



80P WHERE SOLD


# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 9 Issue 2

February 2017

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

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Milborne St. Andrew



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***Local villages covered:  
Milborne, Cheselbourne and Dewlish***

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## **Please note**

Please ensure that your anti-virus software is up to date before e-mailing. Copy should be sent as a Word (or other text file) and do not embed pictures, logos, etc. into the document. Photos should be sent as separate .jpeg files. Do not send articles as .pdf. All these things may seem small to you but it does make all the difference in time saved later.

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## **Neighbourcar – important message – change of number**

IF you are a Milton Abbas Neighbourcar user you should already have received a letter regarding our change of telephone number. If you have not received the letter please read on.

I am delighted to announce that we now have three coordinators (myself, John Mulley and Tim Wellstead) who will work on a rota basis. To make this work successfully it is necessary to move to a central messaging service to manage all calls for help with transport. As a consequence of this change the current number (01258 881709) will cease to operate and a new number (01258 470333) will be in place. Your call will **always** go to an answerphone where you will be asked to leave a clear message. Your message will be transferred to the duty coordinator at no extra cost to you. The duty coordinator will then deal with your request and will call you back if more information is still needed. When a driver has been found to do the journey you will be called and advised as now.

We do hope that you understand that this change is necessary as part of our future succession planning and we believe you should not be inconvenienced too much by this very necessary change.

*Nigel Hodder (Senior Coordinator)*

## **The Mary Rose**

THE WI are hosting a talk by David Childs about The Mary Rose on Thursday 9th March at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. If you have been to the exhibition in Portsmouth you will know how interesting this ship is. All are welcome (men as well!) donation £2.00.

## **VILLAGE LUNCH**

To be held at the Village Hall on  
**Saturday 25th February from 12.15 to 2.00pm**

Wine or fruit juice

Beef stew and dumplings

Apple pie

Coffee or tea/mints

Vegetarian option available

£6.50 per head

***Everyone welcome young and old alike***

Tickets and more information available from  
Chris Nowell 837543 or Josie Wright 839090

## **Your *Reporter* Team**

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Copy for the next issue **MUST** be received by mid-day 14th February

Enquiries and copy to: **[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)**

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

Paper copy to any of the team

# The Jungle Book (2016) (PG)

shown by 'Milborne Movies'

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall (DT11 0JX)

on Friday 17th February at 7.30pm

THIS latest incarnation of *The Jungle Book* is a stunner with its combination of live action in the form of the man-cub Mowgli, and uncannily realistic CGI for the talking animals. The panther, Bagheera (voice of Ben Kingsley), opens the film by saying that there are many stories in the jungle, but none quite like that of the man-cub Mowgli (Neel Sethi), who was raised by a pack of wolves. But when a tiger named Shere Khan learns of his presence, Mowgli must flee the jungle and search for the man village. Mowgli's guardian, the panther Bagheera (Ben Kingsley), starts to shepherd the child to safety in the "man village", but along the way, the boy meets an affable, lazy bear named Baloo (Bill Murray), as well as a snake with hypnotic powers (Scarlett Johansson) and an orangutan (Christopher Walken) who wants to harness the power of fire.

In this reimagining of the classic collection of stories by Rudyard Kipling, director Jon Favreau uses visually stunning CGI to create the community of animals surrounding Mowgli. The special effects are amazing! The opening sequence, making use of the jungly depth of field of 3D, has young Mowgli leaping from branch to branch, racing through luxuriant foliage alongside his wolf pack, and you feel your eyes are deceiving you. The computer generated images in this movie are otherworldly, and the volume of work is undeniable. At times it is jaw-dropping and baffling to behold and the performances, the key-frame animation, and the virtual landscapes are seamlessly blended together in a shot so well that you forget you're watching an animated movie, and believe it's just some kid hanging out with his animal pals.

The village hall and bar is open from 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50 can be obtained on the door.

## The truth about dates:

### Use by date and best before, safety and quality

IN general food law requires pre-packed food to have a date mark. Depending on the food type this is either a 'use by' date or a 'best before' date.

The 'use by date' is about safety and the most important date to remember! Foods can be eaten (and most can be frozen) up until the 'use by date', but not after, unless it was frozen before the 'use by date'. You will see 'use by dates' on food that goes off quickly, such as meat products or ready-prepared salads. For the use by to be a valid guide, you must carefully follow storage instructions.

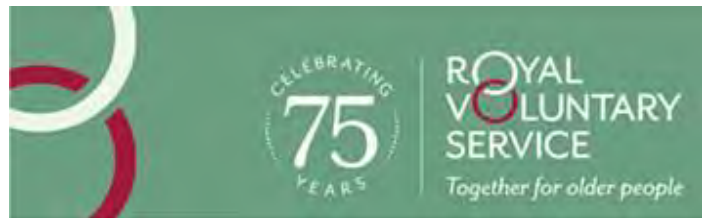
The 'best before date' is about quality and not safety. The food will be safe to eat after this date but may not be at its best. Its flavour and texture might not be as good. The 'best before dates' appear on a wide range of frozen, dried, tinned and other foods. The 'best before date' will only be accurate if the food is stored according to the instructions on the label.

After the 'use by date', don't eat it, cook it or freeze it. The food could be unsafe to eat or drink, even if it is stored correctly and looks and smells fine.

For quick tips to save money, make time and reduce waste by eating, cooking or freezing food by its 'use by date', visit <https://www.food.gov.uk/science/microbiology/use-by-and-best-before-dates>

Shops can sell food once the 'best before' date has passed, however selling food past its 'use by' date is a criminal offence and can lead to prosecution. A supermarket in the Midlands was recently prosecuted and fined £75,000 for selling food which was past its 'use by' date.

If you would like advice about your consumer rights then please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.



## Blandford and area – Royal Voluntary Service Home Library Service

DO you like to read? But find it difficult to get to the library to get new books? We might be able to help.

Blandford Library has a team of dedicated Royal Voluntary Service volunteers who are able to visit on a regular basis, delivering the books you want from the Library to your home, free of charge. Large print books and talking books can also be delivered.



This service is funded by Dorset Library Service, and delivered by the Royal Voluntary Service. It is available across Dorset to anyone who cannot easily get to their local library, and can be provided on a temporary basis as well as long term.

All Royal Voluntary Service volunteers are DBS checked and receive ongoing training and support. As well as the Home Library Service the Royal Voluntary Service can provide Befriending, help with shopping, and other things you might need – just get in touch with us and find out how we might be able to help.

If you are interested in receiving the Home Library Service please contact Maria Jacobson, Royal Voluntary Service Manager Dorset Home Library

Service, on 07786 635154 or 01305 236666, or e-mail [Maria.Jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:Maria.Jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)

Photos top: *Royal Voluntary Service Local Volunteer Coordinator, Melodie Watts, delivering books to Mrs Doreen Nash.*

Right: *Sally Knight, who is retiring from her role as Local Volunteer Coordinator for the Home Library Service in Blandford after 11 years with the organisation.*



## Yoga in Milborne

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# Small Businesses in MSA. Number 5: The Florist

BEGINNING in November 2013 I wrote a series of articles about Susie Edwards, this courageous, talented florist who helped many people suffering with breast cancer through her widely read blogs. Having revisited her to discuss her thriving business I found someone undimmed by her experiences and still focussing forward to an ever brighter, international future. Although describing herself as 'semi-retired' she unfolded before me a kaleidoscope of colour and inventive adornments for weddings and funerals. The latter are created once she has discussed the personality and lifestyle of the deceased with family and friends. To describe in words does not do justice to the glory of her creations with flowers, fruit, foliage and bark. For a young man who died in the mountains she formed a garden planted with primroses and snowdrops in two parts linked by a branch which began life on his coffin and is now thriving on his grave. For, another, accidental, death of a teenager, a beautiful daffodil sun suspended on a metal hook to simulate the light that he had brought to his parents' lives.

