




Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area
Volume 12 Issue 7

July 2020

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Milborne St. Andrew

Local nature special

see pages 7, 15, 21 and 25



See page 3



17th July to 9th August



See page 3

big butterfly count

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THANK you to all of our patients for being understanding during the Covid-19 outbreak. Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that colleagues and patients stay safe but we also provide the care required.

As the situation changes, our offer will also change: at the moment we are continuing to offer childhood immunisations as normal and cervical screening has also restarted. Blood tests are being undertaken and patients are having face to face appointments following telephone triage with a GP/nurse. We are able to offer telephone consultations, eConsultations and video consultations as an alternative to face-to face appointments.

It is difficult to say now what the situation will be by the time you read this as things are changing on a weekly or even daily basis. At the moment, if you come into the surgery you will need to have a covering for your nose and mouth: we are **not** able to provide masks for patients as national stocks are low.

Our request is that you make sure you are aware of national and local guidance. If you are unclear of the expectation when you attend the surgery, please check the website, the village Facebook pages or phone before you travel.

If you have a cough, temperature, loss of smell or taste or you have been in contact with a confirmed Covid-19 case in the last 14 days, **DO NOT** come to the surgery, telephone first.

Finally, at this time of year we would normally be advertising our annual flu clinic. We will still be offering vaccinations to our eligible population, but we are currently assessing how we can do this safely. More information will be provided nearer the time.

Gillian Brindle

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Your *Reporter* Team

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

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907 (07843 018007)

Advertising renewals: Pete Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Janet Allen 01258 837551

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

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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Paper copy to any of the team

Be a citizen scientist and help take nature's pulse

IT'S definitely butterfly season now and, with the pace of life being slower in the last few months, it's been a perfect opportunity to enjoy wildlife more in our gardens and on local walks. Over the coming weeks, national charity, Butterfly Conservation (BC), is urging people to let them know what species of butterflies they are seeing in the annual Big Butterfly Count. It's a UK-wide survey that aims to "take nature's pulse" – all the more important this year since the charity's scientists and volunteers have been less able to monitor butterflies in recent months due to obvious reasons. Some readers may have seen Caroline (Dr Bulman) and myself, with our two sons, on BBC's Countryfile a few weeks ago, talking about and looking for butterflies and their habitat – that's us doing just that on the cover, taken from the programme. Caroline has worked for the Lulworth-based charity for over 20 years and has been passionate about butterflies since she was a young child. She completed her PhD at the University of Leeds with research on the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, a threatened species that has seen its numbers decline severely over the last 40 years, which is a similar story for many of our other once abundant species.

The Big Butterfly Count aims to get the public involved to help BC's scientists add to their data, which is important in understanding to what extent climate change and other factors are affecting butterflies and moths in the UK. To become a 'citizen scientist' all you need is 15 minutes in a suitable spot to see some of the 19 butterfly species that are a target of this year's count. A handy identification chart can be downloaded from BC's website or a free app for smartphones, which you can ID and record as soon as you catch sight of one of our native species. There are two day-flying moths that BC are also interested in hearing about this time, the Silver Y and the Six Spot Burnet Moth. If you'd seen the Countryfile edition, you'd have heard our sons explain some differences between butterflies and their (generally) night flying cousins; Samuel gesticulated the way in which the day-flyers hold their wings up at rest, whereas moths hold them parallel to the horizon, and Jasper said that butterflies have club antennae in contrast to moths' "fluffy" ones. But the real shocker is that although butterflies have stolen the Lepidopteran show with their flamboyant and highly patterned costumes, they really are, scientifically speaking, moths one and the same!

Ed Richards

Go to www.bigbutterflycount.org if you'd like to take part in the count, or download the iRecord Butterflies app for smartphones.

Ladies who lunch



WE enjoyed our Village Lunch from The Royal Oak. It was lovely to be with neighbours and friends again, of course, following social distancing rules. Let's hope it will not be too long before we can all meet up again in the Village Hall for our monthly Village Lunch.

Statement on stop and search figures



ON 19th March 2020 the Government published stop and search figures relating to the period from April 2018 to March 2019.

A number of people have asked via social media for our response, which can be found below:

Like all forces in England and Wales, Dorset Police uses stop and search as a legitimate way to maintain law and order.

We are very aware of the concerns around the use of stop and search, especially in light of recent events in the USA. Policing in the UK has always been by consent, since the days of Robert Peel and this is something that matters deeply to every police officer. It is not acceptable that any section of society should see the police as a threat or hostile to their community and it is up to us to make sure we maintain the confidence and support of everyone.

Stop and search, used properly, is a valuable tool in dealing with criminal behaviour, helping us deal with many offences, from possession of controlled substances to burglary. However, anyone subject to stop and search will know that it can be an unsettling experience, which only magnifies the upset felt by those who feel they have been stopped without reason or because of bias. We understand that and have been working to make sure our use of stop and search is appropriate and justified.

Dorset Police adopted the 'Best Use of Stop Search' and in 2019/20 of the 2,105 searches which were undertaken, 153 were individuals who identified as black and over half of those people were not residents of Dorset. This is an important context to recognise because figures are based on the resident population rather than visitors and therefore can exaggerate the disproportionality rate.

Having said this we recognise that any disproportionality can raise concerns and affect people's perception of policing and, in Dorset, we are working hard to do all we can to ensure our use of stop and search is lawful, justified and necessary.

Since October 2017 we have been working with an independent scrutiny panel which was established by the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that our use of stop and search is fair and held to account. The panel review grounds, outcomes and a small sample of the body worn video available for stop and searches. The overwhelming response from this panel is the activity of our police officers is proportionate and justified.

In 2019 we undertook a review of how we use stop and search, alongside an independent review commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner. We have been implementing recommendations of these reviews, including strict supervisory reviews of each stop and search along with unconscious bias training for our staff. We have also introduced a stop and search board chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable to ensure we are progressive in the use of the tactic.

We have always worked hard to ensure that our communities and residents feel supported and protected by our officers and staff and we will continue learning lessons to improve the service we offer, especially to vulnerable communities and those who suffer prejudice and racism in their everyday lives.

Milborne Players ZOOMED

THE Players' Committee ZOOMED last Wednesday night! Ron Karley is in the process of writing next year's pantomime, Cinderella. He has shown the committee a chunk of it, they are enthusiastic and have told him to keep up the good work! When we will actually put it on stage is quite another matter. A summer pantomime might be just the thing.

If you are a member of the Players we will let you know about our plans for replacing the cancelled AGM. Also don't expect to pay a membership fee this year, with best wishes. We hope we can help you to cope with these weird times by giving you some fun to anticipate.

Jo Coetzee

Closed but still busy at Ladybirds

IT SEEMS so long ago now that we were enjoying playing and socialising at preschool. With the children at home with their parents we began to use technology to keep in touch and send suggestions of things to do to keep the little ones occupied. We do have the advantage of using the online Learning Journal – Tapestry. Adults have taken turns at recording themselves reading stories and then downloading onto Tapestry for the children to watch. We have included some of our favourite books ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’, ‘Don’t Wake the Bear, Hare’, ‘What the Ladybird Heard’ to name a few, and we mustn’t forget ‘Christopher Nibble’ read by Meg, with her guinea pig Douglas sitting on her lap! He was very well behaved and listened beautifully.

Antonia has used the parents’ Facebook page to send activities for the week which loosely are based on a topic. Activities have included outside bug hunting, mini beast hotels, washing dolls’ clothes and while out walking looking for shapes and numbers. Inside, the hunts included finding objects of a particular colour or shape. I think the most popular was decorating ladybird biscuits. Also collages and painting are popular but we are aware that not all parents have a stockpile of glue and paint at times so we have endeavoured to add activities that don’t require resources in short



supply. Making dens to read stories in is a great activity which needs teamwork, communication, fine motor skills and the listening and recall of stories. Emily has continued to instruct the children in yoga by demonstrating poses to music for the children to try at home.

Parents have then uploaded onto Tapestry photos of what they have done with the children so we can see and comment. It’s not as good as really seeing and interacting with the children but we are making the best of the situation.

It is sad to think some of the children will have missed nearly six months of preschool by the time we reopen in September. And even sadder that we haven’t had fun on our annual summer outing and end of year party. The children starting school in September have had a strange transition to school this year with no school visits taking place. It is also uncertain how school will look in September so to support those children we added Reception teacher, Miss Wittman, to Tapestry, to introduce herself, supply information, and record stories.

Roll on September – we can’t wait to be with the children. So don’t forget if you would like your child to attend Ladybirds next school year give us a ring or email us.

Liz Dyer



Milborne Ladybirds

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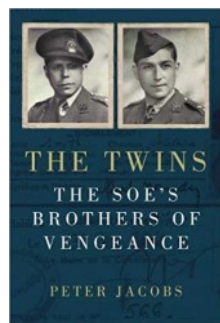
Call in to see us at the village hall or contact
Liz Dyer (Leader) on 01258 839117;
07771 512427; liz@milborneladybirds.com
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The Twins – The SOE’s Brothers of Vengeance by Peter Jacobs



THIS is an interesting book, covering the story of two of the lesser-known SOE activists in France during the Second World War. The Newton Brothers made their living as music hall entertainers, the Boorn Brothers, across Europe and the USA. Both married, they lived with their parents, wives, and children in France.

In 1941, already running a network of saboteurs and safe houses for downed pilots, they made arrangements to send their

parents, wives and children to safety in England whilst they stayed behind to carry on the fight. Sadly the entire family was lost on the passenger ship *SS Avoceta*, torpedoed by a German U-Boat, whose captain claimed he confused it with an oil tanker!

