



Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 2018

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team

Ladybirds playgroup Easter egg hunt!

Collect your Easter Egg Hunt sheet from
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VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on

Saturday 31st March from 12.15 to 2.00pm

Wine (£1.00 per glass) or fruit juice

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Prior booking essential by

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KNIGHT FEVER

Wow! What a show! Who'd have thought it, Camelot in Milborne. Opened by the beautiful singing of young Flora Bratley and the young cast members, showing great potential for budding dramatic futures. The members of Arthur's Court, oh yes they were all there. Arthur (Steve Bewers), Guinevere (Lauren House), Merlin (Andy Coetzee) and Lester the Jester (Rhianna Webb). Knights on quests (the holey pail and the holy snail spring to mind) and trainee knights put through their paces to join Arthur's army for the great quest, to recover the beautiful Princess Anna (Emma Park) from the clutches of the Black Knight (Roy Sach) and his sorceress sidekick-in-crime Chardonnay le Faye (Anita Wareham). Justin Tyme (Theo Michael-Bennett) was the hero who naturally fell in love with the lovely Princess Anna, chaperoned by the fabulous Dame Doris (Adrienne Rogers) entering on her golden charger. The Lady of the Lake appeared from the mist to enable Justin to ensure he could complete his quest to release the Princess by providing him with a "mighty small" box of cornflakes to ensure the Dragon was fed. A lot of the Round Table Knights just didn't cut it and turned down the quest, Sir Render, Sir Charge, Sir Vival and Sir Bliminal. However Sir Iptitious and Sir Cumference endured but were a bit distracted with their own quests for snails and buckets. At the end of the day Justin released his princess and all was well in Camelot. Dame Doris found her old love Nigel who turned out to be the Black Knight. Love was truly in the air. Songs and slapstick ran through the show, with a finale of "oh what a (K)Night". Received very well by its audiences this turned out to be a good choice for a new style panto for the Players. My thanks go to all the cast, crew and helpers and to Mike Roberts for joining me as co-director.

Caroline Nobbs



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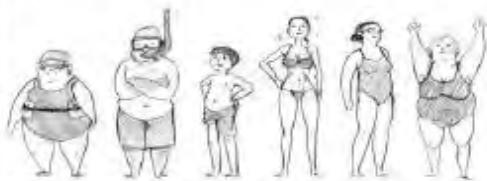
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The Milborne St. Andrew Scout Group is 45 years old (at least!!)

ACCORDING to the information I have, the Group has been in existence since 1973, and looking back through the old minute books, there are lots of names from around the village that I recognise, many of whom who still live in the village today. Most of the adult members from those days were either committee members or, I presume, the parents of children within the Group. We are proud to say that there are two Leaders in today's Group that were there right from that very early date. Both Jim Burg of Dewlish and Sue Mullett of Milborne have each given at least 45 years of service to the Group, and well done to them!!

We still have sections for Beavers (6 to 8 years), Cubs (8 to 10½ years) and Scouts (10½ to 14 years). I suppose that one of the biggest changes in the Group over the last 45 years is that Scouting now allows girls to join, and we have girls in all three of our sections.

Our Leaders have the responsibility of running their own sections and allowing the young people to make the most out of their Scouting adventure, at the same time having an adventure themselves. Being an Adult Volunteer also offers the chance to build on personal skills, like teamwork, confidence and leadership. A study found that over 90% of the volunteers in the Scouting movement believe that the skills and experiences they have gained through Scouting have been of relevance to their working or personal lives.

How many children have been taught by the Scout Group over the years is almost impossible to determine, but it would be safe to say, that many of the boys that were in the Group when it first started (it was only boys in those days) would now be parents or even grandparents. I wonder how many of them still live in Dorset, or even Milborne St. Andrew itself. If you are out there it would be nice if you would get in touch and tell us about your experiences.

There are many ways that those who enjoyed Scouting in the

past, can still remain, join or rejoin Scouting. People between the ages of 14 and 18 can join the Explorers, which is much the same as Rovers and Venture Scouts used to be. There is also a section called Scout Network for 18 to 25 year olds. The old Scout Fellowship is no longer in existence, but instead there is the SAS (no, not that SAS!!), it is the Scout Active Support section, a way for adults to volunteer some time to Scouting in a flexible way that suits them. Scout Active Support is a resource for managers of local scouting so that if you have an interest in helping out, or just want to do something different, you can volunteer for as much or as little as you want. So anyone between the ages of six and 96 can get involved if they so wish.

The controlling body of any Scout Group is the Group Executive Committee mostly made up of Leaders and Parents.

Membership of the Group Scout Council is open to all adults with appointments in the Group, as well as the parents of youth members in the Group, and Patrol Leaders. Other supporters, including former Scouts and their parents, may be admitted to the Group Scout Council. It is possible, in fact highly desirable, to include all of those who support the Group.

As always, any voluntary organisation is only as strong as the people that support it, and, of course, we are always looking for that extra bit of support. The group can only run, and be successful, with enough Leaders to give the children the training and experiences that so many of us remember from our youth. As usual, we never have enough Leaders so if you think that you might be interested in helping out please get in touch. Scouting is FUN for, not only the children, but the Leaders as well. Although we have Leaders in all three sections we are always looking for more, so if you feel that you may be interested, please get in touch.

Brian Burton

Group Scout Leader, Milborne St. Andrew Scout Group

Legends, leeks and water springs – St. David's Day

MARCH 1st has been celebrated as St. David's Day, the national day of Wales, since the 12th Century. Nowadays celebrations usually involve singing traditional songs followed by a Te Bach, a tea with bara brith (delicious Welsh fruited bread) and teisen bach (Welsh cake). Young girls are encouraged to wear national costume and many people wear leeks or daffodils, the national symbols of Wales.

Not too much is known about St. David except from a biography written around 1090 by Rhygyfarch, son of the Bishop of St. David's. Much more is speculated, and forms one of the many Welsh Legends.

David was reputedly born on a cliff top near Capel Non (Non's chapel) at Menevia (St. David's) on the south-west Wales coast during a fierce storm. His royal parents were Sandde, Prince of Powys, and Non, daughter of a chieftain of Menevia. The site of his birth is marked by the ruins of a tiny ancient chapel close to a holy well. The more recent 18th century chapel dedicated to his mother Non is sited near St. David's Cathedral.

In medieval times it was believed that St. David was the nephew of King Arthur. Legend has it that the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick – also said to have been born near St. David's – foresaw David's birth in approximately 520AD.

David grew up to be a priest, educated at the monastery of Hen Fynyw under the tutelage of St. Paulinus. According to legend David performed several miracles including restoring Paulinus' sight. It is also said that during a battle against the Saxons, David advised his soldiers to wear leeks in their hats so that they could be distinguished from their enemies, which is why the leek became one of the emblems of Wales!

A vegetarian who ate only bread, herbs and vegetables and who drank only water, David became known as Aquaticus or Dewi Ddyfrwr (the water drinker) in Welsh. Sometimes, as a penance to himself, he would stand up to his neck in a lake of cold water, reciting Scripture! It is also said that milestones during his life were

marked by the appearance of springs of water.

Becoming a missionary David travelled throughout Wales and Britain. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem where he was consecrated bishop. He founded 12 monasteries including Glastonbury and one at Minevia which he made his Bishop's seat. He was named Archbishop of Wales at the Synod of Brevi (Llandewi Brefi), Cardiganshire in 550.

Monastic life was very strict, with the brothers working very hard, cultivating the land and pulling the plough. The monks had to keep themselves fed as well as provide food and lodging for travellers. They also looked after the poor.

St. David died on 1st March 589AD at Minevia, allegedly aged over 100. His remains were buried in a shrine in the 6th century cathedral which was ransacked in the 11th century by Viking invaders, who plundered the site and murdered two Welsh bishops.

After his death, his influence spread, first through Britain and then by sea to Cornwall and Brittany. In 1120, Pope Callactus II canonised David as a Saint after which he was declared Patron Saint of Wales. Such was David's influence that many pilgrimages were made to St. David's, and the Pope decreed that two pilgrimages made to St. David's equalled one to Rome while three were worth one to Jerusalem. Fifty churches in South Wales alone bear his name.

It is not certain how much of the history of St. David is fact and how much speculation. However in 1996 bones were found in St. David's Cathedral which, it is claimed, could be those of Dewi himself.

Susan Wilson



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The Banking Protocol

A 72 year old is one of hundreds of people saved from losing thousands of pounds to a scam after bank staff cautioned him about proceeding with a transaction.

The gentleman had seen his dream car advertised on an internet auction site and had gone into his bank to withdraw £10,000 to pay for it. He was expecting to meet up with the seller and hand over the money in exchange for the car. Bank staff were concerned and used a new system to alert the police and within 30 minutes officers were there. The police were able to carry out some checks and alert the gentleman to the fact he was about to be scammed.

Bank staff have been trained to spot signs that a customer may be conducting an unusual or out of character transaction such as withdrawing or transferring large amounts of money to give to scammers. Staff have a series of questions they can ask the customer to gauge if the transaction is fraud related. If they have concerns this is then referred to a senior manager who can phone the police or trading standards giving a code word which will summon help quickly.

This call made by the bank staff was one of over 1,200 calls made to the police or Trading Standards under the banking protocol system that should see an officer arrive within an hour. In the last 12 months 101 arrests have been made after banking staff have made calls under the banking protocol system.