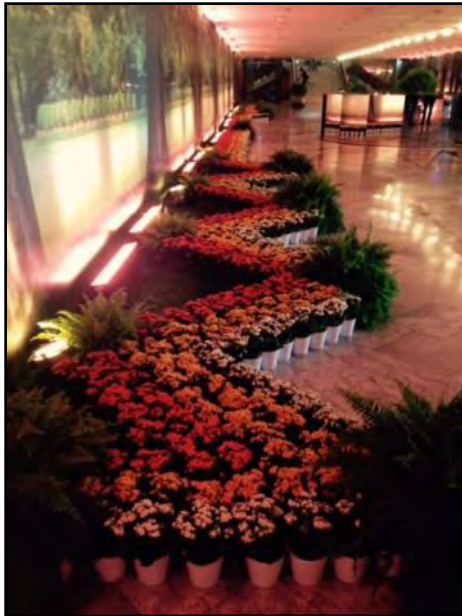
At the other end of the spectrum she has transformed an ex-Politburo building in Baku (Azerbaijan) into a sumptuous setting for an equally hedonistic wedding of the Minister of Culture's daughter. She designed flowers and set pieces of 'market stalls' for both the cultural ceremony and the Civil ceremony in London. With her hand-picked team of eight helpers (including her daughter, Victoria) she filled the 70's building's foyer with an incredible period zig-zag pattern of orange and yellow, giant Martini glasses of Gloriosa lilies and Guelderose, and tiny posies for the tables, the bride's bouquet, flowers for the cake (hand painted by a nail technician, Lorraine Connelly of Mole End Designs,



Stour Row who learnt to use edible paints for this occasion) as well as fruit and vegetable displays for the pre wedding party. Three and a half tons of flowers and plants were flown in from Holland. Despite problems with institutionalised corruption and an initial lack of water this was a resounding success (see pictures). Following a recommendation from the groom of a French Riviera wedding completed several years ago, during 2016, a rustic themed wedding in Tuscany, and London based Persian New Year celebrations were filled with her creations as well as several Dorset weddings and parties. With a September 2017 Arts Festival in an Istanbul hangar on the cards (for which she already has detailed plans), recently working on

a 21st Birthday party three days after, an elective, second mastectomy, Susie is not slowing down! She also ran wreath making classes leading up to Christmas and is keen to organise flower arranging classes in our Village Hall having completed an Adult Education Course. However her comment is that aesthetics or a 'seeing eye' cannot be taught. In my first article I wrote that she was 'internationally known for her original and non conformist style'. World renowned Gregor Lersch in a foreword to her book 'A Flower in My Hand' described her as a 'cosmopolitan spirit . . . a door opener. [Someone with] steadfast creativity . . . allowing flower culture influences from without to change the traditional styles from within' and by herself as a 'floral fanatic'.

In passing she mentioned that she was responsible for floral displays for the opening of the Channel Tunnel, that she has now been a florist



for nearly 60 years (since the age of 17 years) having trained at the Constance Spry School learning what she states were the 'fundamentals' which she believes are often not taught on current courses. Two students who help with her Team say they have learnt more with her than at college which confirms her belief. Those who walk up the Milton Abbas road will see her regular displays of plants, posies and other basics for flower arrangements on staging for sale (which are often stolen along with trays and buckets!). Interestingly, she comments on the mistakes made in TV Dramas (such as Downton Abbey, Poldark) using containers or flowers that were not available for the period depicted.



To read her book (as above) is to understand this woman for whom 'flowers are [her] life blood'. She describes her creations as 'effortlessly English . . . lively not loud . . . understated and ever user friendly . . . sometimes rules must be broken to give inspiration its head and particularly in art, to be able to move on and develop'. The philosophy of someone who is doing just that.

To contact Susie her telephone number is: 01258 837933 and her email address: susie@edwards-lunnfsnet.co.uk or go to her website. She requests some notice for small orders and bouquets.

Carole Fornachon

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## CHURCH SERVICES February 2017

### A model priest?

At the end of this month (27th February), the Church of England remembers George Herbert, priest and poet. He was for many years held up as the pattern for rural clergy to follow as the perfect parish priest: always visiting, involved with the lives of members of his flock, holy in lifestyle and a paragon of virtue.

I do not wish to speak ill of someone I did not know, but we have to be careful about using him as a role model. England was a very different place in 17th-century, and in fact Herbert was a priest for only three years. He had no more than 200 parishioners, mostly tenant farmers, at a time when life was lived much more slowly than today, and most people attended church because that was what they did. Apart from Sunday services, he held prayers in church at 10.00a.m. and 4.00p.m. each day. Twice a week, he had time to walk to Salisbury Cathedral for Evensong, after which he would spend the evening making music in the house that is now the Bishop of Salisbury's home. He gave notable sermons and was known for being a faithful man of prayer, something to which all clergy – male and female – should aspire.

There are two main reasons why Herbert has always been thought so well of as a parish priest: one his own books *The Country Parson*, which is an instruction book on how to be a good rural parson, and a biography written by Izaak Walton, which was first published in 1670. Walton clearly thought a lot of Herbert.

I'm sure Herbert was a good parish priest of his time, but it is not for nothing that a more recent book has been entitled *If You Meet George Herbert on the Road, Kill Him* (2009)! Written by an ordained Anglican, it shows how this idealised picture we have had of Herbert for centuries is not realistic. Herbert's own book gave a picture of a country parson based on perfection rather than reality, and a way of life very far removed from that of today.

That being the case, it might seem strange that the C of E gives a commemoration day to this man. But Herbert is rightly remembered, if not for the reality of his ministry. His poetry is what really stands out about him, some of which we now sing as hymns, for instance, *Teach me, my God and King; King of Glory, King of Peace and Let all the world in every corner sing.*

In his poetry, we see a man who desired to serve God with all his heart and soul. We can pick up the humility of a man who knows his Christian-life is not perfect. We hear in his words questions and thoughts that still echo today. The heart of Christianity has not changed for more than 2000 years. Though Herbert's language is of the 17th-century, the ideals of faith for which he strives are as relevant today as then.

I'm going to finish with verses from two of his poems, which we can make our own.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,  
I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven,  
I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort  
to enrol thee:  
E'en eternity's too short  
to extol thee.

Teach me, my God and King,  
in all things thee to see,  
and what I do in anything  
to do it as for thee.

What more can a Christian desire than that their whole life is spent in God's praise, that they can see God in all things, and that all they do is done for the love of God.  
With all good wishes

*Sarah Hillman*

## St. Andrew's Church Notes

NOW that the days are getting longer, Christmas seems to have gone long ago, but since our last report we have had our annual Christmas Carol Service when we enjoyed the singing of our ad hoc choir as well as joining in with the old favourites. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the singing and readings, and Richard Hall who played the organ for us.

The New Year will no doubt bring new challenges. Fund raising and searching for grants will keep us busy, but we need to make an effort to encourage our friends and neighbours to join us at our 9.30am services each Sunday, and events during the week. On February 5th we have our usual first Sunday of the month 'Celebrate' service which is attracting those who fancy a little breakfast before an informal 30-minute service.

*John Wright*

### 5th February – Fourth before Lent

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate . . .	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish

### 12th February – Third before Lent

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown
9.30	Methodist United Service	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish

### THURSDAY 16th February

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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### 19th February – Second before Lent

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Prayer	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

### 26th February – Next before Lent

9.30	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion plus Baptism	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown
11.00	Family Communion	Dewlish

### MORNING PRAYERS (Monday – Thursday 8.15am; Saturday 9.00am)

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

### Do you need a lift to church?



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

Please contact John on 839090.

### Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784  
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@tesco.net

#### Churchwardens

#### Milborne St. Andrew

John Wright 839090  
Pam Shults 837203

#### Dewlish

Jim Burg 837466  
Sue Britton 837218

#### Benefice Office

Emma Hughes  
puddletownbenefice@outlook.com  
or by telephone on 01305 849039

# Dewlish Church Notes

OUR Carol Service was very well-attended, and we thank Jim for arranging it. As usual, the children were delightful in their re-enactment of the Nativity Story. The readers read beautifully too. We also thank Aidan and Becky who played for us. The collection, which amounted to £168, was donated to the Children's Society. Refreshments were served afterwards in the Village Hall and we thank all those who helped there.

Two nights later we were once again singing carols around the village. Thankfully the night was calm, dry and not too cold. We collected £240.79 – a very good amount – and this has been given to Shelter, the charity for the homeless. We were so pleased to get refreshments along the way. Thank you, Andrew and Hayley. We finished the evening at the Oak and we thank Dianne and John for their hospitality too.

All Saints looked wonderful for Christmas Day with the sparkling tree, crib scenes and candles lighting the decorated window sills. Thank you to everyone who contributed to what was indeed a joyous day.

*Daphne Burg*

## Milborne 100 Club relaunched

WE can now report that a new committee has been formed to run the Milborne 100 Club. Chairman Paul Sutcliffe has been joined by Andy Mott as treasurer, John Wright, Hayley Davis and Eva Stockley. We hope that the new rules, which have been altered to give more opportunities to win prizes and more benefit to the Sports Club and St. Andrew's Church, will appeal to current members, new members and those whose membership has lapsed. The subscription is to be £5 per month with draws being made at The Royal Oak on the second Thursday of each month. Prizes of £100, £50, and £10 will be given from each month's subscriptions and all of the rest split equally between the Sports Club and St. Andrew's church, apart from a few small unavoidable expenses such as the annual licence fee paid to NDDC. No expenses have been taken for relaunching the club.

Membership forms and the full rules have been distributed to all past and present members and may be obtained from committee members. Membership is open to everyone over 18, and new members will be most welcome. To keep expenses down we are ending the 'house-to-house' collection of subscriptions in favour of bank Standing Orders, BACS and annual cheque payments. For further details contact Paul Sutcliffe at paul\_sutcliffe013@hotmail.com, John Wright at john@jj2wright.force9.co.uk, or Andy Mott at mottandy@gmail.com.

*John Wright*

See page 17 for latest 100 Club winners.



