

# Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 12 Issue 11

December 2020

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## Your *Reporter* Team

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

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907 (07843 018007)

Advertising renewals: Pete Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Janet Allen 01258 837551

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

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE AND  
MILBORNE WITH DEWLISH  
PART OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE DIOCESE  
OF SALISBURY



## Christmas – but not as we know it

What a year it's been! This time last year, I don't think any of us could have predicted that 2020 would turn out to be the one of lockdown, uncertainty, fear, isolation and separation from those we love.

As I write a week into November, I have no idea what Christmas this year will be like. Our churches are planning for socially distanced carol and crib services (please see elsewhere in the magazine for details of these), but we don't know yet whether we will be able to hold them.

At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. In the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, he is referred to (using words found in the book of the prophet Isaiah) as "Emmanuel". The meaning of this title is "God with us." And the heart of the Christian story of Christmas is just that – God is with us.

God is with us whatever may befall. God is with us through good times and bad times, through times of security and times of uncertainty, through times of joy and of sadness. It may not always feel like it to us but that doesn't mean it's not the case. We know the sun exists even when it is hidden by clouds.

Mary and Joseph knew what it was to have an unknown future and to live in a time of uncertainty. The political situation in first century Palestine was one of tension. People were divided. Power was held in the hands of a few. Resources were tight for many. Even religion seemed to have become exclusive rather than for everyone. Sounds familiar?

How different God's way was from that of human beings! Emmanuel – God with us – didn't come just for the powerful and certain, the rich and the religious, but for everyone. And God doesn't run out on us when things get tough but carries us in loving arms and stays with us in every circumstance. We just have to grab that outstretched hand.

God offers hope, but also comfort for the tough times. The Christ-child smiles when we do, but also weeps when we weep.

A poem by Wendy Cope reflects on this eloquently:

### A Christmas Song

Why is the baby crying	For separated parents
On this, his special day,	Whose turn it is to grieve
When we have brought him lovely gifts	While children hang their stockings up
And laid them on the hay?	Elsewhere on Christmas Eve,

He's crying for the people	For everyone whose burden
Who greet this day with dread	Carried through the year,
Because somebody dear to them	Is heavier at Christmastime,
Is far away or dead,	The season of good cheer.

For all the men and women	That's why the baby's crying
Whose love affairs went wrong,	There in the cattle stall:
Who try their best at merriment	He's crying for those people.
When Christmas comes along,	He's crying for them all.

There have been some fantastic and wonderful things this year – a new appreciation of nature, vast outpourings of care, volunteers in their thousands, creativity in homes and businesses, new relationships forged, the dedication of those who work in the NHS, care homes, hospices and so on. When we have eyes to see these joys, we realise that hope is still possible even in the darkest times.

None of us know what the future holds. I hope and pray that we will all experience some joy, while never forgetting that Emmanuel is with us for all the ups and the downs of life.

A peaceful and blessed Advent and a happy Christmas to you all

*Sarah*

## Christmas Services

ALL Christmas service plans are provisional because of the uncertainty regarding what restrictions will be in place by the end of November.

We are planning for a number of socially-distanced services for Christmas in addition to our usual Sunday morning acts of worship.

We want to welcome you to join us. In order to be safe, we are holding some of our most popular services twice, so that there is room for everyone. We will have to ask you to book in advance for these so we can keep numbers at each within the guidelines. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis, but cannot guarantee a specific seat, as these will be dependent on the order in which people arrive at church on the day. Unless you are exempt, government rules require everyone to wear a mask inside the building at all times.

The services listed below are the ones where we require advance bookings. (All other Sunday and Christmas services will be open to those who turn up on the day.)

### Milborne St. Andrew

Saturday 19th December	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	10.00pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am	Celebration

Please book with Pam Shults 01258 837203

### Puddletown

Sunday 20th December	4.30pm	Carol Service 1
	6.00pm	Carol Service 2
Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Crib Service 1
	5.00pm	Crib Service 2

Please book with Cynthia Metcalfe 01305 848043; cynmet@yahoo.com

### Tolpuddle

Sunday 13th December	3.30pm	Carol Service 1
	5.00pm	Carol Service 2
Wednesday 23rd December	3.00pm	Crib Service 1
	4.30pm	Crib Service 2

Please book with Julie Bonner 01305 848027

### Dewlish

Sunday 20th December	11.00am	Carol Service 1
	3.00pm	Carol Service 2

Please book with Jim Burg 01258 837466

## 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

## Special Christmas Memories

Of Mum, Dad and Michael (Badger)  
So very dear, sadly missed at this time of year.  
Veronica, David and grandson Paul.

## Just as we were getting into the swing of things

IN October we had successful services, although numbers of the congregation were a little lighter than pre-Covid-19, they were still good. Which shows that our services are providing a welcome opportunity for those who wish to worship together. Our new services, Worship in Stillness, have been very well received and several regulars say how much they like it.

However, just as we were getting into the swing of organising new ways of holding all services to conform to the 'hands, face, space' requirements, all services were not allowed in November but the church was still open for private prayer. This very sadly meant that we could not hold the usual Remembrance Sunday Service. Our flower arranging team member created wonderful displays of poppies so that those coming for private prayer would see them. Hopefully, by the time this article

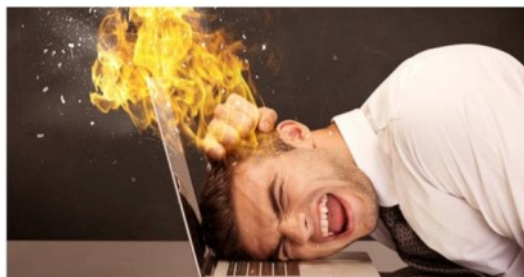


appears we should be back to holding regular Sunday services.

Our thoughts are now optimistically turning to the Christmas season and how we can manage to accommodate as many as wish to come given the socially distancing requirements. All the churches in the benefice will be organising systems which will allow people to apply to book 'tickets' for services which they want to attend. St. Andrew's scheduled services are the Carol Service at 6.00pm on the 19th December, Christmas Eve Holy Communion at **10.00pm** (note the earlier time) and the Christmas Celebration at 10.30am on Christmas Day. I will be the contact for St. Andrew's so should you wish to come and to book a 'ticket' please get in touch either by landline phone 01258 837203 or by mobile 07913266230 or email [pamshults@btinternet.com](mailto:pamshults@btinternet.com).

*Pam Shults Churchwarden*

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## Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne and Dewlish December 2020

### 6th December – Advent 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish

### 13th December – Advent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
3.30pm	United Carol Service 1	Tolpuddle
5.00	United Carol Service 2	Tolpuddle

### SATURDAY 19th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	Milborne
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### 20th December – Advent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Carol Service 1	Dewlish
3.00pm	Carol Service 2	Dewlish
4.30	Carol Service 1	Puddletown
6.00	Carol Service 2	Puddletown

### WEDNESDAY 23rd December

3.00pm	Crib Service 1	Tolpuddle
4.30	Crib Service 2	Tolpuddle

### THURSDAY 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

3.30pm	Crib Service 1	Puddletown
5.00	Crib Service 2	Puddletown
10.00	Christmas Eve	Milborne
	Holy Communion	
11.30	Midnight Mass	Puddletown

### WEDNESDAY 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30	Christmas Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
10.30	Christmas Celebration	Milborne
11.00	Christmas Praise	Puddletown

### 27th December – Christmas 1

11.00am	United Benefice	Puddletown
	Holy Communion	

### MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.15am; Saturday 9.00am			
Monday – Puddletown		Tuesday – Milborne	
Wednesday – Dewlish		Thursday – Tolpuddle	
Saturday – Puddletown			

**Christmas is coming and so  
is the deadline for the  
January issue of the  
Reporter which is mid-day  
7th December. Send your  
stories and pictures to  
msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk**

## Light up Milborne and you could win a prize

THE year 2020 is going to be remembered for many wrong reasons; holidays cancelled, school cancelled, going shopping cancelled, being stuck indoors for long times, not being able to visit friends and family, and numerous other things that have made it a rather depressing year. But we have managed to come through albeit with help from many villagers who kindly made deliveries, collected prescriptions and generally made sure that the vulnerable were safe. The Royal Oak, village shop and Post Office all certainly did their best to provide a safe service.



So let's go out this year with a bang and "Light up Milborne". Decorate your homes with as many lights and lit garden decorations you can afford to use. It doesn't matter if they look a little bit over the top, it will look great and it will cheer everybody up as they go round the village. And just as an incentive there will be a prize for the best decorated home given by an anonymous resident.

So good luck, get those lights out and put them up and make Milborne St. Andrew visible from space!

## Pull together to prevent flooding

WE have turned back our clocks and moved into the autumn of what has been a very odd year, but we look forward to brighter days to come.

