



Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 9 Issue 5

May 2017

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team

Fire destroys picnic benches at Village Hall wildflower meadow

IT IS with great sadness that I write this. However, I felt it appropriate to bring this to the attention of the village. On the last Saturday of March, Caroline Richards saw flames up in the wildflower meadow in the top field on the village hall grounds. Thinking it was just a small bonfire with maybe some revellers starting an evening of entertainment Caroline's husband Ed went to investigate just to ensure it was all contained and to ask whoever was up there to put the fire out as it could have become dangerous and the field is really not for that type of evening activity. But on Ed's arrival he found a burning inferno that was clearly not going to be contained.

people, the elderly and it had gone, literally, up in flames. It makes people like me and the rest of the committee really question why we give our time to this village. But we know why we do it. We do it because we want to. We do it because we love this village. We do it because we are a community. We look after each other and we want a good life for each and every one of us and we want it to be a place to be proud of. This one off act of mindlessness, we hope, will be a one off.

The committee are driven to make the village hall and the grounds a focal point of, and for, our community. Please, I ask from

Ed Richards writes: *When I got there, the fire was blazing – there was a timber picnic bench alongside the main fire which was smouldering, which I pulled away to save it from going up too. There was a strong breeze up on the hill and the fire was close to the trees and undergrowth on the eastern boundary, abutting the farmland and it was a real concern that that would catch alight too. I called the fire brigade, although they had already had calls from locals about it, but I stayed by the hall to show them to the access tracks to get to the blaze. They parked on The Causeway outside Tilly Whim to use the hydrant there and put their hose over the park fence to use the shortest route.*

The picnic bench well alight, before the fire brigade's arrival



Phone calls were made to contact the village hall committee and after Alison Riddle had been called, Gren Elphinstone Davis kindly attended the scene and liaised with the fire services. It sadly became clear that one of the brand new recycled plastic benches was no more. The picnic bench that myself along with Ian and Lis Watts had personally donated to the village had been destroyed along with another bench that had been kindly donated by another villager.

When I became aware of what had happened it was like a kick in the stomach. All that hard work to fundraise for; all the effort to try and make the village a nicer place to be for families, children, young

the bottom of my heart, can we all work together to ensure that this does not happen again. Keep your eyes open. If you have any concerns about anything please feel free to call one of the committee members. What we have to remember is that money is not easy to find. It takes a lot to continue to update things and maintain equipment. But to fully replace it for a reason such as this is a difficult pill to swallow. It has happened now and we will move forward. Let's just hope that while that fire engine was putting out a fire that clearly should not have been started in the first place, somebody else was not in real danger and was not helped properly as a result.

Amy Tanswell

Assistant to the Editor found

THE *Reporter* would like to welcome to the team, Jo Whitfield, who will be assisting our editor, David Payne.

We also at this time would like to mention Anne and Eric Snape who have delivered the *Reporter* since it started in 2009, they have decided to retire and they leave us with many thanks for their hard work.

From all the team



Jo says:

"Having grown up in a small village in Staffordshire, I knew that one day I would live in a village again. I moved to Milborne St. Andrew 2½ years ago, from Poole, and live here with three dogs and two cats.

I spend lots of my spare time out with the dogs exploring the local countryside. If you see me around the village you may see me accompanied by a cat – sometimes Cleo joins us!

I love technology, enjoy photography, spend time on various craft projects, and if there's a chance to go on a roller coaster then I am there!"

The Easter Experience

ON Good Friday, 22 adults and ten children met in the church for our annual Easter Experience. As the children were being registered they were asked to answer a quiz, which needed them to look around our 12th century church for the answers. After a prize had been given out for the most correct answers the real fun began. We started with crafts and the children made bookmarks, Easter baskets and cards and helped with an Easter garden. Rosie Coldwell told them the meaning of our Easter craft work, we then heard the Easter story from 'Open the Book', and we sang 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'. We then had a film, 'The Super Cool Story of Jesus' after which Rosie brought out her guitar and we sang, 'Jesus' Love is Very Wonderful'. She then led us in our prayers before we finished with 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands' with actions! The service finished with a blessing.

Then it was over to the refreshments of Easter biscuits and hot cross buns, soft drinks and a nice cup of tea.

Josie Wright

Photo what we are as a village

WHAT sort of photo or picture would reflect our village? We need one, or maybe more, to put on the front of the neighbourhood plan policy document. You may have a photo already, or you may have a thought of what it should be. Go out with your phone or camera or even sketch book and show us what Milborne St. Andrew represents to you. Send a copy to npg@milbornestandrew.org.uk and have your photo or picture published! *MSA Neighbourhood Plan Working Group*



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Village hall play park update

SO we have all been talking about it. Lots of parents have wanted it. Many of us have been fundraising for it. And finally the village hall are very proud to announce the installation of the new multi play piece in the park! We all know that it has taken time



and patience, but we really hope that we can all agree that it is a brilliant piece of equipment for the young children of this village to enjoy.

Thank you with all of our hearts to all who contributed to this coming together. I could start to name names but as this has been going on for such a while it would be a long list! We are just very happy that it is in place and usable. We also would like to highlight that further developments will be taking place to keep the other equipment up to date, however, this new piece really is a great centre piece of the park now. Please enjoy it everyone and we encourage all to look after it too!! *Amy Tanswell – Acting Chair of the Village Hall*

Did you spot it?

DID you notice something different about the *Reporter* cover last month, after it plopped through your letterbox? Large colour cover picture, yes – but top left, a little hedgehog pointed the way to the page he appeared on, rather than the usual drawing of the village church. The team had been talking for a while about this corner on the front page, and using the colour aspect we now have to its full extent. In that discussion, the church featuring as our 'logo' was considered and whether we wanted to keep it, change it or use the space for something completely different. A letter had been received and published on this subject, but this has no bearing on our decision – it had been mooted before this in any case by a team member.

There's no doubt that St. Andrew's church is central to Milborne's identity – it's in our village name, for starters. Many activities and events outside of services are run within its 13th century walls which villagers attend, and we hear about church news and the vicar's monthly address in the *Reporter*. St. Andrews is a prominent building both visually and historically and is clearly important to the Milborne of today. But the *Reporter* is obviously not a church publication – we are a village monthly for all of Milborne, and our varied content is testimony to this. Does the drawing of the church confuse a lot of people, as the letter writer suggested, and make them assume that it is a "religious magazine, and throw it straight in the bin". If they do, we hope it's the green one. But seriously, we think – and hope – not. We reckon most residents would think the church is there for the reasons above.

However, we did replace the church for a hedgehog last month and play park this month. But, as you can see from this issue of the *Reporter*, the church does, and will continue to, feature on the cover from time to time – this month with the Good Friday craft event for children, as part of the 'Easter Experience'. We'll experiment with the top left corner in the next few months and use it to add an extra splash of colour.

What do you think about this? Are you sad to see the church go from our cover, or doesn't it matter? Have you any suggestion to what you think should appear here as a 'logo' for the village? Let us know, write an email or letter to us, send a message to our Facebook page or tell a team member.

LETTER FROM DI HARRIS

Di Harris and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers and messages of condolence after their recent loss of John.

Also grateful thanks to The Royal Oak for the refreshments, and Alison, Rose and Ed for help in the Village Hall.

Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning



**Village Hall
on Saturday 13th May
from 10am to 12 noon.**

**Deadline for the June *Reporter* is mid-day
14th May.**

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Why?

God gets the blame for an awful lot of stuff. And since earliest times people have asked how a loving God can possibly allow the suffering we see in the world.

Some stuff which causes suffering can clearly be put down to human behaviour. The current famines in Africa are mainly caused by the conflicts going on in those countries. God created all of us with a choice as to how we live our lives, and honours that choice when people choose to use it for ill. There would be no real choice unless that was the approach God takes. Without the ability to choose there would be no freedom.

But there is much suffering that isn't directly caused by other people. Why does God allow that? The question won't go away.

The honest response is that we just don't know. It's a question we cannot satisfactorily answer. One theologian, Jürgen Moltmann, comments that to offer an explanation is an insult to those who suffer and blasphemous to God.

People are amazingly resilient when faced with suffering. Dave Tomlinson in his provocative book: *How to be a Bad Christian . . . and a Better Human Being* points out that on the whole the people who ask the "Why?" questions are not those who are suffering but the onlookers. The sufferers, he argues, are more likely to be concerned with how they can find help or how they can manage.

What we really need when we suffer is people willing to walk with us through whatever we experience. I know from my darkest days of depression, the people who helped most were not those who tried to jolly me along, but those who were willing to sit with me through the pain.

And I believe that God walks with us too. Not long ago we were remembering the suffering of Jesus during Holy Week, and how God turned that into something amazingly different in the resurrection. Jesus didn't avoid the suffering – he went right through it – but as a result something so much better came to be.

Many people who have suffered turn their experiences into something really positive. Think how many charities and support groups have been set up by those who have direct experience of the conditions and situations they help others through, either in person with practical help or by providing money to help others give support.

