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# Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 12 Issue 8

August-September 2020

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Enquiries and copy to: [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Paper copy to any of the team

# Milton Abbas Surgery

THE Milton Abbas Surgery Team would like to give a BIG shout out to all of our volunteers who have been delivering prescriptions for us, to those of you who have donated face masks and shields, or dropped off thoughtful items that brightened up our day . . . the list is endless but you know who you are! You are amazing, and we have been touched by the community spirit shown amongst our patients.

GP practices across the area have significantly altered their working practices to help them manage capacity for the coronavirus response. In order to continue slowing down the spread of the virus and keep people safe, primary care across Dorset is seeking to continue to deliver services, via this new approach, whilst maximising the use of technology.

With this in mind, it is vital that we ensure people understand how to access primary care in order to maintain patient and staff safety and establish a 'new normal' which embraces the positive changes brought over the last few months. Key messages:

- Primary care has remained open throughout the pandemic, even though our doors are closed.
- If you think you need to see a doctor please call the practice for a telephone appointment or use e-consult via the practice website. Note that in order to manage as many patients as possible in a safe and appropriate way, you might not see or speak to your GP of choice.
- If you need to be seen face-to-face then you will be given an appointment to come to the practice. Please only visit the surgery in person if you have an appointment; remember we also offer video consultations, please ask about these.
- We want to discourage people waiting inside the surgery, to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Coming in for a booked appointment means you will be seen promptly. Staff will clean down areas before your arrival to keep you safe.
- Routine vaccinations and immunisations and cervical screening are important and are available at the practice.
- If you have coronavirus symptoms DO NOT come into the practice – self isolate and seek help via your practice or NHS 111 [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk).

## Monday 10th-Sunday 16th August 2020 is National Allotment Week!

National Allotment Week celebrates how important allotments and other open spaces are, and the role they play in helping people to live healthier lifestyles, grow their own food, develop friendships and bolster communities.

Spending time in green space or bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing.

Their theme for 2020 is Growing Food for Health and Well-being, a reflection of the many benefits of growing, cooking and eating your own fruit and vegetables.

You may not have access to your local allotment, but why not consider planting vegetables in your garden. If you don't have access to a garden, you could plant salad leaves or herbs in a window box or plant pot.

Whatever you do, take some time this August to appreciate being outside in our beautiful countryside and allow nature to work its wonders!

*Gillian Brindle*

## Reporter Team on Holiday

The Reporter Team will be taking a holiday for the next few weeks. This means that the next (October) issue of the magazine will be published at the end of September.

Deadline for ads and copy –  
14th September.



## Ride + Stride 12th September 2020

Dorset Historic Churches Trust provides funds to help parishes keep their churches weatherproof, warm and available for worship and wider public use. In 2019 grants totalling £106,500 were awarded to 16 churches. Most of the Trust's income comes from the annual sponsored Ride+Stride. In 2019 £84,623 was raised by participants of all ages and abilities. 50% of all money pledged was returned to the churches nominated by the riders or striders, so everyone benefited.

Ride + Stride will take place this year on Saturday 12th September 2020. It will be a modified event to take account of Covid 19 restrictions. This means that churches may not be open, refreshments and WCs may not be available and participants may have to self record their own efforts. This is to minimise any risk of infection between people or contamination of churches.

However, it will still be an opportunity for a great day out in Dorset, on bikes, horses or on foot to raise some much-needed funds for your church and churches across the county.

If you are not able to take part you are still able support Ride + Stride by sponsoring one of the riders or striders. Remember that half the sum pledged will be gratefully used by the Trust to sustain our wonderful churches and the other half will be given back to the parish that they nominate, or other nominated charity.

If you would be interested in taking part please get in touch with me, Pam Shults 01258 837203.

## Two sides to a COVID haircut

HAIR has become quite an emotional issue during lockdown. Feeling good about how we look helps us to feel good about ourselves, good wellbeing helps us to get through these tougher times.

Businesses have been reopening from lockdown in a staged approach, with Trading Standards oversight, as we all work together to restart our economy safely while Government gradually amend business closure rules. At the time of writing this, Dorset hairdressers and barbers, closed since the start of lockdown, are reopening.

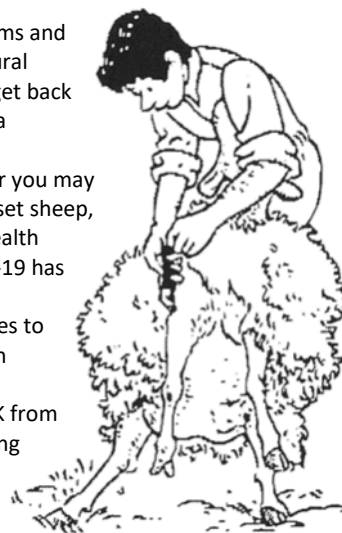
Many people have embraced DIY hairdressing, attempting at-home trims and dye jobs, or growing out a more natural look, but generally we can't wait to get back into the salon and into the hands of a professional hairstylist.

While thinking about our own hair you may not have given much thought to Dorset sheep, but our Trading Standards Animal Health Officers have. This is because COVID-19 has resulted in a lack of migrant workers coming into the UK and when it comes to sheep shearers, that has had quite an impact on farmers.

Shearers normally arrive in the UK from Australia and New Zealand from spring onwards but have been unable to get here this spring. UK based shearers are working hard to get around to all the sheep as soon as possible, which has been especially important with the hot weather we have had, as shearing sheep helps prevent welfare issues from developing.

From hairdressers to sheep shearing, Trading Standards in Dorset continue to work with a wide range of businesses to help keep our local economy 'a cut above the rest'.

To contact Trading Standards please visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> or by calling the freephone number 0808 223 1133.



**citizens  
advice**



## Quiet end to Ladybirds year but looking forward to September

SADLY, there is no summer outing or leavers party to report on this year. We are hoping to redress this in September by having a play morning for the children that are moving on to school on the first day of term – Wednesday 2nd September. As usual Reception children start Milborne school a week after the others go back so we feel that, Coronavirus permitting, a morning of fun will be a good opportunity to say goodbye and wish this group of children all the best wishes in their future education.

We will also temporarily be saying goodbye to Antonia who starts maternity leave shortly. In fact, by the time you read this, Lyra may have her younger sibling. We wish them all the best – can't wait to meet the baby.



The children have continued to be busy listening to stories we've videoed and trying some activities suggested. Jack and the Beanstalk was popular with lots of activities counting and sorting beans, and planting in a jar – which obviously you need to dress up to do! It has not all been work. There have been lots of pictures of children out for walks, paddling in streams and at the seaside.

We particularly like this one of an almost deserted Weymouth beach with the cruise ships in the background.

A knock on effect of having been closed since March is that we haven't seen the children and families who will be with us next year. Currently we cannot show anyone around the preschool and as we are a 'pack away' setting we can't video the room to give new families an idea of what we do. It would be very helpful with budgeting and preparing for September if you could let Liz know if your child is looking to join Ladybirds. There is no commitment on your behalf and if you are uncertain of when or which sessions you would like these can always be agreed nearer the starting date. It is more important to know the names and ages of the children particularly as numbers per session may be restricted due to Coronavirus. We would like to reassure you that we take health and hygiene very seriously and will have in place many changes to safeguard children and adults.

Please contact Liz direct if looking for a place on 07771 512427 or [liz@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:liz@milborneladybirds.com)



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# MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun  
SCHOOL NEWS



Every year across DASP (Dorchester Area Schools Partnership) children are chosen to receive an award for being a really good citizen. On Thursday 9th July, just as it began to rain, children in Milborne school, joined with their parents to receive their special award. They were joined by the children in Reception, Year 1 and some of the key worker group. This reward, for us, is based around the word RESPECT. We have identified key behaviours with each letter that will help you to become a good citizen.