Returning to England themselves to enlist and take revenge for this act, they were recruited to SOE, where they were known as The Twins, despite an age difference greater than ten years. After training they returned to France and set up a network based on Lyon. This chapter of their life was particularly interesting as the author gives an insight into the infighting between French Resistance Groups, which often caused the loss of life for SOE and other resisters, and information about the Milice Francais, an organisation I hadn't heard of, but which consisted of French Nazis, who appear to have been worse than the Gestapo in their behaviour towards their fellow Frenchmen. (What is it about the French? The minute the guillotine arrived in villages in the 18th Century, folk were lining up to denounce their neighbours, and here they were at it again 200 years later!)

The author has done a lot of research into his subject, and writes of the lack of security and care shown by certain resisters, which led inevitably to the capture and death of many of their number, and also to the Twins appearing on the Germans' 'most wanted' list. Ultimately they were betrayed, and spent time as prisoners of Klaus Barbie, known as the Butcher of Lyon because of the number of people he tortured and killed, before being moved to Fresnes for further interrogation and deportation to Buchenwald Concentration Camp. Which they survived, thanks to some devious tricks which the author describes after talking to survivors.

On return to England after the war, many SOE records had been destroyed, so their entitlements to back pay, promotion pay, and recognition for their work were 'lost' too, along with the personal possessions they had left in 'safe storage' before they went to France. However they were both awarded the MBE!

This is a well-written, well-researched book, about two incredibly brave men who knew they had nothing left to lose but each other, and fought hard for the country they called home despite being of mixed English, Dutch and French ancestry. Like many heroes of their time they were let down during the aftermath of war, but settled uncomplaining into working life, dealing with their problems, and any emotional damage resulting from their losses and experiences, no civic help and no expectation of help from a 'grateful nation'. It should be mandatory reading for the modern generation. *Susan Wilson*

Remembering Michael's Birthday

Gone but not forgotten!

Sister's	Veronica and Rose
Brother's	Colin and David
Nephew	Paul
Sister-in-law	Jackie

The story of a village church

WHY do people gather in a place to make it a village? Perhaps it is near a river or the land and climate are good for farming. How long has our village been here? If you ask one of the locals they will tell you, 'Time immemorial, my dear.'

When people lived in this village in 1140 they were not very happy. Since William the Conqueror had taken over as king of England nearly eighty years earlier, life just wasn't the same. It had always been a hard life but at least all spoke, more or less, the same language. These incomers also wanted to know what the villagers were doing, how many sheep they had, how many carts and how many children. Then they knocked down their tatty old wooden church and built a stone one, still, they could see it was a good place on top of the hill.

Yes, that's when St Andrew's church was built. Nine hundred years ago! The guidebook says that some of the porch has stones laid by those original Norman masons; it was used for 'churching' and as a meeting place; they knew how to build in those days!



Inside it's like a living history book. The present ceiling called a 'waggon roof' was added in the 15th century when the bell tower was also added. There is an old tomb near the altar that somehow managed to escape the destruction by Henry VIII's soldiers during the conversion of all churches from Catholicism.

The font is again Norman, rescued from the churchyard and returned for use, the metal studs round the rim are to lock down the original lid so no holy water could be stolen and used for 'magical' purposes. The Victorians installed, for a time, a new font, but latterly the original was preferred.

They did have a good refurbish though, the floor was raised, and they had the tiles laid by the altar, probably designed by William Morris. They installed the wooden pews and made a path from the present road to the entrance.

There is so much to see in this little village church. If we could hear all those voices over the centuries, Latin, Anglo Saxon English, Norman French; talking, singing, praying, praising God. All the baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Is there no longer a need for this lovely building, as only a few strive to maintain it and encourage people to come? The money has run out, church going is out of fashion. Though the Christian caring spirit is everywhere in the village, the need for a church seems to have come to an end.

What do you think?

Josie Wright

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Coping with lockdown – Janet Allen



Lazy days for Robbie the cat, enjoying just a bit of sunshine



Peter Riddle delivering logs to his gran ready for the winter



Did anyone see this beautiful tree in the Village? Sadly the flowers have gone over now. It's a Psuedoacacia or Locust tree to you and me

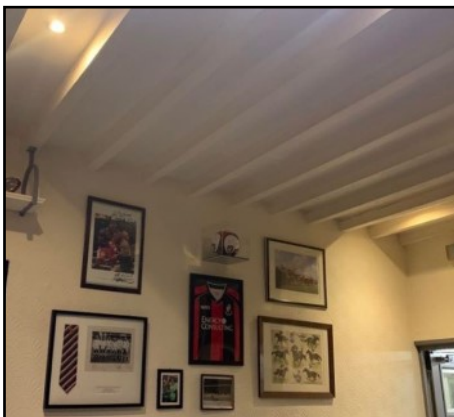
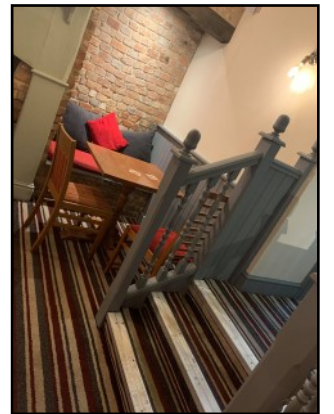


Exploring Milborne Wood in May – the wood was carpeted with bluebells, and we were lucky to see some common spotted orchids



Red sky in the morning —looking east across from Bladen View

We can't wait to see you at The Royal Oak





MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL



Learning together and having fun SCHOOL NEWS

You will all now be very familiar with Doodle and part of the reason for its popularity and success is due to Mrs Andrews who has worked hard to set it up and to use it to its full potential across the whole school. I am therefore, especially glad to be able to share with you, that this has been recognised not just by us but also by the Doodle team.

Mrs Andrews, has been named by Doodle as their Teacher of the Week! While the programme is used internationally in over 150 countries, Mrs Andrews has been recognised by Doodle due to her fantastic encouragement of our pupils in their learning: this includes working hard to stay up-to-date with new developments, working with the Doodle team to improve the programmes, and helping others to become as proficient with Doodle as she is.



New school play trail thanks to fundraising

Since the start of lockdown, it's not been possible to do much within the FoS committee like plan fundraising or other events for the children. However, we are pleased to announce phase 1 of the new, long-awaited play trail equipment has been installed at the school. The old equipment had been out of action for some time with the children unable to use it.



The play trail layout has been lovingly designed by some of the committee members together with the team from Playdale Playgrounds. This new equipment was only made possible through numerous fundraising events including Open Farm Sunday, the Milton Abbas Street Fair and the May Fair to name just a few, which helped to raise the £7,765 for the project. We also received a generous donation from the Hall & Woodhouse Community Chest Fund. We'd like to express our thanks to everyone who has attended an event and help raise the funds to make this possible with a special thanks to Fran Porter and Sarah Moody for their time and attention to this project. These new facilities will give our children a fantastic opportunity to enjoy their outdoor space. When we are able, we will be continuing our fundraising efforts to raise funds for phase 2 so watch this space!



One of our new fundraising projects – and one which has been able to continue, despite lockdown – is our recently launched school lottery. It's been pretty popular so far, but we're shy of our target of 50 tickets sold a month, so we'd really appreciate you getting involved and push FoS over the line! Your contribution could be as little as £1 a week and all proceeds go directly to our school funds. You don't need to be a parent, grandparent or anything connected with the school (although we warmly welcome you if you are!). Please see page 16 for details of how to be in with a chance of winning



Marie Chappell for Friends of School

As well as sending our congratulations to Mrs Andrews, we'd also like to recognise the children of the school for their hard work on Doodle Maths. Keep it up, everyone!

Some of the year groups have returned to school, our key worker ('bubble') of children are back in Milborne School after attending the key worker hub at Piddle Valley school.

Here are some pictures of the things we have been up to – including – wake & shake, storytime, making seaweed, fish, crabs etc for our central seaside display, making place mats for our 'hot chocolate mug and snack', doing Doodle Maths and English on our iPads, exercising on the gym equipment, floor puzzles, PSHE (looking at 'feelings' and chalking them), phonics, bike riding and bubble blowing. We've also watched 'Ice Age' DVD and made road maps out of hazard tape for our cars.



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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

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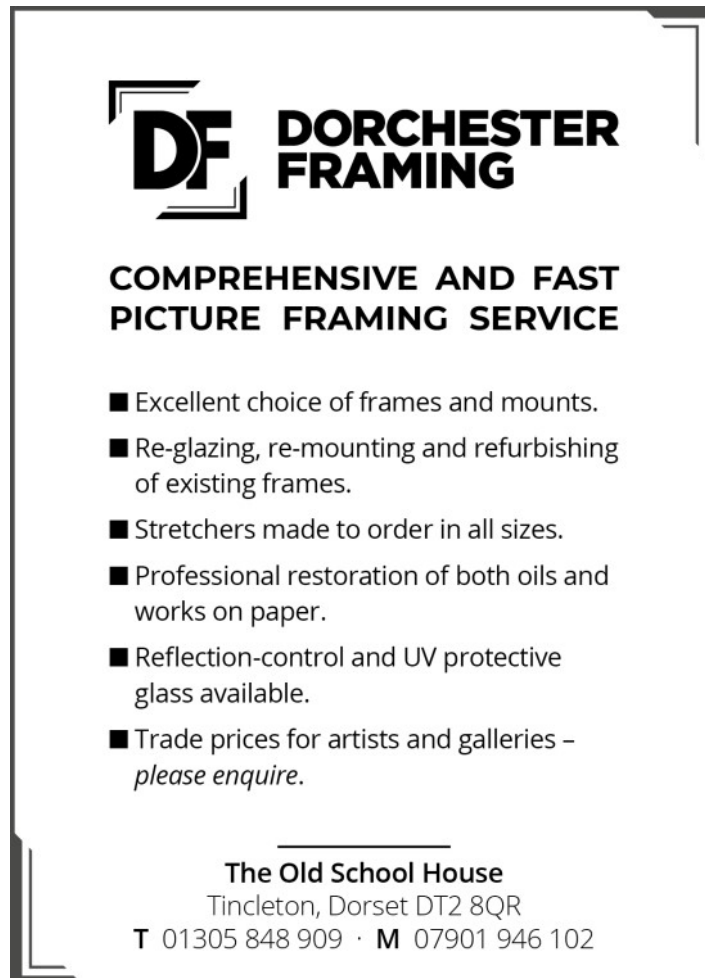
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Opening up after 'lockdown'

AT THE end of March, we were instructed to close the church buildings and to stop services. It has been a strange time; Vicar Sarah Hillman has persevered in making YouTube videos of mini services on a weekly basis since then. They have been welcomed by many. Her skills have grown for this new-to-her technical process.