We may not be able to answer the question 'Why?' satisfactorily, but all of us have the opportunity to choose how we face our suffering. Many of us struggle to be positive in the face of suffering but there are those who do manage, even in extreme circumstances. I find their example so humbling.

I'm going to end with the inspiring words of Victor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor, who wrote this: "We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer a sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given circumstances."

With best wishes,

Sarah Hillman

Notes from St. Andrew's Church

APRIL has been a busy month with all the events leading up to Easter. In church we have held the quiet evening service of Compline each Thursday which half a dozen of us have found to be a lovely retreat from the hurly burly of our busy lives. We were also able to relax a little when classical guitarist Mark Jennings gave us a very good evening of music accompanied by Spanish food such as Piperade with crusty bread, salted almonds,



Church Services

May 2017

7th May – Easter 4

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate . . .	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish
3.00pm	Thanksgiving service	Tolpuddle

14th May – Easter 5

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 18th May

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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21st May – Easter 6

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Payer (said)	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

Thursday 25th May – Ascension Day

6.30am	Morning Prayer	Dewlish on hill by mast
6.30pm	Holy Communion	Puddletown

28th May – Easter 7

9.30am	Go Forth	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	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	

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

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marinated cheese, mango and serrano ham nibbles. Goat's cheese red pepper tart was served during the interval along with Sangria and fruit juice.

Far from quiet was the school Easter Service when we had 90 children and 60 adults in church for a service led by the Year 3 children. Our fortnightly 'Open the Book' presentations have continued this term, but we have missed Pam and Jim – especially Jim's scenery!



On Good Friday we experienced two extremes in church. After three hours of quiet music for prayer and reflection we had our annual Good Friday Experience for children and their parents which is reported elsewhere. That was followed by our usual celebrations on Easter Day when the church looked wonderful with all the lilies and flower arrangements paid for by donations in memory of 31 loved ones, and we were pleased to welcome Rosie Coldwell back to take the service for us.

As I write, Martin Northover is about to take over mowing the churchyards, so we hope that with this help and the efforts of our working party we can keep the churchyards neat and tidy. We do need more volunteers on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am, but we also need those who have family graves to keep them free of clutter. The diocese's churchyard regulations, which are displayed in church near the font, specify what is allowed and what is not.

By the time you read this we will have had our Annual Meeting

and we will have elected a new PCC, though I expect that most of us 'old timers' will still be there! One difference will be that I am not standing again as Churchwarden, though I am still willing to continue as treasurer. Also by then we hope to have received a faculty from Salisbury to replace the overgrown western hedge. I am afraid that the new hedge will take time to provide a good screen, but the only screen provided by the old hedge was bare trunks and ivy.

John Wright



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Milborne hedgehogs in April

IT'S wonderful to have had such a good response from the hedgehog observers round the village since the initial meeting at the beginning of March. There are clearly active hedgehogs that have come successfully out of hibernation. With the helpful feeding that you are giving them they will have an increased chance of thriving in the months to come. As well as seeing the animals themselves there have been reports of fresh poo around the village including one lot that was carried through the house for confirmation by the wife! Unfortunately, there have been two casualties reported to me. One was a small squashed roadkill near Bagber Farm and the other a sad recording on a motion sensor camera of a hedgehog appearing and then being attacked by a visiting badger. It is well known that badgers will kill hedgehogs on occasions, especially in the very early spring when both are hungry after hibernation, and there is not much food about. This is another reason to feed the hedgehogs to be fit enough to escape predation.

Some of the observers who have not seen the animals are not sure what the poo looks like so I have attached two photos. One has a pound coin included to give an idea of scale.

I saw an article in a national newspaper that had a tip for those who put out food but are concerned that local cats are taking it instead of the intended hedgehogs. I have



followed the suggestion and it seems to work. I bought a small clear storage box from B&Q and cut a hedgehog sized semicircle in the side (it seems small but it works). Be sure to put a weight on the top so that as the hedgehog pushes to go in, the box does not move as well. I am suspicious that cats still try to reach a paw in to get the food but

I know the hedgehogs get it, I have seen them.

For those who still have not seen a hedgehog and are putting out food I suggest looking out just after you have watched the ten o'clock news, assuming you put food out at the beginning of the news. For those who put their name on the e-mail contact list and have not received a report from me, please e-mail me at pip.jackie@btinternet.com so that I can correct and confirm you onto my master list. Also if anybody else wants to be on the list, please e-mail with the request to be included. *Pip Howell*

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. No prize, just a bit of fun.

5	2	9		7				
	7		8			6		
				3	1		5	7
6	5		3	8			7	
		8	5	4	3			
	1		2		6		9	5
2	8		7	4				
		7			9		1	
			1			7	2	4

Deadline for the June Reporter is mid-day 14th May

It's just a stage we're going through!

THIS month I asked one of our members – Laurence Lagrue – a bit about being in the Players. Here's what he said:

"I've been a member for about five years, ever since my partner persuaded me to join. I'd never acted before or even had drama lessons. I don't find it hard to learn my lines – you just have to commit to doing it regularly and put the effort in.

I'm nervous every time we put on a production – every night of every show – right up until I've said my first line, then I'm fine after that. I really enjoy the interaction I have with the audience – I like to think I'm a bit of a comedian, and love making people laugh. My favourite role is being the pantomime dame! I wouldn't want to do it every year – but I like it because I can be cheeky, flamboyant, chat with the audience and get away with slightly more risqué material.

I get great enjoyment out of being in the players. I've made such good friends, and we all go through it together – all the hard work of the rehearsals, the nerves...

My next role is as Robert Caplan. He's rather naive, and during the play, things come to light that were obvious to others that he wasn't aware of, which have a great impact on him emotionally. It's the first time I've played a serious role, which is a fresh challenge for me. I've got lots of lines to learn, so I'm hoping it will pay off with good audiences!"

Adrienne Rogers



Prison, chains, caves and old photos

IT'S amazing what turns up at the local history group. This month we brought in old photos or objects and it was quite a diverse group of items. We saw a lovely 1920s wedding photo and an album of family history put together for the daughters to keep. Photos and information about the obelisk on Wetherby Castle (yes, there is one there, only seen if you climb up there).

A beautiful book about Dorset written in 1910 with colour plates of various locations. Who remembers the old measurements of rod, pole and chain? Well, Dave brought in a chain, something that few of us had seen.

José brought in an old will of 1604 – the servants were left 12d each (5p to you youngsters) and the bell ringers at the funeral received 2d. Her grandmother, she told us, was born in a cave! This was one of the Kinver cave houses now owned by the National Trust. Linda brought in a photo of her great aunt who as a doctor in Harley Street carried out abortions in the 1930s at 100 guineas! After the trial at the Old Bailey she was imprisoned for three years and struck off! Sue and Laurie had sent us photos of Little England Cottage in a state of disrepair and being rebuilt. They don't know who put the photos through their door but they are a brilliant record of their house. Don't forget if you know the history of your house we would love to know as we are gradually putting details together. As always we digressed and talked about family secrets so next month we will look at illegitimacy. Wednesday May 10th at 7.30pm in The Royal Oak.

Linda Wright



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Homemade soup of the day served with crusty baguette

Oven baked camembert served with spiced baguette and mixed leaves

Main Courses

Dorset Pork loin & black pudding wrapped in Parma ham served with mashed potato, roasted shallots and an apple cream sauce

Pan-fried lamb rump served with dauphinoise potatoes, honey roasted carrots and a red wine jus

Vegetable, soy and black chilli stir-fry with egg noodles, bean sprouts, carrots, green beans and chestnut mushrooms (v)

Roasted skate wing served with crushed new potatoes with a prawn & butter sauce.

Dorset tomato risotto with basil crisps and a watercress puree (v)

'Jurassic Coast' sirloin steak with a tower of twice cooked chips, confit tomato, flat cap mushroom and a peppercorn sauce

Homemade chicken and mushroom pie served with mashed potatoes and vegetables

Beer battered cod fillet with, homemade tartare sauce and pea puree

Hambro beef burger served with crispy bacon, smoked cheddar and twice-cooked chips

Desserts

Dark chocolate & orange posset served with shortbread

Treacle tart served with clotted cream ice-cream and honeycomb

Deconstructed crème brûlée served with a tuile biscuit and raspberry crème patiserie

'Trio of Strawberry'

Strawberry jelly, chocolate coated strawberries and a strawberry mille-feuille

Local cheese selection: Blue Vinny, black wax cheddar, Somerset brie and rosary goats cheese with mixed rustic crackers, apple and celery

Lunchtime Menu

In addition to our a la carte menu we also offer a lunchtime lighter bites menu and on Sundays we offer a choice of traditional Sunday roasts

E-Mail: info@hambroarms.com

Website: www.hambroarms.com

Small Businesses in MSA Number 7: The Lawn Mower Man

COLIN Churchill has lived in Milborne St. Andrew for his whole life. He was born in a thatched cottage on the main road, moving aged seven years to the old Police house and then Mayflower Cottage, Chapel Street 45 years ago. His house dates from 1919 and was the family home. Mr Churchill senior, a hurdle and spar maker, died aged 92 years in 2007 and his mother in 1988. Their close relatives are the Popes who farm on the Dewlish road.



