

Female Blackcap

Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 10 Issue 4

April 2018

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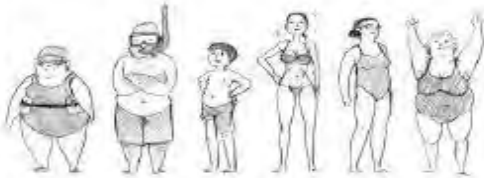
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Janet Allen, Linda Constant, Pete Constant,
Carole Fornachon, Heather V. Hogg, David Payne, Ed Richards,
Susan Wilson, Jo Whitfield, John and Josie Wright

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907 (07843 018007)

Advertising renewals: Pete Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Janet Allen 01258 837551

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

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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Paper copy to any of the team



It snowed and snowed . . . and snowed some more. The amber snow warning that included Milborne at the end of February was for good reason – we had the most snow seen for many years, with Dorchester and Blandford Hills becoming impassable for most vehicles. But our community rallied with offers of help and good deeds being done to support those who found it difficult to get out or get home. A power cut on the second day piled on the pressure with all village homes going without electricity and having to make do in the low temperatures. But to many it was a welcome sight, making Milborne look extra appealing and giving children (young and not so!) a rare opportunity to play in the snow, sledging down the many slopes and hills around.



*Photos by and with thanks to:
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Community help needed to slow the traffic

TRAFFIC calming for Milborne's busiest roads has long been talked of as a necessity in the village but, as the Parish Council explains below, is difficult to achieve without the community's input.

The issue of speeding through the village on the A354 and Milton Road is a constant source of comment and complaint at Parish Council meetings. Despite this all attempts to interest residents in forming a Community Speed Watch (CSW) team has met with little or no interest. The PC has arranged for speed surveys to be conducted, the most recent at the end of 2017, in the hope that Dorset Highways will recognise the problem and suggest or provide suitable speed calming solutions and, in the interests of pedestrian safety, a recognised crossing on the A354.

The speed survey carried out in 2007 resulted in installation of the VAS (vehicle activated sign) at either end of the 30mph zone on



Speeding vehicle activated sign on Blandford Hill

the A354, but unfortunately the most recent survey showed little evidence of excessive speed by drivers. Consequently, when Highways met on-site to discuss the survey findings they could only offer the promise of a new warning sign on the A354 in advance of the Milton Road junction for westbound traffic and new SLOW markings installed on the A354 in advance of the right-hand bend at The Causeway for westbound traffic. There is no doubt that the absence of a CSW scheme counts against us in discussions with Highways, as it is seen by them as a strong indication that the community takes the issue of speeding in their village seriously and are willing to do something about it themselves. MSA is unusual in this area for not having a CSW where a busy main road bisects the community. At the Annual Parish Meeting to be held 18th April 2018 the formation of a Community Speed Watch team will be discussed once again and the PC is hoping that someone will volunteer to take the lead in establishing one, together with sufficient volunteers to run it. The PC will provide funding for all the equipment and a PCSO will carry out the limited training required. The minimum requirement for a team is four people, but the more volunteers there are the better.

Reduce Easter packaging? Eggs-actly!

This may be the last year you will see an Easter egg in its current form – that is, like an egg. In a drive to reduce packaging and wasted space, Easter eggs are to get a radical makeover. Double Yolker, the government agency formerly known as the Easter Egg Marketing Board, has come up with the square edged egg – or 'Squegg', to give it its promotional name. The new 'eggs' will have the same amount of chocolate as traditional eggs, but due to the geometrical shape – square edged, cuboid, will be smaller in size. They will fit the space of the outer packaging box more snugly, reducing the packet size and making transportation much more efficient, in the same way when the inners of loo rolls were made smaller. All traditional shaped Easter eggs will be outlawed and producers will have to adhere to the new rules.

Avril Caper, of Double Yolker, said, "We were tasked with solving the problem of egg space; we scrambled our brains and, Eureka!, the Squegg was hatched. Of course, people will be sad to see the traditional egg go, but we reasoned that the British public have for years thought it not strange that the Easter bunny delivers eggs from a basket – so why not those eggs be Squeggs?"

Both shop owners and distribution companies will benefit from the change. Gray's Stores in Milborne is one of the first to be offered the chance to sell the eggs before general release next year. Smaller box sizes mean that more will fit on shelves and in stock rooms.



Gray's Stores owner, Glenn Bratley, with a Squegg DIY kit

Distribution companies will be able to transport more Squeggs per lorry load, reducing fuel consumption and pollution. Distributor, A2B (then C2D) Ltd, whose drivers wear Easter bunny costumes at this time of year, are pleased with the change. Said driver, Eric Hopper, as he folded down his ears climbing into his cab, "They've cracked it! This is common sense – we can fit more in without shelling out so much. And as for the DIY Squegg kits, that's genius".

These kits are the most efficient way of giving a Squegg to someone – it is in effect the component parts, six sides of chocolate to be assembled at home. The packaging is minimal, no box or plastic, only the usual thin covering on a conventional bar of chocolate. It is thought that it will appeal to the many who are cutting down on their plastic and packaging use, but still able to enjoy the seasonal treat.

The EU is looking closely at Britain's new Easter egg regulation and, eager not to be left behind, looking to roll them out across the continent. French business leaders were shown the plans of 'Les Squeggs' and reacted with an exasperated, "Oooouef!"

Miss Caper said that Double Yolker was confident that the public would welcome a square egg on Easter Sunday. "Some people may be upset, but you can't make an omelette without cracking eggs".

Ask to buy a Squegg or DIY Squegg in Gray's Stores before close on Easter Sunday – but hurry, stocks are running low! Ed Richards



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A Healthy Collaboration

Milton Abbas and Milborne St. Andrew Practice has recently purchased a new Doppler machine. This piece of equipment provides non-invasive ultrasound tests that estimate the flow of blood through blood vessels and assists the clinician in making a diagnosis. Having this test equipment at the surgery means patients can avoid a hospital visit, thus saving time for the patient as well as providing much quicker results.

A significant proportion of the cost of this machine has been funded by a donation from Milton Abbas Neighbourcar which kindly offered a financial surplus to the Practice with a view to supporting the purchase of medical equipment. The surgery is very grateful for the support received from Milton Abbas Neighbourcar to purchase this piece of equipment, as well as for the continued and highly valued support of the Neighbourcar drivers who provide transport to help patients attend essential appointments.

Neighbourcar is always keen to recruit more drivers. There is a particular shortage in Winterborne Whitechurch so if you are interested in helping to provide an essential community service contact Nigel Hodder on 01258 470333 (answerphone) or by email to maneighbourcar@talktalk.net. There is no prescribed time for driving – you make yourself available for whatever time you feel is appropriate to you and your lifestyle. Why not join the Neighbourcar team and help people in your local community?

Gillian Brindle (Practice Manager) and Nigel Hodder (Neighbourcar)

Two for his Heels are a shoo-in at quiz

ON the 24th February nine teams entered for the annual village quiz, the questions this year were set by the Village Lunch team. Tension ran high as the rounds passed; questions were rated as, 'hard but fair' as we all waited with bated breath for the winner to be announced.

The winning team 'Two for his Heels' comprising, Mike and Chris Surtees, Helen and Giles Pugh where the proud recipients of the new shield. It was a happy, fun village evening enjoyed by all.



Response to an unknown caller

THE Editor of the *Reporter* received an anonymous call from a female commenting on and criticising the article last month on Kevin Downton. In it she suggested that those of us who work for the paper (all volunteers) should check our facts before we write. This referred directly to the statement that the offender was seen at Toys R Us two weeks after the burglary and murder of Guy Hedger. She should, herself, check online or with Dorset Police. The latter issued a CCTV image of Kevin carrying a birthday present for his daughter just purchased from the shop. It is dated two weeks after the burglary. Therefore she is wrong in stating that he 'gave himself up three days later'. As the article reported the two men were caught as a result of DNA on cigarette butts found together with discarded, stolen, mobile phones. Everything in that article was already in the public domain.

Look after your Lady Garden

(Apologies for the sensitive nature of this piece but it delivers an important message)

ON 1st February I was delivered a bolt from the blue . . . a diagnosis of cancer of the vulva. The shock was not so much the word cancer as the word vulva! I had never heard those two words in tandem. It is a rare one but . . .

In general we are perhaps familiar with ovarian and cervical cancers but vulva? These three gynaecological cancers together amount to more than breast cancer. They can be particularly devastating for young women in their child bearing years. The advertising and awareness campaigns for breast cancer have brought the signs and symptoms into the light, so there is more opportunity for recognition, early diagnosis and a better outcome. Similarly there have been campaigns for testicular and prostate cancers for our menfolk.