In the middle of May, representatives from each church in the benefice were asked to unlock the building to 'air it', run water (if there were toilets, kitchens etc) and check on the fabric of the church. Fortunately, there were no problems in St. Andrew's. Then at the beginning of June, it was announced that we could open churches but only for personal prayer and reflection for anyone who wanted to visit a place of worship. As you can imagine it was a challenging task.

We had to do an in-depth assessment about risks which we believed could cause harm to anyone who entered the church. Each risk had to be evaluated and solutions sought to reduce or minimise the effects. Once that was completed, we were obliged to implement the recommendations to ensure the safety of those who did come to spend contemplative time in church. This included removing all toys, books and leaflets, locking the toilets and kitchens, 'roping off' some areas and other things intended to make the area safe with the reduction of opportunities for the virus to be spread.

We don't know when normal services will be resumed and even if they will ever be the same again. During this pandemic many churches, like ours, are struggling to keep financially viable and there are concerns that will not be able to attract new congregational members when we can join in communal worship again. We are hoping and praying that solutions will be found to our dwindling situation. If you want to help or find out more do get in touch with me or Sarah.

Pam Shults, Churchwarden

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com
Rev Rosie Coldwell 01258 839214

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew
Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish
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Match the animal to its group name

Answers next month, no prize just a bit of fun

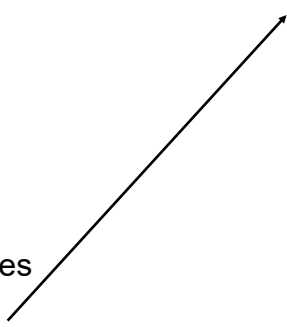
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Sparrows
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Collective noun

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Anne Tory 1923–2020

ANNE TORY peacefully passed away at home with her family on 17th May. We would like to thank the Milton Abbas Surgery for all their support during this difficult time, as well as all those people who have sent us such kind messages.

She has been buried at St. Mary's Church, Turnworth with her late husband Jim, but we hope to have a memorial service at a future date.



Quotes, such as "What a character" and "She wasn't afraid to voice her opinion" have been a common theme amongst many of the lovely cards and messages that we have received.

Born at Bungays Farm, Stalbridge, the youngest of three children, Violet Anne Day was known in her younger life as Nancy. Brought up on the family farm where her father bred Berkshire pigs and Shorthorn cows, she developed her love of the countryside and agriculture at an early age. Having attended the school in Stalbridge from the age of eight, she went on to attend Lord Digby's School in Sherborne and from there embarked on a career in nursing during the war years at the Yeatman Hospital; a job that she loved and constantly reminded us of. Whilst working at the hospital she was often visited by a young farmer whom she had met at a Young Farmers dance in Dorchester and, never one to take no for an answer, told him to park his car in the Doctors' parking space – she was asked who the new doctor was!

In October 1946 Anne married Jim Tory at Stalbridge and moved to East Farm, Winterborne Whitechurch. John, Norman and Graham arrived within the next few years with Charlotte arriving a few years later. Anne successfully supported Jim in developing the Cowleaze herd of British Friesian cows and pedigree Dorset Down sheep which were shown successfully at Agricultural Shows nationwide. In 1963 Anne purchased Ashley Barn Farm, where she set up the Ashleybarn herd, which she ran until selling the cows and handing the farm over to her daughter in the early nineties.

Jim and Anne's great passion in life were racehorses, and having initially gained success in local Point to Points and at Wincanton with "Buckshee", stepped on to the larger stage during the 1980's breeding and having great success with several of their horses notably, Combs Ditch over the jumps and Mighty Fly and Mighty Flutter on the flat. Mighty Fly winning at Royal Ascot and Mighty Flutter coming 3rd in the Derby.

Anne was a great driving force over the years supporting and running many village events at Winterborne Whitechurch, particularly for St. Mary's Church and the Village School. She was on the Parish Council for many years and was heavily involved in the development of Chescombe Court.

After 63 years of marriage Jim sadly passed away in 2010 and Anne moved to be next to her daughter at Deverel Farm. She joined the Wednesday Club and attended many of the Village Lunches, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Having broken her leg in three places and spending three months in hospital Anne was restricted to a wheelchair and moved in with her daughter and family five years ago, but still attended any social events that she could. She always enjoyed a party and enjoyed a good chat and was pleased to make many new friends when she moved to Milborne.

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Have you met . . . Larry Lagrue?

LARRY LAGRUE has lived in Milborne since 2013 and has been involved in village life ever since – you may have met him, but you also have seen him in a big frock as Dame Dorabella or playing other comedy roles such as Happy Harry the Jester or Simple Simon in Milborne Players' pantomimes. More recently, Larry has performed at spoken word events and concerts with his own, unique brand of poetry – often comedic, at times heartfelt and serious, but always highly readable.

Larry lives in the village with his fiancée, Adrienne, and their children Barnaby and Betty. He says, "We also have a cat called Toby who doesn't really like to sit on your lap, but is very chatty and will miaow at you at regular intervals. On any day there is a good chance of having a comprehensive conversation with young Toby!" He (Larry, this is) works for Dorset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group as a Project Support Officer and has been seconded to Dorset County Hospital working in the Transformation Office. Before this he'd had a pot pourri of jobs, including a company that actually made pot pourri in Sturminster Newton, a number of jobs in London and he worked for Toys R Us for eleven years, his first job after school. His most recent position was with a care company based in Weymouth before moving to his current employment with the NHS.

Born in Basildon, Essex in 1971, Larry is the youngest of three – he has a brother, Richard, and a sister, Bernadette, both of whom still live in their county of birth. He was educated at St. Anselm's RC Secondary School in Basildon. Very sadly, his mum died when Larry was only 16. This was just before he was about to take his GCSE/O Levels and he left school after this. His father passed away when Larry was 28. He lived in Basildon until moving to Okeford Fitzpaine in 2006.

When he's not working, Larry devotes time to his poetry and has an impressive work rate, producing a poem a week for his blog, W is for Duck, which he's done for three years and counting. His subject material can be anything from what he's been up to and autobiographical to notable national or world events, but it's always with a wry sideways glance, and often a dash of irreverence and bucketful of humour. He has self-published two volumes of his Friday poems and they are available on Amazon. Larry has also performed live at two concerts for local charity, Hidden Needs Trust, as well as regular spoken word performances of his work at Apothecary in Bridport. He'll also write bespoke poetry for special occasions for people wanting something a little different but meaningful to give as a gift. He says, "I take your thoughts, memories, anecdotes and feelings and weave them into a beautiful poem which can be treasured for years to come."

But performing in pantos and plays came before this when he first moved to Milborne. He's appeared in five pantomimes and a couple of plays, had a breakdown (in 'Dangerous Corner') and has done some dodgy DIY (in 'Bedroom Farce'). Appearing with the Milborne Players was the first time Larry had been on the stage since Nativity plays at school, but his performances as pantomime dames or funny guys were always well appreciated by audiences and he comes across as a natural.

What you think is the best thing about living in Milborne St. Andrew? I think the best thing about living here is being so close to the beautiful Dorset countryside but with easy links to the rest of Dorset. We also have such great amenities – a really good pub, a great local shop and village hall. And the friends I've made here are amazing.



Is there a downside to living in Milborne St. Andrew? I've not yet encountered a bad side to living here. Milborne, like everywhere, has its plus points and aspects that some people might appreciate, but I think that liking or not liking a place is dependent on the individual. People can find both the bad and the good anywhere, if they look hard enough.

Are there things that you would like to change about Milborne St.

Andrew? No, I really like this village. The people I've met who live here are friendly and welcoming, and it's only a short drive to the coast!

What are your pet hates (if any)?

Ignorance and cruelty.

Have you got a claim to fame? I was asked by BBC Radio Solent to write

the lyrics for their 2018 Christmas song.

Who is your hero or inspiration, and why? I've got to say that Sir David Attenborough is a massive hero of mine. I grew watching his programmes and he almost single-handedly brought the natural world to the consciousness in certainly this country, if not the entire globe.

His passion and enthusiasm for our planet and the creatures that inhabit it always makes hearing him speak or watching his programmes a sheer joy.

Who would be on your fantasy dinner date list?

Peter Ustinov, Muhammed Ali, Stan Laurel, Eddie Izzard, Victoria Wood and Sir David Attenborough.

Any funny anecdotes from your school days – incidents, nicknames?

Nothing really – school wasn't a great time for me.

When did you last throw caution to the wind?

Recently; in the past year I've decided to learn to swim properly and have set myself a goal of being able to swim a mile without stopping. I wasn't a confident swimmer – especially out of my depth and I've found getting over that difficult. But I persevered, and although nowhere near reaching my goal yet, I'm determined to reach it. That's if I can ever get back to swimming!

Tell us something that people may find surprising about you? I struggle with self-confidence.

What has been your most embarrassing moment? Whilst working for Toys R Us, I was rushing to serve a customer who was waiting to collect a high value item from a security booth. As I rushed to the booth the customer had their back to me and, as I arrived, I said, "I'm very sorry

A circus owner, long retired

Lay on his deathbed and expired.

When asked what caused him to be dead,

"Roll ups, roll ups", his Doctor said.