Having left Puddletown School aged 14 years, Colin became apprenticed to Dorset Tractors, a Ford dealership in Dorchester, for ten years. After one Christmas there was no work so he was moved from tractors to mowers thence to Casterbridge Mowers whilst inadvertently triggering a pay rise for all employees! Four years later he opened his own lawn mower business in Wareham in 1976.

He was a keen Point to Pointer having half shares in a horse, until his left leg and hip joint was removed to save his life in 1996. The loss of this activity has been the hardest of all to bear. He now runs his business in a large workshop (originally pig sties) at the back of his home, servicing and maintaining lawn mowers, chainsaws and

strimmers. This year so far he has sold five new mowers. He has a great deal of work and owes a huge debt of gratitude to Maurice Fox who has helped him on a regular basis over the years. Colin has many suppliers spread across the south and west of England. His goodwill is such that he can count on receiving parts within a 24 hour turn around. Regretfully he has suffered the loss of machines through theft – thieves break in on all sides, even through the roof!

Colin Churchill is a most successful and skilful business man. His regular customers come from far afield and some are local farmers. Knowledge of his whereabouts and expertise are both spread by word of mouth.

At present he is engaged in a financially and emotionally damaging legal dispute over access to his workshop and land which threatens his livelihood. Despite all this, Colin Churchill smiles and says “You leave the rat race and plod on in your own time” suggesting that he is living the life he chose and wouldn’t want to change.

If you wish to contact him his telephone number is 01258 837321.

Carole Fornachon



More phone woes in Milborne

NEWS of more problems with Milborne’s phone lines have reached the *Reporter*, following the catalogue of issues residents have had with broadband. This time it is complaints about problems during voice calls, such as crackly lines and poor audio quality.

Phone customers have also told us that their phone doesn’t ring, even when friends and family have called, and when calls are connected, then being cut off randomly. These problems seem to be independent of broadband as residents have said that their internet is unaffected during these times.

But it looks like things may have been cleared up, but only after the complaint being escalated higher up the BT chain – something some broadband customers may be familiar with! The engineer who finally fixed the problem for the Milborne customer said that they had already fixed the intermittently crackly Chinese routeing equipment that serves 100 lines, and the non-ringing phone was cured by replacing a card in the exchange on the line involved. Open Reach have a big problem with intermittent faults as they can’t mend them if the fault isn’t there.

Hopefully all the phone and broadband problems have now gone away, but if anyone is still having trouble with a crackly line (usually heard at the recipient’s end, not the caller’s) we might be able to help if you email us. Otherwise report all faults to your service provider who are the people to deal with them. Emailing the company’s CEO should only be resorted to after their normal fault reporting procedure has been given a fair chance.



Pentecost – Sunday 4th June

AS last year, the Archbishop of Canterbury and others are encouraging churches to focus particularly on prayer in the week running up to Pentecost (Whitsun). The main theme is *Thy Kingdom Come*, and The Lord’s Prayer will play a central part in the week’s activities and events.

On Sunday 4th June, the benefice will be joining together for a

Pentecost Pilgrimage

Instead of our usual services, we are encouraging those who can to join us in walking round the benefice.

Each walk will begin with a short act of worship (maximum 15 minutes) as follows:

9.00am	Puddletown	(approx. 6½ miles)
10.15am	Tolpuddle	(approx. 3½miles)
10.15am	Milborne St Andrew	(approx. 4 miles)

At 12.30pm, there will be an informal holy communion at Dewlish, followed by a picnic lunch (bring your own).

The hope is that as many as are able will join the walks – bring your friends, this is not just for regular churchgoers.

If you’re not able to walk with us, we would love everybody to commit the act of worship in their own churches as the walkers set off, and then rejoin us in Dewlish at 12.30pm for communion and lunch.

All being well those who join us in cars at Dewlish will have enough spare seats to ferry walkers back to their own villages after lunch.

Please look out for posters and flyers nearer the time.

Circuit training

AVAILABLE for everyone. All ages, all abilities welcome. Come and give it a go. Improve your fitness, have fun, and meet new friends.

Contact Grace on 07931766597 or email graciebabie@tiscali.co.uk or just turn up at Milborne St. Andrew First School, 6.30–7.30pm Thursday evenings, £5.00 per session.

“Recently, a friend told me the Government is set to make changes to Inheritance Tax. Is this true and how could this affect my family?”



Jerome Dodge

Principal - Wills and Estate Planning

This is true. The Government is introducing an extra Inheritance Tax allowance that will be phased in from April 2017 to April 2020.

The change could extend the Inheritance Tax allowance from £325,000 to £500,000 for an individual, and from £650,000 to £1m for a married couple.

It is a huge difference and could affect how much your family receives, but the extra allowance is not straightforward and can easily be lost. Taking professional advice

on both the structure of your Will and your assets in light of the new law means you could save your family many thousands of pounds.

The best way to work out how you might be affected is to review your Will with experts. Blanchards Bailey's team of specialist solicitors has built a reputation for explaining complex legal issues in straightforward terms.

Policy around Wills, tax and estate planning changes all the time so it's

important to work with a legal team that keeps you abreast of the situation.

If you would like to talk to us about this or any other legal matter, please call or pop into one of our offices and we would be pleased to help you.

jerome.dodge@blanchardsbailey.co.uk
01258 483616



More assets, fewer headaches

There comes a stage in life when it makes sense to start planning what you want to do with your assets - after all, you've worked hard for them. In the face of increasingly complex laws concerning Wills, Powers of Attorney and estate planning, we help you ensure your loved ones are passed more of the assets and fewer of the headaches.

Chairman's Annual Report of the Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council 2016-2017

YET another eventful year has passed very quickly – the Council has been kept busy. We have a complete Council which makes my life much easier and I'm very grateful for all their hard work.

There have been several planning applications made, changes of use in St. Andrews View, the addition of a porch at Homefield and most recently we have looked at the plans for houses behind Fox View, which Quintin Miller has kindly kept the Council informed about before submitting the plans to North Dorset. The most contentious of these has been the ongoing storage lagoon which was being used before West Dorset had agreed to the plans. Due to several objections including signage and the need for a wheel wash, Eco Solutions needed to put another plan in and it was agreed that it could be used once the signage was in place, but there would be no need for the wheel wash. So I think we all need to be vigilant when travelling along the A354 by Greenacres and make sure there is no mud on the road.

It has also been a busy year with tree works applications with ones in Orchard Rise, The Nest, Byways, Vine Cottage, and the factory, all of which we had no objections to. We have submitted a request to have a willow tree pruned back after a request from a Parishioner that it was hanging over their garden.

The flooding problems in the village have been well controlled by the Flood Warden and his team and we now have a flood plan in place. Several meetings have been held to make sure that everything keeps flowing, sorry about the pun! Just recently they have been doing additional work on Milton Road between Huntley Down and Stileham Bank, and at the main road junction. Yet another improvement and they only cut through the electric cables twice! My thanks to Steve Lord, who can be seen on a daily basis riding his bicycle along Milton Road in his hi-vis jacket. Also the various meetings he has organised with Simon Hoare, the E.A. and Jacob Dew.

Colin and I have attended several meetings including the AGM of DAPTC and with Hilary Cox which have proved very useful as we get to speak to her on a one to one basis. We thank Hilary, our County Councillor, who we don't unfortunately see often enough due to her heavy work load but her support on Parish problems is always very welcome. My thanks to Emma Parker and Jane Somper, our District Councillors, for keeping us up to date with everything going on in North Dorset especially at this time of Local Government reorganisation. The Council has discussed the reorganisation and agreed that option B would have the best changes, with the county divided in two areas. But in the light of the recent Christchurch

news this is going to be an ongoing decision.

Colin and I also had a very interesting meeting with Simon Hoare when he took several problems on board that were common to many Parishes and we received a very concise reply recently.

We have spent the S137 grant on the Sports Club plus another £150.00 and a holiday rent. We feel the need to support the Sports Club as due to lack of enthusiasm from the previous committee and management, they are trying very hard to make it a viable organisation again. Their committee have made enquiries about making part of the field a Centenary Field with the RBL. At the time Councillors were uncertain this was a good idea and postponed it for six months.

The Neighbourhood Planning Group moves on under the guidance of Mick Hopper who has now handed on the chairman's position to Jo Witherden with the help of Richard McNair. My thanks to everyone who is involved in this arduous time consuming task. We received the local plans from Swanage and Weymouth and Portland for information only.

Councillor Karen Park has attended the meetings regarding the Clinical Commission Group keeping the council informed and the survey was completed and returned.

