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Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 13 Issue 11

December 2021

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Advertising copy MUST be received by the 8th of the month

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Enquiries and copy to: msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

Wednesday Club AGM

WE met at the Village Hall on 3rd November and went through the process of the AGM as quickly and easily as possible. It was hard to believe that two years had passed as Sheila read out the Minutes of the last AGM which took place in 2019. In her Chairman's Report Jenny remarked upon the difficulties that all the village clubs have had to contend with and that now we can think positively for the next year. We are all grateful for the work that the Committee, Jenny Balcon, José Thomas, Sheila Burton and Dave Andrews will be doing for the Club in the coming year. We are very sorry to lose Ian Watts after 11 years on the committee, he has always been there when we had to wrestle our way through legal and accounting details, but has promised to still be there if we need him. The club presented him with a small token of his years' work.

We then enjoyed one of Jenny's fun quizzes, which as always was accompanied by lots of light hearted banter.

Our Christmas Lunch is at The Royal Oak on Wednesday 1st December, meeting at 12 midday to eat at 12.30pm.

On Wednesday 5th January we are having our New Year's Party at 2.00pm in the Village Hall when we will all be bringing food to share. If any member would like to add to the festivities with any form of entertainment, please feel free to stand up and add to the fun.

It will be so good to get back to our regular monthly meetings throughout 2022 and new members will be warmly welcomed. Please give Jenny a call on 837121. We meet at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month unless an outing is advertised. *Lis Watts*

Food allergies and intolerances

IF YOU have a food allergy or intolerance, it is important that you have the information you need to make safe food choices. There are allergen labelling laws that require food businesses to provide you with information about what is in your food, whether you are eating out or making your own food at home.

In the UK there are 14 legally identified allergens that food businesses should inform you about if they are used as an ingredient in foods. These are:

Cereals containing gluten such as wheat, **Eggs**, **Fish**, **Milk**, **Celery**, **Crustaceans** such as prawns, **Molluscs** such as oysters, **Mustard**, **Sesame**, **Peanuts**, **Soybean**, **Lupin**, **Tree nuts** such as walnuts and **Sulphites** and sulphur dioxide.

There are lots of ways that businesses can provide allergen information to their customers. They can be emphasised in an ingredients list on the packaging, be listed on menus or signage next to the food or be given on websites. In cafes or take-aways, signage may tell you how you can obtain the allergen information, for example, you may be advised to speak to a member of staff who will ensure the information is made available to you.

If you have an allergy or food intolerance it is important that you check the allergen information that is given carefully and if appropriate ask staff about your own particular issue, so you can be sure that the food you buy is safe for you to eat. If you are unsure or you don't feel the person you are speaking to understands your needs, don't be afraid to ask for the manager or someone who may be better able to help you.



If you come across a business who is not meeting allergen information requirements you can report this on the Food Standard Agency's report a food problem form.

Are you concerned by Nextdoor?

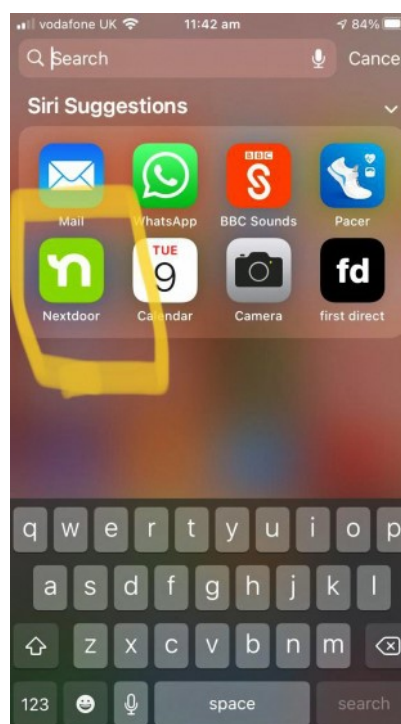
A LETTER came to my house on 26th October 2021 headed "Hi Little England Neighbour" suggesting I got signed up for an app (together with a special code) so that I could keep in touch with my "neighbours". There was no name on the envelope, it had come by post with a stamp printed rather than stuck on the envelope. It asked for payment for the app. So three things which did not make sense. It was "signed" by someone in the village. This named person responded by saying "I definitely did not write any letters regarding the next door app. I guess it's like the letter I received telling me about the app. I kept getting notifications on my phone saying that people I suggested had joined – people I didn't know. So yesterday I deleted my account and the app. I don't like that it is connecting me with people I know nothing about – and without my permission or knowledge! I get what I need from Facebook, so will use that going forward" It is described as 'intrusive'. Once Googled, it informed me that it is, in fact, a Facebook enterprise and, apparently, police are suggesting we shouldn't respond to letters received from the app. Californian based, it was first founded in 2008, the app. launched in 2011 and expecting full names and details of subscribers so has to be carefully managed. Interestingly there are other, so called