*Remember our manners – always  
Encourage others  
Stick with it– don't give up  
Participate fully in everything – give it a go  
Enjoy learning  
Care for others  
Treat others as you would like to be treated*

The children, though a little wet, were very proud of their achievements and hopefully they will continue to be such fantastic citizens and inspire others too.

We have sadly said 'Good-bye' to Mrs Moore, who was one of our Lunchtime Supervisors. We wish her and her family all the best in their new life in Surrey.



## 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](mailto:office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk)

website: [www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk)

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Email: [lynntargett47@gmail.com](mailto:lynntargett47@gmail.com)

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## Finding firm ground in the midst of change

No-one, back on January 1st when 2020 began and people made resolutions only to break them a few days later, would have predicted how this year has turned out.

We have all had to face change – no one has been unaffected by the coronavirus. Some people have lost more than others – I weep for those whose loved ones have died over this period, hard enough at any time but even more unbearable when they weren't able to say good bye properly in person or at the kind of funeral they would have wished to give.

My heart goes out to those who have not been able to leave their houses for months and have become lonely and depressed as a result of not being able to join in normal activities or see the people who usually bring them joy.

There's the children who have missed months of schooling – not just academic work but also the learning that comes with the arts and music and the companionship of friends; students facing graduation with no jobs to go to; the uncertainty of how GCSE and A Level results will work out this year as grading is done differently.

And the pain brought to many household as people lose jobs and businesses and struggle financially with anxieties about the future.

Those are just some of the ways that people have been affected, but of course everyone's lives have been changed.

Churches, now beginning to open again for worship, have had a much greater on-line presence – wonderful for some, such as those who are now too physically frail to attend worship on a Sunday, but who can join again through youtube, Zoom and so on, but excluding for those not yet able to access the internet.

Change is part of the human world – some thrive on it, others get left behind. What has Christianity to say about this?

I can't in a few words give a long academic theological treatise, which will probably be a relief to you reading this. But I remember a verse from the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament, which reminds us that, though change is all around, some things remain the same: "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13.8) In the midst of the turmoil of this life, it means that we can trust always in the love of God, revealed in his Son, who came to show us that some things remain strong whatever we face: love, forgiveness, the worth and value of each human being and grace among others. When our foundations are shaken, God is able to be a rock for those who trust, and will hold us firm as we face the storms of life. All we have to do is let go and put our hand in the hand of Jesus who will lead us through the changes we face and never let us go.

Best wishes

*Sarah*

## Answers to last month's collective nouns

Leopards	Leap
Peacocks	Muster
Ferrets	Business
Hérons	Siege
Pups	Litter
Ladies	Bevy
Sparrows	Host
Foxes	Skull
Apes	Shrewdness
Nuns	Superfluity
Elephants	Herd
Race horses	String
Choughs	Chattering
Whales	Pod
Monkeys	Troop
Prisoners	Pity
Mules	Barren
Fish	Shoal
Geese	Gaggle
Moles	Labour

### 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

Jim Burg 01258 837466  
Sue Britton 01258 837218

### Benefice Office

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

## St. Andrew's church – what next!

ALTHOUGH our government has said that we can now hold services in churches again we are sure that things will not be as it was before this pandemic climate.

We know that there will have to be lots of strategies to avoid spreading 'the virus' including ensuring thorough cleaning, social distancing, track and trace, no singing of hymns, if there is communion then no kneeling and there will be no wine. What we don't know is how many people will feel safe coming to a service.

As I write this, the Rev. Sarah Hillman is doing an online survey to see what will be the best way forward. This could mean that we may not have any services in St. Andrew's church or that the number held will be less than before. Hopefully by the time this is published we will have more of an idea.

If you haven't been to the graveyards recently you may not have seen all the wonderful wildflowers and the neatness of most of the area. In the old churchyard behind the church, our volunteers cut back a lot of shrubbery last year and this has encouraged more wildflowers to grow. New volunteers are always welcome, if you are interested do give me a call.

Pam Shults, Churchwarden

## 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 October Reporter.



All copy for the **October Reporter** must be received by mid-day **14th September**. Please send copy via e-mail to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team.

# 20 things you may not know about our parish church

## The building

1. In about 939 Athelston (Alfred the Great's son) gave land to endow his new monastery at Milton. The monks at Milton sold the land at Milborne to raise money to build their church. The original St. Andrews was along Milton Road, it would probably have been wood. The current building has many Norman features so assume it was built in the 11th or 12th century.

2. Evidence of the Norman stonework can be seen in the entrance arch, the font and the arch into the vestry; this would have been in the 12th century. The Norman font has a typical corded pattern finish; at the top of the font you can still see metal studs in the stone which would have been to strap down a lid to prevent the holy baptismal water from being stolen for magic purposes.

3. There is a little gargoyle figure on the outside of the east facing window which was reset in the 13th century. The coloured glass shows, amongst others, St. Andrew, who is seen with a diagonal cross rather than an upright one which is unusual.

4. During the 15th century the tower was built as was the porch. Over the arch there is an unusual sundial. It marks the seven hours when prayers were said by monks.

5. During the Victorian times a famous architect called George Edmund Street was engaged to transform the church. He made significant alterations and additions most of which are still visible in the church. The cost was £3,000 paid for by the then Vicar and J C Mansell-Pleydell, Esquire. Street's apprentice was William Morris and the tiles behind the altar could have been made by him.

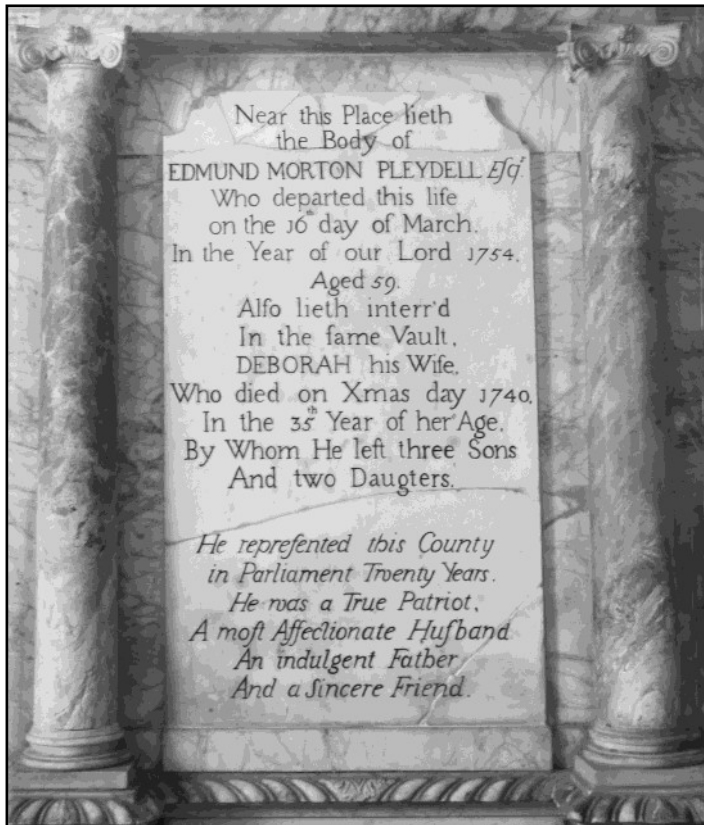


by Dorset Wildlife Trust. St. Andrew's church won the Bishops Prize in 2017 which was given to the best kept wildlife churchyard in Dorset.

## Inside the church

9. Attached to the barrel shaped roof supports are cartouches probably from the 18th century. These are shield shapes with heraldic symbols. It has been suggested that they were fixed at the end of box pews to indicate who used that pew. Or they could have been a memorial to a family member.

10. There are many memorial boards around the interior of the church, these are monuments to local wealthy family members who died. Many of which were repositioned when the church was refurbished. The words on them are fascinating as are the decorations on them. Certainly it's worth spending time reading them.



