



Reporter 80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2018

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Milborne St. Andrew



New love for
Milborne's
old stag

See page 3

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A slow start to the New Year at Village History Group

A very few people managed to make the meeting in January, those who did thought that many, who regularly come, could still be on holiday or unwell. We hope for more people next meeting.

At this meeting Linda shared files of information that she has discovered by researching various websites. She has census returns and information from other sources (including the *Reporter*) which will inform our collation of information. She has been researching books written about other villages which may inform how we structure a book should we choose that route. Linda has also discovered an interesting website which shows photos of old Fordington; www.millstreethousingsociety.co.uk. Could this inspire us to create a website?

We also discussed joining the Dorset History Network again but concluded that as no members appear to have accessed it, we would not do so.

The History Group asks those who come to pay a small subscription; there is now a healthy sum which we could use to pay for speakers. If anyone has any good ideas about subjects or presenters please let me know.

The next meeting is 14th February at 7.30pm in The Royal Oak. Hopefully members who volunteered to write up information about specific buildings will be able to share these with the group. No membership required, just come along.

Pam Shults

VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on

Saturday 24th February from 12.15 to 2.00pm

Wine (£1.00 per glass) or fruit juice

Gammon and parsley sauce with peas,

carrots and new potatoes

Vanilla cheesecake and cream

Mints and coffee or tea

Vegetarian option available

£7.00 per head

Prior booking essential by

Monday 19th February

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

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907 (07843 018007)

Advertising renewals: Pete Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Janet Allen 01258 837551

Editor: David Payne 01258 837700. Assistant Editor: Jo Whitfield

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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

Paper copy to any of the team

New love for Milborne's old stag

FOR villagers and passing traffic alike, Milborne looked extra Christmassy this year as the iconic white stag at the corner of the A354 and Chapel Street was decorated with Christmas lights, flanked by two potted trees. We featured him on the Reporter Facebook page and had our biggest response to a post ever. It's clear locals have a great affection for him – and also appreciate the way he is being cared for by his new owners.

Millie and Martyn Carosin-Woolway are the new owners of Stag House on which the graceful creature so proudly stands. Decorating him for Christmas turns out to be a long-held mini-ambition for Millie; she would pass the stag daily for years on her way to work and had thoughts about how she would decorate him seasonally if he was hers. Then, last year, she saw the house was for sale and was hugely excited about the stag. Millie says, "I couldn't believe an opportunity arose to own him!" She was a little worried that her husband, Martyn, may not see things the way she did, but she needn't have. "It was love at first sight", she says. They both love all things vintage, so what could be better than having your own historic statue on the roof of your house!

If you saw the stag after dark over Christmas, you will know what a stunning sight he was, adorned with lights all over which enhanced his brilliant white coat. It put a smile on people's faces and announced to passing commuters that he was definitely in a Christmas mood. But when Millie and Martyn first arrived in Milborne in June last year, he was looking a little 'tired'. He was in need of some TLC, which they willingly gave with a coat of white masonry paint. Millie says, "If you look closely, I have also given him a big set of new brown eyes so that he can gaze doe-eyed at all the passers-by." He also has been given some flesh pink ears to complete the first phase of his makeover. The couple intend to finish off the remaining works that would give the stag a clean bill of health – he needs 'surgery' to his lower front leg and could also benefit from having his antlers reset. Millie says they plan on taking advice on these and hope to enlist the services of an experienced conservator restorer.

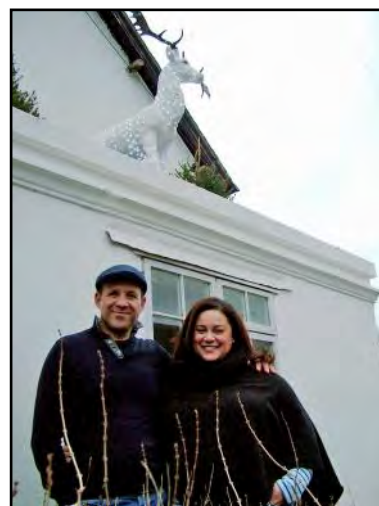
The couple have tried to research the history of the stag, but have only found scant information on the internet – that he was given to an owner of Stag House (presumably named something different until then), Mr Cole, by a recently elected MP, Earl Drax with gratitude for aiding his election to the Houses of Parliament. They have contacted

the Drax estate at Charborough House in the hope they may be able to throw some light on his provenance, but as yet have not received a reply. They don't know how long he has been standing on their utility room roof or the full story behind how he got there. So if you have any information you can share about him, please get in touch with the *Reporter* and we will pass it on.

By the way, he's nameless at the moment, but the couple, brave souls they are, have entrusted a pet name being found for him by the regulars of The Royal Oak, in a competition. They say, however, they will draw the line above 'Staggy McStagface'!

Millie and Martyn tell me they have greatly enjoyed settling in to Milborne over the last six months, getting to know people and enjoying living in a village. Millie says, "People have been so welcoming and we have enjoyed things like the Barn Dance and Christmas Fair". They previously lived in a rural location near Blandford, but before this had been living in Bournemouth. They say, "It's been an adventure moving to an old house, though we'd like to know more about its history. We do know that several businesses have been run here during its life". They have found a couple of interesting artefacts while decorating; under a skirting board in a bedroom, they found a rolled up newspaper dated 1901, complete with advertisements for travel with White Star Line, shipping company of Titanic, and in the lounge, behind old plasterboard they revealed some original William Morris wallpaper – Blackthorn design – with distinctive green paint, containing arsenic. They're going to keep a section of it, safely contained behind Perspex. It's clear that they have a passion for the history of their home, design and antiques so it seems that the stag with no name (for now) is in very safe hands.

Ed Richards



Milborne Players

HEADACHE, SORE THROAT, RUNNY NOSE?! IS IT THE FLU?! OR COULD IT BE . . . KNIGHT FEVER?!

OKAY, we have cleared up from Christmas and broken in the New Year. It's time to focus on fun and keeping busy so get on down to the village shop and buy your show tickets.

The cast and crew are working hard to bring the Court of King Arthur to you including some interesting decorating of the hall. This is a show for all the family so bring yours along. Community entertainment on your doorstep. Oh yes IT IS!!

Performances are 8th, 9th and 10th February 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday too.

REPORTER COMPETITION!

To win Verdi The man revealed, email the names of Verdi's two children who died in infancy to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk by 4th February

The first correct entry drawn at the Reporter Team meeting in February will receive the book and a mention in the March *Reporter*.

In the Bleak Mid-winter . . .

THE winds may be frosty but the village hall is a warm and great place to meet or to party. This financial year, to keep up with inflation, we need to increase the cost of hiring the hall and its facilities. However, we have kept this to a minimum as you will see on our website.

As the weather warms up we intend to re-seed areas in the Sensory Meadows. We hope that this year wildflowers will start to grow around the walking paths in the upper field area. This area was developed because a cycle track and walking paths were suggested by villagers following extensive consultation. The Postcode Local Trust funded the development of this area through a grant. Although the VH employs a gardener, to maintain the pathways and to keep the wild grass down, additional regular maintenance is needed. Please think about joining a working party over the spring and summer months so that this area remains fit for purpose.

The committee are aware that the zip wire is not working properly and that it requires repair. The surface under the wire also needs attention. The plan is to raise the ground level and have grass matting. It is looking for volunteers or would consider paying a handyman to remove the old bark chippings and to move soil into the area. If anyone can help please get in touch.

Finally, a word of thanks to residents who regularly park in the hall's car park. Many are now respecting the fact that hirers of the hall have priority and are moving their vehicles for those times. For legal reasons the committee will be locking the car park gate for a 24 hour period in the near future and will give notice nearer the time.

Pam Shults

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Milborne Movies

Hunt For The Wilderpeople

Showing at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall
on February 2nd

Doors and bar are open at 7.00 and the film starts at 7.30pm
Tickets cost £3.50

Milborne Movies will be showing *Hunt For The Wilderpeople*, called by Empire Magazine 'the best film of 2016', and it's won lots of awards. Raised on hip-hop and foster care, defiant city kid Ricky gets a fresh start in the beautiful New Zealand countryside. He quickly finds himself at home with his new foster family: loving Aunt Bella, cantankerous Uncle Hec, and dog Tupac. When a tragedy strikes that threatens to ship Ricky to another home, he and Hec go on the run in the bush. As a national manhunt ensues, the newly branded outlaws must face their options: go out in a blaze of glory or overcome their differences and survive as a family. Equal parts road comedy and rousing adventure story, acclaimed director Taika Waititi masterfully weaves lively humour with emotionally honest performances by Sam Neill and Julian Dennison. A hilarious, touching crowd-pleaser, *Hunt For The Wilderpeople* reminds us of growing up (at any age) and those who help along the way.