For advice on this, or to report something to Trading Standards, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Milborne Movies

Victoria and Abdul

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

Doors and bar are open at 7.00 and the film starts at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £3.50

This is the extraordinary (mostly) true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's (Academy Award winner Judi Dench) remarkable rule. When Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal), a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee, he is surprised to find favour with the Queen herself. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes.

This film is a complete delight. I went along without great expectations . . . a worthy film I thought I should go and see to write a worthy review about. But I was entranced from beginning to end. It's probably best described as a comedy drama . . . always a difficult trick for a movie-maker to pull off. But here in the competent hands of director Stephen Frears ('Florence Foster Jenkins') the comedy is both very, VERY funny, with the drama also being extremely moving. And crucially the transition between the two never feels forced.

Above all, this is an acting tour de force for Dame Judi, reprising her role as the elderly queen from 'Mrs Brown' which (shockingly!) is now 20 years old. I know it's early in the season to be placing bets, before having seen any of the other major contenders, but Dench's "insanity" speech screams "Oscar reel" to me. Her performance is masterly from beginning to end.

Rather overshadowed by Dench is the relative newcomer to western cinema Ali Fazal (he had a role in the "Furious 7" film). But his performance is almost as impressive, bringing the warmth and compassion to the supporting role that is so sorely needed if the overall balance of the film is to be maintained.

Another star of the show is the Scottish countryside, ravishingly photographed by Danny Cohen ('Florence Foster Jenkins', 'Room') with this film probably doing more for the Scottish Tourist Board than any paid for advertising could ever do!

Overall this is a true delight of a film, perfectly balanced, brilliantly acted. [Bob-the-movie-man]



Contact name: Peter Lindsley

E-mail:

plindsley@ageukdorchester.onmicrosoft.com

Do you need to make or change a Will or Power of Attorney?

Every few months Age UK Dorchester has a **BY APPOINTMENT** surgery where individuals can come and ask an expert questions about wills, powers of attorney and other legal aspects of your home and finances. This is a **FREE** one-to-one surgery given by Ian Campbell, Senior Associate at Blanchards Bailey, solicitors.

Next surgery:

Friday 23rd March. 9.30am to 12.30pm at Age UK Dorchester, Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, DT1 1PW.

For further details of all Age UK Dorchester services, please telephone 01305 269444 or look at the website: www.ageukdorchester.org.uk

Seaplanes of Poole Harbour talk at Wednesday Club

ON the 7th February Kevin Patience came to give a talk on 'Aviation around Poole Bay'. We had no idea that Poole Harbour played such an important part in the development of seaplane and flying boat travel to the Commonwealth so that in 1939 the Imperial Airways fleet moved from Southampton to Poole and led to the subsequent formation of BOAC. In fact BOAC became the town's biggest employer with 650 people on the payroll.



The planes carried twenty four passengers plus mail and it took twelve days to reach Sydney with many stops for refuelling and there were three services a week. Among the people who travelled were King George VI, Charles de Gaulle and Winston Churchill. Between 1939 and 1948, 34,000 passengers used the service.

The Navy and RAF had seaplane stations at Hamworthy and Sandbanks and Poole Harbour became very crowded during the Second World War with five different water runways.

Kevin was an extremely interesting speaker and we hope he will return sometime to talk to us on another subject.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th March when we will be visiting The Wishing Well Tea Room at Upwey. All places have already been pre booked and we will meet in the Village Hall car park to sort out car sharing at 1.30pm.

Lis Watts

Puddletown Open Gardens

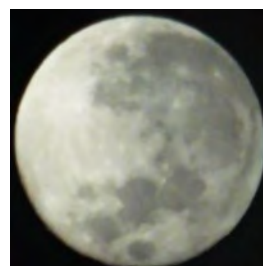
Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th June

Garden entry tickets and maps will be available from the village hall (DT2 8RX), along with plants, preserves, cakes, tombola, plant creche and refreshments.

Adults £5, Children under 12 free. Parking will be available at Puddletown Surgery (DT2 8FY)

Church Tower Tours will be available, subject to weather, between 1.00 and 5.00pm at £2.00 per person. Timed ticket, requires suitable footwear. Children must be over 8 years and accompanied by an adult.

This is a fund-raising event for St Mary's Church, Puddletown.



Supermoon

The supermoon taken at 6.00pm from Milborne on the 31st January by Carole Fornachon

The January 31st supermoon was also the second full moon of January, making it a blue moon, and also occurred during a total lunar eclipse.



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A Feast for Lent

The whole of March falls in Lent this year. Last month I wrote about Lenten journeys; now a slightly different way of looking at it.

The poet-priest George Herbert surprised many by calling Lent a feast. That's certainly not how it has traditionally been seen: Christians through the ages have been called to fast not feast during this season of the Church's year, so that they become more aware of their reliance on God and not on earthly things.

But Lent can be a feast as well as a fast, if we think carefully about what we are feasting on. It is a period during which we are encouraged to grow in grace and love for God and for our fellow human beings. Love is surely more feast-like than fast-like. It is a joyful thing, something to be celebrated.

I have been struck this year by some words of Pope Francis, written for Lent 2017. He talks of fasting not from food but from unloving words and behaviour. If we give up those things then we can truly feast on the alternatives, which are rooted in love.

1. Fast from Hurting Words and say Kind words.
2. Fast from Sadness and be filled with Gratitude.
3. Fast from Anger and be filled with Patience.
4. Fast from Pessimism and be filled with Hope.
5. Fast from Worries and Trust in God.
6. Fast from Complaints and contemplate Simplicity.
7. Fast from Pressures and be Prayerful.
8. Fast from Bitterness and fill your heart with Joy.
9. Fast from Selfishness and be Compassionate to others.
10. Fast from Grudges and be Reconciled.
11. Fast from Words and be Silent so you can listen.

Fasting from the negative and feasting on the positive can surely only be a good thing.

With best wishes

Sarah Hillman

Celebrate at St. Andrew's Church

EVERY first Sunday of the month we have an all age service which we call 'Celebrate'. These services start with breakfast, and the food provided varies. We have been known to offer bacon rolls, sausage sandwiches, croissants, fresh bread with a choice of jams, brioches and at one time we even had cereals. Drinks are also available.

The services are held in the church but in the 'friendship area' of the north aisle rather than in the main body of the church. Although some people sit in nearby pews most sit at the café style little tables. We have a screen onto which the hymn words are projected and the service is 'led' from this area as well. Different team members take the lead at different parts of the service e.g. one may welcome all and light the Hope Candle, someone may act as the 'link person' introducing the next part of the service, while another may lead prayers or introduce the activity, etc. Often other people who come, including children, are invited to take an active part such as reading from a script, helping with the activities or joining in a discussion, etc.

The activities that we have are always based around the theme of the day's reading and we try to vary them. Over the time that the team have been running the Celebrate services, many different things have been carried out; we have done craft work, Chinese whispers, viewed film clips, held debates, heard testimonials, run quizzes, etc.

A team of six people meet once a month to plan the next service. Interestingly each one of them has developed skills in a particular aspect which means that they can share the preparation and delivery of the actual service. One member takes the lead in setting dates for the planning meeting, acts as 'chair' and in creating the 'order of service'; others specialise in writing the prayers finding appropriate hymns or in producing different versions of the readings; one always seems to come up with ideas for the activity or 'sermon slots' whilst another is our 'techie' who puts together the music and words for hymns which are

Church Contacts

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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

Church Services March

4th March – Lent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate . . .	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion + APCM followed by bring-and-share lunch	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Study Group: The Way	Milborne

11th March – Mothering Sunday/Lent 4

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown
9.30	Methodist United Service	Tolpuddle
9.30	Mothering Sunday Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Mothering Sunday Communion	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Study Group: The Way	Dewlish Village Hall

THURSDAY 15th March

12noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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18th March – Passion Sunday

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Prayer	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish
6.00pm	United Benefice Study Group: The Way	Puddletown Church Room

25th March – Palm Sunday

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: The Way	Milborne

29th March – Maundy Thursday

7.00pm	Agape Supper	Dewlish
7.30	Holy Communion	Puddletown

30th March – Good Friday

10.00am	Good Friday Service – hymns, prayers, reflections	Tolpuddle
12noon	Church open for Meditation (– 3.00pm)	Puddletown and Milborne
12noon	Good Friday Messy Church	Milborne Village Hall
6.00 pm	Good Friday service – hymns, prayers, reflections	Dewlish

1st April – EASTER DAY

9.30am	Easter Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Easter Communion	Milborne
11.00	Easter Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Easter Communion	Dewlish

LENT

During Lent there will also be:
Compline in Milborne at 6.00pm and Evening Prayer
in Dewlish at 6.30pm on Thursdays.

projected onto a screen at the service. Other members are very supportive and even if they can't make the meetings help out at the service.

The Celebrate services are very informal and those who come say how much they enjoy them. Do come along and join in, everyone is welcome, children included. Should you want to know more give me a ring so that I can tell you more about it.

Pam Shults, Churchwarden

Dewlish Church Notes

DURING Lent there will be a service of Evening Prayer each Thursday at 6.30pm, the last one being on 22nd March. On 29th March (Maundy Thursday) we hope to have an Agape Supper in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. This will consist of a simple meal during which the Passion Gospel is read, and there will be a service of Holy Communion. If you would like to attend, please contact Jim (Tel: 01258 837466) by 25th March. A donation of at least £5 is hoped for, and any profit from the supper will be donated to WaterAid.

The Lent Lunches are being held on Thursdays (12.30pm for 1.00pm) at the following venues:

1st March	Jim and Daphne Burg, Elm View
8th March	Sue Britton, Parsonage Farm
15th March	Judith Bridgen, 8 Manor Close
22nd March	Anne Fell, Up Top

Again, we are hoping for a donation of at least £5. This will also be sent to WaterAid.

