach events. These will all be advertised nearer the time.

Don't forget the hall is for hire for any Christmas parties or private functions. Act now to secure your booking via email [msavillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:msavillagehall@gmail.com) or phone 01258 837033. *Pam Shults*

## Who we are at Ladybirds

LADYBIRDS have been learning about themselves and what makes them special. The children studied their faces in mirrors then made paper plate faces of themselves. They lay on large paper and were drawn around before painting themselves. The photo shows two of the 'bodies' that were displayed around the room. Some children were very particular in their choice of colours, even replicating the stripes of their jumpers. One child spent ages carefully keeping within the lines using just pink as that is her favourite colour! Whatever the end product they were all individual.

We talked about where we live and went for short walks around the village passing some of the children's homes - which they excitedly told us was their house.

In the afternoon sessions we are looking at favourite stories. First we looked at The Three Billy Goats

Gruff. The children had opportunities to retell the story with our farm animals and Liz's very old troll (I expect some of you also had a troll toy when you were a child). We also have a new Velcro board and made the characters to tell the story on the board. And of course we did cooking - goats cheese and pesto puffs.

Now that it's autumn we will be learning all about change and hopefully going on more walks.

*Liz Dyer*



### Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

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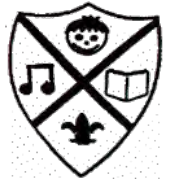
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Early Birds 8.30-9.00  
Session 9.00-12.00  
Lunch Club 12.00-13.00

To find out more please contact  
Liz Dyer (Leader) 01258 839117 or 07771 512427  
Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044  
[www.milborneladybirds.org.uk](http://www.milborneladybirds.org.uk)



# Milborne St. Andrew First School



## Learning together, playing together; all for one, one for all School News

EARLIER this month The Sculptured Musical Instrument was installed in the playground. This has been part of a long term plan for improvements and enhancements to the playground area and has been jointly funded by Friends of School and the Ernest Cook Trust. (Thank you to all who made and bought cakes all year!)

It consists of three panels which have the children's carvings and chime bars and marimba between. It was set up next to our fairly recently established outdoor stage, in the hope that the children will combine both. A workshop for small groups of children was led by Eliot who created the instrument for us.

After explaining about the origins of the instrument the children began to explore. This was followed by some work on listening to each other. The children went on to learn about call and response activities and by the end of the session were working as a group to create arrangements.

They had a lovely day and are looking forward to many more opportunities to show off their musical skills.

On Thursday 15th October all children in years 1-4 visited St. Andrew's church with staff and parents for our Harvest Celebration. Donations of food items were collected by school and donated to the Dorchester Food Bank. Seahorses class held their own celebration earlier in the week and enjoyed baking bread together.



If your child is eligible to start school for the first time in September 2016, we would be delighted to welcome you at our open day on Wednesday 11th November, 9.30-11.30am. Please contact the school office if you would like to attend or to make alternative arrangements if these times are not convenient.

For full details of how to apply for a school place please see [www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions). If you don't have access to the internet please call 01305 221060 to request a paper copy of the application form and Parent Guide. The closing date for on-line applications is 15th January 2016.

### CONTACTS

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

**Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hunt      **Secretary, School Office:** Mrs Lynn Pearcey

**Chair of Governors:** Miss Jane Pope      **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Becky Hunter

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

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# Round Robin Ramblers

*the local villages walking group*

Walks are normally held on the first Sunday and the third Wednesday of each month. Please join us as we enjoy exercise, good company and the wonderful Dorset countryside. **Any questions, please feel free to contact: Ian Bromilow, 01258-880044.**

**Sunday 1st November – 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 18th November – 11.00am**

**Farnham and the Cranborne Chase**

Meet outside the Museum Inn in Farnham

Grid reference: ST 957152 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 6.5 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

**Sunday 6th December – 1.30pm (note earlier time)**

**Chettle and the Tarrant Valley**

Park near the village hall in Tarrant Gunville

Grid reference: ST 925128 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles)

## **Please note:**

**Who** All welcome including well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners. No pre-booking required just turn up.