Sarah Ryan



Music at The Abbey

The Sarum Six Singers

Saturday 17th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Sarum Six is an ensemble of professional musicians based in Salisbury and Winchester, formed in 2012. Their repertoire covers a wide range

of vocal and musical styles, from sacred and secular music of Renaissance Europe, motets and partsongs by Duruflé, Stanford, Parry and Britten, to arrangements of spirituals and songs in close harmony. Recent performances include the Whiteparish and Farley Festivals, and concerts in Salisbury and Winchester.



The group comprises the following members who all benefit from extensive solo and choral experience and bring to the Sarum Six a significant breadth of talent: Steve Abbott (first countertenor); Tim Wilson (second countertenor); Michael Keeley (tenor); Ben Cooper (first baritone); Philip Lawson (second baritone) and James Ottaway (bass).

Tickets £12.00 Concessions £10.00 Under 18's £6

BOX OFFICE Tickets on line or by post enclosing a SAE and Cheque payable to Milton Abbey Heritage Trust, Milton Abbey, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0BZ



INFORMATION EVENT

Wills and Power of Attorney

Age UK Dorchester is holding an **Information Event** to de-mystify the subject of **Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney**.

If you wish to understand whether you need a Lasting Power of Attorney, and to make a Will, **Christine Butterfield, Senior Associate Solicitor at Battens, solicitors**, will be providing a talk on the subject on:

Monday 5th February 2018 at 10am

at Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, DT11 1PW
No need to book . . . just turn up.

Artsreach event in the Village Hall

Milborne St. Andrew is hosting two Artsreach events in February. The first is during half-term and is for people of four years and older. The other event is mentioned on page 19.

Tessa Bide – A Strange New Space
Tuesday 13th February, 11.00am
Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall
Tickets: £6, £5 under18s, £20 family
01258 839230

Did you know that Astronauts get taller in space? That our solar system is around 4.6 billion years old? Or that there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand on all of the beaches on Earth? Amira knows all of these things. She is completely obsessed with space and dreams of becoming an astronaut. But one night, the bangs, whooshes and fizzes of her imagination explode right out of her dreams, becoming a deafening reality. In the darkness, Amira must leave her hometown to go on an adventure, to find a safe space. Hearing the words 'space' and 'adventure', Amira quickly packs her bag for the intergalactic trip she's been waiting for.



Travel on a voyage into space, paralleled with Amira's real-life journey as a refugee across continents, in this unforgettable physical theatre show without words, packed with puppetry and original music. Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the country's touring arts charity. Suitable from four years plus.

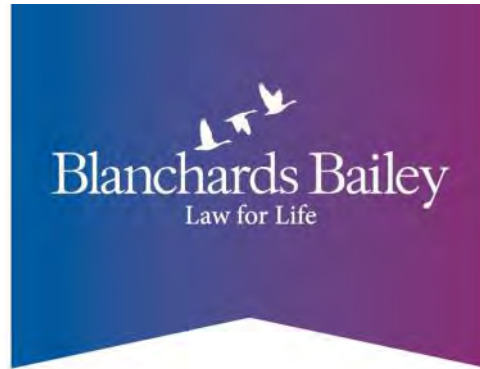
Winner of the Edinburgh Fringe Primary Times children's choice award 2017.

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.

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



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Flash flood deluges Milborne streets

THE Flood Wardens, Highways and other authorities have done a great deal to avoid flooding in the village. Improvements are still being worked on, and here is a report on recent flood events and action taken to prevent recurrences.

During the recent Christmas flash floods some residents had the very unpleasant experience of water inside and around their homes and gardens. Given all the work, effort and money spent on the village infrastructure, one could be forgiven for asking why the drains could not deal with 'just a bit of rain'. Unfortunately, the Flood Warden was away over Christmas and was unaware of the early morning dramas along Milton Road and Chapel Street until a call from a home owner on returning to Milborne. No one could have predicted the fierce deluge, but Flood Wardens can provide advice and offer precautions for vulnerable householders to take in the event that another is forecast.

It is to his credit that a number of homeowners have availed themselves of advice and public funds to protect their homes from floods in recent years. However, one home did suffer internal flooding following this deluge.

Since the Christmas flood, two in-depth meetings have been held between the Flood Wardens and Paul Starkey and Martin Hill of Highways to inspect the drainage system along the A354, Chapel Street and The Drawn to try to see if anything could be done to avoid a similar incident in future. These conclusions were presented to the Parish Council's January Meeting:

- The event was of such a dramatic and sudden nature that it washed vast quantities of vegetation, cobbles, silt and debris from the surrounding roads and fields, choking the gully covers and stopping water from escaping. In some places there were large quantities of rotten compacted straw and stubble, which plugged the gullies very effectively.
- In some cases cars had been parked over the gullies which may have contributed to the surface water flooding.
- Once the gullies were cleared the drains allowed water to escape quickly.
- Phillip Smith must be congratulated for his kind support of those affected by the water, and Highways thanked for their prompt response to the situation. On that day all 30 standby Emergency Highway Engineers were dealing with an unprecedented 50 emergency callouts. Winterborne Stickland particularly had deep mud running right through the village – conditions were extreme.
- The drains (pipes) along the A354 are exceptionally large and are more than capable of dealing with surface water from the roads. Along with those in Chapel Street, they were not blocked and worked as designed. However, to improve cleaning and water access to the drains, two gullies on the South side of the Square will be replaced in the near future with the larger variety similar to those along Milton Road.
- There is some discussion about the ability of the drains on the corner of The Drawn and Chapel Street to deal with such extreme events. Martin Hill is to commission a survey to ascertain whether they are large enough given that St. Andrews View, Chapel Street and some part of the A354 all drain to that point.
- The issue of cleaning the gullies and roads was discussed at length. In the present economic climate, roads are being cleaned



according to their classification, so the A354 and Milton Road are cleaned annually. This was done, so any debris build-up in the gullies had happened since the last clean.

◇ As with every other highway issue/problem, reporting faults on Dorset for You will get an immediate appraisal of what you have reported. This may mean a gully clearing vehicle being sent immediately, or action being deferred until it can be planned if the problem is not urgent. Any house that is flooded or threatened with water ingress will be treated with the utmost urgency. This will result in a swift response to clear gullies, unblock drains etc. (Highways attended the recent event within an hour). Reporting also helps to determine future allocation of funds for larger scale works to protect our homes as events are recorded and visible to DCC.

◇ If your house is flooded INTERNALLY you should either report this on the DCC's website dorsetforyou.com/flooding/report (01305 220000) or contact the Flood Warden personally. This information will remain highly confidential but will strengthen his arguments for more remedial work. It will also allow him to advise and support you with your problems and address them directly with Highways and the Environment Agency (EA).

Living in a Zone 3 Flood Plain community, we cannot afford to ignore the river height, blocked gullies or roads with excessive debris on them. We should not put off thinking about flood defences for our own property, leaving

preparations until the very last moment in the hope that the shop, Post Office or someone else has the materials which we then require urgently. In this instance, the ferocity and timing of the surface water were so great that some householders did not have time to put out their flood boards provided by the EA, others did not have the sand bags they wanted, still others had left cars parked over gullies. (As an aside, sand washing into the drains from sandbags is difficult and costly to remove; other less troublesome flood prevention methods are available.)

The Flood Warden is naturally disappointed that the village has had this problem, particularly after years of work, and in the region of half a million pounds, have been spent easing flood problems in Milborne. He is sure that all our new drains, combined with the clearing of the stream, the proactive annual cleaning of gullies and drains and most especially cleaning the section of water course below March Bridge, avoided a traumatic flood event for those around the shop, The Square and Chapel Street. There are improvements to be made and these will be presented to the latest Parish Council for information.

The main message is that we cannot prevent these dramatic deluges, so in addition to work done by the authorities we each need to 'be prepared'. Whether it's making sure we have our own flood defences ready, keeping drains and gullies clear, reporting gravel washed into the road via Dorset for You, clearing up anything we drop into the roads, or refraining from parking cars over gullies, we all need to do our bit to help protect ourselves and our neighbours! Highways and others are there to help, and are very supportive of our situation. They will come when called, but we must be vigilant, keep them informed, and play our own part in helping ourselves and our neighbours to avoid the horrible mess in their houses.

Finally on a brighter note the ground water is receding (unprecedented in the winter period!) and with it the likelihood of a repeat of the flood events of 4 years ago. To follow the status of our groundwater the Flood Warden recommends this website: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/9049>, as well as taking action when weather warnings are issued, when you see lots of debris in the road, and when you see blocked gully covers.

Written by Susan Wilson with grateful thanks to Steve Lord, Flood Warden



A Lenten Pilgrimage

Lent begins this year on Valentine's Day – 14th February. You can decide for yourselves whether that means feast or fast on that particular day!

However, Lent lasts much longer than 24 hours, so even if you are dining well on Ash Wednesday, then there are 39 other days for your Lenten attention.

It is often said that life can be viewed as a journey, starting when we are born and ending with our deaths. In between we face times when it feels like we're dragging ourselves uphill and others when we are racing downwards running freely, with much level or softly undulating ground in between. We have a starting-point, an ending point (date yet unknown) and a lifetime's pathway to negotiate.

