



# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 11 Issue 5

May 2019

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter facebook.com/MilborneReporter





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#### VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on

#### Saturday 25th May from 12.15 to 2.00pm

Wine (£1.00 per glass) or fruit juice Braised Pork, roast potatoes and mixed veg, bread and butter pudding and custard Mints and coffee or tea

Vegetarian and gluten free options available £7.00 per head

#### Prior booking essential by Monday 20th May

Everyone welcome young and old alike Tickets and more information available from Jenny Balcon 837121

### Allotment plot available

There is a half size allotment plot available for a Milborne resident, in the first instance. If you are interested, please contact Joy Robinson on 837661.

#### Your *Reporter* Team

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#### Copy for the next issue MUST be received by mid-day 14th May

Enquiries and copy to: msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk E-copy as .docx or .pub files, pictures as .jpg files please. Paper copy to any of the team



# Easter bonnets and cakes for Ladybirds

THANK YOU to everyone who supported Ladybirds' Easter Coffee Morning at the village hall on Saturday 13th April.

The estimate of proceeds is over £150 which will go towards replacing worn out equipment for the children. Well done to the children who entered the Easter bonnet competition



and congratulations, Aria, our winner. *Pictures by* Heather V. Hogg.





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### Britain's oldest family butchers at the April WI

THE market town of Bridport is home to the oldest \$ continually trading family business in the country. Our speaker, Richard Balson, owner of Balson & Son, took us back to 1515 and Henry VIII's reign when Robert Balson rented a RJ BALSON & SON market stall on Bridport Shambles.

BRITAIN'S OLDEST FAMILY BUTCHERS Since then the family butchery



EST. 1515

skills have been passed down through the generations to Richard himself. Their current shop dates from 1892 and was bought for £275 lock, stock and barrel. Richard can chart the progress of the business through methods of meat preservation - refrigeration taking the place of ice, pickling, salting etc; deliveries using a bike (often as far as Lyme Regis), and a horse and cart, the first job of the day being to catch the horse in the nearby field!

One of only 13 members of a tercentenarian club of businesses in Britain (over 300 years old), Balson also recently celebrated its 500th anniversary, and has been the subject of much media coverage since. Given that each year about 240,000 businesses collapse, Balson is proud of its long heritage and credits its survival to the ability to offer produce of the highest quality, along with unrivalled, old fashioned service.

Richard proved a popular and amusing speaker, fielding many questions from an interested and attentive audience, such as the rise of veganism and on-line shopping.

In Carol's absence Jill hosted the Bookends meeting, where our latest read 'Their Finest Hour', proved a popular choice. We remembered that the film of the same name had been shown at the Village Hall recently. We move on to 'My Life in Houses' by Margaret Forster.

For our annual meeting, Lesley gave a summary of the year's activities and events, Jenny thanked everyone for their continued support during the year, and Nelda went through the accounts. Peggy Fifield was welcomed as a new member.

The new committee for the coming year will include Val Andrews, Lin Chatfield, Lesley Clarke, Nelda Oakes, Jenny Preston, Jose Thomas and Lesley Wreyford. We re-elected Angela Jones as our President. Linda Wright, who has stepped down from the Committee, has given much time, effort (and ideas!) to the Committee and her contributions will be missed.

At our next meeting on Thursday 9th May we will be joined by a speaker from Longmead. We would be delighted to see you.

Pat Bull









with Maggie Moone

### MILBORNE ST ANDREW VILLAGE HALL

6pm Wednesdays Starting 1st May 2019 weekly

(one hour £5.00 Pay As You Go)

#### Like to dance? Like Latin music? What are you waiting for?

All shapes & sizes! All ages, 15 years and over! No dance experience or skills necessary! Easy, Low Impact FUN ZUMBA class!

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(Please arrive 10 minutes before your first class)

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Having seen the article regarding tennis in the 'Reporter', I would be keen to play on a regular basis.

I moved to Corner Cottage last year from Weymouth where I played regularly and think it a great idea to have a local facility in the village.

Regards. Rich Hawker. 07393 309037

New tennis contact is now Rich. So please contact him if you would like a game. He has the key to all the gear. Ed

#### Bronze Age village

Loved it, well done the team, gave us such a laugh! Just a few of the comments made after last month's article.









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# Smashing crockery, 999 and at the bar - village hall

THE toppling piles of mismatched cups and saucers will be a thing of the past as new cups and mugs have been purchased. Sue Dawson had attended a Fireline seminar and was pleased that our hall passed all the safety issues raised.

Please remember if you hire the hall to close all the doors when you leave and don't forget in the event of a fire to congregate on the MUGA and phone 999, not a village hall contact.

The bar has done particularly well last month with three events taking place; it is a good source of revenue.

Don't forget the AGM is being held on Wednesday 1st May at 7.00pm in the hall. All are welcome and we would like more people coming forward to join the committee. Linda Wright

#### Wednesday Club



AT our April meeting we were given a talk by Pauline Crump entitled "Weymouth's Founding Fathers", which was based on research undertaken by her husband, James. He had studied life there in the Mediaeval period when the area had two settlements. Melcombe and smaller Weymouth. Melcombe thrived mainly because it had been given by

Edward I to his queen, Eleanor of Castille, who was a formidable woman determined to increase her income. It was given a charter which allowed a market to be held regularly. Weymouth's charter was granted by William of Taunton, Prior of St Swithuns, Winchester, with the hope that it would develop its maritime trade. Both settlements flourished until the Black Death, and then the 100 Years War saw them decline and the two areas were then amalgamated, but still sent four MPs to Parliament.

As a newcomer to Dorset I found the talk very enlightening as I had always believed that Weymouth had come into prominence because of the patronage of George III. Fascinating!

Our next meeting will be another interesting learning curve when we visit the Fossil Museum at Kimmeridge on 1st May. If you are unsure who you are travelling with, check with Jenny 837121 or Sheila 839033. See you there! José Thomas

View the Reporter each month in colour at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index

#### The Milborne Players

FOLLOWING our "save the day" announcement for our summer production on 14th and 15th June we are pleased to now let you know that the production will be "Improbable Fiction" by Alan Ayckbourn. This play invites you to see behind closed doors what happens when a group of people from different walks of life meet to encourage each other in the one true thing they have in common, to be a writer. Of course a variety of genres are brought to the meeting but something unusual happens when somehow the characters come to life and become entwined to create what can only be described as a most improbable script of fiction. This play is a mixture of comedy, drama and mystery rolled into one. Indeed it could provoke your own creativity!

As you may be aware Alan will shortly celebrate his 80th birthday and we are pleased to once again perform one of his scripts. Tickets will soon be available from the Londis and Box Office - José Thomas 01258 839085.

Caroline Nobbs, Milborne Players

#### And a joyful sound was heard

EVERY first Sunday of the month there is a special service in St Andrew's church. It is a 'relaxed' service led by a team and unusually it starts with a breakfast. The 7th April service was very special as we had Sam's BUG crowd (Blandford Ukulele Group) join us to play their instruments to accompany our hymns and songs. The church was filled with, greater than usual, tuneful singing and music thanks to the BUGs.



