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Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area
Volume 12 Issue 6

June 2020

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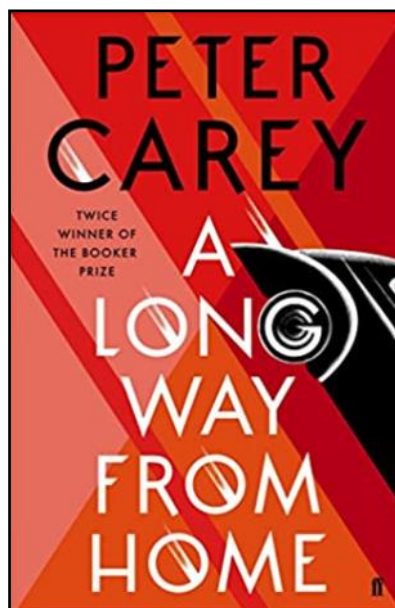
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A Good Read: “A Long Way From Home” by Peter Carey



THIS book by a twice Booker Prize winning author is variously described as a ‘propulsive Australian masterpiece’ awesome in scope, varied in pace and a ‘wild, strange, magical ride’. Pun intended as the middle section deals with the 1950’s gruelling 18 day, 9700 mile Redex Reliability Trial. This popular endurance motor rallying event followed by car enthusiasts, circumnavigated the continent of Australia, in Peter Carey’s writing, riding roughshod over sacred sites. Sites where Aborigines were massacred and whose

history was erased until the famous Eddie Mabo 1980’s Court case which overturned the basis of white supremacy. The Commonwealth of Australia was founded under the concept of ‘Terra Nullius’, Empty Land i.e. no land was taken because no owners existed. This case acknowledged the Aboriginal rights. Afterwards angry whites desecrated his grave. We follow three main competitors, Titch and Mrs Bobbsy, both drivers, and their neighbour and navigator supreme, Willie Bachhuber. Noises and skulduggery off stage provided by Desperate Dan, and his determination to destroy his son and daughter in law with dirty deeds and gelignite! The beginning introduces them all living in Bacchus Marsh (the author’s home town) and wanting to run a Ford dealership. The rivalry between Ford and Holden (GM) in rallying and dealerships together with similar family dynamics are the backbone of the story.

It is offbeat prose, full of eccentricities (like his characters) nuanced and oblique. The topic of tangled identities and a racial storyline was previously morally unavailable. It is set in the embers of the British Empire and it is not too fanciful to suggest that all human life is there. It gathers pace both physically and emotionally from a deceptively slow, dullish start, but has significant psychological depths. Its main philosophy seems to be that every life is unique and it is given unto you but once so you must try hard not to waste it. There are two narrators, Mrs Bobbsey and Willie. Racism and misogyny run through the story but a black child, for me, has the last word, “Our country is a foreign land whose language we have not yet earned the right to speak”.

Carole Fornachon

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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

Leather on willow in Milborne

THE sports ground at the top of Blandford Hill commands a superb view to the south. Beyond the rolling hills and the forestation, the Isle of Purbeck stands sentinel, separating the land from the sea. During this strange period of 'lockdown' I have frequently wandered along the bridleway adjacent to the grounds and thought what a great panorama, just right for hosting village cricket. The facilities are superb, tailor made for cricket. What better way to spend a summer afternoon in good company, enjoying the fresh air and the view, an ice cream or a gin and tonic in hand as you either wait your turn to bat or just spectate.

I recently posted a suggestion on the Milborne St. Andrew Facebook Community page asking the cricket question which returned a lot of interest and positive support. The idea is to establish a Cricket Club that revolves around the village community with the aim to bring people together. It is intended to be all inclusive, any age or ability. Lots of you ladies have shown interest which is great; other teams in the county run Women's Cricket teams, so let's see if we can join in on that too? It would also be important for the younger members of the community to become involved. Looking ahead they would be the future of the club as it moves forward. One or two individuals who have expressed as much interest as myself have relevant coaching qualifications to facilitate and encourage development.

We would realistically aim to build momentum this season, starting with some friendly matches. This obviously depends on how long it is until the current restrictions are eased and we can get back to some sort of normality. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved, or has any other thoughts or ideas can contact me and we can all work together.

Mob; 07393 309037 email: thebigexpress@hotmail.com

Rich Hawker



Sarah Ryan

I had just finished reading your May edition online and come to this page to say how much I enjoyed it. I particularly enjoyed **Rose Frost's** article on deafness. She writes very well, adding both humour and great honesty. The photographs were splendid as well - some (all?) by **Heather**. And **Andy Mott's** series on saving the world thro recycling etc is fascinating - just a few things from over 30 pages. Thank you, David and team

1 d Like Reply



Permitted exercise

The thorns that catch
The brambles that scratch
The nettles that sting
Are nothing compared with the
unleashed hounds . . .

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Trading Standards News – Covid-19 and business closures

WHEN the Government brought in new business closure rules alongside social distancing Local Authorities were given the responsibility to help ensure businesses complied with the new restrictions. Across Dorset, the Council's Trading Standards team have led on this with regard to non-food businesses, working together with environmental health officer colleagues focussing on food business.

Trading Standards provides trusted and tailored advice to local business on a wide range of business law. That helps businesses to grow in Dorset, which in turn improves our local economy. Consumers can be confident then too that Dorset businesses trade in a fair and safe way. Being asked now to ensure many Dorset businesses are closed during Covid-19 is not something that comes naturally to us.

The law on business closure, and other measures to control Corona virus spread, came into effect very quickly. The Trading Standards team immediately set up processes for working at home with all staff working in that way. Our advice to business moved to phone conversations and email.

Not all businesses have had to close and there have understandably been concerns and questions as to what the closure rules mean. Working closely with environmental health colleagues Trading Standards have been advising businesses on the new closure rules as they have developed. Environmental health officers have also had responsibility for advising on social distancing measures within certain business premises that are still legally open but where concerns have been highlighted.

The new law gave us a range of enforcement powers and we have support from Dorset Police if needed. We were given a Penalty Notice option too but so far Dorset Council Trading Standards have not had to use them. Instead business compliance has been achieved in the main by simply talking with business about what the closures mean to them. Some businesses have been able to diversify, or trade in different ways, and Trading Standards have encouraged and supported them with advice so they can do that legally and safely.

The law will change and adapt as Government reviews what is and isn't working well, and it's likely to have changed since writing this article. Rest assured that Trading Standards will continue to adapt too, fulfilling our duties in helping keep businesses trading legally and people safe.

Dorset businesses can speak with a Dorset Council Trading Standards business advisor on 01305 224702, or find information by visiting www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.



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All these things may seem small to you but it does make all the difference in time saved later.

Latest plans for Homefield

We are pleased to share with residents details of our revised planning application for up to 85 new homes, extensive community open space, and a dedicated building for Ladybirds pre-school on the Homefield site. The outline planning application has been submitted to Dorset Council and we have agreed with the Parish Council that we will make a presentation at a public meeting in the village at the beginning of July. Please look out for confirmation of the date of this meeting.

Our previous planning application was refused by Dorset Council due to impact on the village Conservation Area and specific heritage buildings, including the Church. We believe that we have successfully dealt with these reasons through changes to the site layout.

It is recognised that Homefield is not the preferred location for new homes in the Neighbourhood Plan, but our proposal was well received at an exhibition held in the village in September 2018, and we strongly believe that no other site under consideration can guarantee the quality of development and the long term community benefits that can be delivered here.

Artist's impression of Ladybirds building



Design and layout in keeping with the village setting

At 8 hectares, the size of the Homefield site has given us the flexibility to design a sustainable, attractive layout that retains lots of green space for the community and new residents to enjoy and a low density of development, with generous gardens and thoughtful design throughout.

Approximately half of the site remains undeveloped and homes are arranged in two distinct areas to retain views, existing footpath routes, and links to the rest of the village. Landscaping will be added across the development and will include new native hedging, trees, two orchard areas and a village green.

