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# Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 12 Issue 9

October 2020

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Milborne St. Andrew



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# The Lords of The Rings: A Parable of Modern Times

*"Milk is one of the most marvellous and most precious products of nature which the Almighty has placed at the disposal of mankind . . ." Pope Pius XI*

## Once upon a time

IN a small rural Dorset village, a wealthy, enterprising man with innovative ideas turned from establishing inner city department stores to transforming the lives of all those people who lived there. The First World War had ended and so had the livelihoods of many agricultural workers. Imported goods were threatening to eclipse the production of home grown foods. There was a drift of workers to the towns, a migration he wished to halt. Through encouragement to local dairy farmers to bypass the "middleman and intermediaries" and become a cooperative he set up 100 cow dairies run by a staff of six and 50 cow dairies run by a staff of three (originally in Briantspuddle). By marrying agriculture with commerce and science it became a highly successful venture. 1000 gallons of milk per day was processed into "Grade A"



milk, butter, cheeses and pig food. In 1929 at *Milborne St. Andrew's new Central Dairy*, Ultra Violet Sterilisation of milk was tested together with the production and use of "Sealcones", wax dipped paper cartons for

sterilised milk, "made, filled and sealed in one continuous operation in a matter of a few minutes". There was a fully equipped bacteriological laboratory where the purity and fat percentage of milk was analysed. Bonuses were awarded to staff for producing milk with the lowest bacterial count. Everyone had a stake in *Bladen Farm* as it was named. Farmers were also to cooperate in their own marketing. As a test bed for farming experiments it became a large demonstration farm with its own internal resources for transport and marketing from which all benefitted. Housing for staff was also one of his, *Sir Ernest Debenham's*, (for that was his name), innovations. They were expansive, symmetrical using local crafts and natural materials utilising, very hard, Swanage bricks, with (unusual for the time) inside bathrooms and lavatories, quarter acre gardens and oil powered generators. One of these houses was designated specifically for young single women who worked mainly on "sealcone" filling and packing. Similarly he founded *Bladen Poultry Farm* again with workers' houses out on the A354. A Fairy Tale in the best tradition of such tales, with a transformative outcome.

Seven years after his death in 1952, Sir Ernest's son, Martin handed the baton to another successful dynasty founded on milk – the *Barhams* (following a brief ownership by Independent Milk Supplies (IMS) ) Sir George built the family business beginning with his father's herd of cows which grazed fertile lands on the banks of the Thames where now the Savoy Hotel stands. It became Express Dairies whose reach extended using the newly formed railways. George Barham opened his own dairy aged 22 years in Fetter Lane, London. The philosophy of each man informed the ethos of their businesses. *The paramount importance being the welfare and happiness of their staff*. Links with dairy farmers up to 150 miles away required a method of chilling which was learnt from brewers who had, in their turn, learnt from Louis Pasteur. As Sir Ernest would have conceded leaving pails in mountain streams was no longer an option! Lidded churns were a side product of this. So churn lorries and then the familiar silver tankers became the method for transporting milk. In 1880 Express Dairies became a Limited Company. Expanding into retail at the beginning of the twentieth century by running 24 tea shops and in 1937 the company went 'public' selling shares at £17. In 1969 it became part of Grand Metropolitan.

## The plant

The *Bladen Dairies* plant situated as it is on a hill commanding fine views of the surrounding countryside is now contained within a belt of beech trees alongside the workers' houses known as *The Rings*. It was

built of Belgian bricks over a period of two years from 1927-1929 (Sybil Fox's grandfather Arthur (Jimmy) Cross was involved). Roman remains were found. Dorchester Museum records Roman occupation of the site from 1st century BC to the 4th century AD. During construction a semi basement was included within which large prize-winning waxed 'truckles' of cheese were stored under the main milk processing department. These required regular turning by a night watchmen. For some local children it became a playground! Similarly, prior to construction of the cooling towers and a tanker park, a swimming pool provided extra fun in hot weather! Two roads served it, one for delivery and one for dispatch. In Debenham's day cooled brine was used for both the cold storage rooms and for cooling milk at various stages in the process. Pasteurisation was carried out using the Shepherd system and was controlled automatically from the time the milk entered until it was discharged into the storage tanks ready for filling. In 1989, in full circle, the business became part of Grand Metropolitan Foods Europe. The then, Chairman, Mike Hodgkinson paid tribute to every man and woman who had contributed to the company's success. Up until 1962, milk from 300 local farms was delivered to the factory for cheese making which was quality tested by the Milk Marketing Board. One of those farmers, a Mrs Brown, brought just one churn from her cows. Then, Camelco owned the site with a helicopter pad for visitors.

## The coleslaw years

After this, the "nitty gritty of the day" became the assembly of coleslaw using Lincolnshire white cabbage, together with some imported from Holland. At what was becoming an advanced age, Milborne turned its attention to salads. Then the pre-packed salad market (including catering packs) in the United Kingdom accounted for £12 million a year and they commanded 25% of the total. Experiments were tried with everything from prawns to curry to pasta shells. Even then, although it seemed like a salvage operation with Express' giant North Tawton's expanding, automated cheese production operation underway, Milborne still handled 50,000 gallons of milk despite only passing from one tanker to another whilst chopping up great blocks of Cheddar into 10lb multivac slabs to be marketed under the Bladen label (currently made by *Arla* and still available via Amazon I am told!) So Sir Ernest's brand went to North Tawton. What a huge difference in scale between a 40lb block of cheese and a 5ozs pot of salad! A £100,000 new plant with roofing, partitioning and other improvements was built. The glittering stainless steel equipment which had always been a hallmark of this spotless dairy became in short supply as the high acidity levels reached in salad making demanded a titanium content so expensive that it would have eroded any profit entirely. To fight corrosion repainting had to be done every few months. Quality



*The coleslaw team*

Control employees were kept busy! This production was moved overnight from Ruislip, a vast undertaking. For the staff it changed their holiday times as summer was when salads were in high demand. However the numbers of workers rose from 25 to 40 which included farm collection drivers, and a top class vehicle maintenance workshop. The total staff at that time was comfortably over the hundred mark. The experts behind the scenes were the hidden ingredient. For the art of salad making was in buying the right ingredients at the right price. With echoes from the past, Sainsbury became an important customer for these salads. Since 1973 the new effluent plant at Fox Pound fed



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*Taste panel for new coleslaw*

into two 15 metre deep soak-away lagoons rather than the river. It required some drastic measures becoming in a bad state during the salad production, against all environmental requirements. Divers from Swanage Diving Team dived down and fitted helixors (pumping oxygen to feed the bugs) not a pleasant job in a nasty soup like liquid. Since then it has been a home to wildlife and, apparently, tomato plants! Excessive heat from the upgraded

refrigerated cabbage store was recovered and used to heat the factory's water supply. 4,000 gallon stainless steel tanks used formerly for waste recovery were insulated with an old heat-exchanger as a top-up. So 8,000 gallons of storage water was circulated via the two tanks and a new ring main. The water heated up overnight and was at its hottest in the morning. Sir Ernest would have approved this very simple and effective investment. As part of a quality improvement programme the plant purchased a £150,000 Koruma machine for making high class mayonnaise in response to customers' concerns about its "yellow" appearance. A computer controlled recipe system was installed in 1991. The operator was informed what products and ingredient weights were required to ensure that targets were met. It became extremely successful but also too big and too diverse. The business was sold to Northern Foods who wanted the formula of their exceptionally delicious cheese. I am told that the bacterial cultures used in its production were kept buried underground. It was thought to have acquired this flavour from the walls of the place in which it was stored! The walls had absorbed the vapours produced by the cheese.