11. Now hidden in the 'crypt', is a tombstone commemorating Elizabeth Jibbell. She was the "black servant" who was born in the East Indies. She was servant to Deborah Pleydell nee Kyffyn (or Keffyn) whose father was the Governor of Fort Anjengo in Kerala, India. She was buried inside the church, which was usually reserved only for the gentry, and the inscription on her tomb reads: "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Jibbell, who departed this life in April 1783 in the 72nd year of her age. She was born at Anjengo in the East Indies. At an early age she came to England. She lived in Mr Pleydell's family sixty years – was an exceeding good Christian, was inoffensive and of a mild disposition."

12. High up on the north wall is a George III hanging showing his coat of arms dating from the late 18th century. They show that he was the king of England, Scotland, Ireland, France and the Elector of Hanover.

13. In the west aisle above the font is an unusual brass candelabrum, with engraving to show that it was donated to the church by John Gould in 1712. Some of the brass arms are now missing. It may have been made by Samuel Smith, London and it was restored by a local craftsman in the 20th century.



## The churchyards

6. In 1899 land was donated by Mansell-Pleydell to create a new graveyard. This was extended in the middle of the 20th century with land donated by Mr Fowler.

7. Within the new graveyard there are Commonwealth War graves of three villagers and also a commemorative stone to a soldier who gained the Victoria Cross during the Boer War (now known as the South African War).

8. Parts of the churchyard are managed wildflower areas supported



**14.** In the chancel, there is a memorial tomb to John Morton. The Squires Mortons were Lords of the Manor of Stileham. In 1402 Cardinal John Morton was born. He became Archbishop and Prime Minister to Henry VII. His memorial tomb would have had brass figures installed on it, they have obviously been removed some time in the past.

**15.** The old table in the vestry is from the 16th century and would have been used as an altar.

**16.** The Madonna and Child painting was inspected by an art expert in the late 20th century, although not of great value, was thought to be by an artist of the 19th century.

**17.** There are six bells in the tower. The oldest ones date to the early 17th century, the newest was hung in 1967 and have the names of the Parochial Church Council members, of that date, inscribed on it. They are still rung on occasions.

## Other

**18.** There is a large colony of bats who live in the roof spaces. Of an evening they can be seen flying out.

**19.** The list of vicars goes back to 1327, the first being Thomas de Bucklesworth. During the Black Death at least one vicar, named John de Chalk, died of the disease.

**20.** To celebrate the Millennium several of the regular congregation took on a project to make new kneelers. They are very individual but very few people now use them when praying but they make good cushions or raisers for little people.

There are lots of other interesting things in the church so come and see for yourselves.



No.12



No 14



No.8



No.7



No.9. 2 of 6



No.18



No.15



No.17



No.20



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# Toads in my garden

IMAGINE my surprise whilst removing an old garden shed to encounter huge shy creatures in spectacular colours frozen against what was left of their home. And then to encounter more at the back of a long overgrown raised bed against a wall. The only other time had been in the bottom of a half barrel

used for planting. He looked so shocked and naked in his discovery that I quickly covered him up. As you can see they are quite remarkable for their size and patterning. I started looking them up on the internet and this is what I discovered. That, despite its warts and ancient associations with witches, the common toad is a gardener's friend, sucking up slugs and snails. It is famous for migrating en masse to its breeding ponds.

## Conservation status

Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. They are classed as amphibians, breeding in ponds during the spring and spending much of the year feeding in woodlands, gardens, "tussocky grasslands" and hedgerows, mostly evident in February to October. Their average lifespan is four years. They are famous for their mass migrations back to their breeding ponds on the first warm, damp evenings of the year, often around St. Valentine's Day! How very suitable. Common toads tend to breed in larger, deeper ponds than common frogs, but still frequent gardens. They hibernate over winter, often under log piles, stones or even in old flower pots!

## How to identify

The common toad has olive-brown, warty skin, copper eyes and short back legs. It walks rather than hops, and lays its spawn in long strings around aquatic plants, with two rows of eggs per string rather than clumps. Common toad tadpoles are black and may form shoals. Toadlets leave the pond, often in huge numbers, in early summer, frequently during or after heavy rain. Juvenile toads, like adults, have 'warty' dry skin and are usually a shade of grey/green or brown. They can sometimes be very dark or brick red. "Frogs and toads lay their eggs in water and their tadpoles are adapted to live there but the adults spend most of their life on land." Less of them are being seen in gardens in the county.



The number of sightings of amphibians in gardens across Dorset has decreased in the last four years, thanks to the disappearance of garden ponds.

## Did you know?

Our cities and towns pose a threat to common toads; busy roads often block migration paths, making it difficult for them to reach their breeding ponds. It is estimated that 20 tonnes of unlucky toads are killed on the UK's roads every year. If more than 1,000 toads are known to hop across a road in a particular spot, it is dubbed a 'toad crossing'.

## How you can help

Encourage toads and other amphibians into your garden by having a wildlife-friendly pond and leaving piles of logs for hibernating animals. The RSPB's Wildlife Survey found that there has been a 29% drop in the number of toads spotted every month, with the number of frog

sightings also going down by 19%.

## About Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation is a national wildlife charity (Registered Charity 1130188) committed to conserving amphibians and reptiles and saving the disappearing habitats on which they depend. Local group based at 655A Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 4AP tel: 01202 391319 email: [enquiries@arc-trust.org](mailto:enquiries@arc-trust.org) [www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org).



I hope you have enjoyed this slither through the quiet and secret world of the toad. If you wish to assist their future survival please look for ways to help them and even join the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust. *Carole Fornachon*

## Apply for childcare funding, even if you're not using childcare right now

WHILE saving money on your childcare costs might not seem like a priority now, applying for funding could help you save money in the coming months.

Childcare providers can now open to more children if they can meet government guidelines. Some providers may not be able to open yet, or may need to prioritise care for certain groups of children. You can search for childcare providers who are open on the Family Information Directory.

When you need to use childcare for your family, these schemes could help you save money.

### 30 hours funded childcare

The deadline to apply for 30 hours funded childcare for the autumn term is approaching. The scheme is for working parents with three and four year olds. If you're unable to work, or you're working less because of coronavirus, temporary changes could mean you can still claim.

If your child will be three years old by 31st August, you should apply now, even if you aren't using childcare at the moment. If you miss the deadline to claim for the autumn term, you won't be able to claim your hours until January 2021.

### Tax-free childcare

Tax-free Childcare is for working parents with children aged between 0 to 11 years (or 16 if disabled). Temporary changes could mean you can still claim even if you're not working, or are working less due to coronavirus.

To claim Tax-Free Childcare, you'll use an online childcare account. You'll pay money into the account and for every £8 you save, the government adds £2 (or £4 for disabled children). You can apply, start paying money into your account and get government top ups, even if you're not using childcare right now.

### 15 hours funded childcare for two year olds

Families who get certain benefits, have a low income or disabled children could get up to 15 hours funded childcare. If you've recently been made redundant, or are earning less than before, you should find out if you can claim. You can check if you're eligible and apply at any time. You'll be able to use your funded hours the term after your child turns two.

If you have questions about childcare funding, or finding childcare for your family, contact Dorset's Family Information Service for advice. Email: [familyinfo@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) tel: 01305 221066.



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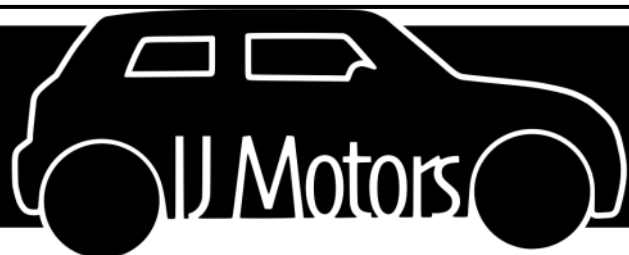
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## Sponsored cycle ride for Milborne Ladybirds



AS you are all aware, 2020 has not been a good year for the usual fund raising events normally held throughout the year by Ladybirds due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With no certainty as to when events will be able to go ahead, Paul Stockley, parent of Noah who attends Ladybirds, has offered to do a sponsored cycle ride covering 107 miles around Dorset to help raise funds which are vital for the day to day running and upkeep of Ladybirds.