There have been the usual annual problems like dog fouling on pavements, parking on the pavement, cigarette ends outside Crown Court, the loss of the mobile library, transport, pot holes and the need for a pedestrian crossing on the A354. All of which have been looked at by the Councillors with several successes but several disappointments. But I think one of the best achievements is the installation of a defibrillator outside the Village Hall with the hopes of having another one when the funds are raised, which have been greatly enhanced by a generous donation from Buckingham Health Care. I especially would like to thank Councillor Joy Robinson for all her very hard work on this project.

I would like to add my thanks to all the parishioners who have worked hard on several occasions behind the scenes, holding events to raise money for charity, doing repairs to items in the village. They are the silent helpers who make the village such a beautiful place to live. Finally, in this, my last, Chairman's report my very grateful thanks to all the Councillors for their unstinting work over the years and especially to our clerk Colin who manages to keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes and me under control, most of the time! I'm sure that the new elected chairman will do an excellent job with the team in place and I wish them all the success.

Jenny Balcon

Age UK Dorchester would welcome your advice!

AGE UK Dorchester has need of volunteers to join its **Information and Advice** team to provide information and advice to older people and their carers. Vacant slots are available on **Mondays 9am to 12.30pm**, and **Wednesdays and Thursdays 12.30pm to 4pm**.

Information and Advice volunteers interview clients, identify and research information, act on clients' behalf, and help with letter writing, undertaking diagnosis, providing information with options and identifying action.

If you:

- Like to identify problems and solutions in meeting the needs of older people
- Have some spare time to give
- Enjoy volunteering
- Have basic computer skills

Please contact Peter Lindsley at peter@ageukdorchester.org.uk or telephone 01305 269444. Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester DT1 1PW

Too much clutter?

Garage need a tidy up?

Perhaps we can help

Instead of Open Gardens we think you might like a

Village Garage Sale

with twenty or so garages open one Saturday in July.

Perhaps your neighbours may like to share a site? There would be a charge of £20 to open your garage like a Table Top Sale. We would advertise it and produce a map of the village showing all the garages.

**If you are interested in joining us please ring
Eva 01258 837468 or Pam 01258 837203**

Chicken and Eggs at Ladybirds

AS part of our Easter theme we learnt all about eggs. What lays eggs? What hatches from them? And, how can we cook them?

To help the children understand about chickens and eggs (which came first?) the tamest chicken ever – Sandra the chicken – came to visit. She happily came out of the carry box and walked around the children, pecking at the carpet before wandering out to inspect the outside play area. Being careful not to get pecked the children stroked her and were surprised at how soft and smooth her feathers were. As Sandra is only a young chicken she lays small eggs which we compared with the bigger ones that the full sized hens lay. Then we



cracked open the eggs and examined the inside before scrambling to taste. Later in the week the children made egg and cress sandwiches using the cress we had grown.

In the few days before finishing for the Easter holidays we hid glittery decorative eggs around the grass next to the Hall and the children ran around collecting them in the baskets they had made. These eggs were then exchanged for small chocolate eggs, a chocolate lolly and an Easter biscuit, so that all the children had the same to take home. On the last day we were able to use the new climbing equipment as a special treat. Thank you to all who have helped in the fundraising to get this built.

Some of you may have read about the 30 hours childcare funding for three and four year olds. Ladybirds are participating in the early roll out of this for the summer term, offering up to 23 hours a week. Under the conditions parents must work a minimum amount each week and can share the hours between childcare providers. For more information contact Liz or look on www.dorsetforyou.com/childcare.

Liz Dyer

Ofsted registered no.217717



Registered Charity no. 1087441

Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

Ofsted reported

"Children demonstrate an eagerness to learn, gain control and coordination in their physical skills and become confident communicators"

We offer a high quality preschool experience for children aged 2 years to school age in Milborne St Andrew and the surrounding area

Rated **GOOD** again by Ofsted

We have Highly qualified staff who using the ethos of learning through play help children to achieve their potential

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Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 - 13.00

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To find out more please contact

Liz Dyer (Leader) 01258 839117; 07771

512427 or email liz@milborneladybirds.com

Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044

www.milborneladybirds.com



MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL



Learning together and having fun

SCHOOL NEWS

THE Spring term has drawn to an end and Milborne St. Andrew First School has been jam-packed with some fantastic learning and sporting activities. With a wide range of after school sport clubs, such as archery, football, and tag rugby it has been a great opportunity for our children to get outside and enjoy the spring sunshine while getting active at the same time.

Milborne hosted this annual football festival, which is made up from children in years 3 and 4 from DASP (Dorchester Area Schools Partnership) First schools, with seven teams in all. Competition was fierce! All of the games were refereed by 'year 8' sports leaders, from St. Mary's Middle School and sports leaders also kept a running score sheet as well as 'coaching' a team from their past school. Jack Hamilton was an excellent 'coach' for Milborne and got our team up and moving as soon as they were on the field! He got them warmed up, explained the rules and even put them in positions for drills.

Miss Wittman would like to say a big thank you to Jack. All of the teams tried their best, especially as some of the players were getting



very hot but they were kept going by refreshments provided by Milborne Friends of School including hot drinks and cake for the cheering spectators! This year the competition was won by Piddle Valley First School. With Frome Valley being presented a 'Player of the Festival' award. Milborne showed sportsmanship qualities and were great representatives of the school. They persevered with a positive attitude and were supportive and respectful of their own team members but also of other team members taking part. Miss Wittman was very proud to have Brooke, Toby B, Toby J, Oliver, David, Samuel and Arthur on her team. WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TOOK PART!

Milborne children also had the opportunity to participate in a Cricket taster session with Sports First Academy. Children really enjoyed this session and as such we are now happy to say that we are inviting children to join in a cricket skills development course during the Summer Term.



Finally, Easter is here and children have celebrated with an Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church. We had some wonderful creative entries for our Painted Egg competition, and a highly competitive (and loud!) Egg Rolling Race on the school field!

Milborne St. Andrew First School would like to wish all readers a very Happy Easter.

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

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

Memories of the 'Freedom Bell'

A POST on the Reporter Facebook page caused a bit of interest last month, so we thought we'd share it here. The 'Freedom Bell' at the First School is rung by pupils to signal the end of term, and since it had just been rung for the start of the Easter break, our Facebook page reminded readers of the significance of it. Back in March 2011, the Reporter had the ritual on the



front page, with four Year 4's helping to ring the bell and inside, the history behind the bell, with a photograph from the dedication ceremony in 1983. This was of course at the former school on



Chapel Street, and it showed the then headmaster, Mr Alan Herridge with the Chairman of Governors (David Payne) and Rear Admiral JM Webster who dedicated the bell.

The Freedom Bell was donated by the Royal Navy to the school to commemorate all those who had lost their lives in the Falklands War, which had been fought the previous year. The bell had spent its life on a naval ship, the RMAS Freshburn, but that vessel was decommissioned, so the bell came to Milborne and was pressed into service, as it still is now.

Some of our Facebook readers recognised themselves or others in the photo – is there anyone there that looks

familiar to you? If you'd like to read our story on the bell dedication ceremony, it's on our archive – have a look here: <http://milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/Reporter%20Archive/2011-03.pdf>

If you'd like to see more of the Reporter, follow us on Facebook – you'll find us if you search for 'Milborne Reporter'.



Friends of Milborne First School

Marvellous

MAY FAIR

SATURDAY 20th MAY 2017

11am - 3pm

Giant inflatable slide

Fire Engine

Ice cream Van

Park Rolls and Burger Bar

Nerf Gun Alley

Teddy Tombola

Silent Auction

Raffle

Face painting

Pimm's Bar

Local Crafts

AND MORE !!



And rides from me too!

Age & height restrictions may apply. Some things may not be available in wet weather. ALL children MUST be accompanied by an adult

Admission: Adults £1, Children Free!

Registered Charity: Friends of Milborne St Andrew First School (1084154)

At Milborne First School, Hopsfield

Community Events Diary

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

May 2017

- Wednesday 3rd** **WI Lunch** The Royal Oak 12.30pm for 1.00pm.
Wednesday Club Village Hall 'Life on the Fairground' talk by Kay Townsend 2.00pm – see page 21.
- Thursday 4th** **Circuit training** Milborne First School – see page 11.
- Saturday 6th** **Jumble Sale** Village Hall 10.30am–12.30pm.
- Wednesday 10th** **Milborne History Group** The Royal Oak 7.30pm – see page 9.
100 Club Draw The Royal Oak 8.00pm.
- Thursday 11th** **WI Meeting** talk by Rachel Knowles about 'Fashionable Life in Regency London' Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 29.
- Saturday 13th** **Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** Village Hall 10.00am–12 noon – see page 21.
- Sunday 14th** **Dorset U18's Cup Final** Sports Field, Lane End.
Dead-line for the Reporter get your copy and pictures in by mid-day.
- Saturday 20th** **Marvellous May Fair** Milborne First School 11.00am–3.00pm see page 16 for more information.
- Friday 26th** **Milborne Movies 'A United Kingdom'** Village Hall 7.30pm tickets £3.50 – see below and page 19.
- Saturday 27th** **Village Lunch** £6.50 per head Village Hall 12.15pm–2.00pm– see page 2 for menu.
- June 2017**
- Sunday 4th** **Pentecost Pilgrimage** see page 11 for locations and times.
- Wednesday 7th** **Wednesday Club** Moreton Walled Garden for cream teas.