All who came enjoyed 'bacon butties', croissants, bread and marmalade as well as hot or cold drinks before the service started. There was a lot of chatting and a lovely atmosphere. The church 'rocked' to tunes which include 'Love, Love, Love' and 'Lord of the Dance'.



We all enjoyed it very much and thanked Sam and the BUG members for their enthusiastic playing and hope that they will be able to join us again one Sunday in the future.

Anyone is welcome to join our Celebrate Service on the first Sunday of the month which starts at 9.15am - do come along and Pam Shults join in.



Local contact: Cate Tel 837208/0774 3953837 I can collect if that's easier - please call by 5 May if possible.



# THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE AND MILBORNE WITH DEWLISH

MILBORNE WITH DEWLISH

PART OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE DIOCESE OF SALISBURY



#### All Shall be Well

Churches around the world celebrate important events and aspects of Jesus's life. They also set aside particular days for remembering Christians of the past who have made an impact with their faith or set an example that is worth following.

On 8th May, many Christians recall the life of Julian of Norwich. It may not seem that a 14th-century woman has much to teach us today. But many people still find her writings immensely helpful.

Julian lived in solitude, in a cell which you can still see if you visit Norwich. She spent time in prayer and fasting. The city experienced many hardships during Julian's time: the Black Death devastated its population, the Peasants' Revolt affected many parts of England and people often went hungry. Medicine was primitive.

On 8th May 1373, Julian appeared to be on her deathbed. She was preparing to meet her Maker, when she received some astonishing visions from God.

Julian recovered and shortly afterwards wrote her visions down in what is believed to be the earliest book written by a woman in English. She continued to ponder what she had experienced, and twenty years later wrote a second book, which as well as the visions themselves included her thoughts and meditations on them. It is these, published as *Revelations of Divine Love*, that still bring spiritual sustenance to people today.

At the heart of what Julian received from God was an overwhelming sense of God's love. She and her fellow citizens had suffered much, but in spite of that she believed that it was the love of God that was paramount. In her words: "From the time these things were first revealed I had often wanted to know what was our Lord's meaning. It was more than 15 years after that I was answered in my spirit's understanding. You would know our Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Hold on to this and you will know and understand love more and more. But you will not know or learn anything else—ever."

There is suffering in our world — it is part of the brokenness that arises from a world of choice and allowing the possibility of evil — but Julian knew in her heart that ultimately when things are in God's hands: "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

Those words, her most famous, have brought comfort and hope to many.

Perhaps there is something in them that might help you too, if you are finding life hard at this time.

With best wishes

### **Updated News from St Andrew's**

As many of you may be aware, I was not in Dorset for much of March as I was caring for my sister who lives in Scotland. So, John Wright has kindly written the following to let you all know what happened in St Andrew's during March.

Pam Shults, Churchwarden

#### St. Andrew's supports WaterAid

During Lent we had a talk by David Stokes about his work for WaterAid in Madagascar. The water company he works for supports projects on that very poor island to bring clean water and better health to remote villages. We hope that when the money collected in the 'Jars for Change' is counted we can forward a good donation to the charity. With our plentiful clean water on tap we don't experience the health, food and education problems that arise without it.

#### A history lesson about Milton Abbey

Also, in March we welcomed Helier Exon, trustee of Milton Abbey, to tell us about the development of Milton Abbey during the last 1,500 years. I think we were all fascinated by the story, and dwelt on it for a long time with tea and cake afterwards, provided by the Events Committee.

#### Poor attendance at the Annual Church Meeting

Eleven members attended the meeting after Sunday service and re-elected Pam as churchwarden and last year's members of the PCC apart from José who did not seek

# Church Services May 2019

#### 5th May - Easter 3

| 9.30am | Parish Communion    | Tolpuddle    |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|
| 9.30   | Celebrate           | Milborne     |
| 11.00  | Parish Communion    | Puddletown   |
| 11.00  | 1662 Morning Prayer | Dewlish      |
| 4.00pm | Messy Church        | Milborne     |
|        |                     | Village Hall |

#### 12th May - Easter 4

| 8.15am | 1662 Said Communion      | Puddletown |
|--------|--------------------------|------------|
| 9.30   | United Methodist Service | Topuddle   |
| 9.30   | Parish Communion         | Milborne   |
| 11.00  | Puddletown Praise        | Puddletown |
| 11.00  | Parish Communion         | Dewlish    |

#### THURSDAY 16th May

12 noon Lunch-time Communion Puddletown

#### 19th May - Easter 5

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

#### 26th May - Easter 6

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

#### ASCENSION DAY - Thursday 30th May

6.30am Morning Prayer Dewlish on hill by mast 6.00pm Holy Communion Puddletown

### Morning Prayers (Monday to Thursday 8.15am Saturday 9.00am)

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

Saturday – Puddletown

#### **Church Contacts**

Rev Rosie Coldwell 01258 839214

#### Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

#### Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466 Sue Britton 01258 837218

#### **Benefice Office**

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

#### Do you need a lift to church?

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

Please contact Pam on 837203.

re-election. There were insufficient members of the PCC present to elect the secretary and treasurer so that will have to wait until the PCC meeting in May, but we don't expect any changes!

#### Church finances

There was concern at the annual meeting about the high cost of maintaining our church building. The figures for the recently completed roof repairs show the problem. The lowest builder's quote for repairing one half of the chancel roof (about 1/9th of the whole roof) plus the tower roof and some work on a churchyard wall was about £41,500. The good news was that we could claim back the VAT. The bad news was that we also had to pay our architect's fees for planning and supervising the work - over £11,500. So where did the money come from? The Church of England may be 'rich' but most of its money is tied up in buildings. many of them Grade 1 Listed. So, no help from our diocese. What about the collections taken at services? Well, those plus the regular donations from our members don't add up to more than about three quarters of the amount that we have to pay the diocese each month (£1,250) to cover their costs; most of that is paying the priests' stipends (salaries).

Our Events Committee does a great job organising fund raising events for the church (about £2,000 last year) but most had to be found elsewhere. Fortunately, there are three charities that give grants for building repairs (Erskine Muton, National Churches Trust and Dorset Historic Churches Trust) who between them were able to give us £22,500, and we were able to get a grant of £26,500 from Viridor's landfill waste disposal fund, leaving us to find the last £4,000. Next time we need help Viridor will not be able to help us though, as they have closed the landfill site that qualified us for a

We are not alone with this problem. Rural churches everywhere are struggling to make ends meet, but the good news is that those villages where the whole community wants to keep their church running has a good chance of doing so, so we hope you agree!

John Wright Treasurer to the PCC St. Andrew's Church

#### **Dewlish Church Notes**

ASCENSION Day is on Thursday 30th May and, as usual, Jim will be leading a short service at the top of Greenways, by the TV mast, at 6.30am. We are hoping for good weather but should it be raining the service will be held in the church. We look forward to seeing all you early risers!