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## Latest winner of the Milborne School Writing Competition

**'I wonder who he is?' by Brooke (age 7)**

The man I wish to tell you about is plump and old and he has grey hair and wrinkled skin, he lives in a small cottage and he is a toy maker. Furthermore, he has won lots of trophies for toy making but is not lucky enough to have any children of his own to give them to. Overall he is a happy man and he has made toys like globes, electric toys that talk and move and also he has made toy fossils too.



Sadly, the children in his village were poor so he sneaks out and delivers toys onto their doorsteps at night time. He loves to eat biscuits while he is working in his cottage and his tummy is getting round and his trousers are getting tight.


One day the elves from the Enchanted Forest came to see him and asked if he would like a big cottage to make his toys in and then deliver them to children all around the world, he could use his globe to find out where to go.

I think you know everything about him now, do you know who he is? . . .

YES! That's right he is Father Christmas!

To write my story I used these objects for my character description:-  
Trophy; Fossil: Globe;  
Hatchimal: Ozobot





**The Dorset Mammal Group  
Invites you to a talk on**

# Hedgehogs in Milborne St Andrew

**and the work of the DMG Hedgehog Project  
at  
Milborne St Andrew Village Hall  
7.30 until 9.30 on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**Come and find out how to make your garden and our village to be more hedgehog friendly.**

Hedgehogs have declined by up to 50% in some areas of the UK in the last 25 years. With your help and the rest of our neighbours' we can help save this much-loved garden visitor. By making small changes in our gardens and local area we would like to transform our neighbourhood into an ideal "Hedgehog Village". You can be involved as little or as much as you like.

Email: [hedgehogs@dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk](mailto:hedgehogs@dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk)

Please come to **Milborne Village Hall** on **1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm** to hear more about this.

If you would like to find out more about this project in the meantime please take a look at [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) or [www.dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk](http://www.dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk)

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# Savoury Stuffed Pancakes

DID you know that Shrove Tuesday is on 28th February this year? Apparently it just creped up on us!

Everyone, I'm sure, has their own special memories of "pancake day". As a child it meant helping Mum make pancakes on an ancient gas ring which was rather precariously perched on a tiny, low stool at the side of the kitchen, with a short length of rubber hose connected to a gas point. I loved lighting it with matches, a few singed fingers (and eyebrows) were a small price to pay for being trusted with such an important and slightly scary job. We had an electric cooker with two solid hot plates on top, which took ages to heat up and it was cheaper to cook with gas than electricity in the 1950's. Mum made the most of any opportunity to save a few pennies.

When she came in from work, mum would proudly put on her newly acquired (and newly invented – 1935!) nylon overall to protect her smart clothes from the grease and the cooking smells, and perhaps more importantly to help keep her warm in our unheated and rather spartan tiny kitchen. She would quickly whip the overall off when she heard my father's car in the drive and put on a dab of lipstick, although my father worked long hours and was never home in time for the pancakes.

Then quickly down to business. Olive oil was kept in a tiny bottle in the medicine cabinet in case of earache, and butter was much too expensive, so instead Mum added a sizzling knob of lard to the red-hot frying pan. Next, the exciting swoosh of creamy batter swirled quickly around the pan before being expertly tossed in the air, caught and finished off with perfect timing. My big brother and I, taking it in turns without any squabbling for once, were queuing up for the next pancake just as it was ready. Served with a sprinkle of sugar and a squeeze of juice from a fresh orange half, tasting simply perfect – and we were allowed as many as we could eat!

I still love making pancakes to this day; I often just make them randomly when the mood takes me, a really good antidote to a dull, cold and dispiriting February day. They freeze perfectly, are cheap to make with easily accessible ingredients and are a useful standby for either sweet or savoury dishes. Crepes Suzette are deemed unfashionable now but are delicious when properly made and served. They are easily cooked ahead and then assembled at the last minute. Recipes abound on the internet. I like the Gordon Ramsay YouTube video best – just remember to make sure your serving plates are piping hot, so many otherwise "good" restaurants seem to forget this.

This month's recipe is for savoury stuffed pancakes. I like to think of it as a sort of superior English lasagne, but with more flavour and a much more interesting texture than mere pasta. The whole dish can be made in advance and frozen; it would also be a good choice for Valentine's Day as it is a man-pleaser. If you don't fancy the mince filling, the pancakes are equally delicious filled with your usual fish pie base then covered with parsley sauce and a layer of grated cheese.

## To make the pancakes

110g/4oz plain flour  
2 eggs  
200ml/7fl oz milk mixed  
with 200ml/7fl oz water  
Pinch of salt  
Oil or grease frying pan or omelette pan



Add the eggs to the flour and salt and gradually beat in the milk and water mixture with a whisk or electric mixer until smooth.

Heat a very little oil in a very hot frying pan (I use a silicone pastry brush to smear just a tiny bit of oil round a non-stick pan) and swirl a couple of tablespoons of the batter round the pan. If you mix the batter in a jug it is easiest to pour in the batter from the jug rather than spooning it in. Toss or turn with a spatula when golden brown underneath then cook until nicely speckled on the underside. The first pancake made often sticks to the pan, but the subsequent ones should be fine.

Pile the pancakes on a plate if you don't have a couple of hungry children to eat them! They won't stick together.

## To make the filling:

1 onion  
2tsp/10ml oil  
250g/8oz minced beef  
1 rasher of bacon finely chopped  
Tin of tomatoes, chopped  
1tbs/15ml tomato purée or tomato ketchup  
Shake of Worcestershire sauce  
1tsp/5ml Italian seasoning  
Salt and pepper



Sauté the onion in the oil for five minutes, add the beef and bacon then the other ingredients, simmer for 20 minutes until thick and sticking together.

To make cheese sauce: this makes a generous amount so you can keep some in the fridge for a couple of days to add to cauliflower or pasta if you don't use it all on the pancakes:

25g/1oz butter  
25g/1oz flour  
600ml/1pint milk  
80g/3oz Cheddar cheese  
Pinch of mustard powder  
Grated nutmeg  
Salt and pepper

Melt the butter in a pan and add the flour, cook for a couple of minutes. Add the milk gradually then simmer gently for a couple of minutes. Add half the cheese and seasoning. I like a lot of grated nutmeg.

## To finish the dish:

Put a couple of generous spoonfuls of mince mixture in the middle of each pancake and fold into a square parcel. Arrange in a single layer in a heatproof dish, cover with the cheese sauce and top with the remaining grated cheese. Bake for 30–40 minutes at gas 6/200°C/180°F until golden brown on top.

Good served with a green salad and garlic bread or lemon bread (grated zest from a lemon and lots of black pepper mixed into some butter and spread between slices of baguette). Wrap the bread in foil then heat in the oven alongside the stuffed pancakes for the last 15 minutes, uncover foil for last five minutes.

**Mix a pancake, Stir a pancake, Pop it in the pan,  
Fry the pancake, Toss the pancake,  
Catch it if you can!**

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## New Hope

As the calendar flips over  
And we see the slate wiped clean  
The promises we made ourselves  
Reveal themselves pristine.

These goals were sought with purpose  
For the benefit they will bring  
These few, so crucial changes  
Will rebalance everything.

And it won't be like the last time  
When they melted like spring frost  
This year I'll see it through to the end  
No matter what the cost.

Tomorrow the new me starts  
The change begins right here  
I know it will, I'm sure it will  
And if not – there's always next year.



### Jumble Sale this month!

FOLLOWING the success of last year's fundraising sale for Ladybirds Playgroup, we will be holding another to raise funds for the local pre-school group. The jumble sale takes place on Sunday 26th February from 11.00am to 1.00pm in the Village Hall. Tables are currently available for you to sell your own items or if you would like to donate anything, please contact Dione on 07530741875 for more information.

### The 3 Rs, corporal punishment and afternoon teas

AT January's history group Linda gave a talk about education and looked at schooling in Milborne St. Andrew from the information in the school log book which ran from 1868 –1946.

We heard about what the children learnt and what happened if they didn't pay attention! But it was not all hard work there were days off for the Woodbury Fair in September, the Milborne Fair in November and various afternoon teas.

There was then a discussion about our own school days and punishments. Don't think we were a particularly naughty lot just different times. Eric told us that his first teaching post had been at Milborne.

Next month we are looking at World War One. Please bring any artefacts/information you might have about an ancestor who fought in this war. Wednesday 8th February at 7.30 in the Royal Oak. All are welcome.

## From Comfort Food to Posh Nosh!

MEMBERS of the MSA Food and Wine Club's last two events of the year could not have been more different! 38 of us gathered in November at our great local, The Royal Oak, for the popular Pie and Skittles night. In fact, there was only just enough room on the board for all the names! Fortified by the wonderful pies, and the odd 'noggin', the sport which followed was both skilful and keenly contested. Sue Benn finally triumphed to great cheers with



masterful bowling. It was yet again a great evening for all.