Quality affordable homes

A mix of housing types is proposed – 1 to 4 beds and two storey and single storey dwellings (including bungalows) – with a focus on mid-sized family homes. 40% of these homes will meet affordability criteria and we already have interest from two specialist providers who prefer this site to others in the village due to its proximity to village amenities, well designed layout and the low density of development.

KEY

- Single storey dwelling
- Two storey dwelling
- Visitor parking
- SANGs footpath route (2.5 km)

Planning reference

2/2020/0485/OUT

Contact

We look forward to discussing this proposal with you at the public meeting. For further information in the meantime please contact:

Lucie Brailsford

01278 671244

lucie@seaxburh.com





Securing the future of Ladybirds pre-school

Ladybirds is significantly constrained by its current temporary setting in the Village Hall and requires its own building to expand its services to cater for the needs of local parents and be viable in the mid to long term. Working with the Ladybirds team we have prepared illustrative plans for a new pre-school building and dedicated outside space and will provide both the land *and build* the new pre-school as part of the project. Ladybirds supports our planning application as the only credible and timely prospect for creating a new permanent setting and securing its future.

Opening the green space area to the south of the Sports Club

In accordance with the principles of the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework we will provide further

green space in a 5.8 hectare SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) area adjacent to the site to the south of the Sports Club. The SANG area will be opened up to the community and held and managed in perpetuity. It will create a 2.5km circular walking route around the site and SANG.

Biodiversity/habitat gain

We have a range of plans to increase the diversity of habitats and species on the site. The majority of existing habitats (for example hedgerows and the lime tree) will be retained, and species-poor hedgerow lost from the northern boundary will be replaced with a native species-rich hedge. Additional hedges will be added as garden boundaries. More than 80 new trees will be planted, and the meadow/grassland area will be sown with local provenance species including wildflowers. A management plan will ensure that the hedgerows, trees and meadow areas are managed for wildlife.

The attenuation pond will feature fringe planting to attract invertebrates and each dwelling will have built into their fabric a bat tube, bird box or bee brick. All inter-property fences will provide for hedgehog and other small wildlife access. Any artificial lighting introduced to the site will be kept to the minimum level possible and light spill will be minimised to accommodate bats foraging on the site.

The SANG area will also be enhanced with wildflower grassland, strengthened hedges, tree planting and a pond.



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Parish Council: response to housing plans

IN line with the Neighbourhood Plan, passed by the village with 90% support in August 2019, the Parish Council continues to oppose the original Homefield application. This was rejected by Dorset Council last year, and has now been taken to appeal with the Planning Inspectorate by the developer.

While the original application is still in the appeal process, a new application has recently been submitted for the site with some very minor changes to the previous proposal. The Parish Council view this application as also running contrary to the wishes of the community, as expressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. This made the brown field site, Camelco "old milk factory car park", the preferred site to meet Milborne's future development needs.

The Parish Council is not anti development. In line with YOUR Neighbourhood Plan, we have formally supported the outstanding planning application for the preferred site: development just needs to be on the right scale and in the right place. Our Neighbourhood Plan, together with the Huntley Down site which was approved just before the Plan came into force, is likely to deliver some 100 new homes, a significant increase (over 20%) for a village of under 500 homes, as well as other benefits.

Milborne St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan



2018 to 2033

Milborne St Andrew Parish Council, Dorset
Final version, May 2019

Why was the Camelco the preferred site, from the Neighbourhood Plan Process?

A lot of work went into the Neighbourhood Plan. After several years spent researching local needs, and assessing all the possible site options in a fair and transparent way, the developers/landowners of the 'top four' shortlisted sites were invited to present their ideas to the public at a consultation evening in November 2017. This included the Camelco site, and part of Homefield (the area closest to the main road).

The Camelco site came out of this process as the preferred site. Key reasons for this are:

- It is a brown field site.
- The development of the site would not have a visual impact on the wider village, or use an area of farmland which many villagers currently enjoy via the public rights of way network.
- The detailed proposals offered by the developer provided the best fit to provide the housing we need, some employment to help

retain the working balance of the village, and additional community facilities.

- Two access points are advantageous – splitting the access for the residential area from the part earmarked for employment use and a possible pre-school.

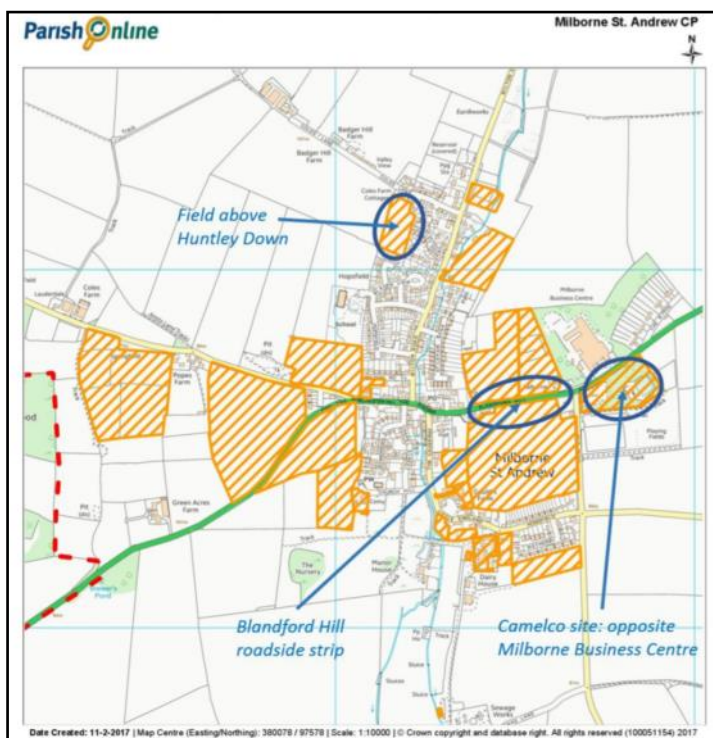
Why is the Homefield site still being promoted if it is not in the Neighbourhood Plan?

Shortly before the now drafted Neighbourhood Plan, that you resoundingly passed, was due to go out for its consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan Group and subsequently the Parish Council were approached by the current promoter of the Homefield site to request that we back track on the process (by circa twelve months) to consider more detailed outline proposals than shown at the November event. Their request was declined, as their proposals did not offer more than the Camelco site. They also said that, whilst they fully support the neighbourhood plan process, they basically felt that our plan was not likely to get passed, and they would therefore put in a planning application. It turns out that they were wrong, but they haven't taken the opportunity to withdraw their plans.

How will we respond to the latest application?

Our formal response to the current application will be shaped by assessing the proposed development against the Neighbourhood Plan, and comments residents may wish to add at a public meeting to be held once current lock down restrictions have been lifted. We have received an initial extension from Planners in support of this. Councillors believe it is critical that all members of the community, including those in vulnerable groups and/or those who do not have access to suitable IT, are able to participate in this.

Parish Council



Milton Abbas Surgery

Social Prescribing: Kelly is our new Social Prescribing Lead at the surgery and works Wednesday morning, Thursday morning and Friday all day.

Social Prescribing is about connecting people with social, emotional or practical needs to local sources of help and support. Social Prescribing empowers people to take control of their own health and wellbeing. This would particularly help patients who are dealing with long term health conditions, struggling with their mental health or those socially isolated.

We are here for everyone whatever your concern is – whether you need some ideas on how to improve your fitness, would like to know about local coffee groups, or would like to improve your literacy skills – whatever your query we are here to help. If you would like any more information, please contact the surgery.

EConsult: Milton Abbas Surgery are now offering econsult which enables us to offer online consultations to our patients. It allows patients to submit their symptoms or requests to their own GP surgery electronically, and offers around the clock NHS self-help information, signposting to services, and a symptom checker. eConsult is the most widely used digital triage tool in NHS primary care, built by NHS GPs for NHS patients, designed to enhance patient access, improve practice efficiencies and signpost patients to the right place at the right time for their care. If you submit a request via eConsult you will receive a response within two working days: this service is for non-urgent help or advice only and can be accessed via the homepage of our website: <https://www.masurgery.co.uk/>

As we are doing a lot of our work by telephone, please can you help our team by calling after 10.30am if you wish to order or enquire about collecting your medication. This will allow our phone lines to be available to deal with the urgent issues that arise with patients first thing each day. Thank you for your co-operation.