In gynae cancers one of the signs can be bleeding. I wonder if with the modern pace of life if a spot of blood mid cycle might just be ignored? Another is an itch which might lead to an interesting gait at times!

In my case, I had had two early signs which on their own were just niggles and I accepted them for what they were individually – lichen sclerosis and a couple of genital warts. The first I had had for 30 years or more and the second for a couple of years the first just itches a lot and I learnt to live with it. The warts apparently go away in time so I ignored them . . . until they got bigger and spread and began to bleed. I have since discovered that both are warning signs for vulva cancer!

So this is a little nudge to you ladies out there to do a bit of lady gardening and check yourselves regularly and be watchful for any 'weeds'. Any that seem pernicious might need a specialist to identify. Your GP will refer anything invasive to an expert. Love, watch and tend your lady gardens and keep them healthy and 'weed' free.

Susie Edwards

Not sure what a loan shark is?

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you might be borrowing from a loan shark:

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To lend money lawfully you have to be authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). People who lend money without being FCA authorised are breaking the law. They are known as loan sharks.

Loan sharks often work from home and start out friendly, but their behaviour changes when payments are missed. Few advertise; they are often heard of by word of mouth. Often little or no paperwork is provided and they will refuse to tell you how much you owe, how long you will be paying off the debt, or what the interest rate is. Many loan sharks will increase the debt and add additional amounts and take items as security including passports, bank cards or benefit cards.

They might also resort to intimidation, threats and violence. If you have borrowed from a loan shark you have not committed a crime, they have.

If a loan shark threatens you or acts in a violent way, contact the police straight away.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team work in Dorset to tackle loan sharks and support people affected by illegal money lending, on behalf of Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service.

Anyone can safely report a loan shark by calling 0300 555 2222, or by visiting www.stoploansharks.co.uk



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wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter.

Dewlish Church Notes

NORMAN BEGGS, a devoted Christian and a good friend

WE were very sad to hear that the Rev. Norman Beggs had died. Norman and Jennifer came to live in Dewlish round about 1986, and they immediately joined our church. Eventually Norman became Churchwarden. He and Jennifer loved Dewlish, making many friends and taking part in village activities.

At that time Norman was an NSPCC inspector and had come to Dorset to open a new office. Not long afterwards he decided to train for the priesthood, and was accepted for training on an NSM (non-stipendiary ministry). Jennifer gave him great support, as she did all their married life; they had a wonderful loving relationship.

After Norman was ordained, he continued his ministry in Dewlish and the surrounding villages; at one time, he was looking after seven parishes. He introduced the Agape Supper service, something which is still celebrated today.

Norman also took about 15 of us to Malta on a St. Paul's shipwreck pilgrimage. We were taken to lots of churches and the cathedrals in Valetta, and visited all the sights on Malta and Gozo. We were also able to take part in the Festival of St. Paul.

Another memorable trip with Norman was a walk from Old Sarum to Salisbury Cathedral, where we learned about the history of both, and also that of the great hymn writer, George Herbert.

Norman continued taking services after his retirement and especially loved to take the Remembrance Day service, when he also took the service for the Royal British Legion at Puddletown. He only stopped when a hip and his legs started failing.

Life became difficult for Norman in recent years, not least because of Jennifer's dementia. Norman cared for her for quite a few years but, because of his hip problem, he very reluctantly arranged care in a nursing home for Jennifer. He always told us that he wanted to care for Jennifer "until death us do part". Nevertheless he still phoned her daily to talk to her and tell her he loved her.

We shall miss you, Norman – a good friend, a devoted Christian and a wonderful husband, father and grandfather.



Our church AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and we would be delighted to welcome new members to join our Church Council.

Daphne Burg

A busy time in March at St. Andrew's church

ALTHOUGH Lent began on Ash Wednesday the 14th February, most of this season fell in March. Lent is the period of 40 days which come before Easter in the Christian calendar. It is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians reflect on Jesus Christ's sacrifice and his withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

As well as the regular Sunday worship services other services and study sessions were arranged. At St. Andrew's Church we held weekly Compline services on a Thursday night. The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. Throughout the benefice each church organised other events which also help those who attend to reflect and pray.

Sarah organised a Sunday Evening Lent Study Group titled 'The Long Road to Heaven'. This was a course based on the film 'The Way' in which the main character Tom (played by Martin Sheen) undertakes a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino, after his son died on the same pathway. As the group followed Tom's journey they explored the great Christian theme of salvation.

On the 18th March a Mothering Sunday service was held. Those present were invited to

Church Services

April

1st April – Easter Day

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

8th April – Easter 2

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

15th April – Easter 3

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

Thursday 19th April

12noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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22nd April – Easter 4

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

29th April – Easter 5

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion followed by bring-and-share lunch	Tolpuddle
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Morning Prayers (Monday – Thursday 8.15am Saturday 9.00am)

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

Church Contacts

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

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

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light a candle as a way of remembering their mothers or other significant people in their lives. At the end of the service small flower posies were distributed. Many thanks to Sally who prepared these lovely little posies.

Palm Sunday, this year is on the 25th March, the Sunday before Easter. Specially blessed palm crosses are distributed to commemorate the triumphant arrival of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

On Good Friday our church is opened for silent worship between 12 noon and 3.00pm. This year a new venture of Messy Church is being run in the Village Hall. Messy Church is a way of being like church for families involving fun. It is not a craft club, it helps people encounter Jesus; it is found across the world; it is a situation where values are about being Christ-centred; it is for all ages and is based on creativity, hospitality and celebration of Christianity. Hopefully there will be more Messy Church sessions in the future.

After Lent many Christians feel closer to Jesus, having reflected on his sacrifices and displays of love for all who believe in him.

Pam Shults

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Beethoven – The man revealed by John Suchet

Our household has a constant discussion as to whether Beethoven or Mozart is the best composer ever, and having read this book I stick with my opinion that Mozart wins, not just on music but on being a better human being. Beethoven had a tough start in life, with an alcoholic father, and his talent made him extremely single-minded, to the point where today he would probably have been considered to be on some sort of autistic spectrum. His behaviour towards his generous sponsors, his family, his doctors and those who provided him with accommodation, often free, was well outside what we could consider normal. His persecution of his sisters-in-law, because he didn't like them and didn't want his brothers to marry them, was cruel, as was his behaviour towards his nephew Karl, a lad of no musical talent, whom Ludwig tried to force into a musical career when he wished to join the Army. He never married, and the stories of various women he tried to be close to make one sad, but his lack of success with women is all linked to his inability to form proper relationships with other people.

The book is well researched and written in an easy style, and there is plenty of first-hand material to support the anecdotes which are related. I loved the one where the deaf Beethoven conducted the first performance of the Ninth Symphony, with a real conductor standing behind him for the orchestra and singers actually to follow. At the end of the performance, he conducted on, and had to be turned around to face the audience to see the applause.

Although the book is well written and full of information, I didn't enjoy it, as it tells the tale of a very nasty man. His health issues were great, and medical practice was not very good at the time, so he was often in pain, but he seems to have had a truly unpleasant streak (described on the blurb as a 'complex character'). On the whole I'm glad I read it, but it isn't one to which I shall return with pleasure.

Beethoven fans will learn a lot about him, his homes, and what was happening in his life as he wrote each piece of music, but this book is really one for the enthusiasts. I expect 'him indoors' will love it.

Susan Wilson

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Pride or Prejudice: How the drains work

BEGINNING with part of Jane Austin's famous literary line from *Pride and Prejudice* – *It is a truth universally acknowledged that* – we live on a zone three flood plain and therefore we are told to expect *and* accept that we will flood. Until as recently as 2013 our village was rated by all the agencies as the third worst flood prone community in the whole of the South West. Long standing residents will remember the frequency and in some cases the ferocity of the floods. All will remember the constant running water on Milton Road for most of the winter. Some have less than fond memories of springs rising in their homes – others losing water and sewerage services because the system became inundated with high ground water levels.

On becoming the Flood Warden in 2012, it was painfully evident to me that the village's infrastructure had been badly neglected. With the proactive assistance of Highways, DCC, the EA, the Cabinet Office (Oliver Letwin and Bob Walters) we have been granted a unique solution to our problems. The drainage system, designed and installed by Dorset Highways, automatically controls and relieves the ground water all along Milton Road and acts as a conduit when any pump is used. Sitting directly on the chalk layer but below the 'thoughtfully' laid WW2 thick concrete road, these drains pass through the major historical springs as they become progressively larger until discharging directly to the culvert under The Square. In essence they provide a very effective bypass system for vulnerable residents of Milton Road and The Square.