We are busy making plans for our Open Gardens Weekend on 22nd and 23rd June. Several gardens will be open between 2.00pm and 6.00pm each day, and refreshments will be available from Dewlish Village Hall but served in the front garden of Manor Farmhouse (by kind permission of Vicky and Andrew) - provided it is fine, the alternative being the Village Hall.

On the Saturday we are holding a concert in the church with music provided by the Dorset String Quartet who will be playing light classical pieces and music from the shows. Tickets (in advance) will be £10, and this will include a drink and light refreshments at half-time. Full details will be included in next month's Reporter. We look forward to seeing you. All money raised will be used to pay for the repairs to our church window.

On Saturday 11th May we are holding a **Sale for Christian Aid** in the Village Hall from 10.30am to 12 noon. Again, this will run alongside the Community Coffee Morning. There will be stalls and a raffle besides refreshments. For further information and donations, please contact Mrs Margaret Groves (Tel: 01258 837617). Do come along and support this worthwhile cause. Daphne Burg

Deadline for the June Reporter is 14th May. Please send copy via e-mail to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team.

#### The Vicar's Sabbatical

AS we announced last month, Sarah Hillman is on sabbatical from the beginning of May to the beginning of August. She will be living in Pudddletown for much of the time and will welcome a chat if you see her, but she will not be undertaking any parish or benefice duties. For most church matters please contact one of the churchwardens or Emma, the benefice administrator. If you need to speak to a member of the clergy, then please contact the Revd Rosie Coldwell on 01258 839214.

#### **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 on 01258 880044.

#### Sunday 5th May - 2.00pm Tolpuddle

Meet outside the Martyrs' Inn, Tolpuddle. Grid reference: SY 795945 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 4.5 miles)

#### Wednesday 15th May - 11.00am **Abbotsbury and Ashley Chase**

Meet at the lay-by on the Bishop's Road, NE of Abbotsbury, where the SW coastal path crosses this road. Grid reference: SY 588866 on Explorer Sheet OL15 (approx. 6.5 miles) Bring a packed lunch.

#### Sunday 2nd June - 2.00pm Southover Heath, near Affpuddle

Meet at parking area on Waddock Drove (road from Affpuddle to Crossways) Grid reference: SY 804924 on OS Explorer Sheet OL15 (approx. 4.5 miles)

#### Please note:

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

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

Bring Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

We go at the pace of the slowest.

Terrain Expect mud, inclines and stiles.

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# Milborne Movies are showing

On Friday 10th May in Milborne St Andrew Village Hall Doors and bar open 7.00, film starts 7.30pm

MELISSA McCarthy shines in this clever action-comedy showcase provided by writer and director Paul Feig. She plays an unassuming, deskbound CIA analyst who is the unsung hero behind the Agency's most dangerous missions. When her partner (Jude Law) falls off the grid and another top agent (Jason Statham) is compromised, she volunteers to go deep undercover to infiltrate the world of a deadly arms dealer, and prevent a global disaster.

Melissa McCarthy and Jason Statham work wonderfully together in this fun spoof of the spy film genre. McCarthy is hilarious, and Statham's deadpan delivery never misses. Rose Byrne as a glamourous villain is also very good. Be warned, the humour is quite broad at times - but there are lots of laughs and we all need those!

#### Frog life cycle and planting at Ladybirds

The children have been learning about growth this month, planting seeds and studying tadpoles.

The older children planted peas in pots. There were two pots to fill and the children decided one was going to be the girls and the other the boys. They filled the pots with compost, listened to how deep to put the seeds, then covered them over before watering them. When asked how we would know which pot was which one child decided they needed labels. So labels are on the pots and sticks laid across to prevent anyone digging up the peas. We really hope these peas grow - both boys and girls ones - or there will be some disappointed children!

Potatoes have also been planted in a sack after standing on a window sill until shoots looked healthy. With careful handling they were placed on compost in the bag and covered over with more compost. Hopefully we will enjoy a healthy snack of new potatoes and peas in July.



We thought we would show children frog spawn and watch it change tadpoles unfortunately left it too late and all the frogspawn had already changed. A containing tub tadpoles created



much interest with lots of questions asked, including 'what do tadpoles eat?' With the use of Google we discovered that we could feed the tadpoles on cucumber! So each day the children have cut slices of cucumber and cut the peal off - because tadpoles don't eat peal! - and fed the tadpoles. And would you believe it, yes they did eat it.

The topic extended and the children did some wonderful work on the life cycle of the frog some of which is on the display board in the Hall.

Liz Dyer

# Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

#### Learning through play to help children achieve their potential

#### Opening times:

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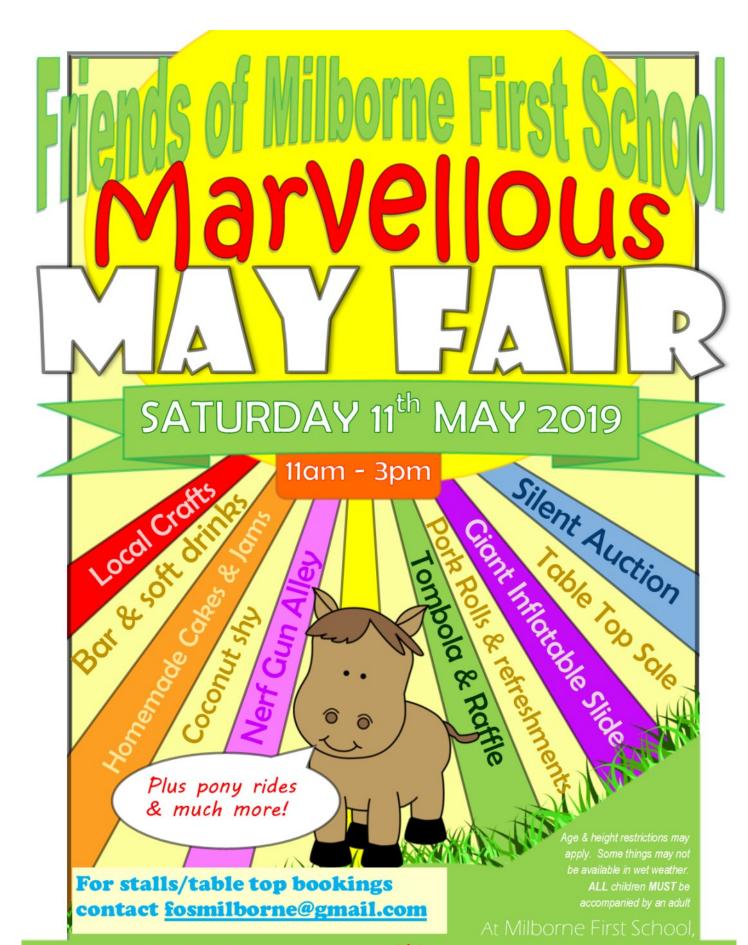
#### To find out more:

Call in to see us at the village hall or contact Liz Dyer (Leader) on 01258 839117; 07771 512427; liz@milborneladybirds.com Committee on secretary@milborneladybirds.com

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### May Fair set to be a Marvellous day!