Larry Lagrue

Continued on page 30

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Spring in the garden of Tilly Whim



Top right. Blue tit feeding her young.

Above. Juvenile blue tit's first bath .

Above. Our resident duck that seems to come every year to have her ducklings. There are nine here, but she had 11 to start with, it appears sadly that something has happened to two. Very difficult to count but you can see nine if you are clever.



Above. Cockchafer beetle
1.2 inches long or 30mm.

Right. I have been trying for over six years to get a picture of a Chiffchaff! We were sitting in the garden and heard what I thought was the call, so I played it on my phone to check, and it answered, we played it again and it answered again then it came very close. You can imagine my delight when it posed for me.

Heather V Hogg



Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council –	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Richard Macnair	01258 837912

Floods A354 problems contact the Highways Agency 03001 235000
Dorset Direct 01305 221000
dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk www.dorsetforyou.com/
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Environment Agency Floodline	03459 881188
South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk	01404 821500
Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline	03458 505959
MSA Flood Warden, Non-Emergency Only: Mark Johnson	01258 839060

GENERAL – ADULT

Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
Wednesday Social Club	Sheila Burton	01258 839033
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471732

GENERAL – YOUTH

Milborne Ladybirds	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group	Sam Elliott	07873 762035
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Claire Tudge	07970 734162
Youth Club age 8 – 13 years	Joanne Miller	07940 017577

POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact	101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins 101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard 101
Home watch Co-ordinator	Richard Macnair 01258 837912

SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Hunt	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	David French	
Friends of School co-Chair:	Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis	

SPECIAL INTEREST

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Dog Training Behaviour	Natasja Lewis	07896 275357
Food and Wine Club	Rose Frost	01258 837921
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	Anna Cullen	01258 837143
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	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	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Information	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	Bruce Dyer	01258 839117
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839

Football – Under 14s

Manager/coach	Andy Brown	07427 503373
Treasurer	Simon Buckingham	01258 839122
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

VILLAGE 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
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder 01258 880229






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Artsreach at 30

OUR wonderful Dorset charity, Artsreach, is 30 this year. 'It' is very much two splendid women who work extremely hard, at a job they love. Yvonne, I think, has been there from the start, and Kerry for more years than you would think, as she looks very young. There is also a new recruit, Nicole. Sadly, these Covid times have meant that their life is very different, just as it is for everyone else. Yvonne and Kerry take it in turns to be furloughed for a month at a time, and Nicole is working extremely hard part-time.

Nevertheless, they are still doing a lot to help community spirit thrive in Dorset. Do visit their website www.artsreach.co.uk, which they are continually updating with lovely things to do and see, including the National Theatre's and Shakespeare's Globe Live streaming.

They are in very close touch (virtually) with a large number of artists, both solo and companies, of various kinds, as well as with bodies like the Arts Council, the National Rural Touring Forum, Action With Communities in Rural England and Dorset Community Action. They are doing a lot of hard thinking about possibilities for when this situation gradually eases.



Thanks to them, many village halls have been alerted to the Retail and Hospitality Grant of £10,000 available from Dorset County Council. Now, they are asking for contributions to a project called 'Tales from the village', a series of articles about our rural Dorset villages: their past, their present, and their future. They are looking for photos (old and new) of your village, its people, buildings and history. They want to hear fun facts, tall tales, folklore, points of historical interest, and true stories of your village and community. If you'd like to be involved with this project, please send relevant photos of your village/village hall with any accompanying stories or text to nicole@artsreach.co.uk along with your name, the name of your village and any other details you'd like mentioned in the article by 8th July 2020. Alternatively, send an email to the address above expressing your interest and Nicole will be in touch to hear your stories.

Sarah Ryan, Artsreach volunteer promoter in Milborne St. Andrew

Summer stream work

DURING the summer, the water level in our Bere Stream becomes very low, slow moving and silt can build up. If you are removing vegetation from the sides of the stream, the Flood Wardens ask that:

1. Lifted / cut vegetation be left by the side of the stream for a few days so that displaced wildlife can crawl back to the stream.
2. The lifted / cut vegetation should then be removed and placed in garden waste bins or recycled.
3. Try to avoid lifted / cut vegetation falling back into the stream where it might cause clogging and build up of silt further downstream.

Thank you.

The Flood Team



Longmead Community Farm

Strengthening and Supporting Families

Vacancy: Family Programme Volunteer

OUR Family Programme provides young people and families with a safe environment and structured activities to spend time together to reconnect and rebuild. We support young people and families to communicate positively, respect each other's thoughts and feelings, learn new skills and achieve therapeutic outcomes, such as building confidence and self esteem and resilience. We believe that these positive experiences will create lasting, positive change in their lives. Families tend to visit the farm at weekends or during school holidays for the day or overnight, although we occasionally have young people and families during the week.

To support our provision and enable the wonderful work we do, we need a team of dedicated volunteers. Volunteers support families by role modelling positive communication, team work, sharing, positive behaviour management and having fun. They facilitate a wide range of positive activities; such as animal care, outdoor pursuits, arts and crafts, games, cooking and basic maintenance tasks. There is always an experienced lead worker or the Family Programme Senior Practitioner, working alongside volunteers to support families to 'muck in' at the farm during their visit and volunteers always work as part of a team.

As part of volunteering with us you will receive rewarding experiences, relevant training opportunities, supervisions and support from practitioners that are widely experienced in working with young people and families. This is an ideal position for people who would like experience working with young people and families to build their CV or to gain insight into whether it is the professional path for them. If you have free time and are interested, then we would love to hear from you.

We like families to work with the same group of volunteers, and therefore ask volunteers to commit to approximately one visit every six weeks. We also welcome 'floating volunteers' who can be available if another volunteer isn't able to make it, when the family they normally work with comes. Depending on your availability, volunteers can be here for the whole 24 hours or just for a day.

Such a diverse range of work goes on at Longmead, we welcome applications from all people, but here are some essential skills for volunteering with us:

- Strong communication skills
- Good team working skills
- Listening skills
- Practical skills
- A boundaried but non-judgemental approach to young people and families and the ability to accept people where they are on their journey
- A willingness to learn
- An interest in facilitating young people and families facing crisis to make positive, lasting change

Desirable attributes include:

- An interest in animals, gardening, cooking or baking and the outdoors
- The ability to relationship build with a diverse range of people
- The ability to have fun and a sense of humour
- Previous experience of spending time with children & families (this may be your own)
- Creativity

All successful applicants will be subject to reference checks and a DBS check as part of our safe recruitment policy. We accept volunteers over the age of 18, who have the right skills and motivations to join the Longmead Community Farm team.

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Lockdown Lifesavers

I WONDER what is helping you to survive the lockdown? Having a supportive family, friends and neighbours, cooking, emails, telephone and FaceTime calls, (not forgetting alcohol) have all been much appreciated.

All those aspects have undoubtedly helped me through some of the more difficult days but more than any of these I would rank reading books as my absolute lifesaver. Even though physically I have been unable to travel, my thoughts have had free reign and I've really appreciated having the time to re-read old favourites as well as try new authors.

I've always been an enthusiastic reader. Having a working mum meant that I was sent to a nursery school at the age of two years. As you can see from the photo Mrs Wells was a formidable teacher and there was none of that playing with sand and water nonsense at her school. We were grouped standing round an old-fashioned easel and taught our alphabet right from day one. She gave each letter a character and I can remember busy 'B' with two sacks on his back and Humpty 'D'. Reading books were about Nan and Dan going out in a gig!



and white pictures of famous statues, paintings and historical figures. It introduced the basics of how to read music but I found this beyond me. The illustrations of goblins accompanying the fairy stories haunt me to this day.

I read those volumes over and over many times and absorbed as much knowledge as I could, unaware that the information was already very much out of date. However, pride often comes before a fall and when I got to secondary school I soon discovered that when you have only seen a word in print it is easy to get things very wrong. I shudder at the way I pronounced 'Aphrodite' for instance and was jeered at by my peers for talking about a cacophony as 'cake-oh-phoney'. Years later when I read 'Cranford' I had every sympathy with Thomas Holbrook's mis-pronunciation of Goethe, I had made the self same blunder myself.

Nowadays you don't even have to visit a bookshop or library but can download a book from the Internet in seconds and I especially welcome being able to read the first part of a book to see if it is to your taste before purchasing. Of course, some people prefer the feel of a real book in their hands, but I have become used to the convenience of digital reading. Especially the ability to modify the size of text and the amount of background illumination. No need to read with a torch under the covers these days!

There are often lists of 'my 10 favourite books of all time' in the media but I would find that almost impossible to finalise. Here are just a few I have read, re-read or dipped into with great enjoyment recently.

Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine – Gail Honeyman
Staying On – Paul Scott

Bitter Lemons of Cyprus – Lawrence Durrell

Thomas Hardy the complete poems – edited by James Gibson

The Once and Future King – T H White

Rose Frost



I can't remember reading with or to my parents, there were no bedtime stories just bedside prayers and a loving goodnight kiss from mum. My father read the Daily Express newspaper but only owned one other book which was a school prize dated 1921 – 'Fabre's Book of Insects' which both fascinated and repelled me at the same time. Mum was always too busy darning socks in the evening to read but enjoyed finishing off the more difficult clues from dad's crossword puzzle in the newspaper when he disappeared off to the pub each evening.

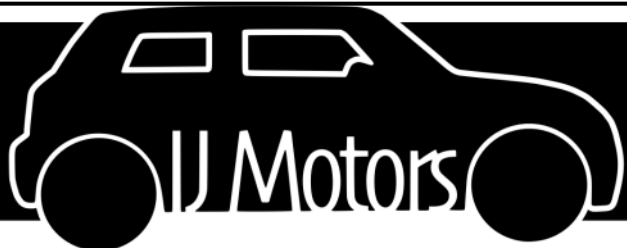
There were very few books in our house and certainly no bookcase, the books we were given as birthday and Christmas presents were piled up in the toy cupboard or in the bottom of my wardrobe. I had no bedside table or lamp but learned the covert art of reading under the covers with a torch early on.