Despite not being able to hold our regular monthly meetings in the village, the WI is still alive and kicking. Our President, Angela, recently held a committee meeting at her house, lots of fresh air and social distancing the order of the day. Regular updates are received from Jenny Preston about what is happening in the wider WI world. Anyone who is ill or who needs a visit will continue to receive one.

Members of our book club chose a sunny day to meet in Sue Benn's beautiful garden to catch up and enjoy a cream tea. Reading can be a great comfort in times of crisis, and it was lovely to share with others our most recent reads. We have now been able to access the next book from our library list, and we are delving into 'The Cellar' by Minette Walters.

We look forward to happier times, when we can all meet up again in person. *Pat Bull*

## Flood prevention

THE stream will be rising soon and it would be a shame to have a repeat of last winter's flooding around the village and along Milton Road. If you're a riparian householder, please remove any obstacles on your property that will restrict the flow of the stream when water levels are high and keep an eye on drain covers, pushing detritus aside to keep water off of our road surfaces.

Problems associated with the stream should be reported to the Environment Agency and road drainage issues reported to the Highways Department.

Standing water on our roads is inconvenient and unpleasant, so let's do what we can to avoid it. *Flood Team*

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# Fudge not socks! Homemade treat for Christmas

IT used to be a bit of a dilemma each year deciding what to buy our four adult children for Christmas. They have all been successful in their lives and don't lack for anything. They have all the latest gadgets and technology, enough festive jumpers and socks to last a lifetime, and somehow sending just a gift of money seems a bit feeble really.

The only thing they don't have, which we retirees have so much of, is spare time. They seem to dash from work to ferrying their children around and then on to the supermarket and back to the housework and so on without a spare moment.

So instead of hitting the shops, or getting out the cheque book we give them a homemade Christmas hamper each year. I start making the stuff in January with the new season's batch of marmalade then in the autumn move on to Christmas puddings, then traditional cakes, mincemeat and finally fudge. I then line and cover a cardboard box with Christmas paper and when filled with goodies it makes an attractive gift costing a very reasonable amount of money. As an added bonus there is very little plastic involved and most of the packaging is recyclable.

Homemade fudge is a bit of a tradition in my family. As a child in the 1950's my brother and I used to help make fudge at my Auntie Mildred's house, taking it in turns to stir the pan on a metal grille over the open coal fire in the centre of her old fashioned kitchen range. She



often looked after us in the school holidays while mum was at work and we loved spending the day with her. The kitchen range needed a lot of hard work to keep it working efficiently, black leading, cleaning out the ashes, stoking it with coal and making sure it was glowing hot with hardly any smoke. Too much smoke would put a thick layer of soot on the bottom of the pan which needed a lot of scrubbing to remove. Auntie Mildred didn't have a television set so there was no option to sit mindlessly

watching. She roped us both in for kitchen duties or gardening tasks depending on the weather and we were kept busy and active all day.

It wasn't all work and no play though. Auntie Mildred was quite a character having served in the ATS during the war, she was a demon card player and taught us many card games. She also instructed us in the art of how to spot anyone cheating at cards, a skill I have found most useful over the years. She would sit at the green baize covered rickety card table with her cigarette clamped between her teeth while she demonstrated how to covertly deal from the bottom of the pack. I admired this skill very much and would try to emulate her technique with a sweet cigarette, narrowing my eyes to avoid the 'smoke'.

I made fudge with my own two children on an old battered gas cooker in our army quarter when they were small, it was a favourite activity on cold wet days in winter. In Germany in the 1980's for army families at that time with children of secondary school age, there was either weekly boarding at just one school in Germany with a 3-hour commute at the beginning and end of the weekend, or full time boarding back in a British school. My children had no other choice open to them after Year 6.

Boarding was very much an alien concept for us and of course we missed our children when they went away very much. It was a comfort that they were very happy and settled in school with no more turbulence and disruption to their education and friendships but our life as parents was now much too quiet. We wrote letters to them of course and had telephone calls, but we also regularly sent them small gifts and treats. The most popular of these treats soon became the homemade fudge. I still treasure the mis-spelt letters I regularly received from my son begging and pleading for more 'Fudj'.

After a year or so of boarding we decided to buy a house near to their school in Scarborough so they could be day pupils. I found a job in the area and family life returned to near normal with my poor husband having a very long commute every other weekend. As a young teenager my daughter got involved in various fundraising events through school and one of the most successful was selling packets of our homemade fudge to her fellow pupils. She got into the habit of making a double batch each evening in our kitchen after school and selling it at break time the next day. Our home seemed to smell of fudge permanently at this time!

Nowadays I use exactly the same recipe to make fudge for my grandchildren and it's good to think that their memories will include this tradition.

There are many variations on the recipe which I have tried over the years, including chocolate fudge and rum and raisin fudge but I still prefer the original unembellished recipe.

## Fudge

397g Condensed milk  
150ml Milk  
450g Demerara sugar  
115g Butter

You will also need a 20cm square tin preferably lined with baking parchment or well-greased.

1. Place all the ingredients into a large saucepan (non-stick if possible but it's not essential) and melt over a low heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves
2. Turn the heat up high and bring to a steady boil for 10–15 minutes, stirring continuously and scraping the base of the pan constantly to prevent it from catching. This is essential. You may need to turn the heat down a little if it starts to catch on the bottom. Your arm will ache unless you can enlist a helper or two.
3. The mixture should reach 113–115°C on a sugar thermometer if you have one. If you don't you can drop a little mixture into a bowl of ice cold water – if it forms a soft, round ball that doesn't stick to your fingers then it should be ready. I know when it's ready by the smell (slightly scorched!) and the texture changes.
4. Remove the fudge from the heat and let it cool for no more than five minutes.
5. If you want to add other ingredients and flavours, add them before you start beating the fudge. After five minutes cooling try mixing in vanilla, nuts, raisins soaked in rum or chocolate chips for added flavour if you wish.
6. Beat the mixture until it just loses its shine and becomes very thick (this should take about 5–10 minutes). The longer you beat once it starts to thicken then the more crumbly the final fudge will be. If you like it smooth – beat it only until it comes away from the sides of the pan and sticks well to the spoon. You can use a wooden spoon but I use an electric hand mixer.
7. Press into the prepared tin with the back of a wetted spoon (you can press in a few chocolate buttons at this stage) and leave to set and get completely cold before cutting into squares.
8. The fudge will keep for up to two weeks in an airtight container at room temperature. It also freezes perfectly for up to three months if your willpower will last that long.

I put my finished fudge into small cellophane bags and decorate with a homemade label and some Christmas ribbon.

Rose Frost



## Autumn walk and Little Apple at Ladybirds

THE weather has been variable not just day to day but during the morning. On minute it's sunny then rainy. A good consequence of this is that the children are becoming adept at changing from shoes to wellies before they go out to play. Independence at dressing oneself is a life skill and although it is quicker and easier for a parent to dress their child it is important to support them to gain this independence. Once having mastered the footwear they can freely move their play from inside to out.

On Armistice Day, Ladybirds walked along The Causeway to see what poppies we could see. It was a pleasure to take a small group of well-behaved children out into the village. Little things are exciting and while looking at the stream opposite a small apple was spotted bobbing its way in the flow of water. This caused great

excitement with some wondering where it was going and where it had come from. We carried on to the War Memorial where we studied the poppies although the excitement of "another stream" meant looking for the small apple. And yes, lo and behold there it was heading towards us. Disappearing under the bridge the children crossed to the other side and waited in great anticipation to be met with shouts of delight as that little apple appeared and bobbed its way out into the farm. It never fails to amuse us how the simplest of natural things entertain the children.

We stopped to talk to some village residents who were wearing poppies and we appreciated that they took time to converse with the children. Continuing our walk along Chapel Street we watched a skip lorry taking a loaded skip away; jumped in a pile of dry leaves; found a bruised apple and looked at the old beehive. Walking back to the Hall one of the children pointed out the old water pump and could tell us all he knew about it. Then another bridge over the stream and to some a disappointment that there was no small apple floating underneath.

Back in the Hall we investigated the bruised apple and made collage pictures of poppies. This week having talked about poppies being the symbol for remembering our brave soldiers we created poppies in many ways – printing with apples in circles to make wreaths (see photo), painting, collage and painting the ends of plastic bottles. Some children enjoyed playing soldiers with hats and walkie talkies while others spent ages sweeping up leaves, filling and emptying wheelbarrows.

Liz Dyer



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### To find out more:

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Committee on [secretary@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:secretary@milborneladybirds.com)

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# Milton Abbas Surgery

2020 has been a very challenging year for everyone and it is not quite over yet. So if you are struggling with feeling isolated, your mental health, financial worries, bereavement, or any other concerns please do not feel you are on your own – we are here to help. We all need support at one time or another, so do not be afraid to ask for help.