Our AGM and Christmas dinner was this year held at Milton Abbey School. 50 members in their glad rags travelled together by coach – the long way round because of the low bridge in Milton Abbas! After enjoying a glass or two of fizz in the Library we went through to the impressive King's Room, complete with a roaring fire and beautifully prepared tables. Julie Johannsen, our chairman, swiftly completed the AGM business and we were then served a delicious

and delightfully presented meal . . . real fine dining. We were serenaded throughout the meal by the wonderful Sam on the grand piano with a selection of light music and carols. Needless to say, following on from our lovely evening, there was a little singing in the coach on the way home! It was a superb way to end our culinary journey through 2016.

We have recruited three new committee members – Steve Parnaby, Brian O'Dwyer and Laurie Benn – and our treasurer George Legg is very happy to have some male support! The committee are working hard to put together a varied and interesting programme for 2017. New members would be very welcome, so if you care to join us please contact Julie Johannsen – 01258 839004 or [jjohannsen51@hotmail.com](mailto:jjohannsen51@hotmail.com)

*Susie Edwards*



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### *Valentines Meal*

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

#### Starters

Pan-fried scallops served with minted pea puree and  
crispy bacon lardons

Whole rosemary & garlic studded oven roasted  
camembert served with sliced wholemeal baguette and  
mixed leaves (v)  
(to share)

Smoked salmon & crab rillettes with coriander lime and  
chilli mixed leaf salad

Chicken liver & whisky pate served with a malted  
baguette, spicy chutney and mixed leaves

#### Mains

Pan-fried 'Jurassic Coast' fillet steak served with  
chestnut mushrooms, oven-roasted vine cherry tomatoes  
and a red wine and shallot sauce  
(£3.00 supplement)

Mussels in white wine, shallot, garlic and parsley

Wild watercress, feta and green pesto linguini served  
with garlic baguette (v)

Chicken ballotine wrapped in Parma ham, stuffed with  
spring onions & chorizo

#### Desserts

Espresso pannacotta served with homemade shortbread

Vanilla cheesecake with strawberries and brandy snap

Dark chocolate fondant served with a Morello cherry  
compote and Madagascan vanilla ice cream  
(to share)

Local cheese selection

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rosary goats cheese served with mixed rustic crackers,  
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## Outings for Everyone

OUR last outing of 2016 was to see Jack and the Beanstalk at Weymouth Pavilion. This was a truly intergenerational outing for us. Travelling with us there were, Great Grandchildren and Grandchildren with Great Grandma. Grandchildren with Granny. Mum and Dad with their five year old son.

It was lovely to catch the excitement of the children as they skipped onto the bus. The Christmas holidays had begun. Upon arrival at Weymouth, passengers had a choice of a fish and chip lunch, (tables had been reserved in advance), shopping or having lunch at a place of their choice.

The panto did not disappoint, the costumes were vibrant and the scenery stunning as we were whisked away to 'Cloudland'. After the curtain came down, the principal cast came out into the auditorium to say 'hello' and to chat with us all. Lots of photographs were taken by the parents of the children with their favourite characters. The Saturday before Christmas for us is a brilliant way to start the festivities.

At Bus2Go we always offer our passengers choice on our excursion outings. The ethos of our project is to promote well-being, encourage independence and of course to help reduce social isolation. We are linked to a befriending service for those of our passengers who require that extra little assistance when out and about.

We look forward to welcoming you on board very soon. To book please visit our website [bus2godorset.org](http://bus2godorset.org) or phone 01258 837749

## Wednesday Club New Year's party

WEDNESDAY 4th January saw twenty members meet in the Village Hall to celebrate the start of 2017.

We were pleased to welcome two new members, Jill and Jo.

Jenny Balcon organised another of her now famous quizzes which was followed by a tasty tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, scones, jam and cream, as well as some delicious cakes. A big thank you to Ann, Sheila and Jenny for providing this spread, paid for by club funds.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st February, when we will be going to see the snowdrops at Kingston Lacy. We will be car sharing so need to be at the Village Hall promptly by 1.30pm, so that car spaces can be allotted. It will be free for National Trust members, otherwise the standard entry fee will apply. If you wish to come to this event please contact Ann Guy on 837959, so that we have some idea of numbers. We look forward to seeing you. *Lis Watts*

## A glittering display at the January WI

OUR first meeting of 2017, icy cold outside but cheerful and busy inside, a good omen for the new year perhaps. Christmas is past but not quite forgotten; thanks were expressed to June for organising a very enjoyable Christmas lunch, whilst our President, Jenny, remains convinced that the 'pass the parcel' was rigged, every forfeit landing on her knee!

Events to look forward to include a Literary Lunch at Athelhampton on Wednesday 17th May, when Heather White-Smith will talk about her time as Lady Churchill's Private Secretary. Additionally, participants for the zip-wire in Bournemouth to celebrate DFWI's centenary on Wednesday 24th May are already signing up, with some from our own WI very keen to take part and a planned visit to Portsmouth historical dockyards on Thursday 6th July will include a pass to visit all the historic ships. A raffle to select a name to go to the Centenary afternoon tea at Charlton Down on 15th March was won by Angela Jones.

Shirley reported a lively discussion at Bookends about our last book, 'Absolution' by Patrick Flanery, set in South Africa and covering white South Africans' experiences of apartheid. We move on to a non-fiction book, 'The Killer of Little Shepherds' by Douglas Starr – the start of criminal forensics in France which should be an interesting and unusual read. We are now up to 13 members and a diverse programme is set for the year ahead.

On a sadder note, for those who remember Hilda Burbage, who used to live in the village and was a member of our WI, June reported that she passed away just before Christmas at the age of 96.

Our speaker, Tony Horrocks, actually trained as a graphic designer, entering the jewellery trade more by accident than design, where he started out "polishing silver and making tea". He now has 40 years in the trade under his belt. His wide-ranging talk covered many gemstones, starting with the largest diamond ever found, weighing 3,106 carats, which was given by the owner to Edward VII as a birthday present. The jeweller allocated the task of cutting it spent 18 months studying the stone before starting work.

Gemstones shown included many unusual examples, topaz, agate, onyx, citrine, garnet and opals. Tony spent some time examining pieces of family jewellery brought along by members. Asked about trends, he said diamonds are still far and away the traditional engagement ring, although white gold or platinum seem to have overtaken yellow gold in the popularity stakes.

Our next pub lunch is booked for Friday 3rd February at The Royal Oak, meet 12.30 for 1.00pm. On Thursday 9th February, Trisha Lewis will be 'Remembering Joyce Grenfell' and our exhibition will be 'School Memorabilia'. Looking even further ahead, our meeting on Thursday 9th March will be an Open Meeting at which David Childs will talk about 'The Mary Rose'. This may interest in particular members of our local History Society; all are welcome. *Pat Bull*

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### “I have recently put my house on the market for sale. Should I consult a solicitor and is there anything that I ought to be doing now to help speed matters up?”



**Mark Taylor**

Senior Associate - Residential Property

Having chosen your estate agents we would recommend that you consult a solicitor immediately so that the necessary steps can be taken to enable the relevant draft paperwork to be collated.

Often a considerable amount of documentation is needed to satisfy enquiries that a buyer's solicitor will raise. This includes planning permissions, as well as guarantees and certificates, that are needed to show that correct approvals have been obtained in relation to double glazing, electrical works, a new boiler, etc. Obtaining all of this information at the outset will save time.

It is often helpful to seek advice early on if there have been discussions with the neighbours regarding possible disputes.

New rules regarding Stamp Duty Land Tax in relation to buying a second home may result in increased Stamp Duty. Solicitors can assist, although these new rules are complex and open to different interpretations.

Early advice should be sought in situations where more than one person is buying a property to ascertain whether a Declaration of Trust should be entered into. These deal with, for instance, different contributions to the

purchase price or where different generations are buying and living at the property.

Contacting a solicitor at an early stage may also be helpful in giving you an idea of the costs that you will incur, especially in relation to Stamp Duty, Land Registry fees and search fees which the solicitors have to pay on your behalf.

[mark.taylor@blanchardsbailey.co.uk](mailto:mark.taylor@blanchardsbailey.co.uk)  
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# The Milborne Players

WWW.MILBORNEPLAYERS.ORG.UK

## Roll up! Roll up! Panto time is here . . .

THE cast are eager to get on stage for "Jack and the Beanstalk" 2nd to 4th February. There are all the fun characters, Simple Simon (Larry Lagrue), Jack (Jo Coetzee) and his love interest, Jill (Lauren House), and the larger than life Dame Tilly Trot (Grendal E-Davis). We also have some international characters in the form of a Fairy and Baddy (whose names I will not publish here in case I spoil it for you). With lots of other supporting characters helping the story fly along including beautiful Buttercup, the Trot's faithful cow. If you haven't got your tickets, get them quickly as they always go fast. Call the Box Office 01258 839085 (José and Harry Thomas).