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

**Bring** Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

**Pace** We go at the pace of the slowest.

**Terrain** Expect mud, inclines and stiles.

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

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

## **End of the road**

*by Josie Wright*

The shabby velvet curtains are roughly pulled together shutting out most of the evening's sleety rain. The dim light in its lopsided shade throws dark shadows on the walls. A dusty strand from a spider's web swings forlornly to and fro. The sagging armchair is pulled close to the small electric fire struggling to heat the room. The old dog sleeps fitfully beside it and dreams of other days. On the table nearby is a plate; a few peas and some congealed gravy are all that remains of the meal. Beside it a large envelope with foreign stamps has spilled out a letter and photographs of laughing children. In the distant kitchen, a kettle shrills, the dog raises his head and growls quietly, a sigh and slow plodding steps and then again silence.

## **THE MILBORNE PLAYERS**

[www.milborneplayers.org.uk](http://www.milborneplayers.org.uk)

Thanks to everyone who supported "Run for your Wife" in September. We now move into Panto mode with:

## **"SINBAD in SPACE"**

written and directed by Ron Karley

February 2016

Rehearsals have now been launched, so watch this space for further updates!

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## In your Garden

Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *designerGardens*

## Your Garden in November

FALLEN leaves and the threat of frost make this month a key time for a good old clear up.

Tender plants such as cannas and ginger will need winter protection and now is the time to bring them indoors before they get damaged by frost. If you are going to leave dahlias outside, cut back the top growth after it has been blackened by frost and then mulch with compost or straw.

Agapanthus crowns can be damaged by frost quite easily even if they are in the ground, so it's best to protect them with a layer of straw or well-rotted compost. Tree ferns also need winter protection: protect the fronds by putting a handful of straw in the crown and fold the fronds in on themselves. The trunks can be further protected in extremely cold weather by wrapping in layers of fleece/hessian.

Whatever you do, don't cover your plants with polythene or plastic bags – this creates excess condensation which will freeze on the leaves and the plant will more than likely rot and die. If left outside, plants in containers are especially vulnerable as the frost can penetrate the container and kill the roots. You can protect your containers by moving them to a more sheltered position in the garden – grouped together and close to the house is ideal. If they can't be moved (as many are far

too heavy) then insulate them by wrapping the container (only) in bubble wrap; the plant can then be protected with horticultural fleece. It is also a good idea to put 'pot feet' underneath to prevent



waterlogging – another classic cause of cracked pots and damaged plant roots.

Seedheads left on perennials amongst the evergreen shrubs provide food for the birds and some additional winter interest. Verbena bonariensis and Echinacea have good seed heads and grasses are the ideal winter interest plant, wafting around in the breeze. You can leave piles of leaves in the border as long as they are not smothering the plants, and certainly clear the leaves away from herbs and Mediterranean plants that like dry winter conditions.

Of course, the berries on trees and shrubs provide a burst of colour for many months. Viburnum opulus 'Compactum' has lush red fruits and looks good planted with the holly Ilex aquifolium 'Amber' with its sulphur yellow berries.

Callicarpa bodinieri comes into its own in winter with fruit the colour of a blackcurrant dessert – it is quite a boring shrub most of the year, but worth planting if you have the space for its unusual late autumn berries. The berries of pyracantha glow in the winter light as do the berries of sorbus and cotoneaster.

Malus (crab apples) are good value trees and earn their keep in the garden. Not only do you have flowers in early summer, you have

autumn leaves in reds and yellows and to top it all masses of small crab apples. I have planted a Malus 'Gorgeous' (I just love the name) and it is a picture with many bright red crab apples hanging on the tree like Christmas decorations.



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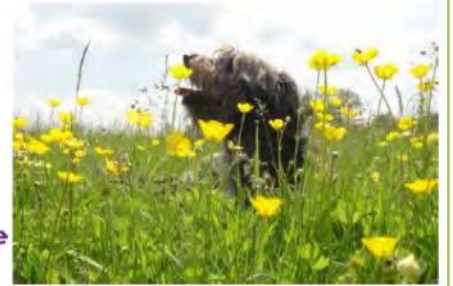
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# Parish Council Meeting 21st October This Month in History: November

THE meeting opened with matters from the floor, chief of which was concern about how the Council had approached a meeting with Developers to discuss their possible responses to a possible planning application. Councillors were happy that the broad matters discussed were a good opportunity for them to make points regarding infrastructure, drainage, etc. before any application. They welcomed the developer approaching them openly beforehand, rather than surprising them with the contents of an application.