If you are asked by your GP to email photographs to the surgery, please make sure you add your full name and date of birth to your message so that they are attached to the correct patient record.

If you do need to come to the surgery, even if you are just collecting medicines, do not attend if you are showing any signs of Covid-19: please protect your surgery team.

One of the concerns during the Covid-19 pandemic is that patients are not contacting their surgery when in normal times they would have sought advice, particularly about symptoms that may be related to cancer. Your GP wants to know if you have any of these symptoms:

- Change in bowel/bladder function
- A mouth ulcer or skin problem which isn't healing
- Unexpected bleeding/discharge (eg bowel/vagina/nose)
- Thickness/lump in a breast/nipple/elsewhere
- Indigestion - severe & persistent/swallowing difficulty
- Ongoing cough/hoarseness
- Unusual appearance of a mole/wart
- Symptoms of unexplained weight loss/bloating/extreme fatigue/excessive night sweats/unexplained pain

These symptoms may be harmless but can be caused by cancer or other conditions, so contact your GP to discuss them. Quick assessment means faster reassurance if all is well. If there is a problem, an earlier diagnosis means better chances of a full recovery.

Gillian Brindle

Children busy during lockdown

See photos opposite

DURING lockdown our children have been very busy, adjusting to a 'new normal' and getting used to their new teachers otherwise known as 'mum' and 'dad'.

At Milborne we are using online systems which have helped us keep in touch with our children and their families. We have really enjoyed seeing what everyone has been doing whilst at home.

Easter is usually celebrated at school with an egg decorating competition and then the Easter Bunny comes to visit. This year our competition was held a little differently and done at home via pictures on Tapestry which were judged by staff. There were some amazing creations and the choice wasn't an easy one, but the winning eggs in each year group were Reception = Myles; Year 1 = Lyra; Year 2 = Esme; Year 3 = Maisy P and Year 4 = Kacey S. Well done everyone for the time and effort it took to decorate and come up with the ideas.

The 8th May 2020 saw the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The children and their families helped mark the occasion by creating some bunting, baking and having an afternoon picnic tea party in their gardens.

Thank you to everyone who has shown their support marking this special occasion and also in showing your support for our Key Worker families living in the area.

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MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

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SCHOOL NEWS



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: David French

FOS Chairman: Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis

e-mail: office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk

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Milborne St. Andrew WI in 1945

Milborne St. Andrew W. I. 8. 2. 45.

The first short meeting of the newly formed W. I. committee took place at the close of a General Meeting in the School on Thursday Feb. 8 under the direction of Mrs. Travis Bullard & Mrs. Jackson from headquarters. The following were elected by ballot & all were present except Mrs. Davis President Mrs. Kellaway.

Vice-presidents Mrs. Stowess & Mrs. Thompson

Committee.

Mrs. Biles.
 Mrs. Cole.
 Mrs. Cooper.
 Mrs. W. Davis.
 Mrs. Thompson.
 Mrs. Haydon.
 Mrs. Stowess.
 Mrs. Kellaway.
 Mrs. Old.
 Mrs. Birchard.

The committee unanimously agreed that Mrs. Biles & Mrs. Haydon be appointed secretaries.

Mrs. W. Davis Treasurer.
 Mrs. Birchard Press Correspondent.

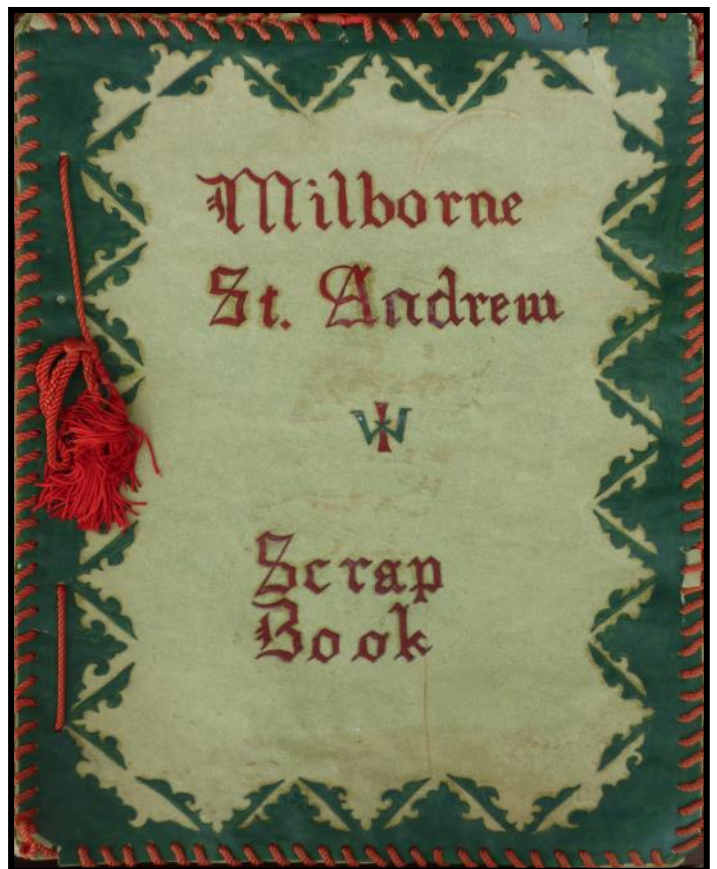
The next committee meeting to take place in the School on Wednesday February 14th at 3.45.

M. Grace Kellaway
 President.

Milborne St. Andrew WI minutes from the first meeting February 1945.



Mrs G. Kellaway Milborne St. Andrew WI first president.



Scrap book for notable cuttings.



Reporter photographer Heather, has been a member of Milborne St. Andrew Women's Institute for 50 years this November, at a VE street party in 1945 in Hayes, Middlesex. (bottom right).



Monthly meeting in The Old School in Chapel Street.

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

Looking towards a sustainable future for Ladybirds

SINCE 19th March Ladybirds has been closed due to COVID-19 virus but our grown-ups have continued to work. This has included cleaning and sorting all our equipment; writing school reports to support children who are due to start school in September; sharing videos of us reading stories and Emily's yoga; suggestions of activities; phoning parents to check they are ok; answering the DfE, DC and FIS emails and working with school to identify placements for Ladybird children who have been identified as needing to be in school.

On my daily dog walk I have been asked as to why the Village Hall is no longer a suitable place for Ladybirds. So, I will try to answer that here. The Village Hall is a community building which has always provided a space for the preschool but with challenges: The size of toilets/hand wash facilities; storage of equipment in outside sheds; setting up and packing away every day; shared kitchen; no office space with secure storage for personal data; problems of how to confidentially speak to others; stage; small outside area and lack of secure entrances. Adults work hard daily to make the room an inviting environment with enjoyable experiences and keep the children secure and safe.

We opened in 2002 and the Government requirements and expectations were much less than they are now. As rated Good by Ofsted we are passed to take disadvantaged two year olds. Having two year olds with four year olds in the same room can be frustrating for the older children and restricts the learning opportunities with many resources not suitable for under threes. The hours we can open – due to other users of the Hall – mean it is difficult to supply the number of hours parents are entitled to (this



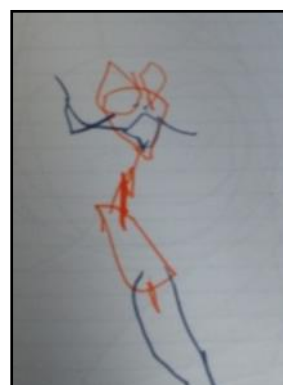
has increased over the years) and every year sees more parents using full time care in Poole, Wareham or Dorchester. We are constantly being told by parents that we need to be open longer.