## The workforce

The transformation of Milborne St. Andrew was part and parcel of the transformation of the lives of those who lived in the village and worked in the dairy plant. It has been described as being 'at the heart of the village'. Many families moved to the village specifically to work at the



*Accounts department*

factory especially after the Second World War when some were bombed out of their homes in London and for others, work was scarce in their home towns requiring them to move for employment. Without exception the descendants of some of those families together with locals have expressed loyalty, affection and pride in the comradeship they

found and experienced within the workforce, their respect for management who gave them recognition for work accomplished as they were all part of an incentive scheme through an Award system for Merit and Long Service. A spirit of collaboration and contribution was fostered. People on the factory floor were encouraged to voice their ideas and suggestions—resulting in benefits for the factory and an atmosphere of teamwork. The Debenham tradition was carried on resulting in increased productivity. They felt valued and they had fun! Mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, generations of some families worked there. Students during their vacations, those who wanted something specific for their homes could work the hours and save the money earned. Nobody minded working 24 hour shifts when demand was high, or on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Bank Holidays. They had a four week a year holiday allowance two in the summer and two in the winter, and their own canteen with food cooked on the premises. At

weekends they earned double time or days off in lieu. Taste Panels were drawn haphazardly from time to time to test a new product. They were on Christian name terms with their managers. One, a Mr McTurk worked alongside his

employees with his shirt sleeves rolled up. In the 50's he instigated and taught Old Time Dancing Classes in one of the ex-Navy (storage) Huts. There was a thriving Social Club, skittles, soccer, hockey (North Dorset League winners for four years!) and quiz teams, regular newsletters and a quart of milk a day per family. Cheese could be purchased at a lower price. Stillage sales every Friday. A good pension scheme was on offer from Grand Metropolitan (taken over by Northern Foods). The houses were sold off in 1977 at a reduced price to sitting tenants. During changes of name and ownership, Independent Milk Suppliers, Eden Vale, staff generally remained the same and received the same benefits. Productivity remained high, staff worked diligently. *"Together with a culture of work there must be a culture of leisure as gratification"* Pope Francis

## Arla

This multi-national Danish company founded in the 1880's, the largest supplier of fresh milk and cream in the UK selling 2.2 billion litres of milk per year with Headquarters in Westbury, is pulling out of the Milborne site. For the last five years, managed by Lloyd Fraser it has been operating as a milk haulage company taking mainly 40–45 agency workers. Production over that time has fluctuated. Some weeks ago it announced its closure of the plant with a loss of 39 full and part time staff. These are drivers and office staff. There is, I am told by the Regional Manager, Paul Kirkham, a consultation period with no forced redundancies, automatic redundancy packages and some alternative jobs offered. This will take place on 18th October this year so ending an unbroken history of milk production and collection reaching back almost 100 years in Milborne. Even at the very end, a current, and long term, employee tells me they were still a 'happy family' workforce. The reason is purely financial. So far there is no news on what will become of the site owned by Richard Ferguson and John Payne who bought it from Northern Foods.

## "A cloud of unknowing"

Without further written records we can only look back on the history of this, originally philanthropic, venture through 'a cloud of unknowing' to quote Walter Nell, Director of Express Dairy Company in a hardback book distributed internally to all his employees in 1964. He bemoaned the lack of archives after a certain date to aid him in his writing the Centenary of his company entitled *"Express Journey."* Therefore much of this article is based on oral histories of those who worked there. He comments that traditions within the companies transformed 19th century ventures into 20th century institutions founded on the loyalty and work of men and women who formed a "living contribution" to their stories. Both men had demonstrated a clarity and transparent sense of purpose in their threefold search for balance and prosperity; *engineering techniques, quality and versatility* with those other three *"p's" premises, plant and products.* They both nurtured and consolidated businesses in an era of unprecedented expansion following *Aristotle's advice to take "measures which will give [people] lasting prosperity"* illustrating the moral imperative at the heart of this parable.

*Carole Fornachon*



*Coronation day 1953*

With thanks to: Gerry and Tony Spivey; Barbara Newton; Shirley and Peter Jackson; Tony Fox  
*Front cover design by Carole Fornachon*





# MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

## SCHOOL NEWS



The 2nd of September saw the start of a new academic year for our children. We said our good-byes to some children who have now started at the Middle School. We would like to wish them all the very best and are sad to see them go!



### Raccoons!

The children have enjoyed exploring our new obstacle course. Lots of twisting, turning and balancing needed in order to make it safely across the crocodile infested waters!

We used our natural environment to make our own hedgehog characters. We will then write a diary entry about a night time adventure!

### Robins!

Robins class of year 1 and 2 have dressed up as characters from traditional fairy tales this week. They have



listened to lots of fairy tales. The children have planted turnip seeds for The Enormous Turnip and eaten gingerbread men. There are fairy tale characters around the classroom as well.

### Rabbits!

We welcomed our new Reception class into school last week. They have been exploring their outside area and have all settled in very well. Welcome to Milborne First School, Rabbits.



## 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

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## All change at Ladybirds

WHEN writing this Ladybirds have been back a week and we are all adjusting to the new normal. Antonia has a beautiful baby girl and her role as deputy has been filled by Alex who we welcome to our team. Emily has left to take up an SEN role at school and we will miss her greatly although she may be popping in occasionally. Luckily Meg is still with us along with myself who has put off retirement for a few more years. Jess is volunteering so our small team of dedicated staff is now complete.

We had a lovely morning with just our leavers. Providing an opportunity to meet with their friends who they will go to school with and say goodbye to Ladybirds. At the end we held a socially distanced picnic on the field and the children competed in sack, egg and spoon and three legged races. There was also a family race which provided laughs and was quite competitive.

We have tried to keep the Ladybirds mornings as much as



possible the same as before to help children coming back.

With children not having been in for six months and many new starters the first few days were quite a challenge. Parents are no longer allowed in the hall but can come into the outside area to help settle their child if needed. For some young children who have been at home with family for such a large portion of their lives, it is scary. We have concentrated on playing – well no change there! Less toys are out as they need cleaning afterwards and although we prefer natural materials, plastic wipeable resources are necessary.

By the end of the week the children are chatty and happily playing with their friends, old and new. Physical play is always popular and when there's not enough room in the spinner just turn the stepping stones over and use them. What great resourceful children they are.

We would like to send a big thank you to Simon Buckingham who supplied Ladybirds with some fantastic visors. They fit perfectly over my glasses and will be used to have COVID-19 safe conversations with parents.

Liz Dyer



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# News from St. Andrew's Church

THINGS have gone back to normal – well the new normal anyway. We were delighted to host three services in St. Andrew's church during August. It did mean a lot of planning and organisation but it was worth it. The positives were that we were able to meet together for worship again and to see people that we had not seen for a long time from our parish and from the benefice.

The communion services are nearly the same but not quite. In order for us to meet to worship there have to be many things that are different. Masks are required to be worn (unless exemption applies), all who come have to leave their names and contact details (Track and Trace) and social distancing is enforced (unless in a 'bubble'). Although we are not allowed to sing, we are able to listen to some hymns whilst reflecting on the words which are printed in the disposable service sheets. We can only share the Peace from our seats, verbally but not by touch. Nor can we go to the rail to receive communion but the host is brought to communicants in their seats. These measures are to be the new normal for as long as the pandemic is still a threat.

From September the pattern of our services will be slightly different. We will still have the Celebrate Services on the first Sunday of the month, however, we are not able to provide food or drink. Although we usually sit café style for the 'relaxed' service, we will have to sit in the pews – socially distanced of course. And of course, to adhere to the other recommendations to keep us all safe. There will still be communion services on the second and fourth Sundays. On the third Sunday of the month we will be introducing a reflective service instead of the 1662 Said Morning Prayers; this is called Worship in Stillness and will do exactly as it says, a service of reflection, prayer and listening.

We welcome regulars, new worshippers and visitors so do come along and join us. Information about times and dates are on posters, on the churches notice boards, and on the 'Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle & Milborne St. Andrew with Dewlish' Facebook page.

*Pam Shults Churchwarden*

## Celebrate at St. Andrew's

THIS is a photograph of our Celebrate service in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday 6th September. This service is less conventional in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Until March we met up before the service to share news, tea, bread and marmalade; we then sat around small tables and enjoyed a service of readings, hymns and prayer; we have a social time within the service in which we all participate. That was in March, this is our first service since then. We are now masked and socially distanced, leaving our names at the door and we may not join in the hymns, but the seventeen people that attended still enjoyed the fellowship and sharing our thoughts on the day's reading.

St Andrew's now has a service every Sunday at 9.30am. The Celebrate service is the first Sunday of the month. The second and fourth are communion services, the third is a new reflective service of prayers, readings and hymns and any fifth Sunday is a joint service with the other three churches in our benefice.

As I write this, these are the only social gatherings allowed of more than six people in the country.

*Josie Wright*



# Village Hall AGM

REMEMBER the village hall? This was where groups met, parties were held, pantos enjoyed. Well despite everything it is still there and the AGM was held on Thursday 20th August outside on the field. Because of "you know what" it had been postponed in April and then delayed again by a day due to bad weather.

Eric Crichton, as president, welcomed everyone; some of the committee members/trustees, four villagers and one representing a user group.

Pam, as chairman, read her report and thanked everyone for their hard work and support over the year. It has been unnecessary to lock the car park as local residents have cooperated with leaving room for hall users. The fitness station has gone to the sports field, some of the play equipment has been repaired as necessary. There have been a few instances of damage around the premises and we have been working with the local police on this matter. Pam stated that this was her last report as she was stepping down as chairman. Eric thanked her for her hard work and all the committee agreed.