On Mothering Sunday (11th March) there will be a service of Holy Communion at 11.00am with a small posy of flowers for each Mum. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our Spring Sale is being held in the Village Hall on Saturday 24th March, 10.30am – 12 noon. There will be a raffle, New stall, cakes and produce, toys and books, an Easter stall, and refreshments. Any donations will be most welcome. We do hope you can join us!

Daphne Burg

One million 'Friends' by 2020

A CALL to action for individuals, communities, businesses, neighbours and work colleagues to help 'take a stand against scams' has just been announced by the Government. The Friends Against Scams campaign, supported by Dorset County Council trading standards to help people spot and report scams, aims to train up to a million people to be Friends Against Scams by 2020.

Since its launch last year the Friends Against Scams campaign has already provided training to more than 30,000 people, helping them understand how to spot a scam and empowering them to help others from becoming victims.

Scams affect many people and anyone can be caught out by a scam. It is believed that only about 5% of scams are reported and it is therefore seen very much as a silent hidden crime. Victims can lose thousands of pounds, not just as a one of loss, often small amounts quickly add up to more substantial losses over many years.

You can support the Friends Against Scams campaign by completing a short awareness training session in person or online. The training gives you the confidence to spot and deal with scams yourself and to talk with and support others more confidently about scams.

Those who want to can take further steps to become a SCAMchampion by hosting awareness sessions to recruit Friends and driving Friends Against Scams forward in their communities. You could sign your company or organisation up to the campaign and train staff to become Friends Against Scams. Public figures can become a SCAMBassador by using their influence to raise the profile of scams at a national level.

For more information about the Friends Against Scams campaign and how you can get involved please visit www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk. If you think you have been the victim of a scam or would like advice about your consumer rights then please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506.

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To be sure, to be sure, it has to be steak and Guinness pie



St. Patrick's Day is on 17th March and this year the date falls on a Saturday. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland and 17th March is the supposed anniversary of his death in the 5th century. Legend credits Saint Patrick with teaching the Irish about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock, a three-leafed plant, using it to illustrate the Christian teaching of three persons in one God. This story first appears in writing

in 1726, though it may be older. The shamrock has since become a central symbol for Saint Patrick's Day.

The absence of snakes in Ireland gave rise to the legend that they had all been banished by Saint Patrick chasing them into the sea after they attacked him during a 40-day fast he was undertaking on top of a hill. However, all evidence suggests that post-glacial Ireland never had snakes. "At no time has there ever been any suggestion of snakes in Ireland, so there was nothing for St. Patrick to banish", says naturalist Nigel Monaghan, keeper of natural history at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, who has searched extensively through Irish fossil collections and records.

As in all things Irish, the history of Irish limericks is debatable and uncertain. It is known, however, that limericks started out in England. As short, rhyming poems, they were often used and repeated by the working class and drunkards. The popular line of a song, often sung by the same class, "Won't you come up to Limerick?" soon transitioned these little poems into limericks with this reference to the county or city of Limerick in Ireland. In a culture such as Ireland where so much emphasis is placed on storytelling and socialisation, limericks fit the bill of an easily memorable little story you could tell at the pub or the public market. The history of limericks isn't a long one, since exact details can't be pinned down. We can all agree, however, that the limerick is an important, interesting part of Irish culture similar to all the symbols of Ireland that come before it.

The limerick packs laughs anatomical
Into space that is quite economical.
But the good ones I've seen
So seldom are clean
And the clean ones so seldom are comical.

My mother had a deep distrust of and prejudice against all things Irish, handed on to her by her parents and grandparents. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Irish labour was brought across from Liverpool on the trans-Pennine railway to try to break the strikes about poor pay and conditions in the Yorkshire woollen mills. This made the Irish deeply unpopular with the locals.

When I was living in Northern Ireland in the early 1970's, one of our baby sons became very ill and had to have a blood transfusion. My mum was horrified, "I hope it wasn't Irish blood!" she said, "or he'll grow up always getting into fights with everyone. His right hand will be fighting his left hand!" I replied that we were just very grateful for any type of blood which saved his life. It is, I'm sure, just a coincidence that as my son grew up he was often in trouble for getting into scraps at school and then taking up boxing as a sport while at university. He then joined the Royal Marines and has been fighting on and off ever since!

Prejudice works both ways of course, we were refused an interest-free credit deal by a shop in Belfast because my husband was in the British army, and I was spat at in a supermarket in Armagh when someone heard my English accent.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated all over the world; perhaps most enthusiastically in the USA where they dye the whole river green in Chicago and in the White House they dye the water in the fountain green. Apparently the dye is environmentally friendly, but I don't think it will be happening to the Milborne brook!

This month's recipe is a good one for celebrating St. Patrick's Day in style. The pastry can be bought of course, but it is so easy and quick to make in a food processor.



Steak and Guinness pie – serves 6–8

Ingredients for the shortcrust pastry

I use a mixture of metric and imperial measures in some of my recipes, as I find it difficult to convert from one to the other. It's important to measure carefully, especially the amount of water. I use a very old Tupperware 50ml measure, filled to the top, as it's easy to add a bit too much water and then the pastry is too sticky.

8oz plain flour
½ teaspoon salt
2½ oz lard, 2½ oz butter (or 5oz butter)
50ml cold water

I always use a food processor for pastry, but you could rub the fat into the flour with your fingertips in the traditional way.

Method

Process the flour, salt, lard and butter on pulse for just a few seconds until it looks like breadcrumbs. With the motor running, quickly trickle in the 50ml of water. When all the water is added, switch off the machine and just use the pulse button until the pastry forms a ball. Don't be tempted to add any more water. Wrap the ball of pastry in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. Then roll out and use.

Ingredients for the filling

3 lbs braising steak or shin beef cut into cubes
3 onions
1 tablespoon of beef dripping or oil
2 tablespoons plain flour
1 tablespoon of Worcester sauce
1 x 440 ml can of Guinness
8oz mushrooms
Salt and pepper
1 egg

Method

Fry the chopped onions in the dripping or oil for a few minutes then add the cubes of steak. Cook until well browned, stirring all the time. Then sprinkle in the flour, Worcester sauce, sliced mushrooms and stir in the Guinness. Season well with salt and pepper.

Bring to the boil then transfer to the oven for two hours, it may take up to an hour longer, depending on the quality of the meat. Often the cheaper cuts of beef take longer to cook, but have a lot more flavour.

When the meat is tender, transfer to a deep pie dish. (I like to drain off and save some of the gravy to serve with the finished pie.) Top with the rolled out pastry and decorate with any leftover pastry scraps. Brush with beaten egg and bake for 30–40 minutes at Gas 7, 425°F, 220°C.

Serve with Colcannon (buttery mashed potatoes mixed with cooked cabbage and leeks).

A woman from Dorset's Milborne
Was feeling quite sad and forlorn
So she read the Reporter
And says this has taught her
To chuckle from dusk until dawn!



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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 April Reporter.
Last month's answer can be found on page 29



COMPETITION WINNER




Our Vicar, Sarah Hillman, was the first name drawn out at the Reporter's monthly meeting. She wins the book **Verdi The Man Revealed by John Suchet**.
Verdi's two children who died in infancy were:
Virginia Maria Luigia Verdi
Verdi Icilio Romano Verdi
Congratulations to Sarah!

Thank you to all those who sent in the correct answer.

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CHEERS! A 'Ginuary' party . . . That's the Spirit!

Milborne St Andrew Food and Wine Club began its 2018 programme with a mini Ginfest. 26 members abandoned any thoughts of a dry January and gathered to imbibe in Valerie Darrington's sitting room which she had generously offered as our venue.



Lloyd Brown of Grey Bear Bars set up his pop-up bar very expertly in an hour and luscious gin and tonics were ready to greet the rain-soaked members. Despite the dreadful weather, most had very wisely walked to the event! The featured gin was Conker Gin made in Southbourne

and we are very grateful to Rupert Holloway, the distiller, who sponsored the gin for our event.

Once the party was underway, Lloyd gave us a brief introduction

to the origins of gin and this was accompanied by the opportunity to taste a shot of the neat spirit. He passed round samples of the botanicals, which give this gin such a smooth rounded taste, to see if we could identify them. Many are locally sourced – Marsh Samphire, Elderberry, Gorse flowers amongst others and gently distilled with New Forest spring water and British wheat. We were delighted to recognise more than he expected! (The knowledge of seasoned gin drinkers or cooks with good noses????!!!)



Then came the cocktail . . . ! It was specially concocted for the occasion and called 'The Dorset Ooser' – a mythical beast associated with this county.

Here is the recipe if you care to indulge! It comes highly recommended . . .

Add to a shaker:

2 bar spoons of Blaeberry jam

3 leaves of basil

50ml Conker gin

25 ml fresh lemon juice

Shake well with ice and strain into a tall glass

Top up with soda and garnish with a sprig of basil

Needless to say the party was in full swing by this time and Lloyd told us a potted history of Conker Gin itself and then tempted us into



tasting the latest Conker product – Cold Pressed Coffee Liqueur. This has a delicious, almost bitter, coffee taste without the over sugary effect of so many liqueurs. Visions of it in tiramisu or poured over ice cream ensued . . .

It was a lovely start to our 2018 programme of events and the members went merrily off into the rain with n'er a care! I think the correct description in modern parlance is that they had all been 'well and truly ginned'. After all, gin is the most popular spirit in the UK and Conker is a superb artisan gin of which this county should be proud.