Typically, as you village dwellers will know, we aim to put on two productions a year. This year we are looking at a performance in June. New members keen to try out or who have stage experience are always welcome to join us and we could do with you, both male and female. So don't delay get in touch with our Chairman Grendal on 01258 839056. We meet on a Monday night in the Village Hall from 8.00pm.  
*Caroline Nobbs for the Milborne Players*

## Local small-ads

Small ads of less than 30 words from local, private, advertisers are published **free of charge**

**Wanted!** Someone to mow St. Andrew's churchyard grass during the growing season. We receive an annual grant of £1,000 from the Parish Council towards the cost. Contact John Wright for more information on 01258 839090.



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## This Girl Can – the latest from the Pitch

THE Sports Club is still here, just, and that is good news. We ended the year with a bit of a crowdfunding flurry, the first of many fundraising initiatives to follow and we ended our last update with a mention of the latest national campaign being launched which is all about getting women active and involved in sport, fitness and well-being activities.

The new Sport England ads feature a wide range of women of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and according to the blurb, they are targeting women aged from 14 up to 60 and beyond!!

Well we are doing our bit.

Yoga by Saira of Mellulah Therapy and Yoga is now up and running with four sessions over three days every week, Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Friday mornings.

First impressions do count and it was nice to get the following "Hi Richard just to say thanks for a great first week of yoga at the Pavillion . . . everyone loves the new space and the wonderful morning view . . . thanks for being so welcoming and accommodating. Saira"



The Table Tennis on a Monday evening has a good gender balance and is always on the lookout for new members. Also on the horizon is the news that one of the top Dorset League Ladies football teams is to use our venue for their home games next season. So any budding

'wannabe' women footballers had better start 'dubbinning' their boots and practicing their skills if they want to make it onto the BIG pitch.

On a more boring note the remedial work needed to be undertaken to improve the resilience of the Pavilion itself is in the project management planning stage and the BIG SPEND will start shortly.

The whole site is available to all so any ideas on use will be greatly appreciated; a running track, walking sports, fitness (inside and out) are all on the activity and well-being agenda. Or maybe you just want a space to come and chill out, have a drink and a chat with friends, anything (well almost). Birthday parties, corporate meetings and even one wedding reception is already booked in, so looking good!

OK must get back to the more mundane jobs of cleaning and polishing the floors with our brand new (second hand with thanks to the Village Hall) polisher that is now up and revolving and enjoying its new lease of life. One old buffer pushing another springs to mind! Now where did I put that feather duster?



If you want to help with the chores or get involved in any way, pitch preparation etc, please make contact we can surely find you something to do that will be of benefit to the whole community.

*Pictures are courtesy of Sue Leonard.*

*Richard Lock*

## Change to Community Contacts

Youth Club age 8 – 13 years

Joanne Miller

01258 881496

## This Month in History: February

### Births

**February 6th, 1945** – Nesta Robert Marley (aka Bob Marley) was born in Jamaica. During the 1960s Marley became interested in the Rastafari movement and remained committed to it for the rest of his life, influencing much of his music. In 1976 an assassination attempt was made during rehearsals for a concert aimed at quelling political tensions in Jamaica. He died of lung and brain cancer in May 1981. In 1999, *Time* magazine named his album 'Exodus' the Album of the century.

**February 8th, 1672** – Pyotr Alexeyevich – better known as Peter the Great – was born in Moscow. He became Tsar in 1721 and during his reign of four years he expanded the Tsardom into a huge empire and a major power. He was the first Tsar to organize a standing army, and when he expanded his empire south he built the city of St. Petersburg, Russia's first warm-water port; and creating Russia's first navy. He also reorganized the government to resemble those in Western Europe.

**February 23rd, 1889** – Victor Fleming was born in California. This boy would grow up to become a world-famous Director, and is best known for the films *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind* for which he won an Academy Award for Best Director. To this day, he is the only director to have two of his movies in the American Film Institute's Top 10 movies of all time.

### Deaths

**February 10th, 2005** – Aged 89, following a long battle with cancer, Arthur Miller died in his sleep. A prominent figure in American theatre, writing plays such as *All My Sons* (1947), *Death of a Salesman* (1949), *The Crucible* (1953) and *A View from the Bridge*, as well as the film *The Misfits* (1961). Often in the public eye, he is popularly remembered for having been married to Marilyn Monroe.

**February 14th, 1779** – Captain James Cook was killed on the island of Hawaii by local tribespeople. Cook explored thousands of miles across largely uncharted areas of the globe, surveying, recording and naming features for the first time. He is credited with the first European contact with people on the East Australian coast, and the first circumnavigation of New Zealand.

**February 18th, 1294** – Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, dies in Khanbaliq (now Beijing). He ruled over one fifth of the world's land mass: from the Pacific to the Black Sea, from Siberia to modern day Afghanistan. In 1271, he founded the Yuan dynasty in modern day Beijing, which ruled over present-day Mongolia, China, Korea, and some adjacent areas, and assumed the role of Emperor of China. In 1279 Kublai became the first foreign conqueror to rule all of China, and he ruled until his death. His dynasty, the "Great Yuan", would last until 1368.

### Events

**February 1st, 2009** – Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir is elected as the first female Prime Minister of Iceland, becoming the first openly gay Head of Government in the modern world. She is a staunch feminist responsible for legalising same-sex marriage in Iceland as well as a total ban on strip clubs and any other means by which employers can profit from employee's nudity. She left office in May 2013.

**February 4th, 1789** – First US electoral college elects George Washington as President of the United States and John Adams as Vice-President. Adams would go on to be the second President of the US and both men are rightly regarded as critical to the development of the US. Washington was instrumental in waging the fight to ensure an American republic, and Adams was more instrumental in shaping it.

**February 28th, 1922** – Great Britain grants Egypt "independence". Upon reflection, the independence granted by Great Britain was only a veiled one as they withheld many key points in the treaty which allowed Britain to dominate Egyptian political, administrative, and fiscal affairs for decades. It was not until the Egyptian Revolution of 1952 that British occupation of Egypt was finally terminated.

Mark Ferguson

## 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 5th February – 1.30pm (note the earlier starting time)**

### Gore Hill and Up Cerne

Meet at the parking area near Gore Hill, above Hilfield Priory and west of Minterne Magna. (Off the A352 Cerne Abbas to Sherborne road)  
Grid reference: ST 769110 on OS Explorer Sheet 129 (approx. 4.5 miles)

**Wednesday 15th February – 11.00am**

### Droop and Stoke Common

Meet outside St. Mary and St. James Church, Droop, Hazelbury Bryan.

Grid reference: ST 754084 on Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 6 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

**Sunday 5th March – 2.00pm**

### Nether Cerne and Bramble Bottom

Meet outside St. Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas

Grid reference: ST 666013 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 4.5 miles)

### Please note:

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

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

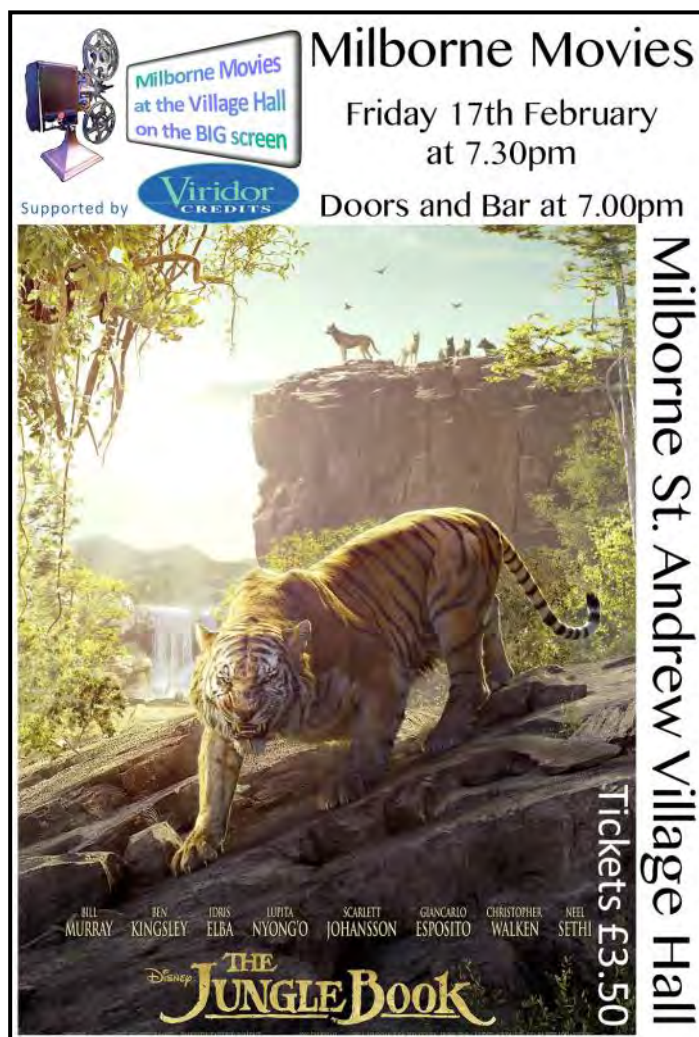
**Bring** Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

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

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

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

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



Milborne Movies  
Friday 17th February  
at 7.30pm  
Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