When people go on pilgrimages, be they long or short, they usually have a destination in mind. Reaching the end point can be quite an achievement, but often pilgrims report that it is in the journeying itself that they gain most. The common factor is that they have taken time out of ordinary life to make space for an adventure of body, mind and spirit.

We could view Lent as a mode of Christian pilgrimage. It's a time to try something different, to make space for our spiritual lives, to look after our bodies and our minds. At heart it's about enabling us to become closer to and more trusting in God and less reliant on the things of the world.

This year we are joining these two ways of journeying together. Our Sunday evening sessions (6.00pm) will be based on the film *The Way*, in which the main character Tom (played by Martin Sheen) undertakes a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino, following the death of his son on that same pathway.

We'll watch the film the first week, and then use a published course (*The Long Road to Heaven*) to guide our response to the film, our reflections on its themes and our own lives.

For day-to-day God-time, the diocese will be publishing a booklet *Praying Together* as they did last year, which many people used and found helpful. For practical suggestions of generous acts to do there is *40acts* (40acts.org.uk).

And if you want to get fit, raise money for a community project and go on your own pilgrimage, why not take part in our ride along the Camino in Puddletown? There'll be a static bicycle in church, on which we hope we'll manage to ride the 800km of the route to Compostela. If you are relatively fit and able, please join in, whether you ride 1km or 100 – every pedal counts! If cycling really is beyond you, then you can sponsor the trip – all money raised will be given to the Puddletown Playpark fund.

With best wishes for your Lenten journey, wherever that takes you.

Sarah Hillman

Church Services February

4th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

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

11th February – Sunday Next 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

14th February – Ash Wednesday

6.30pm	United Benefice Holy Communion with imposition of ashes	Milborne
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THURSDAY 15th February

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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18th February – Lent 1

9.30	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Prayer	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Lent Film: <i>The Way</i>	Puddletown Church Room

25th February – Lent 2

9.30am	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Study Group: <i>The Way</i>	Tolpuddle

Morning Prayers (Monday – Thursday 8.15am; Saturday 8.45am)

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

LENT

During Lent there will also be:

Compline in Milborne at 6.00pm and Evening Prayer in Dewlish at 6.30pm on Thursdays.

St Andrew's Church News

Looking back over the last year



A lot happened in St. Andrews during 2017, some of which is worth writing about. When I was away for the first 3½ months, John took the strain as the only remaining church warden. At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting last April there were some changes in our Parochial Church Council (PCC) with a new member elected and no retirements. The PCC thanked John as he retired as churchwarden, unfortunately no-one offered to take over his role so I have been the only churchwarden since then.

We managed to raise enough money to start our quinquennial works. We were lucky enough to get funds from the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, Erskine Muton Trust, the National Churches Trust and Viridor thanks to the advice and support of Philippa and hard work of John and Rose. The work started in July and was only supposed to be a few weeks. However, the late migration of our bats delayed the roof repairs and as a consequence rain

Church Contacts

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

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

or by telephone on 01305 849039

and frost impacted on the finishing off of the roof work and the mortaring. We are delighted in the standard of work done by the Brian Rigler Builders team.

Our Living Churchyard won the top Gold Award from Dorset Wildlife Trust (which was the last year of awards) thanks to the hard work of our 'gardening team' and other volunteers. Also thanks to Mark Frampton who funded the removal of dangerous trees in the 'new' churchyard. We hope that we can keep up the standard and manage the areas over the next year so that all who visit their loved ones' graves find it a peaceful area.

Our Events Committee worked hard to deliver functions in 11 months of 2017, including the Athelhampton and Milton Abbas fairs. Other notable events were the Cream Teas in Heathcote House, the Trafalgar Dinner and the Christmas Market. With their great efforts our church funds have benefited. Eva has decided to retire as chair of this group and we would like to publicly thank her for all her hard work over the last four and a bit years.

Our Open the Book team have continued to take stories into our village school. The team are grateful for the opportunity to bring bible stories to them and although the frequency has been reduced this academic year, the children still love to watch and listen. We are also delighted that the school hold three services in our church i.e. Easter, Harvest and Christmas services. It has been lovely to see all the children enjoying other services that we organise such as the Good Friday event, the Christingle and Christmas Morning service.

Christmas is always special and we thoroughly enjoyed the services. Our Carol Service was held entirely by candlelight which did give the choir (organised by Rosie) a bit of a problem in trying to read their scores! But the sound they produced was appreciated by all. The readings (excluding Sarah's) were delivered by representatives of village groups and visitors and all performed very well. The Christmas morning service was fun. The children showed us some of their gifts and we all had fun singing an amended version of The Twelve Days of Christmas, which made us jump up and sit down in the appropriate places. Thank you, Sarah, for all your hard work over the last year and especially during the Christmas period.

As I write this it is Epiphany Sunday and I am glad that Christmas is not yet over. Today our service was led by the Celebrate Team whose choice of carols, readings and activities really made us explore and think about the arrival of the wise men who paid homage to Jesus and of Herod's deviousness.



Mark and Kim Frampton and baby George at the Christening in St. Andrews church on the 26th November 2017.

We, as a church, look forward to the coming year and to the potential to grow and service that we can increase hope and be true disciples not only in Milborne but everywhere we go. Do come along and join in our regular Sunday church services, everyone is very welcome. Pam Shults



Do you need a lift to church?

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

Please contact Pam on 837203.

Dewlish Church Notes

ONCE more the Carol Service was very well attended, and it was a great joy to be there. The younger children, who re-enacted the Nativity, were delightful, and our young people read so well. A big thank-you to Aidan and Becky for leading us with their music, and there should also be a special mention for Edward who led us on guitar with "Silent Night" and played "Walking in the Air" on the organ. Well done, Edward.

Thanks also to Ed, assisted by Adam, for the fabulous lighting and sound. You are always there for us, Ed, and we are most grateful. The whole thing would not have happened without Jim, who arranged everything. Many thanks.

Our collection, which raised £220.28, has been donated to the Children's Society.

Muddy, mild and mulled

The following Thursday, on a muddy but mild evening, a few of us went around the village singing carols. Unfortunately, not many turned out for this, and we may have to re-think it next year. Nevertheless, we did our best, and managed to raise £199 for Shelter.

A big thank-you to Andrew and Hayley for their much-appreciated mulled wine and sweets, and to Roy, Dianne and family for welcoming us at the pub with mulled wine and mince pies.

Our Christmas Service, led by Sarah, was well attended, and our church looked wonderful with all the candles lit and so beautifully decorated. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work. *Daphne Burg*

Hedgehogs of 2017

NOW we have got past the end of the year I can look back on how hedgehogs have gone for me. Starting with the first who came to us over the winter, he was named Milligan and did very well. I marked him and he was seen again in the village. The female with six young came and although they were apparently very well they did not stay long. I hope the mother took her young away to somewhere she considered safer but I will never know. One of the hogs brought to me was injured in some way and there was some blood apparent so I took him to the rescue expert at Netherbury who took him to the vet but the injury was too bad and he died after 48 hours. Others we have had brought to us have done well and with some feeding of 'Spike' and live mealworms have gone on their way. One who was called 'Sonic' before we got him was an amazing escapologist whose best trick was to stroll past the television during the ten o'clock news having managed to get out of the enclosure in the utility room before doing a recce of the house. The



next one seemed to know the same trick although the indoor enclosure was more secure by then, but once he was moved outside he was gone. The last one came to us late in November and because he was found in daylight on the grass at the back of a neighbour's house we called him 'Lorne'. He was a little underweight at 300 grams and seemed not too interested in food except mealworms. After a week he had only gained 10 grams and his poo was rather loose. Unfortunately he only lasted another two days and died. I am not sure what killed him and although there were no outward signs it could have been an overwhelming parasite infection or possibly poisoning by slug pellets or rat poison. Since then we have had no

hedgehogs to look after but are always willing to take them on if they need it prior to release back into the wild. Apart from the two that died, the remaining six, (plus six babies) all were let back out to fend for themselves.

Pip Bowell

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Kisses

By Brenna Copley

Kisses Kisses Kisses,

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From a special person like you.

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 2

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

Last month's answer can be found on page 30



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Milton Abbas and Milborne St. Andrew Surgery

I DON'T know about you, but I always find the first two months of the year a bit of a struggle. Christmas has been and gone, it's dark, cold and the summer seems a long way off. The easy option is to stay indoors and eat the leftover Christmas chocolates! So instead of turning into a couch potato, make the effort to look after yourself by following these simple tips:

Eat well. Winter is the perfect season for porridge. Eating a warm bowlful on a cold morning helps boost your intake of starchy foods and fibre, making you feel fuller for longer. Oats also contain lots of vital vitamins and minerals, and adding fruit instead of sugar or salt will help you hit your 5 A Day target. Try to eat dairy products such as milk and yogurt regularly as they are great sources of protein, vitamins A and B12 and calcium, which keeps bones strong.

Also remember to include five portions of fruit and veg in your diet every day and think before you reach for another chocolate or biscuit!

