



Reporter

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Volume 13 Issue 1

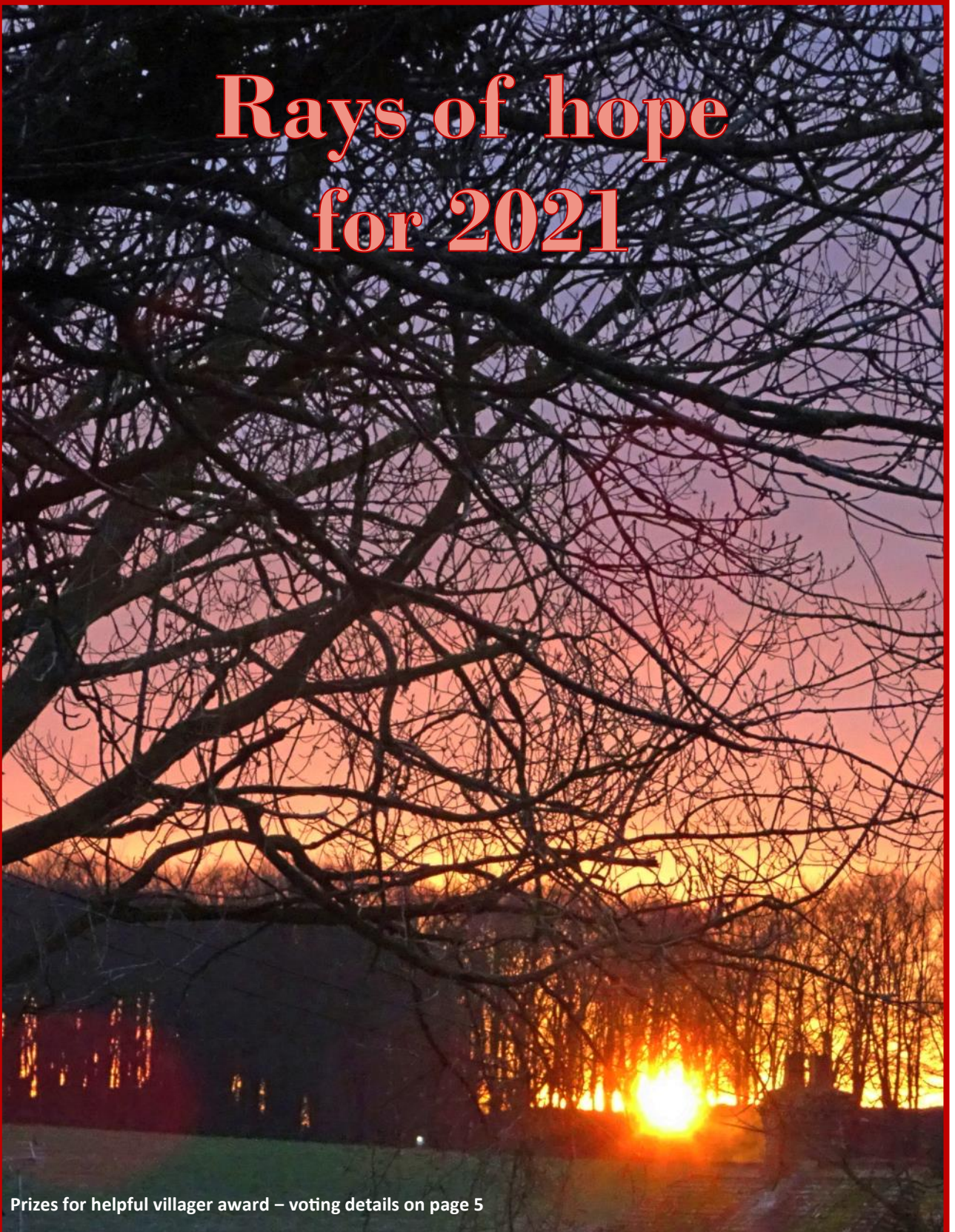
News and Views from around the area

January 2021

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Rays of hope for 2021



Prizes for helpful villager award – voting details on page 5

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THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE AND
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Happy New Year!

Many people will be pleased to welcome 2021. The past twelve months have not been what any of us expected this time a year ago, and a lot of folk will be glad to see the back of 2020. Many will enter 2021 with a sense of hope that it will be different. Others who can't manage quite that much positivity are at least thinking "Well, it really can't be as bad as last year." Some, but far fewer, will look back and think that for them it was actually a good year in spite of everything.

Those who seemed to cope best with the changing restrictions, uncertainty about the future, lockdowns and stress were the ones who managed to take each day as it comes. They didn't spend too much time and worry looking to the future or get too hooked on reminiscing about a better past.

Jean-Pierre de Caussade, a Jesuit in the 18th-century, coined the phrase "the sacrament of the present moment". He wrote this: "If we have abandoned ourselves to God, there is only one rule for us: the duty of the present moment." In an explanation accompanying his translation of de Caussade's work, John Beevers writes this "over and over again, we must live from minute to minute. The past is past, the future is yet to be. There is nothing we can do about either, but we can deal with what is happening moment by moment".

Behind this is the idea that every day, every moment, is a gift from God. We won't get it again. We have the choice as to whether we welcome the moment as a time for receiving the grace of God or not. Every minute of our lives is precious. How we choose to use them is up to us.

I wonder whether this might be a good way of trying to live in 2021. For many of us it probably will be easier than 2020, but none of us knows what the future holds.

With best wishes for a fulfilling year.

Sarah

*John Beevers, trans, *Abandonment to Divine Providence: Classic Wisdom from the Past on Living Fully in the Present* by Jean-Pierre de Caussade (Doubleday: 1975)

'Tis the season to be jolly'

AS our Prime Minister said 'have a jolly Christmas but be jolly careful' and we are still being very careful in our church. At the moment we are all looking forward to the celebratory Christmas services and being able to welcome our Saviour and to be thankful for his birth. The Carol service was packed out but luckily, we still had spaces at the Christmas Eve Communion and the Christmas Day service. We were very grateful for the Advent packs distributed by Sarah with the help of Emma, it made a structure for us to follow.