What happened about that questionnaire?

DO you remember a thing with questions popping through your door last summer? What did you do with it, straight in the bin? 220 or more sent it back to us, and it's helping us to put together an idea of what you want in the village.

Over the last few months we have been putting them in the MSA Reporter, but we're concerned that you may not have seen it. In short it's:

Parking's a problem

In certain areas of the village it is a problem, but lots of people depend on their vehicles. We will include the minimum required level of car parking required for new developments (of all sizes) within the Parish of Milborne. We also suggest that garages, carports or car barns must be designed so that they can be used for the parking of cars (rather than for storage), reducing the need for on-street parking.

How many houses?

You are happy with between three to five new homes per year, you would like homes for existing villagers or those who have identifiable links to the community. And you felt the need for a mix of homes particularly smaller houses e.g. one or two bedrooms with some larger homes.

Worries about flooding

We want new development that is within 500m of a flood zone to have a full Flood Risk Assessment with full mitigation measures, which normally is applicable only to building closer in the flood zone.

Our facilities are needed

We all feel that most of the facilities within the village are important, and 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.

Village Character (style and green spaces)

You felt that any new development needs to enable/incorporate safe integrated road access for pedestrians, and that we should ensure retention of existing green spaces, public spaces e.g. recreation grounds, footpaths and stream.

More businesses?

The research showed that all the village business units are full (reported by the owners), and you said that the village would benefit from more businesses, primarily small units.

You told us you want a café type facility, but this has to be community/commercial led, as unfortunately it is outside of Neighbourhood Plan remit.

MSA Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date – Wednesday 12th April 2017

1st £100 Lee Vallier
2nd £25 Wendy Lewin

The next draw is on Wednesday 10th May and then on the second Wednesday 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 Andy Mott for details 01258 837208



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As seen on the **BBC**



Reflexology – more than a foot massage

MANY of you will have heard of reflexology and may have even tried it out. I have personally found it to be very beneficial and seen firsthand the profound healing effects it has on people. So what is it?

Reflexology is a completely natural and non-invasive complementary treatment. But don't be fooled into thinking it's nothing more than a glorified foot rub! I have seen many outstanding results even after one treatment alone. It is wonderfully relaxing and rejuvenating for the body, helping us to release stress and tension, which is sadly so common for most of us these days. It helps to restore the body's natural healing mechanisms, bringing a state of balance and harmony to body, mind and spirit. Reflexology's purpose is not to treat or diagnose for any specific medical disorder, but to promote better health and wellbeing much in the same way that exercise and a healthy diet will bring. The great thing about it is it's completely safe and can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Over the years it has become more widely acknowledged as an effective complementary therapy and is now recognised by the NHS, GP's and hospices and works very well alongside conventional treatment. Most reflexologists work just on the feet, although the hands, face and ears can also be treated. It involves applying pressure using various techniques with the thumb and fingers on 'reflex areas' which correspond to the organs, glands and other parts of the body. Did you know, there are over 7000 nerve endings in each foot? Is it any wonder that these techniques can stimulate the body in such a positive way? Studies performed using real time ECG and MRI scanning have demonstrated that there are immediate effects including inducing relaxation. Brain wave activity and blood flow were shown to increase in the corresponding parts of the brain and body that are associated with the reflex areas being treated during the tests.

Research has shown that reflexology applied in the proper manner can:

- Induce relaxation
- Improve circulation
- Improve nerve supply
- Reduce pain and improve post surgery recovery
- Reduce anxiety
- Complement cancer care (e.g. Chemotherapy)
- Result in easier birthing and post-partum recovery

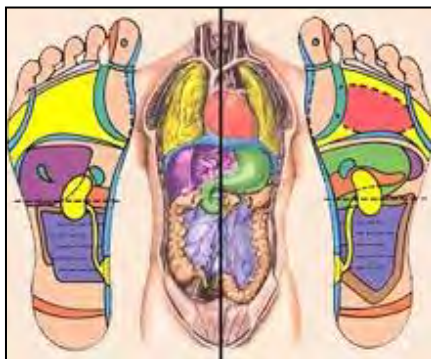
As with all holistic treatment, the whole person is treated. Treatments are tailored, to how each individual responds to reflexology will vary. Most will feel a sense of wellbeing and feel relaxed and invigorated and many sleep very well following a treatment.

The foot reflexes as we know them today were originally mapped back in the 1930's by American physiotherapist Eunice Ingham. She went on to research and develop Dr. William Fitzgerald's 'Zone Theory', the precursor to modern Reflexology.

Eunice located the parts of the body that were stimulated from alternate pressure to specific areas of the feet. She charted these points and developed the techniques we use to work the reflexes today. Her work is now carried on through the International Institute of

Reflexology (IIR). Since then, there have been many fascinating advances within this modality such as Craniosacral Reflexology, Vertical Reflex Therapy, which is particularly good for those with mobility problems, and Orthopedic Reflexology, to name but a few.

If you are interested in finding a reflexologist, look for a practitioner associated with professional bodies such as Professional Reflexology, and/or the Association of Reflexologists. Just look for PRM or MAR after the name.



Hollie Jeans

A Good Read by Shirley Dunkley

The Northern Clemency by Philip Hensher

THERE are some circumstances in which only a really big book will do – long holiday hours waiting for it to be cool enough to come out of the shade; convalescence for a broken ankle; coping with the disasters of Southern Rail: Philip Hensher's 'The Northern Clemency' should be your constant companion. Its 738 pages explore the lives of two families in Sheffield from the 1970s until the end of the Millennium, and the way events impact on the growth and development of everyone in each group. The Glovers, with their three children, live opposite the Sellers with their two in an 'executive estate' in a green suburb. Through the growing up of the children and the life changes time brings, the history of England at the end of the twentieth century is played out. Katherine Glover, bored with her stay-at-home domestic life, takes a job in a flower shop and the consequences spread to all the family. Bernard Sellers, who has worked his way up to senior management at the Electricity Board, lives to see his job privatised. Tim Glover, a student in the 80s, takes part in the demonstrations at Orgreave and witnesses the violence there. Meals and parties crop up frequently with a humorous and dazzling recollection of the food consumed. How many of us remember 'a potato wrapped in foil with a mini assemblage of cheese and pineapple, week old sausages iced with fat'? We share school days with the children, London living in their twenties; we meet illness and death and see them absorbed into the family interactions.

This is not a slight book, but neither is it a heavy read. It tells the story of our recent history through the creation of very real, credible characters who, like everyone, contain both heroic and mean-minded impulses. There are no chief protagonists – Hensher unrolls the stories of about a dozen people in a series of episodes. The narrative is straightforward, the insight into human behaviour and the sense of place so acute that it's a hard book to put down. Breaking an ankle – or a journey – seems a small price to pay for the hours of pleasure it affords.

A United Kingdom (12A)

Shown by 'Milborne Movies'

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

on Friday 26th May 2017 at 7.30pm

A United Kingdom is a heart-warming story of the power of love and clear-sighted integrity in the face of prejudice and ill-judged political expediency. It is based on the true-life relationship between Sir Seretse Khama (David Oyelowo), an African chieftain from what was then the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and a white British woman, Ruth Williams (Rosamund Pike), a London office worker that he married in the 1940s in spite of fierce opposition from their families and the British and South African governments. The film implies that he was the King of Bechuanaland, but in fact no single individual ever held this position; Khama was the ruler of the Bangwatho, one of a number of tribes making up the Tswana nation, the largest ethnic group in the country. In Botswana, as Bechuanaland is now known, Khama and Ruth are today revered figures, as he was the leader of the country's independence movement and its first President when independence was achieved in 1966; unlike most other former colonies in Africa Botswana has remained a democracy ever since, and their son is the current President.

Asante, in collaboration with the screenwriter Guy Hibbert, has managed to recover a long-forgotten chapter of Britain's history – one of political intrigue, "subversive" racism and colonialism. Oyelowo captures Seretse's quiet dignity while also hinting at the limits of his patience while Pike is compelling as a woman who rises to the occasion regardless of the circumstances. This compelling film serves as a welcome reminder that, even in the direst of situations and in the most impossible of times, love can indeed trump hate.

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.

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A Samaritan garden



THE Gardening Club had an unusual topic at its March meeting which was led by a small team of members from the Weymouth Samaritans, led by Mrs Di Gilliver. Many people will be familiar with the work done by this charity which exists to provide help and advice to people who have become desperately worried and upset by circumstances in their life which they feel unable to cope with and need to discuss with an unbiased and independent listener.

The talk was divided into two, the first part describing the work of the organisation and how it is run and the second about the garden – what, you may wonder, has gardening to do with a social charity?