Susie Edwards

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 March – 2 pm

Fifehead Neville Meet in the centre of the village.

Grid reference: ST 769110 on OS Explorer Sheet 129 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Wednesday 21st March – 11 am

Puddletown Forest & Hardy's Cottage Meet outside the Blue Vinny Pub, Puddletown DT2 8TE

Grid reference: SY 757947 on Explorer Sheet OL15 (approx. 6.5 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 8th April – 2 pm

Hod Hill Meet at the parking area below the hill, close to Hanford School, east of Child Okeford.

Grid reference: ST 854113 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Please note:

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

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

Bring Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

Pace We go at the pace of the slowest.

Terrain Expect mud, inclines and stiles.

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

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

Reporting healthy balance sheet

THE Milborne St. Andrew Reporter finished 2017/18 with a loss of £799.93 this is due to £1,500 being given towards another defibrillator. There is approximately £900 of advanced payments in hand.

We again acknowledged the help of our distributors for the year with a fancy bag of chocolate gifts. We would also like to thank Jenny Balcon for examining our books again this year.

Reporter Balance Sheet Year ending 31st January 2018

	Receipts	Payments	
Advertising	£4,344.25	Printing	£3,560.22
Bank Interest	£8.44	Expenses	£150.00
Copies sold	£57.60	Defibrillator	£1,500.00
Total	£4,410.29	Total	£5,210.22
Receipts	£4,410.29	Payments	£5,210.22
B/F Cash	£44.06	C/F Cash	£114.66
B/F Bank	£8,031.18	C/F Bank	£7,160.45
Total	£12,485.53	Total	£12,485.53
Cash in Bank			£7,160.45
Cash in Hand			£114.86
TOTAL IN HAND at 31st January 2018			£7,275.31

Loss for year ending 31st January 2018 £799.93

Due to £1500 to another Defibrillator

Approx £900 advance payments in hand.



Ladybirds playgroup Easter family



**Friday 30th March 2018
at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall**

Doors open at 5.30pm, eyes down at 6.15pm.

Fun for all the family with a game of prize bingo!

Easter crafts, raffle, teas, coffees and of course cakes.

Fundraising for our very important village playgroup

Ladybirds

Everybody welcome

Your local school needs you!

MILBORNE St. Andrew First School is looking for Governors from the local community. The Governing Body meets once a month from 4.00–6.00pm on the second Monday of each month. Each Governor takes on oversight of a particular area of the school and we currently need Governors interested in Literacy and Health and Safety, although there also other areas of school life that we could deploy new Governors. The oversight role is usually carried out by occasional visits to the school to meet with pupils and staff. This is a hugely rewarding role and so please do let us know if you are interested by emailing Matthew Way on office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk or calling the school on 01258 837362. *Matt Way* (Chair of Governors)

Local small-ads

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

For sale – Light oak coloured desk, approx. 1,200 × 600 lockable with one small drawer and one file drawer – dissembled £15. Chris Nowell 837543

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Liz Dyer (Leader) 01258 839117; 07771

512427 or email liz@milborneladybirds.com

Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044

www.milborneladybirds.com

News from the Village Hall

THE hall has been the venue for several events during February. These included a children's ArtsReach workshop which was well attended; The Players' pantomime (fantastic wasn't it?); the Quiz night and of course The Grahams, another Artsreach professional concert. At the beginning of March there will be a film, Victoria and Abdul on the 2nd and a Blues Night on the 3rd. On Good Friday, 30th March, there is also a Children's Messy Church event in the hall. It shows that our hall is still a great place to hold events or even private parties and events.

The committee has frequently had to discuss the problem of cars parked at the hall even though their owners are not using the hall or facilities. They have decided, therefore, to keep the area locked and only available to hirers of the hall as it was in the past. Regular users will be given an additional key for the padlock and there will be a key attached to the set which casual hirers are given. This new system will begin immediately after the Easter holidays from the 16th April.

The committee voted in a new treasurer at the January meeting. Ed Frost came forward after our plea for help following Linda Turner's resignation. Although we were sad to see Linda leave we are pleased that Ed will be joining the committee and taking on this role.

For nearly two years, following consultation and agreement at an Annual General Meeting, the committee have been moving towards changing the status of the Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall charity. They will be changing from being an 'unincorporated organisation' where the trustees hold full responsibility and are liable for any financial difficulties, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is structured along the lines of a small business. This process is now in the closing stages and has the approval of the Charity Commission. It will not affect hall users at all but it does mean that people may be more willing to become a trustee in the future.

Pam Shults

Which John Morton and which Edmund Morton Pleydell?

AT our last Village History Group meeting we heard about the Mortons and the Morton Pleydells who were the aristocracy in Stileham and Milborne from the 15th Century. As was the custom in those days, the first son was given the same name as the father, which of course makes understanding our village history more challenging.

As well as finding out more about the lineage of the Morton Pleydell families, the group also were presented with new and interesting information. June read a poem which was written in the 18th century by the wife of one of the Edmund Morton Pleydells.

It was very interesting but rather long and some words needed explanation as they are not in our common parlance of today. Victoria brought along a print of an etching of the Milborne Manor which helped us to visualise the grand building. We heard about the designing and different stages of building the Manor and of its demise.

Following a law suit in 1796 between Lord Milton and Edmund Morton Pleydell concerning the supply of water from the Milborne Brook, the family moved to Whatcombe House. This property had been built about 1750, and so it became the main seat of the Morton Pleydell estates.

The Manor House at Milborne was demolished in 1802 but members of the family continued to live in what remained of it after which it became the residence of the Manor Farm.

Next meeting will be on the 14th March at 7.30pm in The Royal Oak. We will continue with our project to find out more about the homes and their residents in the village. Do come along, bring any information about the property you live in so that we can record that as well.

Pam Shults

New Members always welcome at The Weatherbury Singers

WE welcome anyone who is interested in joining our friendly community choir this term. We are currently rehearsing songs from shows and films and folk songs with a couple of sacred pieces to add some variety, in preparation for our summer concert on Saturday, 19th May 2018 at Buckland Newton Village Hall.

The Weatherbury Singers, established in the mid-1990s, rehearse during term times in approximately 10 week blocks with a concert at Christmas and in the summer and enjoy singing a wide variety of songs to ensure there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Our members come, not only from Puddletown, but also from a number of villages in the locality. We do not audition and are pleased to welcome anyone who enjoys singing, and is keen to learn and improve their musical skills. Singing is good for our well-being, so why not come along or bring a friend or partner and give it a try!

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm with a half time tea break at the Church Room, Puddletown. Please call Judy on 01305 260284 to register your interest or for more information or email weatherburysingers@gmail.com.

What is Patient Voice?

PATIENT VOICE is the liaison group for patients and the Practice staff for Milton Abbas and Milborne St. Andrew Surgery. If you are a member of the Milton Abbas and Milborne St Andrew Practice you are automatically a member of Patient Voice.

We meet members of the surgery – administrative staff and doctors – where time permits on a quarterly basis, usually March, June, September and December. The venue alternates between Milborne St. Andrew and Milton Abbas. The next group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15th March at 6.30pm and it will be held in Milborne St. Andrew Surgery. Please come along to find out what we do.

This meeting provides patients of the surgery an opportunity to hear about what's new at the surgery and to ask questions or raise issues with the Practice team. One of the initiatives currently under discussion is "Walk a Mile" designed to keep patients fit and healthy. We will be talking to local walking groups about advertising and managing this activity.

If you would like to sign up for future email communication please contact me at ma.patientvoice@gmail.com. If you would prefer to speak to me about Patient Voice or you are not on email but would like to receive communications via the post please feel free to ring me on 01258 880229.

If you sign up to the email you will receive the agenda for forthcoming meetings giving you an opportunity to decide if something interests you personally (in which case please come along to the meeting) and to receive minutes of meetings which regularly include a Practice Report advising staff changes, patient numbers and results of the monthly Friends and Family Test.

In addition, you can optionally sign up for external communications that we receive from organisations such as Healthwatch Dorset whose aim is "to give citizens and communities a stronger voice to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided within their locality"; NAPP (National Association for Patient Participation) who keep us informed on what other Groups are doing; or the CCG led Health Involvement Network – an engagement and communication group who issue a quarterly newsletter called "Feedback".

Nigel Hodder, Secretary

**Deadline for the next issue midday
14th March**

**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**

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

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	Jane Somper	01258 471089
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
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Parish Council –	Clerk: Colin Hampton	01258 837011
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Joy Robinson	01258 837661
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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:	Matt Way	
Friends of School Chair:	Caroline Richards	

SPECIAL INTEREST

Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	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		
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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
NHS for non-emergencies		111
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

- March**
- Friday 2nd** **Milborne Movies Victoria and Abdul** Village Hall. Doors and bar open at 7.00 film starts at 7.30pm Tickets £3.50 – see page 7 and below.
- Saturday 3rd** **Milborne Blues Night** Village hall Doors open 7.30pm Tickets £10 – see page 25.
- Wednesday 7th** **Wednesday Club** Visit to The Wishing Well Tea Room at Upwey. Meet Village Hall 1.30pm – see page 7.
- Thursday 8th** **WI** Our speaker will be Sarah Grant with 'Legal Issues'. Village Hall – 7.30 see page 30.
- Sunday 11th** **Mothering Sunday** – see page 8 for various services in the benefice.
- Wednesday 14th** **Village History Group** meeting The Royal Oak 7.30pm – see page 15.
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).
100 Club draw The Royal Oak at 8.00pm – see page 17.
- Thursday 15th** **Gardening Club** Village Hall Pruning Ornamental Shrubs. Everyone is welcome to attend, with a £2 charge for non-members – see page 27.
- Saturday 24th** **Spring Sale** is being held in the Dewlish Village Hall 10.30am – 12 noon – see page 9.
- Good Friday 30th** **Children's Messy Church** event in the Village Hall – see page 15.
- Saturday 31st** **Village Lunch** Village Hall – see page 2 for menu.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Ladybirds Playgroup** Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)
- Beavers** Monday 5.00–6.30pm MH (term time only)
- Scouts** Monday 6.00–8.00pm CR/MH
- Players** Monday 8.00–10.00pm MH
- ABC Line Dancers** Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Cub Scouts** Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)
- Wednesday Club** first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
- Yoga** Thursday 1.30–2.45pm MH
- Gardening Club** third Thursday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Karate** Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH
- Village Hall Committee** third Thursday every two months 7.30–10.00pm
- Women's Institute** second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm
- Youth Club 8–13 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
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Have you met: Clive and Barbara Rawlings?