Those readers who attended our AGM back in January, when life seemed more normal, will know that the Committee has been looking again at the need to move Ladybirds to a new setting. Since the abortive move to the First School site

some ten years ago it is now absolutely clear that we need a new setting if we are to sustainably meet the village needs for pre-school education and care and offer an effective feed into Milborne First School. Even if we are gifted a site (without a building) we will still need to raise some £400–500k for a new building. So whilst understanding concern about the planning application for Homefield, we are very pleased to see included a building which is viable for a strong village pre-school.

The Trustees and I have had a number of discussions with Wessex Investors and are persuaded of their good intent regarding provision of a pre-school setting as part of their Community Contribution. We believe the proposed building and site are big enough to meet the needs of the village for many years in a way that does not seem credible in outline proposals available for the development sites preferred within the Village Plan.

Liz Dyer



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THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE
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PART OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE
DIOCESE OF SALISBURY



When the churches are open . . .

. . . it's all too easy to think that God's time in our week is that hour-plus on a Sunday when we gather with fellow Christians after breakfast and before lunch.

That is, of course, complete nonsense. God's presence is with us all the time and not just when we gather with others on a Sabbath day. Jesus taught us to put God first in everything. This means we are called to centre our lives around God as our first priority and not confine our times of prayer and holy living to when we can find time in the diary.

In recent months, the Church of England has produced some materials as part of a project called Everyday Faith, available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/renewal-reform/setting-gods-people-free/everyday-faith>.

Its introduction says: "Our daily lives are often very full. Full of things to do. Full of meetings and deadlines. Full of places to be. Full of people to meet. For some they may be full of time on our hands. Full of hopes we would like to fulfil. Full of things we don't want to face. Where is God during our daily lives? How do we find God in fullness, in the full-ness of everyday life?"

One example given in the accompanying booklet (£2.99) is that of Victoria, an apprentice hairdresser. "She's 19 and she's been in the job just over a month. It's a busy salon so there's always something to do and it's almost always got to be done quickly. She's enjoying it – the people are upbeat, friendly – but she's been feeling the pressure.

"Three weeks into the job, and her vicar prays for her as part of commissioning her for this role. Commissioned to wash people's hair? What difference does being a Christian make to the way you wash someone's hair?

"I wonder what you might say if someone asked you what difference does being a Christian make. When asked this question, Victoria didn't miss a beat: "I pray for them as I massage in the conditioner."

"Victoria's praying is an invisible gift to her clients – soothing conditioner for the soul, not just the hair. Learning the pressure points that relax individual clients. Offering points for prayer for each individual created by God. Still, behind her actions lie a whole set of beliefs. Victoria believes that her work – in a hairdressing salon – is important to God. And why shouldn't she? Isn't God present in all places?"

With churches closed during the coronavirus pandemic, many people have had to assess the place their faith has in their lives and how it can become more real for them outside church services. I wonder where you've found God's presence in recent weeks.

Of course Jesus's second commandment was to love our neighbour, so it's important, when we can gather again, to commit ourselves to sharing our faith with others in worship, prayer, song and care on a Sunday morning as well as continuing to pray and live out our Christian faith in our homes and with our families.

Best wishes

Sarah

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

Deadline for the next issue is mid-day
14th June. Send your stories and pictures to
msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

Church News

AS our church is still closed, with no services and fundraising on hold, there is little news of activities this month, so this is an update on our financial position. For several years our total income has been considerably less than our expenses and we have now reached the point where we are about to become insolvent. Our monthly expenses are about £1,000 a month more than our income; the biggest expense is the £1,300 per month which we have to pay to Salisbury diocese which goes towards paying our vicar's stipend or salary. The Church of England may be very rich but it is all tied up in expensive churches and cathedrals and is not available to spend, so parishes have to pay all the running expenses. We will have to seek help from individuals, the village, the benefice and diocese in the next few months to find ways of reducing the shortfall between our income and expenditure, so although the church is closed as I write this and there are no services, events or fund raising, we are searching hard to resolve the problem. We have known for some time that there would be financial difficulties ahead, but the Covid-19 pandemic has brought that time forward as it has for many other parishes. It will affect us all and we feel that everyone should be aware of our situation at this time.

John Wright Milborne St Andrew PCC Treasurer



Thanks to all the Reporter Team

IT is great to have the Reporter back in print this month and a big Thank you to all the team for keeping us up to date with village people and interesting snippets of information during this difficult time.

It was good to be able to catch up online but great to have it back through our letterboxes again.

All the Reporter Team work tirelessly in their own free time to produce this excellent interesting and entertaining magazine for our Village.

THANK YOU to you all.

Lis & Ian

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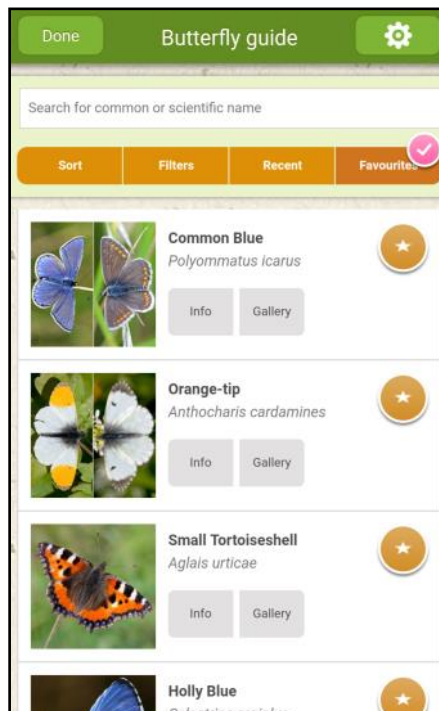
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Countryfile comes to Milborne

WE'VE all had our lives changed in some way by living under lockdown, with many forced to work at home or not be able to do our jobs at all. Scientists and volunteers at the leading wildlife charity, Butterfly Conservation, have also been affected in their work by not being able to carry out monitoring of sites around the country that help to measure impacts of climate change. So the Lulworth-based charity has called on the public to help fill the gap by looking in their gardens and local walking areas to see what butterflies have emerged. A vital indicator of the effects of climate change is butterfly phenology – that's to say, the time at which species go through their life cycles, and whether this differs year on year, which has been curtailed by the restrictions due to Covid-19.

As Richard Fox, Associate Director of Recording and Research says, "We're asking the general public to please help us out. This is something you can do for science and climate change in your own back garden. We know that climate change is making butterflies emerge earlier in spring and some are spreading to new parts of the UK. We need you to tell us where and when you saw them."

Being married to one of Butterfly Conservation's scientists – Dr Caroline Bulman (though you'll more likely know her as Caroline Richards) – I know very well the issues facing our wildlife and Lepidoptera in general, together with the importance of 'getting the message out there'. So it was not a great surprise when Caroline told me that our national broadcaster wanted to send a cameraman to record a piece for BBC1's Countryfile. However, I was more surprised that they wanted the whole family to feature in the piece to be filmed. Yes, Caroline is the knowledgeable expert, but Countryfile wanted to show how everyone can get involved with spotting butterflies in all their forms, especially in these times of closer-to-home walks and increased gardening time. Butterfly Conservation has a new app for smartphones called iRecord Butterflies, which includes a handy



iRecord Butterflies

identification guide as part of the recording function of the app and we were to demonstrate this on camera. Cameraman Steve, from Devon, arrived on a sunny, wind-free morning - perfect weather for our winged insects to fly and nectar – and just right for us to spot them too. In bright sunshine, butterflies will perch on plants with wings open, sunning themselves to warm wing muscles ready for flight. Caroline had reced some locations in previous days and, although cloudy, found that the habitat of the wildlife area of the park showed best promise for butterfly activity. Necessary consents were obtained from the Village Hall and, after liaison with the show's producer, a script of sorts was sent to Caroline outlining a dozen or so scenes with expected dialogue areas and PTC's (pieces to camera). We all had a part to play, including our two sons, Samuel and Jasper. With all kit being offered to us accompanied by a wipe and social distance, we were mic'ed up and ready to start, filming our entrance into the area up the path on the steep bank. Within minutes, a Speckled Wood obliged, by perching in the dappled sunshine as we walked past. This is a common British



Filming in the wildlife area

species, shades of brown with creamy white spots and 'eyes' around the wing periphery that is often seen in woodland or at its edges.