The financial statement was read and the income and expenditure had been about the same, although income from Milborne Movies and the bar had increased. The Parish Council is now paying the full price for the cutting of the field. There will be no increase in the rental charges but discount for advance payment will cease. The hall is in good repair and there is no foreseeable large expenditure.

The trustees and committee were all re-elected.

The hall will be ready for the Ladybirds in September. There has been a lot to do to make it Covid safe so the hall may look different inside. It is hoped to have other groups being able to use the hall from 1st October at the latest. This will enable the Ladybirds to settle in and ensure that all safeguards are working. All user groups will be informed of opening and also what safeguards will be needed to be undertaken.

Michael Hopper asked if the hall could help with maintenance of the hedge we share with him; he has been cutting it for 27 years and is now finding it difficult to manage. This was agreed.

Eric Crichton closed the meeting.

The committee will next meet 30th September when a new chairman will be elected.

*Linda Wright*

## Ride & Stride 2020

The Dorset Historic Churches Trust annual fundraising event took place on a sunny day in September; six of us set off in ones and twos to visit local churches. We don't know how much we have collected yet but it is not too late to sponsor us – just phone me on 839090. St. Andrew's keeps half of the pledges, and DHCT uses the other half to help churches with expensive repairs.

*John Wright*

### 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

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# Milton Abbas Surgery

First of all, we would like to let our patients know that our surgery now has an official Facebook Page. Please follow @miltonabbassurgery for surgery notices and useful information.

There has been a lot of encouragement to get active and eat better recently. Whether you have decided that now is the time to kickstart your health journey, or you have already made a start but need some motivation to keep going, there is plenty of help out there.

NHS Better Health has a range of tools and support to help – find out what works for you at [www.nhs.uk/better-health](http://www.nhs.uk/better-health).

If you feel you would like to start making some changes but it all seems a little overwhelming, please feel free to call Kelly our Social Prescriber at the surgery who will be able to signpost you to help and support. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Take that step today and let's do this!

## Flu clinics: Important information

As you will be aware, we are having to adapt our usual arrangements for flu clinics this year to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. If you are eligible for a vaccination you will have received a letter from us asking you to book an appointment. The main flu clinic this year is on Saturday 10th October at Winterborne Whitechurch village hall. This is now fully booked: **DO NOT** attend if you do not have an appointment as we will not be able to see you. Additional clinics are being arranged: please phone the surgery to book.

When you attend for your flu vaccination, please:

- Be on time
- Attend on your own if possible
- Wear a face covering
- Wear appropriate clothing so the top of your arm is easily accessible
- **DO NOT** attend if you are showing any signs of Covid-19

We will have volunteers directing cars outside of the hall, please treat them with respect: they are an important part of the team and will help everyone to be seen safely and in good time.

We will not be undertaking pulse checks at this year's clinic, we will also not be able to deal with any other issues on the day: please phone for an appointment at the surgery if you would like to discuss any other health concerns.

We are not able to offer flu vaccines to patients aged 50–64 who are not in an 'at risk' category until we receive further guidance from the Government. We will contact you later in the year if you become eligible for a vaccination.

All GP surgeries have to order their flu vaccines a year in advance and no one was aware of this additional demand in November 2019, therefore we need to know how we will be able to access additional vaccinations before we can invite patients to attend.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your patience: we are all having to adjust to a different way of working in order to protect staff and patients, which is proving challenging. Please remember:

- all of our staff are doing their best and having to adapt in extraordinary circumstances.
- a telephone call is still an appointment and patients need to stay by the phone if they are expecting a call from the GP or nurse. Our clinics are incredibly busy and there may not be an opportunity for clinicians to call again.
- To be patient when waiting at the doorbell – there is only ever one person answering the door so if there are patients waiting ahead of you, please don't ring again.

Finally, some of you will remember Dr Emily Woodcock who was with us 18 months ago during her final training. We are very pleased that Dr Woodcock has now joined us as a permanent GP at the surgery and will usually be working all day on Tuesday and Wednesday.



ON a rather overcast September afternoon 12 members of the Wednesday club braved the elements to play bingo on the Village Hall sports field. They had enough time to play a couple of games of bingo before it started to drizzle and the umbrellas went up, it's very difficult to mark your numbers off when the bingo card is rather soggy. But despite the rain everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

Like most of the village hall users we are still unable to return to our normal Wednesday meetings. But the committee is trying to plan ahead and when we know how things are going to plan out and dear Boris has not changed his mind yet again we will keep you informed.

*Jenny Balcon*

## Walking is good for you – Join our organised walks from Wednesday 30th September

WALKING is a normal, everyday activity. It helps us to stay healthy and gives us energy. When walking our brains release chemicals that make us feel good. Walking can help us cope with things like depression, stress and anxiety. And it is a great way to meet people.

The Puddletown surgery has teamed up with Walking For Health which is England's largest network of health walks with over 360 active walking schemes; there are lots in Dorset. The walks are led by friendly, trained volunteers; they are not strenuous and will take no longer than an hour and it is free to join in. The walks will be every Wednesday: they will start and end at the Blue Vinny starting at 11.00am returning at noon, those who wish to can then have refreshments in the pub.

What do you have to do? Please register your interest now by e-mailing our volunteer walk coordinator, Ruth Webb: [ruthwebb@sky.com](mailto:ruthwebb@sky.com). She will then contact you, confirming all the details.

If you have any questions about the scheme, drop me an e-mail: [clare.stickland@dorset.nhs.uk](mailto:clare.stickland@dorset.nhs.uk) (Practice Manager).

## Quit smoking with Stoptober!

Stoptober is back for October 2020. And with the year we have had there's never been a better time to quit smoking!

Did you know that if you stop smoking for 28 days, you're five times more likely to quit for good?

If you are thinking about quitting smoking this October but are not sure what steps to take, we encourage you to speak with LiveWell Dorset. Through their telephone coaching and stop-smoke packs delivered to your door, they will help you to start stopping.

Go on their website [www.livewelldorset.co.uk](http://www.livewelldorset.co.uk) or call 0800 840 1628 for more details.

*Gillian Brindle*



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## Food and Wine Club – Safari Lunch

SO, WHAT does a fundamentally very sociable club, like the Milborne St. Andrew Food and Wine club, whose raison d'être is to come together with like-minded people to enjoy good food, good wine (other drinks are also enjoyed), good company and a good chin-wag, do to socialise in these very strange and socially distanced times? That was the question vexing the committee.

According to the Covid-19 rules we could have no more than six people gathered together and we all had to be outside. In August, when it is typically wetter than a rainforest in a monsoon in dear old blighty. Do you realise that it was one year to the day on August 1st when Whaley Bridge was threatened with destruction by their failing dam following weeks of deluge? Anyway, I digress.

The committee decided we could adapt a tried and tested concept, the Safari Supper, into the Safari Lunch to be held in groups of six, outside on August 2nd. For those, like me, not familiar with the concept, the idea is that a few keen members host and cook either a starter, a main or a desert course for six people. So not a great deal for any one person to do. Everybody then takes a stroll (safari) around the village to three separate households where they will be served with one of the courses before moving onto the next location for their next course.

Sheer genius. We had a wonderful afternoon of gastronomic delights, gorgeous wines and scintillating conversation and even got to walk off a few of the calories in between. As, like everyone else, my wife and I could only attend three of the venues I can only speak for the food we received which I have to say was sensational as was the company that, despite allowing 90 minutes each, always seemed to end too soon before we scurried off to the next house. Reports from our socially distanced companions at each venue we attended were equally enthusiastic.

We had fifteen volunteer cooks and a total of 27 members who took to the streets. Rose's organisation was done with a military precision that would've made Monty proud and ensured that the day ran smoothly. We even managed to pull off splendid weather for the event. It all goes to show that where there's a will we can find ways to make the best of what we have so a massive thank you goes out to the 15 cooks and everyone who participated to make such a lovely afternoon.