THIS is the tale of two talented, industrious and highly successful individuals united initially by the power of the pen (yes indeed no email in the 60's/70's) and then by their mutual love of music. Whilst Clive sailed the oceans as a radar operator en route to the West Indies with the Royal Navy, Barbara was completing her teacher training in Brighton. Following her surprise appearance at Portsmouth Dockyard to meet his frigate, HMS *Sirius*, romance followed, but they spent another year apart whilst she continued her degree studies and worked as a language assistant in Montpellier, in the South of France. Away during their wedding preparations, as a crew member in HMS *Hardy*, part of the Portland Squadron delayed in Gibraltar, Clive had to be flown back as a matter of priority in order to 'get him to the church on time'! Following their wedding, Clive continued his training at shore based HMS *Dryad*, Southwick House (where Churchill convened his War Cabinet).



They started married life in a rented Weymouth flat whilst Barbara taught at Broadway County Technical School. Their first son, Daniel, was born in 1974. He has now just returned to this country following fifteen years working in Australia. His position as European Customer Manager for a firm which installs noise management units in airports has been created for him having successfully established their Melbourne Head Office. He has two offices, one at home and the other at Heathrow and is married to Kirsty, an Australian.

In 1975 Clive left the Royal Navy to join Sussex Police Force in Brighton having sat his examinations in Dorchester. He reminisced about the lifelong friendships he made in the RN commenting that this initially was a necessity due to their close proximity in the mess deck. He still misses the sea and will spend hours at Portland sea-gazing.

The couple lived in Brighton for five years. During this time Barbara was Secretary of the Brighton branch of the National Childbirth Trust training as a breastfeeding counsellor. She helped start Parents helpline, a phone service offering support to those experiencing the worries of new parenthood. Their second son Ben was born in 1977. He is now a lecturer in Sports Science at Uxbridge College, married to Sylvia, a French citizen. They have a son Leo, five and a half years old and currently live in Watford.

After Brighton Clive wanted to be a village policeman and he undertook a Police driving course as a car was essential to rural policing. However, it was then the early 1980's and petrol rationing in force. So, he completed a motor cycle course instead and was based at Heathfield in Sussex for five years. This period of their life was obviously a halcyon time, one of which they speak with fondness and pleasure. It was, I am told, full of incidents and personalities which have stayed in their memories and joint consciousness. An anecdote from that time is as follows; one quiet Sunday afternoon, Clive and John (his friend and colleague) were out on patrol and received a radio message to pick up a piglet caught in a gutter on the main Eastbourne road. It had, apparently, fallen from an animal transporter. When they found the noisome creature they improvised by wrapping it in a red 'accident' blanket. Clive sat in the back seat holding the squeaking, oinking and wriggling piglet as John drove it to a farmer friend for continuing care. On the way they received another call to rescue a runaway horse! Both replied that they already had their hands full with livestock so reluctantly refused. The farmer involved named it Blossom and, later, in attempting to breed further 'Blossomettes' sent her to a boar. Sadly during this process, Blossom's already weakened back was broken. All involved then decided that the best thing to do was to have a BBQ.

Earlier that summer, Clive and John had been called to a noisy BBQ to ask them to tone down the sound. It was there Clive discovered the cause of the noise, a band called "Wet Flannels" and booked them later for their own celebration happily ensconced on a wagon of hay bales in time-honoured fashion. Lo and behold, colleagues were called and their BBQ was also closed down!

Clive then moved to Herstmonceux in 1985 for the following fourteen years. Of his time in the Police Force Clive speaks of its transience, of his responsibility for six villages; his Miners' strike involvement in Nottingham based in Army barracks in Grantham; when forces were drained of resources to police this difficult situation. How important it was to gain the trust of local people (and villains), to maintain close personal relationships in order to do his job to the best of his ability. He fears that much of this has now been lost, sacrificed to an ever pressed and shrinking Force.

Whilst living in Sussex Barbara taught first at a small private school then at Willingdon School in Polegate, the latter for sixteen years progressing from part time to full time then finally head of Modern Languages. She particularly loved this role as it involved developing new courses for all abilities of learners. This was a time when all secondary pupils were required to learn a modern foreign language. She was also a trainer and mentor for trainee language teachers at the University of Sussex, the role she picked up again in France with the University of Toulouse. During his time in the Police Force the family had always lived in tied, Police owned accommodation. Ten years prior to his retirement, Clive decided it was time to look for a home of their own. Barbara had maintained a long standing friendship with French friends and they therefore decided to buy a village property in between Toulouse and Mirepoix. This, initially, became their holiday home every summer for a month over several years, Clive saving up his leave in order to accompany his family to this tiny French village. Later he was reminded that this was not the way to take his leave as it was unfair to other colleagues! By this time, Barbara had gone back to teaching other French in Eastbourne becoming Head of Department and training other teachers. Two years before Clive left the Police the Force was selling off Police houses including one in which they had lived in Brighton As the longest serving officer he could put in a bid and they bought at a very favourable price. Initially it was their sons' base following their move to France and when Daniel and Ben moved on it was rented out.

In December 1999 Clive retired from the Police Force and began another occupation, as porter for an English removals firm in France. This was brought to an abrupt end when he suffered an acute coronary syndrome, a blockage in his heart, which has resulted in a lifetime of medication reliance much to his chagrin! He speaks highly of his care and treatment in Toulouse Rangueil Hospital Cardiac Unit, one of the best in Europe. However this curtailment of one activity allowed time to focus on and develop another, his long term interest in Blues Rock music, broadcasting on a Community Radio station in France, writing in 'Blues Matters' magazine reviewing, interviewing, attending, advertising, promoting bands and gigs.

Meanwhile Barbara had been establishing a firm base in their French village. She was voted onto the Conseil Municipal (the French equivalent of the Parish Council) and the En Fete Committee. Her view is that there are two kinds of ex pats in any country, in this case, France. Some are well integrated, bringing artisan skills to the community and putting their children in local schools. The other is one

Continued on page 21

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Follow us on

the
DORSET
GROOMER

Continued from page 19

where they socialise only amongst themselves and their countrymen. The Conseil Municipal found it useful to have an English speaking person who could communicate decisions and issues to residents. Barbara fulfilled this role.

Having sent her CV to the LEA Education National she began teaching English on a 'supply' basis to primary and secondary children, apprentice plumbers, engineers and French to ex-pat groups, also training French Primary School Teachers in English for the University of Toulouse. Her contracts were renewed annually for nine years until she retired in 2009. Barbara was also riding two to three times a month, an activity she always enjoyed often completing two and three day treks in the Pyrenees riding for six or seven hours a day accompanied by her German friend, Rosa. Sadly, her part owned, much loved beautiful Arab horse, Rocky, part of her life for 12 years had died six months prior to her departure for France. So when a joint decision was then made to return to England, despite her continuing need to be kept usefully occupied, she had some regrets about leaving. In the event it took eighteen months to sell their house, bought by a French couple, and the move became reality. Luckily they still owned the Brighton property and were able to give their tenants notice to leave. For the next two years whilst they decorated and improved it Barbara took another teaching job and trained as an instructor for Riding for the Disabled. It took only two weeks to sell the house and they began house hunting in Dorset triggered by returning to Dorchester for the funeral of an old RN friend of Clive's who had been Chief Superintendent of Dorset Police. A friend, Molly, guided them through the estate agents' details narrowing their choices down to Puddletown and Milborne St. Andrew. Their house in Milborne was the first house seen which fulfilled all their requirements. Clive jokes that it had to be on the east side so that he can still get to Brighton and Hove Albion football matches as a card carrying member of the club. That was six years ago and they have been as busy as ever. Clive still has weekly radio shows on [Abbey 104.com](http://Abbey104.com) based in Sherborne. His music activities are the same as in France. He still reviews CD's for the Blues Matters magazine, interviewing musicians and bands face to face or by email. It is easier for him to promote bands here than in France and he has instigated six-monthly Blues nights in Milborne, the next is on 3rd March in the village hall. The funds raised always go to support local charities such as Mosaic, Milborne's defibrillator, the children's playground, Teddy 20 (a cancer charity for children) and the village hall. Next time it will be Milton Abbas Riding for the Disabled. Barbara is one of three instructors with the group which uses facilities at Luckham Riding Centre run by Terri Cook. She is one of the Trustees responsible for fund-raising including Quiz Nights and Race nights. There are other RDA volunteers from Milborne but many travel from further afield in Dorset. All twelve riders come from Beaucroft School in Wimborne in two mini buses. She speaks of the positive effects these riding sessions have on the variously disabled children who exhibit social, physical and emotional improvement. Her other involvement is with the Dorchester based Oxfam where she works in the bookshop.