THIS month sees the return of the popular 'Marvellous May Fair' in the grounds of Milborne First School and this year's event looks set to be bigger and better than ever! There will be loads of attractions from pony rides to a giant bouncy slide, silent auction to craft stalls and, new for this year, a table top sale. The fair will take place on Saturday 11th May and the fun starts at 11.00am until 3.00pm.

There will be all the things you'd hope for at a May Fair -hot food (pulled pork rolls and a veggie option), cakes, tea, coffee and ice creams - and a licensed bar

The pony rides will be a big draw for lots of youngsters, who'll get the chance to be led around part of the school field.



The ponies are being brought courtesy of Terri Cook, of Luccombe Riding Stables in Milton Abbas. At other attractions you'll be able to test your sharp-shooting skills at the Nerf gun gallery and try to knock down as many targets as possible. The giant bouncy slide has proved very popular in recent years and it will be ready for daredevil sliding as soon as the gates open.

There are lots to bid on in the silent auction, from cricket tickets at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton to a climbing session for four at the amazing Rock Reef in Bournemouth. There are also family tickets for the Midsummer Music festival, flume fun at Splash Down, the Tank Museum, Farmer Palmers, Compton Acres, Abbotsbury Swannery and Longdown Activity Farm, and a pair of tickets for the Great Dorset Steam Fair. The auction takes place throughout the fair and bidders write the amount they wish to bid against any of the lots. If a higher bid is made by another, you can raise your original to try to win it back. There is also plenty of food and drink vouchers to try to win, including Hall and Woodhouse, Walnut Grove, The Drax Arms, fish and chips both at Milborne and San Telmo, Dorchester and a cream tea at The Horse with the Red Umbrella. At present, it's



unknown whether a gym session is up for auction, but it could be a good idea!

A table top sale is a new addition for this year's fair, so if you like rummage, come along! **Bookings** are being taken for pitches and there may still be some available. If you'd

to have some selling space then please contact fosmilborne@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Lots of other attractions and stalls will be making the fair a great occasion, including local craft stalls, handmade candles, illustrated prints, children's gifts, plants and more. When you're all shopped out, enjoy a cup of tea and cake or a delicious pulled pork roll and soft drink - or something a little stronger at the bar. Entry to the fair is £1 for adults, free entry for children. All proceeds from the day will go to Friends of School which will help fund activities and resources for the First School children. Friends of School



# A reminder to register to book appointments and order your repeat medication online

WITH the NHS moving more to online services, we would like to invite our patients who are able to access new technologies to request access to the online system to allow you to appointments or order repeat medication. To register please speak to reception; you will be required to bring identification before a password can be issued and you will need to collect this in person from the surgery; it only takes a moment. If you need help to log on please call the surgery on 01300 341666 or pop in and someone will be happy to help you.

The more people that routinely use on line services the better, as this allows us more time to help those who have more urgent

#### May Bank Holiday hours

The surgery will be closed on both of the Bank Holidays on Monday 6th May and Monday 27th May.

#### Long Term Condition recall system

Our Long Term Condition recall system is now operational and if you have a condition such as diabetes, asthma, COPD, high blood pressure or heart disease you will usually be called in the month of your birthday by text, phone or letter. Regular monitoring enables us to provide the best possible care we can to you. We would strongly advise you attend even if you are currently feeling well.

Gillian Brindle Practice Business Manager

# ABBEY SWIMMING CLUB

We are a social club run entirely by volunteers, For less than £2 a week you can swim 3 times a week in a 25m pool. Any age welcome.

Fiendishly fit. hoping to be or you just enjoy a swim. Come along to a session for a FREE trial swim.



Tuesday 6.45pm - 8.30pm Saturday 10am - Noon Sunday 8am - 9am



#### We need Lifeguards

Become an RLSS qualified Lifeguard in return for club membership

We provide all training, includes First Aid and CPR Course suitable for anyone who is reasonably fit





For further information about membership or what is involved in becoming a Lifeguard come along to one of our sessions at the Pool, Milton Abbey School or contact us by telephone or email.

Call: 01258 881443 - Lynn or 881524 - Stephen or 880601 - Pat Email: lynntargett47@gmail.com