The Causeway too has been upgraded to take this additional water flow with another unique storm drain. The picture below



shows inlet pipes on the corner of The Drawn with the second below showing the three outlets below March Bridge that takes flood water directly back to the stream. When river water flows in, the water immediately falls 450mm in to the storm drain where

because water finds its own height an equal amount is immediately 'pushed out' through the three no return gates in to the river some 100 metres further down stream. The river flow will always create a vacuum that will automatically regulate the non return valves without the water in them having to push them open.

Put simply the whole integrated system controls and regulates ground water levels (including springs) all year and will deal with flood events such as in 2013/4. It is estimated that any flood or ground water entering the drains near Huntley Down will pass through the whole village within five minutes without going anywhere near anyone's home or business.

Remember the floods outside the shop? As part of the EA grants we have our own high capacity pump that will be used either on the Milton Road junction or near March Bridge to accelerate water away when either the village or homes are threatened. This pump has the potential to almost double the capacity of the drains and culvert without threatening any home. This is stored, maintained and operated by DCC Highways.

One can never say never again especially when dealing with adverse climate but we have a system that will go a long way to protecting our community. However, it cannot be just ignored or even taken for granted – that is what got us in to the difficulty before. There are many things that we can all do to help in addition to what is done behind the scenes by the Flood Wardens and Highways to protect this unique infrastructure.

Firstly, every householder is entirely responsible for their own property. If you are worried check out the website <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/9049> to decide when you need to start protecting your home or business. You may have the PLP (property level protection) from the EA and you are encouraged to use it, some have a drain near your home and you are encouraged to remove any surface debris yourself or to report blocked gullies or any build up of straw or mud any where in the village on Dorset for You. If you are a riparian owner, keep your section clear by removing annual vegetation growth (in September) especially the invasive balsam, do not block, restrict or build over the river with unauthorised bridges gates or fences (even in the summer).

For some, using sand bags will remain your preferred choice. However, the pros and cons of maintaining a community storage and stock pile was discussed at the last Parish Council meeting where there was little merit seen in maintaining a centralised store. Before agreeing to its removal the Parish Council invite you to please come to the next meeting on 18th April to air your views. Please remember, if you still wish to use sandbags, they are very labour intensive and therefore need to be close to your home with hessian bags immediately to hand, sandbags are completely ineffective when laid on gravel/soil and can actually hold water in your home once breached and if left for even short period will rot. You will need to clean up afterwards and any spilt sand could block drains.

Now back to *Pride and Prejudice* – the pride is we have one of only 500 chalk streams in the world flowing through our village. It gives us rare wildlife in birds and mammals and fish but it also gives us a headache. The prejudice – we have water vole laws that make the river clearance a real challenge. It is universally acknowledged that the section below March Bridge requires careful handling but is full of legal and environmental pitfalls. Yet it must be cleared each September in time for winter to allow it to get rid of the water that threatens our homes. The EA have agreed to clear it again for the next two years but, in common with similar local villages, after that it has to be a community response. This is for future discussion and response from the Parish Council and community at large. For me, stepping down as flood warden in April this year, I have a great deal of pride in what has been achieved and trust that under Mark Johnson and Steve Bowman flood precautions for this village will be carried forward in their capable hands. *Steve Lord Flood Warden*

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TRAVEL SAFELY IN OUR HANDS

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 31



Calling all Crafters

St. Andrew's Church Events Committee
is organising a
Craft Fair on the 5th May 2018

If you would like to find out more or rent a table contact:
Pam on 07913 266230 – pamshults@btinternet.com or
Jenny on 01258 837121 – jennybalcon27@gmail.com



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Heathcote House

GUEST
ACCOMMODATION
Tel: 01258 837219

Heathcote House is a lovely Grade II listed guest house right in the heart of Milborne St Andrew. We offer a warm welcome and friendly service, all rooms have king size beds, en-suite bathrooms and are tastefully refurbished to a very high standard.

- Aga cooked breakfast served in the conservatory under an old grape vine.
- Guests drawing room with big comfy sofas and log fires in the winter.
- A secluded garden with delightful seating areas.
- The perfect place from which to explore Dorset's unspoilt countryside and famous Jurassic coast a few miles away.



Heathcote House, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset DT11 0JG. Website: www.heathcotehouse.co.uk

Have You Met . . . Dave Andrews?

WALKING into the hallway of Dave Andrews' bungalow it's clear he has a passion for old vehicles of all shapes and sizes. Glazed cabinets display a huge array of vintage model cars, vans, lorries, diggers, cranes, tractors and everything else in between. But it's the heavier stuff that has played a big part in Dave's life, from driving tractors from an early age – he had his own when 11 years old – to earning a living from heavy plant: driving, managing, hiring and selling all manner of vehicles.

Dave and Val have lived in Milborne since May 2002, moving from their native Essex to Stileham Bank. He's taken an active role in village life, serving on the Parish Council for some years and he was involved at the time when Hall and Woodhouse's intentions for The Royal Oak were unclear – "when a buyer was found, they didn't want to sell", he says. Now he is involved with the Wednesday Club and, with wife Val, is also a Neighbourcar driver – the service run by volunteers to help people who have trouble getting to the doctor's surgery or hospital appointments.

You may also see Dave walking his dog, Sunny, around Milborne. She is a 16 year old Parson's Jack Russell and is completely blind, having had both eyes removed because of glaucoma. She copes amazingly well and, if in a new place, will walk round the perimeter of a room working out where the door is. Then she's happy, and will sit when she wants to go out.

Dave and Val met in 1960 at a local youth club and spent their courting days visiting the ballroom at Southend-on-Sea, about ten miles from their home villages. They both grew up in rural Essex, Dave living for the first three years of his life "literally in the middle of a field"! His father was a worker on a large arable farm and they lived in a tied cottage, a traditional black-boarded building, which was far from any neighbours in the small village of Bulphan (*Bul-ven*). It was a rudimentary house with a bucket for a toilet. There was an Anderson shelter in the garden, which Dave and family spent many nights in. He remembers the doodlebugs flying over; there was a fake aerodrome nearby to lure fire away from London.

Over the farm's seven mile length, vegetables and cereals were grown to suit the ground conditions; some of the land was wet fenland, with dykes dug for drainage. After coming home from the village school – 36 children in two classrooms – Dave would help out, sometimes in one of the 30 acres of greenhouses, pricking out tomatoes or cucumbers and watering. Later, he'd be driving his International 1020 tractor delivering coal and water to where it was needed. In those days, the fenland was still cultivated by steam engine. After leaving school – Laindon High Road Secondary Modern – in 1954 aged 14, he continued to work on the farm for a while then went to work at a steel pipe distributor, cutting pipes. The company used a steam crane and, when the driver was ill one day, Dave was asked to operate it, aged 16. Later he drove a diesel tractor shunter, moving goods around the yard.

Over his working life, he's been at a lot of different companies, including his own business, with seven years being the longest he worked at any. But the common thread running through is vehicles, and mainly driving them. At 18, he went back to farm working, this time to a 300 acre concern that was bought by two brothers and a sister from London for "a bit of fun". The family were wealthy from their distribution business that delivered cars and lorries for Ford. Sometimes Dave was asked to deliver cars from the end of the production line to the docks or showrooms. Occasionally, this didn't go to plan, one notable time getting lost in London and missing the minibus home!

But the really heavy plant was to come soon after. He took a job with a waste firm which was transporting household rubbish from London and building up the marshes along the Thames in Essex. After applying for a fork lift driving job, he was shown to a huge bulldozer ("I'd never seen anything the size of it!") for him to start work. The scale of the operation was huge: 500 ton barges carried the waste and trains then transported it across site, with the bulldozers being used to move the rails as and when required as well. Then in 1963, after he and

a friend had been working as contract digger drivers, they began hiring out plant, starting with machines for snow clearance for Brentwood council during the heavy falls of that year. They built the business, that in two years they had 22 machines leased out. From here they began buying, refurbishing and selling similar plant, which became their business for the next few years. But Dave was soon to be back in the seat of diggers and lorries, working in the City on groundwork contracts.