Barbara also sings in the Briantspuddle Choir (which is part of The Dorset Guild of Singers) and in the, recently formed, Canzonetta. The latter comprising ten female voices performing four concerts a year raising money for the churches in which they sing. They are booked to perform in St. Andrew's church in this village in June. She is also due to sing 'The Messiah' at the Albert Hall this year. Hoping to improve her skill, she has a voice coach in Wimborne. They both speak of the need for challenge and useful occupation. Barbara speaks of the similarities between French and English teaching systems and how important is the need for adaptability and also the stimulation of approaching different teaching techniques. She feels it has given her a new perspective on the demands of teaching as a profession particularly the need for strong motivation on the part of those trusted with this often rewarding job.

Both are restless for involvement and contact with others. Their admirable, transferrable skills are in evidence in everything they do. They do not stand still but are always seeking satisfaction in whatever new challenges they undertake.

Carole Fornachon



Dorset's Family Information Service, part of Dorset County Council, offer free advice and assistance for parents, carers and young people. We provide information on childcare funding and how to apply, groups and activities, family services, special educational needs and disability support and much more! We also can provide advice and support with finding childcare to suit your family.

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Contact us: familyinfo@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Kevin Downton: Milborne St. Andrew man jailed for life

"YOU have a cold ruthless streak and have shown no remorse". These were the words of the Judge, Justice Jay, at Winchester Crown Court, when sentencing Kevin Downton, 40 years, to life imprisonment for the "callous" murder of 61 year old Guy Hedger in his home at St. Ives, near Ringwood in April 2017. Downton; a one time resident of Milborne St. Andrew, educated at the local Primary School, living on Hopsfield; together with Jason Baccus, (known for ten years from prison from whom he bought cocaine), entered the £1m home, balaclava-masked and armed with a loaded sawn-off shotgun. Their intention was to steal watches, jewellery and money to feed their alcohol and drug habit. These £124,000 worth of spoils were found distributed about the countryside and the gun in the river, following their swift exit taking their victims' phones, as Mr Hedger's husband activated the burglary alarm prompting Downton to discharge the gun into Mr Hedger's chest. He died from his injuries aggravated by a heart condition. Both men will serve the minimum of 34 years before they can be considered for release. It was through DNA tests on discarded cigarette ends and their victims' mobile phone that led police to their identification and arrest. They were further described by the judge as "amateurish, incompetent (making) a series of elementary but stupid decisions . . . out of (their) depths . . . the risk of taking a loaded gun into someone's bedroom was evident to (you) as anyone . . . the tragedy was on the cards". They were described as 'showing no emotion' as the verdicts were delivered after a 40 day trial.



Undated handout photo issued by Dorset Police of Kevin Downton (PA)

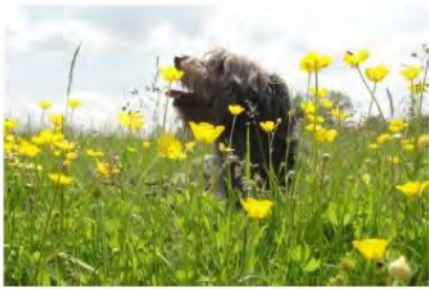
Downton, who worked as a carpenter, lied whilst claiming that he had been shopping for a birthday present for his daughter at Toys R Us on the evening of the murder. He said he visited 'two or three friends' on the way home but declined to name them. In fact he was caught on CCTV doing just that at Toys R Us two weeks after the attack. He was 'recruited' by Baccus but was described by Justice Jay as "an enthusiastic participant". This enthusiasm for anti-social, criminal activity has led him over a number of tumultuous years from kicking a ball about in the streets of this village to a prison cell where he will have plenty of time to consider his actions.

Carole Fornachon

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Milborne St Andrew NP Group

Nearly there!

March 2018



AS REQUESTED..... MORE DETAILS

Last month we published the main results of the November landowner event, which was that these showed a clear general preference for one site, Camelco (otherwise known as the old milk factory car park and lagoon). This reflects the previous options stage consultation where this site was also the most favoured by local people.

We have been asked for more detailed feedback on the comments made about all of the sites. So, in the interests of transparency, are publishing here the main issues that we fed back to each of the landowners or their representatives based on the comments forms received.

Your comments showed the following concerns:

What is happening with Huntley Down?

With a planning application now received, the Neighbourhood Plan Group have produced a more detailed appraisal that has been used by the Parish Council in their response, and this has been passed onto the landowner.

Details are on the NP documents page of the Parish Council website.

Huntley Down is still being considered, as until such time as it has planning permission any decision can still be influenced by a Neighbourhood Plan.

Site	Comments from Details consultation
Camelco	<p>Drainage – if relying on current drainage, this may be a problem if broken elsewhere. Contamination report to be provided to evidence that this isn't a problem.</p> <p>Traffic management – safety and convenience, pedestrian links to the village amenities and bus stop.</p> <p>Woodland – access and safety concerns including the security of residents' properties, and the safety of the woodland itself.</p> <p>Density was raised as a concern.</p>
Blandford Hill South side – Homefield	<p>Lack of detail – this was by far the main comment made – that people felt unable to assess the proposal from the presentation because of the lack of information.</p> <p>Traffic management – being that the site abuts the main A354, a clearer approach to this would be helpful, particularly understanding pedestrian and vehicular movement patterns around the village and road safety concerns.</p> <p>Fear of expansion – as a large site and loss of open spaces, depending on extent of development.</p> <p>Visibility of the site from many places.</p>
Blandford Hill North side	<p>Sloping nature of site – concerns regarding increased water run off.</p> <p>Parking – plans appears to have limited parking particularly for the surgery and pre-school, which would be a problem.</p> <p>Visibility/Overlooking – from across the valley or Stileham Bank.</p>
Huntley Down	<p>The main concerns were about the number of houses being too high for the size of the site, the overlooking of existing homes and gardens, concerns regarding increased water run off from the site and increased traffic.</p>

The Neighbourhood Plan Group therefore intend to include Camelco in the draft plan, subject to resolving the identified issues. There is no need to include more sites in the Neighbourhood Plan, though the Group are still looking at all the feedback and the other evidence (such as the strategic environmental assessment results) as to whether a reserve site should be named. There has been no clear 'second place' in terms of the consultations, with the average 'suitability' scores broadly similar for all three sites (Huntley Down, Homefield and Blandford Hill North), and no consistent 'ranking' between these three sites with the order of preference from the options stage consultation.

The main conclusion that we can draw from this is that the devil may be in the detail – it is what is proposed and the benefits to the village that are key to winning your approval.

To comment, please see our facebook page {Milborne St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan} or Email: NPG@ milbornestandrew.org.uk

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Milborne St Andrew First School

Holiday Club



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LETTERS to the Reporter

Dear Editor

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who came to help us on Friday 29th December when we were flooded. Thanks to Philip Smith at the Post Office for clearing drains along Dorchester and Blandford hills and assisting the council road sweeper and issuing us with sandbags; which we now keep ready at the gate way. Thank you to Ian Livingstone and Emma and Glenn at the shop for the loan of their wet vacuums. Thank you to Adrian in Orchard Rise for the offers of help and also to Ed and Caroline Richards for their assistance and for being super neighbours.

It all happened so fast. I made a cup of tea at 7am that morning and looked out the kitchen window and saw a normal view out front. I went upstairs with the teas, drank them and at about 7.15 stepped downstairs into ice cold brown water flowing from under the stairs! I dashed to the kitchen to see water leaking around the front door! It's still quite dark so I grab my head torch and open the front door to get my wellies so I can retrieve the flood barrier and pump from the outhouse. A 12 inch wall of water falls into the kitchen and puts a few inches of cold muddy water over the floor. I can see my walking boots and Crocs are now floating on the flood half way up the garden! Bother! The frigid water is so deep out front, it came up the the air bricks on the house (over a welly deep at its deepest point). I put something on my feet so I can get my wellies from the car. The water was so cold it was painful as I walked through the river rushing along our access path to Chapel Street. Here I saw a river of water flowing from the main A350 road straight into our pathway. The drainage gullies were overwhelmed! Only a very small amount of water flowed down from Orchard Rise and from the south end of Chapel Street. A fair amount was fortunately flowing behind the cottage, along the footpath that connects Chapel Street to The Causeway. We set up pumps and waited for the water to drain away through the land drain and into the well. All of the drainage was overwhelmed with the volume and rate of rainfall that brought so much straw and material it blocked the drains. The clear up was helped with Hollie's family worked like Trojans with mops and disinfectant. Ed and team were helping another along Chapel Street who's garage was flooded.

On Sunday in the rain, I went up Dorchester Hill to check the drains. They were mostly clear apart from two new gullies I discovered on the south side high up the hill. They were covered with six to eight inches of soil, leaves and tree roots. They were dry as a bone, but once cleared took a tremendous amount of water!

It was clear that the majority of the water flowed from the two fields either side of the A350 on the Dorchester Hill side depositing gravel all along the road. I wonder if there is justification to have a ditch dug on the boundaries of these fields to prevent such rapid run off? Also, in order to diverting the water behind our cottage, I propose that the existing gully at the corner of The Retreat is extended across the road to capture all of the water and divert it into the stream. Food for thought anyway, and thanks again for all your help and keeping the village's stream and gullies clear. They are essential for keeping the water flowing out of the village.