Stay active. You may not be able to do your usual activity, but going out for a walk at lunchtime or at the weekend to get some fresh air and daylight will help control your weight, boost your immune system, and break the tension that can build at home.

Avoid winter tiredness. Lack of sunlight makes us feel more tired in the winter. In addition to staying active and eating well try to get a good night's sleep by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day. Routine may not be very exciting, but it is certainly good for you.

I will certainly be doing my best to follow this advice and hope you will too, but if you would like more information about living well go to <https://www.nhs.uk/livewell/Pages/Livewellhub.aspx> where there is lots of advice which may help you stick to your New Year resolutions for 2018.

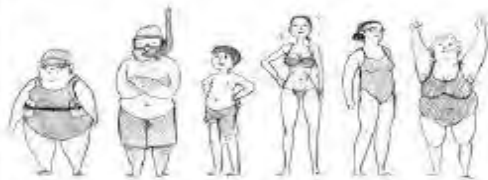
Long term health condition

If you have a long term health condition we don't just want to see you when you're poorly! At the surgery we regularly check our list and invite patients we know have conditions such as asthma, diabetes and COPD to come in for a review. If you receive a letter or text message asking you to book in for an annual review, please make sure you call us to book. Reviews are an important part in aiding with the effective management of ongoing health issues so please don't ignore or put aside our correspondence until another day, call the surgery.

You may have seen national advertising recently about the threat to health posed because antibiotics no longer work for some infections. This is because bacteria are becoming more resistant to antibiotics. If you are unwell and need to see a doctor, don't expect to be given antibiotics if you have a cold or flu virus – they won't help make you better. Taking antibiotics when you don't need them puts you and your family at risk. There is more information available on line at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/antibiotics/>

Gillian Brindle Practice Business Manager

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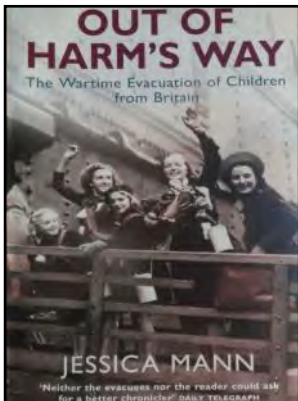
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Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0JQ

A Good Read:

“Out of Harm’s Way” The Wartime Evacuation of Children from Britain, by Jessica Mann



THIS is described as a ‘passionate book, full of anguish as well as indignation’. Ms Mann, an evacuee herself sent to Canada then America in 1940 at the age of two years, is considered as ‘no better chronicler’ of a forgotten piece of social history, the civilian experience of the war. It is a ‘unique and valuable historical document’. So wrote many of the newspapers at the time of publication (2005).

The desire to gather and publish her own and others’ reminiscences were triggered by an article on the subject in the Daily Telegraph. The response to this was so overwhelming from former evacuees that she realised how ‘extraordinary’ the episode had been. Her grandchildren’s reactions to her own story made her realise how little she knew of the wider picture.

Using letters, private diaries and correspondence, publications on paper and on-line and, importantly, the memories and thoughts of fellow evacuees she set about compiling this book. There is an exhaustive list of sources. For three years beginning in what she describes as the ‘first terrifying summer of the Second World War’ she was one of thousands of British children from babies to teenagers sent away to distant countries for refuge. American newspapers urged “Mothers of England! From across the sea, from cities and mountains and Prairies of the West, your children are safe and happy in our wide land. Send us more of them” German invasion seemed imminent and parents faced an agonizing decision. Strangers received these children and some parents believed they would never see them again.

Ms Mann covers all aspects of evacuation and it is a relevant treatise for today with so many refugees flooding into European countries often orphaned. As for some today, ships carrying children were often torpedoed and the small passengers perished. It is a fascinating book full of prejudice, pride, the use of children as ‘Little Ambassadors’. Some came back when the threat of invasion passed. Some parents, when years had passed wondered at the point of what they had done. And some children so young when shipped away had no notion of their parents and wondered if they would recognise them. Many were motivated to part with their children having seen the fate of civilians in occupied countries and conquered territories.

The wider political scene is explored. Some experiences were life enhancing, others the opposite. Knowledge of the bombings and civilian deaths at home were heartbreaking for these displaced children. Many just longed to be back with their families whatever the danger. It is a rich and satisfying book particularly relevant to those who remember the war or whose parents had told them of their experiences.

Carole Fornachon

Huntley Down planning

Proposal: Erect 30 No dwellings with garages, form vehicular access

Location: Land at E 380182 N 98171, Huntley Down.

Comments, for and against, on the planning application must be received by 21 days after site notices have been put up or advertised in the *Blackmore Vale* magazine, whichever is the latter.

Email: devcontrol@north-dorset.gov.uk

Post: Head of Planning, North Dorset District Council, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester DT1 1UZ or

On-line <http://planning.north-dorset.gov.uk/online-applications>

Exploring Ethiopia’s Ancient Culture at the January WI

OUR first meeting of 2018 and we look forward to the year ahead, but take time to remember a very enjoyable Christmas lunch, always a good social occasion. Thanks to all who had a hand in arranging this event. A reminder from our President that our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st February, earlier than usual due to a clash with the village pantomime. No speaker this time, but a varied evening is planned.

Future events are to include an evening meal for members and partners and a summer outing. Venue suggestions for both are invited. Athelhampton House is to host another of their popular Science Lunches on Thursday 15th March when Adam Porter from Exeter University will talk about ‘Plastic Soup’, a topical subject for us all.

Bookends is also up and running for the current year with a lively meeting to discuss John Grisham’s non-fiction book, ‘*The Innocent Man*’, a clear case of miscarriage of justice, which incensed us all. We have a diverse programme for the year ahead and move on to ‘*The Temporary Gentleman*’ by Sebastian Barry.

We were delighted to welcome one of our favourite speakers, Chris Shaw, to talk about her visit to Ethiopia in 2013. One of Africa’s oldest independent countries, (the former Abyssinia), it is situated in the Horn of Africa. A place of ancient culture and often called “*the cradle of civilisation*”.

Her trip included visiting the rock-hewn churches at Lalibela, thought to have been built in the 11th/12th century. This is a huge pilgrim centre, and when asked how the churches had been built without the advantage of mechanical equipment, the answer was “*by a great many people with a huge belief*”! The buildings are truly remarkable. Aksum is the ruins of an ancient city with obelisks, tombs and castles. Interestingly, the Ark of the Covenant is rumoured to reside in a small building here, looked after by an appointed priest and kept away from public eyes.

Chris’s talk included many more anecdotes and vivid descriptions, too many to mention. The majority of Ethiopia’s population is undoubtedly poor, but she stressed that the welcome given to visitors is not; they give you the best they have. We were absolutely enthralled – not a sound was heard throughout this talk and, as Heather said in her vote of thanks, “*we lived it all with you*”.

As mentioned above, our next WI meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st February. For competition purposes we are asked to bring along a picture of ourselves as a child . . . This will be an evening with a difference, and to celebrate our own WI’s birthday, a cake and refreshments.

Pat Bull

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Dinosaurs at Ladybirds

THIS January we have several new children at Ladybirds – mainly two year old boys (where have all the girls gone?!). A common interest of these children is dinosaurs. We have read stories about dinosaurs, looked at information books, sponge painted dinosaurs, made biscuits with dinosaur footprints in them, and had dinosaurs in most areas of the room. The older children drew a fantastic dinosaur outside on the tarmac using chalks – see photo.



The other photo shows a den that became a dinosaur house where at one time all the dinosaurs were lined up in size with the little ones 'waiting for their dinner'.

With all the rain there has been, not only was there a puddle outside but it was a muddle puddle! And true to form of all small children, and Peppa Pig fans, a popular activity was jumping in the muddy puddle, an activity that used up some of the energy of our lively boys. We have a set of waterproofs from Muddy Puddles which we invested in a few years ago that stand up to this treatment very well and wash out wonderfully – a good investment. As the saying goes 'there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.'

Liz Dyer



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Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044

www.milborneladybirds.com



MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together, playing together

SCHOOL NEWS



AS well as Christmas plays and other seasonal activities, the children, staff, governors and other invited adults from the community, all enjoyed a 'home cooked' Christmas lunch, during the last week of term. This lovely meal was provided, cooked and served by a band of willing parents and grandparents. There has been a 'whole school' Christmas lunch here at Milborne School for the last 15 years (at least), paid for by Friends of School. A big 'Thank You' to all those involved, especially Joanne Miller, as this was her final year.

After the lunch, each class had their Christmas party, this included playing games and watching a film. The children also had a special visit from Father Christmas and were all given a book for a present.

On the Thursday of the final week the children walked to St. Andrew's Church for their carol service. There, the year four children read the story of the Nativity and then each year group sang a song from their Christmas play.



Finally, before going home after lunch on the Friday, six of our year four children took their turn ringing the 'freedom bell'. This is the school bell brought up from the old school building in Chapel Street and is rung at the end of every term.