His knowledge and methodical manner meant he was put in charge of sites, marking them out and organising labour. On one particular job at a site for a new bank, he and his team were told to stop digging – because 'the security van will be here soon with the money'. The money, they asked? 'Yes, the money that's to be buried under the bank.' Dumper truckloads of coins were tipped into the hole, Dave being told, 'so there's always money in the bank'!

He finished working life at a double glazing manufacturer, where he helped to build the company's new site. He was asked to stay on to manage, but told his boss the dyslexia that had caused problems throughout his life would mean it would be impossible to do the office work. This proved no barrier though, as he was assigned a secretary for his admin needs. Dave worked here for seven years, but left with ill-health: he had been diagnosed aged 23 with the spinal condition, ankylosing spondylosis. Calcium forms on the joints of the spine and ribs, and makes movement difficult.

Dave and Val have a daughter, Dawn, and son, Mark, born in 1967 and 1969 respectively. Dawn lives in Poole and was one of the reasons for them choosing to live in Dorset. Dawn worked at the hospital as a senior operating practitioner in the day theatre but sadly had to leave due to diagnosis of MS. But she has a fuller life than most, taking part in riding and sailing and now aiming to get a pilot's licence!

Son Mark lives in Essex and is deputy head at a technical college in Kent and specialises in engineering and electronics. He has the driving bug from his dad, albeit in much faster vehicles: he put together a motor racing course, setting up a Formula Four team in the process, and has also has taken part in rally driving.

What's the best thing about Milborne? It's a friendly village with a lovely shop and pub – that's two of the things we were looking for when we were moving.

Any pet hates? Parking! I don't like it when people park outside the shop when there are spaces in the car park, and I don't like people who park in the Village Hall car park when there are events on.

Have you a claim to fame? Meeting the Duke of Edinburgh – twice! Prince Charles was rehearsing for his first wedding and Prince Philip stopped where I was working and said 'hello lads, how's it going?' He was driving an experimental electric van at the time! Years later I met him at the double glazing factory – I had to mark out the route he was to walk with lines and arrows. But of course, he didn't follow it, he walked where he wanted!

Fantasy dinner date? In 1998 I had a triple bypass op, so I'd love to see the surgeon again to thank him.

Something that people may find surprising about you? My dyslexia.

Any nicknames? I used to be called Handy Andy – but sometimes that started off with an R...!

Most embarrassing moment? I was working at Wellington Barracks, down in a big hole – bigger than playing field of the Village Hall – and I was taking photos of the site. Security turned up and said 'you can't do that'. They took my camera and they locked me up – eventually they let me out and it turned out I was digging the armoury of the barracks.

Favourite charity? Julia's House.

Hobbies and interests? I make models, mainly of vintage tractors and other vehicles and collect models. I like fixing things! *Ed Richards*

We're always looking for new people to interview in our Have You Met feature - if you, or someone you know, fits the bill, then please get in touch with the Reporter and we'll do the rest.

Snow days at Ladybirds

OUR older children were pleased to welcome Miss Wittman the Reception teacher from Milborne First school. The arranged visit was part of our joint plan to make transition from preschool to school as stress-free and as smooth as possible. Miss Wittman spent time talking to all the children individually and joined in activities. The children showed their numeracy knowledge by making a hopscotch and then learnt how to jump and hop along it.

Snow was extremely exciting to our children most of whom had never experienced it and it was great to hear



and see their reaction to the cold weather. Ladybirds closed for two days and during those days it was lovely to hear most enjoyed special family time outside in the snow, and see lovely pictures being shared on social media.

This month several of the children have shown interest in Superheroes so this week that has been our topic. The children made shields, then masks and wrist cuffs. They demonstrated their superpowers moving swiftly around the room rescuing whoever was in peril. Some children came to Ladybirds dressed in superheroes costumes including one boy dressed in a bee outfit! – the costume even had a little black sting! *Liz Dyer*

Ofsted registered no.217717 Registered Charity no. 1087441

Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

Ofsted reported

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

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

Rated GOOD again by Ofsted

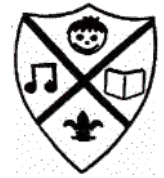
We have Highly qualified staff who using the ethos of learning through play help children to achieve their potential

Opening times:
Monday & Tuesday 9.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 - 13.00
Term time only.
Minimum attendance 3 hours per day starting at 9.00am

To find out more please contact
Liz Dyer (Leader) 01258 839117; 07771 512427 or email liz@milborneladybirds.com
Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044
www.milborneladybirds.com



MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL



Learning together, playing together

SCHOOL NEWS

Book Week at Milborne School

Our focus for Book Week was *Dr Seuss!* Each class decorated their doors accordingly (see photos) and class teachers read lots of different 'Dr Seuss' books in a different class from their own.



The children were also asked to bring in a book they no longer needed, and 'swap it' for one brought in by other children.



Book Swap Table

Part of the week involved 'extreme reading' (reading a book in an unusual place) and taking a photo, sending it into school for our display.



Year 2 and our Reception spent some of the week doing their Reading Buddy Challenge: To create their own version of 'The Cat in the Hat' story using their own innovated animals.

The children and staff also dressed up as book characters at our 'belated' World Book Day celebrations.



DASP Y4 Concert

Puffins class were lucky enough to take part in the annual DASP concert singing with a number of local schools performing at St. Osmonds Middle School in Dorchester.

Although being the smallest choir in attendance they sang beautifully and made Milborne First School very proud.

Well Done to all our Year 4's who took part!



CONTACTS

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

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Hunt **School Secretary:** Mrs B Hosford

Chair of Governors: Matt Way **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Caroline Richards

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

Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

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

GENERAL – ADULT

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

GENERAL – YOUTH

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

POLICE

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

SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Hunt	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Matt Way	
Friends of School Chair:	Caroline Richards	

SPECIAL INTEREST

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

SPORT

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

Football – Under 12s

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

VILLAGE HALL

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

HEALTH

Bere Regis Surgery		01929 471268
Milborne St. Andrew Surgery		01258 837383
Milton Abbas Surgery		01258 880210
Puddletown Surgery		01305 848333
NHS for non-emergencies		111
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 880229



Milborne Movies

Friday 13th April
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

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 Tickets £3.50

Community Events Diary

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

- April**
- Wednesday 4th** **Wednesday Club** Village Hall 2.00pm – see page 31.
- Thursday 12th** **WI Annual Meeting** including Beetle Drive. Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 31.
- Friday 13th** **Milborne Movies *Dunkirk*** Village Hall doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm tickets £3.50 – see pages 16 and 27.
- Saturday 14th** **Village Hall parking** only accessible to those paying to hire the hall from now on.– see page 23
Reporter mid-day deadline articles and photos to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Reporter team.
- Wednesday 18th** **Annual Parish Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm.
Dewlish Church AGM Dewlish Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 8.
- Thursday 19th** **Gardening Club** 'Gertrude Jekyll, her Plants and Designs' with David Usher. Village Hall – see page 18.
- Saturday 21st** **Storm Warning** Village Hall doors open 7.30pm Tickets £10 – see below and page 25.
- Friday 27th** **WI Spring Supper** Ashley Heath Golf Club.
- Saturday 28th** **Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm to 2pm – see page 2 for menu.
- May**
- Wednesday 2nd** **Wednesday Club** Weymouth sand sculpture – see page 31.
- Thursday 10th** **Dr Pat Garrod talk *Bearback*** Village Hall 7.30pm Entry by donation – see page 18.
- Saturday 12th** **Gardening Club Plant sale** Village Hall 10am to 12.30pm – see page 23..



STORM WARNING
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Cool Blues...**

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

Milborne's got the Blues!

Saturday 21st April

Milborne St Andrew Village Hall Doors 7.30pm Tickets £10

Clive on 01258 837280 or Londis store or Royal Oak
All proceeds to Milton Abbas Riding for Disabled Group

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.

100 CLUB – THE END

Draw date – Wednesday 14th March
£100 Ann Guy
£25 Pip Johns

Due to the falling number of members the subscriptions are now only funding the prizes and the draw is no longer providing any funds for the Sports Club or St. Andrew's church. We therefore regret that this was the last draw to be made and the 100 Club is being wound up. Members with Standing Orders need to cancel them (we cannot do that) and those who have paid for future draws will have their money refunded. Those who wish to continue to support the Sports Club or St. Andrew's Church may of course do so directly.

Milborne 100 Club Committee



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This Month

at the MILBORNE ST ANDREW
GARDENING CLUB



Gertrude Jekyll
her designs and plants
by David Usher

THURSDAY
19th April
7.30pm



Refreshments



VENUE
The Village Hall
7.30 pm

Open to All — everyone is welcome



Entry: £2 non members

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Bearback

The world overland



Open meeting everyone welcome!