If you would like a listening ear about anything that is worrying you or you would like help finding the support you need, please contact the surgery and they can put you in touch with Kelly, our friendly Social Prescriber.

All of our team are still here for you, and we encourage you to call us to make an appointment with one of the doctors if you are concerned about anything or if something doesn't feel right. We are still undertaking telephone triage consultations as many issues can be resolved over the telephone, but please be reassured that if we need to see you face to face, you will be invited to the surgery for an appointment.

## Repeat prescriptions

As we get closer to the festive season, here are a few reminders from our Dispensary Team.

If you have regular medication, please can we ask that you:

- order by telephone or online in good time, allowing three full working days before collecting;
- check that you will have enough medication to last you over the Christmas period when the surgery will be closed (medication ordered on Thursday 24th December 2020 will not be ready for collection until Monday 4th January 2021); and
- only order what you need.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind patients collecting prescriptions that our Dispensary is CLOSED every day between 1.00pm and 2.30pm to catch up on work and orders.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

## Christmas and New Year opening times

**Thursday 24th December** – Open as usual

**Friday 25th December** – CLOSED

**Saturday 26th December** – CLOSED

**Monday 28th December** – CLOSED

**Tuesday 29th December** – Open as usual

**Wednesday 30th December** – Open as usual

**Thursday 31st December** – Open as usual

**Friday 1st January** – CLOSED

**Saturday 2nd January** – Open as usual

From everyone at Milton Abbas Surgery, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Do you like to Celebrate Christmas in St. Andrew's church?

WE are aware that many people like to come to church at Christmas. Due to the necessary Covid-19 regulations, particularly social distancing seating arrangements, all the churches in the benefice will have to implement a 'ticket' booking system as we will be limited in seating. The scheduled services for our church are the Carol Service at 6.00pm on the 19th December, Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 10.00pm and the Christmas Celebration at 10.30am on Christmas day. I will be the contact for St. Andrew's so should you wish to come and to book a 'ticket' please get in touch either by landline phone 01258 837203 or by mobile 07913266230 or email [pamshults@btinternet.com](mailto:pamshults@btinternet.com). The Benefice website has details of the other churches if you would like to attend one of them; information can be found on the website [www.puddletown.benefice.org](http://www.puddletown.benefice.org) or the Facebook pages or on pages 3 and 5 of this magazine *Pam Shults*

## A Burning Sea by Theodore Brun



THIS book is one of a series of 'sword and sandals' genre books whose main characters are Erlan Aurvandil, a Norseman and Lilla Sviggarsdottir, a Swedish woman. The action covers the whole of Europe, from modern Norway to Istanbul, and shows how difficult travel was at that time, with some excellent descriptions.

The story is interesting, and is set against the historic fall of Europe to Arab invaders. Characters include slaves and eunuchs, empire builders, empire defenders and soldiers who have a job to do. There are traitors, spies, murderers, people just struggling to get through life, and those who manipulate them.

I found the tale to be absorbing and the main characters likeable, but thought that a couple of the scenes of particular and personal violence were unnecessary. I loved the historical detail of the siege of Byzantium, and the attempts to break that siege. Given that the author has studied Dark Age Archaeology, he is able to make all this detail plausible without it bogging down the action, which comes fast and furious, particularly in the later chapters.

My one complaint is that the story seems to come to an abrupt end, but I guess he has to leave an opportunity for the next book in the series.

Definitely worth a read, particularly in the light of the current rewriting of the history of slavery.

*Susan Wilson*

## Will we, won't we? News from the Village Hall

LADYBIRDS and the line dancing group have been using the hall without any problems and all the hall users have been contacted giving them guidelines. So at our latest Zoom committee meeting we spent a lot of time discussing whether we could open for a film night with the Covid restrictions (at the time of the meeting!). It was felt that it would be possible albeit with a reduced audience. BUT since the meeting things have changed again so it will be a case of watch this space. And while you are home again, ordering online will be the norm, and we have linked with Amazon "Smile" so you can donate to the Village Hall when you buy. See page 16.

We were pleased to hear from Tanya that the Parish Council are looking at funding community projects and would like to work with the Village Hall on some ideas. Most Village Halls and playgrounds are funded by the Parish Council so our village is a bit unusual.

When you read this we will be in lockdown again so keep safe and we will keep our plans on hold until we can open again.

*Linda Wright*

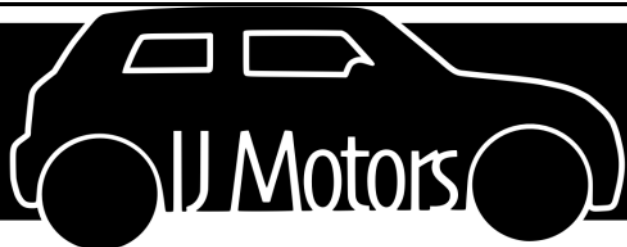
## Raffle via Facebook at The Royal Oak

THE Royal Oak were delighted to donate £565 to the poppy appeal this year, a brilliant amount raised by donations and raffle ticket purchases. People were wonderfully generous with raffle prizes and we must say the Food & Wine Society hamper was spectacular! Drawing the raffle via Facebook live was a new experience and I'm not sure Ant and Dec are quaking in their boots just yet!

## Ladybirds Christmas cake raffle

Ladybirds have received the kind donation of a lovely homemade Christmas cake this year.

You can find grid boards located at the Post Office and the shop. £1 a square. Raffle will take place on the 18th December.



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## LETTERS to the Reporter

**Dear Editor**

*I'd like to express my gratitude through your pages twice please!*

*Firstly to the members of the Parish Council who generously give their time to make the village a better place for all of us. I know you can't please all of the people all of the time, and it must seem a thankless task sometimes, but I'm very thankful to them!*

*Secondly to my dear Mom's friends and neighbours. They are so kind in making sure always to include her and keeping an eye out for her, and I appreciate it so much.*

*Kind regards*

*Adrienne Rogers*

**Dear Editor**

*I would like to thank my many friends in the village for all the get well wishes and cards, after my very unexpected stay in Dorchester hospital (over 5 days in ICU).*

*It will be a slow recovery but is now going in the right direction*

*Heather, Tilly Whim*

## Export bar on Dewlish mosaic

A FUNDING campaign has been launched to stop the export of the historically invaluable Dewlish mosaic. Imposing a temporary bar on it going abroad, Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage said the mosaic was an "incredibly rare" piece of history telling us about the lives of our Roman ancestors.

There are few mosaics from the Durnovarian school and the Dewlish treasure shows exceptional workmanship, the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest advised the Minister.

One committee member, Leslie Webster, has been quoted as saying, "For us to lose the mosaic from Britain would be a great misfortune. The spirited depiction of a leopard bringing down an antelope is a brilliantly accomplished image of nature red in tooth and claw; the soaring leap of the deer, and the precise delineation of the leopard's muscular power and ferocious grace, is a *tour de force* of the mosaicist's art."

The decision on the export licence application has been deferred until 16th January 2021. Now the search is on for a buyer to match the £135,000 asking price. A GoFundMe crowd-funding campaign has been set up so any interested organisations or individuals can contribute. Further information is available from Dorset County Museum (Tel: 01305 262735).

*Geoff Bull*

What did mummy tomato say to baby tomato when he was falling behind?  
*Ketchup!*

## Royal Voluntary Service knitted Teddy Bears' Picnic

DURING lockdown when all home visiting services were suspended our Home Library Service volunteers kept in touch with their clients on the phone, which has been much



appreciated particularly by those who live alone and don't have family and friends nearby. And to keep everybody engaged and busy we came up with the idea of a knitted Teddy Bears' Picnic, calling on all crafters stuck at home during lockdown and beyond to help us by making bears, picnic food and blankets – no limit to the imagination! We advertised this county wide in March, and we now have handcrafted items flooding in from the whole area and beyond.

We have been kindly invited by Cards for Good Causes in Dorchester to display some of our creations in their temporary shop in Antelope Walk (the former Tourist Information Centre). Our teddies are sitting there happily, enjoying their picnic and the attention they are getting from all the customers in the shop. And of course people are able to buy them and take them home – all proceeds and donations will support the work of Royal Voluntary Service in Dorset.

Sadly due to the second lockdown the shop is now closed until 2nd December, but we are hoping that many people will read this, and come and see our teddies when the shops reopen!

If anybody in the community has made bears or other items for us and kindly held on to them until now, can they please get in touch with us on 01305 236666 or e-mail

maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk to let us know and we will arrange to pick them up!