My favourites were all the AA Milne books, Flower Fairies and the wonderful Rupert the Bear Annuals which were all in rhyme. I had an abridged version of Jane Eyre, also Heidi, Treasure Island (stolen from my brother) and The Bobbsey Twins go on a ferry boat, which I am sure would be very much frowned on these days for being politically incorrect. Then when I was nine years old this literary desert was suddenly enriched by a deluge of information.

My grandfather was born in 1873 and had five children. When his first grandchildren were born in the 1920's he bought my lucky cousins a set of Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopaedias. There were 10 volumes and the smart blue bindings were richly ornamented with gold lettering. These books were handed down to each of his children's families and eventually, long after Grandpa died, ended up with us as my father was the youngest son.

To suddenly acquire this massive mine of information was mind boggling to me. The volumes were very readable and all the information was presented in an easy to understand format. I loved the great lives and golden deeds stories, the Greek myths and legends, poetry and history sections best, but I also loved to gaze at the black





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Milton Abbas First School Diary 1985-1991

I HAVE just completed an illustrated diary of day to day happenings and events at Milton Abbas First School for the years 1985 to 1991, plus a little before and after these dates. It contains over 270 pages and includes 370 photos, plus many news reports and other illustrations. Copies have been given to Milton Abbas Local History Group and the Dorset History Centre. I now plan to make copies available to anyone interested. It will be of particular interest to pupils and others attending or associated with the school at that time. There will be no charge, apart from a contribution to cover the cost of printing. I intend to make the diary freely available on line for anyone to download. If you would like a paper copy, please contact me on 01305 261426 or email ronkarley@argonet.co.uk

Ron Karley, Headteacher for the diary period.

Yoga – it's not about strange positions



MOST people think that yoga is about contorting yourself into weird shapes and learning to relax. You definitely do learn how to relax (and most people in our culture really need that), but it really isn't about weird shapes – if it were, the best yogis would be circus performers. Yoga evolved as a theory and

practice, as an answer to the perennial questions, 'Why do we suffer?' and 'What can we do about it?'

It recognises that we have many different aspects – body, breath, mind, emotions, habits, attitudes, principles, beliefs – and that they are all interconnected, affecting each other. It offers many different ways in which we can make life better for ourselves.... that is one of its keys: you do it for yourself, you don't have to rely on anyone else... in fact, you HAVE to do it for yourself. As such, it is very self-empowering.

One of the things I love most about it is that it's practical. It says, if you practise this, you will gradually change those habits that aren't helping you and replace them with better ones, whether the habits are physical (stooping instead of standing upright, for instance), mental (replacing seeing everything in the worst light, with a more sanguine outlook) or emotional (feeling very anxious, or having very low self-esteem).

Why should we change our outlook? To decrease suffering . . . if you always look only at the dark cloud and never at the silver lining, your life will be very joyless. Yoga does not recommend rose-tinted spectacles, but it does say that we should try to see things as clearly and honestly as possible.

When people come to see me as a yoga teacher or therapist, we discuss their life and what they feel they want to change. We evolve a practice – which could be anything from 5 minutes to 25 minutes, to start with. I write it down and they go away and do it, ideally every day. This way, various things including their breathing gradually improve, so that all bodily systems start working better, and they begin to feel better. Then they come back after a little while and, depending on how things are going, the practice evolves some more.

If you want to find out more, go to my website, www.sarahryan yoga.co.uk.

Sarah Ryan

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Hedgehogs in the village

THE year has rolled on and the hedgehog conference organised for the beginning of May had to be cancelled. This does not mean the interest through the county, and particularly in Milborne St. Andrew, has waned. I know of one household only where hedgehogs have been consistent visitors through the year so far, so I would be very interested in any other sightings, and especially regular visiting hedgehogs. Please let me know of any by e-mail if possible at (pip.jackie@btinternet.com).



It would be lovely to know of any hoglets, as in the photo, that have been seen, but with a note of warning. Do NOT disturb any female with young as it is possible she may destroy them as a result. I did have one family of hoglets given to me on a previous occasion but as soon as the possibility arose the mother took them away and were never seen again by me.

And a reminder, it is no longer recommended to offer mealworms to hedgehogs even though they DO like them, as they have disproportionate element base that can give them severe bone deficiency. Offer them hedgehog food, available from many pet stores, or alternatively the cheapest tinned cat food.

Pip Bowell

Orchids in the area

I HAVE had a long interest in British wild orchids and am always keen to encourage others to do the same. I am lucky that I can see nine species at Durlston Country Park at Swanage where I work as a volunteer.

However, there are opportunities to see wild orchids much closer to home. I went to see some on Sunday 14th June on the A35 dual carriageway near the parking area just before the end of the road at Bere Regis. They were Pyramid Orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and there were somewhere in the region of 500 spikes of striking pink flowers. I was particularly interested to see three specimens that were pure white, an observation I have only had rarely in the past. Two years ago there were some Common Spotted Orchids (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*) and a very few spikes of Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) but they



were not there this year. Last year there were Bee Orchids a short way into the Briantspuddle turning from the dual carriageway and someone had put a notice requesting the verge cutters to avoid them, but again they are not there this year. There are some places in the parish where there are possible habitat sites which I visit in the hope of finding them. One that has proved reliable for a number of years is in Milborne Wood where the first orchid in the year to flower is the Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*). This has the interesting Dorset name of Granfergrigglesticks and Adders tongue, but has many other rural names, Male satyrion, Male Fools-stones, Cuckoo-cock and Adam and Eve.

Pip Bowell

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Profile: Richard Lock

"I carry the burden of being a maverick who gets things done"

FROM his earliest role in the Hampshire Fire Service as, still, the youngest ever Officer in Charge (1975) Richard proved himself to be well motivated, task focussed, reliable and self disciplined, a perfectionist who would always go the 'extra mile' having double checked accuracy. This, it is stated in his CV, can often "frustrate teammates". After twelve years with this Brigade and winning the "Young Manager's Competition" he moved upwards to be a Staff Officer with HM Fire Services Inspectorate reporting to (Her Majesty's Inspectors) HMI responsible for Fire Research then to the Suffolk Fire Service as Divisional Commander, two years later promoted to Senior Divisional Officer (Planning and review) introducing a comprehensive Health and Safety (H&S) policy. Onwards again to Strategic Development, Operations Commander responsible for the management of 640 operational personnel then only a year later, Fire Safety Command implementing Key Standards as part of a move towards Service Level agreements. During this highly pressurised lifestyle he dealt with the deaths of 20 people, one murder, a plane crash, a car fire, plus personally rescuing many victims of fire. In 1997 he established his own business *Anglian Firewise Services* using his years of expertise covering a wide range of fire safety services to many high profile clients including M&S, Budweiser and Hampshire County Council, finally handing over the business to his son last year. His skills are many and various. As a trainer, lecturer, project manager and ultimate team player he has found his years of accruing experience both in the private and public sector has enabled him to use his highly developed interpersonal attributes to provide an essential service. Of current interest is his training for multi-agency exercises at the Civil Emergency Planning College. His high degree of computer literacy has enabled him to make presentations easy to understand and remember. A man for all seasons and described by a colleague as *"a visionary officer"*, he has translated his multi layered experience into community action and support, having been a School Governor, Parish Councillor, Editor of the Reporter's predecessor, The Messenger, and Trustee of the Village Hall. Whilst in the latter role he took advantage of many opportunities which arose to enhance the Hall e.g. the "People's Millions". Now, as manager of the

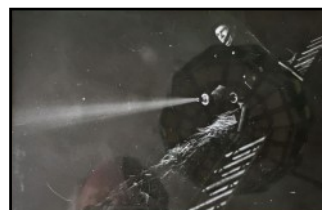


Richard, born and raised in Andover until the age of 10yrs was educated at Winchester County Secondary School *"a tough place where summary justice"* was meted out. A top streamer he did not fulfil expectations failing all 8xGCSE's! However he achieved well in all competitive sports winning trophies for volley ball, table tennis and golf.

In 1993 he married Maureen. She was, at that time, the only female International Manager for Philips Mobile Radio responsible for their Portuguese and Spanish activities making regular weekly business trips to Lisbon and Madrid. Moving later to Eastern Electricity Trading, setting up a new Marketing and Communication team with trips to Boston and Houston. Latterly she has run a successful Garden Design business. Well matched!

Richard's father served with distinction in the Fire Service during the war and his son and grandson have also followed his lead. They are a proud family bearing their courage and conviction, forged and strengthened by the bonds between firefighting team members. Whatever their differences *"Come the Fire"* as Richard says *"(they) work together and protect each other"*. During this pandemic it is a good philosophy for us all to adopt, articulated with a wealth of safeguarding experience, revealing the essence of the man.

Carole Fornachon

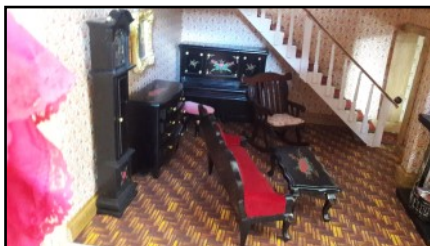


Top: Richard, his father and son
Above: Richard's father firefighting during the war

The positive side of 'lockdown'

I HAD only been home for three days, from a six-week holiday, when were instructed by the government to stay indoors. At first it was like an extended holiday but then boredom set in. Probably, like a lot of people, I was busy in the garden (nice weather wasn't it?), I gave the house a thoroughly good clean, even on top of kitchen cupboards, bookcases emptied and each book cleaned, etc. But when that was done – then what?