The answer lies in fundraising. The branch had become concerned that, excellent though coffee mornings and tin-rattling are, they needed a more reliable and constant source of income. This coincided with getting to know an elderly widower in Preston who had a large, unused garden which he could no longer manage. The two problems were put together and the result is a flourishing market garden. Worked by volunteers they sell plants at various events and shows around the county and sometimes from the garden itself. They try to produce unusual plants as they cannot compete with large organisations, and they are given much of their stock by well-wishers which they can then split or propagate and expand.

The most interesting part was the account of how the place was transformed from a domestic to a commercial space with great ingenuity. Someone offered them a greenhouse, a firm gave them solar panels to heat it and a shed was also acquired for free. Water was a problem as they had no access to the domestic supply but again they came by guttering, pipes, water tanks and other storage and an unwanted pump.

The result is a most interesting selection of plants at very reasonable prices which were happily seized upon by members. Another excellent result is that one or two of their troubled clients are now helping at the garden as therapy, and they are also about to start providing training for adults with learning difficulties. Altogether an unusual and inspiring local story.

Plant sale

The **Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale** and **Coffee Morning** will be held in the **Village Hall** on **Saturday 13th May** from **10am to 12 noon**.

There will be a wide selection of plants grown by members at good prices, all grown in Milborne so you know they are suitable for the ground. Come along and choose and then treat yourself to coffee, tea and home-made cake.

Sally Dyer

Holme Nursery for the Wednesday Club

ON a lovely sunny afternoon, the 5th April, 22 members met at the Village Hall to arrange car sharing to visit Holme Nursery near Wareham.

On arrival at Holme some went off to look at and purchase plants straight away while others found our reserved tables and started with lunch or cakes and tea or coffee.

We walked round and admired the gardens particularly the arrangements of thousands of tulips and other seasonal plants.

Towards the end of the visit some of us sat outside beside the delightful pond, to chat and relax in the sunshine before reluctantly leaving to go back to our cars, with boots full of plants and bags of compost for the drive home.

Our next meeting is at 2.00pm on Wednesday 3rd May in the Village Hall when Kay Townsend will be giving an intriguing talk on "Life on the Fairground", from behind the scenes. Non members will be welcome.

In June on Wednesday 7th we will be going to Moreton Walled Garden for a cream tea.

Lis Watts

The Royal Oak in March

WHAT a month we have had! Busy busy with all sorts of fab nights. The Crack went down a storm again with the usual table dancing only this time some of our more mature gents joined in the fun! No names are to be mentioned but lets hope they don't decide to re-enact Strictly Come Dancing!

Valentine's Day saw the comeback of bingo with Alison Riddle winning the £80 star prize. Well done Alison, and yes, we will be doing more bingo nights in the next few months.

Tony outdid himself on both Pie Night and Tex Mex night this month with the chicken and black pudding pie and the chicken and chorizo tortilla bake being the stars of the show and Village Lunch was also well attended as well. The Tex Mex night also saw the bar being transformed into an anti-Trump style wall and cowboy hats and chillies were in abundance!



The sports end of the pub has supported all the rugby and football including a very noisy Southampton versus Manchester United clash! Those dining in the restaurant were able to keep up with the score by cheers alone! Unfortunately our men's darts team were beaten in the cup final but the Woodmen continue with their winning streak. Our crib league finishes at the end of the month so if you want to get involved in next year's league then Peter and Elaine Anthony are your contacts. Bridge still continues on a Thursday; please contact Laurie Ben for details.

The Royal Oak in April

Well, Mother's Day proved to be our busiest day ever! With six full sittings of families being looked after by the fab team here! Sarah has been working hard in the garden planting up the boxes and beavering away in the back.

Another pie night has been and gone, and curries from around the world including one from Germany! We had some fiery fiddling from the lovely Nina Garcia on Saturday 15th April.

The Grand National saw Barry Bright winning the sweepstake and the usual shouts of 'go on go on!' Talking of shouts, the sports bar saw another big match with Southampton versus Bournemouth. Gerald sure knows how to DISCO!

The Woodman have won section B so have been promoted to Section A again. Well done to Tony and his team.

A very busy Monday saw Chris and Barbara winning the crib league and our very own Andrew Fox won the round robin on the night for the second year! Well done to all.

May sees another fundraising horseracing event in aid of the Milborne Youth football team. Bingo is back and it's Italian for our theme night!

It's lovely to see some of our regular holidaymakers back with us and we are getting busier and busier so please ring to book a table to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to seeing you soon



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Notes from Parish Council meeting

Parish Council Annual Meetings can sometimes be boring but . . .

We had two really passionate speakers, both employed by Wessex Water, and doing something unusual – trying to make all organisations talk to each other. Or, as Nicola said “My job is to bang heads together to make each organisation work together”. Nicola Hopkins is a Catchment Co-ordinator - she looks at areas where rivers flow into the sea. Milborne’s little stream, Bere river, begins up by Bulbarrow and eventually falls into the Frome and thence to Poole Harbour, which is our ‘catchment’ area. Our problem here is the phosphates, as it encourages too much vegetation, like nettles and the fast-growing Himalayan balsam, which is lush in summer, but leaves bare banks in winter. We need to work at local level, including groups of farmers, talking about what we can do collaboratively to help. Steve Lord commented that, with 52 riparian owners, it is difficult to get all to work together.

Sarah Williams is an ecologist, and an expert on voles! There are three voles, Bank, Field and Water, the first two are the size of a mouse, but the Water is more like a fat guinea pig - blunt nose, flat ears and a short furry tail! They live along up to 130m of riverbank and have between two to four litters per year. It’s predicted that they will disappear from many sites (up to 94%) eventually unless encouraged to thrive. By cutting vegetation little and often and down to one foot, leaving one side uncut each year, and desilting by bucket, the voles are less disturbed.

Where is NDDC now?

Did you know that Nordon House was closing? Cllr Jane Somper listed where the various departments operate from now, some from South Walks House, Dorchester (more back office like HR etc.). Nordon still has Housing, Planning, Building Control and Benefits plus others. We will have to wait until after the election to find out whether we move to a Unitary Authority.

Cllr Hilary Cox feels that one local authority is needed, because Parish, District and Council don’t always talk to each other, with overlapping. And we need to save money. Since the crash, the budget’s been reduced by £90million, and £25million further savings are needed. This would give back office saving without reducing essential services.

What floods?!

Did you know that the borehole check is in Delcombe Woods? I didn’t! Steve Lord spoke clearly about the present situation. We are technically in drought, although actual drought is a summer phenomenon, so the data collection by the Environment Agency will not be representative, thus it has been abandoned until next year. The recent drainage work is ‘fine tuning’ the drains. The drain opposite the shop is now connected to the old nine inch pipe. This work is the maximum possible, and Steve Lord said that it can get rid of five foot of floodwater every day if needed.

Home Watch

Cllr Joy Robinson has little to co-ordinate in Home Watch this year. Police Community Support Officer Luke Goddard reported that we had 16 crimes in Milborne last year, down on 20 the year before, and their priorities now are to prevent rural crime, disrupt use of drugs and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Defibrillators

Amazing news of the village defibrillators from Cllr Joy Robinson – we have one and are raising funds for a further two. The *MSA Reporter*, our village magazine, has donated £1,500 with further funds possibly available for maintenance, etc. This, with other donations and about £30 each from the boxes in the pub, shop and Post Office, pays for a second defibrillator with £1,500 further to raise for the third.

Finally – yes finally – in the public open time, Heather Hogg reported that she has been informed that the large, noisy, broken gully covers in The Causeway will be replaced from 5th June, with the road being closed for a maximum of one week. The covers will be stuck down with mastic rather than cement – let’s hope they don’t bounce.

Small bits from the shortest Parish Council Meeting:

Cllr Simon Thompson is retiring from the PC and Cllr Jenny Balcon is also to retire next month. Do you fancy it? Contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Sue Gould

Sports Club pitch

A BIG “thank you” to all of those that took the time to complete the recent questionnaire. A total of 86 survey forms were returned to the Londis and to one specific question “*Do you think that the Sports Club to be an important asset to the village*” we received an overwhelming “YES”. The answers to all the other questions will take a bit more time to digest but be assured, they will be and they will provide valuable pointers to the future.

Thanks also for all of those that took the time to complete the FACEBOOK POLL, to support our CROWDFUNDING appeal and for the letters of support that we have received in connection with our grant funding proposal to Viridor. We received letters from local residents, our representative DCC Councillor, the Chief Executive of NDDC and the Milton Abbas and Milborne Doctors Practice and the number of elements of our proposal has now grown to 11! So, with three competitive quotes required for every element that has meant a great deal of work for the team but as Dick Emery used to say “You’re worth it!!”.

Later in the year we will be welcoming the Poole Ladies Football Team as their home venue and they play in the SW Regional League, so a very high class of football. Before that, on the 14th May we will be hosting the Dorset U18’s Cup Final.

As you might expect with all this praise comes a sting in the tail.