Concern was expressed about the lack of safe refuge for pedestrians or vehicles on The Causeway in the event that a large oncoming vehicle is met now that the splay outside 'Catkins' is blocked by bollards and the pull-in outside the Village Hall blocked by a parked vehicle. It was suggested that we ask people not to park in the pull-in outside the village hall, to mitigate the problem.

Concern about the completion of the drains under the causeway will be raised with Hilary Cox.

The District Councillors sent their apologies.

Cllr. Balcon declared an interest for discussing matters related to the Scouts.

Neighbourhood Watch – cars were keyed in Chapel Street recently. If you notice similar damage to your car please report it to the Police. A gang from Poole was responsible for the break-in at the Sports Club. Three of them are now in prison for that and other crimes. Enquiries about a white van parked outside Greenacres late at night will be followed up by Cllr Robinson.

The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. Volunteers are still needed if you are keen to help with the Plan.

Figures from Hilary Cox state that the full cost of remedial works along The Causeway and Milton Road was £230,000, with the Environment Agency funding most of it. The Clerk was asked to challenge these figures. Concerns were expressed that the grids are breaking up already.

Correspondence – The council has been asked for its view about overcrowding on the X12 bus at certain times.

The Council has also been approached by various agencies regarding their opinion and experience as nitrates are flooding into Poole Harbour with Milborne identified as one source. Wessex Water discharges nitrated water into the stream from boreholes at the Milborne pumping station and have been doing so legally for twenty years. The matter is now with the Environment Agency.

Planning Application – Manor Farm Lane. A dwelling with a detached garage and vehicular access on the sloped section of the ground cleared of trees recently. The proposed roof ridge height will be much higher than 'Hillside' and 'Bears Den' and overlook the bedrooms and gardens of other houses in Little England. The Council will respond supporting the application but requesting a reduction in the roof height of the proposed dwelling to fit in with other homes in the area.

Reconciled Accounts and Budget Report were discussed. They will not be printed for the meetings in future as they are available on the Parish Council website. Sports Club payments are now up to date.

Process for setting the Budget for 2016–17 – agreed that the Clerk would present some options to Councillors for their consideration and approval.

Pilot projects with Parish Councils taking on more responsibilities, such as verge cutting, litter control, etc. are under way. Some funding will follow these responsibilities but the precept would have to rise and it was doubted that a corresponding reduction in Council Tax to District Councils will happen.

A proposal for the councillors' email list to include members of the public on request was discussed. Much of the material is on the website along with meeting agendas, Minutes and all supporting documentation and correspondence. Councillors are welcome to forward non-confidential information to the people they represent.

After approving the cheque schedule, the meeting ended at around 9.20pm.

Susan Wilson

## Births

**2nd November 1755** – Marie Antoinette, Queen of France from 1774–1792, is born in Vienna, Austria. Known as the Austrian Woman "L'Autrichienne" by an ever-growing number of French people who did not like her, she is immortalised as saying "let them eat cake" in reference to the food shortages in France that left many of the French peasantry dead due to starvation. The quote however is regarded today as a journalistic cliché, with no actual evidence of her ever saying it.

**10th November 1944** – Sir Tim Rice was born in Amersham, England. He is a lyricist famed for his work with Andrew Lloyd-Webber (*Chess Moves, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar*). Rice was also behind a West End revival of *The Wizard of Oz*, as well as work with Walt Disney Studios on *Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast*, and the *Lion King*, among others.

**13th November 1955** – Whoopi Goldberg [born Caryn Johnson] is born in New York. An actress, comedian, and singer, she is famous for such works as *The Colour Purple, Burglar*, and *Sister Act*. She also remains one of few entertainers to win an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award.