Royal Voluntary Service is a charity supporting our communities in a variety of ways. Our local office is in High West Street Dorchester, and our main service in Dorset and BCP is the Home Library Service which we deliver in

partnership with the Library Services. It is available for free to anybody who finds it difficult to get to their local library, providing them not only with a three weekly delivery of individually chosen books and/or talking books, but also a regular visit by a trusted volunteer and a much needed social contact.

The Home Library Service was suspended in March due to the Coronavirus situation, but we are now active again offering a doorstep delivery service of books: strictly non-contact and following all safety guidance. Books are chosen and made ready at the library and are delivered to our readers' doorsteps by our volunteers who are currently not able to enter the house – but the return of our book deliveries has been very much welcomed by our readers and by our volunteers, who love to have their reading materials back as well as having a chat with their volunteers, even if it has to be at a distance!

For any information regarding the Knitted Teddy Bears' Picnic or the Home Library Service/Doorstep Delivery Service please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager, on 01305 236666 or maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.





# MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

## SCHOOL NEWS



THIS half term we are looking at the way artists use food in their work. This week it was contemporary artist Jason Mercier. He uses food to make portraits of famous people. Did you know he used bacon for his portrait of Kevin Bacon? These children have used the peel from their snacks and rice and pasta to make a portrait.

Raccoons class learnt about Remembrance Day, exploring through art, making their own poppies after observing the two minute silence at 11am.

Our Robins class did the Joe Wicks' workout to learn something new and keep fit as part of the Children in Need five to thrive week. Milborne First School raised an amazing total of **£183.00**. Thank you and Well Done everyone!



## 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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# A Notable Hamlet (Prequel to Lords of the Rings)

## In the beginning

IN 1914 Sir Ernest Debenham 'acquired' 2,500 acres of land in Dorset encompassing the villages of Briantspuddle, Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle from the Framptons of Moreton for £49,500, forming



Sir Ernest and Lady Debenham

the core of an eventual farming estate stretching for 10,000 acres. This proved to be not just a philanthropic, but a pragmatic venture. We have seen how he utilised this acquisition, its benefits to all who lived and worked within it, and its outreach to this village 16 years later. He tasked the architect Lesley McDonald Gill (Max) and designer Halsey Ricardo to create buildings both domestic and commercial that would be fast to erect, of sound construction, economical in material and labour, dry from the first, both cool in summer and warm in winter. The plot chosen was land in Briantspuddle that had not been built upon for thirty

years. It was thought out as a whole from the start.

McDonald Gill was a firm exponent of the Swedish "*Lean Machine*". The inventor of this *Block System* claimed that it eliminated condensation, always the bane of concrete buildings. These were hollow concrete blocks eight inches thick laid in three longitudinal 'strings', honeycombed with a series of large cavities having a layer of cement plaster on the outside. There were narrow insulating spaces, one for the outer and one for the inner layers. These were to chime in with the existing local 100 x old cobb cottages. The cost in 1919 when building began was 5d to 6d per cubic foot compared with 1/- to 2/- for 'ordinary' brickwork. The latter were still used for chimney stacks. 22 blocks were covered by 100 clay bricks whose ends were dipped in a "slurry" of lime mortar. The latter was utilised for an exterior coating, then thatched. This meant no trowelling, no tamping, no cutting and little plumbing and, more importantly, a reduction of the labour bill. Not only was this building method cheaper but also aesthetically pleasing. As an added bonus, particularly as farm and other commercial buildings were produced, they were not liable to decay or rot and were vermin proof. This System then met the urgency throughout the country following the First World War (WW1) for increased housing accommodation and occupation to cope with the return of ex-servicemen. Thousands needed homes in a short time. They proved adaptable and economical for both soldiers and munitions workers. Materials were on hand, such as sand and gravel 'siftings' (usually thrown away as useless) quarried from the pit in Smoakham Bottom and steam engined down to the river. This relieved a huge amount of the transporting of goods. In addition lintels and other cast concrete works were manufactured on the estate. 64,125 blocks turned out in one year made and fired at the brickworks near Blackhill (Turnerspuddle) in a disused kiln. Recycled old tumbledown cob walls mixed with chalk and chopped straw was



MacDonald Gill

incorporated into the construction. In 1914 the water meadows were in a poor state. Through careful management which involved flooding the meadows and the installation of a series of hatches and ditches their quality was improved, supplying cattle with top quality grass.



The machine shed and transport yard under construction



Estate workers building the road from the school to The Cross in Briantspuddle

## A garden village

It was the official policy of the Board of Agriculture to develop cottage 'holdings' for occupation by these men where they were to be employed on the farm. The philosophy was that if they proved themselves prosperous on half an acre they could be 'given' a small holding of 20 acres! So 150 of these cottages in groups of 30 or 40 two to an acre were added to the then named "garden village" under Halsey Ricardo's supervision. The front garden for flowers, the rear for vegetables, an orchard strip, pigsties and 'fowl runs'. Every cottage had a bath on the first floor. There is a wonderful comment on this innovation taken from an article in *Country Life* entitled "*Concrete and Thatch in Dorset*" dated May 1919. "Evidently the owner of the estate does not believe that all farmworkers abjure bathing and use their baths as receptacles for coal or potatoes . . . even if everyone in the countryside has not yet learned the value of scrupulous personal cleanliness, it would be foolish to assume that the wage-earning classes are going to be slower than the wealthy in learning the value of a bath" (With an aside that the 17th and 18th century builders of wealthy Bath, a spar town, did not include bathrooms!) Electric light and pumped water installed in farm buildings and some houses and a Power Station built (now Bridge House) Thus was created a "*Pretty and coherent hamlet*" illustrating Sir Ernest's passion for harmonisation with the Dorset landscape and for the Arts and Crafts movement. A Memorial Cross designed by Eric Gill (brother of the architect) was erected to the fallen of the area with the inscription "It is sooth that sin is the cause of all pain, but all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well". This was, in 1917, the first war memorial in the country. And so the Bladen Estate was created with "model" dairies, "cowbyres", calving boxes, stables, piggeries, machine sheds, transport yards, milking parlours, two stallion yards, a stabling block, a processing plant and in 1928 a 250 acre Poultry farm for 500 free ranging birds was established in Milborne St. Andrew (MSA), all architect and designer led. Both

McDonald Gill and Halsey Ricardo were resident throughout (Max in Turnerspuddle whilst he designed the war graves' stones). He installed his sister Alice as Farm Manager

and later, another woman, Ursula Waterhouse as his Forester. 'Inexperienced' labourers manufactured the 'blocks' in situ. They took three weeks to mature then six to eight weeks to build under



Briantspuddle Women's Institute

Continued on page 19

# 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	07774 081551

**Dorset Council Services:** For matters relating to roads repairs, bins, litter, environmental health, planning, foot paths and parking, [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or call 01305 221000  
**Flooding:** Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188  
**Environmental Incident:** Environment Agency Hotline 08008 807060  
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)  
 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
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:	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230
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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## Get gardening in 2021

HAVE you had enough of 2020? If you found that you enjoyed your garden this year and that it helped you through what was a difficult year, then why not keep actively gardening during 2021. Physical exercise, planning ahead, considering wildlife, providing fruit and vegetables, an opportunity to learn, making your environment a joy to look at . . . gardening can give you all of these things and more. MSA Gardening Club sponsors and maintains the planters on the corner of Milton Road, trying to add a bit of colour to the village . . . to brighten things up a bit. We are a group of like-minded people who enjoy gardening; we meet each month at the village hall to talk gardening (or anything else for that matter), listen to invited speakers, enjoy competitions, drink tea and eat biscuits . . . what's not to like? Why not come along! Whether you're an experienced or novice gardener we'd love to see you. We're hoping to start meeting again in March (watch this space). If you decide you'd like to become a member it costs just £12 per year.

For more information call Mark on 01258 839060.

Mark Johnson



## Shop fever

(With apologies to John Masefield)

I must go down to the shop again, to the lovely shop to buy  
A bag of spuds, a pint of milk, and a steak and ale pie.  
And the walk there in the blustery wind with the mask I've been  
making,  
Will be worth it for me if I don't have to stand outside waiting.

I must go down to the shop again, the joy cannot be denied  
For when I am there with all the good stuff stacked in the warm inside,  
I can browse the wine, the sweets and all, to add to what I am buying.  
For it all helps the shop to keep up its stock, we thank them for all they  
are trying.

I must go down to the shop once more, as it's part of village life.  
You may hear some news of people's views, and some of national  
strife.

And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow shopper  
To help me home with a smile to pass on, for when my shopping's  
over.

Pip Bowell

## A Christmas Carol

THE Players have had another excellent Zoom rehearsal for our sound production of A Christmas Carol.

Children are playing the children's parts and plenty of adult members are joining in with great relish.