*Steve O'Neill*











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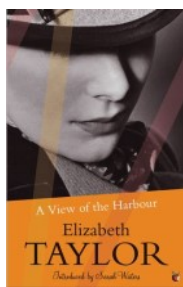
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# A Good Read “A View of the Harbour” by Elizabeth Taylor



THERE is a sense of quietude whilst reading this beautifully worked, nicely embroidered little mid-1940's book set in a faded seaside town, the harbour an amphitheatre for Taylor's drama. It details the lives of a small community trying to get back on its feet just after WW2. As a cast of characters they work well. Ms Taylor evokes vivid scenes with deft and marvellously utilised turns of phrase. It seems to be a Henry Jamesian parody; gossip mongering, shameless cavorting, acidic parody and confessional self-examination. Beth, a novelist married to Robert Cazabon, the town GP, from whom "no warmth fell on her children" generally detached from everything around her with the "titanic self-absorption of novelists", until one night she snaps and for her and the reader it feels good! Her neighbour and childhood friend Tory, a discontented divorcee learning that life is a succession of compromises. It is the quality of writing that impresses detailing the claustrophobia of a small town that has almost lost its meaning, the tension between domesticity and art. The themes are those of intimacy and betrayal, art and life and the masks we all wear. The flawed, well drawn characters brush up against each other in their aloneness, their lack of connection. It is rich in human detail and understanding; unfinished thoughts and actions which are surprisingly revealing; incongruous asides that are sharply observed. Stand out pieces of writing are Edward's (Tory's young son at boarding school) letters home and the one death bed scene. It is a mosaic of a novel detailing lonely, disappointed, damaged characters with flashes of humour. There is an ever shifting point of view often pushed along by the lighthouse beam which compels the structure, "mak(ing) of the moment something enchanting and miraculous, sweeping over the pigeon-coloured evening with condescension and negligence, half-returning, withdrawing and then, almost forgotten, opening its fan again across water" thus enabling fluidly interlinked scenes, circling progression, quiet shifting movement. We see the town and its inhabitants mainly from the perspective of the two "artists" Beth and Bertram Hemingway. The latter, a recently retired bachelor, the only visitor for most of the story, a wannabee artist attempting a perfect version of the view to hang in the pub, the Anchor, whilst charming all the 'available' women! (When the view is eventually painted and handed over so is the narrative towards the centre of this community.) Lily Wilson, a war widow, who owns the dusty waxworks museum full of murderers, afraid to go in there at night. Bed bound Mrs Bracey, another widow, lying on her sick bed muses "the day comes in slowly for those who are ill. The night has separated them from the sleepers, who return to them like strangers from a distant land, full of clumsy preparations for the living, the earth itself creaking towards the light". She has her adult daughters at her beck and call and is described by Robert Cazabon as 'one of my crosses'. It is a domestic drama full of sexual politics, the banal made interesting. It poses the question can artistic endeavour

provide fulfilment and purpose? Within this hypothesis the author encourages a re-appraisal of the characters by the reader throughout the telling of the tale so rich in human understanding and detail. There are moments of pure insight and vivid emotion. The telling is so well balanced, with an ever shifting point of view that, for a 1947 novel, it is strikingly progressive in style and sentiment. To quote Tory "the artfulness of men. They implant in us, foster in us, instincts which is to their advantage for us to have, and which, in the end, we feel shame at not possessing". The author, known always as 'the other Elizabeth Taylor' her reputation eclipsed by the "high glittering" actress, is constantly described as underrated, underappreciated and under-read. This is her third novel published when she was thirty five. She went on to publish fourteen more, a short story collection and a book for children called 'Mossy Trotter'. In contrast to Hollywood success her style is one of gentle comedy and sadness dissecting the subtleties of English domestic life with its 'flawed likeable characters negotiating the ordinary small crises of marriage, family and friendship' writes Sarah Waters in her introduction. Elizabeth Taylor has been likened to Jane Austen and the modern day Ann Tyler. As Ms Waters comments, it details the perils and pleasures of perspective, a novel in which people watch each other "from doorsteps, bar stools or, most typically, from windows". Only once is the war mentioned as Bertram watches soldiers gathering up the coils of rusty barbed wire from the beach, but it is present throughout, in Lily Wilson's lingering fear of spies, in the morale boosting notice "We Do Not Recognise the Possibility of Defeat" which still hangs crookedly in the pub and in the bits of wreckage, parts of aircraft drawn up in the fishermen's nets along with the fish. Yet it has saturated everything with shabbiness, with drab, exhausted surfaces and materials, "rationed milk, mice dirts, faded wallpapers and dribbling plaster" and the author seems to take a perverse delight in introducing this "vein of blackness". However it's the warmth and wit which shines through, as Edward writes to his mother "Other boys have pots of honey. It's not very nice here. I am having a lovely time." When this is recounted to Beth she comments "Yes, they measure affection by what comes in the post". Bertram, contemplating the future and the immediate past with Tory comments, "the most sensible thing to do to people you hate is to drink their brandy"! This intricate soap-opera tinged story allows something very like humanity to peek through the stage curtains showing off the spiky personalities as flesh and blood rather than puppets. These are real people with palpable dilemmas led circuitously to recognition and, maybe, redemption. There is much satisfaction and enjoyment to be had from this elegantly written, sprawling but tight panoramic tale. Ms Taylor's hallmarks are all here, quiet sadness, great subtlety, compassion, depth, finely observed human behaviour, lots of passion, lots of pain, star-crossed lovers, betrayal, old age and youth. As she herself said "*The whole point is that writing has a pattern and life hasn't. Life is so untidy. Art is so short and life is so long. It is not possible to have perfection in life but it is possible to have perfection in a novel*"

Carole Fornachon

## Trading Standards, the gold standard

THE hallmarking of gold and silver dates back to 1300 when King Edward I introduced it to protect standards and to prevent craftsmen committing fraud when making jewellery. The first stamp was a leopard's head which symbolised the King's mark of authentication. The word 'hallmark' didn't come into use until the 15th century when craftsmen took their artefacts to Goldsmiths' Hall in London to be assayed. Today there are four assay offices in operation, in London, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Sheffield.

Hallmarking techniques and regulations have been fine-tuned since those early days. The current legislation that governs hallmarking has been effective since the creation of the 1973 Hallmarking Act which is enforced by trading standards officers.

If a jeweller makes items of silver, gold, platinum or palladium and wants to sell them they are obliged to get them assayed which guarantees they are good quality. The hallmark is then applied so it

can legally be put onto the market.

A 2019 report confirmed that up to a third of precious metal products supplied online are unhallmarked and could therefore be fake. Jewellery fraud has consistently been an issue in the precious metal industry where counterfeit items can be made and sold to the unsuspecting customer at a high price. Fake jewellery affects the reputation of legitimate businesses and hurts the industry as a whole and without hallmarking enforcement many customers and legitimate businesses are exposed to fraud.

If you believe you may have purchased counterfeit jewellery report it to Dorset Council Trading Standards by visiting the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> consumer or by calling their new freephone number 0808 2231133.

**citizens  
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# 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  
Dorset Direct 01305 221000  
[dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk) [www.dorsetforyou.com/](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/)  
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South West Highways <a href="mailto:hello@swhitd.co.uk">hello@swhitd.co.uk</a>	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 101
	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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## Planning news at the PC that zoomed by

SEPTEMBER'S Parish Council went ahead in what was a first for Milborne councillors as an online meeting. The public had been invited to join the Zoom meeting via Facebook and the council's website, although only one resident did take up the opportunity. Zoom being Zoom, there were teething problems to begin with – "I can't see Amy!" – (she was there!), but these were only minor and clerk, Wayne Lewin, proved adept at sharing screen views of the agenda and reports for all present. The future looked bright for Milborne's teetering steps into online democracy.

Chair, Richard Macnair, could not be at the meeting due to work commitments so Cllr Redding took charge in his place. Her first action was to oversee the co-option of a new councillor, Tanya Head, who was voted unanimously on to the PC.

The big news concerned the planned housing developments in the village; the first Homefield application, refused by the county, had been taken to appeal but the decision of Dorset Council had been upheld. The modified plan for Homefield which the developer had presented to the last PC meeting in July was subsequently withdrawn. Wayne Lewin had an update of the Camelco application at the old dairy car park – the preferred option of the Neighbourhood Plan – saying that the Planning Officer had recommended approval with the matter now being with Dorset Council lawyers.

District councillor, Emma Parker, was present at the meeting and said she is now a representative on the Northern Area Planning Committee at the council. She spoke of a recent case where she and her colleagues overturned a planning refusal to allow the build of a multi-storey car park at Dorchester hospital for the benefit of Dorset residents. Cllr Parker is also to take up the case of a Milborne resident who is concerned by the state of "Mrs Ham's old house", on the corner of Milton Road. He said that it is "Letting down the aesthetic of the village". Cllr Parker assured him she would pass on the details to the enforcement officer at Dorset Council.

The pandemic put pay to a couple of events that the PC was to fund; tea, cake and biscuits was to be offered to those taking part in the Remembrance Day commemorations and also to volunteers who were to help with a community day of action clearing the stream in mid-September, which will now be undertaken by six people, organised by Steve Lord. Councillors agreed that appreciation would be shown in the form of a bottle of wine for each volunteer.