## Deaths

**8th November 1674** – John Milton, English poet (*Paradise Lost*), dies at 65. He wrote his work in blank verse at a time of extreme unrest under Oliver Cromwell, and his literary influence and legacy has been ever-furthered throughout history with people such as Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Thomas Hardy and even William Blake drawing on his work. Milton actually composed *Paradise Lost* both blind and impoverished, between the years 1658-1664.

**20th November 1975** – Francisco Franco, Spanish Dictator and General (1936–75), dies at 82. Franco's reign as *Generalissimo* is regarded as a dark part of Spain's history, with military rule culminating in political oppression, a regression on the rights and role of women, as well as concentration camps, forced labour and executions. These actions were mostly against his political and ideological enemies, which resulted in the death of up to 400,000 people.

**24th November 1963** – Lee Harvey Oswald, the infamous assassin of JFK whom he killed 2 days earlier, is shot by nightclub owner Jack Ruby live on TV and dies in a hospital in Dallas, Texas aged 24.

## Events

**5th November 1605** – Gunpowder Plot; attempt to blow up King James I while he opened Parliament. Plot discovered and Guy Fawkes caught and tortured. He and seven others were later executed.

**11th November 1918** – After four years and 97 days the guns finally fell silent as the Great War ended. Around nine million lives were lost with a further 27 million injured.

**18th November 1928** – Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse first appears as "Steamboat Willie". The film was a little under eight minutes and its two week run not only resulted in Walt being paid \$500 per week – a lot of money at the time – but also secured international fame for both himself and Mickey.

**30th November 1782** – A preliminary peace treaty is signed in Paris. Terms include the recognition of American independence and the boundaries of the United States, along with British withdrawal from America.

Mark Ferguson

**Deadline for the December issue is 14th November.**



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# CINDERELLA MARRIES HER PRINCE CHARMING

All photographs taken by Flora and Finley, pupils at Milborne St. Andrew First School

ON a cloudy Thursday at St. Andrew's Church, Cinderella married Prince Charming, witnessed by the Best Girl, a bounty of bridesmaids, a plethora of pageboys and a large number of children and parents from the First School.

Cinderella arrived at Church in the lovely 1932 Austin 7 owned and driven by Pip Bowell. Her bouquet and the Groom's buttonhole were supplied by Florabunda Florist in Blandford and complemented her lovely gown - white with loops of coloured flowers on the voluminous net skirt.

The groom and congregation arrived later, having walked from school, escorted by a horde of ladies in hi-vis jackets (not mentioned in the fairy tale but necessary in today's world) and the Dorchester Town Crier, Alistair Chisholm, who kept the children safe when crossing the main road, and spellbound enough to call 'Oyez' when he asked them. As well as the bridesmaids and pageboys, there were a couple of knights, a ladybird, a few princesses and a small boy in a large flat cap who may just have been Tom the Piper's Son.

Once the choir and congregation were seated, Cinderella entered to the strains of Chopin's Nocturne No. 1, and joined her groom, Fairy Godmother and Best Girl at the altar, where Sarah Hillman, the vicar, officiated. The groom was a little hesitant with his words (what groom wouldn't be, with such a lovely girl at his side), but Cinderella was more confident. Caragh read clearly and expressively from Scripture about the meaning of love, taken from chapter 13 of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The Vicar gave her address about the long term nature of marriage and the need to look out for one another and to stick up for one another.

Whilst the bride and groom signed the Register, the choir sang 'Rockin' all over the World' - possibly the first time that has been used as a chorale in St. Andrews' church.

To a rousing round of applause the bride and groom left the church to be conveyed to their wedding breakfast in the skittle alley, on a cart towed by a lucky chimney sweep, there being a shortage of white mice in the village that afternoon.

Much juice and delicious cakes were consumed followed by a summary of the story of Cinderella by the mayor and deputy of Blandford, Joan Wells and Liz Rawlings.