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Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall  
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# Community Events Diary

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

- February 2017**
- Wednesday 1st** **Wednesday Club Outing to Kingston Lacy gardens to see the snowdrops.** Meet Village Hall no later than 1.30pm – see page 13.
- Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th** **Jack and the Beanstalk** Village Hall 7.30pm plus 2.30pm on Saturday – see below
- Wednesday 8th** **History Group** looking at World War One. The Royal Oak 7.30pm – see page 11.
- Thursday 9th** **WI** Trisha Lewis will be 'Remembering Joyce Grenfell' Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 13.
- Saturday 11th** **100 Club Draw** The Royal Oak.
- Talk** on Kingston Lacy and the Bankes family by Carole Fornachon. St. Andrew's church 2.30pm – see opposite.
- Valentine Disco** Village Hall 7.30pm – see opposite.
- Tuesday 14th** **Reporter** last date for the March issue. Please send copy (Word) and pictures (.jpg) via email to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk by mid-day.
- Wednesday 15th** **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm everyone welcome.
- Thursday 16th** **Gardening Club** talk on 'Scented plants throughout the year', Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 25 and 26.
- Friday 17th** **'Milborne Movies'** *The Jungle Book* Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 3 and 16.
- Saturday 25th** **Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm – see page 2 for menu.
- Sunday 26th** **Jumble Sale** in aid of Ladybirds Playgroup. Village Hall 11.00am to 1.00pm – see page 11.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017



Join us for a boogie  
The hall will be Valentine Themed  
All welcome and partners are NOT obligatory!!  
Milborne St Andrew Village Hall – 7.30-10.30pm

Bring your own snacks and we will provide the bar.  
Oh! And wait for it. ....  
A Prosecco Bar... Woo Hoo xx

Tickets £6.00  
(Available from The Royal Oak or Amy 07828650104)



**The MILBORNE PLAYERS**  
present:

## Jack and the Beanstalk

by Bradford and Webster

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Thursday & Friday at 7:30pm  
Saturday at 2:30pm & 7:30pm

at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall

Tickets £7.00  
Box Office 01258-839085

Jack and the Beanstalk: Script provided by Noda Pantomimes

## Milborne St. Andrew Church events programme

We are starting off our events programme this year with a very interesting talk on KINGSTON LACY and THE BANKES FAMILY.

The talk will be given by Carole Fornachon in church on Saturday February 11th at 2.30pm. £5. includes tea/coffee and home made cakes. More information from Eva Stockley on 837468.

### **100 CLUB WINNERS**

Draw Date – Tuesday 20th December 2016

1st £100	Des Hopkins
2nd £50	Brian O'Dwyer

The next draw is on Thursday 9th February and then on the second Thursday of each month at 8.00pm in The Royal Oak

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*

***New members always welcome.***

Payments may be made by cheque or standing order.  
Contact John Wright for details 01258 839090

# “I’m Stickman, that’s me and I want to go home to my family home”

THIS term we are looking at some of our favourite stories and have started with Julia Donaldson’s Stickman.

The children have really enjoyed and engaged in the activities. Outside, Stickman had an accident and fell into a puddle which froze overnight. The challenge for the children was to rescue him. The children tried hitting the ice with hammers, brushing with paintbrushes and ‘digging’ with a spade. Then having decided he needed warming up suggestions were “put a coat on”, “I’ve got towels at my house”, “light a fire” and “come back later it might have melted then”. Some of the children continued to try and free Stickman while others set about making him a



house of sticks, including a bed inside and a pile of sticks as a fire. the poor unfortunate Stickman eventually was freed only to be sent to hospital with a broken arm!

Inside, the topic continued with the children playing in Stickman’s house thanks to Katie’s creative work with the climbing frame, camouflage nets and a large cardboard box. Some of the girls used sticks to make wands (not in the Stickman story, perhaps we should suggest it to Julia Donaldson) and dressed as fairies casting magic spells.

*Liz Dyer*



## Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

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Lunch Club 12.00-13.00

To find out more please contact  
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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

With the start of a new year and a new term, Milborne St. Andrew First School is introducing a variety of new sports and activities for our children, both during and after school. New teaching assistant Mr. Billington brings Tag Rugby to Milborne, and the Archery Club continues to be well attended. We have introduced Drama sessions this term both during and after school, and this is proving very popular indeed, as is the new 'Battle of the Bands' music club. Children are also looking forward to the Football Club, and a new Dance Club, both of which will start after the February half term.



On 12th January, the school held a 'Maths in Class' day. Parents of all the children were invited into school to participate in their child's Maths lesson, and afterwards reflect and discuss over coffee. This was very well attended and there was a lot of useful and positive feedback. We hope that this type of engagement gives parents more experience and understanding of Maths in school.

If your child is starting school in September, we still have a limited number of spaces available. To book a visit to the school, or for more information, please call the School Secretary on 01258 837362.

## CONTACTS

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

**Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hunt      **Secretary, School Office:** Mrs Joanne Norman

**Chair of Governors:** Miss Jane Pope      **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Caroline Richards

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**FEBRUARY**

**SATURDAY, February 11th**  
Shopping: Dunelme and The Range  
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Return bus Fare £12.50  
\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDNESDAY 22nd 2.30pm—The Exchange**  
Sturminster Newton  
**ANITA HARRIS**  
Tickets £10 each—Bus Fare £10  
Lunch at The Swan before the show  
\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY 25th Mystery Lunch**  
**RETURN BUS FARE £12.50**




Spectrum Housing Group and Sovereign have now merged



# LETTERS to the Reporter

Dear Village Reporter,

Recently I noticed that you have had a couple of features regarding people in the village who have been having interrupted service with their BT internet.

I live closer than 0.01 mile from the box and since BT have brought out the option to upgrade to fibre broadband I have been experiencing interruptions everyday which did not happen before the installation at the fibre box on Blandford Hill. I have a very good view of the daily comings and goings at that green box and I became suspicious that BT were deliberately slowing down broadband speeds so that their customers would be forced to upgrade to the faster but more expensive fibre broadband. Anyway, some weeks later I received a call from BT who asked me, quote "have you been experiencing drops in your service? and if so you might like to upgrade."

This was total confirmation to me that indeed it is a deliberate attempt by BT to create a two tier service, or to force people to upgrade.

I thought I'd like to let people know my experience in case it helps them as I feel like BT are very good at making up excuses and leading people up the garden path with the whys and hows.

I left BT and upgraded to fibre but with a different company (well known and established) which was half the price because they don't charge line rental but you keep your line, and it's been more than 3x faster.

I hope this can help someone although I

fear that from now on anybody left on the non fibre broadband option will continue experiencing difficulties although I hope I am wrong.

Thank you  
Concerned (name and address supplied)

Dear Editor,

We feel that more villagers should know what only those people who attend the Parish Council Meetings know.

At the last meeting the Sports Club received a £900 grant and the month before that a rent holiday for nine months for 2016-17, totalling £393.75. The Parish Council is still paying £1,440 per year to repay the loan taken out when the land was purchased, and will continue with this until 2024. This means that the Sports Club is receiving over £2,700 (in theory) this year from our Council Tax.

There is a risk that our Council Tax Precept will have to rise to fund these gifts of money to the Sports Club, with no visible evidence that the Sports Club is fundraising or making itself financially viable. Only a tiny handful of villagers use the Pavilion, unlike the Village Hall, which does many fundraising events to reduce the burden on Council.

Whilst the Sports Club is renting out the pitches to outside football teams to make ends meet, we question the fairness of Milborne Council Tax Payers subsidising a facility used for people from elsewhere. At a time when other village organisations need funds (for example Busy Bees' shed roof, Village Hall, Scouts, etc.), there is a danger that nothing will be left for them because the Sports Club has absorbed all the £137 funds (the budget has been overspent this year to make the most recent grant). There is little evidence that the club is raising money, by jumble sales, car boots, or other means, rather than expecting multiple subsidies from council taxpayers.

We are also concerned that activities such as dog training are being proposed for the Sports Pavilion, when the lease

explicitly forbids dogs in the grounds and on the premises (although they are allowed in the allotments).

The Centenary Field proposal, which was rejected at the Parish Council Meeting in November, would result in a responsibility on future generations to maintain the facility, needs a great deal of consideration before our children and grandchildren are landed with a responsibility they cannot necessarily carry out.

There has been an active 100 Club in Milborne raising money for the Sports Club and the now-defunct Football Club as well as the church for some years. Without questioning where all that money has gone, looking to the future, are villagers expected to continue to give money in this way as well?

We would like to see the Village consulted properly regarding whether there is a need for the Sports Club and the uses to which villagers could put it.  
Yours sincerely,  
Concerned Residents

## Gardening questions

DO you have a gardening question for our expert Maureen Lock to answer? Send your questions to the Reporter at [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk), our Facebook page or give to a Reporter team member whose details can be found on page 2.