To make a level playing field, the PC has decided to have a discrete window of opportunity for groups and charities to apply for grants, so that all applications can be heard together. From October 1st for two months, grants from the PC can be applied for. Mr Lewin asked councillors to also think and ask residents for ideas of projects within the village for the coming year's budget. There was no limit put on the cost of any potential project, although the money would be sought from the precept.

Time was running short now as the Zoom clock ticked down from its 45 minute start. Agenda screenshots were dispensed with and the clerk read the items with seconds dripping away, getting quicker and quicker like a racehorse commentator as the nags near the finish post. Litter in the village? There's lots of it and not enough bins! Councillors, do we need more bins? Who empties them? Dorset Waste Partnership, five quid a bin. Next meeting? 21st of October. "Trafalgar Day!" came from the public (singular). "Perhaps we should have a flagpole for it", Mr Lewin said, to which the public replied, "I've got one in my garden!" Then silence. September's slice of live democracy was over; the meeting had zoomed past.

*Ed Richards*

## Ollie's 1200 mile bike ride

MOST of us got a bit more active during lockdown – discovering a few local footpaths or taking part in online fitness sessions – but Ollie Martin got on his bike. Lots of others did similar, but Ollie and a friend had a grand plan, that of cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats. The 1,200 mile bike ride was a feat that he himself readily admits was a ridiculous idea – two novice cyclists, neither having ridden more than 20 miles in one go, should attempt to cycle the length of our island. As it turned out, his friend had to drop out and with Ollie's summer getting busier helping out at home on Deverel Farm, he wondered whether he should throw in the towel as well, especially as he hadn't had the time to get the training miles in.

But all being well, a day or two after this went to press, he will have touched the tip of Scotland and put a wheel over the finish line, 20 days after setting out from Land's End. In doing so, he hopes to have raised some funds for two worthy charities, The Dorset County Hospital Charity and Macmillan Cancer Support. Ollie says, "Over the past 18 months it is crazy and slightly scary how many friends and family have received the devastating news that they have cancer, so I decided I wanted to raise money for these two charities". (See donation details below).

The whole trip has been a family effort with the Martins acting as, in his words, "my roadies". His mum, Charlotte, has been in for the long haul, setting out from Milborne to the starting point on the tip of Cornwall, and will be there all the way to the end – Ollie calls her his "Tour Manager". Taking shifts at different points in the journey are sisters Hannah and Frances, and dad, John, joined the road crew from Loch Lomond. Family friend, Julie Poad, was with mum, Charlotte, for the first section in the South West, keeping her calm when navigating the caravan down narrow country lanes, Ollie says! The crew towed the caravan to the designated site that was at the end of each day's ride, providing Ollie with a meal and bed for the night before getting back in the saddle the next morning.

*Ed Richards*

*If you'd like to support Ollie and his chosen charities, visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?pagelid=1197081> or cash donations can be deposited at the Post Office. Ollie would like to thank Phillip in the PO for allowing him to "take over" the window, and also anyone who has donated. The Reporter is pleased to announce it has donated £100 to Ollie's charities.*



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



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## Corporal Tom Edward Jeans 1898–1920



AUGUST was the 100th anniversary of the death of Tom Edward Jeans one of three World War One soldiers buried in our churchyard.

Tom was born at Winterborne Whitechurch to Tom Jeans and Julia nee Dicker who had been born and brought up in Milborne. His father was the innkeeper of The Milton Arms and he was one of six children. Sadly his mother died in 1908 at only 37 years old. In the 1911 census Tom's father is no longer at the pub but a general labourer with Tom and four siblings, one of his sisters being with the Dicker family in Milborne. Once again tragedy struck when Tom senior died in 1916 age 52. It would seem that Tom junior was living in Milborne by then as he is mentioned in the School Log book in 1912.

Unfortunately there are no army papers surviving for Tom; we do know from his medal record that he was a corporal serving with the 23rd battalion London Regiment.

Although surviving the war he died, as an army pensioner, on the 20th August 1920 at Dorchester Hospital of heart disease at only 21 years old.

The newspaper report on his funeral read; *"After a lingering illness Thomas [sic] Edward Jeans (late corporal of the 2/23 London regiment) one of the most promising youths of Milborne St. Andrew passed peacefully away at the Dorset County Hospital. The deceased was greatly respected by the whole village and many parishioners and ex-soldiers attended the funeral to pay their respects. The deceased's military career although comparably brief was brilliant he being the only Milborne lad to be mentioned in dispatches."*

We will remember them.

Linda Wright

## Sponsored bike ride for Ladybirds

A BIG thank you to Paul Stockley for completing a 123 mile bike ride around Dorset raising much needed funds for Milborne Ladybirds. Paul and family have supported our village preschool through the years as daughter Ava and now son Noah have been Ladybirds. With the COVID-19 lockdown fundraising for the charity – like many



others – has been restricted by no social gatherings. Paul stepped forward and offered to do a sponsored bike ride. Not only did he do the 110 miles planned he added an extra 13. Well done Paul, your efforts are very much appreciated. If anyone would like to add a contribution please contact me – Liz 07771 512427 or Kelly Gale.



## Private Augustus Arthur Lock 1892–1920

OCTOBER will be the 100th anniversary of the death of Augustus Arthur Lock one of the three World War One soldiers buried in our churchyard.



Augustus was baptised at St. Andrew's church on the 16th December 1892 the son of Edward Lock and Edith nee Way. There were two elder sisters and four elder brothers, a younger brother was born four years later.

Sadly his eldest sister, Louisa, died in 1898 age 19 of TB and his mother died in 1902 age 48 also of TB. His father remarried in 1903 to Amelia Way.

In 1905 his brother William enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment and his brother Frank joined the Royal Navy. In 1908 his brother Henry married and was living in Somerset and brother Alec enlisted in the Dorsetshire Regiment.

In the 1911 census only the youngest son, Vernon, was living at home in Milborne; Augustus living with his married sister, Kate, in Bournemouth.

By late 1914 all the brothers were in the forces; Henry in the Somerset Light Infantry, Augustus in the Hampshire Regiment and Vernon in the 1st Dorset's. This "loyalty to King and Country" was recognised by Buckingham Palace as Mr Edward Lock received a letter from the Privy Purse Office.

1916 was a very bad year for the family. In April Alec was reported missing; on the 31st May Frank was killed when his ship, HMS *Queen Mary*, was sunk and William was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme 1st July. On the 8th September Alec died of dysentery while being a PoW although his death was not known until 1918. Augustus was by now suffering poor health spending time in hospital and being examined regularly by the pension medical board.

At the end of the war three brothers were still alive but Henry and Augustus were both army pensioners and suffering ill health. Henry died on the 22nd February 1920 in Taunton and Augustus died on 15th October 1920 at his father's house age 29. He was buried in the churchyard in Milborne on the 18th October.

We will remember them.

Linda Wright

## Remembrance Day 2020

NOVEMBER will see the ceremonies of Remembrance in the middle of the month. This year they will clearly have to be very different from usual because of the restrictions imposed by coronavirus rules, especially with regard to the number of people allowed to gather together.

There will be a memorial church service at 10.00am as usual, and the church is already well organised for social distancing. It is hoped that there can be a short ceremony of laying wreaths at the memorial stone at 11.00am. As things stand at the moment probably only people actually laying wreaths would be allowed to be present. An alternative might be to lay them on Armistice Day itself – November 11th, but rules on numbers and distancing would still apply.

Of course things are very likely to change in two months, and the Royal British Legion in Blandford has no special information yet. However, village groups and clubs may like to be forewarned in case they are wanting to participate as usual. There will be more information in the November *Reporter*. Sally Dyer



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## Not the Dorset County Show

"The nearest I'm going to get this year to the Dorset County Show". This was a comment made to helpers at Milborne's Marvellous Mini Market held on the grass by the Village Hall on Bank Holiday Monday. For the last few years the Events Committee of St Andrew's church has organised a series of talks, meals, cream teas and other happenings, some of which have become annual events. Not this year, alas! The dreaded Covid-19 virus meant that most of the plans have had to be ditched, or at least postponed. It takes a lot to thwart us! With no chance of holding the long-standing Four Churches Day – it takes months of work to organize something on that scale – but with lockdown conditions easing a little we decided to create a micro version.