The downside of the 'new' way of life over the last nine months has been the cancellation of lots of annual events such as our first school children celebrating Christmas in our church, our Christingle service, the Christmas Market, shared refreshments after our Carol Service (mulled wine and mince pies) and all those Christmas hugs.

St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council wish you all a very happy New Year.

I am looking forward to this year, especially with the promise of an effective vaccine which could mean that life can start to 'open up' again - and hopefully we can sing in church again. I expect that things will never return to the way we behaved and things we did will be the same in the new year; hopefully we will have acquired new skills (who had ever used Zoom prior to lockdown?) and will have more awareness of the needs of others and feel closer to God.

Can anyone help? Half of the 'new churchyard extension' is now filled with graves and interment plots and we will have to start to use the other half which has been our wildflower area. Although it is a big area it is not flat and would be difficult to make it so. We believe that we need earth moving by someone with suitable machinery so if anyone can volunteer help, please get in touch.

Pam Shults Churchwarden

Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne and Dewlish January 2021

3rd January – Epiphany

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

10th January – Baptism of Christ

9.30am	United Methodist Service	Topuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish

17th January – Epiphany 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

24th January – Epiphany 3

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

31st January – Presentation of Christ

10.30am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
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MORNING PRAYERS

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

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784

E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

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Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

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Covid vaccination

I'M sure you are all aware that the Covid vaccination programme has begun. At the time of writing, one vaccine has been approved and others are almost there. We are being asked to deliver vaccination clinics from a single site across the Dorchester area as a starting point, but we hope we can add other sites as time goes by. Patients will need to have two doses of the vaccine, three or four weeks apart and will be invited to attend based on age and risk: older patients and those at risk being invited earlier than younger patients. Information is currently changing on a daily basis so please look at the surgery website to keep up to date, and keep an eye out for letters or text messages inviting you to book an appointment. If you have recently changed or purchased a new mobile phone, please let us know the number so we can add this to your patient record.

Keeping warm this winter

With January and February often being the coldest months of the year, here are a few reminders for keeping warm and safe over those months:

- **Dress in layers to keep warm.** Several thin layers work better than one thick layer of clothing.
- **Use hot water bottles, electric blankets and wheat bags.** Do not use both a water bottle and electric blanket at the same time though!
- **Heating your home.** If you are not very mobile, are 65 or over, or have a health condition heat your home to at least 18°C. Draw curtains at dusk and keep doors closed to block out draughts
- **Make a list of emergency numbers.** It can be useful to have numbers like electric and gas companies by your phone or on your mobile.
- **Eat the right foods.** Make sure you are eating well, with at least one hot meal a day. Try to eat a balanced diet with lots of fruit and veg to get nutrients.
- **Keep as active as possible.** This is a great way to keep warm.
- **Be prepared if you are heading out.** Wear warm footwear with non-slip soles, and keep hands, heads and faces warm.
- **Check on older neighbours and relatives.** Make sure that they are safe and well, are warm enough (especially at night) and have enough food and medicines so that they do not need to go out during the very cold weather.

If you are struggling with heating costs, you may be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your home. Please speak with the Citizens Advice Energy Advice Team by calling 01929 75500 or email energyadvice@cabnet.org.uk.

Nominate a helpful villager for prize award

An award of £50 and two other prizes have been kindly donated by a village family to recognise Milborne's most helpful person during the pandemic. Nominations are to be made through the *Reporter* either by emailing msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk (with "helpful villager" in the subject line) or private message our Facebook page (facebook.com/MilborneReporter). Votes, together with a short reason why you're nominating them, must be made by 12th January.

Langham Wine Estate scoops an international award

2014 was a bumper year for the Langham Wine Estate. Each shoot on their "high grafted" vines produced 'inflorescences' which flowered during Wimbledon week. They became recognisable grapes within the month ready to pick in October. In that year they entered their 2010 wines from their first year of production in a national competition known as the 4th Judgement of Parsons Green. 93 other English sparkling wines were entered from 47 different wineries. They won Top Prize with their Classic Cuvee (which is a blend of all three of their champagne varieties aged for two years in the bottle), coming eighth with their Reserve Blanc de Noir. This brought them much business as well as acclaim for such a new venture.



This year they entered all five of their sparkling wines in the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC) along with 700 other Wineries and beat all competition including prestigious Champagne houses such as Veuve Clicquot, last year's winner, to become Sparkling Wine Producer of the Year. This was a remarkable triumph for a single vineyard of only 30 acres planted in 2009. They sold out of its top rated sparkling wine selling more online than in the whole of the 2018-19 season causing their website to crash. Top of the sales chart was the Blanc de Blancs 2015, retailing at £31 and awarded a gold and second highest score for any sparkling



wines in the competition. Now they have only Magnums available at £75! Unlike many other English wineries and Champagne houses Langham only produces single Estate grown and made sparkling wines. This is achieved through small ferments in old oak *barriques* providing unique wines from this local Dorset vineyard every year, allowing them to produce small individual bottlings. The production from the vineyard equates to an average of about 50,000 bottles per year initially concentrated in this county. As well as gold for Blanc de Blancs, silver medals were awarded for its Corallian Classic Cuvee and Culver Classic Cuvee, recognised as "sophisticated and complex" by the judges as well as for the Pinot Meunier 2017 and Langham Rose NV.