The Best Girl, Eliza-May (who recited it without any notes) gave the toast:

*Cinderella and Prince Charming!!*

*I hope you have had a lovely time here today and I hope you will have a lovely time being married.*

*I would like to give you some advice to help you have a happy marriage.*

*Always support each other.*

*Always respect each other.*

*Always be kind to each other and always try to make each other's dreams come true.*

*Once again, congratulations to the Bride and Groom.*

*Please join me in saying - Hip Hip!! Hip Hip!!! Hip Hip!!!*

The school would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event possible. As well as those mentioned already, it couldn't have happened without churchwarden John Wright, Sarah Fox for use of the skittle alley, Dan, Trish and Martin for providing the coach/chimney sweep, Jackie and Leanne for organising cakes and decorating the church and skittle alley, or all the lovely parents who provided cakes and costumes.

The fairytale characters were played by:

*Cinderella:* Brooke

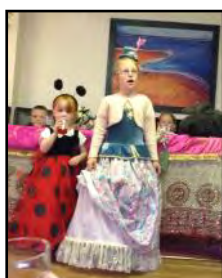
*Prince Charming:* Harvey

*Best Girl:* Eliza-May

*Fairy Godmother:* Tess

The children who wanted to be involved put their names into a hat and names were drawn for each role.

Susan Wilson



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or give to any member of the  
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*Reporter* team members can be  
found on page two.

No prize,  
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Answer in the December *Reporter*.



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# Weatherby Castle: Nature's Secret Hideaway

WEATHERBY Castle is an Iron Age hill fort that encloses about 17.5 acres on a spur of land about 0.75 miles south of the village. Its structure comprises two concentric enclosures, though parts have been thoroughly damaged by cultivation and ploughing. Occupation debris and inhumation debris of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods were found east of the village in 1929, during the building of Bladen Dairy. The site is on a southwest-facing slope of chalk about 310 feet above sea level. Some 90 pits, four feet to nine feet deep, and ditches 14 feet wide and eight feet deep can be noted, as well as some flint masonry. The pottery suggested continuous occupation from the late 1st century B.C. to the 4th century A.D. and included Samian and New Forest ware. Animal bones and several inhumation burials were also found. The importance of the wares found cannot be understated as it means that the castle was occupied and was most likely a settlement that controlled an area for a few miles around, and the Samian ware (high quality pottery typically from mid-South France) and New Forest ware implies at the very least that trade was frequent and from a variety of places in the area.

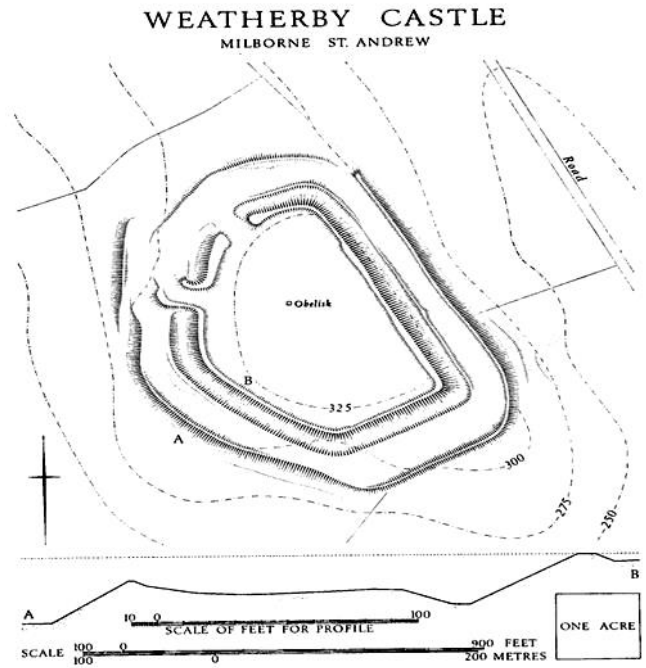
Weatherby Castle's multiple defences, consisting of two distinct phases, enclose an irregular area of 17½ acres and comprise two roughly concentric enclosures with an intervening space from 50 feet to 90 feet in width. The inner enclosure covers 5½ acres and is defined by a rampart standing up to three feet above the interior and 23 feet above the surrounding ditch. The ditch averages 40 feet across and the outer enclosure is defined by a rampart five feet high on the inside and up to 32 feet high on the outside, though for much of its length it is little more than an outward-facing scarp, having been reduced on the inside by cultivation.