Nextdoor Apps which have no connection with Facebook such as the one in full use for some years now in Dorchester by friends of mine who use it in the same way as our MSA Community page. (see the symbol for it on a mobile phone).

As the named "neighbour" commented. "I am uncomfortable when sites aren't clear of their intentions. I haven't used it since I logged on to see what it was about – just another account to monitor. I get all I need from Facebook – updates about the village and being able to sell and give away things. Apparently

they do let subscribers know they will do it but isn't clear in the terms and conditions. We signed up to it when we created an account – you could be next!"

Carole Fornachon



The Reporter team wish all our readers, distributors, advertisers and all those who contribute to the content of the magazine a very Happy Christmas

The deadline for the January issue of the Reporter is mid-day 8th December. Send your stories and pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

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A very British pantomime?

DID you know pantomime has its roots in 16th century Italy? Italian street theatre characterised by comedy moments, larger than life characters and exaggerated physicality toured and entertained French and Italian audiences all those years ago. It was John Rich who exported 'Harlequinades' to England in the late 1600s; with an acrobatic Harlequin taking centre stage with his entertaining 'slapstick' style. By the Victorian era, pantomime had become a common Christmas feature. Scripts evolved to tell stories of fairytales, with a witty rhyming style that included topical content: and so we gallop towards February 2022 in anticipation of Milborne St. Andrew's Cinderella epitomising exactly this!

We have now recruited a robot for our pantomime, but are still in need of a helpful and dedicated prompter. Could you be that all important back-stage person? Contact Gren on 07876 793319 or Kate on 07804 600204.

But before all this, you may be pleased to know you can still access our audio play A Christmas Carol on our website: www.milborneplayers.org.uk. Sit back on a December evening with your mulled wine – or gin perhaps – and give your ears a treat!

Kate Hawker

Try this Brandy cake for Christmas

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of butter
4 large eggs
1 cup of sugar
1 tspn baking powder
1 cup of dried fruit
1 tspn Salt
1 cup of brown sugar
Lemon juice
Nuts
1 bottle of brandy



METHOD

Sample the brandy and check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the brandy again to be sure it is of the highest quality. Pour one level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter and beat again. Make sure the brandy is still OK. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Break two leggs and add to the bowl, then chuck in the cup of drier fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry if loose with a screwdriver.

Sample the brandy again and check for tonsisticity. Next sift two cups of salt, or something, who cares. Check the brandy. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one babblespoon of brown sugar, or whatever colour you can find. Wix mel. Grease the oven. Turn the cake pan to 350 gradees. Do not forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the brandy again and go to bed.

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club . . . Steeptonbill Farm Shop

NOW and again, if you're lucky, you'll find yourself listening to a speaker who is truly inspirational. On 28th October, members were able to listen to Steve Gould from Steeptonbill Farm Shop in Milton Abbas. Steve gave his thoughts on growing vegetables and a background to the creation and growth of his business. It's rare to find someone who has spent his working life helping and serving people by growing vegetables and educating others to grow vegetables. His enthusiasm for his work remains undiminished. Some interesting facts:

Supermarkets require vegetable suppliers to grow varieties that have a long shelf life. These varieties will often be chemically treated, low in natural sugars and low in taste. Home growers are able to select varieties that are high in natural sugars and have a great taste. Steeptonbill Farm grown vegetables are not sprayed with chemicals and are grown for their taste, which is why Steve supplies many restaurants as well as the public.

During lockdown, when panic buyers were causing extreme shortages of many essential items, Steve was able to secure supplies and help many local people. At one point he was helping six hundred people every day! This business is a local gem, providing great tasting vegetables, homegrown meats, other supplies and employment for local people (six at the time of our talk). We're lucky to have it and it deserves our support.