So Bank Holiday Monday saw us yet again packing cars to the gunnels, wrestling with gazebos, carting tables, chairs, crates of this, that and the other and getting grass stains on the knees of our trousers as we erected the Marvellous Market on the grass outside the Village Hall. We had no idea how many people would come; if anyone would come. Refreshments over-catered extravagantly and there are enough chocolate bars and soft drinks bottles in my Map Room (aka the office, aka the little bedroom – it's where I keep all my maps) to sink a battleship. The cake stall was as popular as ever – who can resist home-made raspberry muffins and apple pies? There was bric a brac, pe-loved clothes, games with prizes for the younger visitors. There was tombola – win a prize every time, the raffle with patchwork quilt, chocolates and cream teas among the prizes. You could buy plants and fresh produce straight from the garden, jams and chutneys.

Enough people came to make us feel that arranging it was worth the effort but not so many that people felt unsafe in crowds. No, it wasn't the Dorset County Show, but by the time we had cleared the field, packed and then unloaded the cars we felt we had had a good day and deserved the cup of tea/glass of wine/large gin – delete as appropriate. We had made just under £450.

*Rose Johnson* St Andrew's Events Committee







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## Homefield appeal is dismissed, second plan is withdrawn

THE original planning application for up to 85 homes on the Homefield land has been dismissed at appeal and the current application withdrawn. The appeal was rejected, agreeing with the council's decision that the church and Conservation Area would be harmed. The Planning Inspectorate said "The location of the development would be unacceptable to its impact on the character and form of the village, and the development would also cause unacceptable harm to the settings of St. Andrew's Church and the Conservation Area, and to archaeology."

The church's history and importance, the Inspectorate states, cannot be compromised. It said the development would "Sever the visual and physical interconnection of the church with its historic landscape setting, and undermine appreciation of its landmark quality and historic prominence within the village". It went on to say that the consideration of using landscaping to screen the development to reduce or block "inter-visibility" was not appropriate since "Such intentional blockage would itself cause harm. The setting of St. Andrew's Church would not therefore be preserved by the development". A new application was submitted with two orchards proposed on the western side of the site to act as a screen. This application has now been withdrawn. *Ed Richards*

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# What did the Romans do for us?

WE are all aware that the Romans came to Dorset, but what is there to see in the area that is a result of their settlement here? Certainly, there are interesting finds in the area, for example, the villa at Dewlish, excavated between 1968 and 1979, which produced some amazing evidence of the development there of a small farm to eventually a grand villa in about 400AD. Some of the excavated finds suggest it is possible bathing treatments were available in the baths there. Some of the magnificent mosaic floors were removed and can be seen in the Dorchester museum. These include part of the changing room for the bath which has sea creatures, a ram and a dolphin and probably the figure of Neptune in the middle of the room. These fragments can be seen in the museum at Dorchester. One of a leopard killing a gazelle was mounted and displayed in Dewlish house. Some of the mosaics were reburied on the site which is now grassed over.

When the Puddletown bypass was built, excavations in the Tolpuddle Ball area exposed a cemetery of the Roman era with some fifty burials, which can be seen in the report on-line by the Wessex Archeology group. These showed among other disease signs, the appalling state of tooth and jaw problems. These include clear signs of tooth decay, but worse than that, erosion of the jaw caused by long term abscesses, which must have been excruciatingly painful over a long term. More recently, there was a surprise discovery of a Romano-British burial on Stileham Bank when conservatory foundations were being dug.

It is a matter of conjecture that the site of the un-recorded, but visible signs, of the early medieval village to the West of Weatherby castle were a result of the original inhabitants of the castle moving down the hill, as result of no longer being able to defend the hill top against the Roman might and the area being safer and more settled in their presence. It has also been suggested that two of the current three entrance gaps in the banks of the hillfort were made when the Romans used the site as an encampment, as the Durotriges tribe previously living there would probably have built only one entrance to defend.

But what can you see within the parish? It is likely that the only sign is the Roman road from Durnovaria (Dorchester, the local district capital), to Badbury Rings, an important trade centre, with roads going from there towards Salisbury to the North-East and Ilchester, as well as towards the settlement of Lake and its access to Poole harbour, a principle import and trading town for the Romans. This road appears on the very southern boundary of the parish, as the short straight section of lane between two sharp bends at Ashley Barn. It continues only as a footpath up the hills to the east and west.

Other signs in the area include the line of the aqueduct that served fresh water into the town of Durnovaria. This started near the hamlet of Muckleford, north-west of the town and followed the slight slope, but hugged the hill into the town, entering it across the ground that now has County Hall built on it and followed across, what is now the car park behind the old library building. This brought water to the town which at this point is considerably higher than the course of the river Frome at Hangman's Cottage down the hill. Some engineering! It is said that when Isambard Kingdom Brunel built his broad gauge railway from Bristol to Dorchester in 1857, the route he chose was influenced by the Poundbury Hill fort, the Roman aqueduct and the presence of the Maumbury Rings. This latter is thought to be a probable site of Roman



entertainment of all sorts, plays, fights and gory presentations, although it certainly existed before the Romans came to Dorchester.

Nowadays, one of the most readily seen items from Roman period, is the milestone one

mile outside Dorchester, beside the Stinsford roundabout on the bank of the north-west quadrant. It is set behind a wooden fence within some undergrowth. It stands some four feet high and is round and made of rough worn stone. It has a dip in the top which could have been used to put coins in vinegar to pay for goods left there for villagers of Stinsford during a previous pandemic, possibly plague. Also, there is a groove at the bottom of the stone which is said to have been worn by a tether rope when it was used for bull-baiting. The stone had stood in earlier times at the junction of the road to Dorchester from the main A35 road. It was moved when the by-pass was built and then re-sited in 2011 to its present position following some re-alignment of the road into town.

For more information see Roman Dorset by Bill Putnam, Roads Tracks and Turnpikes by David Viner. Both published by Dovecote Press.

Also Dorset and the second legion by Norman H Field, published by Dorset Books. *Pip Bowell*

## Seeing red for hedgehogs

HEDGEHOGS are now officially on the Red List of endangered species published by the Mammal Society in July 2020. Hedgehogs are categorised on the list as Vulnerable to Extinction, which means there is still sufficient numbers for the population to return to healthy numbers again. But that is purely up to us. We have been responsible for their decline and if we don't act now, hedgehogs could soon be lost forever. Our children, their children and all future generations will learn about hedgehogs in the same way that we learnt about woolly mammoths and dinosaurs.

Hedgehogs face many dangers and need our help. Loss of suitable habitat in the countryside has driven them into our towns and villages as their last refuge. Here they face problems with rats, rodenticides, dog bites and increased risk of traffic accidents. The latest figures for hedgehog road traffic accidents has been estimated at between 167,000–335,000 hedgehogs killed annually in Britain.



Many people across the rural county of Dorset are going out of their way to help the hapless hedgehog. Inspired and led by the Dorset Mammal Group, residents in towns and villages are developing hedgehog friendly streets by making holes in, or under, garden fences and walls for hedgehogs to pass through. Gardeners are also encouraged to adopt hedgehog friendly activities by not using slug pellets and leaving areas of rough ground where hedgehogs can forage. Log and brushwood piles are being created for hedgehogs and many residents are offering supplementary food and water.

In addition to these measures, which anyone can do, there is a growing army of volunteer hedgehog rescuers, carers and rehabilitators, looking after sick, injured, orphaned or underweight hedgehogs across Dorset.

The Mammal Society has estimated that hedgehogs may have declined by as much as 73% in the last twenty years. Please help your town or village to become more hedgehog friendly, and if you care about hedgehogs and want to help them, get in touch with the Dorset Mammal Group at [hedgehogs@dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk](mailto:hedgehogs@dorsetmammalgroup.org.uk).

*Susy and Colin Varndell*



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# A Winterborne walk at 200 squeaks an hour

'I'M just going outside and may be some time'. So said Captain Lawrence "Titus" Oates as he bade farewell to Captain Scott and stepped from their tent into the icy blizzard to meet his fate. The gangrene and frostbite from which he was suffering would become an added burden for his companions, his exit to be a futile act of selflessness, an iconic moment from the 1912 ill-fated British expedition to the South Pole. Kate had already left for work, so I couldn't tell her "I may be sometime". Instead, I woke and told Delilah our cat. She responded with a cavernous yawn and returned to dream of mice. The gate latched behind me, a late summer blue sky splashed with high streaky cloud umbrellaed above. No blizzard, no gangrene. My biggest burden today will be the squeaky trainers that have accompanied me for the last five or six hundred miles of trekking. They made their debut on the Huddersfield Canal towpath in 2018 and despite sonically driving me and others round the twist, are extremely comfortable.