If you would like to help by sponsoring Paul on his ride, which will take place on

Sunday 13th September, you can by using the sponsor forms that are located at Grays Stores, and also at The Royal Oak pub. *Paul Stockley*

## Books I have read

**Josie Wright**

DURING my adult reading life, which has been some sixty years, I have read many books, some of which I feel have had a direct influence on my thinking. Initially I read for comfort, and later from curiosity leading to a voracious appetite for opinion and knowledge.

As a young teenager I found an escape from an unhappy home life into literature. I read everything I could lay my hands on, and devoured – Little Women, Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre, Pride and Prejudice, The History of Mr. Polly and many more, without any thought for literary merit. I lived every moment of the lives of my heroes and heroines, emerging tearfully when the story finished, with an unquenchable optimism that whatever trials there are in life, they will resolve themselves.

My early needs from literature for a simple story with a happy ending, expanded as I grew older. I asked other people what they were reading and read some of their favourite authors.

The intricate threads of the subplots in Nicholas Nickleby made me read more Dickens and I re-read the books of my childhood and found much more than simplicity.

After the pornography trial concerning Lady Chatterley's Lover in 1960, I rushed out to buy the book, expecting something very salacious, instead I found D.H. Lawrence. I found his books shocking in quite a different way, the people were so real, I felt as if I were spying on them. I was reading, for the first time, something outside my cosy little world. After Lady Chatterley, I read Sons and Lovers and Women in Love; all the characters seemed as if they had been made by Lawrence – created from his own sweat and blood and mixed with the earth and formed as human beings – then told to live. They told their story, he didn't. In any book of Lawrence's his characters jump from the pages, sensual or timid, devious or despairing – full of life and full of living.

From this springboard I dared further, Steinbeck's, Of Mice and Men, telling of the love between two brothers, when one is mentally retarded. A book about a homosexual relationship by Forster called Maurice.

I have gone on to read about oppression and prejudice and the loneliness and despair of being different. Reading something disturbing and thought provoking is a big jump from gentle cosiness.

Over the last twenty years I have read a lot of books that have made me think, I no longer feel complacent and safe. Reading doesn't make me feel that I know more, it just makes me realise how little I do know.

## The Village Hall and its grounds

LIKE many public places, the Village Hall has been closed since lockdown. However, things have been happening: Ladybirds has gone through all their equipment, Kelly has been cleaning to an even deeper standard than usual, and Andy Barnes of Dorset Carpet Care has once again cleaned the Committee Room carpet and the big Ladybirds' rug, and refused to charge us anything.

Writing in mid-July, the position is that Ladybirds will be opening in September! However, for the moment that will be the only activity taking place there: the committee are undertaking a full risk assessment and will then implement any necessary actions as related to safely hiring and using the premises. It is anticipated that this will take quite a few weeks and certainly will not be completed before September. We are keeping in touch with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Dorset Community Action organisations, which are helping with understanding the government guidelines as they get updated. As soon as we can do it safely, we will be opening the hall again to the general public and other organisations.

The playpark is open again, and the wooden balancing path should be redone by the time you read this. We also have in place a new and better goalpost, thanks to Ed Richards, who both sourced and installed it, aided by his trusty two-man band. However, if your children and teenagers like to practise their football skills, remember that the Sports Club has a much better and larger area in which to do this. They keep their grounds in wonderful match-perfect condition, but are happy for village people to use the area too, for playing, running and picnics. They ask only that people treat it with respect and don't use the pitch goal area.

With very best wishes

*Sarah Ryan*

Secretary to the trustees of Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

## Permitted exercise

AS I walked out one lovely summer's morning in Milborne Wood although, sadly, bluebells, violets, wild garlic, stitchwort and honeysuckle all faded and gone. There was this.



More can be found on footpaths, verges, pavements and roads. Keep a lookout and watch your step.

Pick up after your dog. See how other countries tackle the same problem!





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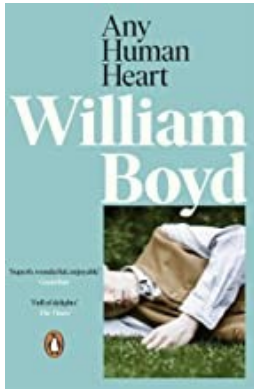
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## A Good Read

### Any Human Heart by William Boyd



MANY of you may know this prolific author. I was first captivated by his novel "Ordinary Thunderstorms" and of late to read this fairly large volume of "Intimate Journals". They start at the tender age of six years and are penned by one Logan Mountstuart. My initial reaction was one of false starts and stops with lockdown to thank for settling into it. It is a wonderfully sorrowful and rich romp through the 20th century. Unexpectedly special, thick, dense and sprawling. Honest and funny, engrossing and believable with a lasting sadness at its centre. Boyd is adept at

getting under the skin of the reader and his characters. Logan is six years old when he starts his 'diary' in 1912. Uruguay his native land which he leaves aged nine years. He states that he wants to concentrate on the deeply personal. It has short entries, gossipy ingredients and an absence of hindsight making it addictive reading. The author was, apparently, inspired by reading Cyril Connolly's (1920's writer and critic) journals. His way of writing with footnotes, a fake bibliography and the sprinkling of famous people including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Picasso and Ernest Hemingway (to name but a few!) that have you reaching for the history books (or Google!) give it huge authenticity. There are scenes and thoughts that linger in the mind surely the mark of a great book? Boyd is a wry historian of 20th century life, an ironic commentator on the ways that life has been represented not only in literature but in the companion genres of visual art, film and photography. His recurrent focus is the English personality and how it adapts – or fails to adapt to the demands of a foreign landscape. This could be described as "Englishness under pressure" as one critic wrote. He/she is seen to undergo the most radical metamorphoses and yet remain at the same time irrepressibly resilient. This book perfectly describes the awkward intersection of private and public life. As Logan writes "I feel a quality of despair and darkness grip me. Why do I like the semi – subterranean life? (living in New York for the first time he feels) that the blinds that had been lowered all my life have all been lifted . . . sunlight floods the house". There is a lot of tragedy but also joy. Logan finds himself in the most extreme of situations without any apparent effort on his part. At times there is a haplessness about him which becomes most endearing as he adapts to his emotional roller coaster of a life. Interestingly like any diary there are what we could consider 'plot points' which simply fade away! He writes, "every ambition thwarted, every dream stillborn" and at the end when he dies at the age of 85 it is so easy to mourn this fake character.

*Carole Fornachon*



## Special Constables lend their support to the summer policing response

AS hairdressers, restaurants and pubs reopened their doors, more than 40 Special Constables gave up their free time to help police easing the lockdown across Dorset.

Special Constabulary officers joined regular officers on the frontline to ensure residents and visitors remained safe as they enjoyed new freedoms across the weekend of Saturday 4th July and Sunday 5th July 2020.

Specials across the Force area worked more than 300 hours, including conducting high-visibility patrols and assisting the roads policing unit as it dealt with an increase in visitors travelling to the area.

Deputy Chief Officer Andy Turtle paid tribute to the officers' "resilience and professionalism" during the pandemic as they sacrificed leisure time to keep the public safe.

He said: "I want to pass on my thanks to each Special Constable who gave up their weekend with their own families and friends to help ensure the safety of local communities and visitors to Dorset.

"Reopening of the tourism and hospitality industry combined with an influx of visitors, meant their support to our teams was invaluable."

Dorset's 126 Special Constables have been out in force across our communities during lockdown, giving support to regular officers and playing their part in making communities safe and secure.