I like crafting and making things so a started an ongoing project. Several years ago I bought a second hand doll's house with the intention of revamping it in the style of a Victorian home. I had done nothing with it since acquiring it so decided it was time to get busy with it. I stripped all the old wallpaper off and removed existing curtains, carpets and fixtures so that I had a



'clean slate' to work on. I had previously found a website where you can download and print off suitable doll's house flooring paper and wall papers. So – with paper sheets of wooden floors, brickwork and wallpapers I got to work. I was given some 1/12th scale picture rails and skirting board which came in handy. Making curtains was a challenge and

after researching what they would have looked like I set about hand sewing some. Needless to say, it took a while.

I have ordered some things online such as stair spindles, which were very tricky to install but it gave the interior more authenticity. Now I am in the process of making furniture and fireplaces.

There is so much more to do but at least I have made a start to what will be a long-term project which I enjoy.

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Nature's response to the lockdown

JUST a few thoughts and gleanings on this fascinating subject. Jack Thacker, the young writer-in-residence at the Lighthouse Theatre in Poole is adding his creativity to the current mix of science, biodiversity, speculation and folklore around at the moment. He has recorded a reading of his poem *The Night Office*. Apparently the piece represents what happens when the nightingale's song is slowed down to suit the iconic bird's metabolism i.e. time as experienced by the nightingale. As



Jack says "If the lockdown has taught me anything it is that under the right circumstances, slowing down can be an opening up... improv(ing) our ability to listen". Bird song, which was hidden before, due to general noise and traffic, has less to compete with. It has been recorded that the dawn chorus goes on way past dawn and is described in some journals as "deafening"! Cetti's warblers, rare visitors, are becoming more visible. Also, birds can now hear each other better than before. Urban blackbirds are, apparently, morphing into a new species, they have been

nesting and breeding a month earlier than their countryside cousins. They also sing in the night now it's quieter. The RSPB launched *Breakfast Birdwatch* which has proved a welcome distraction to many encouraging a reconnection with nature. 50 species of bird have so far been recorded, even Herons and a profusion of Jays in gardens. I read that peregrine falcons are following their earlier adopters and swapping sea cliffs for the UK parliament and cathedrals, choosing Corfe Castle in Dorset. Gulls have gone back to fishing for food instead of relying on the easy pickings from picnickers and fish'n chip eaters. Ducks in the fountains almost outnumber tourists in London's Trafalgar Square! Nature claiming back the cities. Scientists have launched a "*Silent Cities*" project to look at the diversity of sounds in places normally masked by human induced noise. People are being encouraged to record sounds in "ordinary" suburban/urban spaces such as in a backyard or on a balcony during lockdown to compare with noises when things are back to normal. Some seismologists say "human activity has dropped to the lowest point since records began" so maybe it's just the humans that have gone quiet? Are we also taking more notice of things that were always there? Air quality has improved. With the absence of traffic on the roads and aircraft in the sky, nitrogen



dioxide levels (exhaust fumes) have dropped by more than 50% in some areas across the UK. Clear night skies delight photographers. The skies seem bluer without the contrails from passing airliners.

Animals, it seems, are losing the "fear response" and colonising famous monuments and gardens, Deer in the East End of London, Little Owls at Ham House, Peacocks following gardeners as they go about their work, stoats, weasels and hares have forsaken the woodland to explore large gardens usually filled with visitors. Even Partridges nesting in a Cambridge car park, a Buzzard in an Orangery, a basking seal in Weymouth. The notoriously secretive grass snakes are more visible. Fewer bumble bees are dying by road kill say *Bee*

Haven Beekeepers and so more bee colonies are getting off to a good start. In Bedford, Jane Perrone has chalked the names of plants growing in untended pavement cracks and their uses for those taking their permitted exercise and cultivating an increasing interest in their natural surroundings. So it appears we are hearing, seeing and responding more to our natural environment. But will all this positive activity cease once lockdown is completely lifted?

Carole Fornachon



Orange tip butterflies



Adult male

in this area is Jack-by-the-Hedge (*Alliaria petiolate*) also known as Garlic Mustard. In damp meadows they will also lay their eggs on Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and less commonly on other plants of the crucifera family. The eggs are normally laid singly as the caterpillars are cannibalistic as soon as they hatch and they have only one generation a year, unlike Small Tortoiseshell butterflies (*Aglais urticae*) that may have two or three. It is of interest to note that only the male has the orange tips whereas the female has none and is therefore often misidentified as a small white.

Pip Bowell

Thank you Pip, of course it's garlic mustard and not wild garlic, that one went under the radar

I READ with great interest the wildlife article on Countryfile in last month's *Reporter* and very much enjoyed the short exposure that Milborne St. Andrew had in the programme, although it was hard to identify much that was of the village.

In the article reference was made to the Orange tip butterfly (*Anthocharis cardamines*) and its food plant. Unfortunately the plant mentioned was Wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) which is sometimes known as Ramsons. This is not a normal foodplant of this butterfly but most commonly



Eggs on the food plant

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Tolpuddle and back in time for lunch

'MANY roads can take you there, many different ways. One direction takes you weeks, another takes you days'. So proclaimed George Harrison in the lyrics of his 1968 song *Dehradun*, a tune penned about the Indian city of the same name. This line has become my mantra as my finger hovers over OL25, the Explorer map I use to plot my routes. Today I'm heading south towards Tolpuddle. I'm not planning on taking weeks or days as I would like to be home for lunch. On a fresh summer's morning you can't beat striding down The Causeway, bearing right at the War Memorial before turning left to join the footpath that takes you past Manor Farm. The elaborate weather worn stone pillars that once formed a gateway here take you through to open country. A beige ladies' sunhat has been perched on one of the stile uprights; it has been here for a few days now, an item of lost property that needs reuniting with its owner. Although it is just past eight o'clock in the morning, the sun is beginning to show some ferocity and I toy with the idea of borrowing the hat, electing to leave it as it isn't really my style.

The path leads down to a clump of beech trees where I will be bearing right instead of heading directly towards Tolpuddle. A rope swing hangs over the adjacent brook; perhaps generations of Milborne youngsters have enjoyed endless summer days here, trudging off home across the fields when their tummies begin to rumble? I am now heading west along a chalk path at the foot of a valley, through three fields where the view to my right opens up and I can see traffic on the A354 consisting primarily of courier vans and supermarket delivery lorries. Very few cars, a sign of the times. At the end of the fifth field, past a tumbledown barn the path swings left becoming enclosed between rustic hedges. There is an active badger sett to carefully negotiate before topping out on the crest of Lords Down. The view from here is a fantastic panorama, the vastness of Puddletown Forest right around to Bullbarrow Hill all framed beneath a clear blue azure sky.

I begin to drop down towards the A35. My map indicates I should pass a triangulation point here on the field boundary but I fail to locate it. I'm not doubting Ordnance Survey, fair play to them they have been mapping this country since 1745, maybe I just didn't look hard enough? The footpath cuts diagonally across a field before becoming metalled. It then skirts the dual carriageway, swooping beneath it in a modern concrete underpass, a complete juxtaposition to the ancient landscape I have just trekked. Dropping down into Tolpuddle the path becomes Central Farm Lane. Joining the old A35 in the village it is hard to imagine this was the predecessor to the modern adjacent road. I soon remember how leisurely things were, even forty years ago when we would travel between Dorchester and Bere Regis in my dad's Austin

Cambridge. The worst case scenario back then was getting held up by a clanking, whirring milk float, or having to wait to pass the pinch point in the village as a coal delivery lorry was unloaded by a man in blue dungarees, his eyes a stark white against a sooty face.

Leaving the bulky Martyrs' Tree on my right and passing a couple of stands selling early summer plants, my route takes me off the main road and up the steeply inclined road at Whitehill. It seems to get steeper the more I ascend and I breast the summit with a bead of sweat above my eyebrows. My mind wanders longingly towards the beige hat perched on the stile at Manor Farm, but it really isn't my style . . . I cross paths with the A35 again and stop a while on the overbridge. Covid-19 has reduced the normal constant flow of traffic, the vehicles themselves even seem to be lacking their usual hustle and bustle, as if proceeding cautiously into the unknown.

At this point I could take a direct route back home, but I choose to bear right and follow the course of the old Roman Road that will lead me in true Romano road building fashion, gun barrel straight down to Ashley Barn on Snag Lane (Ashleyus Barnus, Snagus Laneus as the Roman invaders may have known it). Here I pick up the Affpuddle to Milborne St. Andrew road where it kinks right then left. The Roman road continues straight on as a narrow grassy path. Ahead of me looms the familiar sight of Wetherby Castle and I know I am nearly home. We can see the tree capped fort from our spare bedroom, or as we call it 'Monty's Room', named after our ginger cat who has taken up permanent residence within. A sort of feline Julian Assange. The fort is worth a visit; I've crisscrossed it on some of my lockdown walks and its earthworks can be accessed either by a signposted path from Snag Lane, or from the path at the end of The Causeway where it joins Little England. Pieces of Roman pottery ware were found here by antiquarians in the nineteenth century. In the twenty first century all I found was lots of sheep poo.

As I crest the hill and enter the environs of our village a police car crawls down the lane towards Bere Regis. The female officer gives me a friendly wave and I return the gesture with my plaster encased arm in acknowledgement. I have been out for just over an hour but haven't seen a single soul; it would have been a fair cop! I easily made it back before lunch and even managed to sneak in some elevenses before I unfolded OL25 to see where tomorrow would take me.

If George Harrison had chosen to retire to Milborne St. Andrew instead of Henley on Thames, would he have penned a little ditty extolling the virtues of our green lanes, tracks and paths? If he was still with us might he have accompanied me to find the elusive triangulation point on Lords Down? Why not see if you can stumble upon it?

Rich Hawker

Milton Abbas Neighbourcar – still at your service

As you may expect, the past few months have been quiet for Milton Abbas Neighbourcar, the community transport scheme operated by local volunteers primarily serving patients of Milton Abbas Surgery.