Last year Langham teamed up with two other Dorset vineyards – English Oak and Furleigh – to promote the county's wines. Their visitor numbers are rising steadily and now account for 100 per day. As the director, Justin Langham says, their success is down to these things, "... the grapes we grow (chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier) ... an extremely good site ... sloping, south facing shielded from south west winds by mature woodlands with a benign micro climate allowing grapes to ripen in near perfect condition for cool-climate quality sparkling wine, we are relatively small, we do everything ourselves ... paying good attention to detail, and the way we make and blend the wine." If you haven't come across Langham before, they are situated off the A354 at Crawthorne and are open to requests for tours to be booked on their website: www.langhamwine.co.uk.



Carole Fornachon

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HAVING parcel delivery problems? You are not alone as half of British consumers have had parcel delivery issue since the first March lockdown.

1. **Check delivery policies** – Before you place an order find out what the delivery times, costs and returns policies are of the items you have ordered.
2. **If you're out of the house during delivery** – Consider asking a neighbour or friend if it can be delivered to their address if you think it may be at a time or date you will not be at home. But beware, if you do provide details of a safe space or nominated neighbour, and something goes wrong, it may not be the seller or courier's responsibility.
3. **Online trader or online marketplace?** – Make sure you know if you are dealing with a trader or a private seller on an online marketplace as dispute processes may vary. If you have an issue with a trader, a dispute can be raised directly with them, but if it's a private individual it may be easier to go through a marketplace's dispute process.
4. **Review traders** – Check and review if the trader is genuine. It's always worth taking a look at reviews to gain an insight as to how reliable the company is and how well they deal with missing parcel complaints and refunds.
5. **Who to deal with when a parcel goes missing** – Your purchase and contract is with the seller. If your parcel goes missing you should speak with the seller to deal with the problem, not the courier company.



For advice on a consumer problem, or to report something to Trading Standards, contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer

Surge in online shopping fraud

REPORTS of online shopping fraud have surged by 30% over the pandemic as many of us continue to shop online in light of current restrictions.

Figures from Action Fraud show that criminals conned 17,407 shoppers out of almost £13.5 million over the Christmas period last year, an increase of over 20% when compared to the same period in 2018.

Action Fraud is warning the public to take extra care when shopping online, ahead of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as shoppers search for bargains and gifts for loved ones in the run up to Christmas.

Top tips to shop online securely this festive season:

Where to shop:

Making a purchase from an online store you haven't used before? Carry out some research first, or ask a friend or family member if they've used the site and about their experiences before completing the purchase.

Your information:

Only create an account if necessary or to save you effort if you're going to use that site a lot in the future. Be cautious if the website asks you for details that are not required for your purchase, such as your mother's maiden name or the name of your primary school.

Payments:

If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, ensure that the webpage where you enter your payment details is secure (website address starts with "https"). Using a credit card to pay online also means that should the worst happen and your payment details are compromised, your main bank account won't be directly affected.

Phishing:

Some of the messages you receive about amazing offers may contain links to fake websites. Not all links are bad, but if you're unsure, don't use the link – go separately to the website. Report any suspicious emails you receive by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk You can also report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726.

Friends of (Milborne St. Andrew First) School

THIS half-term the Friends of School Committee have been putting lots of effort into making this Christmas just as special for the children and their families as any other year.

First of all, we continued the tradition of organising the 'design your own' Christmas cards/gifts so the children's families can send something with a personal touch.

We have also been selling tickets for the Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Club Christmas Raffle which took place on 18th December and is a fantastic way for local charities to raise funds for their cause as they receive 100% of the ticket sales revenue.

With the help of Claire Tudge (a parent who volunteers their time to teach music classes at the school), the children have performed a rendition of Wizard's 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday', which can be accessed on our Facebook page (Friends of Milborne St. Andrew First School).

The festive activity that we are most proud of however, was arranging for Father Christmas to make a special secret visit to the school to ensure that, even through these unusual times, the children could still feel the magic of Christmas! Father Christmas was kind enough to let David Lewis of Lewis & Schofield Photography (www.lewisandschofield.com) film the event so that the children could see their presents being personally delivered to the school; they did suspect some sort of visit had happened as the snowy footprints, mince pie crumbs and half-eaten carrots were a huge giveaway! You can experience the joy of Father Christmas's visit too as we have shared it on our Facebook page.

You can show your support for Friends of School in the following ways:

Easy Fundraising – Many major retailers are registered so please consider using the EasyFundraising app to do your online shopping and a percentage of your purchase price is donated to us.

AmazonSmile – the Amazon Shopping app has been updated to make it easier for you to automatically donate to your chosen charity.

YourSchoolLottery – sign up at www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and enter the weekly draw from as little as £1 per week. Prizes include a weekly national jackpot of £25,000 and a weekly supporter jackpot of 30% of our prize fund. 40% of our weekly prize fund is returned to Friends of School.

GoFundMe – we have set up a donation page www.gofundme.com/f/fos-fundraiser where you can send us a one-off donation.

Clothing Donation Bin – we have a big green bin in the school's car park where you can post your clean and bagged clothing items. We receive a price per kg payment in return.

Printer Cartridge Recycling Scheme – There is a box in the school's reception for you to leave your used printer cartridges. We receive a price per cartridge in return.

The Friends of School Committee hope you all had a lovely Christmas and had the opportunity to spend some time with loved ones. Best wishes for 2021!



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Follow us on



Christmas past in Milborne

CHRISTMAS may be very different for us this year. Looking at old newspapers does give an insight into lives of our predecessors and this selection shows how our villagers were entertained at Christmas in times past.

In 1889 the Southern Times & Dorset Herald reported – Milborne St Andrew – A dinner was given at the vicarage by the Rev. Faulkner and Mrs Colquhoun Smart on Monday to all in the parish who were 70 years of age and over. Twenty-two of the old people had dinner of roast beef and mutton and plum pudding, after which they had tea and the afternoon was enlivened by music and songs. To many this was the happiest day they had spent for some years. Christmas Services – The services at the parish church on Christmas Day were bright and hearty. The church was tastefully decorated by the ladies of the congregation. The services were:-Holy Communion celebrated at 8.30am; at 11am there was morning service ; and at 7.00pm evensong. There were good congregations, especially in the evening, when the church was filled.