Between the start of lockdown on 23rd March and the end of June this year, Dorset specials worked 10,020 hours – an increase of 42 per cent from the same period a year earlier.

Recent force figures showed that weekend Friday 3rd July to Sunday 5th July they completed more than 40 duties, assisting with arrests, safeguarding, search warrants, licensing, missing persons and anti-social behaviour.

Deputy Chief Officer Turtle continued: "With anticipated increased demand on our services this summer, we really do appreciate the number of Special Constables who have volunteered to work during July and August.

"I would also like to thank the employers, whose flexibility and understanding helps make this important contribution possible."

If you are interested in a role as a Special Constable, please visit our recruitment site for further information. <https://www.dorset.police.uk/specials>



## Dealing with cold callers

I AM sure that you have all noticed how much busier it is on the roads now and whilst most people will be going about their legitimate business, those with criminal intent will also be moving around, so we are asking you to maintain your vigilance and also to keep a check on any vulnerable neighbours.

You may have jobs that require a professional to carry out the work for you and even though it may be tempting to do so, our advice is NEVER deal with cold callers to your home, even if they tell you the work is urgent.

Cold calling is a favoured method of rogue traders, whose aim is to get as much money from you as possible and the work carried out is often unnecessary, poorly completed or not done at all. Cold callers can be very persuasive, but it is difficult to make the right buying choice on your doorstep and you should never be pressurised into making an immediate decision.

We recommend that you consult with the Trading Standards, Buy with Confidence scheme before hiring tradespeople to do work for you.

The power of good neighbours should never be underestimated, so if there are elderly or vulnerable neighbours living nearby, we ask that you keep a look out for and report any strange or suspicious activity. We also recommend that you print off and display the uninvited traders sticker on your front door.

# 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](http://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  
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reportroadproblems  
Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188  
South West Highways [hello@swhitd.co.uk](mailto: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 880210
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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## Calling all older drivers

DORSET Older Drivers Forum – keeping older motorists on the road safely for longer.

Annually, Dorset Police and Dorset Road Safe promote their work with our older drivers and their families in and around Dorset with roadshows at various shopping locations.

In 2019 we also brought workshops to Wimborne and Weymouth for older drivers and their relatives to attend in order to gain some information about staying safe on the roads, eye tests, health checks and top tips for driving with question and answer sessions in abundance – not to mention freebies to take home together with a competition.

2020 has been a troublesome year and many things have been cancelled or altered but our Road Casualty Reduction Officer, PC Heidi Moxam would like to know if you or your families would want to participate in workshops this year to be held at the very end of September.

We would take all necessary steps to be COVID-19 secure if required but equally we recognise that prospective attendees may still feel uncomfortable with regard to visiting public places for meetings.

Please let us know by dropping us a quick email to OlderDrivers@dorset.PNN.police.uk so we can gauge whether workshops are wanted and arrangements can be made accordingly.

As an alternative to workshops, information stands or even webinars might be possible if this is felt to be a preferred option.

## Food and wine

While slurping my way through a large glass of red  
I was startled to see a fat chicken ahead

With a lopsided grin and a belch and a laugh  
Said, 'Mind if I join you, mine's just a half'

We sat down on the bed, this chicken and me,  
We raised up our glasses, we had two or three

We were totally smashed, we were having a ball,  
Told hilarious jokes, far too rude to recall,

More bottles were opened, dispelling all gloom  
We took off our trousers and danced round the room

Then we lay down with our legs in the air  
We sang silly songs with our backsides all bare

We tried to stand up and fell down in a heap  
In the middle of laughing, hen started to weep

'Was the matter ol buddy, ol pal, friend o mine?'  
'I'm to be Friday's supper, on me you'll soon dine.'

No, never, not me – I'm your number one fan  
I recalled this on Friday – I love coq au vin.

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Deadline for the October issue is mid-day  
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## MSA Gardening Club

No social distancing for our potatoes!



BACK in February, when the Gardening Club was still able to meet (remember those days?), we were each given one 'Estima' potato, a bag to grow it in and then left to try to produce the heaviest crop using any knowledge or tricks we had.

Fast forward to July and the big reveal. Twelve crops were weighed as at least three fell at the first hurdle. The weights ranged from 0.4kg (oh dear, that was me!), to a hefty 3kg, produced by our winner Arthur Yeo. His winning tip . . . to grow in peat free compost and feed regularly. Well done Arthur, your prize is on its way!

Angela Johnson, Treasurer

## Thank you everyone

HERE we are in our little village of Milborne St. Andrew. It seems so long since we started this strange other life of Covid19.

I can honestly say that I have never seen such a wonderful community spirit all around us.

We meet occasionally, from a distance of course, as we go for our daily walk, everyone has a cheery hello and, 'is everything OK?'

As soon as restrictions were announced people moved into organisation mode.

Our pub, The Royal Oak, has helped us continue our monthly Village Lunches by deliveries to our doorsteps. They have arranged deliveries of takeaway meals for most of the week to everyone and now we can have our lovely Sunday carveries too.

Sandie Sach has organised bands of helpers, who will telephone those living alone for a chat, organise people's shopping and many other jobs. Thanks of course to Glenn, who runs the village shop, making it accessible to us for our new way of shopping. He is always helpful, also arranging deliveries for those who cannot come out. Thank you to Philip at the Post Office, working extra hours when need be, to be sure we are all looked after.

A special thanks to our personal shopper, Jo, I don't know what we would have done without her.

Thank you Milborne St. Andrew, for showing me what a special place this is to live in.

David Payne



## Cream tea for Food and Wine

FORTY-TWO members of Milborne St. Andrew Food and Wine Club shared in a 'Doorstep Delivery Cream Tea' on Saturday 20th June. (We rejected the helpful suggestion to call it a 'Coronavirus Cream Tea'!)

Some members were able to join together in groups of up to six people in their gardens and celebrated being able to socialise again, albeit on a limited scale. After a worryingly rainy and chilly start to the day the sun came out in the afternoon and it felt very pleasant to bask in the warm sunshine, but perhaps in my case that was just due to the effects of a glass or two of something sparkling?

As well as the usual scones, jam and clotted cream one lucky member, Giles Pugh, was presented with a raffle prize of a suitably chilled bottle of Langham wine estate Culver Classic Cuvée. Due to their generosity we were also able to present a voucher for a Langham Wine Estate guided vineyard tour followed by a tutored tasting of their award-winning wines, for two people. Ian and Lis Watts will be able to take advantage of this when things get a bit more back to normal.

Whenever the subject of cream teas crops up there is always a lively debate about whether or not the jam or cream should go on top. As you can see, Harry Pearce, a Cornishman by birth, insists on the jam first followed by cream. His wife, Penny, begs to differ and prefers the traditional Devon method of cream first. May I suggest a compromise here? In Yorkshire, taking the obvious solution, we put the cream on first, then the jam, then an extra layer of cream on top. Delicious!

We asked everyone to take a photo of the occasion and although some pleaded the usual excuse of being camera shy, some great images have been submitted. I especially like the one showing Sue Benn proving that each scone consumed adds five pounds in weight on the bathroom scales! The pictures of daintily laid tables with pretty china and elegant full afternoon teas make me feel proud to have taken part in this truly British summertime tradition.

I'm sure it will be good to look back on this in the future and remember some happy occasions in the summer of 2020!

Thank you to the committee and all members who took part and supported our club in these extraordinary times.

Looking forward to the club's next al fresco experience at the beginning of August.

*Rose Frost*









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# THEN . . .



**Then and Now** This picture was taken in the mid-60's or after as the car is from 1965. The Square hasn't changed much apart from Buttons and Bows, the cottage opposite the Post Office, was demolished to widen the road in the early 1970's.