We typically conduct 50–60 trips per month taking our patients to surgery appointments and hospital visits plus the occasional "social" trip such as shopping, etc.

Following lockdown, 75% of our drivers (most of whom fall into the "vulnerable" category) have decided to self-isolate. This has, fortunately, not had a significant impact on Neighbourcar as our demand has also dried up mainly due to the surgery making greater use of technology and hospitals have cancelled all non-essential (in their opinion) appointments. Since lockdown was formally announced on 23rd March, at the time of writing this article (mid-June), we have conducted a grand total of 14 journeys – an average of one a week. Still, this means that "yours truly" has more recently been able to concentrate on reducing his golf handicap!

On the positive side, the drivers who are still available have been supporting the surgery and the community at large by supplementing the prescription delivery service. They are delivering on average 20

prescriptions a day to those unable to collect their prescriptions. This service has helped the surgery to reduce face to face contact even further keeping their staff and other patients better protected from the Covid-19 virus. We at Neighbourcar see this as part of giving something to the community as we have not charged the patients receiving prescriptions or the surgery for this daily service.

We do not yet know what the new world will look like but hope that we are soon able to get most, if not all, our drivers back on the road taking you to your appointments wherever they may be! We have permanently lost a few drivers from Milborne St. Andrew in recent months for a variety of reasons, but I am pleased to say that we have one replacement on board and are currently in conversation with another potential new driver.

If you would like to help us continue to deliver this valuable community service please pick up the phone and ring 01258 470333, leave a message, and I will personally get back to you to start your recruitment – we can never have too many drivers! Alternatively, email me at maneighbourcar@gmail.com.

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Are GM foods soon to be served up?

WHILE most of us are quite rightly occupied with the Covid-19 outbreak, the UK government is still plugging away at preparing laws to take us beyond the transition period for leaving the EU, which ends on 31st December 2020. The Agriculture Bill is important because of food quality and human health, animal welfare and the significant effect farming has on our natural environment, and has acute relevance to our area given the extent of agriculture here, and with many people working within the sector.

The news headlines have generally focused on the lower grade foods, and animal products raised to lower safety and welfare standards than in the UK, like chlorinated chicken (washing poultry in bleach to rid it of harmful germs, a result of factory farming practices) in the US or injecting cattle with growth hormones.

Little mentioned is that the US, South America and many other non-EU countries rely heavily on genetically modified (GM) organisms (GMOs) in both plants and animals. Safety and ethical questions still remain about gene editing or genetic enhancement, and are not fully understood. This is why the UK and the EU are part of the Cartagena Protocol which has clear definitions of what a GMO is, stating in Article 23 that the government will promote public awareness and education of GMOs and their risks to human health. Ethically I believe that the keeping of seeds and growing local varieties evolved to the region's climate is a birth right and not something which is patentable and prosecutable for when using GM seeds. These plants are often designed to produce infertile seeds meaning that even if the farmer keeps the seeds (risking litigation) they are unlikely to grow anyway, meaning they must buy fresh seeds from agrichemical companies every year. This places farmers under financial pressures, acutely in developing countries like India where the rate of farmer suicides has grown significantly since the introduction of GM crops in around 2007.

What has all this got to do with our Agriculture Bill? Well, a last minute amendment prompted by a letter written by MP Julian Sturdy to the Government (<http://www.appg-agscience.org.uk/linkedfiles/JS%20letter%20to%20George%20Eustice%207May20.pdf>) was added just days before the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords on Monday 10th June, to redefine the term 'genetically modified' which allows the use of less invasive genetic editing technologies (SDN-1 / CRISPR) to be used, as well as remove the word 'native' from our plants and livestock. This opens the door to the use of foreign and even more hybridised plants and animals to be reared in the UK, which departs from our current EU safety regulations – and public consultation – on the use of GMOs. I have three issues with this: I believe this is far too big a subject to be slipped in to a Bill as an 'amendment' after it has left the House of Commons where it is available for public scrutiny and voted on; Julian Sturdy admits in his letter that GMOs should really be handled by DEFRA (Department for Environment and Rural Affairs) but says, as this will take too long, it's better to get GMO use into the bill now; and, regardless of the level of gene editing (SDN-1, 2 or 3), it is still gene editing with potentially wide ranging and harmful side effects. Therefore, I believe, if any gene edited plants or animals fed on such are allowed in the UK, we should have the right to know with products clearly labelled, as happens in many other countries together with tax levied to ensure that the harmful, cheaper practices do not undercut sustainable and regenerative, organic farm practices, otherwise leading to a race to the bottom.

I have written to our MP, Simon Hoare, who responded very quickly to two points regarding his opposition to - but then voting for - the Agriculture Bill but he failed to respond at all on the issue of the last minute amendment of GM to the Bill.

Phillip Jeans

The *Reporter* will publish a response to the questions that Mr Jeans put to Simon Hoare, if forthcoming. Hear more about seed sovereignty on BBC Sounds, searching for The Food Programme.

News from Trading Standards: Facemasks and PPE

ON the 11th May the Government advised people to wear face coverings in enclosed spaces when social distancing, on public transport or in some shops.

Face coverings such as handmade masks and scarfs do not replace the need for social distancing or handwashing. Evidence suggests that wearing a covering does not protect you. However, if you are infected but have not yet developed symptoms, it may provide some protection for others you come into close contact with.

A face covering is not the same as personal protective equipment (PPE) or medical devices such as surgical masks or respirators used by healthcare and other workers. This equipment is heavily regulated, designed and manufactured to be worn for protection against one or more risks to that person's health or safety.

As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic there has been a huge increase in demand for PPE products both commercially and by consumers. Unfortunately, this has led to a rise in the number of illegal PPE being sold. These products can often be dangerous and unsafe, or come from supply chains without traceability back to a manufacturer's technical file to show it complies with our law.

Trading Standards are responsible for the enforcement of PPE sold to consumers. As a minimum PPE masks should bear-

- a name, trademark or other means of identification of the manufacturer or supplier
- Product code
- a CE mark
- four digit Notified Body number
- bear the appropriate class (FFP1, FFP2 or FFP3) – please note only FFP3 can provide protection against Covid- 19.
- reference to standard EN 149:2001+A1:2009
- state whether is single use (NR) or re-useable (R)
- accompanied by instructions in English

If anyone believes PPE or other goods are not safe or not as described report it to Dorset Council Trading Standards by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> or by calling their new freephone number 0808 223 1133.



'No-Co' by John Wright

(With apologies to Thomas Hood, author of 'No[vember]' 1844)

No traffic on road or street or motorway,
No flag on any steeple,
No sound of hymns from church's people,
No children in the park,
No company – no nobility.

No-tice the sun and moon!
No-tice the morn and noon!
No-tice the dawn chorus and lengthening time of day.
No-tice the sky – no aeroplanes!
No-tice the distance looking bright!

No traveling at all, no locomotion,
No inkling of the future, no notion,
"No go" by land or ocean.
No mail, no post by hand delivery,
No other news from any foreign coast.

No-tice courtesies to strangers.
No-tice shade and shine, butterflies and bees,
No-tice fruits and flowers, new leaves and birds.
No-tice the Capital Mutation –
Co-vid-19!

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Yoga class on Thursdays in term time
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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

Continued from page 13

to keep you waiting, Sir", and entered the booth, opened the serving hatch – and that's when I realised that my customer was a woman, who hadn't taken kindly to being referred to as "Sir"!

What are your hobbies or interests? When I'm not writing poetry, I like swimming, and going for walks. Lockdown has given me more time to enjoy local walks, and I'm determined to continue to do this once lockdown is over. I'm a big fan of comedy – everything from Laurel and Hardy, up to modern comedies and stand up. Tim Vine is a hero of mine, definitely.

Is there a charity close to your heart? Recently, I've worked closely with a local charity called Hidden Needs Trust (Hiddenneedstrust.org) who work to support children with special educational needs. I wrote their official 2018 poem which I read at a charity concert for them at the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil.

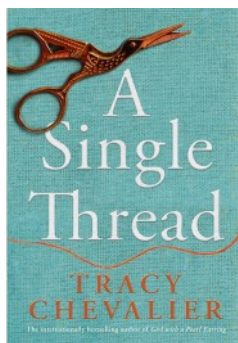
Have you a favourite website or TV programme? I don't have a favourite website (other than my blog), but there is a channel on YouTube called "Bad Lip Reading" which is a great source of amusement. At the moment, I've been enjoying a TV show about Pompeii and the eruption of Mt Vesuvius. I was lucky enough to go to Italy last year and stay in Naples with a great view of Vesuvius, and the programme has brought back great holiday memories, as well as increasing my desire to go back one day!

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? Just that if you see me around the village, do stop me and say hello!
Ed Richards

You can find more of Larry's poetry and contact him for commissions at his blog, wisforduck.wordpress.com

You'll also find the poem Larry wrote and performed at the 10th anniversary celebrations at the pub on the back page.

A Good Read: 'A Single Thread' by Tracy Chevalier



THIS is a quiet read without sensationalism but with a profound sense of intimacy. The author is known for her well researched novels (e.g. *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*). Historically accurate, often character driven, they are to be savoured at leisure, fostering a sense of engagement with the setting and the characters. This centres on the, often unsung, casualties of the First World War. The fatalities were so high they produced a gender imbalance in society. The story focuses on one of these

Government regarded "surplus" single women as they were known between the wars. This appalling description was coined during the Industrial Revolution.

Her name is Violet Speedwell. She personifies women at the time struggling to come into their own, "forging a future" refusing to be defined by others, leaving her mother's home where she had been subjected to putdowns and misery for many years since the death of her father, her brother and fiancé (the latter two in the war). Moving to Winchester from Southampton she lives an impoverished existence as a typist having to balance the need for food with that of heat, finding solace in the soothing calm of the cathedral. However, she chose a city which was the last refuge of pre-war, desperately clung to values and beliefs, where anything which threatened the status quo had to be eliminated. Within its staid, comfortable existence lurked hidden threats particularly for the single woman.