The Southern Times & Dorset County Chronicle 1893 – Milborne. St. Andrew Christmas Cheer – On Saturday the widows and aged poor in this and the other villages on the Whatcombe estate each received a piece of beef for their Christmas dinner as in former years from Mr. and Mrs. Mansel-Pleydell, to whom many thanks are due. The workmen on the estate each received a joint of beef and rabbits.

In 1902 the Western Gazette reported – Milborne St. Andrew – During the Christmastide Mr. Charles Drake gave each of his workpeople a joint of mutton, Mr. Snow gave his men two rabbits each, and Mr. Norton also two rabbits. The village has been enlivened by the singing of parties of carol singers and the Stickland and Whitechurch Brass Band played selections on Boxing-day.

The same newspaper reported in 1932 – Milborne St. Andrew – A Children's Party and Christmas tree was held under the auspices of the British Legion. Father Christmas arrived by 'bus and was met by a large crowd of children of all ages. Proceeding to the school, they found a plentiful tea had been laid out by a band of willing helpers. After justice had been done to this came the evergreen Punch and Judy. Colonel and Mrs. Pleydell Railston attended with Father Christmas and his fairies, presented the eagerly awaited presents from the huge Christmas tree. After another hour's romp came the grown-ups' turn, which was enlivened by dancing, music, and song until the bewitching hour, when one of the happiest parties in the village came to an end. The Committee thanked the many donors and willing helpers, whose kindness helped to make the party the huge success it was.

Linda Wright

St. Andrew's Events Committee

CHRISTMAS this year is so very different for us all. Our Events Committee has tried to bring joy to all and raise funds at this special time of year. Unfortunately, the first time in many years, we had to cancel all plans to hold a Christmas Market. We did discuss holding an outdoor market one evening, similar to the continental ones, but decided that it would be too much for us to take on. However, we did decide to organise carols around the tree at the village hall fields and hope that it will attract many visitors. In order to do this, and with the help of some village hall trustees, we had to do risk assessments and put some Covid-19 safety measures in place.

The committee also want to thank all those who supported St. Andrew's church by paying for the masks that the team made. There were some interesting Christmas designs which proved to be popular.

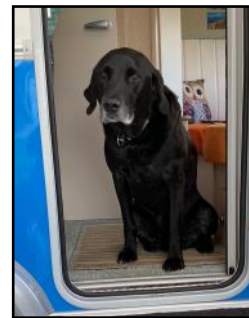
Hopefully next year we can start to have events which will be within the safety recommendation. The Team have made suggestions of another take-away meal, a scavenger hunt, a talk in church, a film supper night, and a couple of other things. But until we know the outcome of the vaccination programme it will have to be suggestions only. So, keep your eyes open for posters and adverts in the coming year.

The Events Committee wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Hello everyone Rosie here again

THIS summer we had lots of holidays in our dear little tin box on wheels and the good news was my old friend Bulmer's Mum and Dad bought a tin box on wheels too so we could meet up and have lots of fun together! We stayed in a lovely place called Devon, it was nearly as pretty as Dorset and there were some smashing beaches.

One day we visited a place called Bigbury-on-Sea and it really was 'on sea', there was a little island that you could walk to when the tide was out or you could get a



ride on a weird tractor like thing on stilts that went through the water. We waited until the tide went out and walked across (I was quite pleased as I didn't fancy going on the tractor thingy). We did a lovely walk around the island and had a



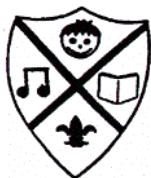
nice pub lunch sitting outside and watching all the dogs and children having fun on the beach. There was a big hotel there where someone famous called Agatha Christie once stayed,

we didn't go in as it was a bit posh.

One evening the Mums and Dads had a 'Bar bee queue', me and Bulmer liked the BBQ as it smelled delicious and we each got a yummy sausage! It was very useful too for Mum to warm her feet on later when it got a bit chilly. The Dad's drank a few bottles of the brown stuff and the Mums had their special red juice and everyone had a great time.

I was sad when it was time to go but we said we'd meet up again soon in sunny Wales.





MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

SCHOOL NEWS



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from All the Staff and Pupils at Milborne St. Andrew First School!

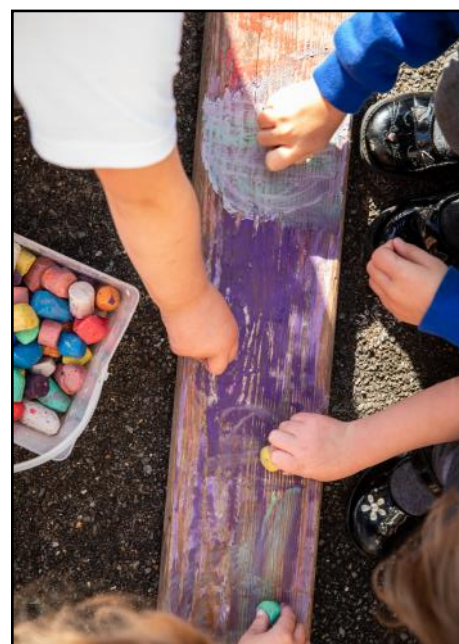
In science the children in Robin's class learnt how animals adapt in winter. They could choose how they demonstrated their understanding. Lyra (age 6) wrote a poem.

Bird, bird, spread your wings
Flap, flap away you fly in the darkness of the sky.
Through the night and days, always flapping in the cold.

Go, go, go
Everyone knows that is so,
Because they migrate to find their food.
In the wind as you will fly, so pretty in the wind
So pretty in the wind.
Fly, fly and find your destination in the sun.
Fly, fly and find your place.