PS. Steve didn't pay me to write this . . . I'm just really impressed with his business!

In November, members met at the Milborne Village Hall for a social event and AGM. The gardening club takes a break in December but will meet again at the village hall on Thursday 20th January 2022, starting 7.30pm, when we'll be learning about garden design.

Needless to say, we'll be following government Covid guidelines to ensure our use of the village hall is as safe as possible.

Mark Johnson



Christmas is coming and so is the deadline for the January issue of the *Reporter* which is mid-day 8th December. Send your stories and pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

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Milton Abbas Surgery

Keeping warm and staying well in winter

AS the weather continues to get colder, you can get help if you're struggling to afford your energy bills or top up your prepayment meter. You might be able to take advantage of certain benefits, grants and help offered by the government and energy suppliers. Please do not suffer in silence! Contact Citizens Advice today on 0808 223 1133. Alternatively, please feel free to contact Kelly our Social Prescriber at the surgery and she can signpost you to local support.

If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours, please keep an eye out to make sure they're OK. If you notice that curtains are closed during the daytime, or milk bottles are left out, knock on the door and check your neighbours are alright. If the weather is very cold, icy or slippery, check to see if your neighbours need anything before you pop to the shops. Most of all, if neighbours are elderly or housebound, they may not get a chance to talk to others very often, so a chat and a cuppa might be just what's needed. <https://www.thenationalcareline.org/SafetyAtHome/CheckOnYourNeighbour>

Domestic violence

With people spending more time together than normal over the past 18 months and with Christmas around the corner, more incidents of domestic violence are being reported. The symptoms of domestic abuse include: physical abuse, coercive control, verbal abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and it's important to recognise that domestic abuse can affect anyone regardless of their gender or sexuality.

'Coercive control' is now formally recognised as a form of domestic abuse and is where one party in a relationship uses more subtle techniques to gain control.

Refuge has a domestic abuse helpline 0808 2000 247 including a British Sign Language service for those who are suffering from domestic abuse.

If you have been affected by domestic abuse, there are a lot of resources on line, two are noted here: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk> <https://www.mankind.org.uk/help-for-victims/types-of-domestic-abuse>.

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, but please do not panic as we will only be closed for a few days
- and only order what you need

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Christmas and New Year closures

Saturday 25th December – CLOSED

Monday 27th December – CLOSED

Tuesday 28th December – CLOSED

Saturday 1st January – CLOSED

Monday 3rd January – CLOSED

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

Food and Wine Club at the Thimble Inn

THE Food and Wine Club's October event was a visit to the Thimble Inn in Piddletrenthide. 35 members enjoyed a most convivial Sunday lunch on a beautiful sunny late autumn day. Our club had a Doorstep Delivery meal from the Thimble Inn back in the darkest days of lockdown last March. We were very impressed with the food then and vowed to return en-masse when things got back to normal.

The food more than lived up to our expectations and was very, very good. Tasting delicious, of excellent quality, served on hot plates by smiling and attentive waitresses.



I felt a bit sorry for the waitresses as we were all having such a good time chatting to each other and making so much noise that they had difficulty making themselves heard when announcing the food choices! I'm not a fan of twiddly twee over decorated food but the professional presentation of all three courses was outstanding. I just wish I had remembered to take photos of the food at the time.

Thank you to Linsey and Steve O'Neill for organising this and also to all the staff at the Thimble Inn. A couple of members had to drop out at the last minute due to



health reasons and we were not charged for their meals. Also, one member who hadn't ordered a pudding in advance changed her mind when she saw how

splendid they were and our kind waitress brought her an extra one. Again, when we offered to pay the extra, we were told there would be no charge. These generous gestures, along with the whole experience left a very positive impression and I'm quite sure that many of our members will return. Our next event in November was be an evening of French food and wine tasting at the Village Hall which is reported on page 33. *Rose Frost*



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Oh no it's not . . .

We all know those traditional pantomime responses that assist audiences to be involved in the performance before them as it unfolds on the stage: "He's behind you", "Boo", "Hiss", "Oh no he's not"; "Oh yes she is".