The many sound effects are being produced by Ian and José is directing. Details will appear in next month's *Reporter* and you will be able to pick up the broadcast through [www.milborneplayers.org.uk](http://www.milborneplayers.org.uk).

Jo Coetzee and Dot Karley

## Local small-ads

Small ads of less than 30 words from local, private, advertisers are published **free of charge**

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## Dorset Home Library Service – doorstep deliveries

ALTHOUGH our much-loved Home Library Service had to be suspended due to the Coronavirus situation, we are now providing a temporary non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service to those that cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term. Our volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. Books are chosen by staff at each library, based on individual preferences, and made ready for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to our clients' front doors. The volunteers will not enter the house, and they will keep a safe distance at all times; they can also pick up books and return them to the library. This service is entirely free and is available across Dorset and BCP areas. We are keen to let more people know that it is available to them if they find themselves unable to get to the library. To find out more please contact Maria Jacobson, Service Manager Dorset Home Library Service, on 01305 236666 or 07786 635154, or e-mail [maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)

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Continued from page 15



Girl Guides group c.1954 with a goat which they took camping with them to supply milk

Village Stores (now the village shop is in the Old Granary and run by volunteers) became a forerunner in what we call 'delivery slots' today. Except that their orders and responses were all handwritten. A Mr. Howell was reassured in a response from October 1960 that they had entered a 'Buying Group' to compete with the "multiples" and offered delivery of 'Week-end Joints'. The Bladen School's log for 1919–1925 shows the death of one former head and the appointment of another, Miss Lois Walker, who was praised for her ability to help children to express themselves with "credible efficiency and accuracy". She also taught singing and P.E. From her book, "A School among the Puddles" chronicling her time as Head (1921–1946) we learn that she was encouraged to leave London by Sir Ernest, to take on what was a dilapidated school without water or other resources (such as pens, pencils and exercise books) necessary to run it. Sir Ernest and Lady Debenham donated mattresses and blankets for the three to five year old children's afternoon rest (to take place between 1.30–2.30) books and pictures for the walls. A Dorchester Librarian visited with 60 volumes from the Carnegie Trust. The children performed a play called 'The Making of the Empire'. The May Festival raised money for netball apparatus and Lady Debenham arranged a 'charabanc' to take the whole school for a visit to Studland Bay. Bladen British Legion gave a Christmas tree. However it also chronicles trouble in this newly created paradise. In 1925 "certain Briantspuddle boys had been injuring pigs on enclosed premises-Mr. House (policeman?) visited . . . if repeated parents would be prosecuted"

### An auction of promises

Sadly, as we saw in the previous tale, the Second World War (WWII) together with failures on financial markets and the death of Sir Ernest in 1952 culminated in the auctioning of the estate by Fox and Sons and Jackson Stop on 21st October 1953. However prior to this the Great Crash preceded by a general recession forced cutbacks. So, in 1932, some outlying farms were sold and in 1943 nineteen more. The catalogue of effects in 1953 (price 10/-) details the, then, still, vastness of this empire. Right up until his death Sir Ernest was attempting to have certain areas of woodland in Affpuddle, Piddle and Sitterton dedicated under the Forestry Commission Scheme. We read that the Dairy Room at East Farm, Affpuddle (in which Martin Debenham was a tenant paying rent at £812 per annum) had long ago been let out as a canteen to Dorset County Council at a rate of £26 per annum. Moor Lane House (a former pub) inhabited by Sir Ernest and Lady Cecily Debenham included 14 acres with nine bedrooms and



Farmer, wife and child at Roger's Hill Farm



Farm buildings and dairy

supervision. The skilled workers such as roofers, thatchers, carpenters and bricklayers were able to finish them. Some were four–five roomed semi-detached cottage blocks of two or three floors. There was a Bladen Working Men's Club, netball and football teams, a Girl Guides' group and a Youth Club. Interestingly, the Bladen

among other luxurious fixtures and fittings, a teak sink and draining board in the Butler's pantry! Each large house offered for sale contained shooting, fishing and hunting rights as part of the deal. Interestingly "ice



May Williams in the laboratory at the Bladen Diaries, 1938

meadows" were mentioned as part of the land surrounding the River Piddle (which apparently means river!) Bridging the gap between the two stories and since the publication of the last article on MSA Bladen Dairy, John Williams of Fordingbridge got in touch. His mother May Williams worked in the laboratory there in the 1930's. Born into a farming family in 1917 in Llangain, Carmarthen and having gained a National Diploma in Dairying at Aberystwyth University she started with the Co-operative Society in Northampton moving to the laboratory in Milborne's Bladen Dairies then a test bed for farming innovations. There must be others out there with stories to tell of life in all the connecting parts of Debenham's Dorset. When Lois Walker came to Dorset the bus journey from Affpuddle to Dorchester, a mere 10 miles, took a whole day. The driver was also a 'carrier' taking dead pigs, poultry and eggs. On the return journey he delivered parcels which were stored under the legs of the passengers. On one occasion he had to borrow soap from a cottage to stop a leak in the radiator. When Mrs Williams came to Milborne there was yet another War on the horizon.

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Bladen Estate Men's Club 1926 outing to Reading Dairy Show



Bladen Stores at the rear of the estate office, Briantspuddle

As Ms Walker reminds us, Dorset is one of England's oldest counties- it was inhabited centuries before the Romans came. It has seen huge changes some of which have been benign and progressive. I believe that Sir Ernest Debenham's (knighted at the age of 66 years for his service to agriculture) influence was of the latter. His reach extended to Erith in Kent where he processed a large range of animal feedstuffs, to Crewe, turning whey (formerly a waste product) into nutritious and easily digestible livestock feed and, with Mr R.N. Tory, the raising of high class pedigree livestock for both show and sale all over the world. He was one of this country's foremost pioneers in agriculture.



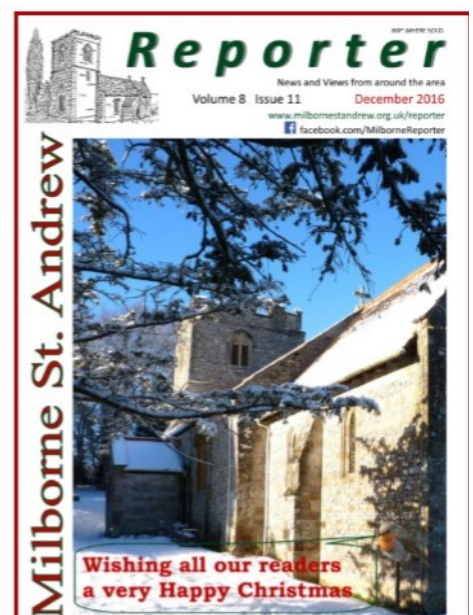
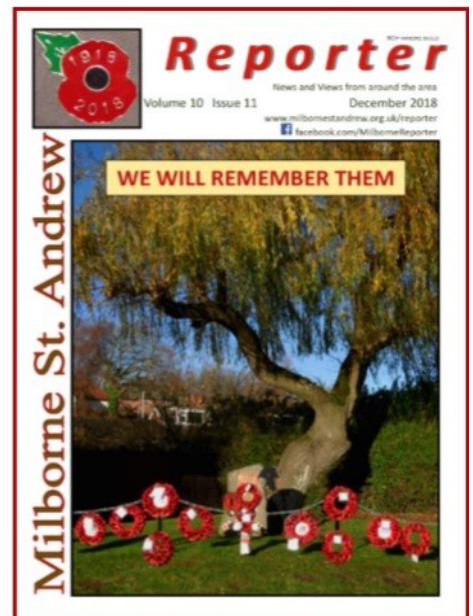
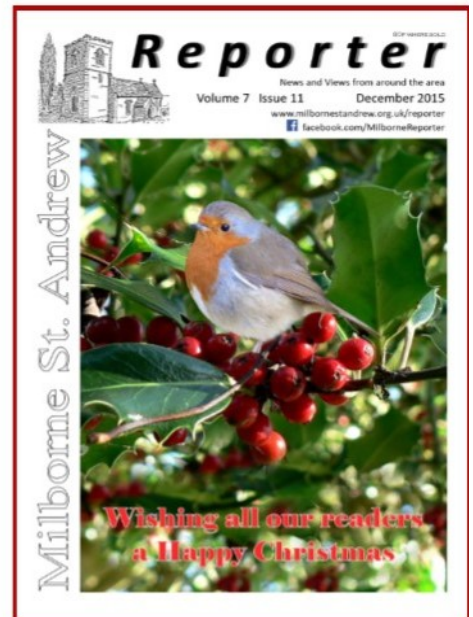
Dorchester Town Fire Brigade pumping water from river.