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

School Secretary: Mrs B Hosford

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

Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

North Dorset District Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
	Jane Somper	01258 471089
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council – Milborne St. Andrew	Clerk: Colin Hampton	01258 837011
	Chair: Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Floods A354 problems contact the Highways Agency		03001 235000
Dorset Direct		01305 221000
dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems		
Environment Agency Floodline		08459 881188
South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk		01404 821500
Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline		03458 505959

GENERAL – ADULT

Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
Wednesday Social Club	Sheila Burton	01258 839033
Women's Institute	Josie Wright	01258 839090

GENERAL – YOUTH

Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group (Secretary)	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Leanne Brown	07899 808185
	Julianne Hall	07846 256694
Youth Club age 8 – 13 years	Joanne Miller	01258 881496

POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact		101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard	101
Home watch Co-ordinator	Joy Robinson	01258 837661

SCHOOL

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

SPECIAL INTEREST

Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Bellringers	Pip Howell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	Anna Cullen	01258 837143
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Ranters' Folk Session	Roger Harrall	01258 837371
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

SPORT

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Colin Chastey	01258 882162
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07540 626174

Football – Under 12s

Chairman	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Manager/coach	Andy Brown	07427 503373
Treasurer	Simon Buckingham	01258 839122
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports & Social Club	Chairman: Richard Lock	01258 837929
	Bookings: Richard Lock	01258 837929
Table Tennis	Pauline Pitfield	01258 839123
Tap Dancing for Adults	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Tennis	Stephen Lang	07916 312452
Yoga (at school)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Saira Francis	01258 880505
Yoga (at village hall)	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230

VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Chris Uden	01258 837295
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Pam Shults	01258 837203
Booking Secretary:	Alison Riddle	01258 837030

HEALTH

Bere Regis Surgery		01929 471268
Milborne St. Andrew Surgery		01258 837383
Milton Abbas Surgery		01258 880210
Puddletown Surgery		01305 848333
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Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 880229

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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

Thursday 1st
Friday 2nd

WI Village Hall – 7.30 see page 13.
Milborne Movies Hunt For The Wilderpeople
Village Hall. Doors and bar open at 7.00 film starts at 7.30pm Tickets £3.50 – see page 3.

Sunday 4th

Reporter competition deadline Win Verdi – The man revealed – see page 3.

Wednesday 7th
Thursday 8th to
Saturday 10th

Wednesday Club Village Hall 2.00pm – see page 27.
Knight Fever – An Arthurian Panto Village Hall. Tickets from the Londis. in Milborne St. Andrew 8th and 9th 7.30pm; 10th 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tuesday 13th

Artsreach Tessa Bide – A Strange New Space Village Hall 11.00am Tickets: £6, £5 under 18s, £20 family.

Wednesday 14th

Village History Group meeting The Royal Oak 7.30pm – see page 2.
Reporter mid-day deadline articles and photos to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Reporter team (see page 2 for team members).

Thursday 15th

Gardening Club Village Hall – see below
100 Club draw The Royal Oak at 8.00pm – see page 17.
The Sarum Six Singers Milton Abbey 7.30pm tickets £12 Concessions £10 Under 18s £6. – see page 5.

Saturday 17th

Village Quiz Village Hall – see page 16.
Village Lunch Village Hall – see page 2 for menu.
Artsreach The Grahams Village Hall 7.30pm Tickets £9, £6 under 18s, £25 family – see page 19.

Friday 24th
Saturday 25th

March

Saturday 3rd

Milborne Blues Night Village hall Doors open 7.30pm Tickets £10 – see page 19.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

Ladybirds Playgroup Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)
Beavers Monday 5.00–6.30pm MH (term time only)
Scouts Monday 6.00–8.00pm CR/MH
Players Monday 8.00–10.00pm MH
ABC Line Dancers Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
Cub Scouts Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)
Wednesday Club first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
Yoga Thursday 1.30–2.45pm MH
Gardening Club third Thursday 7.30–10.00pm MH
Karate Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH
Village Hall Committee third Thursday every two months 7.30–10.00pm
Women's Institute second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm
Youth Club 8–13 years every other Friday MH (term time only)
Village Lunch last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm MH
Artsreach Events – look out for the posters.

Check Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

Pilates Monday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only)
Yoga Tuesday 6.30–8.00pm (term time only)
Badminton Wednesday 6.30–8.30pm (term time only)
Circuit training Thursday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only)

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

Table Tennis Monday 7.00–9.00pm. Information from Pauline Pitfield 01258 839123
The Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Leanne Brown on 07899808185.
Yoga (Mellulah) Thursday (evening): Friday (mornings)
Private parties, birthdays, wedding receptions check online calendar
U13 Football matches check online calendar
Ladies Premiership (regional) matches check online calendar
Dorset FA (gentlemen) matches check online calendar
Check the Sports & Social online calendar on the village website for any other events you might be able to join in with.
Nightsabre Dog Training, Behaviour and Rally Group. Wednesday evenings: Saturday mornings. Contact details 01305 849221.



Milborne Movies
at the Village Hall
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Friday 2nd February
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm



Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

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£100 Rose Johnson

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Contact Andy Mott for details 01258 837208

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Hearts and flowers *By Kelly Russell*

Hearts and flowers on Valentine's day.
heart shaped candy, help me say:
I Love you in a special way,
because love is the reason for Valentine's day.
Valentine's day is a special time
for songs to sing
and poems that rhyme,
a happy time for everyone.
I'm so glad you're a friend of mine

Love is more time to share.
It's really when you care.
It's two people joined.
I was in love with you
before you could drop a coin.
It's a sense of trust,
but not enough lust
It's a commitment to be there,
but would you always be there
to share and care

If all the women lived over sea
what good swimmers, you men, would be
if all the women lived over sea
that would leave you for me

If I could be a postman
For just one single time,
I'd choose to carry valentines
so lovely and so fine.
I would not mind the heavy load,
Or mind my tired feet.
If I could scatter happiness
up and down the street.



Artsreach event in the Village Hall

The Grahams

Sunday 25th February, 7.30pm
Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall
Tickets: £9, £6 under 18s, £25 family
from 01258 839230

The Grahams are a dynamic Americana duo who have married their love of adventure with a desire to build on foundations laid by their musical predecessors. Alyssa and Doug Graham have spent nearly their entire lives exploring music together. Friends since she was seven and he was nine, they became a couple in their teens, then husband and wife.



Somewhere along the way, they also became The Grahams, and their first song-crafting expedition, along the Mississippi's Great River Road, became their 2013 debut album, 'Riverman's Daughter'. For its follow-up, they rode the rails – and wound up recording not only a studio album, but a documentary and live album 'Rattle the Hocks' on the move and in venues from Sun Studio to Amtrak's famed City of New Orleans train. The Grahams are a treat for all fans of American folk music. Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the county's touring arts charity.

"The songs are intensely personal and are delivered with passion, power and beautiful harmonies" – *MusicRiot.co.uk*

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 4th February – 1.30pm (*note earlier time*)

Durweston and Bryanston Wood

Meet near Durweston Village Hall and School

Grid reference: ST 860084 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Wednesday 21st February – 11.00am

Maiden Newton and Catstock

Meet outside St Mary's Church in Maiden Newton

Grid reference: ST 596979 on Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 6 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 4th March – 2.00pm

Fifehead Neville

Meet in the centre of the village.

Grid reference: ST 769110 on OS Explorer Sheet 129 (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.

Deadline for the next issue midday 14th February

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at
msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team

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

Milborne's Got the Blues – again!

OUR fifth Blues Night with the band Storm Warning is booked for Saturday 3rd March at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall. Doors will open at 7.30pm.



Storm Warning are lauded by the UK blues press as one of the leading contemporary blues bands in the UK. They make blues standards their own and superbly craft original blues songs. Ex Mick Ralphs Band vocalist Son Maxwell and guitarist Bob Moore, front the band backed by Ian Salisbury on keyboards, Derek White (Larry Miller band) on bass and ex Mick Clarke band drummer Russ Chaney. Storm Warning have recorded four CDs, all receiving critical acclaim and their tracks have been played on radio stations across the world including BBC Radio 2, for whom they also recorded a live session which was broadcast on the Paul Jones blues programme. Storm Warning's latest CD release 'Take Cover', was the IBBA (Independent Blues Broadcasters) Album Of The Month.

"One of Britain's most talented and well respected Blues bands"
Blues Matters

Profits will go to Milton Abbas Riding for the Disabled group.

Tickets, at £10, can be booked in advance through cliverawlings@hotmail.co.uk and when printed through Gray's Stores and The Royal Oak.



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Dropping your “Aitches”

**There was a man from ‘uddersfield
Who had a cow that would not yield
The reason why it would not yield?
It did not like it’s udders feeled!**

WHENEVER I mention that I was born and bred in Huddersfield I have learned to expect a predictable reaction from some witty people. They put on a pronounced jokey Yorkshire accent and say “ee bah gum ‘uddersfield!” or something similar. I usually smile sweetly and keep my thoughts to myself; the person mocking my birthplace probably comes from somewhere posh like East Grinstead or Swindon I expect. Truth to tell, I used to be a bit too sensitive about my Yorkshire accent and culture when I was a lot younger and less confident. I blush to say that on occasions I have said that I come from “near Leeds” to try to avoid the mockery. There is a great poem by Roger McGough “What does your father do?” in which he describes his discomfort at being asked what his father did for a living when he first went to university and mumbled “Docker” hoping that would be misunderstood as “Doctor”!