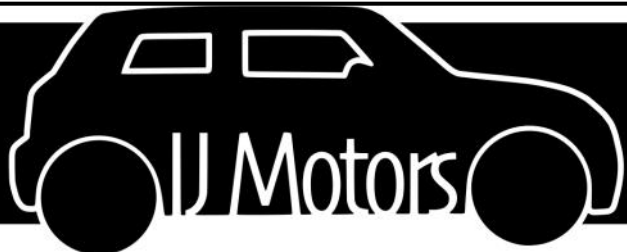
Steve then wanted us to "do the 'Reservoir Dogs'" – thankfully not the climactic scene, but Caroline walking towards the camera, being joined by us three boys from the sides. Multiple shots, reverse angles and 'feet only' shots were taken of the same move until we went on into the wildlife area, acting as normal as possible. We were fortunate to see a number of species during the morning's filming as we walked up and down and round and round the small paths (actually, the old BMX track that once was) as well as the eggs of the Orange Tip. You may have seen this butterfly recently, easily identifiable by its, er, orange tip around the wing edge that splashes colour to its mainly white wing. The egg is tiny and found on the upper stems of wild garlic. It does help to have the sharp eyes of an eight year old too, as Jasper spied a newly emerged caterpillar that could not have been longer than 2mm. Steve duly caught it on camera – well, he said he did, as we had to direct him to it, maintaining a two metre distance between us. The warm sunshine encouraged more species to fly, including Small Blues – yes, they're small (our smallest butterfly, actually) and have blue wings, but the name really doesn't do this delicate butterfly justice at all – as well as Small Tortoiseshells, and both Small and Large Whites. The wildlife area, which was seeded with a wildflower mix a few years ago, attracts a wide variety of other insects too and is testament to what can be done with a previously unloved patch.

We returned home with a few shots left to complete in an adjoining garden, kindly offered by our neighbours. The previous night, we had run a moth trap – a harmless light box that attracts night-flying Lepidoptera – and this was to feature on the TV piece. Unfortunately, the night before had been clear, moonlit and cold, which in moth trap terms, is bad news. On more suitable nights, it's been known to capture a dozen species or more in multiple numbers. For the BBC, it produced a grand total of three. However, at least these moths have more flamboyant names: Hebrew Character, Treble Bar and Muslin; but in reality, they're all common and fairly uninspiring to look at.

After a few more PTCs, it was a wrap – Steve didn't actually say this, more's the pity. We'd been filming with him for almost six hours, which would apparently transfer to about six minutes on screen. The piece is due to be introduced by Countryfile presenter, John Craven, who should be providing the segues between features from his garden. You may be reading this in time to catch the episode which, at the time of writing, is due to air on Sunday 31st May at 7.00pm

Download the iRecord Butterflies app to identify and record butterflies at www.butterfly-conservation.org/mysightings or your device's app store.

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The role of Horsa and Hamilcar Gliders in WWII and VE Day

THE amazing contribution of gliders to D-Day and eventually VE Day is little known. These are local to us and a commemoration site is to be found at Tarrant Rushton Airfield. At the former airfield entrance at Windy Corner there is a memorial commemorating and honouring all who operated from/served at the airfield between 1943–1980 including those in 298 and 644 Squadrons RAF and Glider Pilot Regiment. It is an irregular rough hewn stone with two inset plaques.



The upper plaque has etched a plan of the airfield, RAF and SOE badges. Pegasus representing British and Commonwealth Airborne Forces, the Polish Parachute Brigade Wings and a badge of the US 101st Airborne Division. Beneath this is a Horsa Glider carved into the stone. The lower plaque has an etched profile of a Halifax towing a Hamilcar glider (see photograph). Air Vice Marshall Parry-Evans unveiled it on 6th June 1982. The artist was Charles Downes and the builder, Alwyn Hughes. The Airfield was operational over a period of 37 years initially for the RAF and Glider Regiment before being abandoned and returned to its current agricultural and BIOMASS plant uses in 1980.

Building started in 1942, in 1943 it became operational despite being unfinished. 3000 people worked on the site, key wartime roles were to take troops and equipment into Europe...Halifax bombers/tugs towed Horsa and Hamilcar gliders and landed the first allied troops in France on D-Day—an operation later known as “Pegasus Bridge”. Aircrews would often make up to 12 hour flights to drop secret agents, supplies and arms to the Resistance as well as the SAS troops behind enemy lines. Some of



the hangars, runways and other structures can still be seen but it is impossible to get a sense of the size of the airfield from the ground. Other operations included taking troops and tanks to Arnham and after D-Day the base was used to receive and take wounded US personnel to the locally based military hospitals e.g. Blandford and Kingston Lacy.

Pre-war 742 acres of the Crichel Estate, Crichel Down, were compulsorily purchased to be used as a bombing range. This became significant politically because of the

compulsory nature of the purchase through the “high handedness” of then Civil Servants . . . the “Crichel Down Rules”. Churchill gave a public commitment in the House of Commons in 1942 that land purchased in this way would be offered back to the original owners once no longer required for the original purchase purpose. (This commitment was not honoured in the case of Tyneham village still within Army Ranges). *Post War* from 1946 the airfield was placed on Care and Maintenance status until it was abandoned in late 1947. In 1948 Flight Refuelling Ltd began their 30 years occupancy. Almost immediately (June 1948–May 1949) they were involved in the Berlin Airlift. After the war Germany was partitioned into a number of zones under Allied control, the then Soviet Union blockaded West Berlin in the hope that the allies would be forced to abandon it.

Led by the US the Allies responded by airlifting coal, foodstuffs and other essential supplies into West Berlin. After this the company perfected in-flight refuelling, refurbished jets, built pilotless drones and participated in aviation research

programmes. In the 1970's they moved their operations to Hurn. From 1958 to 1965 RAF Strike Command used it as an emergency dispersal point for its nuclear deterrent. Until 1980 when the airfield site closed it was also used by Dorset Gliding Club (1965–1981?)



Target Wood is, today, approximately 100 acres of mixed woodland, a haven for wildlife and pheasant rearing. In 1835 the year of the Beech Avenue planting a small avenue of beech were planted at right angles to the Toll Road Avenue. A number of these still grace this wood. During WWII the wood sheltered many troops on the night prior to the D-Day landings and was used for bomb storage. It was ideally situated adjacent to the airfield and under tree cover.

For those of you who like to walk, particularly through history, this is a fascinating destination.

Starting at Badbury Rings it is seven miles, perhaps, depending on speed, a three to four hour round walk. To enter Target Woods you would need to be part of a Kingston Lacy/NT group walk as keys are



required for locked gates into private land. I can highly recommend it as a day's outing especially as the weather is improving and the days are longer. A good plan for after lockdown even if you go by car to Windy Corner!

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Reducing my carbon footprint – Concrete, flying and the internet

CEMENT is the most widely used man-made material and its use is still growing enormously as it is a cheap and well-known material in the construction industry. Producing each ton of cement produces one ton of carbon dioxide so that 8% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions come from manufacturing cement. For concrete there are also the greenhouse gases for extracting gravel and transporting both the cement and gravel to the construction site.

Most concrete is used in large projects: roads, bridges, skyscrapers etc. HS2 will use 20 million tons of concrete, forming a large part of the emissions during construction. It is uncertain whether people moving from cars and planes to HS2 over 100 years will reduce emissions to cover this. And the construction emissions over the next 10 years will be during a critical time as the world battles climate change.