Yours in thanks
Phillip Harris and Hollie Jeans

Knight Fever – panto review

Knight Fever was about an adventurous boy called Justin who wanted to be a knight so he could marry the Princess.

The best bit was when Justin arrived at knight training and King Arthur said "Who are you?" then Justin replied "I'm Justin Tyme." Then King Arthur replied "No you're not you're five minutes late!"

The funniest character and our favourite was Lester the Jester because he was so funny when she was acting. During the panto the long lost enemy of Camelot (The Black Knight) captured the Princess so Justin, Lester and Dame Doris Dumpling set off to rescue her. Adrienne was great as Dame Doris Dumpling because she had a loud voice, was funny and had an awesome costume.

By Harri and Dylan, aged 8



Easter Lilies

EASTER is early this year and will be at the end of March. We have a lovely tradition in Milborne of dedicating the Easter flowers in St. Andrew's church in memory of friends and relatives. We use the lovely big white lilies which are beautifully scented and usually manage to fill the church with them. The names of those being remembered are written in a special book which is also displayed in the church.

If you would like to participate, please put your contribution, cheque or cash, in an envelope with the names of those you wish to remember (important) though not your own name. These may be left with John Wright at 5, Broadlands, or Pam Shults. They may also, of course, be brought to a church service, or placed in the locked collection box in the wall inside the main church door.

It would be helpful if you could do this in the first weeks of the month as the flowers have to be ordered in good time. We hope for another beautiful display this year. Thank you in advance.

Milborne's Got the Blues – again!

OUR 5th 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 obtained through cliverawlings@hotmail.co.uk or Grey's Store and The Royal Oak

Spring forward



Don't forget to set clocks
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Sunday 25th March



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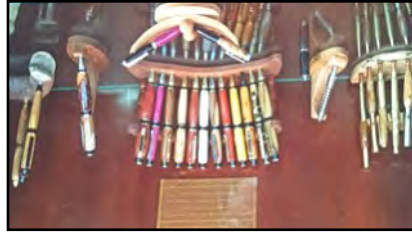
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Small Businesses in MSA.

Number 11: The Craftswoman

DORSET'S Crafty Barn, which opened only nine weeks ago, is already buzzing with interest and an eclectic range of art and crafts from artisans, crafters and artists living near and far including fudge by 'Hazel' in Milborne St. Andrew and beautiful handcrafted pens from Winterborne Kingston.



The woman with the vision to set this up, transforming a cold draughty barn covered with 48 years-worth of dust and diesel oil into a colourful, life-enhancing collection of handmade and upcycled work, is Debi Bazeley. She had the vision and the drive to bring this



transformation about with the aid of her builder/craftsman partner, Mike Garrett. Having spent two years in a smaller unit on the same farmyard base making cushions and T-shirts marketed under the Gemini name, she saw her opportunity when the, then, John Deere Sales

place became vacant. She approached her landlady Mrs Frances Oliver and made a successful bid. At present she talks of her achievements so far as only Phase one. Phase two is the opening of a large café (at present under development by Mike). Her intention is to open on 24th March and, during the first weekend, raise money for Dementia UK. She describes it as a conventional Tea Room with teas and cakes open every weekday 10.00am-4.00pm and Sundays 11.00am-3.00pm. The third Phase will be a Brocante sited in an extension of the 'café' containing French, hand painted, upcycled furniture (apparently there are barns full of these items just waiting to be shipped over from France).

Local, organic produce from the Milton Abbas Farm Shop will also be for sale. When the Tea Room opens, her further ambitions for that

space include craft workshops, silversmiths, willow weavers, sewing classes, creative clay, wreath making (seasonal) and painting with water colours adorning the wall for sale. Her intention is to make it a community hub situated as it is so close to two sides of the county. Her premises in their final reincarnation will be available to hire for events (e.g. Ladies' Pamper nights!) It will be dog and children friendly with toilets, baby changing and disabled facilities. She is very open about the challenges (for example the presence of three inspection pits and a roller!) she faced stating that without Mike none of the plans would have been possible. He works all hours together with his regular building work in Higher Ansty and Shaftsbury. The couple live in Cold Harbour, near Wareham. They met six years ago through a mutual love of motor vehicles at car races. He is Dorset born and bred from Guy's Marsh. Debi comes originally from Warwickshire via Brighton University where she trained, as a mature student to teach English. Her own interest in craft work in which she says, she has 'always dabbled' coming from a family of craftsmakers, whose mother was a professional flower arranger. This increased following a cancer diagnosis in 2014 when she borrowed a sewing machine to make a cushion to keep herself occupied. This gradually grew until Gemini was formed. The images on the cushions are everywhere in her workshops. People's pets, children's artwork, all can be transformed into a colourful cushion cover. She found that many 'Emporiums' charged exorbitant prices for spaces to be rented by craft workers and artists. Hence her own Crafty Barn prices are as follows: a six foot table is £40 per month, a glass fronted cabinet £15 per month. If you wish to get in touch with Debi, see her website; dorsetscraftybarn@gmail.com. Telephone numbers; 01258 880357/07955 769009. The address is as follows: Dorset's Crafty Barn, Unit D, Milton Mills, Milton Abbas, DT11 0BQ. Driving from Milborne it is on the right just past the geese farm. *Carole Fornachon*



Gardening on Walls and Fences



THE speaker at the February meeting of the Gardening Club was Janette Merillion, a most experienced gardener, garden designer and historian who talked to us about 'Gardening on Walls and Fences'. We all have these boundaries,

whatever the size of our plots, and it is sometimes difficult to know how to treat them. Janette certainly opened our eyes to the possibilities of what you can grow, ranging from things such as roses, clematis, ivies and pyracantha to shrubs we usually grow in borders which can be trained up walls or form a hedge. She also showed how extra interest can be provided by growing climbers through other shrubs, trees and structures such as arches, obelisks and pergolas. The whole talk was fully illustrated with inspiring photos and gave us much to think about in our own gardens and as Janette brought a selection of the plants she had mentioned members were able to buy them to plant straight away.

Next month our talk on 15th will be on Pruning Ornamental Shrubs. Everyone is welcome to attend, with a £2 charge for non-members. We will also be distributing plug fuchsia plants to members for our growing competition. We are all also looking forward to our winter social event, the Annual Lunch which is taking place at the Frampton Arms. *Sally Dyer*

Milton Abbas and Milborne St. Andrew surgery news

HOPEFULLY, like me, you are noticing that the days are slowly getting longer and signs of spring are in evidence despite the freezing cold! I'm looking forward to British Summer Time on 25th March when the evenings will be longer. Despite the cold, several of the surgery team have started running and as well as individual training have managed two 'team runs' in the freezing cold and driving rain along Weymouth sea front, followed by a hot drink (but no cake!) at a local café. Further updates to follow in due course.

At the surgery your first point of contact as a patient will be with our reception team, all of whom work incredibly hard to provide an outstanding service to you as well as support to the clinical team in delivering their roles. When you contact the surgery, the doctors request that you are asked various questions by the reception team to help establish who the most appropriate person is for you to see, how much time might be needed, whether in fact you should call 999, or if it is something that can be sorted out without a face to face appointment. All staff at the surgery are bound by confidentiality and respect your privacy, but the more information you can give, the more helpful it is for the clinician.

Finally, a follow up reminder to book an appointment to come in to the surgery for your annual long term condition reviews if you are contacted. *Gillian Brindle, Practice Business Manager*



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Did you identify this?

The photograph in the February *Reporter* was taken in Chapel Street outside Home Farm

No body sent in the correct answer this month

Try your luck this month on page 12



Kill or Cure!

THESE 'cures' are taken from a genuine housewife's notebook, passed down through generations from about 1700; the *Reporter* disclaims any responsibility for those foolish enough to try them.

For A Cough

Take a handful of dried red roses, four handfuls of balm, twenty whites of egg, half a gallon of snails cleaned and bruised, cover them with new milk and distil them in a cold still – Drink of it morning and afternoon. Or alternatively a pint of oil of turpentine, four ounces of flower of brimstone, half an ounce of lead oxide, put them in a fire urinal (pot), cover with white paper stuck full of holes. Put it in a hot bed of dung for fourteen days, and then strain through a flannel. Keep in a stoppered bottle, take nine drops morning and evening in a dish of tea, rest and repeat until patient is well. Do not eat any cheese or drink milk. (1727)

To Cure Ye Itch

Take green glass, beat it into a very fine powder and sift it through a fine lawn sieve. Mix with hog's lard to the thickness of an ointment. Two or three times am told will cure.

To Take Pimples Away

Two pennyworth white hellebore roots, steeped in a pint of cream for forty eight hours, wash your face with the whey.

To Cure a Watery Eye

Take the white part of hen's dung, dry and powder it with an equal quantity of ye finest white sugar candy. Then sieve it through fine lawn. Then blow through a small quill with an easy breath along ye eye, eye held open. A little of this powder twice or three times a day.

For Ye Dropsy

Take an ounce of mistletoe berries, beat and add to a quart of old rum, when dissolved take two spoonfuls in a glass of white wine, keep yourself warm and sweat if you can. Or, Take nine cloves of garlic, half an ounce of cochineal, powdered, into one quart of old rum and when it has stood twenty four hours tis fit for use. Take two or three large spoonfuls, three times a day.

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Anyone seen puss? “She’s behind you!”