Nowadays regional accents are much more acceptable. Michael Parkinson, The Beatles and Billy Connolly for example were trailblazers in the 1960’s and anyone who speaks with Received Pronunciation as the Queen did in the 1950’s is, today, just as likely to be mocked for their accent as anyone else.

At my local primary school in the 1950’s our headmaster, Mr Heap (Mr ‘eap), perhaps understandably, was a bit of a stickler for pronouncing aitches. Every Friday morning in assembly it was Miss Dyson’s turn to play the piano to accompany the morning hymn. Unfortunately she could only play one hymn tune which was number four in the hymnbook “Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty”. This has always been one of my favourites, the words, although difficult for a small child to fully comprehend, inspired a deep sense of awe and wonder. I especially loved the mental picture of cherubim and seraphim



falling down and the bit about the saints casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea – wonderful. A bit more thought provoking than today’s “At half past three we go home to tea”.

The whole school listened to Miss Dyson nervously playing the

introduction and then we launched into the first line with gusto. “’oly, ‘oly, ‘oly” we sang at the tops of our voices and waited for the predictable response from Mr Heap. He would fly into a rage and shout, “Stop!” at poor Miss Dyson who could be seen visibly trembling. “It’s not ‘oly, ‘oly, ‘oly! It’s Holy, Holy, Holy!” he would bellow at us then make us practice the words several times. We nearly made ourselves sick with aspirating our aitches and he would nod approvingly and signal to Miss Dyson to start the introduction again. We children exchanged covert conspiratorial glances with each other and then of course sang “’oly, ‘oly, ‘oly” just as before and waited for Mr Heap to turn bright purple with rage and go through the whole process again. I can still recall the shared delight we all felt in being able to provoke him each week. Alas, the start of a lifetime of misbehaving at school . . .

Friday was also a favourite day of mine because it was traditionally fish and chips day for school dinners. In the school holidays my brother and I were sent by mum to the local fish and chip shop on Friday lunchtimes for our family order. It sometimes took ages because the nearby woollen and worsted mills sent out their orders for the mill



workers and we just had to wait our turn until the chip shop had packed up and despatched 50 or more fish and chip dinners to the mill before it was our turn to be served. Of course nowadays all those mills have long since been closed down . . .

This month’s fish recipe is for smoked haddock (or ‘addock!) and sweet corn chowder. I had a bowl of this a couple of months ago while visiting the cafe in Wells Cathedral, delicious. I buy individually frozen smoked haddock fillets in packs of

four and they work out at less than a pound for each generously sized piece. Put one frozen fillet, skin side up, in a soup bowl with a plate on the top and cook on high in the microwave for just four minutes, and then remove the skin. Meanwhile softly poach an egg. Put the fish on the nicely warmed covering plate, top with the poached egg and a generous amount of salt and pepper and you have the perfect breakfast/brunch/snack ready within five minutes. The runny egg yolk makes a delicious sauce for the fish.

Smoked haddock and sweet corn chowder – serves two

Two fillets of smoked haddock

500ml milk

Two potatoes

Tin of sweet corn

Onion

Oil or butter

Two rashers of bacon

Salt and pepper

Chopped parsley, dill or chives

Gently fry the finely chopped onion in a little oil or butter until soft. Then add the finely chopped bacon and fry with the onion. Add the finely diced potatoes, I don’t bother peeling them. Add the drained sweet corn and the milk. Place the frozen fish on top, cover the pan and bring to a gentle simmer. When the fish is cooked (about five to seven minutes) remove the fish, take off the skin and flake into chunks. Continue to simmer the chowder until the potatoes are very soft. Then spoon out about a quarter of the soup into a suitably sized bowl or jug and blend with a stick blender or food processor until smooth. Return this to the pan with the flaked fish and reheat gently, season with salt and pepper to taste. The blending gives the chowder a thicker and smoother texture, rather than the more traditional thin and watery texture. Sprinkle a bit of chopped parsley, dill or chives on top of each portion and serve with crusty bread. Open all the windows in the house . . .

Yoga in Milborne

Yoga class on Thursdays in term time
in the village hall, 1.30 – 2.45pm

I also teach one to one in my home,
whether your needs are for yoga as
therapy or meditation or a
simple way of keeping yourself healthy.

For information ring

Sarah Ryan on 01258 839230

or email saryan6630@aol.com
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www.milborneplayers.org.uk

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Milborne Neighbourhood Plan - Working together



Landowner presentations. What you said!

FRUSTRATING

Planning Permission notification was received on 11th January 2018 that Wyatt Homes has submitted plans for Huntley Down, 2 days BEFORE the landowner presentation evening. Wyatt Homes had communicated to us that the presentation evening would be treated as a pre-application consultation.

The Working Group are very disappointed, as it seems that Wyatt Homes did not wish to consider the feedback from the evening from you, the residents, a factor in their plans. We fear that this undermines the spirit of working trust between the landowner and the group.

The Huntley Down site, however, will still be considered for the Neighbourhood Plan, as no permission has yet been granted.

GETTING THE EXPERTS

We are funded through a grant system, where we lay out exactly what any resources would be used for. In this grant, we asked for funds to use a Transport Consultant with design expertise, able to consider practical improvements that would make the A354 safer for pedestrians, without introducing barriers or other urban solutions, as 3 of the 4 sites front the main A354. Twice they have turned down our request, we have now gone to the local MP to ask for a rethink. In the meantime, we will see if they will offer Design support (which they have indicated they would), and persist in requesting the transport expertise as far as we can.

...RESULTS SO FAR



The scores from the landowner evening show a clear general preference for one site, Camelco (otherwise known as the old milk factory car park and lagoon). The detailed comments relay various concerns and suggestions, most notably about drainage, public access to the woodland, traffic, pedestrian links into the village, and the bus stop.

The anonymised feedback sheets have been sent to the landowner, requesting their consideration of these points. Similarly the feedback sheets have been sent to the landowners of the other sites, highlighting the areas of concern (such as density, size, overlooking), and asking for their comments.

We recognise that the number of dwellings offered from all the sites together is way above the number of houses that we need. If the issues raised with the Camelco site can be resolved, then it is likely that the Neighbourhood Plan group will put forward this site for the draft plan, perhaps with one other as a 'reserve' site. Whatever is proposed, YOU will all have a chance to comment further, and your responses will guide what goes in the final draft that gets examined.



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Milborne St Andrew First School

Holiday Club



Monday 9th April - Friday 13th April
8:00am - 5:30pm

Breakfast included, but Healthy snacks & packed Lunches to be provided by parents.
Fun activities including den building, art, outdoor cooking and Forest School
Booking forms via http://milborne.eschools.co.uk/website/msa_holiday_club/328075

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AM session	8.00am to 12 noon	£20.00 per child
PM session	12pm to 4pm	£20.00 per child
Extra time	4pm to 5.30pm	£8.00 per child

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Major and Mrs Holt's definitive Battlefield Guide to the Ypres Salient and Passchendaele

THIS is a new edition of Major and Mrs. Holt's book, re-issued for the 2018 Centenary of the end of the Great War. It's in full colour and is a handy pocket size (if you have a large pocket), but is soft-backed and easy to pop into a daysack when touring in the area of Ypres. Unusually for a guidebook, it contains things to see as you approach the area from the coast. There are itineraries for Day Trips, with detailed descriptions of routes, GPS co-ordinates, interesting places to see and good places to stay, to eat, to park, and to walk. In addition to the three Itineraries, there are recommended extra visits, of varying durations, but it is always clear which would extend the time beyond a day trip.

The information includes historical background to the battles of Ypres, poems from the time, notes about cemeteries, memorials, battlefields, bunkers, actions, mines and most of all the men who fought across this patch of Flanders mud. There are maps (including a proper separate fold-out Battlefield Map), photographs, snippets of information, and the routes look to be easy to follow, both in the car and on foot where needed. There are some words of advice about rough ground which seems a bit over-cautious, but I guess there are people who overestimate their own capabilities and the advice may prevent them getting into trouble. There is also useful information about bunkers, tunnels, etc. which are on private land, and only open to the public on request; the average battlefield tourist may well miss these places, and the book has opened my eyes to all that is available.

In short it is a complete guide and will be invaluable when visiting the area (which I shall be doing in November 2018, to celebrate a milestone birthday and to visit places in the Salient which I haven't seen on previous trips). I am so glad I reviewed it, as I shall see and understand a lot more having it with me on the trip.

I shall also investigate Major and Mrs. Holt's other Battlefield Guides for trips to other areas of the Western Front. I still hope to find out more about Etaples, where my paternal grandfather spent some time. Maybe their guide to that area will be a good starting point!