# . . . and NOW



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## Recycling box

**BLISTER packs** which appear to be made entirely from aluminium, can be put in the recycle bin in their entirety. However, recycling the blister packs made from plastic and aluminium is too expensive a process to separate the two materials. If you wish to play a game of 'patience' by trying to separate as much of the aluminium from the plastic as possible it can be done by hours of wasted time for little result! With some blister packs, e.g. aspirin/paracetamol, it is possible to achieve 100% and most others around 60 to 90%. Far better than this would be a national/international campaign to have all blister packs made entirely out of aluminium; it is done by some and can surely be done for all medicines. Our nearest aluminium recycling place is in the Turberville Close car park, Bere Regis. You will also find a bin for Tetra paks (or SIG combiblocs) in the same place.



**Plastic milk bottle lids** can be put in the recycling bin screwed onto the, clean, plastic milk bottle. There are organisations that collect them for good causes. Such as to help **Ben Tickner's** cerebral palsy [www.ben-tickner-treatment-fund.btck.co.uk](http://www.ben-tickner-treatment-fund.btck.co.uk). They will take blue, green, red, orange and purple bagged up. **Glenda Martin** in Gillingham collects for the British Heart Foundation 01747 824284, Fairview House, Wyke, Gillingham SP8 4NG or Stalbridge CoFe Primary School.

**Win-On-Waste sessions are run by Ideas2Action**, a small charity that runs community recycling projects across Bournemouth and Poole. They take place in Canford Heath, Creekmoor, Kinson and Southbourne. Once a month residents in these areas are asked to save specific items from their waste (e.g. milk bottle tops, biscuit wrappers, printer cartridges, deodorant cans) and donate them at a given venue.

You can take part by saving up your waste to take along to the sessions and benefit some good causes. Or if you would like to see a **Win-On-Waste** event in your community then get in touch with **Ideas2Action** who can help you on your way.

### Milk bottle tops

**How should you take them?** They need to be clean without any silver paper left on them.

**Anything you shouldn't include?** any other tops.

**What happens to them?** They are collected by a company in Portsmouth who granulate them into tiny fragments and melt them down. Eventually they will be made into new items such as outdoor children's play equipment.

### Win-On-Waste®

#### Donation check list

They will be very grateful for all the donations you save from your bin and take them so good causes can benefit. In response to many requests they have created this guide to help you. Mainly so you can see what they do and do not need and also to show you what happens to the items and who they benefit.

Help them by taking along the correct items each month! Registered address: Ideas2Action c/o Bournemouth and Poole CVS, Floor 3, Beech House, 28-30 Wimborne Road, Poole BH15 2BU

07771 705662 [contact@ideas2action.org.uk](mailto:contact@ideas2action.org.uk) [www.ideas2action.org.uk](http://www.ideas2action.org.uk)

Twitter: @Ideas2A Facebook: @Ideas2ActionCharity

#### Index – for items sent to Terracycle

**Terracycle** is a specialist recycling company. See their website for more details and short videos of what happens when they receive the waste

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/> They deal with the waste in different ways, but the ultimate result is the same. New plastic 'lumber' is formed which could end up as watering cans, fencing, seats etc.

*Carole Fornachon*

## A poem for a much loved girl

**SUNNY** is a remarkable Parsons Jack Russell that many will know from walks around the village over the years. She had to have an eye removed in 2009 and then the other three years later. She coped incredibly well and you'd see her off lead on walks following owners Dave and Val Andrews happily. Dave demonstrated this at the Fun Dog Show in the village in 2014, winning first place in the Best Trick class with Sunny walking perfectly to heel and performing other commands. She's since lost her hearing too and, being such an elderly girl to boot, she doesn't walk very far at all these days. So much so, that when Val and Dave went on holiday last summer, they bought and adapted a child's pushchair so that they could take her on days out whilst away.



We featured Larry Lagrue in our Have You Met . . . ? feature last month and he asked Dave and Val to suggest a subject for a poem when they were chatting together about his poetry after they'd read about it in the *Reporter*. So Larry came up with this:

### Sunny

Sunny is a Jack Russell;  
Sunny is seventeen.  
Around the streets of Milborne  
Sunny can be seen.

Sunny is a deaf old dog  
And blind since she was ten  
She'd really rather stay at home  
Then get walkies now and then.

Sunny's earned a quiet life  
She doesn't like her walks  
I dread to think what her  
language would be,  
If little Sunny could talk!

*Larry Lagrue*



## Face masks

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to thank all who donated elastic, material and masks for my mask tree.

I am pleased to say that I made £300 for  
Longmead Community Farm.

A big thank you to all who bought them.

*Sheila Burton*

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## Council says thanks to residents and visitors

FOLLOWING a weekend of very few incidents across the county, Dorset Council is saying thank you to local people and visitors for helping it pass off successfully.

Aside from a small number of isolated incidents of antisocial behaviour in the larger towns, there are no big issues to report from the weekend.

Numbers at Durdle Door and Studland Beach were manageable and normal for this time of year and coastal towns were also busy but not overwhelmed.

Cllr Spencer Flower, Leader of Dorset Council, said: "We've been planning for our first warm weekend since hospitality businesses re-opened, for several weeks alongside our partners.

"Plans were ready to launch into action should numbers of visitors have become a hazard, like our travel plan for Durdle Door and additional waste collections and Civil Enforcement Officers for coastal towns, but thankfully these were not needed.

"I'd like to thank residents and visitors for playing their part in helping businesses get back on their feet, and for doing it in a way that keeps others safe. I'd also like to say particular thank you to the Dorset Council employees right across the county for their part in helping the weekend run smoothly."

Weymouth Harbour, Durdle Door, Lyme Regis and Swanage are popular destinations for visitors and are being closely monitored for excessive numbers. The council is continuing to encourage people to 'Shop Local' and 'Enjoy Summer Safely' alongside messages reminding people to respect social distancing advice when out and about, as well as keeping up with regular hand washing.

Dorset still has one of the lowest rates of COVID-19 in the country and Public Health Dorset will continue to monitor the situation closely as the county opens up further to visitors.

## First impressions of Florence

THE connecting train in Pisa was not only late but crowded with homecoming workers. When we finally arrive at Santa Maria Novella we had to leave the station woman handling our luggage down an impressive and steep flight of steps.

Half an hour later we left the hotel for a stroll, I was still tired and disorientated after the journey, but the heat of the day has been cooled by an earlier cloudburst, so the evening was fresh and pleasantly warm and I started to relax into the magic that is Florence.

We passed the market where the stallholders were packing away both their leather goods and their stalls, carrying it all on their backs like exotic nomads. Then we wandered alongside the Arno for a while, crossing by the Ponte Vecchio, its many jewellers' shops along the bridge defying the laws of gravity, as they seem to stretch unsupported over the water. Eventually we arrived at the Piazza della Signoria and sat on some steps in a quiet corner, even at half past seven in the evening the stone was still pleasantly warm through the seat of my jeans.

We paused to look around that sublime junkyard of statuary, there were lions rubbing shoulders with gods and bronze warriors jostling cheek by jowl with towering granite fountains. The piazza is so large that even at this, the height of the tourist season, it wasn't crowded; people strolled along looking around; I had expected to hear Italian, but it sounded more like the Tower of Babel as French, Dutch, and Chinese rose up in a multilingual hum.

The daylight started to fade. The dusty, mellow, setting sun washes the surrounding roofs, and their terracotta tiles magnify the fading light in ochres and golds. In the days to come there will so much more – paintings, frescos and gardens. However, the tantalising aromas of mysteriously different cooking from scores of outdoor cafes brought me back down to earth as hunger enticed us on towards a comfortable eatery.

*Josie Wright*



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# A dry walk by the vineyard – shurely shome mishtake

HANDS up if you fancy a glass of wine? Hmm, that's quite a lot of you! Let's get out there, a nice six-mile circular walk should blow the cobwebs away. We won't stop off for a tippie today as it has only just gone 7.00am; the sun is far from aligned over the yard arm! If we were to leave at say 10.30, or just after Ken Bruce's *Popmaster*, we could enjoy a glass of something nice at around the time that only mad dogs and Englishmen normally venture out.