But concrete is also used domestically, and we can make decisions to reduce its use. The straw bale house on Milton Road Close is a particularly good example in the village of reducing concrete use during construction. On my part, the foundations for the extension and garage use concrete where up to half of the cement is replaced with GGBS (waste Blast-furnace Slag). The cost and performance were the same, emissions much lower. Also, I was able to convince building control that we did not need a concrete slab under the floor. The brickwork uses lime mortar – the same as the old part of the house. It is more flexible, I think has a better appearance and again has lower emissions, even absorbing CO₂ as it hardens. We inherited many concrete slabs in the garden – not very pretty but I would not consider replacing them.

Flying. There is no tax on aviation fuel, a result of the 1944 Convention of International Civil Aviation. There is no VAT on plane tickets. This often makes flying the cheapest method of transport even though it has high carbon emissions. A modern Boeing 737 has emissions that are around 115g CO₂ per passenger for each kilometre. This is only slightly more than me alone in my Smart car (100g/km) but of course the distances are much larger – longer distances by car often have several passengers. Also, emissions released higher in the atmosphere have a larger effect.

The UK has the world's third largest flight emissions after the USA and China with their much larger populations. But half the people in the UK do not fly. 15% of people in the UK take 70% of the flights. These mostly affluent people are getting a subsidy of over 11 billion pounds because there is little tax on flying. Contrary to general belief, most of these flights are not business trips.

Flying has been increasing by 12% a year globally – it will be interesting to see what happens after the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have seen recently how video calls can reduce the need for travel and streaming the National Theatre and films etc. keeps us entertained. We might think of the energy used by our phones, tablets, and computers but rarely of the massive data centres and networks that power the internet. Carbon dioxide emissions from these data centres are similar to those from flying (and both are increasing rapidly).

The energy is needed to cool these systems as they generate a lot of heat. Many on the east coast of the US use the dirtiest electricity. Google and others claim to be carbon neutral, Amazon will be by 2040 though this can be by offsetting, which is passing the buck somewhat.

Some scary figures have been published about how much energy is used to stream a movie on Netflix. It is actually only about 50g of carbon per hour in the UK using a WiFi network – much less than driving to the cinema or watching a DVD (there are a lot of raw materials and energy tied up in a DVD disc). Using mobile data does increase the energy usage somewhat.

Should we worry? This is a lot easier than most things to power using renewable energy – we just need the large corporations to move as quickly as possible. I often still record programs rather than stream them but that's just so that I can fast forward through the adverts!

For IT, the major energy consumer is the manufacture of the devices – so as mentioned last month, keep those devices going for as long as possible.

Next month – conclusions (the last article!)

Andy Mott

Children's prize quiz winner

Congratulations to Kacey Stratton for winning the Easter egg in last month's Quiz. Thank you to all those who took part.

Answers

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | English | 11 | Hedwig |
| 2 | Oak | 12 | 30 days |
| 3 | Ben Nevis | 13 | Olaf |
| 4 | Wall | 14 | Carpet |
| 5 | Sleeping Beauty | 15 | Frogs |
| 6 | Sherwood | 16 | Captain Hook |
| 7 | Hedgehog | 17 | Simba |
| 8 | TARDIS | 18 | Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific and Indian |
| 9 | Kid or Bear | 19 | Wellington |
| 10 | Blue | 20 | Heart |



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Can you remember?

WE have all been thinking about VE Day lately, I'm sure most of you weren't around in 1945, I was but at the grand old age of two my memories are very hazy. Here are my recollections five years later – a day in the life of Josephine Baldwin, as I then was.

Friday morning – there are lovely frosty patterns on the inside of my bedroom window. I snuggle under the blankets for just one more minute. Then mum is calling, 'Are you out of bed? Breakfast's ready!' Fried egg and fried bread, smashing. 'Now drink your tea, it's nice and sweet.' The kitchen is warm with its coke boiler, but soon I am off to school.

I walk to school; it's only about half a mile. First I pass the other new council houses. Then down to the main road, not many cars just the trolley buses whizzing up and down. The two trolley poles clip onto very high wires – the excitement when one springs off and the driver has to hook it back on with a long stick – but not today.

I walk past the little parade of shops, the shoe shop, the ironmonger, then the grocer's – mum takes me in there sometimes when she does her shopping. Sugar is weighed on the big scales and poured into a stiff blue bag, cheese is cut with a wire and wrapped in white paper and other things are put in brown scrunchy bags that Mrs Monroe twirls round and round so it looks like rabbit's ears at the top. But the best thing is the till. When she presses the keys the drawer flies out with a crash, making all the thrupenny bits and half crowns jingle.

Next along the road comes the prefabs, 24 houses built in about a week, with thin, thin walls but already lots of people are living there. My friend Janice runs out and we walk the rest of the way together.

At school the day always starts with assembly. We sing some hymns and listen to a bible story, we have to be as quiet as mice! Then we go to our classrooms. I am in Mr Stevenson's class; he is the English teacher. The desks are all in rows facing the front, the tops slope down and open so you can put all your books inside. There is a little ridge for your pencil and a hole with a little white pot in it. Today is a special day – we are going to be allowed to write in ink! Mr Stevenson comes round and fills the little pots with ink from a big bottle, then he gives us each a pen. It's a wooden stick with a round metal thing pushed on the end, and into that goes the shiny nib. I dip my pen into the ink and try to write – it's hard, too much ink and you make a blot and you have to be careful not to smudge your writing while the ink is wet. Then if you press too hard you cross the nib and break it. At our playtime at 10 o'clock, the milk monitor goes off to collect our milk. We have a third of a pint each in a glass bottle. On very cold days the milk starts to freeze and the ice on the top pushes off the foil cap. After break we have another lesson; we always stay in one classroom and the teacher comes to us. This time it's maths. Times tables we learn by heart, saying them over and over again. Mr Smith writes sums on the blackboard in chalk, after the blackboard monitor has cleaned all the old

work off. It is very special to be a monitor for anything. I'm not – I talk in class and Mr Smith throws chalk at me!

I have lunch at gran's house, about a quarter of a mile away. Her house is very old, you have to go outside to the toilet and she has that scratchy toilet paper. Hanging over the mangle in the yard is a tin bath. When she wants a bath she carries it inside and fills it with kettles of hot water. Her downstairs rooms are all in a row; scullery, kitchen and sitting room. In the scullery is the gas cooker on little legs. The sink has one tap – cold. To keep things cool she has a meat safe. It is like a little wooden cupboard, but the door and the sides are made of metal with lots of little holes punched in.

In the kitchen is a shiny black range, with a fire in the middle and an oven on each side. Opposite the range are three doors all the same, all in a row. The first is the larder, the second is the coal hole and the third hides the stairs. The kitchen is the only room with any lighting and it isn't electricity like my home, it's gas. It's fun to watch gran lighting the gas. There are two little chains hanging down attached to a bar. She pulls one little chain and you can hear the gas hissing out. She then has to strike a match and light it quickly, but it still makes quite a loud POP. The only other kind of lighting she has is candles. The street lights are gas too. Each evening a man walks round with a long pole that he pokes into each lantern and magically the light comes on.

When the milkman's horse clops down the street, gran is always ready in the front garden with her bucket and shovel – if the horse 'obliges' outside your house you shovel it up and put it on the garden to make the roses grow.

After my lunch, it's back to school for more lessons, then home. I stop at the sweet shop for a penn'orth of sherbet from a huge jar. The shopkeeper weighs it and puts it in a twist of paper. The grains are huge like sand and bright, bright yellow and so is my finger, as I wet it and dip it in.

When I get home there's a lovely, steamy smell. Mum has been doing the washing. We are lucky as we have a washing machine called a twin tub. The clothes are washed in one half, then lifted into the other side where lots of water is whirled out. It's like magic!

Mum says, 'Just light the fire in the front room for me, it's all ready.' Yesterday's newspaper is scrunched up at the bottom of the grate, then some sticks, and then on top the shiny, black coal. I strike a match and light the paper and the yellowy flames lick up.

I read my 'Girl' comic until tea time; it's got lots of school stories and adventures.