**Deadline for the March Reporter is mid-day 14th February. All copy must be sent via the Reporter e-mail at [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)**



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## Milborne folk travel far and wide

NOT technically Milborne folk any more but still very attached to the village, Andy and I moved to a low-maintenance home in Charlton Down so we could follow our ambition to travel and see more of the world. Carrying out the plan was slowed down by the time it took conveyancing to happen, but now Mr. and Mrs. Voke are firmly settled in Wetherby Close and our first major trip will have started by the time you read this.

We will be flying first to Singapore, for a few days looking at a bustling nation that has only been independent since the 1960s, seeing its history, particularly of the Second World War, and remembering a friend's father and a former work colleague who were enslaved by the Japanese during that time.

After that we head on to Australia for some time in Perth catching up with family, and a trip to the vineyards at Margaret River. Then we take the Indian Pacific train (three days in a train!) to Adelaide, via Cook, a town with a population of two people. After a few days in Adelaide, and another wine tour, we head on to Melbourne, where as well as looking at the city we have some wildlife tours booked, and finally to Sydney for a week of rest and recuperation with relatives there.

We will be keeping family and friends in touch with our day to day activities via Facebook, but hope that Reporter readers might find a travel report interesting. I might also put the learning from my recent photography course into practice and send the editor some photos for inclusion in next month's magazine (Penguins? Whales? Seals? A train with an eagle on the front and a paint job that looks like snakeskin? Watch this space!)

If this proves interesting to readers, look out later in the year for a report of our trip following the Duke of Wellington and his army as they chased Napoleon from Torres Vedras (Portugal) right across the battlefields of Spain and into France and finally Waterloo, being very grateful that we will be driving the motorhome and not walking, as the soldiers did!

*Susan Wilson*

## The Royal Oak this month . . .

WELL 2017 saw us welcoming in the new year with the Sutcliffe family winning the best Disney fancy dress prize and Karaoke took us into the early hours of new years day. Our little family here has changed and our kitchen team of Tony and Nic cooked an amazing Chinese feast (January 12th). We are very much looking forward to what they will do going forward (rumour has it Tony makes a cracking sticky toffee pudding) so watch this space. The lovely Yaz has decided to use her degree and is interviewing for jobs in the horsey field, which means TJ has a full time position.

We have gone green and now recycle all of our food waste and as much of our other waste as we can. Sarah is a hard recycling monitor and keeps threatening to put me in the bin with a bit of rope tied to my ankles so that I can retrieve the crisp packets as it seems that they are not recyclable!

People keep asking if we have been quiet since the New Year and I can safely say no. Monday nights are packed with our Round Robin Crib league and the Milborne Men's Darts team who had an easy win this week. Thursday sees either a foodie theme evening or the local Bridge Club and Fridays sees our skittles team The Woodman hurling a ball double handed down the alley and they are currently at the top of the Dorchester Skittle B section. Let's hope Tony and the boys can stay at the top until the end of the season.

We have had some significant birthdays this month so Happy Birthday to Dusty, Frank, Jim, Dave and Brian and to anyone else that we didn't know about.

Bingo is back on Valentine's day and The Crack are back at the end of February. Keep an eye out for updates on new food events, charity horse racing and all sorts of new and old events that we are putting on over the next few months.

Those of you interested in playing crib speak to Peter and Elaine Anthony, bridge is Laurie Been and for anything else ring us here at the pub or message us on Facebook and we will try our very best to help.

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## A Good Read by Shirley Dunkley Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey

A recent feature of both literature and film has been the unreliable narrator: – halfway through the story the readers and viewers discover that they have been presented with a biased version of events and questions arise about the nature of reality. This book has the most unreliable narrator of all: Maud is an octogenarian with advancing dementia. At the start of the novel she has large holes in her short-term memory which she tries to plug with numerous notes to herself for reminders; by the end she is living with a daughter whom she can no longer recognise. In the beginning Maud visits her housebound friend, Elizabeth, and finds her house shut up with no one there. She writes a note to herself 'Elizabeth is missing' and tries to work out how to find her. She is deeply suspicious of Peter, Elizabeth's son, whom she feels is up to no good! Her thoughts about Elizabeth's absence arouse memories of her older sister, Sukey, who went missing in 1946 and has never been found.

During the course of the novel we find out more and more about Sukey's marriage to Frank, a Black Marketeer, and her concern for Douglas, a young milkman who has lost both his home and mother to a bomb. The memories of the past are clear and precise, untouched by her present-day confusions. Throughout the novel's course Sukey's tale is resolved and we also find out about Elizabeth but the skill of the book lies in the observation of Maud's struggle to make sense of her diminishing capabilities. This makes it sound a miserable book-it is not! Maud is funny, feisty and sometimes extremely difficult for her patient daughter to manage and protect but she is never pathetic. As a fellow octogenarian I could recognise the short-term memory loss (perhaps I need a note to remind me where my slippers are?) but I was never depressed. The message of the book, if there is one, is that despite the ravages of old age, the essential personality remains and the human consciousness despite outside attack, goes on seeking ways to make sense of the world.

### Please help the editor

Please ensure that your anti-virus software is up to date before e-mailing. Copy should be sent as a Word (or other text file) and do not embed pictures, logos, etc. into the document.

It is really helpful if you don't use underlining, UPPER CASE formatting (even for heading) or include any tables or graphics.

Photos should be sent as separate .jpeg files.

Do not send articles by .pdf. All these things may seem small but it does make all the difference in time saved later.



## Gardening Club Forthcoming events

AS usual there has been no members' meeting during December and the account of our January meeting about Climate Change will have to wait for next month's *Reporter*. However, the committee has been busy arranging talks and events for the coming year when we hope to see many Milborne residents.

We try to make the talks as varied as possible from outside speakers and are looking forward to hearing about selecting scented plants and also Mediterranean plants that will do well here; growing and using watercress; producing wonderful dahlias and chrysanthemums; introducing colour into our gardens in winter, and many other topics.

Quite a number of houses have changed hands recently and we would especially like to extend a warm welcome to new residents. If you want to change things or have not gardened on chalk before, other members will be pleased to tell you what does or does not work and you can take advantage of our links to local garden centres who offer discounts to the club at certain times.

We have not ignored social events and have our annual Lunch in February and will be arranging other outings. Our tree symbol will appear on posters and in the *Reporter*, so look out for it for further information. Good Gardening!

Sally Dyer

### Can you identify where this is in Milborne?



Be the first to send your answer to [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk) or give to any member of the *Reporter* team. *Reporter* team members can be found on page two.

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

Last month's answer can be found on page 26.



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**GARDENING CLUB**



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**Deadline for the March Reporter is mid-day  
14th February.**

**All copy must be sent via the Reporter e-mail at  
[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)**

## Did you identify this?

The photograph in the January Reporter was taken outside  
26 Stileham Bank



Pam Shults came up with the correct  
answer – I wonder why?!

Try your luck this month  
on page 25.



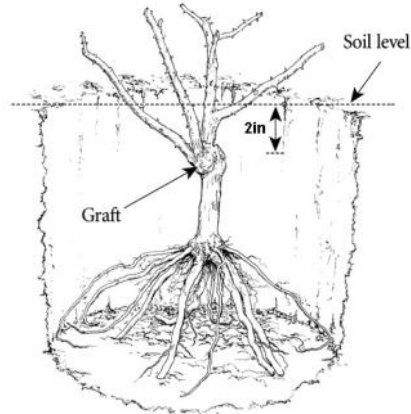
# In your Garden

Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *designerGardens*

## Bareroot planting

THERE is still time to plant bareroot trees and shrubs – as long as you don't plant when the ground is waterlogged or frozen it can be done at any time up until March. Although many of us will have received our bareroot stock by now, it is worth knowing how deep you should plant.

### Planting a Bareroot Rose



When planting trees or shrubs, ensure that the plant isn't planted deeper than it was either in the pot or, if you have a bareroot plant, deeper than it was in the ground. You will be able to see a dark mark on the stem indicating the soil level before it was dug up on the nursery. *Don't plant deeper than this.*

When you plant roses the general rule regarding planting depth is different. There is a misconception that the graft union on a

rose bush (ie the knobby bit) must be above the ground. This is WRONG. The graft union must, in fact, be planted 2–3 inches (5–8cm) BELOW ground level.



Soaking bare root roses/shrubs/trees

When you receive your bareroot plant, soak the roots (preferably overnight) before you plant to ensure they are nicely hydrated. Prepare the soil by digging through and removing stones and weeds where you are going to plant to allow the roots to grow freely.

Dig a hole that is wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the spread of the roots – don't cram them into a small hole and bend them round to fit! I see a lot of people doing this when they want to 'help' me planting! Put the plant in the hole and fill in and around all the roots with the soil you have removed.

Firm down gently with your foot to ensure the plant is nice and snug and to remove any air pockets. You may want to put a bit more soil around the plant at this point. Firm down again.

Always water well after planting – even if it is raining! 1–3 gallons of water is a good guide for the amount to use. Always water as close to the base of the plant as you can. If it starts to create a muddy flow, stop for a while and let the water soak in, then carry on.