Carole Fornachon

My thanks to: Alfred Justin (and his CD "The Bladen Estate") Sue Taylor (and her book "Affpuddle, Briantspuddle, Pallington, Throop and Turnerspuddle" now out of print) John Williams



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No prize, just a bit of fun.

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	6			7				2
4			8		1	6		
		2	4				5	1
		8		9		3		
7	3				6	9		
		6	2		3			5
3				8			4	
		7	9		5	8		6

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# A Dorset ramble with distant views

I HAVE decided to strike out north this month. After spending a considerable amount of one Friday evening poring over OL25, whilst pouring myself a considerable quota of mead wine, I convinced myself that the tight thin brown lines of contours that mark out Bulbarrow Hill seem an attractive proposition. Sunday morning has been set aside for this foray; I set off in my car for Milton Abbas at an hour when bell ringers, clergymen and organists are probably slumbering on. Gone is the squeaky footwear, replaced instead with a pair of Royal Navy cold weather boots which are super comfortable. They are battleship brown in colour, should they not be warship grey? Also, on or about my person is a bar of Kendal mint cake that I did actually purchase in Kendal when we were there in 2017. It has been buried in the bottom of one of my backpacks, long forgotten for just over three years. It has been on safari in Sri Lanka, attended a Rick Astley concert at The Royal Albert Hall and has been on a guided tour of John Lennon's and Paul McCartney's childhood homes in Liverpool. It is well travelled and has changed shape considerably in the interim. I am not convinced it will be able to save me from the elements if the weather turns foul, or if I get stuck in a man trap or get cornered by a grizzly bear.

The car is left to its own devices outside the doctor's surgery in Catherine's Well at the top of the village and I turn left at the end of the road. A watery sun is just beginning to peep over the tree tops of Milton Park Wood to see what is going on in the world. The hedgerows still bear a bounty of fruit, and ahead as the road rises I see a group of three foragers busy foraging. As I pass them and exchange pleasantries, it soon becomes clear they have actually been up all night partying and are somewhat the worse for wear. Somehow the night has come to an end in Milton Abbas. It looks like it was some night. A taxi draws up as I strike on. They all pile in and enter into what looks like a protracted Article 50 epic of a dialogue with the driver. The taxi passes, the passengers stick their fingers up at me through the back window. I was young once too.

Before turning left at the lodge style building which sits at the next junction in the road, I cross over and lean on the adjacent farm gate to take in the view. A vast open expanse of green and pleasant land pans around to Poole Harbour and the Isle of Purbeck. The sun has got himself into a position where he can make the distant Poole Bay shimmer like a glitter ball that has been run over by an Eddie Stobbart lorry. I turn around. The quaint Dorset waymark signpost points me in the direction of Bulbarrow. For the next three miles I am flanked by thick plantations of trees. Coombe Plantation, Haydon Plantation, Crincombe Bottom (you can get cream for this at the surgery). The trees are fast shedding their leaves. They spiral down to earth to be dealt with by a breeze that consigns them into random mounds. Others are up early too, enjoying the fresh morning. Dog walkers unload energetic dogs from their cars at the parking areas. Hard core cyclists, for whom the hilly terrain of this part of Dorset holds no fear, grimace from between rosy cheeks. Blagdon Copse, Delcombe Wood, I'm climbing very steadily. My watch has an altimeter function; I was drunkenly gesticulated to at 174 metres above sea level and pass the gate to Delcombe Manor at 225 metres. Delcombe Wood comes and goes and the road to Winterbourne Houghton blends in from the right. I'm nearly there; my Sir Edmund Hilary moment awaits. The signpost at the slightly staggered crossroads that I encounter is naked of signs, and is thus just a post. In better days it looks to have accommodated quite a number of fingers directing you this way and that. It is certainly of a vintage that predates the Second World War, a time when signposts were removed to confuse and bamboozle the enemy in the event of an invasion. Despite my Royal Navy boots, I am not an enemy invasion and turn right for a short walk to the stunning viewpoint at Wooland Hill.

If you have never been here before I strongly advise a visit. On a clear day the view out across the Blackmore Vale with Dorset, Devon, Somerset and Wiltshire spread beyond will allow you your own Sir Edmund Hilary moment. Bring a packed lunch and a deckchair. My altimeter reads 274 metres. This is the second highest point in Dorset. I turn on my Royal Navy heels and head the short distance back to the junction. Crossing straight over, and narrowly avoiding a collision with

what appears to be a mini version of the Tour de France, I see the twin radio masts that adorn Bulbarrow Hill. There have been radio towers here on this site since 1942; the originals being of a wooden construction were part of the RAF Gee navigation chain system. This navigation system was devised by Robert Dippy and developed by the Telecommunications Establishment at Swanage. I read up on Gee when I got home. It is interesting, clever but a bit geeky. There was a lot of technical wizardry involved. Our brave boys operating in the blood soaked skies above occupied Europe were able to obtain navigational fixes from the radio signals that were pinged from the transmitting masts. The Gee station at Bulbarrow was the master of the "southern" Gee chain; I'm thinking of it in terms of an early sat nav system, but without audio instructions that tell you to take the third exit at the roundabout. When the RAF vacated Bulbarrow in 1957, the American Air Force took over the site. Since 2016 newer modern masts have been used by the emergency services. Some of the wartime buildings are still in evidence today; Nissen huts, with their half cylindrical corrugated iron roofs and small brick buildings that look like old outside lavatories.

Shortly before drawing level with the masts, Delcombe Wood on the left hand side gives way to fields and I leave the road for the first time today by diving down the lane to Bulbarrow Farm. More wartime outside lavatory buildings are visible in the plantation on my left. Horses grazing in the field, next to what is now a footpath, wander over to check me out for carrots or apples. They are out of luck, my only sustenance being the dubious Kendal mint cake. Anyway, you shouldn't feed other people's horses.

I stop a while at Hill Barn Shelter and ponder. It has been lovingly created, a gift of a place to stop and although there is no one around, I am made to feel most welcome. The shelter has a story to tell, there is information that I read which enlightens me. One sign encourages the traveller to, 'feel free to rest here'. After spending a while listening to the silence, I return to my walk. I will return to Hill Barn Shelter in days and years ahead.

The resumption sees me riding along on the crest of a hill, Delcombe Bottom falls away to the left. Another footpath runs parallel behind the scrawny hedge to my right. It is marked as *Ice Drove* on OL25. I'm pretty sure I saw him on Top of the Pops a few years ago; wasn't he a bling drenched American rapper? Before long I am swinging open the gate and entering Greenhill Down nature reserve. The reserve here is managed by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Information boards along the way inform me that the reserve is situated on a former 18th century deer park. Wildlife to tick off in your eye spy nature books are; glow worms, bats, green woodpeckers, treecreepers, newts, dormice and butterflies such as the Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper and Marbled White. The Dorset Wildlife Trust website includes a map of the reserve, which tells me that within its boundaries you may also find a pond, a bench, an old quarry pit and two World War II bomb craters (a failed attempt by The Luftwaffe to destroy the toilet block at Bulbarrow?) Lots of smaller tracks and pathways spur off or cross the main path, which begins to descend to eventually join the Milton Abbas to Hilton road. I found my way through by keeping the fence on the ridge to my right in view, the path becomes more solid and before you can say 'great crested newt', I arrive at the road.

Framed by the last trees of Greenhill Down, Milton Abbey School stands proud behind manicured rugby and cricket pitches. The school was founded in 1954 and includes the main house, built by Joseph Damer, first Earl of Dorchester from 1780. King Athelstan founded a college of secular cannons here in 933, which became a Benedictine monastery in 964. After the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, the Tregonwell family came into possession of the buildings. Young John Tregonwell fell from the roof of the church in a childhood accident, his life being saved when his wide pantaloons filled with air and broke his fall.

I follow the road around the boundary of the school towards Milton Abbas, under the bridge that leads up to St Catherine's Chapel and past

*Continued on page 25*

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## Just Let It Be Over

By Jan Beaumont ©

Once again I'm on my couch  
Waiting like the rest  
Staring at the bloody screen  
Head upon my chest . . .

Three days now I've wasted  
Just to see who'll get there first  
First its Trump, then Biden  
This not knowing is the worst.

Dear Lord just end the agony  
There's more to do in life  
However I do realise that  
Some balance on a knife.

For four long years they've suffered  
And they want it all to end  
So let's get this bloody counting done  
'Cos I'm going round the bend!

## Desperation

By Jan Beaumont ©

A 'FINAL NOTICE' email  
Has been sent throughout the nation  
Asking, nay demanding,  
A 'help poor Trump' donation.

It rants that if they don't respond  
When told of their selection  
They've failed to join Team Trump and Don  
In DEFENDING THE ELECTION!