# **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

| More information about m                                     | nany community org       | anisations can               | be found on www.mi                      |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Co   | DUNCILS                  |                              | Football – Under 14s                    |
| North Dorset District Councillor                             | Emma Parker              | 01258 881631                 | Manager/c                               |
|  | Jane Somper              | 077103 95359                 | Treasurer                               |
| Parish Council – Dewlish                                     | Clerk: Sandra Sims       | 01258 837132                 | Football – Veterans                     |
|  | Chair: Andrew Booth      | 01258 837284                 | Skittles – Dewlish                      |
| Parish Council –   | Clerk: Colin Hampton     | 01258 837011                 | Sports & Social Club                    |
| Milborne St. Andrew  | Chair: Joy Robinson      | 01258 837661                 |   |
|  |                          |                              | Tap Dancing for Adults                  |
| <b>Floods</b> A354 problems contact t                        | the Highways Agency      | 03001 235000                 | Tennis                                  |
| Dorset Direct  |                          | 01305 221000                 | Yoga (at school)                        |
| dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk v                               | vww.dorsetforyou.com/    |                              | Yoga (at Sports & Social (              |
| reportroadproblems   |                          | 02450 001100                 | Yoga (at Village Hall)                  |
| Environment Agency Floodline<br>South West Highways hello@sw | whited co. u.k           | 03459 881188<br>01404 821500 |   |
| Wessex Water Sewerage Floodl                                 |                          | 03458 505959                 | Dewlish                                 |
| MSA Flood Warden, Non-Emerg                                  |                          |                              | Chair:                                  |
| _  |                          | 01200 000000                 | Booking Secretary:                      |
| GENER  | ral – Adult              |                              | Milborne St. Andrew                     |
| Moonlight Swing Band   | Gillian Pink             | 01305 260731                 | Chairman:                               |
| M.A. Neighbourcar  | Nigel Hodder             | 01258 470333                 | <b>Booking Secretary:</b>               |
| Wednesday Social Club  | Sheila Burton            | 01258 839033                 |   |
| Women's Institute  | Lesley Clarke            | 01929 471732                 |   |
| GENER  | AL — YOUTH               |                              | Bere Regis Surgery                      |
| Ladulainda (Dlavanava)                                       | Lin Duna                 | 01250 020117                 | Milborne St. Andrew Sur                 |
| Ladybirds (Playgroup) Scout Group (Secretary)                | Liz Dyer<br>Brian Burton | 01258 839117<br>01258 839033 | Milton Abbas Surgery Puddletown Surgery |
| Under 5's Group – The Busy Bee                               |                          | 07970 734162                 | NHS for non-emergencie                  |
| Youth Club age 8 – 13 years                                  | Joanne Miller            | 07940 017577                 | Patient Voice Secretary                 |
|  |                          |                              |   |
| Г  | POLICE                   |                              | <b>A</b>                                |
| Police – Non-emergency contac                                | t                        | 101                          | Milborne Movie                          |
| Community Beat Officer                                       | PC Dave Mullins          | 101                          | at the Village Ha                       |
| Safer Neighbourhood Team                                     | PC Dave Mullins and      | 101                          | on the BIG scree                        |
| Hama watah Ca andinatan                                      | PCSO Luke Goddard        | 101                          | Viridor                                 |
| Home watch Co-ordinator                                      | Joy Robinson             | 01258 837661                 | Supported by CREDITS                    |
| S  | CHOOL                    |                              | FROM WRITER & DIRECTOR PAUL FEIG TH     |
| Milborne First School  |                          |                              |   |
| Headteacher:   | Sharon Hunt              | 01258 837362                 |   |
| Chair Governors:   | Matt Way                 |                              |   |
| Friends of School Chair:                                     | Caroline Richards        |                              |   |
| SPECIA   | AL INTEREST              |                              | 9                                       |
| Bellringers  | Pip Bowell               | 01258 837329                 |   |
| Bridge Group   | Laurie Benn              | 01258 837720                 |   |
| Cribbage   | Peter Anthony            | 01258 837089                 |   |
| Dog Training Behaviour                                       | Natasja Lewis            | 07896 275357                 | -117                                    |
| Food and Wine Society  | Julie Johannsen          | 01258 839004                 | MELISSA MCGARTHY JAS                    |
| MSA Allotment Society Chair:                                 | Joy Robinson             | 01258 837661                 |   |
| Secretary:   | Anna Cullen              | 01258 837143                 |   |
| MSA Gardening Club   | Ann Guy                  | 01258 837131                 |   |
| Milborne Players Round Robin Ramblers                        | Roy Sach<br>Ian Bromilow | 01258 837033<br>01258 880044 |   |
| Tai Chi  | Brian Burton             | 01258 839033                 |   |
| Village History Group  | Pam Shults               | 01258 837203                 |   |
|  | SPORT                    | _                            |   |
|  |                          |                              |   |
| Abbey Swimming Club  | Pat Cowan                | 01258 880601                 |   |
| Archers – Crossways Athletics – Information                  | Sheila Ryall             | 01258 837504                 |   |
| Auneucs – imormation   | David Pearson            | 01258 837057                 |   |

David Payne

**Grace Martin** 

Claire Barratt

Elaine Kellaway

01258 837700

01305 213885

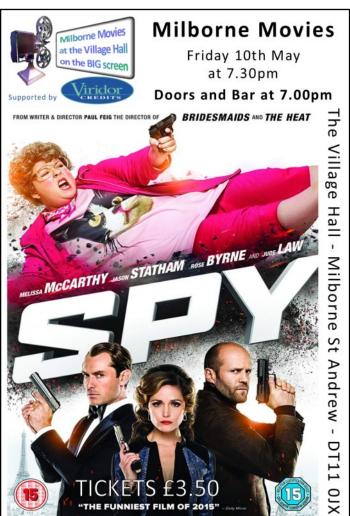
01258 837696

07703 648869

| Football – Under 14s           |                        |       |        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------|
| Manager/coach                  | Andy Brown             | 07427 | 503373 |
| Treasurer                      | Simon Buckingham       | 01258 | 839122 |
| Football – Veterans            | Paul David             | 07841 | 506839 |
| Skittles – Dewlish             | Simon Ross             | 01258 | 837606 |
| Sports & Social Club           | Chairman: Richard Lock | 01258 | 837929 |
|                                | Bookings: Richard Lock | 01258 | 837929 |
| Tap Dancing for Adults         | Kevin Selby            | 01305 | 250386 |
| Tennis                         | Rich Hawker            | 07393 | 309037 |
| Yoga (at school)               | Sue Chapman            | 01305 | 848053 |
| Yoga (at Sports & Social Club) | Saira Francis          | 01258 | 880505 |
| Yoga (at Village Hall)         | Sarah Ryan             | 01258 | 839230 |
| VILLA                          | age Hall               |       |        |
| Dewlish                        |                        |       |        |
| Chair:                         | Bernie Cosgrove        | 01258 | 837152 |
| Booking Secretary:             | Margaret Groves        | 01258 | 837617 |
| Milborne St. Andrew            | -                      |       |        |
| Chairman:                      | Pam Shults             | 01258 | 837203 |
| Booking Secretary:             | Alison Riddle          | 01258 | 837148 |
| 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   |        |

Nigel Hodder

01258 880229



Badminton

Circuit training

Pilates (school)

Cricket – Dewlish

# **Community Events Diary**

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

May

Wednesday 1st Village Hall AGM 7.00pm.

Wednesday 1st Wednesday Club visit to Fossil Museum at

Kimmeridge – see page 7.

Wednesday 1st Zumba first class Village Hall 6.00pm – see advert

on page 5.

Thursday 2nd **Dorset Council Elections** Vote at Village Hall

Committee Room 7.00am to 10.00pm.

Sunday 5th Messy Church Milborne Village Hall 4.00pm. Wednesday 8th History Group The Royal Oak 7.30pm all welcome

see page 23.

Thursday 9th WI will be joined by a speaker from Longmead. -

see page 5.

Friday 10th Milborne Movies 'Spy' Village Hall doors open

7.00pm for 7.30pm start - see pages 9 and 14.

Saturday 11th May Fair Milborne First School 11.00am to 3.00pm

- see advert page 11.

Sale for Christian Aid Dewlish Village Hall 10.30am Saturday 11th

to 12 noon. This will run alongside the Community

Coffee Morning - see page 9.

Tuesday 14th Mid-day deadline for the next issue of the

Reporter. Send copy via e-mail to

msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of

the team. Team members can be found on page 2.

Saturday 18th **Gardening Club Plant Sale and Coffee Morning Village** 

Hall 10.00am to 12.30pm - see pages 17 and 21. Saturday 25th Village Lunch Village Hall 12.15pm to 2.00pm £7

per head – see page 2 for menu.

#### Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

Ladybirds Playgroup Monday-Friday 8.30am-1.00pm MH (term time only)

Beavers Monday 5.00-6.30pm MH (term time only)

Players Monday 8.00-10.00pm MH

ABC Line Dancers Tuesday 7.30-10.00pm MH Wednesday Club first Wednesday 2.00-4.00pm MH

Zumba Wednesday 6.00pm 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 every fourth Wednesday 7.30pm 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

Kickboxing Monday evenings 4.45-5.30pm Kanga (guide ages 5-8), 5.30-6.30pm Stripes (guide ages 9-13), 6.30-7.30pm ladies class, 7.30-8.30pm all ages and abilities. Contact Nikki Rich on 07752 199409. Tai Chi Tuesday mornings 9.30am run by Geoffrey Bellinger. Local contact Brian Burton 839033.

The Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30-11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Claire Tudge on 07970 734162.

Nightsabre Dog Training Behaviour and Rally Group. Tuesday mornings; Wednesday evenings; Saturday mornings. Contact details 01305 849221.

Yoga (Mellulah) Thursday (evening): Friday (mornings).

Boxing style fitness Friday 12noon–1.00pm. Contact Nikki Rich on 07752 199409.

Ballet style fitness Friday 1.00-2.00pm. Contact Nikki Rich on 07752 199409

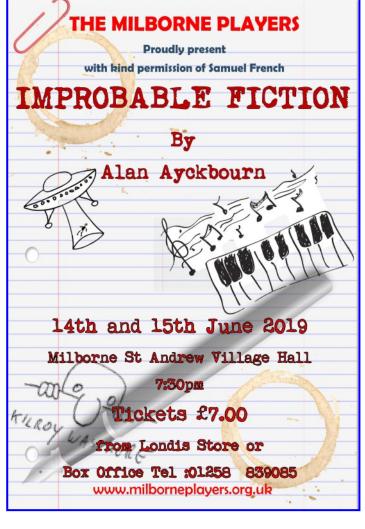
**Private parties, birthdays, wedding** receptions check online calendar. U14 Football matches check online calendar.

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





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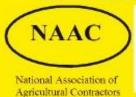
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### Family-friendly festival at **Bulbarrow**

THE family-friendly Dorset Midsummer Music Festival will be bringing great sounds to the beautiful valley of Warren Farm, Bulbarrow, next month. The range of music includes Badger Boys, Ellie Timlin, Grafitti Classics, Lionstar, Mission Impossible and Nina Garcia to name a few. The event starts on Friday 21th June and runs until the Sunday, with camping available on site.

As a family festival, there's a variety of children's entertainment in the day including Jamie Jigsaw with his circus tricks, hula hoops workshops, arts and crafts and face painting. For grown-ups there are a range of stalls to browse, including Jillyflower jewellery, art from Marilyn Allis and Me and You clothing, Namaste offering henna tattoos and handmade soaps. There's even a Holistic Zone for those who want to take a moment to relax.

To keep the energy levels up, there's an amazing selection of food and drinks including Cerne Abbas beer and award winning Langham sparkling wines.

You don't even have to feel guilty about having fun, money raised goes to maintaining three historic churches dating back nearly 1,000 years and also Weldmar Hospicecare, a charity providing speciality care for people living in Dorset.

For more information and to book your tickets along with camping, visit www.midsummermusic.co.uk

#### **Come and Sing Day** Two Glorias: Vivaldi and Rutter

#### Saturday 15th June 2019

At Broadstone United Reformed Church BH18 9AG Registration 10.30am ends 4.00pm Advance Booking please. £15 adults £5 students (music and refreshments provided)

See www.dorsetchamberchoir.com for registration form or call 01305 848053



Blackthorn in Church Hill on a sunny Sunday morning

### **Gardening Club – Annual Plant Sale** and Coffee Morning

The Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club will be hosting its annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning at the Village Hall on Saturday 18th May, doors open at 10.00am (free entry) and close at 12.30pm. Following the success of last year's sale, we aim to make this year's event even better. There will be a range of

shrubs, annuals, succulents, perennials, herbs, fruits and vegetables, all available at unbeatable prices.

There will be a chance to win a prize in our raffle and when you need to take a break, you'll be able to chill with a generous slice of homemade cake and a drink, again at prices that just leave you smiling. So do come along and 'fill yer boots' (car boots that is) with a range of great value plants. See you there! Mark Johnson

### From the Head's Study at Milton **Abbey School**

TWO terms into my tenure as Head at Milton Abbey School, my husband, Gregory, and I are thoroughly enjoying our new life in Dorset, having been welcomed warmly both



by the School and the wider community. From the wonderful Historical Association First World War Centenary exhibition to the lovely Christmas Day service at St. James' Church, visits to Steve at the fantastic Steeptonbill farm shop, to say nothing of some excellent meals at the Hambro Arms, we have so enjoyed our early days in this truly beautiful part of the world.

I am thoroughly enjoying working with a really dedicated and expert staff; the groundsman who tend our pitches so expertly, the cleaners in what has seemed an endless battle with mud, to the teachers who come up with such creative ideas for bringing their subjects alive. Milton Abbey School is a transformational place in which young people build confidence. Some of our students find learning particularly challenging; others simply welcome the many benefits of a small school in which they can know everyone and be really well known. In this magazine, I probably do not need to extol the virtues of growing up in a school which is a 'village' rather than a 'city'.

Among the areas of school life to which I am deeply committed is our connection with the community; our pupils can be found in many local organisations, from schools to charity projects. If you know of a project where a helping hand or two could make all the difference, please do be in touch.

On the subject of contact, please do let me know immediately if you ever have any concerns about the behaviour or impact of our pupils. While they are on the whole fantastic ambassadors for our school, no group of more than 200 teenagers will always get it right and we would really value any feedback that will help us ensure they are their best selves! We will shortly be advertising a new post of Estates and Operations Manager which we hope will be filled by the end of term; meanwhile please contact Deputy Head, Matthew Wey, on any practical matters.

While visiting Old Boys tell me that the heart of the place remains the same, much has changed at Milton Abbey School, as we ready our pupils for the challenges of 21st century life. If it has been a while since you visited, contact my PA, Georgie Woolgar, on 01258 881803, and she will arrange a time for us to meet over tea and one of the kitchen's excellent cakes. I know you will enjoy seeing our fantastic young people in action and I look forward to meeting you.

Judith Fremont-Barnes



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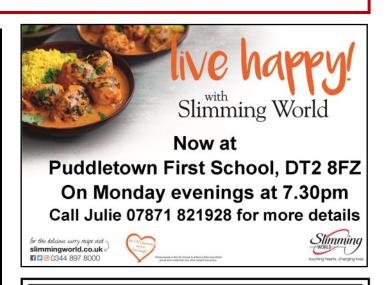
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# Gerry's Plants

Shrubs. Perennials Summer & Winter **Bedding & Baskets** Vegetable Plants in Season

> Come and see them at: 12 The Rings, Milborne St Andrew Telephone: 01258 837386

George Legg tells us about Bertie, his dwarf lop rabbit BERTIE has been with me since 2012 when I adopted him from a work colleague who was moving home. They had called him Betty but I had my suspicions when he kept doing what rabbits do! The vet confirmed



my thoughts and he has been my friend ever since. Initially he lived outside in a hutch but now he is a confirmed house rabbit!