Up to the sports ground, onto the bridleway that runs alongside the football pitches. Here the way ahead is wide and reminds me of the gallops that straddle the Berkshire Downs where thoroughbred racehorses are put through their paces. Sheep grazing near the adjacent hedgerows hear my squeaky approach and scatter en masse. This is going to be a long walk, potentially four hours of squeaking. This is classic Wessex downland, a flint landscape. OS25 suggests both Tumuli and a Long Barrow in the expansive field where the path to Longmead Community Farm branches left. I see no obvious signs of these archaeological features, probably obscured by the summer crop standing high awaiting the grim reaper. I step through a waymarked gap in the hedge in the corner of the field. The path will meet the Winterborne Whitechurch to Winterborne Kingston road and it reveals a vista that includes the folly that rises above Charlborough Park, ancestral home to the Drax family. I played Dracula in the Milborne Players' 2020 production of Dick Whittington, but am no relation to Dracula; Dracula, Draxula; get it?

Reaching the metalled road, I bear left and meander this way and that, past thatched cottages and, to my surprise, a World War II Nissen hut. I hit the A354 opposite the Milton Arms. When we moved to Milborne St Andrew in 2018 this hostelry closed its doors seemingly forever before we had a chance to sample its hospitality. Now, freshly licked with paint and strewn with summer floral baskets it seems to have risen like a phoenix from the flames as others have crashed and burnt in a sea of highly flammable vodka or gin. I squeak across the main road following the quaint fingerboard signpost to Winterborne Clenston and Winterborne Stickland. There seem to be an awful lot of Winterbornes in Dorset and my mind devises 'Winterborne Monopoly'. After a slurp of water and a reality check, I squeak on, sheep scatter, Delilah slumbers on, mice cower behind skirting boards. Winterborne Clenston next; the impressive Whatcombe House sitting among pleasant park land hoves into view on my left. A sharp left, right kink reveals a Hardy-esque flint barn and slightly baroque looking church at Clenston. I stop a while, the squeaking stops a while. The church is unusual in the fact that it sports a spire, a steeple being the norm for rural Dorset. Built in the 1830s, it stands on the site of a previously demolished place of worship. My subsequent research informs me that the architect, Lewis Vulliamy, also designed the workhouse at Sturminster Newton. Believe it or not there were two further Winterborne settlements in the near vicinity, namely Winterbornes Philipston and Nicholaston. Both had a bad time during the Black Death and fell into decline. I offer a prayer to other Winterbornes, in the hope that unwanted modern diseases keep their distance. The flint barn seems to be in a very dilapidated state. It does, however, contain a hammer-beam roof and is a Grade 1 listed building; so there.

Thick woodland to my left forms the sandwich between gently rising fields and bright blue skies. From within the sandwich filling I hear occasional gunshot. I enter Winterborne Stickland. It's a brief visit as I bear left onto Dunberry Lane, past the old school building on a bearing towards Milton Abbas. It's time to swap tarmac for footpaths. As the road levels out I swing left up a farm track onto the Jubilee Trail. The 88-mile trail crosses Dorset from border to border and was created by the

Ramblers' Association in 1995 to mark its 60th anniversary. I like a good trail, the certainty that the way ahead will be well marked negates the need for a map. Maps can be annoying. I got annoyed when I lost a map to the wind high up on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at a place called Foulridge. The weather that day was appalling with driving rain and wind. In essence, I will always remember Foulridge as being a foul ridge. Before long, the fields give way to woodland and I am funnelled into New Coppice and Charity Wood. The Forestry Commission manages this large expanse of greenery and there are signs at various intervals telling you what you can and can't do. Mushrooming isn't mentioned in the signage; I see fungi foragers busy at work. Also missing from the rules of the forest is any legislation stating that training shoes must not emit squeaks to exceed 100 decibels so I press on. I would imagine it could be fairly easy to get lost in here, lots of smaller paths lead off here and there. Keeping to the main wider track should ensure safe passage. You are also well guided through this leafy interlude by way markers. The path does narrow as you are guided right for the final ascent to Milton Abbas, where I emerge blinking into the sunlight opposite Catherine's Well. I have two options to consider for a route home and I ponder them as I begin to drop down into the quaint regimentally thatched cottage-lined main street. Option A: Down through the village and a straight run for home along Milton Road, and option B: Cross country via the Jubilee Trail which straddles Hoggen and Deverel Downs and crosses the A354 by Longmead Community Farm. I chose option B. Although I have been out for three hours now, there is still enough gas left in the tank. All is well as I admire the views across to the distant Purbeck Hills. A family of deer spots me and bounces for the safe cover in a hedge. The penultimate field before crossing the main road is a bit of a nuisance. On both previous occasions I have traversed it my way has been blocked by two electric fences, the surface heavily rutted, in no way a footpath. The first occasion saw me tripping over enormous rotting turnips. This short section is a bit inconvenient. I limbo the electric fences and pretend I am competing in The Grand National, being careful not to twist a fetlock, the going being 'heavy'.

Safely across the main road and down past Longmead. The path becomes infested with stinging nettles and my legs take a bit of a pasting, not as bad as the good folk of Winterbornes Philipston and Nicholaston, and nothing like as bad as the fate of poor Captain Oates. I am glad to reach the gate which leads me into the Tumuli and Long Barrow field from four hours ago. Squeaking, stung and a little weary I unlatch the gate. Delilah is still asleep but stirs and observes me through one opened eye as I kick off my shoes.

It then dawns on me that there are far too many Winterbornes to fit on a conventional Monopoly board, but I am too tired to really care.

*Rich Hawker*

## Car boot and table top sale in Whitechurch

A car boot sale this Saturday (3rd October) at Winterborne Whitechurch is the first event that aims to help the Village Hall recoup lost income over the last six months. The hall is now Covid safe and a table top sale with the car boot will go ahead from 10.00am to 1.00pm, with tables and boots available at £5. Refreshments will be served and the organisers remind people attending that masks should be worn inside, apart for medical exemptions. More details from Tracy on 01258 881416 and [info@wwwh.co.uk](mailto:info@wwwh.co.uk).



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## Rare treat for live music fans



The first music event in Milborne since March went ahead last month when Zoe Schwarz and band entertained 50 locals in an open air gig at the Sports Club. The band played from the veranda of the pavilion on a clear, fine day to the appreciative audience, who soaked up the jazz-tinged blues and late summery sun on picnic blankets and chairs. It was, in these times, a rare chance to enjoy live music which so many have missed, not least the performers. The band had a summer tour planned that obviously had to be cancelled and, apart from a couple of 'garden gigs' for friends, this was the first organised show in six months.

It was all due to the efforts of Clive Rawlings, he of 'Milborne's Got the Blues', who had previously arranged six gigs at the Village Hall, two nights of which were Zoe's Blue Commotion band. He had been to one of Zoe's garden gigs in recent months and, knowing the Sports Club was 'Covid secure', decided to organise an event there. He said, "We decided it was time to do it - before the weather made it too 'chancy' - as our faithful MGTB supporters would be missing live music. We also felt it was important to support friends from the local music scene who had been unable to perform since March". Zoe had played recent, informal gigs backed by seasoned performers rather than her usual band, with her husband, Rob, on guitar, Paul Francis on bass and Dave Wallace on drums. All rely completely on music performance and some tuition for income, so the last six months had been tough. To satisfy Covid regulations, the event at the Sports Club was free but with optional donations to show appreciation for the performers.

Clive, who has DJ'd for many years on radio stations specialising in blues and rock, said he was delighted with the attendance, with the 50 places being bagged soon after announcing the event. He said, "We kept it small so as to be manageable and had really enthusiastic comments from those attending." He went on, "Richard Bower and Gren Elphinstone Davis were brilliant stewards, welcoming everyone and adding to the sense of safety." His wife, Barbara, co-organised the event and checked people in on the gate, going through a Covid checklist and giving advice. As Zoe said, "Big thanks to Clive, who's a warm-hearted guy, and also Barbara, for making the whole thing happen".

While people were encouraged to bring their own food for the afternoon, there was a licensed bar supplied by Laurie and Hayley of the Cherry Bar. Their business had also seen a lean summer season with big weddings and events that they had been booked in for being cancelled, so the Zoe Schwarz gig was a welcome return for the pair. Clive said, "The bar was an additional highlight. The musicians were blown away by the response and the venue". Drummer Dave, who has worked with the likes of David Essex, said after that he was mesmerised with the stunning vista from the pavilion that he looked out on from behind his kit, saying he had to keep focused so as not to drift off!