## Remembering Linda in digs in 1964

A SLIGHT breeze through the open window  
stirs the garish orange and lime green curtains.  
It wafts a few grey specks from the ashtray,  
releasing a faintly exotic odour. The scruffy  
wallpaper is partially hidden by a series of  
cheap posters, a shaft of sunlight brightening  
the flamboyant poses. Four cups lie on the  
draining board, so hastily washed that last  
night's diluted coffee dregs are still dripping  
into the sink.

At the other end of the room a tatty  
wardrobe door hangs open, revealing glimpses  
of bright colours and a shabby leather coat.  
Nearby the small bed has been roughly  
straightened with a tail end of blue blanket  
trailing the floor. Odds and ends are pushed  
into the edges of a mirror on the wall; the  
photograph of a dog, a postcard from  
Blackpool and an old concert ticket, across the  
corner is the number 2977 in pencil.  
Underneath the mirror is a small table with a  
lunar landscape in fine pink dust, as lotions  
and perfumes have shifted from place to  
place. Incongruously at one end sits a hyacinth  
in a pot with a small card, 'Love from mum.'

## Janet Palmer's Diary – musings of a middle aged lady

### Wednesday

Late home from W.I. this evening, Frank  
hadn't thought to make mother a drink;  
she was parched when I got in. The  
evening went well though, wine tasting,  
what a surprise! Feel a little tipsy, must  
have plenty of water before bed. I wish  
Frank were a little more thoughtful; he  
used to be so attentive once.

### Thursday

It was a mistake to wear those new  
shoes yesterday; they looked so smart,  
but my poor feet today. I was hobbling  
around cleaning the church this morning  
when I heard that Mrs Henson making a  
remark about 'dressing one's age', but I'd  
rather die than wear those appalling  
trainers she wears.

Such a tiring day, up and down the  
stairs with one thing after the other for  
mother. Perhaps the nursing home is the  
right decision.

I thought she might have guessed  
what we were planning as she seemed  
rather listless when I read the paper to  
her this evening but she perked up when  
I got to that dreadful rape and murder  
in Hastings.

### Saturday

We went to look at The Haven again  
today; it seemed a bright friendly place.  
Frank is adamant mother is getting too  
much for us to look after at home, but it  
makes me feel such a failure. She went  
very quiet when we told her, but didn't  
make a fuss.

It will be a couple of months yet  
before she leaves.

### Sunday

Church looked nice; flowers make such a  
difference, glad Lent is over. Roast pork  
for lunch, must say Frank really knows  
how to make good crackling, mother  
really tucked in, then had a good snooze.  
Did a bit in the garden while it was  
peaceful, hope that yellow rose doesn't  
get blackfly again, gave it a spray just in  
case. Mother was talking about uncle  
Walter this evening, that time when he  
was so drunk at Elsie's 50th that they  
had to just drape him over a wall. Good  
job those snobs at the social club don't  
know all this.

Why can't a bicycle stand on it's own?  
*It's two tired*

What can you serve but never eat?  
*A tennis ball.*

## Lets all drink to Lockdown

By Jan Beaumont ©

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the cc virus here  
We can't go out the gates  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For four weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!  
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

Jan Beaumont lives in Auckland, New  
Zealand and has kindly given the *Reporter*  
permission to use her poems.

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the lake, landscaped by the acclaimed garden designer Lancelot "Capability" Brown. Brown allegedly gained his nickname because he would tell his clients that their properties had "capability" for improvement. I wonder what he would say if he was still among us today, and was commissioned to give the wartime lavatories up at Bulbarow a make-over?

I've nearly completed this circular walk and I ascend up through Milton Abbas admiring the uniformity and uniqueness of the main street. Twenty first century sightseers can marvel at the scene, courtesy of our old friend Joseph Damer. As the squire of Milton Abbey, he decided that the adjacent market town of Middleton was spoiling his vision of rural peace, so he relocated the inhabitants to a new village; today's Milton Abbas. The thatched cottages were all originally painted yellow, a horse chestnut tree being planted between each one. These trees were removed in 1953, being judged dangerous to the houses. My dad brought us here when we were small. As a member of The Society of Dorset Men he would receive their annual publication The Dorset Yearbook, and I remember looking in them at colour pictures of the village and nagging him to take us. I don't know what it is about colour pictures from the 1960s and 1970s, but the colours seem so vivid and bright. Maybe it was the drugs? When I got back to my car, I took my Kendal mint cake out of my bag and put it in the glove box. I don't often look in there, it's more Kate, my partner's domain. She calls it 'the cupboard'. It will probably still be there when my car goes to meet its maker, the big car crusher in the sky.

As I reflect on 2020 I have to say that my voyage of discovery along the green ways of this part of Dorset have been a valuable escape. Things don't seem so surreal when you are standing in the middle of a field, in the middle of nowhere with no phone signal. It's almost like a snapshot of a bygone age. With the winter weather and shorter days both ahead, I will continue trekking into 2021 and try to find new and interesting places. Have a Merry Christmas everyone. Let's hope 2021 brings better times for us all.

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## Puddletown advent windows

ON each day of December from 1st to 24th, a window or windows will be revealed in the village marking our journey through Advent. Launch time each day is 4.00pm.

Why not use your daily walk to spot them? Or catch up each weekend when you've more time? A map will be available from Sarah (sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com; 01305 848784)

We are enormously thankful to everyone who is joining in with this and using their creativity to brighten up our village and remind us of that first Christmas.

The maps will be issued freely, but if you enjoy the trail, why not think about giving a donation to the church, so we can carry on serving our community for many more Christmases?



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## The Wombling PC witnessed by record online audience

NOVEMBER'S Parish Council witnessed a record number of public attendees to the Zoom meeting, although the low bar of two was only surpassed by one, and this includes the Reporter but we're always there. Perhaps it's a sign that residents are happy with all things Milborne and how their money is spent in the village...

Rubbish. Litter, that is – councillors discussed the state of our verges, pavements and paths after a contingent had walked the

village, but the consensus was there were no litter hotspots although Ashley Barn Road and the lower part of the Dewlish road were singled out as being particularly littered. Some councillors described how they pick litter up and suggested carrying an empty bag to fill with rubbish. Cllr Macnair also noted that some residents do their own litter picking and proposed a group litter pick when lockdown is lifted.

Also needing a tidy up is the dormant building site at Fox View, which Cllr Macnair said resembled a storage yard since nothing had moved for over two years. Clerk, Wayne Lewin had contacted the owners three times recently to no response, so county councillor, Emma Parker, offered to do what she can, although she stressed the enforcement team is very busy. Cllr Parker had also chased the planning officer regarding Camelco for an update. Told that the application for 61 units at the old dairy car park was progressing, Cllr Parker said that she will talk with the Planning Officer again since there seemed no progress in three months.

The door has been shut on the community fridge as, although a very worthy idea, logistically it would be difficult to deliver without significant voluntary help and investment, and there were concerns about adhering to food standards. Cllr Stephens said that allotmenters' glut of produce or residents' unwanted food can be shared via Facebook or purpose-made phone apps. While not right for Milborne now, Cllr Macnair said that the PC would be behind the scheme if interested parties came forward in the future.

Costly annual maintenance bills for play equipment had brought a request from the Village Hall committee for a sum to be set aside from the PC's budget. Cllr Cherry was amenable to the idea, saying that the outdoor space was a facility for the whole village, but councillors said they wanted to see detailed costings before making any decision. The clerk suggested increasing the required inspections of the equipment to twice a year – which the PC could fund – to give a better idea of problems and to find these more quickly. A resident pointed out that there was never a maintenance plan for new equipment when installed and, with the increased village grass cutting and other expenditure, the PC "was becoming a profligate council". This was countered by the chair who said that the precept was actually being reduced by £50 – however tax payers should note that overall increases are likely from county level. Section 106 cash (circa £12k) from Huntley Down was mooted as funds for maintenance, but Cllr Witherden said that half would only be paid prior to the first occupation of the development, which is realistically two years away. In discussion of next year's budget, Mr Lewin said a rebate from Dorset Council could instigate a Community Asset Fund for new bins, benches and so on which could also include these potential Village Hall costs. In the "more for less" budget, there was extra cash in the Grants and Green Spaces pots, he said, the latter funding the updating of signage and promotion of local footpaths and bridleways, undertaken by Cllrs Head and Cherry.

In other news from the county, Mr Lewin got excited about parking and attempted to enthuse councillors with the consultation on shoppers parking permits. The scheme is only available to West Dorset where, for £16 a year, residents can park for two hours a day. DC thinks this isn't fair for one region and will scrap it or roll it out to the whole county. Discussion followed on whether parking prices would be standardised across all Dorset car parks, from seafront parking to Blandford town centre. The survey on DC's website closes on 6th December.