Bertie has a small hutch in the kitchen and is extremely clean. He loves football and has great pleasure and spends many hours, day and night, pushing his ball around the house and is very adept at working out how to get his ball out of tight

corners. He eats vegetables and dried food, with his favourite being mini corn on the cob.

He loves the snow and last year happily ran around the garden pushing the snow with his nose. He thinks he's a dog and follows me





own! He has kept me company all the time my wife has worked abroad so he is pretty special to me - he doesn't mind me complaining! He got a lovely Christmas present of a huge carrot from Hadley, our neighbour's daughter.

What a lucky bunny! Thanks, George, for telling us about Bertie! If you want to see your pet on this page in a future edition then please get in touch! You can email msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk, see a member of the team or message us via Facebook.

## Yoga in Milborne

Yoga class on Thursdays in term time in the Village Hall, 1.30 – 2.45pm

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

For information ring

Sarah Ryan on 01258 839230

or email saryan6630@gmail.com Yoga teacher, trainer, therapist

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# rote Ho

1CP 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 OJG. Website: www.heathcotehouse.co.uk



### Dorset care homes open their doors in 'Open House' month

THREE Dorset care homes are encouraging members of the community to find out more about residential and nursing care by hosting a monthlong 'Open House'.

The homes, which belong to the Healthcare Homes Group, are participating in the groupwide initiative, opening their doors to the local community to help people understand more about care services in their local area.

Throughout May, members of the public are encouraged to pop in to Blandford Grange nursing home in Blandford Forum to speak with residents and staff and gain information on choosing the right care home.

People can pop in at any time where they will receive a friendly welcome, refreshments, and the chance to have any questions on care answered.

Group Regional Director Elena Alexe confirms, "We welcome visitors to our homes at any time, but throughout May we want to make a real effort to encourage members of the local community to come and see us to find out more about the services available in their area.

"Our homes are so much more than simply 'residential care'. Our services are completely person-centred, designed around individuals, and we hope to demonstrate this to visitors to help them understand what can be available to them when choosing the right care setting for a relative or loved one. Our teams will give help and advice on questions to ask and things to look for when visiting prospective homes and our residents will enjoy talking to people about life inside their homes."

For more information, visit www.healthcarehomes.co.uk or call the home on the following number: Blandford Grange – 01258 458214.

# This Month

with MILBORNE ST ANDREW
GARDENING CLUB



### MASSIVE Annual Plant Sale

Plants 4 Sale + Coffee morning

SATURDAY 18th May



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#### **Dorchester Now and Then**

#### A talk organised by Milborne St Andrew History Group

WHAT an interesting evening we had listening to Brian Bates as he related some history and stories about buildings, people and events in old Dorchester. His talk was illustrated with photos of old Dorchester and of the same streets or buildings at the present time. He kept us enthralled for over an hour and was able to answer questions.



Although Brian was born and raised in London, he arrived in Dorchester in the '70's

and obviously his love for history started his quest for knowledge about Dorchester and Fordington. He delivers several different talks which relate to history of various aspects of Dorchester and Dorset.

He donates any fees he is given to charity. We hope to ask him to speak to the history group in the future.

The next History Group meeting will be in The Royal Oak again starting at 7.30pm when we will further discuss and plan the creation of a Milborne St. Andrew History booklet. All are welcome, especially anyone who has local or historical knowledge. *Pam Shults* 

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# Care homes, Trading Standards and your consumer rights

Choosing a care home for yourself or another person is a very important and often emotional decision. Moving to a different care home if the first one isn't right could be a big upheaval, so you need to be confident that you have all the information you need to choose the right home.

You have consumer rights regardless of whether you pay all the costs of your care or whether some or all of the costs are paid for by the local authority or another organisation. Knowing these rights help people make informed decisions when choosing a care home. Your consumer rights can also help ensure you are fairly treated and protected if things go wrong.

The Competition and Markets Authority have recently contacted all care home providers who provide care for older people with advice to help those providers better understand and meet their obligations under consumer law. This advice includes:

- Upfront information providing people with information needed to make informed choices, in the right way and time;
- Treating residents fairly terms and conditions and the way people are treated must be fair;
- Quality of service providing services with reasonable care and skill;
- Complaints any complaints handling procedure should be easy to find and use, be fair and effective.

Further detailed information can be found at www.gov.uk/ government/publications/care-homes-short-guide-to-consumer-rightsfor-residents

Care homes which don't meet their obligations might be in breach of consumer law and could face enforcement action by local Trading Standards Services or the CMA.

If you don't think you are being treated fairly, or think a care home is breaking consumer law, you can contact the Citizens Advice national consumer helpline on 03454 040506. As well as giving you advice, the consumer helpline can pass information about complaints on to Trading Standards to investigate.

#### Camelco site finally on the drawing board

APRIL'S Parish Council meeting once again had housing plans on the agenda with an outline application put forward for the Camelco site, opposite the Milborne Business Centre. The proposal is for 61 homes with business and community units, including a pre-school nursery, although the application concerned only the vehicular access of the development. The plan detailed two road entrances; one at the existing opening on Lane End, and a new access on the A354 opposite the business centre. Cllr Macnair suggested that the PC should be clear in supporting the plan since it was the preferred option of the Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) following consultation with residents. The PC agreed to the application but noted that further conversation would be needed once the full application is made, particularly around parking provision.

Cllr Macnair provided feedback from a meeting with the District Council that focussed on the use of future funding provided by developers' obligations by way of 'Section 106' payments. The PC has previously discussed possible uses of money triggered by the Huntley Down development, with Cllr Macnair stressing that key areas of the Neighbourhood Plan need to be followed, the priority being traffic calming within the village and, with the Camelco site in mind, provision of pre-school care. A number of other possible uses were mentioned but he made clear that "avoidance of white elephants" was crucial, with an ongoing funding strategy paramount.

An application that was originally heard at March's PC was discussed again since more detail had been provided. The plan for a house and garage on Manor Farm Lane had been amended to include a greater degree of parking, which was appreciated by councillors. The PC agreed it had 'no comment' to make regarding the application.

District Councillor, Emma Parker, addressed the meeting since it will be her last before elections are held in May in the newly devised wards. She gave "huge thanks" to councillors for their service and working with her. She said, "It has been a privilege to help people in the area in which I grew up".

Cllr Smith reported back from the Dorset and Association of Town and Parish Councils (DATPC) he had recently attended. Their agenda included discussing the relationship between the new county council and the smaller parish council. The DATPC also said that the 'top road' to Shaftesbury would be out of action until July now.

On the subject of roads, clerk, Colin Hampton, had a letter from the organisers of the Macmillan Cancer bike ride, which is routed through Milborne on Sunday 7th July. Cllr Macnair asked Mr Hampton to ensure that the event organisers take down their signage promptly after the ride, especially those made from plastic.

Disposal of laptops was then discussed as the clerk now has a new computer for PC work, but still has two old laptops that are unusable. One may be of use to Ladybirds playgroup to use in role play, with the other suggested as a donation to charity, organised by a resident.