The original entrance, facing west, has been much mutilated by ploughing. A steep scarp, formerly a bank, 400 feet long with approach ramps at either end, covers the broad gap in the outer rampart. Entry through the inner defences is by means of a curving ramp flanked on either side by the out-turned ends of the inner bank. There are few traces of occupation within the domed interior, but the summit is covered by a dense fir plantation and the remainder is masked by thick scrub, as also are the inner and much of the outer defences. The collected fragments of Roman ware from the site were found scattered around the outer enclosure, with concentrations towards the southern



end of the castle, with suggestions of housing being found as well.

The most obvious landmark in the castle is the obelisk. The obelisk was constructed in 1761 and is made of red brick. It bears the initials EMP and its pointed, tapered top is topped with a ball finial. Being completely hidden by the wood which covers the hillfort, the obelisk is not noticeable until you are standing practically next to it, a miraculous feat of nature covering mankind's old forgotten footsteps. Along with the fort as well, this little castle dating back to before the Roman occupation of Britain is a very important and long lasting part of the landscape of the village. However, perhaps the most pertinent point is just how few people knew it was there or have even visited it. Having ties to classical history and history in general means that I have wandered around



its ancient battlements, trying to imagine what it must have been like living here almost 2,000 years ago. For many however, the castle is just another charming hill in the landscape of Dorset, but it's so much more than that. It may be the case that had a settlement never existed there, our little village we call home may never have existed at all! So even if you never explore Weatherby, it's important to look a little closer wherever you are in the world. One thing I learned from this is that nature is very good at keeping secrets, and hides many curiosities both natural and man-made among its secret groves and hidden places.

Mark Ferguson

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# No sign of the big, bad wolf

It's a low-tech, eco-conscious and cost-effective way to build a house, so it's no surprise straw is laying to rest its fairytale undertones and becoming a popular building material. Straw houses have a lot going for them; they're relatively quick to build – with the building material obviously being an agricultural by-product – and require little heavy machinery on-site. Once built, they can have a long life and repairs are straightforward. Their insulation values are excellent and damp issues are kept at bay because the walls 'breathe' due to the properties of the natural materials used.

This is why Gillian Ireland, and daughter, Emma Bratley of Gray's Stores, decided that this was the type of house they wanted to have built. Emma says, "We wanted to build a house that is ecologically sound, and straw locks carbon within the walls of the structure itself". Emma has taken a hands-on role of overseeing the build and



has become an advocate for this alternative building method. Their build uses as much natural and recycled materials as possible: the foundations consist of used car tyres, stacked one on top of each other, rammed with gravel; the roof will be cedar

shingles and the straw walls will be covered in clay plaster internally, and lime render externally. She is rather proud of the fact that no machinery has been used on site – the large round pits that the tyre towers sit in were dug by hand, with each tyre being filled and packed tight with gravel using a mallet and wedge, "the gravel shuffle dance". She says, "It's all very low tech – with the exception of electric saws and nail guns, most of the work is done by hand".

Once the tyre foundations were in place, a box section ('box beam') was made that linked between all the piles, which is designed to bear the load of the walls. This was made on-site from constructional board and timber I-beams, and was then packed with straw. Then, the bales – all 420 of them – could be laid on top, compressed and staked. The bales arrive on site tightly pressed, but are compressed further with strapping. Eventually, the straw is very densely packed and, as such, has good insulating qualities and is surprisingly fire resistant, since the oxygen content is non-existent.

The build is being undertaken by two main contractors; Matthew Clarke of Greenbuilt has been involved with the day-to-day build, with Straw Works director, Barbara Jones, leading the straw construction.

Phil Christopher, of the rather brilliantly named company, Huff and Puff Construction has also been helping with the bale building. Straw bale houses are relatively easy to modify; if a new doorway or window is required, all that's needed is a chainsaw to create the opening. The timber roofplate acts as a lintel, as does the box beam that is

installed at first floor level. Any future repairs can be done as simply as removing material with a crowbar and repacking with straw wedges. Straw Works, the main contractor, says that with good design, there's no reason why a straw bale house won't last for at least 100 years.