Dr Pat Garrod will talk about his epic
four year world trip by motorbike!

THURSDAY 10th MAY

7.30pm

VILLAGE HALL

A WI sponsored event entry by DONATION there will be CAKE!

April Fool

This year, Easter Sunday falls on the first of April.

In most years the *Reporter* has really entered into the swing of things to celebrate the spirit of April Fools Day. April 2009's edition introduced us to the 'Knaplooflirpa' printing process with specially scented ink for the *Reporter*, the scent of which faded by lunchtime. I wonder how many readers gave their copy a quick sniff?

In April 2011 the *Reporter* excelled itself and managed to fool one genuine reporter from the *Western Gazette* who wanted more details about the giant wind turbines planned for our village. Apparently she didn't notice at first that the article was written by Gayle Power.

April 2012's article was about re-naming the village to please the Scottish Nationalists, I still like the idea of living in Millpond St. Jude!

In April 2013 it was suggested that we should double the speed limit on the A354 to 60mph though the village, with railings and an underpass to protect pedestrians. In the same issue, at first, I thought the April fool joke for the month was the instructions on home-made bomb making at the Wednesday Club, but that turned out to be true!

April 2014's prank was the introduction of an amphib-ability test to check your car's ability to be driven underwater! Useful before we had our flooding sorted out.

April 2015 warned us of the new law about dogs having to wear nappies to cut down on doggy doo doo in Milborne's streets.

There was a very interesting article by Mark Ferguson about the origins of April fools day in April 2016, also an article telling us about the use of seagulls to deliver post and parcels instead of drones.

April 2017 saw reports of Donald Trump's proposed visit to Milborne – we are still waiting for the unfinished building project at Fox View to be completed . . .

I wonder what this month's *Reporter* April fool hoax will be?

My family has always tried hard to trick each other, with mixed success.

One of the more memorable occasions was when my young daughter woke my son very early one morning on April Fools Day and told him that our dog had produced a "basket-full of puppies!" My son leapt out of bed and hurtled downstairs at breakneck speed and was so disappointed to find our dog quietly slumbering in her basket in the kitchen without a puppy in sight . . .

The following year on 1st April he tried to get his own back on his sister. We were on holiday in our caravan and my son opened the window and shouted outside "Help! The caravan is on fire!" My husband was changing the water barrel at the other end of the caravan and when he heard this, he charged inside the caravan, throwing my son outside with one hand while reaching for the fire extinguisher with the other. When he discovered the truth of the matter, my son received a smacked bottom and a massive telling off which lasted for the rest of the day. I seem to remember that the story of the boy who cried wolf featured in it!

Foole is first mentioned as a dessert in 1598 (together with trifle), although the origins of gooseberry fool may date back to the 15th century. The earliest recipe for fruit fool dates to the mid 17th century. Why the word "fool" is used as the name of this fruit dessert is not clear. Several authors derive it from the French verb *fouler* meaning "to crush" or "to press" (in the context of pressing grapes for wine), but this derivation is dismissed by the *Oxford English Dictionary* as baseless and inconsistent with the early use of the word.

Gooseberries grow really well in our garden, each year we usually harvest more than 20lbs of fruit from our one bush. They freeze perfectly and so we are able to use them all the year round. The gooseberry likes to grow in shade, a damp atmosphere and temperate climates. It's a real northern fruit. Unlike most berries, gooseberries are relatively hardy and will last for over a week in the fridge after picking. They are sometimes called grozets or grossets in Scotland and nicknamed goosegogs everywhere.

In the 1740s, gooseberry clubs began to be founded. The first few appeared in Lancashire, where there were many gooseberry growers. Each year, on the first Tuesday in August, the oldest surviving gooseberry show takes place at Egton Bridge in North Yorkshire. For over 200 years gardeners have competed for the title of Champion Grower of the largest gooseberry. It is a uniquely British competition – firstly to be growing fruit for size rather than flavour, and secondly in the fruit itself, a native of Britain and appreciated here more than anywhere else in the world.

The hobby of growing giant gooseberries was particularly popular in the

industrial midland and northern counties and formalised in the nineteenth century via The Gooseberry Growers' Register. At its peak in 1845 this recorded entries from 171 shows but today only the Egton Bridge Show and a group of about seven small shows around Goostry in mid Cheshire survive. To achieve the largest berry the bushes are drastically pruned, with most of the fruit removed, so that all of the plant's energy is concentrated into the few remaining berries – what a waste of the rest of the fruit!

Whilst gooseberries were mainly a fruit grown by the working classes, the Victorians brought them to wider popularity when they began growing them commercially. Today it seems that they are once again becoming a speciality available only to those who grow their own, remaining popular with allotmenteers, but having fallen out of favour commercially.

I usually cook gooseberries in the microwave and then add elderflower cordial and some sugar if needed when they are cold. It's important not to add too much sugar, as the tart flavour is part of its charm. The addition of whipped cream also seems to sweeten the flavour, so it's difficult to give an accurate measurement of sugar needed as it depends on the ripeness of the fruit and your personal taste. Just mix together the cooked gooseberries, elderflower cordial, whipped cream, sugar and perhaps some custard to suit your own taste. Put into individual serving dishes and decorate with a swirl of cream and a few whole cooked gooseberries.

Of course most varieties of gooseberries are not ripe until the summer. Rhubarb is available in April, and makes a lovely pale pink fool. Like the gooseberry fool I think it's important not to add too much sugar, so you may want to reduce the amount suggested in the recipe. Also the sweetness of the biscuits adds to the overall flavour so taste as you go along. You can always add a bit more icing sugar at the end.

Rhubarb and Cointreau fool with ginger nut biscuits

Ingredients

For the fool

500ml/18fl oz double cream
100g/3½oz (or less) icing sugar, sieved
250ml/9fl oz thick Greek-style yoghurt
1 tablespoon Cointreau
300g/10½oz rhubarb, cut into 2cm/1in pieces
300g/10½oz caster sugar

For the ginger nut biscuits

125g/4oz unsalted butter, softened
175g/6oz caster sugar
1 large egg
1 tbsp golden syrup
250g/9oz plain flour
½ tsp baking powder
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tbsp chopped stem ginger

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. For the rhubarb fool, whip the double cream in a bowl until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed. Whisk in the icing sugar, yoghurt and Cointreau until well combined.
3. Place the rhubarb onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with sugar and bake in the oven for five minutes, or until the rhubarb is tender.
4. Allow the rhubarb to cool slightly, and then fold into the fool mixture until well combined.
5. For the biscuits, cream the butter and sugar in a bowl until light and fluffy.
6. Stir in the egg and golden syrup. Add the flour, baking powder, ground ginger and stem ginger and mix until well combined.
7. Roll the mixture into golf ball-sized shapes and bake in the oven for 8-10 minutes, or until golden-brown.
8. Spoon the fool mixture into pretty glasses and serve the biscuits alongside.





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Small Businesses in Milborne St. Andrew: Number 12

The Alpaca Farmers and Tailors

CLAIRE and Edward Ebborn own, manage, train and harvest the wool of a herd of 22 black Alpacas. They graze in a field near Bovington and from the age of six months are fitted with a halter and submit, not always willingly, to be led. At this point they have been weaned away from their mothers, are called 'crias' and ready for the heightened world of Show business which starts at the end of March until June. I understand that they sometimes treat this process as a game and keel over sideways to a prone position to avoid the halter from which they have to be hoisted up onto their large toenails!