Susan Wilson

This Month

at the MILBORNE ST ANDREW GARDENING CLUB



Gardening on Walls and Fences

by Janette Merillion

THURSDAY
15th February
7.30pm



Refreshments

VENUE
The Village Hall
7.30 pm



Open to All — everyone is welcome

Entry: £2 non members

Review of Milborne's year in weather

IN the first four months of 2017 there was 80% of average rainfall which, combined with low rainfall in the previous autumn, resulted in quite low ground water levels and the possibility of a summer drought seemed likely but the May to September rainfall was 135% of average and that helped to restore the water level. The October to December rainfall was 83% of average. Total rainfall for the year was 974.2mm which is close to the average annual rainfall of 991.8mm. The Environment Agency indicates that ground water levels at present do not pose a significant flood risk.

The January to June temperature was 0.9°C higher than average but the July to December temperature was 0.5°C lower than average. The average temperature for the year was 10.68°C which is 0.4°C higher than average.

Storm 'Doris' caused some damage locally on 23rd February and there was spectacular lightning on May 26th which knocked out some electricity and telephone supplies locally.


The highest temperature of the year of 31°C occurred on 19th and 20th June. The lowest temperature of the year of -5°C occurred on 24th January. The highest daily rainfall of the year occurred on 2nd August with 40.6mm.

There was slight snowfall on 12th January, 10th and 11th February but it soon melted.

The last snowfall of any significance in Milborne was 20th December 2010 with 8cm snow.

Candlemas Day is on February 2nd and the weather on that day has long been used in weather lore to indicate the future weather. Sunshine on Candlemas has always been a bad omen.

'As far as the sun shines in at the window on Candlemas Day,
So deep will the snow be ere winter is gone' *Pluvius.*



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New Year Celebration for the Wednesday Club

ON Wednesday 10th January 27 members met at The Royal Oak for a New Year's lunch. We served ourselves from a choice of three mains and vegetables followed by apple crumble or chocolate fudge cake. A big thank you to Sarah, Tony and Yasmin for providing us with delicious food and for looking after us so well. It was an excellent start to the new year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th February at 2.00pm in the Village Hall when Kevin Patience will be giving a talk on Airplanes Over Poole Harbour.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Lis Watts

The MSA 100 Club may be folding

The MSA 100 Club held its AGM on Wednesday 10th January 2018. A review of the accounts has revealed, that despite a concerted effort of publicising the lottery by the new management team in 2017, there was a continuous decline in the number of subscribers, to a point where the value of it continuing was questionable. A decision was therefore made that unless there is a significant increase in the number of subscribers over the next month then the MSA 100 Club would hold its last draw on Wednesday 14th March 2018 and cease to exist beyond this point.

If you have been considering entering this lottery and just put it off, now is the time to act. Otherwise, all prepaid subscriptions beyond the March draw will be refunded and the balance remaining shared equally between the MSA Sports Club and St. Andrew's Church. The minutes of the MSA 100 Club AGM and the associated statement of accounts have been published on the village website.

Paul Sutcliffe, Chairman MSA 100 Club.



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

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

WE ALSO NEED MORE DRIVERS – you can commit whatever time suits your circumstances.

Ring 01258 470333 to register or to obtain more information.

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

St. Valentine

THERE are several legends and mythological lives attributed to St. Valentine, which may come from the lives of one or more people, merged together throughout time.

The most common version describes Saint Valentine as a priest of Rome or as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, a town in Umbria, Italy. While under house arrest by Judge Asterius, Valentinus was discussing the validity of Jesus with him. The judge put Valentinus to the test by bringing his blind daughter. If Valentinus succeeded in restoring the girl's sight, Asterius would do whatever he asked. Valentinus laid his hands on her eyes and the child's vision was restored. The Judge was so humbled, he asked Valentinus what he should do. Valentinus told him to break all the idols around his house and to fast for three days and then be baptised. The judge obeyed and also freed all the Christians in his prison. The judge, his family, and his 44 family members and servants were baptised.

Valentinus was later arrested again for continuing to preach and was sent to the prefect of Rome, to the emperor Claudius II himself. Claudius took a liking to him until Valentinus tried to persuade him to become a Christian. Claudius refused and condemned Valentinus to death, commanding that he either renounce his faith or he would be beaten with clubs and beheaded. Valentinus refused and Claudius' command was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on 14th February, 269.

The *Legenda Aurea*, a book by Jacobus de Voragine, which was compiled about 1260 and one of the most-read books of the High Middle Ages, gives details of the saints for each day of the liturgical year to inspire a homily. The very brief life of St. Valentine has him executed for refusing to deny Christ by the order of the "Emperor Claudius" in the year 269. Before his head was cut off, this Valentine restored sight and hearing to the daughter of his jailer. Jacobus makes a play with the source of "Valentine", "as containing valour".

A popular version of Valentine's life appears in the *Nuremberg Chronicle* of 1493. Alongside a woodcut portrait of Valentine, the text states that he was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius Gothicus. He was arrested and imprisoned upon being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Helping Christians at this time was considered a crime.

Claudius took a liking to Valentinus. However, when he tried to convert the Emperor, he was condemned to death by beating with clubs and stones. When that failed to kill him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate. Various dates are given for the martyrdom: 269, 270, or 273.

There are many other legends behind Saint Valentine. One is that in the 3rd century AD Valentine, who was a priest, defied the order of the emperor Claudius and secretly married couples so that the husbands wouldn't have to go to war. The legend claims that soldiers (who had to be bachelors) were sparse at this time so this was a big inconvenience to the emperor. Another legend is that Valentine refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. Being imprisoned for this, Valentine gave his testimony in prison and through his prayers healed the jailer's daughter who was blind. On the day of his execution he left her a note signed, "Your Valentine".

Saint Valentine was not exceptionally more venerated than other saints and in England no church was ever dedicated to him. Many churches contain the name Valentine in other countries such as Italy.

English 18th-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce noted the obscurity of Saint Valentine's identity and suggested that Valentine's Day was created as an attempt to replace the pagan holiday of Lupercalia (mid-February). This idea has lately been dismissed by other researchers. Many of the current Saint Valentine legends were invented in the fourteenth century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle, when the feast day of 14th February first became associated with romantic love.

During the Middle Ages it was believed that birds paired in mid-February. This was then associated with the romance of Valentine. Although all these legends may differ in ways, Valentine's day is widely recognized nowadays as a day for romance and devotion. *Susan Wilson*

Philip Trim
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Have you met . . . Barbara Ainsworth and Chris Steele?

REPORTER readers may often have wondered as they scanned their monthly pages, at the numbers of skilled, talented and community minded residents in their midst. Chris and Barbara are another couple who embody all those characteristics.

They met at a 1995/6 New Year's Eve fancy dress party to which he went as The Incredible Hulk and she in civilian clothes (citing lack of time). He was immediately attracted to her and followed leads in a detective series of moves to find her contact number. But, as he comments, the 'jungle telegraph' worked! When they finally got together in the following February she didn't recognise him without his green disguise! Their paths to this moment had followed totally different and, for her, circuitous ways. He had been born in Worcester, brought up and schooled in Mudeford, Christchurch, Dorset until, at the age of 18 years, leaving to study for an art, ceramics, metalwork and woodwork degree at Ravensbourne University, a feeder school for the Royal College of Art. He later learnt that competition for places was stiff that year as he gained one of only 25 available to a 500 strong host of applicants. Following his successful studying Chris went on to teach art, pottery and photography at Desborough School for boys in Maidenhead for 35 years, specialising in art and photography at A Level. This was a large Comprehensive school catering for 1,150 boys. It is clear that he loved his work and many of his former pupils went on to highly successful careers. One in particular has contributed what are, now, famous images on screen and TV. He continues to make pots and to paint in a large workshop at the rear of their beautiful house. He tells a fascinating and amusing story of three of his pupils making an avant-garde video whilst secretly filming staff and turning them into Terry Gilliam (Monty Python) like creatures with, for example, opening heads and peas rolling down their cheeks. This 'public' filming in the Drama room (at a small cost to other pupils) was discovered by one of the staff who walked into the showing just in time to see himself on screen. In high dudgeon he informed the Head who, having watched the entire film, pronounced it brilliant so no expected punishments were meted out!