Feed in March/April with an all round fertilizer such as Vitax Q4 – you don't need to feed when you plant or you will promote new soft growth that could well be damaged by frost.

### OTHER JOBS TO DO IN FEBRUARY

- Prune apple and pear trees. Don't be tempted to prune stone fruit trees yet.
- This is the last month in which to prune your wisteria. I have some good diagrams about pruning this beautiful climber so if you want a copy, send me an email.
- Prune winter flowering jasmine, buddleia, Hydrangea paniculata and H. 'Annabelle' and summer flowering clematis. Mop-head hydrangeas flower on last years' wood, so just thin them out by about a third to encourage new growth and dead old flowers.
- Trim hedges (if you haven't already done so) before the nesting season begins in March.

Maureen Lock



designerGardens



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# Off the hard shoulder, but not 'Superfast' yet

WE highlighted Milborne's broadband connection problems in November's Reporter, with dozens of residents commenting on the village Facebook page. Many stated how poor their internet service had been, most saying that the problems have surfaced since July last year. This was around the time of installation of fibre cabling in the village, part of the 'Superfast Dorset' initiative.

Since publication of that article, the Reporter has had emails and messages from readers who have also been experiencing similar problems, no knowing that many in the village also had had slow or non-existent internet. One of these, Catriona Brady, had contacted North Dorset's MP as a last resort after enduring months of bad service and correspondence with BT, who failed to provide a resolution to the problem. She kindly let me join her to meet with Simon Hoare, MP in November, with prior approval from his office. Catriona had provided him with her case, which will sound familiar to many others here – unreliable broadband since July, frequent periods of no data and often slow. Added to this, a customer-unfriendly fault reporting system, which involves lengthy phone calls often to remote call centres, who offer little in the way of progressing the problem.

We met Mr Hoare at his constituency surgery in Sturminster Newton. Catriona put her case to him and I outlined the poor broadband service Milborne had received since July, detailing with feedback received from the Facebook posts on the subject. Since arranging the meeting, there had been a moderate improvement of service that some in Milborne had seen. Mr Hoare listened and told us that he had an interest in this particular issue since he is the Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rural Broadband. The annoyance that many have experienced when dealing with a remote BT call handler may be coming to an end as, he said, the company were in the process of bringing its call centre back to the UK.

As for the actual broadband service that Milborne has been suffering with for the past six months, he suggested I monitor it for two weeks after our meeting, since there had been some recent progress.

During the late autumn, BT's installation and repair offshoot, Openreach, had been undertaking work at the exchange on the main road by The Square to improve connections. Engineers had been replacing blocks of terminals which supply individual lines to the village as the old connections had become outdated. This would improve line quality, which in turn can increase broadband speed and reliability. Whether this work was planned anyway or as a result of the Reporter's intervention as well as many residents' complaints is unknown. It does seem, however, that some of those that were reporting problems have now got a broadband service that is much closer to what is advertised.

However, there is still work to be done to rectify all problems, as the latest comments and emails to the Reporter have proved. Residents are still experiencing slow internet, intermittent



connections and crackly lines. This is what some of them said: *"Mine is still intermittent especially at weekends and other peak times."*

*"Ours drops out every other day"*

*"Mine is the same as always – random intermittent losses."*

*"Ours will drop out dozens of times a day, to the point where I have now increased my own mobile phone data to 40gb in order to tether to other household electronics. It's a joke"*

*"Ours is still terrible. [My partner] spoke with BT again last week and yet again they are going to call us back in a couple of days later to test. They never call back and when we want to make a formal complaint there's never a manager to talk to! I give up . . . ! We had the tech team tell us they would monitor our line for two weeks and call us back. We never received a call back and when we next called they told us they do not monitor lines or broadband and that we had been misinformed! Back to square one again . . . and again . . . and again."*

It is entirely possible that some of these faults may be the result of a completely unrelated or unique nature. For example, we were told of a fault by a resident that was finally solved only on the *eighth* visit by Openreach engineers. Previously, connection boxes in the resident's house had been replaced, wiring checked, outside cabling replaced, all to no avail. The engineer to visit on the eighth occasion went to the exchange to check connections there. He found that the data loss occurred when traffic on the main road passed the exchange. Philip Harris, continues: "After a little digging (literally!), he established that when the exchange box was moved, the main data cable bunch was damaged. When traffic passed this, it made the box move and crushed the cable bunch resulting in a connection dropout. He switched the cable pair that runs to our house on Chapel Street to a good one and we have only had about two drop outs in the last month, compared with multiple prolonged ones every day as before for the last nine months!

Barring one-off faults like this, the likelihood is there will be a common cause to residents experiencing similar symptoms to their lines, as we know that when data loss occurs it is often experienced by many. The comments from villagers above were included in an update sent to our MP, following our agreed two week monitoring period.

Mr Hoare said, "I'm very grateful to the residents who came to my Advice Surgery to discuss the ongoing problems of unreliable connection with me, and for gathering the 'real time' information. While it's good news that some homes have seen improvements it is not acceptable that it is so varied. I will now raise the problem with BT directly and work to get this issue resolved speedily. From experience I find BT very responsive when I contact them."

I also suggested to Mr Hoare that the large number of residents who had had problems and not received the service they had been paying for should be reimbursed. I asked for his support in this when he corresponds with BT. Some residents who have had long-term issues with their lines have received compensation, so it is entirely reasonable that all should have some of their bill given back.

*Ed Richards*

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**We all went through the results from the Questionnaire, from the Research and from the Open Days, this is what you have told us, it is not something the Neighbourhood Planning Group have done themselves, you, all the village residents, have put this together:**

### Housing

Conclusions: You told us you were happy with between 3 to 5 new homes per year for the life of the plan, there was no consensus for building new houses at a greater rate

38 respondents expressed a desire to change homes in the future but it was unclear if this was up or down sizing, you would like homes for existing villagers or have identifiable link to the community. You would also like a Covenant on Social Housing (to keep them in Public Ownership). And you felt the need for a mix of homes particularly smaller houses e.g. 1 or 2 bedrooms with some larger homes.

### Flooding

The first draft statement, linking existing policies and your views: *"Within the parish of Milborne St Andrew any new development which falls within 500m of Flood Zone 2 (as defined by the Environment Agency) and results in a net loss of permeable surface area shall be required to undertake a full Flood Risk Assessment as defined by the Flood Zone 1 and Critical Drainage Area Assessment as set out by the Environment Agency. Where applicable, full mitigation measures as set out in the Environment Agency's standing advice for Vulnerable Developments should be included within any application."*

#### ONWARD ACTIONS:

Grey water systems – ensure current thinking regarding grey water is incorporated into the Policy Document  
Permeable surfaces – not gravel, with clear guidance for Planning in relation to water management also improved sewerage, and drainage systems.

## A COMPETITION!

**We need your favourite views of Milborne St Andrew, it can be recent or reminiscent – folk or fields . Please email your photo to [NPG@milbornestandrew.org.uk](mailto:NPG@milbornestandrew.org.uk) as a JPEG (photo) file.**

**The winner(s) will have their photo(s) on the front page of the final Milborne St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan.**

### Facilities

The questionnaire confirmed that we all felt that most of the facilities within the village that were listed in the questionnaire to be important, or desirable. With the most visited (like the shop) attracting the most votes.

A larger main GP practice sited in MSA was mentioned on a high percentage of forms returned, as was community support for a purpose built Pre-school. Comments suggesting siting the bus stop to a safer position, with a bus shelter were popular. And the state of footpaths and stiles put forward.

#### ONWARD ACTIONS

The group will contact the surgery to enquire as to their future plans. Ladybirds pre-school have already presented their hopes to the NP Working Group. The bus stop siting is outside the remit of the NP, as are the footpaths and stiles, so the Parish Council will be notified of all the comments.

**MORE FROM ALL THE RESULTS  
NEXT TIME!**

### Village Character (style and green spaces)

Conclusions: Any new development needs to enable/incorporate safe integrated road access for pedestrians. Paths whether 'right of ways' or 'locally accessed' are important with easy access to green spaces and these should be incorporated in any new build.

Any development should reflect the need for 'green spaces' and of trees.

Buildings should be no greater than two storeys; mixed style development; designed to reflect 'typical Dorset village buildings'. Ensure retention of existing green spaces, public spaces e.g. recreation grounds, footpaths and stream.

#### ONWARD ACTIONS

Mapping of footpaths and 'missing links'; Investigate schemes to sort out traffic problems

### Business And Employment

Conclusions: Whilst research showed that all the village business units are full (reported by the owners), there is little enthusiasm for villagers with businesses elsewhere to relocate to the village.

However the population, overwhelmingly felt that the village would benefit from more businesses, primarily small units.

#### ONWARD ACTIONS

Identify employment sites – and encourage home working?  
Good support for more businesses but promotion needed and more units or 'home units/work spaces'.

There were five comments in the questionnaire wanting a café type facility, this has to be community/commercial led, as it is outside of Neighbourhood Plan remit.

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