The Ebborns have been showing alpacas and winning sashes for five years. Their first cria is named Apollo and features on the cover of the Alpaca magazine. They are gradually moving through the alphabet for names and are now onto the 'E's. The first in the calendar is the National Alpaca Show in Telford. Later there will be the Bath and West and Devon County Shows. Apparently Dorset doesn't have an alpaca class. There are three categories they sell: pregnant/breeding females; stud males; pet males. The latter can be used as 'flock guards' and are aggressive with intruders, sometimes trampling marauding foxes to death. As a crowd pleaser 'agility categories' have been introduced. I am told that the move by breeders currently is to restore the original shape of the Inca farmed animals. The invading 16th century Conquistadors crossed them with llamas. Bones found in South America show the more blunted muzzle of those ancient creatures compared with the sometimes pointed shape of the 'modern' alpaca. The Ebborns belong to the British Alpaca Society which produces the glossy Alpaca magazine. The Society sets show and breeding standards, including TB testing. They are also lobbying DEFRA for a classification as livestock to bring them into line with other regulated animals. Both Claire and Edward were, and still are working in totally different fields but are equally ambitious for their growing business which is run from their cottage on Blandford Hill. They are actively looking to buy their own land and extend their business in order to farm full time. They will stay exclusively with black alpacas and hope to raise a herd of between 50-70 animals. Five years ago, apparently, very few people farmed the black beasts. Alpacas have only one baby a year (very occasionally twins) the gestation period is eleven months. The females begin birthing from May and the 'weanlings' were ready as from last week. They are shorn once a year. After shearing three wool samples go to the laboratory, are put under a fibre-testing microscope and a histogram produced. This gives a full breakdown of what the 'micron' is, i.e. the comfort factor. 23 microns or below is the only one used. If the wool is not dense or fine enough then a different mate is found. The wool has no lanolin, is dry and as soft as cashmere, its strands are smooth but without the tensile strength of sheep's wool. It could easily break during spinning and weaving. Many have been the warnings from those who combine sheep and alpaca in spinning/weaving as the alpaca wool alone is slippery and will break easily, which have gone unheeded as they pursued their dream of 100% alpaca cloth. They have scoured the British Isles for mills having old fashioned machines which can put twists in the fibre and have found two, one in Launceston and the other in Wimborne. These are now exclusively alpaca. Their tweed designer is in Scotland (and working in grams) with an old Scottish weaver working in ounces! Their tailor is in Savile Row and four, beautiful, soft, undyed, tweed three piece suits have been made with the entire process completed in the UK. They will be blending with linen for the summer and their intention is to produce natural black overcoats and peacoats in Autumn/Winter

2018/19. Another by product is five categories of knitted socks; walking, bed, shooting, welly and everyday at prices ranging from £15-£40 per pair. Some nylon is blended in to give the socks holding up power! Claire designed the logo to go on their covering wrapper.

Their advertising has been by word of mouth; by one "Tweed Run" completing a circuit of London involving 400 people cycling in tweed suits with one alpaca in tow on the start and finish line. Recently they were featured in the Robb Report, a luxury lifestyle magazine based in the States which advertises exclusive watches and other such things on

super yachts. So the word is out there to those who are likely to be future customers.

The couple met on a sailing holiday in the Caribbean, New Year 2012/13 she from Derbyshire and he from Welwyn Garden City (also, uniquely, a new town) in Hertfordshire. Edward started here in 2013 moving from a head-hunting position in City banking and Claire joined him in 2014. They are both Army Reservists. Their business started with three pregnant female alpacas and six months later Apollo was born.



They are happily settled in what they regard as a friendly village with Edward assisting with the Remembrance Service. They are regulars in the Royal Oak where they have been known to sell a few socks!

If you wish to purchase alpaca socks Claire's telephone number is; 07734 794803 or visit the websites; www.wyvernalpacas.com or wyverntailoring.com

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Milborne First School Writing Competition Winner

HARRY entered our Haiku competition and this is a picture of him with his winning entry. He wrote two: one about fossils and one about paleontologists. In our whole school assembly he was able to talk about what a Haiku is and remembered the rule about syllables. We checked each line and made sure it followed the pattern five syllables, seven syllables, five syllables.

Fossils are so cool
I like to look at details
Million years old.

I would like to be
a paleontologist
when I am grown up.



Milborne Players announce next production "Nightmare"

WRITTEN by Norman Robbins, performances 22nd and 23rd June 2018

Here we go with another production for your entertainment.

"Nightmare" is a thriller of a drama, and is directed by Harry Thomas.

Casting has now taken place and rehearsals begin next week !!

It has been difficult to select a play which will appeal to the tastes of a wide audience. However having made such a strong impression with "Dangerous Corner" last year it was felt that the audience would like a bit of drama with a whodunit thriller theme and Nightmare will definitely give that. So . . . put those dates in your diary and watch out for tickets going on sale. *Caroline Nobbs* for the Players Committee
www.milborneplayers.org.uk

Almost there . . .

THINGS take so long to get done, just as we resolve one issue another pops up! We have signed off all the paperwork, required by the organisations who gave us grants, to replace the children's play tower, the sensory meadows and the cycle track. However, we are now in the process of trying to get new surfacing for the small swings and the zip wire. We are awaiting quotes to decide which company can help. The hall has been painted on the outside and we have booked the same decorator to repaint the inside and expect this to be during the long summer holidays. We have successfully applied to change the structure of the charity to become a Charitable Incorporated Charity which means that the trustees will not be held personally responsible for any financial loss. Now all that needs doing is to legally transfer all the hall assets from the current charity status to the new one, and of course this is not a simple matter but once done the "old charity" will be closed. Hopefully we will get it done soon.

Peanuts A request to all hall users. There are a few regular users of the hall who have an allergy to peanuts, so if you have a party with food that includes nuts, please make sure that you clean up thoroughly before you leave the hall.

Parking Finally, a reminder that from the 14th April, the hall car park is only accessible to those who are paying to hire the hall. Thank you for your understanding. *Pam Shults*

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 8th April – 2.00pm

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)

Wednesday 18th April – 11.00am

Farnham and the Cranborne Chase

Meet outside the Museum Inn, Farnham. Grid reference: ST 957152 on Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 6.5 miles)
Bring a packed lunch.

Sunday 6th May – 2.00pm

Tarrant Gunville and Pimperne Long Barrow

Meet near the village hall in Tarrant Gunville. Grid reference: ST 925128 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Please note:

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

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

Bring Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

Pace We go at the pace of the slowest.

Terrain Expect mud, inclines and stiles.

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

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

Extensive Pruning Advice



THE March activity at the Gardening Club proved very popular as it was a practical talk on Pruning Ornamental Plants given by Mike Burke, Managing Director of Sherborne, Yeovil and Poundbury garden centres. He brought a large array of shrubs and plants to show exactly how they should be pruned and when, often a difficult decision for the amateur.

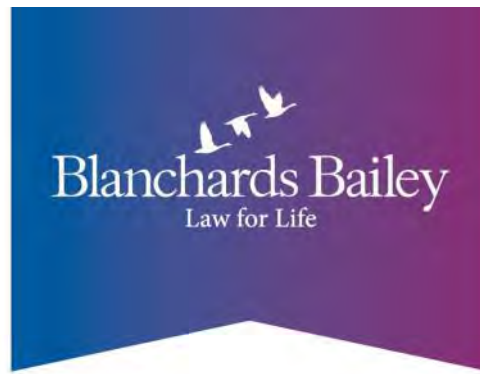
Some do not take kindly to being cut and refuse to produce new growth, while others need hard cutting back if they are not to grow to an unmanageable size. Shape is also a consideration which can be affected by just where you prune and of course flowering is all important for many of the shrubs. On the whole they are best pruned just after they have produced blooms so that they have the best part of a year to regrow for the following season.

While also demonstrating good tools for the job Mike also warned that it is only too easy to get 'pruning-happy' with new and easy to use secateurs or loppers and lop off too much!

Our next talk, in April, will be on 'Gertrude Jekyll, her Plants and Designs'. She was a lady who revolutionised flower gardening at the beginning of the 20th century. She often worked with the architect, Lutyens, and is still very influential today. The talk will be by David Usher who is the Head Gardener at Hestercombe House near Taunton and responsible for restoring the Jekyll and Lutyens garden there to its original beauty. Everyone is welcome at the meeting – only £2 for non members.

Everyone please note that on **Saturday 12th May** we will be holding our annual **Plant Sale** in the Village Hall from 10.00am–12.30pm. Lots of home grown plants of all types at bargain prices, refreshments, and a raffle. Open to all and free. Do come along!

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Phonics Fun at school

SEAHORSE class have been working incredibly hard and learnt so much that we invited the parents in for a family workshop. The morning that this was due to take place, the children waited excitedly because today was the day that they would become the teacher (and dressed as their favourite book character too)! First the children showed their grown up how they could write the letters of the alphabet with the added challenge of putting them in order by singing the alphabet rap. They also showed off their handwriting skills as they wrote each letter in 'sparkle' which is a pre-cursive script. They proudly showed they could name each letter and announced that "five letters were special". These special letters are called vowel owls and they have a trick . . . they not only have a sound they also say their name . . . when two vowel owls go out walking the first one does the talking.



Wow! Mums and dads have you learnt anything new? Of course but we didn't stop there.

Next the children shared the two and three letter sounds they knew with actions. We used these sounds to read lots of words while playing musical chairs. Each time the music stopped the children sat on a chair and on each chair was a word.