DURING the run up to the Milborne Pantomime the extended stage and backdrop have provided a different environment for the children to play in. We have had the dressing up and knights and castle to play with and have generally enjoyed the larger stage to do ‘shows’ on.

An unexpected visitor was a cheeky cat who came in through the side doors as the children played outside. She disappeared under the stage and down behind the backdrop before reappearing on the boxes at the right side of the stage. This caused great excitement



as the children searched for her. And much to their amusement she returned several times to be picked up and placed outside only to come back in as soon as the door was opened.

The January wet weather hasn't stopped the children going out to play. As the saying goes “there's no such thing as bad weather only poor clothing”. So the children decked out in Wellington boots, waterproof leggings, coats and hats have played in the great outdoors. It's fun riding a vehicle through a puddle, jumping in puddles and mixing mud. Not so much fun cleaning it up afterwards!

Liz Dyer

Seventy-three, and still going strong! at the February WI

TO celebrate the 73rd birthday of Milborne WI, we had decided to have a Members' evening, for which Eva had made a delicious birthday cake – much too good to eat. Well, we managed it anyway!



Lesley and Heather talked about their experiences of joining our WI. Lesley, our newest member, described how as a recent newcomer to the village, she had initially found it difficult to meet people. As an older person, with no children of school age it is inevitably harder to make friends. Heather, as her immediate neighbour, extended an invitation to

our WI, and she has not looked back since.

Heather, our longest-standing member, joined the WI in November 1970, and therefore is now celebrating 48 years as a member. As a very homesick young wife she had been invited to join so had met others in a similar position. This had been the start of many friendships down the years. The village had been much smaller then, with fewer organisations and, as a consequence a wider WI membership. In addition to opportunities to join a choir, skittles, drama and craft groups, the WI offers many interesting and quality speakers at both local and national level.

Josie talked about our library of books, all available to borrow. We looked at our scrapbooks from the 1940s onwards – hairstyles, fashions might have changed, but it was easy to spot many of our present members . . . Not so easy was putting a name to the pictures of ourselves as small children we had brought along. We looked back with some nostalgia at the smocked dresses, little cardigans and short socks which were the order of the day then!



José gave a dramatic and very enjoyable interpretation of Thomas Hardy's poem 'The Ruined Maid', and June recited some amusing anecdotes and poems. With birthday cake and bubbly to fortify us, we gave a final toast to celebrate our 73rd birthday and wished the WI a long and happy life!

Business was kept to a minimum but we found time to welcome and get to know two guests, and to wish one of our much loved members, Phyl Briggs, all the best with her move to Chesterfield to be near her family. We will miss, but not forget her.

Our speaker on Thursday 8th March will be Sarah Grant with 'Legal Issues'. Please join us, you will be made very welcome.

Pat Bull

Deadline for the April Reporter is mid-day 14th March. All copy must be sent via the Reporter e-mail at msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

A Good Read:

“Fire and Fury; Inside The Trump White House” by Michael Wolff

NEVER has a book been so timely in its appearance or content for our present, uncertain and extremely concerning, time. It covers the first nine months of Donald Trump’s term as President of the United States of America and is based, reportedly, on 200 interviews and ‘deep background’. By his own admission Wolff took advantage of the initial absence of official procedures and the lack of experience of its principal players. The total consistency of those accounts gave him the impetus to capture them in print. It is able to capture Trump’s “tireless, uncontrolled voice (both) public and private, shared by others on a daily basis, sometimes virtually as he utters it”. Throughout the book he is variously described as an ‘entertaining oddity . . . a natural wonder . . . a miracle worker (post-election) . . . beyond explanation . . . a man remaking the world (Steve Bannon) . . . a simple machine that can easily be switched on and off . . . a Clown Prince . . . a protagonist and a hero’. Having heard Trump’s Inauguration speech George W Bush was heard to say “That’s some weird s . . .”. His hyperbole, reality distortions, flights of fancy, improvisations (whatever he knew ‘he seemed to have learned an hour before’) and mangling of facts were products (in one comment) of a ‘basic lack of guile, pretence and impulse control’. Amazing facts and points of view emerge page after startling page. Press Secretary Sean Spicer said “You can’t make this s... up (he believed that Trump) didn’t give a f...”. Most incredible was that the ‘worst candidate in modern political history’ entered the presidential race in order to lose not win.

Trump lore was that the prompt to make him run was his humiliation by Obama at the 2011 White House Correspondents’ Dinner. (George W B had already suffered greatly on an earlier occasion). But to him ‘losing was winning’ which was why after the election result he gathered around him a severely under resourced team totally lacking in political experience who realised that it strained credibility for Trump to seize the mantle of global transformation. He had an outlaw prescription for winning, no scruples and contemptuous of rules.

Also, interestingly, despite his ‘conventional misogyny’ he found women more loyal and trustworthy than men. Steve Bannon, a literate and highly verbal man, commented “I now know what it was like to be

in the court of the Tudors”. He saw the essential Trump problem as the way he helplessly personalised everything. He would dwell, ruminate and chew. Therefore he needed special handling and women, in his words ‘got this more precisely than men’. His casual chauvinistic remarks and constant sexual subtext incongruously (and often jarringly) was matched with paternal regard. Two young women in particular supported Trump. Hope Hicks (unkindly described as a ‘Stepford Factotum’) 26 years old, ‘sat in Trump Tower with Trump and his sons’. She was his constant shadow and chief media handler as Trump says ‘she tries and tries’. Apparently she is thought of as Trump’s real daughter and Ivanka (his real daughter) as his real wife. The latter’s downfall was when Bannon called her a liar in his post-comeback ‘pet-peeve issues’ commenting afterwards that ‘the b....is dead’. While her father reportedly said “I told you this was a tough town baby”. Another young woman whose behaviour was endearing to Trump was Kellyanne Conway whose instinctive reaction was to ‘verbally throw herself in front of any bullet coming his way’ defending his exhausting and exaggerated behaviour at all costs. They had bonded over their mutual media wounds. He believed that women needed to focus on a man. A man like himself. On the personal front, however, Wolff would have us believe his aggression was nowhere in evidence. He has extreme self-satisfaction – life is sunny, ‘to say he knows nothing at all is a comic understatement’, an odd, difficult, even ridiculous, ill-equipped person. Also one who, allegedly, described himself as rich white trash. A real life fictional character who can’t link cause and effect. Someone “with a twinkle in his eye and larceny in his soul”.

In many ways an insightful book which can occasionally comfort with, to our eyes, unbelievable, humorous episodes. But when the warmth of those passages fades, the horror of Trump’s power to destroy in a fit of pique returns. A worrying belief emerges later in the book that Trump’s ramblings and alarming repetition, his mounting paranoia, have significantly increased and his ability to stay focussed is in decline. As Wolff writes, “You hit Donald on the head and he keeps going. He doesn’t even know he’s been hit”. It is a fascinating read and one I would recommend even without previous knowledge of the many and varied protagonists who people these pages. *Carole Fornachon*

Canzonetta Dorset: a choir for all seasons

THE title of this East Dorset, all women, not for profit close vocal harmony group, means ‘little song’. Founded in 2004 by Linda Price and Jacqueline March (MD), it raised £12,000 during its first ten years, through the performance of 70 concerts mainly in local churches and always for charities. Our own Barbara Rawlings (see ‘Have You Met’ article page 19) sings with this group as a second soprano. They perform four concerts a year singing music as diverse as baroque, folk, spirituals and sacred pieces mostly in close harmony and a capella. Last year (2017) they raised £1,076 for the Lewis Manning Hospice. They traverse the centuries and styles.

If you would like to hear them sing, their next concert is in St. John’s Church, Bere Regis on Palm Sunday, 25th March at 3.00pm where they will perform sacred music for Holy Week; works by Bach, Elgar, Faure, Monteverdi and pieces from Vivaldi’s Gloria. At the organ will be Dr Richard Hall. Entry is free but there will be a collection for church funds. Looking ahead they will be singing in our own St. Andrew’s Church on 10th June 2018 at 3.00pm. Next year they have set their sights on Salisbury Cathedral. *Carole Fornachon*

Parish Council told: get a water snake for floods

FLOOD wardens told the Parish Council that the current sand supply in the Village Hall car park for residents’ flood protection should end, with those at risk of flooding encouraged to be self-sufficient and use alternatives to sandbags such as polythene sheeting or ‘water snakes’. The wardens investigated after concerns that sand was spilling in the car park and looked untidy. They concluded that a centralised store of sand had “little merit” and was challenging for those living a distance away. Their preference was that residents keep flood protection equipment at their homes and the Village Hall sand removed completely. The PC decided to defer the decision to the annual parish meeting on 18th April, and publicise this item to residents.

The potential of installing a speed indicator sign (SID) was discussed, as opposed to the vehicle activated signs (VAS) currently on Blandford and Dorchester Hill. Councillors were told that the PC would have to pay for a SID, which display the actual speed of vehicles, which had not been previously communicated by DCC. Councillors agreed that the current VAS were adequate but would look further into the matter, with a volunteer ‘speed watch’ being raised as a possibility. Residents present said that the issue of speeding traffic on Milton Road needs to be addressed, and also use of rumble strips on the hills.

Another item that got councillors quite exercised was the ‘side letter’ drafted to give clarity to the lease of the Sports Club. Cllr Macnair said that the document would give the Sports Club the flexibility to stand on its own feet and declared that the council supported the aims of the club. After some discussion on several points of the new agreement, the matter was approved by a majority.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group’s mission document was approved by the council and the merits of applying for a Keep Britain Tidy kit for a village spring clean was discussed. *Ed Richards*

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