After tea I wonder if dad will play a record. They are as big as dinner plates and break ever so easily. But tonight he says, 'How about a game. 'Monopoly' or cards?' 'Cards please!' So we play, 'Happy Families' and 'Beat your Neighbour' until it's time for our programme. Dad turns on the radio at 6.30 and we listen to, 'Dick Barton – special agent' – it's a serial and we always listen.

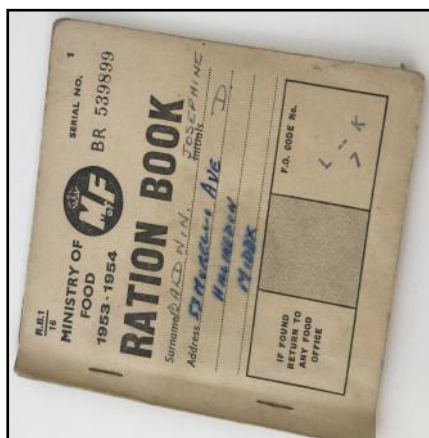
'Seven o'clock, bedtime – school in the morning.' 'Don't tease it's Saturday tomorrow.'

Saturday morning pictures at the Odeon with all my friends. We sing, 'The more we are together' every week. We watch a cartoon, a short film and then the serial – we shout helpfully all the way through – lovely!

I think about it lying in bed. I'm too excited to sleep. I'll read a bit more, I've got lots of books, 'Black Beauty', 'Little Women', 'Heidi'. I've found my 'School Friend Annual for 1950', I hide under the blankets with my torch and turn the pages. 'Are you reading up there? – Go to sleep!

'Goodnight.'

Josie Wright



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How to enjoy trees

IN common with many people I find the presence of trees a great pleasure and like very much to walk in woodlands both in our locality and further afield. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to get to see the beauty of our trees, either through lack of transport or through infirmity. It is possible, however, to enjoy trees in a small way by growing them yourself. This can be done in a way that is quite easy and is not at all expensive. Because of my interest in trees and the need to grow them for everybody to enjoy, I have grown them from seed into small trees to plant as small saplings into the hedgerows and other suitable places. In doing this, I sometimes forgot to transplant them into larger pots so they became crowded and stunted. From that error I continued to grow them into miniature trees which can be maintained in a petite form and still grow them to shape of normal trees.

Almost without exception, I have grown all of my trees in pots from seed collected from trees already growing in this area. So, picking up acorns, sweet chestnuts, hazelnuts and others is easy as long as they are gathered at a time when they are mature enough to germinate and grow. Patience is required when planting the nuts and seeds as they take a lot longer to germinate than most of the seeds that gardeners commonly grow. They may take up to 18 months, but normally seeds planted in the autumn will start to appear the following late spring, which may be a little after weeds appear so care is needed to maintain a clear surface to the growing medium. There are suggestions regarding the ideal way to get the germination satisfactory, of which layering of compost and coarse sand is probably the best, but bear in mind the seeds in nature

grow in the conditions they find when they hit the ground.

Once the seeds are germinated and beginning to show their 'true', second leaves, they can be carefully transplanted into small pots, using bonsai compost, as individuals or directly into shallow trays for long term growth. Once established or with more growth they can be manipulated into a final shape. This can involve deliberately planting the tree with a sloping trunk or draping a root over a stone, planting different trees in the same pot or giving some shape to the branches with stiff wire wound round the branches and bending to the required position.

Maintaining the trees as miniatures requires growing them in shallow trays and restricting the root growth. When I first started, I used small shallow plastic containers discarded from the kitchen that originally came with cream cheese or paté. It is possible to buy suitable trays from garden centres. In winter, tip the tree out of its tray and trim the fine roots back fairly hard, and scrape away some of the soil and replace with a shallow layer of fresh compost in the bottom of the tray. Replace the tree and enjoy for another year.

Do not be tempted to grow trees from seeds that have been picked up locally indoors, as it will be too dry and hot for them. Do not feed, unless very occasionally with bonsai specific formula.

I have found the greatest cause of loss has been drought. Because they are in very small amounts of growing medium this dries very readily, so regular watering is essential.

Enjoy.

Pip Bowell



Copper beech



Tulip tree



Hornbeam



Oak

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So what happened to you during the 2020 Lockdown?

WELL at the Sports Club, quite a lot actually and whilst it might look like the Marie Celeste to some – we have been sailing very close to the wind since we closed our doors to take advantage of the situation we find ourselves in. The place is undergoing a major makeover.

The grass is growing under our feet – literally and figuratively, and we are currently on a roller coaster knuckle clenching ride . . . so we are hanging on tight, the Sports Club's timeline has got even more interesting and we have no idea when the lockdown will end and the "NEW NORMAL" begin.

Addy Mott, who was the "Have you Met" feature in the April *Reporter* has joined the team and as said in that article, Andy's flexibility and ability to think 'outside the box' makes him an ideal addition to the team.

In December we reported on the success of the Lottery Grant Application of £8,450.00 that together with an additional grant from the Football Foundation of £10,606.00 we could embark on the 10 point plan mentioned in the February 2020 issue. The January dream of a new enlarged facility is now on the back burner but not forgotten.

At that time we had a total of £7,734.00 in the bank, that's all! Skipping forward to 6th May with eight out of the ten elements of these grants completed we had £6,980.00 in the bank.

Of that £2,100 was unspent project element money provided by the Lottery Community Fund Grant and £750 needed to complete the concreting of the rebound netting posts, anchor points in position.

So in reality £4,100.00 in the bank, no revenue from users and football matches coming in; £250 per month going out in regular outgoings such as insurance, energy costs etc. and not having the luxury to just bunker down and weather the storm but to continue with the grass cutting and preparation of the pitches ready for the restart of the football season, whenever that may be.

Our "reality" bank balance figure took another knock in May when we had to fork out a further £1,200 for the required gas installation check and the conformance work required to get a Gas safe certificate so now we had slipped under the £3,000.00 bar.

At this point, even I was starting to think that we had bitten off more than we could chew and that "doing nothing" back in November would have been the safer option. However, that is not in my or the other members of the team's make up and we have been pressing on regardless, sending out grant applications like confetti and continuing with the repainting and refurbishing of the facilities.

The kitchen and shower cubicles are completed, 53 new lights and 15 emergency lighting points fitted, two new hand wash driers installed, a safety walkway around the rear of the pavilion, a new metal container purchased and in position, corridors, main room and toilets repainted and about to start on redecorating the changing rooms. The fire alarm has just had a major overhaul, thanks to Hustings and we await that invoice with joy!! (they are very supportive by the way and we don't take advantage of that).

However, money in the bank as of the 15th May has now leapt to £16,184, we have just been awarded another grant of £2,000 this time from Sport England for mood lighting and sound absorption panels in the main room and we are expecting (hoping) for a further £2,500 grant for the pitch preparation that will assist with our normal annual outlay of £3,000 on pitch maintenance alone. A grant application to the Hall & Woodhouse community fund has also been submitted.

We use grant applications as a means to an end. The end being enhancing the vital community facilities at the Sports Ground. Since December the list from external Grant Funders goes as follows: Lottery Community Fund £8,450; Football Foundation £10,606; Football Foundation £1,750 (container); Sport England £2,000; Dorset Council (Gov't Covid Fund) £10,000; Football Foundation Pitch Maintenance £2,500 . . . then going back two years – Milton Abbas Street Fair £1,500; and Viridor £2,500 can be added to the list. Total that lot up!!

I know from experience in another (working) life that the person

you are dealing with at the other end of the application is just like you and me and wants to help. Quirky (corny) project applications do actually help so MADCAP worked at the VH for the £51k People's Millions and the latest REACHING FOR THE SKY worked for the £2k and the cloud sound absorption panels.

Clearly our passion, energy and enthusiasm which to some locally is seen as threatening also comes through on the application. All of the external funders have been very proactive and supportive and have maintained a flexible approach and an open dialogue throughout.