Lockdown restrictions have been eased and the plaster cast that encased my left arm has long been cremated in the incinerator at DCH. No one signed it during the six weeks it supported my wrist; at school other kids with broken limbs sported casts daubed in signatures, smiley faces and improvised games of noughts and crosses. Setting off with a low sun behind me, I ascend the Dewlish road passing the old quarry to my right before edging past the pleasant leafy triangular quadrant where the path back to Coles Lane branches off. The road levels out now and I am beginning to skirt the eastern extremity of Milborne Wood. Here be dragons. Well, wild boar at least. Last summer my partner Kate and I happened upon such a beast one August afternoon. I'm no David Attenborough, we didn't actually spot the wild porker but the grunting noises and the tramping of ancient undergrowth led us to surmise that this elusive beast was prowling the woodland; we made our excuses and left.

Anyway, back to this glass of wine. Descending downhill just before the left-right kink in the Dewlish road, climb into wood via the signposted footpath. Be careful not to get footpath happy and pre-empter by one of the other signed paths. Think last kink before Dewlish. You could adopt a musical mantra to see you right by humming The Monkees' *Last train to Clarksville*, substituting the word 'train' with 'kink' and Dewlish with Clarksville. This is proper English woodland, evidence of animal runs criss-cross the firm well trodden path. Spring/Autumn Watch eat your heart out; Packham, Strachan and that big Welsh bloke – take note.

Just as you are getting used to pretending to be Robin Hood, Friar Tuck or Maid Marion you snap out of your Lincoln Green dream and break cover. The green canopy of high summer is replaced by big horizons and vast skies. Marlboro' country. Head straight on, the path becomes indistinguishable as you lose the line of trees to the right. I found by following a rutted straight furrow which has grass of different lengths either sides took me across the field. On the day of my walk the grass was longer on the other side, but not always greener. Where the path meets a T junction, head right downhill keeping the hedge on your left hand (broken arm side). Sorry if I keep going on about going left, but turn left again along a narrow tree lined path before a wooden way marker directs you onwards towards the Langham Wine Estate, the salient point of this walk. After a few minutes you will find yourself traversing open ground. Your progress will be halted at a stile embedded in a hedge. Turn right here onto a made up road which peaks at Langham's.

At this juncture, with normal pre-Covid service resumed and the sun over the yard arm, you could peel off for a quick snifter, maybe 'one for the path' before blazing a trail back to Milborne. I wend my way onwards downhill, the narrow road slaloming this way and that before levelling out at Devil's Brook. OL25 suggests that an aqueduct carries the lane over the brook and I am disappointed to find myself traversing a small conspicuous bridge, as opposed to an impressive Romano feature that my early morning mind had imagined. A herd of tail swishing cows graze the lush meadow land reminding me of an incident that happened at work years ago. Bob (his name has been changed), had remarked, "there's a flock of cows on the road at Owermoigne." "Herd of cows." I replied. "Of course I've heard of cows" retorted Bob, "there's a flock of them on the road at Owermoigne".

I digress: on with the walk. The last short easy going section of the single track road leads me through green and pleasant land to a point where I join the road that heads north from Puddletown to Dewlish, Melcombe Bingham and Ansty. Here, the dense summer hedgerows that frame the tarmac are thick with ripening fruit and chattering birds. A school bus – empty bar the face masked driver – lozenges hastily

towards me, momentarily drowning out the birdsong and kicking up the roadside dust and detritus. Silence descends and through the trees to my right I catch glimpses of Dewlish House which nestles in parkland beneath the steep rise of Park Hill.

During this lockdown period I have hot footed my way along this road in various stages from Melcombe Bingham down to the A35 at Puddletown. It offers some great views: rural England at its best. The air is fresh and the traffic is, at best, sporadic. The road acts as an artery for many other footpaths that are well worth checking out. I have intersected this narrow lane on my way to Cheslebourne via three different routes, even once ending up in Piddletrenthide where my right trainer required nursing home when the sole and the upper decided to go their separate ways. Necessity being the mother of invention, I carried out a Heath Robinson repair using a length of orange bailer twine that I found lying in a field.

Meanwhile, back in Dewlish I leave the road to take a short cut through the fields to re-join the road home. A gap in the hedge, a clamber over the stile, I head across the field to the corner of the churchyard, over another stile before dropping down to the foot of the hill. A low wooden bridge has been constructed here to carry the path in winter over Devil's Brook. Today the valley is bone dry and it looks very much out of place. I obediently cross the bridge anyway. I would imagine that if you get stuck down here in sodden December you may have to call the RNLI for assistance. The steep, uphill slog through the trees to the Milborne Road leaves my legs and lungs burning. If you get stuck climbing up this incline call the mountain rescue team for assistance. It's tarmac all the way home now, just a case of following my nose. As I push open the garden gate I look skywards. The sun is now over the yardarm. Indoors, I throw my OL25 map down on the dining room table and pour myself a glass of wine.

The editor has always encouraged me to illustrate my walks with photographs, it's probably better you go and see for yourself, take your own pictures of our spectacular surroundings.

Rich Hawker

## Did you identify this?

July's picture was taken of the galleon wind vane at Coles Farm, Dewlish Road. June Maitland was the first to send in the correct answer.

Try your luck this month on page 7.



**Deadline for the next issue is mid-day 14th September.**  
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# Communities and visitors urged to enjoy summer holidays in Dorset safely

PARTNER agencies in Dorset are urging communities and visitors to the county to enjoy the summer holidays safely.

With the school summer term ending, councils, emergency services and other organisations have been busy preparing for a wave of visitors arriving to experience all that the county has to offer.

However, with the ongoing public health situation residents and tourists are being encouraged to remain conscious of the need to act responsibly when out and about this summer and respect their surroundings and local communities.

Assistant Chief Constable Sam de Reya, of Dorset Police, said: "The majority of our communities and visitors have continued to behave in a considerate and responsible manner throughout these difficult last few months and, even though many of the restrictions previously in place have eased, we would ask that to continue as we enter the peak summer holiday period.

"We have already seen surges in visitor numbers to the county during sunny spells and we are expecting these to continue over the coming weeks. We have been working hard to ensure a thorough policing plan is in place and have been liaising with our partners to ensure we are as prepared as possible.

"As the summer getaway begins we are also likely to see an increase in traffic on our roads. We are urging people to plan ahead and expect delays. Please drive safely and take regular breaks if you are travelling long distances.

"This is obviously a key period for our hospitality sector and I hope that everyone can enjoy it responsibly so we can continue to make the most of everything that is on offer."

Councillor Vikki Slade, leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, added: "This weekend marks the start of the big summer holidays and we encourage everyone thinking of heading to the beach to take responsibility. We know the summer can be busy but if everyone takes a little time to plan their journey, perhaps use car parks further away from the hotspot seafront areas, consider the impact on other people using the beach or promenades and ensure they leave only footprints from their visit, then we can all have an enjoyable experience.

"Should visitor numbers start to rise we will have resources in place to respond to any issues arising and will be in close contact with our multi agency partners to ensure the area is managed safely."

Councillor Spencer Flower, leader of Dorset Council said: "With schools officially breaking up this week and with more people in the UK expected to take 'staycations' rather than holidaying abroad, we are of course anticipating more visitors to come to Dorset in the weeks ahead.

"We want to reassure residents that we have thorough plans in place to avoid a repeat of scenes at some of our most popular visitor destinations recently. Dorset is a great place to live, work and visit so it's important we work together to keep it special.

"We are asking everyone to respect our communities by following social distancing advice, not to bring disposable BBQs and please take any litter home."

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill said: "As Dorset welcomes visitors back, I'd like to remind people that many of our residents are still understandably very nervous about COVID-19.