When the moon shines so bright.
Emergency, emergency it is too cold in the sky.
A group of birds fly to get to migrate from the place they love.
Find food, find another delicious place.

At Milborne First School we like to promote 'fun learning'. The children love exploring and playing with the outside equipment. Our Reception class recently designed an obstacle course with some tyres and beams. They then decorated the beams before mastering their balancing skills.



CONTACTS

If you require any information about the school, including admission details, or would like to arrange a visit please contact the school office

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Hunt

School Secretary: Mrs B Hosford

Chair of Governors: David French

FOS Chairman: Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362

Fax: (01258) 837170



More pictures on page 25

Christmas-in-a-Box 2020



THIS year our Milborne St. Andrew Food and Wine Club Christmas Dinner took the very different form of a Christmas-in-a-Box Doorstep Delivery from Yalbury Cafe on Saturday 5th December. The three-course festive meal also included a mince pie, Christmas cracker, Christmas card and various other seasonal treats. These goodies were delivered to 53 of our members' homes both in the village and further afield along with a complementary bottle or two of wine.

Some members were able to join in with others in their bubble to celebrate while others were more comfortable in their own space. Although I do enjoy cooking it made a nice change not having to



worry about timings as when serving a hot meal, which made the occasion more relaxed for me. The dress code was of course very casual but some members made a big effort to dress up in their finery to make the occasion feel special. I know someone who

wore her best sparkly party frock complemented by her old and extremely comfortable bedroom slippers! They say every cloud has a silver lining...

Thank you so much to Yalbury Cafe for your help in organising this event and for donating a special prize. Grateful thanks also to The Royal Oak for so generously giving a voucher for our raffle and to Langham Wine Estate for giving us a bottle of their finest fizz.



All the prizes and their lucky winners were

A voucher for a full afternoon tea for two at Yalbury Cottage (kindly donated by Yalbury Cottage) – Charles Mc Hugh

A £25.00 voucher for The Royal Oak (kindly donated by The Royal Oak) – Christine Surtees

A £25.00 voucher for The Royal Oak – Linsey O'Neill

A bottle of Langham Wine Estate sparkling wine (kindly donated by Langham Wine Estate) – Barbara Keane

A bottle of Langham Wine Estate sparkling wine – Roy Winstanley

A litre bottle of Baileys Irish cream – Christine Groves

A litre bottle of Gordon's Gin – Margaret Taylor

A litre bottle of The Famous Grouse whisky – Karen Park

A litre bottle of Cockburn



Special Reserve Port – Alan Caldwell

Thanks are especially due to the F&W committee for all the hard work and planning involved with the organisation of five different events throughout a very difficult year, as well as delivering this Christmas in a box to all our members (ably assisted by Father Christmas and a couple of very sprightly elves!) I am very grateful for the committee's unstinting commitment, patience and understanding in what is still a challenging time for us all.

Of course, last, but by no means least, special thanks to all our steadfast and loyal members who have given their enthusiastic and wholehearted support to all our events throughout 2020. We couldn't do it without you.

If anyone is interested in joining the Food and Wine Club in 2021, especially anyone new to the village, then please email msafoodandwineclub@gmail.com or telephone Rose on 01258 837921 and we will send out membership information and an application form.

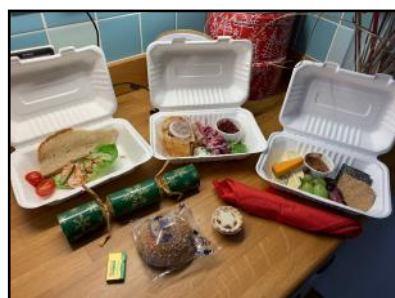


We look forward to future F&W events in 2021 with a spirit of optimism and hope. The first event is planned for

early February.

Happy New Year!

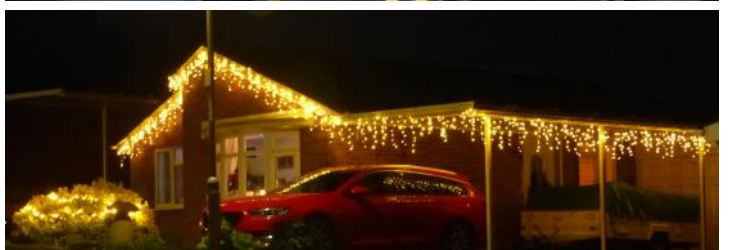
Resurgam *Rose Frost*





Lighting up Milborne

WELL done Milborne you certainly made the job of the judges very difficult on Saturday 5th December. All the lights and decorations were fabulous congratulations. After considerable discussion and thoughts, the judges decided the winner was 9 Bladen View, picture (right) shows David Payne, the editor of the *Reporter* presenting the prize to Sean and Caroline Mallon with a bottle of champagne. Photo taken by Jo Whitfield, assistant editor. All other pictures taken by Heather V Hogg.



Glitter and glue at Ladybirds

YES – It's that time of year when everything becomes sparkly and sticky. At the time of writing this the children are busy making Christmas decorations and cards. Even those more reluctant crafters are joining in to make something special for mummy or daddy.

After all that concentrating outside play is a must whatever the weather. Wrapping up warm and keeping moving are key to staying healthy. So out we all go wrapped up well although it does take a long time to get everyone dressed!

This year has been such a strange year and unsurprisingly at his age dear old Santa is having to self-isolate but he has got to grips with technology and has sent a recorded apology along with a promise that his young elves have managed to magically deliver



presents to all children. We have had to cancel the show performed by the children for their families but there will be a DVD available instead.

Our Christmas party will go ahead, the onus on the helpers to make it a special time, because again due to COVID no entertainer or family members are allowed. Fingers crossed we will be allowed a get together in the summer.