For example: when advising me on how to complete the Tender Report Form and the Contractor's statement forms of the Grant Agreement, the Sports England Project manager wrote: *"Obviously I will be flexible about how they are filled out – due to social distancing, etc, so if you need to copy in contractors by email, happy to accept creative solutions!"*

A man after our own heart, flexible and prepared to accept creative solutions not rigid jobsworth dogma. NO GUARANTEES.

That is how we treat our users. When we closed our doors, we sent them their final invoice with a note saying pay if you can or later if you cannot . . . all paid up in full!

We keep in regular contact with all our users in the knowledge that some might not come back or will need to make changes as and when they do and some may come back earlier than others (how can 24 footballers meet the social distancing guidelines in the changing rooms or during what is a contact sport!!).

We have written to all just to make it clear that when (if) they come back we will be very flexible over pricing ranging from £5 per hour rather than the previous £8.75 to paying nothing until established and back up and running.

We are open to ALL options and ANY ideas,

Just had another floated in our direction, this time for a cricket facility so already started that ball rolling and getting a quote on how to level the ground between the lower pitch and the allotments, repositioning the football pitch in order to accommodate the cricket pitch which I now know to be a rectangular area of 22 yards (20.12m) in length and 10ft (3.05m) in width.

It may not fly but that does not mean we do nothing.

FOOTNOTE: The financial reserves of £3,000.00 the Sports Club mentioned above is in the same ballpark as the financial reserves of say the Gardening Club or the Allotment Group BUT it is NOT the same BALLPARK if you get my gist! Still not interested in joined our team!

Richard Lock

Why has Camelco development stalled?

THE preferred site for development in Milborne – the Camelco site – has seemingly stalled at Dorset Council. The brownfield site, which has 58 residential, as well as light industrial units, and a pre-school building proposed has, according to the development company, had no traction at Dorset Council since October last year. Richard Smith, Land and Planning Director with Bracken Group, the plan's building developer, said he was "at a loss" as to why there had been no movement on it within Planning.

Mr Smith said, "I am greatly concerned by the progress of this application", after initially all appeared to be going ahead with little issue. There were no objections from consultees and since it was the Neighbourhood Plan's preferred site, "I would have thought it would've been fast-tracked", Mr Smith said, adding that the original Planning Officer had indicated approval could be "written up" within the week – this was back in October 2019.

"We've never been in this situation before", he said, "hitting all

Continued on page 31

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Exploring local routes in lockdown

WE must thank our lucky stars that our village nestles amongst such pretty countryside, snuggled down in the fold of the hills surrounded by a patchwork quilt of fields and greenery. At a time like this when many of us have found ourselves confined to barracks by the global situation we face the million dollar question 'what to do?' Some of us have children to occupy and educate, others have gardens to tend or a list of odd jobs and tasks that have needed attention for some time; we have all probably found ourselves doing things we wouldn't have expected to! I broke my wrist five days before we were all told that we weren't allowed out anymore. Picking myself up off the ground at the mini roundabout outside Tesco's in Dorchester I knew that I had incurred a fracture. The problem began when I failed to release my left foot from its locking mechanism on the pedal of my push bike to await safe passage across the road. I fell to earth both lower limbs still attached to my trusty steed, my left hand met the kerb with considerable force. Passing motorists on their way to ransack the toilet roll and pasta shelves drove past without a care for me or my bike, which was now lying on top of me. To cut a long story short, my partner Kate diverted on her way home to Milborne from Poole, gathered me up and presented me to the good folk at A&E in Dorchester who plastered me up and sent me home for a later than scheduled dinner.

So my 'what to do?' question was posed to me five days earlier than most. The weather was dank and damp and I was feeling a bit sorry for myself. I elected to watch my box set of Inspector Morse that had been living in the cupboard under the stairs, seemingly waiting for me to break one of my skeletal components. Having got as far as episode 4, (the one where Morse drinks lots of real ale, listens to some Mozart and solves a complex crime among the dreaming spires involving jealous professors and bored well to do housewives) the weather broke out into June/July blue and I decided to mobilise. Walking has been my passion since 2011 when I began to walk stretches of tow paths along The Kennet and Avon Canal. Eight years and 1,900 miles later in September 2019, (back when we were allowed out) I ended up at the end of the Trent and Mersey Canal in Liverpool, walking the last mile with a journalist and photographer from The Canal and Waterways magazine who kindly published my story in their monthly online blog. I have effectively walked from Bristol to London through the Midlands via four routes, up to Manchester, across the Pennines two ways, into Wales and northwards beyond Lancaster where the canal system comes to an abrupt end in a little village called Tewitfield.

Looking at all the green serrated footpaths on my OL25 explorer map which surround our village I knew that the game was on. Broken arm or no broken arm I was going to don my faithful canal walking shoes, (the fifth pair I had gone through). My plan involved using Milborne as the hub of a wheel and radiate outwards in a different direction each day. No fixed plan, just go where the 'fifth pair' took me. I am used to walking between 20 to 30 miles a day along the canals so a nice leisurely amble for an hour or two would be no problem. Lots of green serrated paths seemed to converge at an interesting sounding place called Gallows Corner between Milton Abbas and Cheselbourne so I headed off on Lockdown Tuesday leaving civilisation behind at the top of Coles Lane.

Striking out north along the lane towards Frogmore Farm with conditions perfect both under foot and overhead I was struck by the view across to the Dorset Ridgeway beyond Dorchester. The distant hills were a shade of blue as hills often seem to be in the distance. I suppose a similar vista inspired Elgar to compose his 'Blue Remembered Hills' ditty some time before my particular observation. Straight ahead, the ridge that overlooks the Piddle valley was punctuated by the occasional copse. I would make it to the Piddle valley a couple of weeks later on a longer walk. Onwards past the farm across a meadow I found myself adjacent to rows of neatly planted fruit trees forming an orchard that I was previously unaware of. I was well on my way to Gallows Corner now and I began to notice just how quiet it was, the cloudless blue sky was devoid of the usual con trails left by aircraft criss-crossing the sky scape reminding me that things

were a bit out of the ordinary. I arrived at Gallows Corner, the footpath ascended the edge of a freshly ploughed field and I sat down on a conveniently placed hay bale and listened again. If I had about my person a pin, and had dropped it, I am certain I would have heard it landing on the ancient soil. Even the birds seemed to be having a rest. Nothing was flying except the odd insect which had the run of the airspace. Gallows Corner was nothing like I expected it to be. There was no hangman's jib, no skulls impaled on spikes, left as an ominous reminder to the good folk of Milton Abbas, Dewlish and Cheselbourne not to deviate too far from common law. The intersection of ways cut through a blanket of wild garlic framed by an archway of ancient looking gnarled trees. There was an impressive array of signposts to guide the rambler this way and that. I elected to take the path toward Long Ash Farm where I crossed the Ansty to Milborne Road joining the narrow lane that eventually took me down the hill to Milton Abbas keeping Lower Lodge Plantation on my left. Before turning right by the lake at the bottom of the hill for the straight run for home, the lane passes through another proliferation of wild garlic. The oniony smell was sensational and I noted my position for a foraging return. I looked at OL25 when I got home and over wrote the green line I had followed with yellow highlighter pen, placed the map and pen in the drawer all ready for tomorrow.

Richard Hawker

Why has Camelco development stalled?

Continued from page 29



the targets [of the planning process] but nothing happening". Bracken has over 40 years' experience of home building and commercial work, with 37 homes in Weymouth and 30 in Swanage in the pipeline as well as other sites in Child Okeford and Sandbanks, but the Camelco site, he says, "is a significant development for the group." He added that he had, "absolutely no idea" why the application had not moved in months, although he conceded that the council had gone through a merger and Covid-19 may have slowed progress a little, but that it should not have effectively stalled.

Dorset Council was contacted about the delay and it passed the details on to the Planning Officer concerned, but we have not received a reply to date. The department said that officers generally do not comment on individual cases, although the DC representative did refute that there hadn't been any action on the application this year, pointing out that there was an entry on file in May. On investigation, this was a letter from our own Parish Council urgently requesting information on the current status of the application, especially since there was an even larger development across the road on the Homefield site.

Ed Richards

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