Barbara, on the contrary, left school and home as soon as was possible at the age of 16 years, an independent spirit longing to make her mark in the wider world. She had been born in the London borough of Kensal Rise. Her grandparents, bombed out of their home during WW2, two uncles evacuated to Desborough, Northants. They were able to encourage her grandfather to buy two cottages there which came up for sale. She tells me that, as her parents were struggling with lack of employment they took the opportunity to move their family to one of these properties. She describes Northamptonshire as a county of "spires and squires" (it is where the Spencer family has their estate). Her father went into business with his father as a window cleaner and, on the death of his father, reverted to his original trade of painter/ decorator. Barbara began her working life, 1968, in the Home Office Immigration section as a Clerical Officer (C.O.) with Day Release classes in Business Studies. After six months of boredom she left to join a famous Advertising Agency, Ogilvy and Mather, just off The Strand in London working in the Dispatch Department often organising travel bookings. Three years on, restless for further experience, she responded to a job advertisement in Josephine Sammons' Recruitment Agency. For eighteen months Barbara stayed working at their offices in Piccadilly running temps. Again she moved on, this time to hotel work at 'The Heathrow', part of the Lex Empire, in Administration and Sales making reservations. This lasted for five years. Her long hours led to relationship problems and at her partner's insistence moved into the Antiques business working on a commission only basis. Her final employer was "Progress Software" as UK Facilities Manager. This entailed a great deal of travelling in Europe often taking a flight from Heathrow just for a day, sometimes meeting with a boss based just outside Brussels and the HQ in Rotterdam, using aircraft 'like buses'. She was responsible for five properties in England and Dublin. Once a year she flew to The States near Boston. This lasted seven years until



her early retirement. It is clear that at all points in her career she made a natural progression towards further and greater responsibilities, her employers recognising her self-confidence, people skills and leadership potential. Currently she is researching her family history and has just discovered one great grandparent's sojourn in a Workhouse! As an avid viewer of TV programme 'Who Do You Think You Are' she is thrilled at her unfolding past. Whenever Chris is engaged in his 'man cave' activities she returns with relish to this pastime, still able to fit in some immensely complicated large scale jigsaws. Their home and garden is testimony to her ability and flair to create an airy, beautiful space full of comfort, plants and colour. Chris' artwork and elegant, interestingly shaped pots add to this feeling of sanctuary and peace.

They both are involved in Cribbage games and Chris with Bridge. Since moving to Milborne St. Andrew from Maidenhead three and a half years ago they have embraced the village and its inhabitants, finding it a friendly open and welcoming place to settle contentedly. As they walk Nessie, their much loved five year old chocolate Labrador, they meet and chat to other dog owners, gradually integrating in an organic and comfortable way. Both are open to new friendships and eager to share their interests and knowledge with others.

Chris described the properties of clay, its 'memory' and the necessity for kneading thoroughly in order to reintegrate its tiny pearl like constituents which each are contained within an outer skin. Two of his stoneware pots are glazed using the ashes of his old Border Collie, Ben and are therefore referred to as 'Ben pots'. He is constantly searching for new mediums within which to work and is currently contemplating purchasing a 3D printer and also the making of 'half size' tables possibly for sale. There are examples of his furniture in their rooms, including an unusual and lovely 'beach' table. This contains coral sand and a collection of sea glass and shells from all their wonderful holidays both at home and abroad. He also writes poetry and I was able to read a published hardback combining his verse and photographic images.

Chris' daughter, Natasha, a youth worker, artist, and full time carer for her mother, Carol (injured twelve years ago as a pedestrian in an horrific car accident when a motorist hit her unable to see due to an uncleared, iced over windscreen) following which her leg was amputated, lives in Christchurch with her partner Sean and two children, Spencer, 14 years and Kiery, 13 years. They are now able to have more contact with the family following their move to Dorset, and also to keep in touch with and visit friends and family near Maidenhead, particularly Barbara's brother.

It has obviously been a highly successful and happy move for both these warm, friendly people. They had a certain formula which they followed in their search for a new a home. But they are in accord in agreeing that as soon as they entered this house they knew it was for them. Together, twenty two years after that fancy dress party, they have found a 'forever' place to settle, a joint sanctuary within which they will continue to flourish and grow creatively. An example of what is possible within a very mixed, dynamic, and community minded Dorset village.

Carole Fornachon

What is love? *By Chris Steele*

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Nature's stimuli
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A fiery tie
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Did you identify this?

The photograph in the January *Reporter* was taken in Chapel Street
outside of the Old School

No-one sent in the correct answer this month

Try your luck this month on page 10



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A summary of the main issues discussed at the Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council Meeting 17th January 2018

THE Parish Council Chair, Ms Robinson was supported by Cllrs. Cherry, Fox and Smith with apologies from Cllrs. McNair and Stevens.

Of the matters arising from 15th November 2017, the footpath linking Crown Court and Stileham Bank was reported on as being cleared by Sovereign Housing as requested by the Clerk to great satisfaction. The Clerk will write to thank the Association.

A report from Cllr Somper was read concerning the Local Government reorganisation which is 'on hold'. Dorset County Council (DCC) and North Dorset District Council (NDDC) have agreed a timetable for the Unitary Authority which will be signed off in June and implemented in September. The budgets for 2018 and 2019–2020 will be agreed and balanced.

Changes to waste and recycling collections will be in force by 5th February. Each householder will be informed in writing what this will mean for them individually.

Planning Applications. Despite there being none received at the time of preparing the Agenda, two were discussed. One was the proposal that 30 houses be built on Huntley Down. Out of these 30, 12 were to be 'low cost'. Present to answers queries were representatives of the developer, Tim Hoskings and Dave Wyatt. There had been a verbal assurance from the Planning Department that an extension for responses had agreed to be by 1st February.

Main concerns expressed were as follows: Surface water, there is a natural underground spring; that the land slopes for one mile or more, that flash floods affect Bladen View; that there are too many houses for the area, services are already stretched to the limit; that the roads are not wide enough and are totally inadequate; areas for parking, how big will they be and how permeable; once conservatories and other structures are built the ground cannot be drained; gravel used on driveways on the existing properties goes into the waterways, this should be banned; single garages not large enough so that extra cars are parked on the narrow roads blocking access for emergency vehicles and rubbish collection also there are too many bends and curves, no turning circle; lack of privacy and Bladen View residents overlooked/overshadowed. They will be fifteen feet lower than the new proposed houses, also they did not

know of the proposed development whereas Huntley Down have known for five years of this proposal.

The answers to these questions were as follows; a risk assessment has been done, they have looked at soakaways, the drainage strategy was considered by the CC and it will meet all standards, everything has been sized even up to the ingress of storms. All water will be collected in underground tanks called 'hydrobrakes'. The ground is chalk so the water will go down through. There are still lots of calculations to make such as the 'green field run off test'. On adopted highways the first part of any driveway has to be brick. Sewerage extensions to be increased by Wessex Water. Assurances were also sought from the developers that no more 'eyesores' would be created (such as that on Little England) with developers 'stopping and starting' lowering property prices in the vicinity. Particularly as they have sat on this development for five years.

The general feeling of the members was that the developers had taken 'nothing on board'. It was noted that residents could represent themselves at the Planning meeting. The Chair to send a response by the closing date. The members of the public present were handicapped during this discussion by not having a plan of the development being discussed.

The second application to turn a barn into offices with a car park in Water Lane, Manor Farm was agreed without discussion.

During a Budget discussion the parlous state of the obelisk was commented upon for which funds are earmarked. The PC was said to be in a 'healthy' position financially whilst deciding which options to go for in a budget paper. Having voted they decided on Option five.

A long discussion ensued on the problem of speeding through the village and the PC will respond to Milton Abbas' request to join with them in the purchase of a SID (Speed Indicator Device). Once information has been gathered from this a request will go forward for a 'pinch point' outside The Royal Oak. It was agreed that the hours between 7.00–9.00am would be the best time to monitor traffic through the village.

The Flood Warden's Report is elsewhere in this magazine (page 7).

Carole Fornachon

Next Parish Council meeting 21st February.

Tea bags and herbs at the Gardening Club



The first meeting of 2018 was unusual at the club because the speakers were club members and not visitors. This is not to say that they were not as knowledgeable in their fields as many 'professional' speakers we have had.

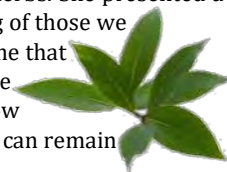
First off was Val Andrews who came equipped with a tray of soil, seeds and containers and gave us a really interesting demonstration of planting without the need for special pots, boxes and so on. The emphasis was on eco-friendly materials and reducing waste. How many times do we gardeners look at a collection of unwanted plant pots and seed trays, nearly all made of plastic, and wonder how to get rid of them.

Val showed how she uses tea bags and egg boxes to germinate seeds. The bags stop compost and water from slipping out, support the new roots and make it easy to pot on with no need to handle the fragile new plants, usually into cardboard tubes placed in supermarket fruit and veg trays for support. When large enough they can be planted straight into the ground. As the tubes are bio-degradable the plants will continue to



grow and containers will rot away. Also, not so much rubbish in the bin!

Our second talk was from Ann Guy, about herbs. She presented a lot of information about the growing and using of those we have in our kitchens and gardens, and also some that are less well known. Many common herbs die down in winter but will survive on a window sill. Woody ones like rosemary, thyme and bay can remain outside where they make handsome shrubs.



After these talks there was some useful preparatory discussion about future events during the year and especially the Plant Sale in May for which we must start planning. I'm sure Val's talk will come in handy!

Our next meeting on 15th February will include a talk by the well-known gardener Janette Merillion on 'Gardening on Walls and Fences'. All are welcome to come at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Sally Dyer

Important: garden waste collection is changing
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