The Sports Club team are a group of like minded souls who are volunteering their services for the benefit of the local community. The needs of local families are at the forefront of everything we do and are trying to achieve. We desperately need some more volunteers to help, be it with the bookkeeping, the 100 Club, painting and decorating or even being a dab hand with a feather duster and floor polisher. (We do not have the ‘readies’ to pay so must do them ourselves). So, don’t be shy, come on down, or up in our case, and lend a hand. Contact milbornesports@gmail.com or 837929 if you are interested

Richard Lock

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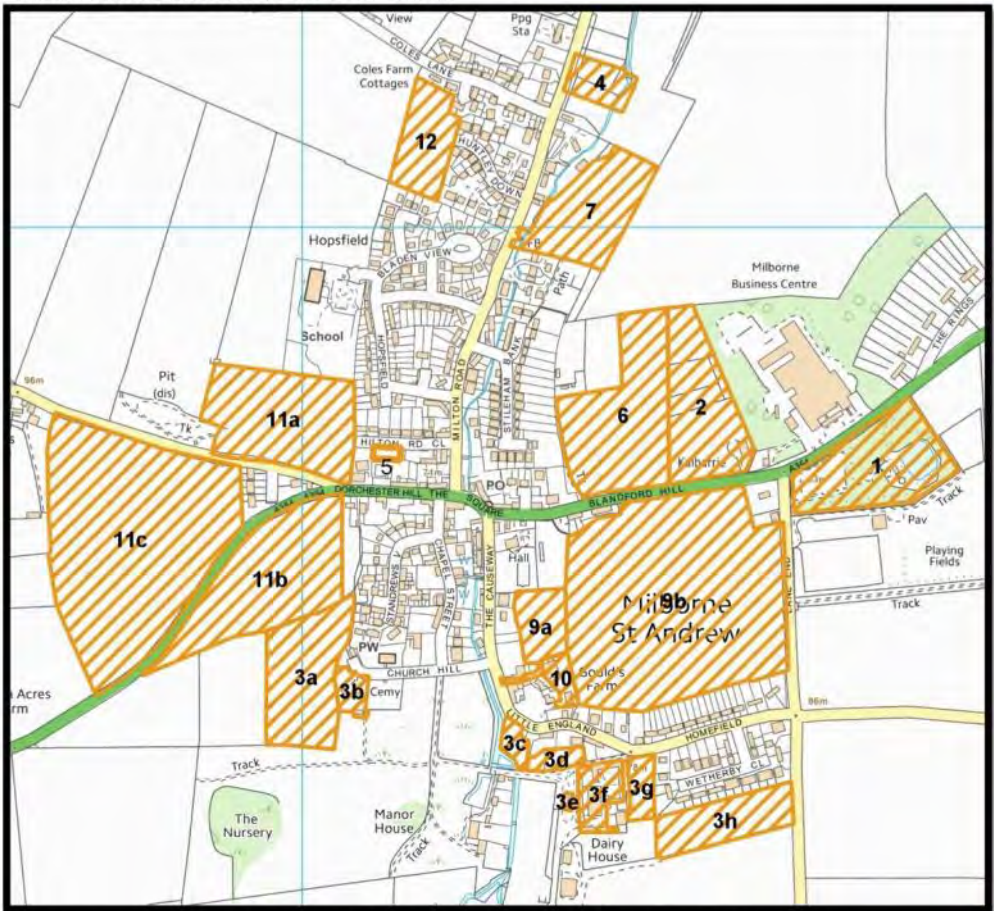
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WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE THE HOUSES?

You can see that some sites would be more suitable than others. Our research so far suggests we need about 60 houses in the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan (up to 2031). This includes any houses that already have planning permission, but not yet built. As part of our initial assessment, we have looked at all aspects of each site, and taken advice, some checks are still being undertaken with all parties where land is in joint ownership. We think that some of the sites could be just partially developed, what do you think?
 Come along on 10th June to the village hall between 10am and 3pm, see all the information. and make up your mind.



There are a couple of sites that didn't fit on the map, the old Waterbarn (down Waterbarn Lane) and a site up Dewlish Road next to Popes Farm (behind Springfields)

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Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning
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Rhubarb, rhubarb – worth chattering about!

AS children we used to pick ripe stems of rhubarb from our garden, dip them in sugar and munch them raw! I can remember being sent to our corner shop to buy sugar which was sold in plain blue paper bags. Mr Beaumont, the grocer, bought the sugar in sacks and filled his own bags. When I brought the sugar home mum would then re-weigh the bag on her own kitchen scales to make sure we had the full weight. It was always exactly the correct weight, which was a relief to me as I dreaded having to take it back to complain. It seems strange now when shops are open all hours but back then Mr Beaumont shut his shop for an hour every lunchtime. My mother would occasionally send me to knock on the back door of the shop if we had run out of some urgent essential like milk or bread and if it was Mrs Beaumont who answered the door she would smile and be very kind but Mr Beaumont was less pleased to be disturbed at his dinner time.

Rhubarb root has been used for medical purposes by the Chinese for thousands of years and appears in *The Divine Farmer's Herb-Root Classic* which is thought to have been compiled about 2,700 years ago. Rhubarb grown in Russia became the ancestor of the common modern rhubarb. For centuries, the plant has grown wild along the banks of the River Volga. The availability of this "Siberian rhubarb", together with the increasing abundance and decreasing price of sugar in the 18th century, led to its increasing popularity.

Rhubarb leaves contain poisonous substances, including oxalic acid. Humans have been poisoned after ingesting the leaves, a particular problem during World War 1 when the leaves were mistakenly recommended by the government as a food source in Britain. Rhubarb stalks damaged by severe cold should not be eaten because the stems may be high in oxalic acid, which migrates from the leaves and can cause illness.

Rhubarb root produces a rich brown dye similar to walnut husks. It was used in northern regions where walnut trees do not survive. Rhubarb leaves can be used in honeybee colonies as a mild Varroa-cide, either as crushed leaves or in the form of a tea. Rhubarb tea soaked paper towels or crushed leaves are placed above the broodnest. Worker bees immediately begin removing this foreign substance, exposing the colony to oxalic acid, which is toxic to Varroa mites.

In the United Kingdom, the first rhubarb of the year is harvested by candlelight in forcing sheds where all other light is excluded – a practice that produces a sweeter, more tender, stalk. These sheds are dotted around the noted "Rhubarb Triangle" of Wakefield, Leeds, and Morley. Because rhubarb is a native of Siberia it thrives in the wet cold winters in Yorkshire. West Yorkshire once produced 90% of the world's winter forced rhubarb from the forcing sheds that were common across the fields there. The cultivation method for forced rhubarb was developed in the early 1800s. The fields were fertilised with large quantities of horse manure and 'night soil' from the nearby urban areas and woollen waste from "mungo and shoddy" mills.

If that hasn't put you off, then here is this month's recipe!



Rhubarb and strawberry crumble

Serves 6

1kg rhubarb
120g dark brown soft sugar
150g butter
300g plain flour
4 tablespoons caster sugar
500g strawberries

The day before, peel and cut the rhubarb into 3cm slices. Toss rhubarb with sugar and refrigerate for 12 hours. When ready to proceed, drain.

Rub the butter into the flour until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in caster sugar. Refrigerate. Preheat the oven to 190°C / Gas 5.

Butter a baking dish and fill with the drained rhubarb. Top with strawberries and scatter crumble over the top. Do NOT press down.

Bake in preheated oven for 40 to 45 minutes. Keep a watchful eye on it to check that it doesn't burn.

Serve with custard, cream, ice cream or any combination. Often pubs and restaurants use a microwave to re-heat their crumble but this leaves it soggy. It is much better served fresh straight from the oven with a lovely crispy layer of crumble on top of the sweet and juicy base.



Rhubarb sculpture
in Wakefield

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'A fond farewell to Jenny' at the April WI

OUR annual meeting was, sadly, also Jenny Preston's final as President of our WI for the last five years. This is always a busy meeting and we commenced with a brief look at events in the pipeline. Camp Bestival, Milton Abbas Street Fair and the Zip wire in Bournemouth are all in hand. The Arts and Crafts exhibition is at Purbeck School, the WI has a floor to itself and every institute is asked to produce a centenary celebration card. This will form our competition in June, so the creative amongst us have a few weeks to address this.

The Denman appeal is ongoing, and Josie will have a coffee morning at her house on Wednesday 10th May at 10.30am. Cakes, biscuits etc will be needed, there will also be a raffle and 'bring and buy'. Everyone welcome. Sheila Ryall will host the summer supper this year on Friday 16th June at 7.00pm. The next pub lunch at the Royal Oak will be on Wednesday 3rd May, 12.30 for 1.00pm. St. Andrew's Church is to hold a jumble sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 6th May at 10.30am, all offerings of help or jumble to Eva please.

Shirley reported that Bookends were moving on from 'Siege of Krishnapur' but remaining in the sub-continent, in the war zone of Kabul, with 'The Kabul Beauty School'.