Questions from the floor then were asked, the first being, "Any news on the dog bins?!" This was a reference to the ongoing communication breakdown between the PC and Dorset Waste Partnership. Clerk, Colin Hampton has emailed Operations Manager, Ian Brewer a number of times in previous months to get a new bin fitted in place of a lid-less and rusty one at the bottom of Church Hill, but has not received a reply. The *Reporter* will contact Mr Brewer for comment.

Also in a poor condition is the repair to the wall near to the corner of Milton Road and The Square. A resident pointed out that it bounded a narrow pavement and the bricks were precarious and, if they were to give way, could cause a nasty accident. Councillors agreed that the owner would be contacted in a bid to rectify the hole in the cob wall that has been partially filled with bricks. It was also noted that cob debris still littered the footway.

Another resident questioned the appearance of a new opening on a house on the main A354, within the 60mph zone. Others had seen the new five bar gate at Greenways recently and were concerned as it is on a rather dangerous section of road.

\*\*Ed Richards\*\*

#### Queen of the May

EVERY year in my girlhood there was a special celebration in the neighbourhood to crown a new May Queen. There was always much speculation in our local school as to which girl would be picked, there were also two special attendants chosen to support the May Queen

and all three were always very pretty and of course were well behaved

and gentle girls. Tomboys and troublemakers, we knew, were never picked. To qualify as May Queen the girls had to be in their final year of junior school (year 6) and we all longed to be chosen so that we could wear a long white satin dress and be crowned with a wreath of flowers.

When the lucky trio were announced in the school assembly then

there was a certain amount of disappointment but no real surprise that we hadn't been picked, and we looked forward to the Coronation Day because we were all able to take part in the parade with brass band, fancy dress competition and special tea at the cricket club afterwards.

One year I joined forces with my friend Eileen, we planned to go to the fancy-dress parade as two weather figures. She representing sunny weather and wearing a light summer dress and flowery hat, with strappy sandals and carrying a bouquet of roses. These roses were borrowed from various neighbours because shops at that time were giving away a plastic rose with each packet of washing powder; I think it was "Daz". We thought these roses were the height of beauty and sophistication

and I really envied Eileen being able to carry them. I was dressed as a rainy day and wore my navy gaberdine mac with matching sou'wester, black welly boots and carried an umbrella. We fashioned a sort of house to stand inside from my mum's wooden clothes horse covered

with cardboard and crayoned in with a brick pattern. We spent ages cutting out windows and making stick on curtains, roof and a chimney. What we hadn't realised was quite how heavy and cumbersome this structure would be to carry round the parade.

The day of the parade dawned warm and sunny and the newly

crowned May Queen and her two slightly inferior attendants were installed on the back of an open lorry together with the brass band who were to accompany the singing at each of the three stages of the parade. We marched behind the lorry to the first halt on the recreation ground. Here the band played the hymn "Blossom Bells" and we all joined in, swaying in time to the music and singing at the tops of our voices. Then we set off marching to the next stop outside the school. By this time our arms felt as if they were dropping off with the weight of our weather house and I was cursing my luck in choosing to wear such a hot and uncomfortable costume on a gloriously sunny spring day.

At the next stop, just to rub it in, we sang the hymn "Summer Suns are Glowing" and then we crossly dragged our wretched house on the final part of the journey to the cricket club. Here we waited to be judged in the fancy-dress competition. The judges asked what we had come as and didn't seem all that impressed when Eileen pointed out the finer details of our weather house. They smiled rather weakly at her splendid bouquet of plastic roses and later on it was no surprise to

hear that, yet again, we hadn't won any of the prizes. Nothing daunted we descended on the cricket club for our "Free Treat". This consisted of potted meat or fish paste sandwiches, then jelly in waxed cardboard bowls, followed by slices of cake, all washed down with cups of tea. Eileen and I were starving after our exertions and we were eager to sit down and make a start. Unfortunately, some of the sandwiches had suffered from the hot dry weather and were a bit dry and curled up round the edges – this was long before cling film had arrived. We were waited on by a doughty group of mums and grannies wearing crossover pinnies and some of them wore Ena Sharples style hairnets. You wouldn't have dared to try and hide a dry bread crust under the rim of your plate, well certainly not your own plate . . .



After the usual speeches, each child was presented with a special plate with the date printed on and the words "Primrose Hill Children's Free Treat". Each year we had a different gift, sometimes a bowl or mug or item of cutlery.

Our mums helped us carry home our rather bedraggled weather house and lastly, we very reluctantly returned the beautiful, beautiful plastic roses to their rightful owners.

This month's recipe is for old-fashioned rock cakes. They always seemed to be last to be picked from a plateful of cakes as they are not very pretty to look at but when freshly baked are surprisingly tasty and score highly in the nostalgia stakes.

They are a good recipe to make with tiny children, you can use any sort of dried fruit or fresh lemon or orange peel to flavour the mixture.

#### Rock cakes

#### Ingredients

- 225g/8oz self-raising flour
- 75g/2½oz caster sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 125g/4½oz butter, cut into cubes
- 150g/5½oz dried fruit or freshly finely grated lemon or orange peel
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp. milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

#### Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas 4 and line a baking tray with baking parchment.
- Mix the flour, sugar and baking powder in a bowl and rub in the cubed butter until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs, then mix in the dried fruit.
- 3. In a clean bowl, beat the egg and milk together with the vanilla extract
- 4. Add the egg mixture to the dry ingredients and stir with a spoon until the mixture just comes together as a thick, lumpy dough. Add a teaspoon more milk if you need it to make the mixture stick together.
- Place golf ball sized spoons of the mixture onto the prepared baking tray. Leave space between them as they will flatten and spread out to double their size during baking.
- Bake for 15–20 minutes, until golden-brown. Allow to cool for a couple of minutes, then turn them out onto a wire rack to cool.

#### Hymn - Blossom Bells

#### You have to imagine the accompaniment of a brass band

Over hill and valley ring the blossom bells, On the breezes wafted how their gladness swells, Summer days have come at last their ringing tells, Ring, oh, ring ye blossom bells.

#### Refrain:

Blossom bells, ring, oh, ring,
Join the chorus with the birds that sing;
Let your chime sweetly tell
Of the joy that fills each blossom bell.
Winter's gloom now is past,
Summer time has come with joy at last;
Blossom bells ring your praise
On this happy day of days.

2 Swinging, softly swinging in the sunlit air, How their cheerful chiming echoes ev'rywhere; Welcome is the message which to us they bear, Ring, oh, ring ye blossom bells.

#### Refrain

3 Joyfully our hearts the happy strain repeat, In glad measure singing with the blossoms sweet; Praise and honour bringing to the Saviour's feet, Ring, oh, ring ye Blossom bells.

#### Refrain

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# THEN...



**Then and Now** This month's is looking down Chapel Street from the main road. How fashions have changed!

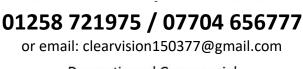
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