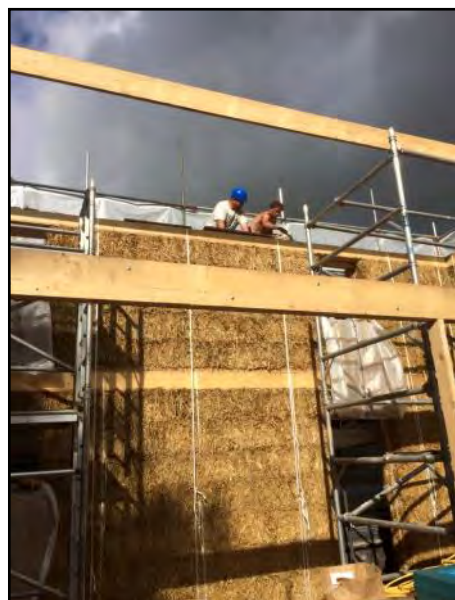
The house is progressing well – mid-October and all bales are in place and ratcheted down, roof rafters fitted and covered with sub-material, and the external walls have been rendered with lime mortar, partly courtesy of a training course run on-site by Straw Works. Although the build is ultimately dependent on the weather, it is hoped that completion will be by the end of November. But it hasn't all been plain sailing. The planning process was "a nightmare", according to Emma, due to the Planning Officer being unaccustomed to straw being used as a building material. This was eventually settled by Barbara Jones of Straw Works. Emma says, "We're lucky to have her on board, she is one of the world leaders in straw bale building and a very difficult woman to argue with – she wowed the Planning Officer with science!" There was also a major hiccup with the topographical survey being far from accurate; the land sloped to a greater degree than recorded, so a rethink was required for the height of the tyre piles.

But the highs far outweigh the lows – being involved in the process has been important to Emma and she has enjoyed every moment. "It's been a journey", she says. Highlights include breaking ground, seeing the huge quantity of straw arrive and then watching the walls rapidly rise. But it is the people that have made it for her. She says, "I'm really looking forward to it being finished, but at the same time, I don't want it to end. I'm loving the process and the people we have working here – the lovely volunteers, trainees and builders".

Mum, Gill, also has good reason to seeing her home being completed. "I'm looking forward to not having to climb two flights of stairs – and to have my own space, to do my own thing". And, just for the record, Gill, are you afraid of the big, bad wolf?

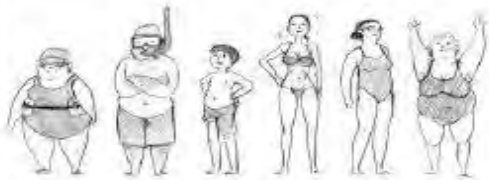
"Definitely not. He can huff and he can puff as much as he likes, but he'll never blow my house down!"

*Ed Richards*



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## Did you identify this?

The photograph in the last Reporter was taken outside of Swiss Cottage, Dorchester Hill.

Congratulations to Chris Nowell (e-mail) (whose house it is) June Maitland (telephone) and Jill Storey (e-mail) who were the first people in very quick succession to send in the correct answer.

Try your luck this month on page 30.



## Milborne gets the Blues . . .

POST the New Year festivities and we can all feel a bit flat – so put this date in your diaries – Saturday 16th January when Milborne will get the Blues; a Blues Night that is, at the Village Hall.

Milborne resident Clive Rawlings is a writer and reviewer for Blues Matters magazine and for the last six years has been the resident MC/DJ on the Blues Matters stage at the Great British Rock and Blues Weekend. His weekly blues/rock radio show on Sherborne-based Abbey104.com has gathered a wide international following since he began some three years ago, following ten years presenting a similar show on a French community radio station. Now moving on to promoting the live music he loves, Clive has booked one of his favourite bands **Zoe Schwarz Blue Commotion** to play the first of what he hopes will be a series of live events in our Village Hall.