The band mined Zoe's rich back catalogue - six studio albums with Blue Commotion alone - as well as sprinkling well-loved cover versions over the two sets that the band played. Her voice was centre stage, strong and melodic, covering the range of rocky to more mellow numbers. Prefacing one song, Better Days, she told of keeping perspective during the recent crisis. She said, "We lost all our work overnight, but we have a garden and I thought of all those that don't and I felt so much better". The band's penultimate number, Thank You, a smooth, soulful song, had the lyric, "Thank you for coming all this way to hear all of what we got to say". There'll be many thanks heading back from those fortunate enough to have been there that afternoon.

*The band's music, gig news and more can be found on*  
[www.zoeschwarzmusic.com](http://www.zoeschwarzmusic.com)

*Clive Rawlings presents the Breakfast Show on KeeP106 Monday to Wednesday (8am to 10am) and the blues/rock show, Boogie Train, on Saturdays 8pm to 10pm. KeeP106 is on FM radio 106.3FM or online at*  
[www.keeP106.com](http://www.keeP106.com)

*Ed Richards*



# Zoe and Friends – review by Clive Rawlings

With pandemic restrictions easing, but changes predicted all the time, I made the decision to put on an outdoor live event on at the beautiful setting of the Sports Club. Who to invite to perform was easy, friends of ours who had sold out the Village Hall twice and being local - it had to be Zoe Schwarz, this time in the guise of Zoe and Friends.

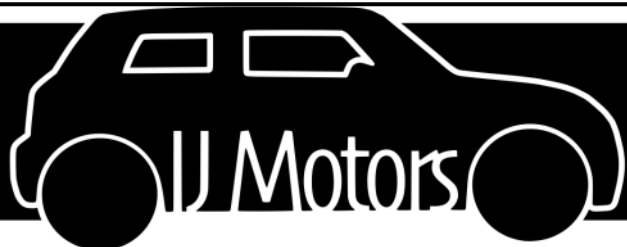
So, with fifty locals, a number we'd decided on, Zoe, along with Rob on guitar, Dave on drums and Paul on bass, got underway with one of a majority of original songs "I Can't Live Like That", swiftly followed by "Come Home Sweet Baby". I'm not a fan of pigeonholing bands, but what you get with Zoe is straight up blues with a tinge of jazz, highlighted by Rob's intricate soloing. Willie Dixon's "I Can't Quit You, Babe" was a treat. Before we knew it, it was interval time. With some eight albums to pick from, not to mention the sixteen albums Zoe and Rob have recorded over their eighteen year music partnership, the original songs came thick and fast, but, personally, it was the passionate interpretation of Lou Reed's "Perfect Day" that did it for me. Then, too soon "Glory Box", a cover of trip hop band, Portishead, brought the curtain down.

So, to sum up, a wonderful afternoon, spent in the company of four accomplished musicians. The feedback I got was very favourable, the general consensus was that the sound had more clarity than at the Village Hall . . . and the inevitable question: when's the next one? . . . Boris?



Photos by Ed Richards





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## Our poems

IT'S been hard for children during lockdown. Our Grandson's year band wasn't even able to go back to school in June. To help with home/school learning we challenged him to write a poem and promised we would write some too. Here are our efforts.

**GABRIEL** Aged 8 years  
Little Robin on your perch  
In the high and leafless birch  
Winter, Spring  
And still you sing.  
You fly to the feeder  
Oh how you need her.

**GRANDAD** Aged 81 years  
The Pulsar's satnav is quite bright  
It works both by day and by night:  
But near home it's quite bad;  
It goes just a bit mad  
And tells you "go left" when it's "right"!

Diggory's a beautiful cat  
Who eats quite a lot to get fat.  
Then fetches a mouse  
Brings it into the house,  
And leaves it for us on the mat!

**GRANDMA** Aged 29 (and a bit)  
I wish I was a butterfly flitting here and there,  
Spending the days in sunshine without a single care.  
I might well be a Cabbage White in the vegetable patch  
Laying eggs beneath the leaves to ensure that they will hatch.  
Each egg becomes a caterpillar nibbling round the leaf  
Growing fatter day by day, for time may well be brief.  
Then round the fat, segmented shape a silken thread is wound  
And once the body's quite enclosed a secret place is found.  
It hides away the Winter through, this shell-like Chrysalis  
While deep within it makes a total Metamorphosis.  
The fatty, bulging Pupa transforms to a different shape  
Awaiting just the perfect time to make its great escape.  
Once ready, on a sunny day, it cracks and out will creep  
A beautiful Imago awakening from its sleep.  
Oh yes, it is a butterfly flitting here and there  
Spending the days in sunshine, its beauty for all to share. *José Thomas*

## Did you identify this?

July's picture was taken at Brookside Cottage, The Causeway.

Nobody send in the correct answer.



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## Look out for possible Green Energy Grant scams

A GOVERNMENT Green Homes Grant for homeowners in England is available from the end of September 2020 and runs until the end of January 2021. It aims to help pay for certain energy efficient home improvements including insulation. All homeowners can apply for funding for at least two thirds of the cost of eligible home improvements, up to a total value of £5,000. Some homeowners will qualify for the total cost of eligible home improvements, costing up to £10,000.

You must install either insulation, or low-carbon heating, of certain types to qualify. Funding is by Government voucher and to start with you need to make sure you are eligible for the scheme. Full details of the Green Homes Grant can be found at the Government endorsed web page <https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/> or by phoning 0800 444202.

History has shown that unscrupulous traders may try to take advantage of schemes such as this, perhaps contacting people by phone, or on the doorstep, out of the blue, with the offer of discounted insulation or building work. Sometimes the sales talk may refer to previous work completed at the property. Traders may try to push the need for urgency as a selling point, the official scheme being a time limited offer.

The advice from trading standards is to visit the Simple Energy Advice webpage, or phone them on the number above, before you agree to any work starting so you know whether you are eligible for the grant and what that entitles you to. If you are unsure whether an approach by a trader is genuine perhaps ask for the help of a trusted relation, friend or neighbour.

If you believe you have been contacted by, or have had work completed by, a trader who is not what they first seemed, then please report them to Dorset Council Trading Standards by contacting the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> or by calling the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone 0808 223 1133.



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***Local villages covered:  
Milborne, Cheselbourne and Dewlish***

## News from Longmead Community Farm

WE were just recovering from the havoc the rain had played on the farm when we entered an unprecedented period as the whole country went into lockdown. Longmead Community Farm (LCF) actively worked to avoid mothballing the site, believing there was even more of a role in supporting the community, families and young people during this crisis.

We were able to reutilize the empty warden flat to offer emergency accommodation to local authorities for young people in crisis. Using separate doorways, extensive Covid-19 procedures and sanitation, we were able to continue to offer family work and extend our premises to Koro, to take on more work



dealing with extremely vulnerable young people.

Our staff also voluntarily increased their collections of

surplus food in their own time, distributing it to care homes, isolated volunteers and anyone who responded to our offers of help. We liaised with the local clergy and school safeguarding team and set up regular weekly food drop offs. These drop offs included surplus food from M&S, Longmead's own food supplies and any food grown on the property.

At this point I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to all staff, trustees and volunteers whose hard work made all this possible. Lyn, Roz and Paul all worked tirelessly to keep the farm running, the animals cared for and the house safe to support the work going on there. Their work went far beyond the farm, bringing grateful thanks to many an isolated and struggling household. I also want to extend this thanks to the Trustees who worked so hard during this period, supporting the staff practically and mentally. The whole community was a force of nature and made me very proud to be part of the project.

We look forward to consolidating our efforts over the summer months and building a plan for 2021, when we hope to have full time volunteer residential wardens joining the team. If you would be interested in this opportunity which comes with a three bedroomed flat, please contact me on my details below.

We are still collecting surplus from M&S. This generally comprised of bread and vegetables. If you live in the area and would find some extra weekly groceries helpful at the moment, please do reach out to me. If you are interested in helping LCF through volunteering on the farm, with the family work, fundraising, office help, or maybe donating to us we would love to hear from you.

Please all take care and stay safe. I will leave you with some heart-warming words from some people we have had the pleasure to work with over the last few months:

*'I would like to say a big thank you to the people from Longmead Community Farm. They have helped me and my family so much during this lockdown. Gave me hope when it was running very thin, my family and I were able to get thro a struggling time with the help, food and kindness. My family are so grateful to know and get to know the people who are doing amazing work xx'.* Anon

*'There will be plenty that we will all wish to forget when COVID-19 is over, but I will never forget the hospitality and dedication of the staff at Longmead Farm.'* Anon

Best wishes from Sarah and the team at Longmead. Contact: 01258837960 or [sarah.cooper@longmead.org](mailto:sarah.cooper@longmead.org)





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