"Enjoy our beaches, beauty spots and hospitality industry, but please do so safely and in a way that respects our communities. Stick to the guidance and don't do anything that will put undue pressure on our police and emergency services or could increase the chances of a spike in cases.

"And as we return to business as usual across the county, I'd also

like to remind everyone to respect our roads. Officers will be out and about over the next few months looking out for dangerous and selfish motorists. And while there is never any excuse for drug or drink driving, if you try to get away with it in Dorset this summer you will get caught, lose your licence and potentially your job."

With the schools breaking up, young people are also being reminded of the need to take act responsibly over the holidays.

ACC de Reya said: "I know this has been a tough time for children and young people recently, with disruptions to school and the various restrictions that have been put in place. However, we need you to continue to do your bit by not gathering in large groups and observing social distancing guidance.

"I appreciate young people will want to go out and have fun this summer, and they deserve to, but I want them to avoid taking unnecessary risks, such as swimming in unsupervised stretches of open water, and recognise the dangers of taking substances like alcohol and illegal drugs."

Public Health Dorset has the following harm reduction advice for those who do choose to use substances:

- Stay with friends that you trust and never use substances on your own
- Start with a very small amount and wait for at least an hour before taking more so you can see your reaction to the substance
- Avoid mixing drugs, including alcohol and prescription medication
- Stay hydrated, keep cool and take breaks out of the sun
- Don't be afraid to get help for yourself or a friend and be honest with the emergency services about what has been taken.

The fire service is also stressing the need for people enjoying the sunny weather to be 'fire-aware'.

Area Manager Seth Why, of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We are asking the public and visitors to the area to leave your barbecues at home as they are a significant fire risk to the countryside.

"Whilst we understand that the warm weather will leave many wanting to go out and enjoy it, we cannot stress the importance of being fire-aware, this follows recent significant fires started by disposable BBQs.

"We would also like to remind people to make sure their children are staying safe while outside over the summer as we do see an increase in deliberate fires during school holidays."

The NHS is offering advice on what to do if you require medical treatment.

For ailments or injuries which require urgent care, please call 111 and you will be given advice or booked in for a face-to-face appointment at the appropriate site. If you or someone you are with has an emergency or is in a life-threatening situation, don't hesitate to call 999. For everything else, call 111 or go to 111 online.



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# Councillors object to 85 new homes after Homefield presentation

THE first Parish Council meeting since lockdown was always going to be a slightly different occasion, and so it proved with an alfresco gathering on the playing field outside the Village Hall. There was a very strong turnout of approximately 40 residents, although this was due to the agenda item to discuss the resubmitted plan for up to 85 new homes at Homefield.



Many of those present had brought picnic chairs and were suitably spaced from each other, whilst Clerk Wayne Lewin mingled – at a distance – taking names for the prize draw. There wasn't, as it turned out, any prizes, this was in fact for the PC's Covid track and trace register.

Within the meeting was a presentation by Wessex Strategic, the group behind the outline planning application for the eight hectare site. Acknowledging that the location was not the preferred option of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), Andrew Pegg, lead planner, said that the application had everything that was required, including a large percentage of affordable housing, a new pre-school building and land for a suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG). He said that the development would connect the village with the Sports Club and the Camelco site (the NP's favoured option), if indeed the build of 61 homes and a pre-school that are planned there goes ahead.

Ladybirds has long had the ambition to run its pre-school from a dedicated setting rather than the Village Hall, where at present numbers of children are limited, as is hours of business due to other hall users. Paul Tasker, Chair of the trustees of the playgroup, said this was a unique opportunity to achieve a pre-school of this size, adding that they had not seen the same level of support or interest from developers from any of the other Milborne sites.

Also speaking within the presentation was David French, Chair of the Governors at the First School, who said that a new pre-school would be a legacy for future generations as well as enhancing education for children locally. Ladybirds and the school's preferred option is now a unit built at the First School which Mr French said was "not a pipe dream", the funding was being offered by the Homefield developer – but by no other. This was questioned later by Cllr Macnair, who asked if Bracken Group – the developer of the Camelco site – had been contacted about funding a pre-school away from the development site. Mr Tasker, for Ladybirds, said he "didn't believe that Bracken had been engaged" in discussion concerning this. Clerk of the PC, Wayne Lewin, however said that the council had made contact with Bracken, which said that they would be amenable to providing either a larger plot or building on the First School site. Mr French said that it was the greater amount of Section 106 funding (due to more houses planned on the Homefield site) that was key.

A resident asked, "Do we need all this housing that is being planned?" Clerk, Wayne Lewin, also noted that there were over 200 houses in planning; 35 unbuilt houses approved on two other sites with the remainder in the planning phase. Future need for housing in Milborne was put at 42 homes over 15 years by the NP, Cllr Witherden said, adding that Camelco proposed 61 homes with a pre-school that met Ladybirds' requirements and a plan that achieved a 90% approval rating with village residents. Andrew Pegg, was asked how many houses he thought the village needed. He said he didn't want to say as he didn't live here, but that his development offered structured growth and community benefits that he said would negate the need of smaller clusters of houses being built over that period which provide no benefit.

The previous Homefield application was rejected by Dorset

Council on heritage grounds due to "substantial harm" to the Conservation Area, including St. Andrew's Church. A resident felt that a member of the development team had "belittled" these heritage aspects, saying that these were hugely important to the village and something that is – and should be – taken seriously. Lucie Brailsford, for the team, pointed out that the

Conservation Officer originally assigned to the application had no objections, then for a new officer to see problems with plan.

There were questions from residents concerning the SANG, a field to the east of Homefield, and whether safeguards were in place in perpetuity that it is retained for residents' use. Andrew Pegg said that it would be secure with all the guarantees within the Section 106 document, although Cllr Macnair said that it was covered by an 85 year covenant. Another resident asked why these new walking routes, amounting to 2.2km, were so far from the village and wondering about provision of parking, to be told by the developer's ecologist that a SANG is actually mainly provided for the new residents of the site to use.

Questions were asked about the area on the site that is not going to be built on – the resident pointed out, "There's a lot of green space on this site" – and how this would be safeguarded from further building. He was told that a management plan covers his concern, which led to discussion as to who actually does the managing; a residents' committee?

Homefield residents asked about access to the field from their gardens that some had used for decades, arguing that an historic right had been gained. Ms Brailsford said that the landowner's goodwill allowed the residents to use this and no rights had been attained. Whilst acknowledging the resident's point, Cllr Macnair said it was not a planning consideration and legal advice should be sought.

Residents were also concerned about the increase in vehicles that 85 new homes would bring and why only one access point – onto Blandford Hill – was in the plan, especially when the Highways department had refused this previously. Ms Brailsford said that there were no objections now from Highways, with the developer's ecologist adding that there was no junction with Lane End because of the conservation value of the hedge and that traffic would interfere with the route of the flight of bats.

The application was objected to by councillors with a vote of three to one on the grounds of the plan exceeding housing need, the benefits not outweighing detriment to the village's character and it was contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan. Chairman, Cllr Macnair said that he didn't see it as the only way to provide a pre-school and it was "no reason to sign the village up for five times as many houses as needed".

Earlier in the meeting, Amy Stephens was welcomed onto the council after she and Tanya Head had put themselves forward to be councillors. Since there was only a single vacancy, the sitting council voted on whom to accept, with Amy, who ran the Youth Club and is a trustee of the Village Hall, becoming Cllr Stephens.

The village response to Covid 19 was commended by the PC, with special praise and thanks going to Sandie Sach, who co-ordinated the volunteer support group. Cllr Macnair said he gave a vote of massive thanks to Sandie and also to the 30 residents who volunteered.

The PC has decided to formalise its grant funding function with a period from October this year set as the date from which local organisations can apply for cash. Groups can apply by contacting the Clerk at [milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk) Ed Richards





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