Not only can we read words using our sounds we can also read tricky words. Now even though these words don't look the way that they sound, we can read them, **even** when part of the letter is covered up! Aren't we amazing. Our grown-ups were very impressed with our reading skills so next we showed how we break up longer words using syllables. The children had fun being a chef and chunking and chopping their words on paper pancakes. We also took part in an obstacle course set up by Miss Wittman. The children read the instructions, containing a polysyllabic word in the sentence and carried out the actions. Finally we came back to the carpet and taught everyone how we use all of this knowledge to write.

Wouldn't you want to be at Milborne School, learning to read and write?

"I was very impressed by the phonics workshop in Seahorses class this morning. The children have so much fun and learn at the same time. Well done Miss Wittman!"

"Lovely Phonics Workshop. Miss Wittman has really engaged with her class and the children are clearly learning. Very impressed. Thank you."

Seahorses topic

Seahorse class have been thinking about 'High in the Sky' which is our topic.

We read the story 'Cloudland' by John Burnham which got us wondering about clouds.

What are clouds? and how do we make a cloud? were two questions that we set out to investigate. We used information books to find out about the water cycle and decided to try to make our own cloud. With Mrs Mitchell's help, we made a cloud in a bottle. When you see a Seahorse out and about . . . why don't you ask us how.



A Good Read: 'Strangers on a Train' by Patricia Highsmith

MANY of you will be familiar with Hitchcock's film of the same name. Highsmith's novels, with their pared down style lend themselves to film, theatre and radio scripts. The most recent being 'Carol' based on her novel 'The Price of Salt' and 'The Two Faces of January' and who could forget 'The Talented Mr Ripley'! The casual occurrence of murder in her creations, the menace that lingers behind the most domestic of scenes can make readers uneasy. She has been described as 'the poet of apprehension'. In this, her ingenious debut novel, a study of guilt, she premises her unshakeable belief in the existence of evil - personal, psychological and political. It charts the journey of one such personification of this belief, Charles Bruno, a psychotic socialite, a restless playboy, wealthy, pampered, creepy and a wastral following his chance encounter on a train bound for Texas with Guy Haines. The latter is a talented but conflicted architect with a monumental project under his belt, that of a Florida based prestigious country club grandly named Palmyra after the Syrian city. Having elicited the information that Haines wishes rid of his wife, Miriam, in order to marry Ann Faulkner he suggests what Haines perceives as an imaginary bargain, that they 'trade murders' his hated father for Miriam. In Bruno's scenario it appears the perfect transaction one in which there would be no apparent motive, no possible link between the two. It gave Bruno a purpose in life and, as an arch manipulator, he found Haines vulnerable to compromise. They represent what Highsmith describes as duality. Bruno has murder in his heart, Haines desires Bruno's madness. For every happy thought and moment with Ann (his 'only point of stillness') he felt annihilation, within himself - two selves. But he found it impossible to stay in the sunlit, contented self. As he says to Bruno 'everything has its opposite close beside it'. Each was what the other had not chosen to be, the cast-off self, what he thought he hated but perhaps in reality loved. So the tragedy unfolds lit by the heroic gloom of predestination. When Bruno fulfils his side of the 'bargain' and Haines is free to marry Ann, the pressure grows for him to do the same for Bruno.

Carole Fornachon

Milborne's Got the Blues - just a bit later than planned!

OK, so we gave in to the red warning and postponed our Storm Warning - this talented and respected Blues band will now play in the Village Hall on Saturday 21st April, doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets already held for the event are of course valid and further ticket sales are available at the Londis store, at The Royal Oak, or from Clive on 01258 837280.

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.

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

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

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Milborne Movies: Dunkirk

Christopher Nolan's latest film is a masterpiece: a \$150 million epic, yet as lean and spare as a haiku, with three brief, almost wordless strands of narrative woven together in a mere 106 minutes of running time. Its themes are classic - honor, duty, the horror of war - yet it is also his most radical experiment since Memento.

The three stories take place on land, on sea, and in the air, with moments of harrowing intensity and profound humanity. The superb cast includes Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance, and Kenneth Branagh, with relative acting unknowns including Harry Styles of One Direction, but ultimately Dunkirk belongs to Nolan and cinematographer Hoyte Van Hoytema. The film uses practical effects rather than CGI whenever possible - \$5 million was spent on a vintage Luftwaffe plane in order to crash it—and the difference is palpable. Rarely has the beauty of aerial flight (or the unpleasantness of its failure) been captured so vividly.

The Battle of Dunkirk has always been that most remarkable of war stories: an utter rout reframed, rightly, as an iconic victory. At the end of Nolan's film, when one of the returning men is congratulated, he muses, "All we did is survive." But it was much more than that. Had those Allied troops not been saved, the history of the war would have been vastly different. And it is hard to imagine a better tribute to this victory of survival than Nolan's spare, stunning, extraordinarily ambitious film. (From a review by Christopher Orr, principal film critic at 'The Atlantic'.) Dunkirk will be shown at the Village Hall on 13th April.

Milton Abbas and Milborne St. Andrew Surgery News

TRUST you all managed to survive the snow we had in early March which arrived just when we thought spring was almost here. Unfortunately, many surgeries in Dorset did not open and although we had to close Milton Abbas Surgery, we were able to offer urgent appointments at our branch in Milborne St. Andrew, carry out essential home visits and speak to patients on the phone. In addition we managed to move regular patients to earlier in the week before the snow and put on extra appointments for the following few days. We have discussed our response as a whole team so that any issues that did arise can be addressed and updated in our 'Extreme Weather Plan'.

Milton Abbas Surgery is supporting Blandford Food Bank which gives food to people in crisis. The food includes dried and tinned food to provide balanced and nutritional meals for three days and is donated by local individuals and groups. If you need to access the food bank you can do so by speaking in confidence to one of the clinicians at Milton Abbas Surgery. If you feel able to make a donation to the food bank, the surgery are happy to accept contributions of tinned or packet items such as cereal, pasta, soup and tinned vegetables with a minimum 6 months long expiry date at any time.

Are you planning a trip abroad? Will you need to have travel vaccinations for your trip? If so, you may need to allow up to six months for a course of some vaccinations as they will need to be ordered specifically for you and there have been some vaccination shortages over the past year. Please look at the travel page on the surgery website www.masurgery.co.uk/clinics-services/travel-vaccinations and complete the travel questionnaire. Gillian Brindle
Practice Business Manager

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

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



Help needed with the Home Library Service in Blandford

ARE you a keen reader? Can't bear to be without a good book? Then you will understand how important the Home Library Service can be to people in our community who are not able to get to their local library.

Blandford Library has a very active Home Library Service, with Royal Voluntary Service volunteers delivering books and talking books to housebound people in the area on a 3 weekly basis. We are looking for a volunteer to join our team who would be interested in choosing



books and talking books for our clients. Training and support will be provided by library staff.

So if this sounds like you, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch with Maria Jacobson, RVS Home Library Service Manager for Dorset, on 01305 236666 or

e-mail obson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

This service is provided by Dorset Library Service, and delivered by RVS volunteers.

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Together for older people

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOVES READING BUT IS UNABLE TO GET TO THEIR LOCAL LIBRARY?

They may be entitled to use the Home Library Service, which can organise the delivery of library books to their home by volunteers for free.

For more details speak to your local library or contact Royal Voluntary Service on 01305 236 666, email dorsetwiltshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or visit www.dorsetforyou.com/libraries

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If your answer is yes and you are 55 or over, male or female, then **WE NEED YOU**. Finding the pound piling on and leading a sedentary life? Then this could be for you.

What, you may ask, is the writer going on about? Keep reading and all will become clear.

Walking football is new to the village and we need more players to make up teams. Believe it or not you do have a good workout and a good laugh.

Doesn't matter if you are not skilled, it is just for fun so please come and join us and at the same time have a workout.

Every TUESDAY at the MUGA by the Village Hall commencing 10.30am for approximately one hour.

It would be great to see you there. Get off the sofa and give it a go!

Chris Nowell

Rise and shine, hedgehogs

NOW at last the sun is coming out and the days are longer, so it is time to be aware of the hedgehogs emerging from hibernation. I have not seen one myself but have had a reliable report of one seen very early in the morning in Culliford Road in Dorchester. So if they are awake there then they should be in Milborne as well. Be prepared for them and have food available as they will be very hungry. Ideally leave food for them that cannot be taken by other animals, particularly domestic cats. A box, open side down, with a hedgehog sized (but not cat sized) hole in one side is ideal. Good luck, and please let me know of any sightings to record on the village map.