The prevailing attitude was that they were somehow to blame for their status. As a critic wrote "The gentle pace of the book belies its power". Wanting to make a contribution to the life of the cathedral and space for her individual creativity and joy she is received into the 'broderers' group having stumbled upon their beautiful hand stitched kneelers, cushions and alms bags. And so it was that the well named Violet's life "...boiled down to a row of blue stitches that became a long braid across the canvas, or a sunburst of red that became a flower". As the author writes at the close of the book, cathedrals don't only provide spiritual sustenance (and certainly not to Violet) but also consistency and communities with a common purpose. Tracy Chevalier weaves into her fascinating tale the bell ringing thread, another micro community within the Church's protective arms. Violet discovered the joy of 'ringing out'-of being part of something, leaving space for inner fulfilment despite the fact that women were forbidden the bell tower. Her quiet acceptance, brave persistence, patience and understanding created a common spark. Enter Arthur and we read of love, the reaching out for it, the luck of finding it, also the perils that lie in wait at a time when the world was held in an uneasy peace between wars and changing mores. "The cushions and kneelers were made to last hundreds of years; the sound of the bells was ephemeral. The two communities balanced each other". In both cases a group activity towards a common end. Both required concentration meeting complex needs, shoring up confidence and quiet satisfaction. This is a well-documented pattern of loss woven into British society creating an experience of the hollowness of fatality in the reader together with mental murals of 'foes' and 'champions', negativity and resentment. Its authenticity and historical accuracy appear effortless combining eccentricities and gentle humour. Importantly, the bulk of this tale is based on fact. One of the most vivid characters is Miss Pesel who did exist as do the kneelers and cushions at Winchester Cathedral, they are still in use and can be sat upon or knelt on most days. The broderers' work is now named needlepoint. "A single thread may be a delicate and vulnerable thing, but all those threads woven together create a singular, compelling portrait of courage and longing that is timeless and unforgettable" As a critic wrote "Like a 20th Century Jane Austen, Chevalier draws you in with a careful, beautiful thread".

Carole Fornachon

Reducing my carbon footprint – conclusions

SO what have I learnt? That it is extremely difficult and there is a limit to what one can do as an individual – that is not to say it is not worth doing, incremental changes can add up to large improvements. I have reduced my carbon footprint by a third and this will continue to improve as electricity becomes greener. This is where we all need to be in 10 years' time if we aim to be carbon neutral by 2050 which the government has committed us to. I can do some more things – install more solar panels for example – but otherwise I am dependent on government and businesses to make changes.

Can we trust business to do the right things? Judging by Volkswagen and the diesel scandal and the history of the tobacco, chemical and oil industries, I am not so sure. I don't see the logic of banks and investors putting large sums of money into the coal and oil industries when we must leave most of these resources in the ground. In reality, businesses like to use the green/sustainable label as a way to sell us more stuff to meet their short-term goals rather than anything long-term when the leadership have moved to new jobs.

It is interesting to compare how we are reacting to the Covid-19 pandemic compared to the climate crisis. The climate change deniers have often been Covid-19 deniers ('just like seasonal flu'), countries have not worked together, they have blamed others and fought over resources like PPE. The climate crisis is also a global issue – we will have to work together much better than we have with the coronavirus. Covid-19 is a serious disease but it does not pose an existential threat to humanity. During the last election, green candidates were laughed at for proposing expenditure of £100 billion on insulating homes and yet we have 'found' even more money for the Covid crisis.

We have seen what cleaner air and quieter streets can be like – hopefully, a taste of a future world.

There remain many things which are going to be difficult to decarbonise – in my case we have a motorhome. Even if they started making electric motorhomes, it would be better to use the resources (energy) to make an electric delivery van doing tens of thousands of miles a year rather than a motorhome doing 5,000. At the moment, I can only try and offset our emissions by supporting tree planting/preservation both in the UK and abroad (Word Forest Organisation based in Lyme Regis and Cool Earth are ones I support).

I have shown that there is plenty that can be done now and we should focus on the easier stuff first. We can all start taking those first few steps.

I hope that you have found these notes interesting and informative. If you missed the two paper editions of the *Reporter* then you can read those articles online. If you are interested, I was also the subject of 'Have You Met?' in April.

Andy Mott

Thank you Andy for your most informative series

Editor

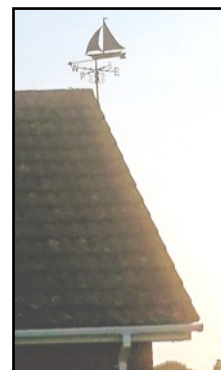
Can you identify where this is in Milborne?

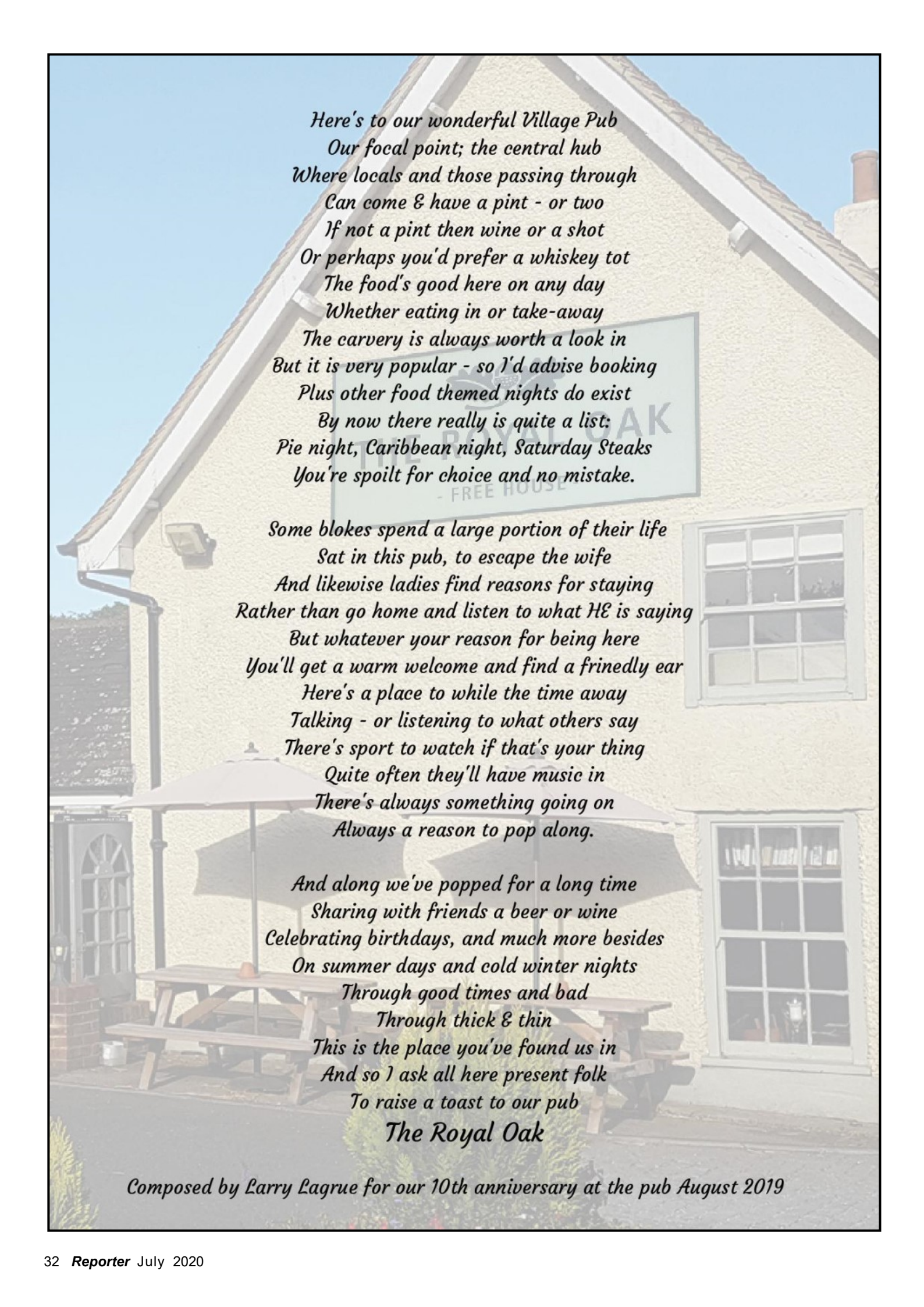
Be the first to send your answer to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to any member of the *Reporter* team.

Reporter team members can be found on page two.

No prize, just a bit of fun.

Answer in the August/September *Reporter*





*Here's to our wonderful Village Pub
Our focal point; the central hub
Where locals and those passing through
Can come & have a pint - or two
If not a pint then wine or a shot
Or perhaps you'd prefer a whiskey tot
The food's good here on any day
Whether eating in or take-away
The carvery is always worth a look in
But it is very popular - so I'd advise booking
Plus other food themed nights do exist
By now there really is quite a list:
Pie night, Caribbean night, Saturday Steaks
You're spoilt for choice and no mistake.*

*Some blokes spend a large portion of their life
Sat in this pub, to escape the wife
And likewise ladies find reasons for staying
Rather than go home and listen to what HE is saying
But whatever your reason for being here
You'll get a warm welcome and find a frinedly ear
Here's a place to while the time away
Talking - or listening to what others say
There's sport to watch if that's your thing
Quite often they'll have music in
There's always something going on
Always a reason to pop along.*

*And along we've popped for a long time
Sharing with friends a beer or wine
Celebrating birthdays, and much more besides
On summer days and cold winter nights
Through good times and bad
Through thick & thin
This is the place you've found us in
And so I ask all here present folk
To raise a toast to our pub
The Royal Oak*

Composed by Larry Lagrue for our 10th anniversary at the pub August 2019