Photo: Richie Brown

Zoe and her highly accomplished band have come right to the fore of the British Blues scene, picking up a series of awards and nominations, including runner-up for Zoe as Best Female Vocalist in the 2015 British Blues Awards. Their exciting live set is based around the band's rootsy originals; featuring strong catchy riffs, interesting arrangements and exciting grooves. Zoe has made a considerable

impact in a very short space of time and is another one of those new artists that have added a fresh approach and vibrancy to the thriving UK blues scene. Much more information is on her website [www.bluecommotion.com](http://www.bluecommotion.com)

Tickets for the gig (£8) will be on sale very soon – pre-book yours by emailing Clive on [cliverawlings@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cliverawlings@hotmail.co.uk).

**All profits from the evening will be shared between the Village Hall Play Park project and the Milton Abbas Riding for the Disabled Group.**

## The Village History Group

THE group is going well and members have agreed to have the meetings more structured. It was decided that the meetings would always be held on the second Wednesday of the month in The Royal Oak (unless specified otherwise) starting at 7.30pm. There is now a timetable of talks or matters of interest for the next few months as follows,

- November – Wetherby Castle and Hillforts
- December – Dorset Christmases of old
- January – A commentary of a recorded interview
- February – Farming in the past
- March – Experiences of researching family trees

At our last meeting those attending brought an item of historical interest and what a variety there was. They ranged from antique writing boxes, an old family Bible to deeds of an old house. It was fascinating hearing about the connections and to be able to touch and ask questions.

Membership is not required but we ask if anyone coming could make a £1 contribution towards costs. If you want to just come to one evening you will be welcomed. For further information contact Pam on 01258 837203; email [pamshults@btinternet.com](mailto:pamshults@btinternet.com)

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Person or persons to deliver the *Reporter* around Hopsfield once a month. Please contact Janet Allen on 01258 837551 for more information.

## Milk Raiders

AS a regular follower of all things to do with natural history I was interested in some events this year. I have been lucky enough to have a pair of robins feeding from my hand, sometimes at the same time, all this year, while they have had three broods of young. We have also had two broods of sparrows in a camera nest box in the garden.

Some weeks ago we found that our normal delivery of milk had been interfered with. The caps were broken with what looked like two peck holes. The following delivery, one bottle had the same damage, but the other was knocked over and rolled off the step and smashed. Now, I thought, this is a mighty big bird! Blue tits were the regular culprits of this problem in the 1950s and 1960s but this was when the milk had a more distinct cream top. Since the cream was either skimmed off or homogenised, the blue tit problem ceased. I spoke to various neighbours who had experienced the same problem who assumed it was caused by birds and taken various preventative actions, which had mostly been successful. On further examination around our steps, I saw we had droppings in the vicinity of the doorsteps which were unmistakably from a larger animal. I started to put out specialised food for the culprit and was soon able to see, not one, but two hedgehogs on the doorstep. I have continued to feed the hedgehogs every night but have only seen them occasionally. The marks on the caps were clearly the front teeth rather than peck marks. We are very lucky that the milkman has been very helpful in putting the milk in a hedgehog safe box, as he has for at least five of our neighbours. We hope the problem will stop soon, as the hedgehogs should be hibernating. I hope that feeding them will help our local population and stand them in good stead for their hibernation and for next year.

Pip Bowell



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### FOODIE QUIZ Answers Part 2

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 26 Olive oil                  | 38 Yes Chef!          |
| 27 Mange tout                 | 39 Liquorice Allsorts |
| 28 Sea Bass                   | 40 Humbug             |
| 29 Junket                     | 41 Cheesecake         |
| 30 Grey mullet, pudding basin | 42 Double Gloucester  |
| 31 French Toast               | 43 Farce              |
| 32 Screwdriver                | 44 Sole Véronique     |
| 33 Moscow mule                | 45 Thyme              |
| 34 Granola                    | 46 Globe artichoke    |
| 35 Pineapple                  | 47 Macaroni cheese    |
| 36 Champ                      | 48 Edam               |
| 37 Stargazy pie               | 49 Kipper             |
|                               | 50 Brawn              |

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