A suggestion from a resident about cycle training courses was made following on from last month's discussion about community ideas and the clerk said he'd follow it up and look at the Bikeability scheme.

Big news, well, the noticeboard that can fit lots of news on it may finally soon be installed after a long struggle to find someone to fit it outside the Village Hall car park. Watch that space. *Ed Richards*

**The Zoom link for the next Parish Council meeting will be on the PC website and Facebook (Reporter and community pages).**

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# Remember to stay safe online as reports of romance fraud rise nationally

## Dorset Police are working with partner agencies and other forces nationally to tackle romance fraud

ROMANCE fraud, or dating fraud, occurs when you think you've met the perfect person online, but they are using a fake profile to form a relationship with you. They gain your trust over a number of weeks or months and have you believe you are in a loving and caring relationship. They may even talk of marriage or other relationship milestones such as buying a house together. However, their end goal is only ever to get your money, personal information or access your bank account to launder money.

Between August 2019 and August 2020 Action Fraud received 70 reports for Dorset from victims of romance fraud. The losses reported by the victims during this time came to £384,400 averaging just under £5,500 per victim. During June, July and August, Action Fraud received more than 600 reports nationally per month of romance fraud. This indicated that people may have met, and begun talking to, romance fraudsters during the national lockdown caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Acting Detective Sergeant Will Burnett said: "This type of fraud is devastating for the victim both financially and emotionally. Scammers work out who is lonely and very slowly start to creep into their lives, promising love and companionship. This is a sophisticated crime and it's one where almost anyone can become a victim. Whilst making the victim feel safe and secure, they are constantly looking for ways to obtain their money. Victims are often left penniless and terribly distraught and some scams can last for months and years. It is a very cruel scam.

"There are plenty of ways to protect yourself or friends or family members you may be concerned about. Firstly it's important to remember that not everyone is who they say they are. Be cautious how much information you share about yourself online and no matter how long you've been in contact with someone online and how much you trust them, don't send them any money or give them access to your bank account. If you are on a dating site, stay on the site messaging system. Too often the criminal will want to switch to another platform that is less regulated soon after first establishing contact. If someone asks for financial help, you should report them. Most online platforms have a reporting tool."

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill said: "I've come across desperately sad cases in which victims have been conned out of their life savings by fraudsters who had convinced them they were their soulmates. "Romance fraud is one of the most insidious crimes, in which vulnerable people – often lonely, recently bereaved, or suffering from depression – are groomed by criminals who have got into their heads and won their trust. "Sadly, the isolation caused by the ongoing pandemic has created the perfect conditions for these fraudsters, with many more people using the internet to meet and talk. Please be aware of the techniques used by romance fraudsters. And if you are a victim of this type of fraud, remember it isn't anything to be ashamed of – do report it so you can go on to get the help you need."

During October the City of London Police, the national lead force for fraud, will be co-ordinating enforcement activity across the UK and overseas to target and ultimately arrest criminals suspected of committing romance fraud. The top five platforms where victims reported first interacting with the criminal committing romance fraud were Facebook, Plenty of Fish, Instagram, Tinder and Match.com.

As part of the campaign the Match Group, who own OK Cupid, Plenty of Fish, Tinder and Match.com, are running romance fraud protection adverts throughout October on these platforms, to inform their users how to spot the signs of a romance fraud and how to protect themselves online.

Many romance fraudsters say they are based abroad so will claim a big step in your relationship will be them returning to the UK to be with you. They will claim to be overseas because they work in the military or medical profession, or they're carrying out important charity work. This helps them paint a picture of themselves as being heroic, trustworthy and reliable, and also gives them an excuse for the use of international dialling codes or poor internet connection.

Avoid giving away too many personal details when speaking online to

someone you've never met in person, as it can lead to your identity being stolen. This includes revealing your full name, date of birth and home address – even if you're doing it for what seems to be harmless reasons, such as your partner wants to send you flowers or a gift. They constantly make up excuses why they can't video chat or meet in person and they try and move your conversation off the platform that you met on. Stay on the site's messaging service until you meet in person.

Criminals want to quickly switch to other platforms that are less regulated and have better encryption, so there's no evidence of them asking you for money. Whatever reason you're given to move away from the site where you met, if the other person is genuine, they will accept your decision to stay on the platform until you see each other in person. When they ask for your financial help, it will be for a time critical emergency. The reason will be something emotive, which pulls at your heartstrings. They'll open up to you about a problem, or something that is worrying them to appear vulnerable and make you feel sorry for them. They may get defensive if you decline to help or make you feel guilty and responsible for the urgent emergency they claim you could have averted.

Most online platforms have a reporting tool which you can use if you suspect someone online is using pictures that don't belong to them, you are suspicious of their behaviour, or they have asked you for money. Reporting their user profile means it can be blocked, which helps protect others. They tell you to keep your relationship private and insist that you don't discuss anything you talk about with your friends and family. This also includes the crisis they find themselves in that requires money. They will convince you this is part of the normal privacy that forms a healthy relationship. No matter how long you've been speaking to someone online and how much you trust them, if you haven't met them in person do not:

- send them any money
- allow them access to your bank account
- transfer money on their behalf
- take a loan out for them
- provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses
- invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice
- purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes
- Agree to receive and/or send parcels on their behalf (laptops, mobile phones etc.)

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## Why English is so hard

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxes, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
And the plural of cat is cats not cose.  
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine: she, shis, and shim!

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# Are you looking to make a difference?

LONGMEAD Community Farm is currently recruiting Sessional Family Work Practitioners to work within their family work and mentoring programme which includes working with families and young people on its smallholding in Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset. Our programme is unique, resource rich and creative, and we are looking for people with the same qualities to join our team on a sessional basis @ £10 per hour. Successful candidates will deliver sessions ranging from one, three, six and 24 hours to families or young people.

Please visit our website [www.longmead.org](http://www.longmead.org) for fuller details on the job description, send your CV to [admin@longmead.org](mailto:admin@longmead.org) or contact Roz Macrow-wood on 01258837960 for further details.

## Outline of role

Our Family Programme provides young people and families with a safe environment and structured activities to spend time together to reconnect and rebuild. We support them to communicate positively,



respect each other's thoughts and feelings, learn new skills and achieve therapeutic outcomes, such as building confidence, self-esteem and resilience. We believe that these positive experiences will create lasting, positive change in their lives. Families tend to visit the farm at weekends or during school holidays for the day or overnight and supported young people tend to visit during the week.

To support our

provision and enable the wonderful work we do, we need a team of dedicated Sessional Family Workers. The workers will support the Family Programme Senior Practitioner to deliver safe, effective and positive experiences for families. Sessional leads support families by role modelling positive communication, teamwork, sharing, positive behaviour management and having fun. They facilitate and lead a wide range of positive activities; such as animal care, outdoor pursuits, arts and crafts, games, cooking and basic maintenance tasks.

As part of the Longmead Community Farm team you'll receive relevant training opportunities, supervisions and support from practitioners that are widely experienced in working with young people and families. This is an ideal position for people who would like flexible working hours.

Depending on your availability we can offer various working hours and days. Ideally we are looking for a commitment to work one weekend a month but this can be flexible. Such a diverse range of work goes on at Longmead, we welcome applications from all people, but these are some essential skills for working for us:

Strong communication skills, good team working skills, leadership skills, listening skills, behaviour management skills, practical skills, a boundaried but non-judgemental approach to young people and



families and the ability to accept people where they are on their journey and an interest in facilitating young people and families facing crisis to make positive, lasting change.

Desirable attributes in applicants include an interest in animals, gardening, cooking or baking and the outdoors; ability to relationship build with a diverse range of people; the ability to have fun, be creative and have a sense of humour. Previous experience of spending time with children and families is also desirable.

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

## We are looking for people with:

- Experience of working with families or young people to support and create lasting change
- Experience of working with children across a range of ages
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to build rapport with a wide range people
- Experience of behaviour management.
- Good listening skills and the ability to use empathy
- A non-judgemental approach and able to meet people where they are
- Experience of taking a creative approach in working with service users
- Ability to produce written reports, and provide a rationale for activity delivery
- Ability to plan activities to support individual families, and evaluate the effectiveness
- Ability to lead a team and model professional behaviour
- Ability to support families or young people to engage in practical activities around the farm
- Have knowledge and understanding of the challenges that families face across the continuum of need.
- Ability to role model team working, communication skills and positive behaviour management

## Qualifications Required:

- At least one year's experience of working with children and or families.
- A minimum of Safeguarding level 2 and a commitment to train for level 3 prior to leading teams
- At least one professional qualification relating to working with children or families such as: NVQ level 2 and above, a related degree, a teaching qualification or a qualification in social or therapeutic care.





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