Liz Dyer

Milborne Ladybirds

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Call in to see us at the village hall or contact
Liz Dyer (Leader) on 01258 839117;
07771 512427; liz@milborneladybirds.com
Committee on secretary@milborneladybirds.com

Ofsted registered no.217717

www.milborneladybirds.com

Registered Charity no. 1087441

Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council –	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Richard Macnair	07774 081551

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Flooding: Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188
Environmental Incident: Environment Agency Hotline 08008 807060
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency
 South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk 01404 821500
 Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959
 MSA Flood Warden, Non-Emergency Only: Mark Johnson 01258 839060

GENERAL — ADULT

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

GENERAL — YOUTH

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

POLICE

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

SCHOOL

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

SPECIAL INTEREST

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Dog Training Behaviour	Natasja Lewis	07896 275357
Food and Wine Club	Rose Frost	01258 837921
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	Anna Cullen	01258 837143
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
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

Sheep attack in Homefield

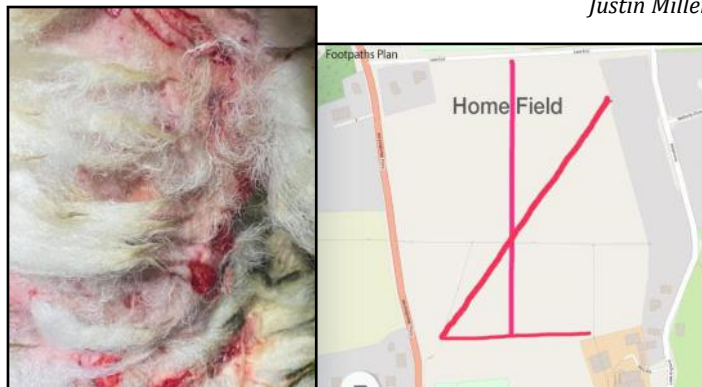
IN a middle of December, a one year old lamb was attacked by a dog – and I can say with absolute certainty that it was a dog because of the injuries the sheep suffered. It's clearly really important that necessary care is taken when walking around livestock. As a result of this attack, we wish to highlight the position of the footpaths around Homefield and also point out that dogs need to be under control, at all times. This means on a lead – there are no exceptions to this.

On the map, you will see marked the approximate locations of the three footpaths in Homefield. These are the ONLY permitted routes you are able to walk. This field is private property and no one has any reason to be walking anywhere but on these footpaths, human or dog. This is necessary to protect the livestock – if you choose to walk along a footpath, it is your responsibility to know where it is located.

This information is aimed at the few, not the majority, but the increased number of dog attacks is unacceptable and disgusting.

If you would like more information on how the law stands on sheep worrying, please visit <https://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/dog-owners/advice-for-farmers/2488/legal-advice-for-farmers/>

Justin Miller



Jan and Helen's adventure

By Jan Beaumont ©

One lovely sunny morning
We set off in the car
To drive to Matamata
It really was quite far.

For I was reading poetry
And Helen came along
We thought we'd have a cruise-y day
We could not have been more wrong!

For 20 minutes on the road
The rain came pouring down
The skies got so much darker
As we drove away from town.

But still we were quite happy
As we passed the countryside
For little did we know
What was to happen on our ride!

A truck came from the other way
And something hit the road
It bounced three times then hit us
Caused the windscreen to explode!

We nearly overturned but
Helen's driving saved the day
I really thought St Peter would have said
"They're on their way!!"

But no, we made it there and back
Which brought us great relief
As every minute we were sure
That we would come to grief.

But though the car was full of glass
The windscreen did survive
And we got home at last, just glad
That we were both alive!

Contactless at the Village Hall

ANOTHER Zoom meeting, another discussion on when the Village Hall can be back to "normal". Since our last meeting another lockdown came into place so although Ladybirds could carry on everything else was cancelled. With the lifting this month the line dancing will resume as will yoga. At the moment no other user groups have made any plans to restart. Although we were hoping to put on a film night it was felt that it should wait to the new year. We have bought some card readers so you will be able to pay contactless at the bar and on the door for things like the films and Artsreach; another safeguard for when we can resume. Who knows what the regulations will be but at least we are ready to welcome everyone back to the hall. Until then the committee wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy and healthy 2021.

Linda Wright

Yoga

By Jan Beaumont ©

I felt the need to exercise
Thought yoga would be great
But I'm now in my 70s
Have I left it far too late?

Though I see older people
On the mat just like the rest
They seem to be so flexible
Where I would be quite stressed.

The downward facing dog I fear
Would break me clean in half
And I think the sight of my big bum
Would just make others laugh.

Arthritic knees and stiffened joints
I'm sure would soon be well
But if I tried those poses
I just know I'd go through hell!

The problem is when I 'get down'
It's not like in my youth
These days I can't get up again
And really that's the truth!

However I am keen to try,
The pain I'll have to bear . . .
And so I'll go to classes
That do 'yoga in a chair'!

Time

By Josie Wright

When I was in my younger days
I weighed a few pounds less
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.

But now that I am older
I've set my body free;
There's the comfort of elastic
Where once my waist would be

Inventor of high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven;
I always used to wear a six
And now I wear a seven

And how about those pantyhose-
They're sized by weight, you see
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?

I need to wear these glasses
As the print was getting smaller
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller

Though my hair has turned to grey
And my skin no longer fits
On the inside, I'm the same old me
Just the outside's changed a bit

Mirror, mirror on the wall

GEORGE was a young inquisitive boy whose imagination was the envy of many of his schoolmates. His parents were both busy high-ranking executives, so George and his elder brother were regularly looked after by Mary who lived next door.

George had worked out that the living room sideboard was against the wall that separated them from Mary's house, and above the sideboard was an ornately framed convex mirror. He had waited a long time for an opportunity to take a closer look. Mary was busy upstairs, so he climbed onto a chair and then up onto the sideboard so that he could take a closer look in the mirror. It was amazing. Everything in the mirror was a different shape. The normally straight settee looked curved. The pictures on the opposite wall looked tiny. His face had an enormous nose. He pressed it up against the glass and felt that he looked much older. Perhaps he was now grown up.