Our Secretary, Josie, read the Annual Report which covered our busy centenary year and a variety of interesting speakers and events. She said that without the support of the Committee and our loyal members the WI in Milborne would not be the success it is. In her address, Jenny Preston, our outgoing President, also thanked each and every member for their help and support throughout the year. We were a happy group, working together, she said, but she urged us not to rest on our laurels; perhaps we should look in greater length at the more serious side of the WI, their campaigns and resolutions. On our behalf, June thanked Jenny for all she had contributed to our WI during her five years in office.

The committee will comprise Val Andrews, Lesley Clarke, Nelda Oakes, Jenny Preston, José Thomas, Josie Wright and Linda Wright. We were delighted to welcome Angela Jones as our new President.

We relaxed with a game of kurling, both teams entering into the spirit of things, but the red team pronounced winners. Top scorer was Jenny Preston, definitely going out on a high!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th May, when Rachel Knowles will talk about 'Fashionable Life in Regency London'. Please come along and join us, we would love to see you. *Pat Bull*

Can you identify where this is in Milborne?



Be the first to send your answer to 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 June Reporter.

Last month's answer can be found on page 30.

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 7th May – 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)

Wednesday 24th May – 11.00am

Sherborne, Haydon and Folke

Meet near the church in Haydon, two miles south-east of Sherborne

Grid reference: ST 670157 on Explorer Sheet 129 (approx. 6 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 4th June – 2.00pm

Milton Abbas and surroundings

Meet at the church in Milton Abbas

Grid reference: ST 806018 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 St Andrew has now raised enough for second defibrillator

I AM pleased to announce that our Reporter committee has agreed to donate £1,500 towards the purchase of our second defibrillator. Also that they are willing to be approached each year for a contribution towards the annual costs, if funds allow.

I have recently emptied and banked money from collection boxes in the pub, shop and Post Office, which amounted to a total of £100.80p. Pub = £38, Shop = £30.50p and Post Office = £32.30p, so well done to all concerned.

I have checked our bank balance and we have enough for our second defibrillator and only need another approximately £1,500 to be able to finalise and install our third.

We do still need everyone to donate something, so here are the details. Cheques should be made payable to The Community Heartbeat Trust or CHT, Ref BLA 007, the reference code is our MSA account so must be used. Addressed to The Community Heartbeat Trust, PO Box 168, Haverhill, CB9 1AX.

If anyone banks online or by telephone, the details are: Account name – The Community Heartbeat Trust, Sort Code – 20-63-66, Account No – 33949745, Ref BLA 007, again the reference is to the MSA account.

The Parish Council still have to make a decision on the best places for our last two defibrillators, but our choices are limited.

I am still in the process of organising our "Awareness" course, which will be open to all interested villagers and will take place in the Village Hall.

Again, in the meantime, if anyone needs or wants to contact me, please call 01258 837661, or email joyrobinson1@btinternet.com.

Joy Robinson

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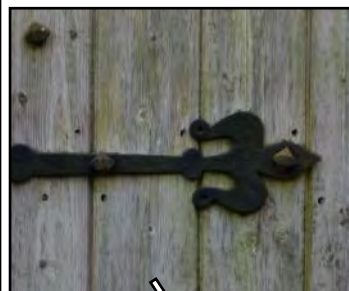
Email: info@nrptreeandhedgeservices.co.uk

Deadline for the June Reporter is mid-day

14th May. All copy must be sent via the

Reporter e-mail at msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

Did you identify this?



The photograph in the April Reporter was taken of Corner Cottage from The Square.

Robin Keller again came up with the correct answer.

Try your luck this month on page 29.



Yalbury Cottage lunch in the sunshine

MEMBERS of the Food & Wine Club had lunch at Yalbury Cottage, Lower Bockhampton, on Saturday 8th April and all their prayers were answered! Surrounded by green fields, with the sound of lambs bleating and the awesome colours of spring flowers and foliage, it was like a summer's day. So much so, canapes and Prosecco were served outside in Yalbury Cottage's pretty garden.



On entering the dining room, a beautifully laid rectangular table in the centre of the room greeted us and a wonderful three-course meal was served, including the chef's amuse

bouche. There was a choice of Portland Crab Salad, Crisp Soft Poached Duck Egg, and Pancetta & Wild Mushroom Tart for starters; Roast West Coast Hake Fillet, Prime Pork Fillet Stack, and Baked Savoy Cabbage Pockets for the main course; with Rhubarb Pannacotta, Orange Polenta Cake, Dark Chocolate Fondant Tart, and a Dorset Cheeseboard for dessert. Needless to say we all devoured the wonderful, beautifully-presented food with much appreciation.

After dessert we all returned to the garden chairs on the patio where piping hot coffee and tea was served. It was quite a while before people, somewhat reluctantly, made a move to go home!

Julie Johansen

Friends Against Scams

WOULD you, your family, your community, or workplace like to understand more about scams and why people can become scam victims?

If so then join others to become one of a growing number of 'Friends Against Scams'.

Financial abuse through scams affects the lives of millions of people across the UK. More than £5 billion is lost to scams in the UK each year. People who are scammed will lose money and may also suffer a loss of independence, of good health and of wellbeing. Many people do not report being a victim, but silence is a scammer's best friend.

- Championed in Dorset by Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service, 'Friends Against Scams' is a national initiative that aims to Highlight the scale of the problem by getting communities talking about scams
- Change the perceptions of why people become scam victims
- Prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim
- Recruit people to join the fight against scams, turning knowledge into action

For more information on how to become a 'Friend Against Scams' visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Anyone can become a scam victim, if it has happened to you contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 who will take this situation seriously. This helpline is the first point of contact for consumers seeking advice or wishing to report a problem to trading standards.



How did Gibraltar end up British?

THERE'S a lot of talk at present about the Spanish wishing to claim Gibraltar as their own against both the wishes of the Gibraltarian people and various United Nations Resolutions on self-determination. Politicians are bandying around 'facts' about wars, but does anyone know why Gibraltar has been a British outpost for over 300 years?

Queen Anne, the last of the Stuarts, is a lady about whom not much is discussed nowadays, but it is she, and her supporter John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, who is responsible for this.



In 1700 King Charles II of Spain died, bequeathing his Empire (Spain, the Spanish Netherlands, Milan, Naples, Sicily and Sardinia plus large swathes of America) to Duke Philip of Anjou, second grandson of King Louis XIV of France. Adding all this territory to the French Empire was considered to upset the balance of power in Europe and threatened another war (one had just ended in 1697 – European conflict is not a 20th Century phenomenon). This possibility had been foreseen and Louis had originally agreed a treaty to split the Spanish Empire between his own heir, the Dauphin, and the second son of the Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I of Austria, the Archduke Charles. However, when the time came, he abandoned the Partition Treaty and claimed all the land for his grandson. Additionally he annoyed the English by proclaiming the 'baby in the bedpan' to be the true King of England on the death of James II in 1701, and William and Mary to be usurpers.

William had foreseen this before he died, and had made a grand alliance with Holland and Austria to prevent it. He died in 1702 so Anne's reign began with the War of Spanish Succession.

John Churchill was a great battlefield general. His campaign began in the Netherlands and then after a forced march of 300 miles across Germany took the French and Bavarians by surprise in Vienna. He completely broke their forces at the battle of Blenheim, saving Austria and Germany and shattering worldwide belief in French invincibility. He continued to win victories at Ramillies (1706), Oudenarde (1708) and Malplaquet (1709), earning the title of 'the greatest general England ever produced', being awarded Blenheim Palace and of course being an ancestor of another great wartime leader, Winston Spencer Churchill.

As a result of this, peace was guaranteed between the parties by the Treaty of Utrecht and Rastadt in 1713-14. Archduke Charles, now Holy Roman Emperor, received most of the Spanish Netherlands and the Italian lands. Holland was given the garrisoning of fortresses along the French North-Eastern frontier. Gibraltar and Minorca became England's, along with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and territories around Hudson Bay. England also received trading rights and the Protestant succession was recognised. Louis' grandson Philip kept Spain and its New World possessions, but the crowns of France and Spain were never to be united. England achieved its objective of neutralising French domination of Europe and increased her trade and colonies.

As an interesting footnote the Treaty of Union of 1707 was also achieved under Queen Anne, rescuing Scotland from the financial calamity of the Darien Scheme, and bringing the two former enemies together into the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

How interesting that 300-year-old political discussions are still grumbling on, with the balance of power in Europe changed, the crowns of France and Spain united in the EU Presidency, and small countries being used as pawns by bigger ones.

Queen Anne had many pregnancies but none of her children survived. After her death George, Protector of Hanover and great grandson of James I and VI was her nearest Protestant relative and was offered the throne at the age of 54. (Mary Queen of Scots' blood continued on the throne!) Whilst Anne had been an outward-looking Queen striving for a balance of power in Europe, George's reign is remembered mostly for the development of cabinet government.

Susan Wilson

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*Thursday 11th -
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*Saturday 13th - Fun horse racing
from 9.00pm to raise funds for
Milborne youth football club*

*Saturday 20th - Karaoke
Thursday 25th - Pie Night
£9.95 all you can eat*

*Next month is father's day
make sure you book a table early!*



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