Pip Howell (pip.jackie@btinternet.com)

Council Tax likely to rise with new Dorset Council, PC told

A LIVELY and well-attended meeting heard a range of issues and concerns, from the likely effects of the merger of district councils to the cost of a flood warden's jacket.

District councillor, Jane Somper, addressed the meeting about the upshot of the Local Government Reorganisation, announced by Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, in February. Dorset's councils will be restructured into just two unitary ones: a joint Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch council and the other serving the rest of Dorset. The big question arising was the effect of 'Council Tax harmonisation'; North Dorset's tax is at present the lowest and discussion centred on how much Milborne's rates will be increased by. Cllr Somper asserted that she would stand up against any unfair increases. The number of councillors was likely to be slashed also – by perhaps half – with ward sizes increasing to suit. The new council will replace the NDDC this time next year.

Cllr Somper also spoke about NDDC's initiative, Opening Doors, which seeks to help primarily young working people looking to buy a property. A register will provide a two-way flow of information between house-hunters and developers. Those interested can sign up using: www.openingdoorsdorset.co.uk/home-ownership-register.

The council has banned the release of sky lanterns and helium balloons from all council properties and land. The new services hub at Nordon is now open for advice, weekdays 8.30am to 5.00pm or by phone 01258 454111.

The subject of speeding was discussed once again; Milborne has been added to the police's list of locations for the mobile speed safety camera. Councillors also decided to buy stickers with the 30mph symbol which will be given to residents to display on their wheelie bins.

Councillors reported on their attendances at seminars, Cllr Cherry at a community transport event and Cllr Stevens and clerk Colin Hampton attended a planning seminar. This event defined how the planning mechanism works and it was found to be informative and useful. Discussion then took place about the Planning department and how at present it appeared that some decisions taken seem undemocratic, although legally correct.

The Parish Council has taken note of the new data protection regulation, which comes into effect in May. Clerk Colin Hampton has a free 'toolkit' which explains what needs to be done to be compliant. These would be things such as information displayed on the PC website, reports with signatures and so on. He said there was an option to out-source this function at a quoted cost of £600, but the PC would manage it for the time being.

The number of flood wardens in Milborne was confirmed as four, with the team advising that this was necessary to be sure that there would always be one warden in the village at any time, and the working of a rota system. The flood team asked that two high visibility jackets be bought for the two new wardens, which was discussed by councillors. The cost of £33.50 per jacket (including printing) was agreed and carried with a majority.

Subject areas for the Annual Parish Meeting next month was opened to the floor for ideas. Speeding and illegal parking (near to junctions) were suggested, with District Councillor Emma Parker giving advice on Community Speed Watch, which she is deputy of in Winterborne Whitechurch. It was commented that just wearing a hi-vis jacket, as they had done that day, had the effect of slowing traffic. It then was mused that the PC should issue £33.50 hi-vis jackets to all residents to reduce speeding. A village litter pick was also mooted as a topic. It was suggested from the floor the lack of a light on the footpath connecting Crown Court with Stileham be discussed, since "people lose their hats because of the brambles". This was declined as a possible topic and, anyway, the thorny issue of overhanging branches had already been addressed by councillors.

Ed Richards

The next meeting is the **Annual Parish Meeting** on **Wednesday 18th April** at 7.30pm.

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Male Bullfinch



Female Siskin



Male Blackcap



Male Chaffinch



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Yellowhammer



Long Tailed Tit



Pied Wagtail



Did you identify this?



The photograph in the March *Reporter* was taken from the A354 of Gray's Stores. Maureen Butler was the only person who sent in the correct answer. Try your luck this month on page 12



Cream Tea for the Wednesday Club

WE met at the Village Hall at 1.30pm on Wednesday 17th March to arrange car sharing for the drive to The Wishing Well Tea Room in Upwey, amazingly a number of us had never been there. We enjoyed lovely scones, jam and cream, washed down with plenty of cups of tea or coffee and then went outside to walk round the water gardens which are fed by a natural spring.

The wishing Wwell in the garden is a centrepiece and each year over the May Day weekend as an ancient tradition to celebrate the importance of water is marked by Dressing the Well. This involves a picture tableau made of natural materials being put onto clay covered boards which are installed on the arches by The Wishing Well and there is a parade through the village.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th April at 2.00pm in The Village Hall when Graham Watts is coming from the M.S. Society to talk to us. We are asking members and visitors, who are welcome, to bring items to sell at the meeting and the proceeds will go to the Society.

Moving on to the meeting on the 2nd May, we are going to visit The Sand Sculpture exhibition in Weymouth. We will again meet in the Village Hall car park to organise car sharing. We will be taking names of people wanting to come, at the April meeting, should you be unable to come to that you will need to book a place with Sheila Burton on 839 033.

Lis Watts

Local small-ads

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

For sale – Dog crate, dimensions are 88cm x 59cm x 65cm (height). Front and side access doors. Very good condition – £10.00. Angela Johnson 01258 83 90 60.

For sale – Child's dolls house with furniture. £30. Contact Pam on 01258 837203.

Lost for words? Do you have a letter to write, a document to type, notes to transcribe, or any other need to put something into words? For a reasonable fee, Lost For Words can take your notes from paper or audio, and turn them into a professional looking document. Please contact lostforwords@dabinetts.co.uk for more information.

Legal concerns . . . at the March WI

WE were delighted to welcome back Sarah Grant, a local solicitor who runs her own business in Dorchester, to talk to us about all things legal. With International Women's Day very much on the agenda, she reminded us of some of those things women were not allowed to do in this country 100 years ago. We were not able to become accountants and solicitors, could not hold property in the same way as men, could not sit in the House of Lords, could even be refused service for spending our own money in a pub. How times have changed!

Although Sarah's practice covers a host of legal areas, she was keen to discuss the importance of making a Will and of Lasting Powers of Attorney. Whilst a will is important to protect beneficiaries' interests after you have died, a lasting power of attorney protects your own interests while you are still alive, and can cover both finance and health. There was much lively discussion and swapping of experiences in this field. Many thanks to Sarah for a witty and informative session.

Our Spring Supper will be held on Friday 27th April at Ashley Heath Golf Club. June distributed menus, and asked for returns to be made by the date of our next meeting. For our summer outing, Jenny Preston is looking into possibilities and a date of 9th August is suggested. More details to come. The WI is to help at Camp Bestival, but not at the Dorchester Show this year. Volunteers needed – as are cakes!

The recent skittles evening was very much enjoyed by all who took part, and Lesley is to arrange a similar event during May. Shirley Dunkley summarised this month's book for Bookends members, 'Weathering' by Lucy Wood, as the story of a mother and daughter who return to the crumbling house inherited from the grandmother. With a supernatural element, and a very wet and rain-soaked atmosphere, feedback from members will be interesting.

Shirley also spoke to us about the difficulties encountered by children in Africa who are unable to access suitable sanitary provision, and so cannot attend school. Her concern is such that she intends to write to the WI's National Federation asking for information so that we can become more actively involved. We unanimously agreed to support her.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday 12th April and will include a Beetle Drive. Early notice also of an open meeting on Thursday 10th May, when Pat Garrod will give an account of his travels around the world on a motorbike. His talk, Bareback Travels, is open to anyone interested. Please come along and join us, you will be very welcome.

Pat Bull

Look out for traffic!

Latest news from the Neighbourhood plan

AT some point in early April, and helped by transport and landscape consultants, we hope to have some ideas to show you about how we can make the A354 a safer and more pleasant environment for local people getting around the village. If we can get these ideas right, this is a project that we may be able to get funding for over time - though there are no guarantees right now.

So look out for posters that will go up around the village advertising this latest consultation, for where, when and how to have your say. If you want to make sure you don't miss it, send us your email address/mobile phone number.

NPG@milbornestandrew.org.uk, or private message us from our Facebook page "Milborne St. Andrew Neighbourhood Plan".

This is the last piece of the jigsaw in the draft neighbourhood plan, which we hope to publish for your comments in June.

We are so nearly, nearly there, and all your input has been really useful in shaping the plan, so do come along to help us get it finished.

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What's on in April

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all children get an Easter egg!*

*Wednesday 4th
and continues weekly
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Our very own bike night! 6–9pm*

*Thursday 12th
Chinese Theme Night
£10.95 per head*

*Thursday 26th
Pie Night
£10.95 per head*

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