'Perhaps I am looking into Mary's house,' he thought as he realised that the room was, though distorted, the same as her front room. 'What happens through the door?' he wondered. But though everything moved about in a strange way as he moved in front of the mirror he could never see anything more through the door – unless . . . When he half shut his eyes he thought he could see something different.

He found that he had moved into a strange

new world. 'Look! The piano is so long and bendy that we could all play together! There's Mum in an armchair by the fire. But where's Dad? And Philip?' He peered deeper into the mirror and managed to see a little further round the corners. There was a silver-framed photograph on a little table with a candle in a silver candlestick. It looked a bit like an old photo of his dad and granddad that hung on the wall, he thought, but both now wore army berets. George looked further and could see round the door into the hall. There were two coats on the rack, and looking the other way he could just make out the table in the kitchen, laid for two.

Opening his eyes just a fraction he could see Mary coming through the door. 'I must be looking into Mary's house, then.'

'Get down off that sideboard at once!' called Mary. 'Whatever do you think you are doing?'

'Oh no. I'm looking at my house.' He turned round and Mary picked him up, but George was still wondering about the scene that had appeared in the mirror. It was a mystery – for twelve years. Then war broke out.

John Wright

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A tale of two charities

"ONCE upon a time, 2020 to be exact, in the tiny village of Millpond St. Jude's" there were two charities providing recreational and leisure time pursuits for those that preferred to live far from the madding crowd of the big city.

Both were set up with the objective of improving the conditions of life and well-being of the inhabitants and both do a good job of ensuring that people are not disadvantaged by virtue of where they live.

Both operate within a stone's throw of each other within the same community boundary but in most other respects they are miles apart, on a different planet even, but maybe things will change in 2021.

One charity operates on Council owned land, that was bought by the Council as a community recreational and sporting space and is tied to that objective by the terms of a 50 year lease; the other is independent of Council control and occupies its own land.

One charity is given a hard time when it comes to support "why do you bother" being one such response; the other appears not.

It appears that the Council is amenable to considering the provision of funding to assist with such things as regulatory inspections to one charity, the other doesn't even get its six acre playing fields cut as part of the Council contract and is written to in a slightly different tone; quote: "As for supporting the Sports Club. You are very aware that the rent you pay is well below market value. Again, if you wish to negotiate this please send a proposal to Full Council and it can be discussed." That was taken by me to mean "bring it on – you'll be sorry!"

One Charity is written to and told, quote: "your updates are interesting but not the business of the Parish Council. The relationship is that of Landlord and tenant," the other we are told in the last Reporter is one where the Council; "would like to work with the charity on some ideas"

In 2020 one charity wrote to the three new incumbents of the Council inviting them to "come and meet the team". None of them took advantage of the opportunity to gather information to assist with their responsibilities and two didn't even bother to reply.

The other charity has no problem whatsoever with that so in the equal opportunity, nonpartisan stakes, one charity is pushing against an open door the other against the closed door of misinformed, sometimes personal and offensive gossip that passes for the truth.

Perhaps 2021 will be the year of the TROIKA when the Council cuts itself free from the "Burden on the Ratepayer" shackles that has existed since just after WW1 when the 'Great and the Good' considered that the Parish was too poor and it would be considered a profligate council if it spent money on a War Memorial.

The TROIKA I am suggesting is not the three Russian Horse variety but a close tripartite alliance consisting of the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Sports Club, – all working together to support, fund and deliver high quality Community recreational facilities. One that still allows the charities the ability to apply for grants that excludes applications from a Local Government Authority. The outcome to be avoided being the charge of "As a group they set low standards of attainment for the delivery of community facilities that they consistently failed to achieve".

A post COVID suggestion:

We have already had one visitation from the Council in 6d Handley in connection with the setting up of a Community Land Trust, perhaps some more need to be in the offing,

1. On setting a Climate Pledge

2. On how the 6d Council manage to support their Village Hall, their Sports Club and other community recreational and well-being facilities to the high level they do.

Richard Lock

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Ode to a safety pin in time of need

I wish I had a safety pin, I'm really in a fix,
The elastic's gone all droopy in my smalls.

I was halfway back from shopping when something seemed to give
And I froze here on the pavement in my fright,
So I'm stranded by the lamppost with my carrier in my hand,
As my knickers slowly start to come in sight.

So if you've got a safety pin, give it to me please –
Too late!!!

Hey You! YEAH - you!!



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Continued from page 13

Raccoon Class

An action packed term full of story writing, learning about becoming sustainable, investigating the meaning of Christmas for Christians and building on our outdoor skills. As well as learning to tie knots, build even better dens, make art from nature and design our own wind chimes, we have also learnt the basics of fencing with Miss Townsend, our Student Teacher! We even had a Zoom visit from Rev. Sarah Hillman to learn about the Christingle and made our own to take home. Raccoon Class go from strength to strength and have shown their creativity and resilience throughout the term despite all that is going on in the world around them! We even have a few plans about how to make a positive difference in our world! Spectacular effort all round.



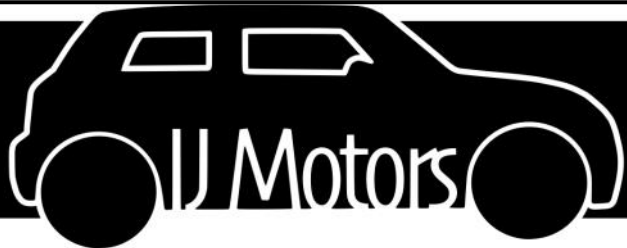
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A stroll around Stickers with The Strangers

I DIDN'T have anything to write about this month, I was going to tell the editor that the dog ate my notes, or I left them on a bus. Usually I don't complete my article until a day or two before the deadline and it was heading that way again; and then I went to Winterborne Stickland. I'd taken Kate's car to the garage there to let them have their annual prod and poke around to satisfy the Ministry of Transport. I knew I would have an hour to kill before they delivered the verdict. My original plan was to sit on a bench in the village, looking suspicious whilst listening to The Strangers on my phone. It was one of those chilly, still grey December days and my un-gloved fingers were struggling to navigate my music. Tapping my feet to *Golden Brown*, I noticed how cold my toes were. Scrolling back to the home screen to check on the time, a moist droplet dripped from my nose and landed on the OS Maps app icon, thus magnifying it and making it stand out prominently: it was a sign.

Despite having not planned any PE and not being appropriately attired, the back roads and green serrated footpath lines staring back at me were too inviting. Zooming in on Winterborne Stickland and its environs, I soon identified a nice circular route of maybe three to four miles. With *Golden Brown* giving way to *No More Heroes*, I alighted the bench on North Street next to The Crown Inn, and looking less suspicious walked the short distance south to turn right onto West Street. Winterborne Stickland – or 'Stickers' as I now call it – is a really attractive little village. It is a superb example of the best that Dorset has to offer, and this was on a dull wintery day. Many of the cottages and dwellings along West Street sport quintessentially English names; birds, animals, flower and fauna prefix the 'Cottage', that sort of thing; all a bit Miss Marple. Some of the locals are out for their daily stroll, many with their dogs. All are wrapped up and we exchange misty breathed pleasantries. Dorset is truly great isn't it? The deeper you go, the friendlier it gets.

Eventually, West Street runs out of dwellings, kicks right and heads out into the big wide world, its only friend the fast running stream that runs quickly in its channel to my left. Unlike the US presidential transition the water is incredibly clear. Checking my app I see that West Street has now morphed into Water Lane. A ford (the geographical type, not a Sierra, Cortina or Transit van) hoves into view and an elderly couple who had been ahead of me stop and look at the ebb and flow of the water. Beyond lies Houghton Springs Fish Farm, its various tanks containing trout which – according to a sign at the entrance – are available for purchase. The fish tanks mark the eastern extremity of Winterborne Houghton, smaller in size than 'Stickers'. I will venture no further into this hamlet as I swing right onto a waymarked path, passing through the gate ahead of me and into the first of four fields that will take me across arable down land.

It's a steady gradient uphill in the first field. Despite the recent heavy rain the ground hasn't cut up, and it is clear by the discolouration of the grass at the edge of the field that it sees its fair share of rambles. The dewy grass reveals trodden areas of earlier human activity today, a bit like a set of Bob Willis run up foot marks on a cricket pitch. It's only when you pass through the gate at the top of the hill beyond the second field that you begin to appreciate the now lofty perch you have arrived at. Once again, Dorset comes up trumps and delivers an all round panoramic view. Despite the cloud ceiling being a little on the low side, I can see from Okeford Hill on my left, flanked by Blandford Forest, all the way around to Wareham Forest with the Isle of Purbeck beyond. Cows in the adjacent field munch contentedly on the lush green grass; if I were a cow I would love it up here. This is the sort of walk that would be good to do on a Sunday afternoon after a hearty roast lunch. By the time you have summited and approached the end of the off road section, you are more than likely to have burnt off several Brussel sprouts, some roast potatoes and an extra large helping of stuffing.

All too soon I encounter the quiet country road that descends from Bulbarrow Hill down into the Winterborne Valley and duly bear right. An entourage of elderly cyclists make their way up the incline towards me. Some are doing better than others, but all are putting in a sterling

performance. For them it will be a three mile climb; I hope that someone has a flask of tea, or perhaps a hip flask for when things level out and the legs stop burning. I pass Pond Down Buildings, an agricultural cluster of barns and out buildings which also includes what appears to be the world's largest garden trampoline. Check it out for yourselves, you'll see what I mean. Surely it's a record breaker? Changing the subject completely, and going off on an enormous tangent, I must at this point make a claim for an entry in The Guinness Book of Records. A friend of mine ran a sports shop in Weymouth and one Wednesday morning I happened to be in Dorchester market. Amongst the various vendors' wares, I noticed a job lot of two hundred and forty table tennis balls, boxed and sealed and at a ridiculously low price. Thinking of my friend, I grabbed what I thought was a bargain and proceeded to a telephone box to relay to him the good news. This was in the late 1980s, long before mobile phones. My friend was pleased, praising my keen eye and business acumen. The table tennis balls were in my holdall, which I had taken into the phone box with me and upon replacing the receiver it somehow occurred to me that I had just set a world record for the number of table tennis balls ever fitted into a standard K6 type British telephone box. Having Googled this since, and with no result, I feel I can comfortably claim to hold this as a world record.

The T junction at the bottom of the hill at Hedge End Farm signpost invites me either left for Turnworth and Okeford Fitzpaine, or right for Winterborne Stickland. Bearing right, and side stepping a tractor with a hedge cutting attachment that venomously spits out shreds of discarded foliage, I am soon back in 'Stickers'. If things were normal, I would probably consider some refreshment in The Crown Inn, the village's sixteenth century pub that nestles at the far end of North Street. But in Covid dominated 2020 that is not an option. The lads at the garage have declared that Kate's car is in good health. As I drive home, I hum *Golden Brown* to myself, tapping the steering wheel in time to my musical ditty. I also wonder how many ping pong balls I could fit in the glove box, or as Kate would have it, the cupboard. I also wonder who I would tell in the event of it being a record, now that Roy Castle and the McWhirter twins have all passed away? *Rich Hawker*

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Interested villagers are welcome to join our AGM to be held **Thursday 25 February 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom** conference call. If you value a village preschool do please join us help secure our future.

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