Our media and politicians have been encouraging their own to-and-fro call and response phrases this year. Headlines in our papers and on social media, as far back as August, were proclaiming "Christmas is cancelled", while the politicians retorted that that could never happen. In the words of the Transport Secretary Grant Shapps to *Times Radio* on 15th October: "Christmas will go ahead. We'll be able to see our friends and families. There will be food, there will be gifts."

It's a strange old world. In 2020 we were being told Christmas would be cancelled because we wouldn't be able to spend it with loved ones as usual; this year we're being told Christmas is at risk of cancellation because essentials like turkey, Barbie dolls/accessories and Paw Patrol might be unavailable.

It makes me want to ask – what is Christmas all about? What are the essentials and what are the add-ons? Why is it so important to share with family and friends, to eat traditional food and to replenish one's stock of gadgets, toys and novelty slippers?

Love is the answer. We want to be with family because we love them. We buy or make gifts to bring happiness to our loved ones. We eat together because that is one of the best ways known to humankind to celebrate and share life's good things. We long for Christmas to be a joy-filled experience.

The love that means most, however, is that of being together – that is why it was so hard last year when people couldn't gather as usual because of the Covid restrictions.

Christmas can be hard for those who live alone. I remember my final year as an assistant curate some twenty years ago; weeping alone in an empty church building on Christmas morning after services were over and everyone else had gone home to family, friends and Christmas dinners is a poignant memory. What awaited me was an empty house.

I was wrong – my house wasn't empty, for I had forgotten the heart of that Christmas message I'd been preaching that morning, that we are never truly alone, for God is with us. That Christ-child in the manger in church had come home with me in my heart.

God's love is transforming, but never forced upon us. God's arrival in our world in human form was about showing everyone it was within reach of us all, young and old, poor and rich, broken-hearted and joyful, alone or surrounded by those whom we love.

Christmas isn't just for those with lots of family and friends with whom to celebrate, and nor is God. Christmas isn't only for those with money to spend on full tables and generous presents. God isn't either.

Christmas and its message of love is for every person who has ever arrived in this world as a new-born baby. No one is excluded, for in taking the form of a human being, God identifies with us all.

Cancel culture has become a thing in 2021 as people are ostracised, shamed or ridiculed for holding certain views; God doesn't do cancel-culture. All of us are valued, loved and treasured.

Perhaps next time we hear or read that Christmas is cancelled, we will join together in heart and mind to declare "Oh no, it's not". For love cannot be cancelled, and the heart of Christmas is love.

May God bless you all.

Best wishes

Sarah

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

5th December – Advent 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	BCP Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Dewlish
4.00pm	Messy Church	Milborne

12th December – Advent 3

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

SATURDAY 18th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	Milborne
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19th December – Advent 4

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

FRIDAY 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE

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

SATURDAY 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30	Christmas Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
10.15	Christmas Celebration	Milborne
11.15	Christmas Praise	Puddletown

26th December – St Stephen

10.30am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
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MORNING PRAYERS

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On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman
(sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com) for the link

Church Contacts

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St. Andrew's church news

OUR Remembrance Sunday service on the 14th November was well attended and went well. There were representatives from the Scouts and Beaver groups who carried their banners to the altar, led by John, from a local British Legion Group. Sarah gave an interesting sermon in which she read a letter from a soldier sent to his family who lived in Bridport, it was very moving. At the end of the service, the groups, their families and most of the congregation, met the other marchers at the junction of Church Hill and Chapel Street to travel down to the memorial stone where they all joined in with the ceremonies there. It was well organised and people were grateful for the opportunity to show their respects.

As I write this, I have started to think about all the arrangements needed for Christmas. Not only are there all the domestic things such as thinking about and buying family gifts, but also planning of menus to feed the family, decorations, etc, etc. Advent (the lead up to Christmas) and Christmas are also very busy times in the church. Sarah starts planning service rotas months before but it is the 'flesh on the bones' that takes so much time. Other Christian Christmas events include organising carol singing round the tree, the school Christmas service, readers for several services, the Christmas Market, decorating the church, making sure there are enough candles for the Carols by Candlelight, creating the Advent ring and so on. But I am not grumbling as I find Christmas services meaningful and inspiring. For me Christmas wouldn't be the same without being in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. After all it is about celebrating the birth of Jesus and the start of Christianity.

Everyone is welcome to join in any of the services or events even if they are not regular church 'goers'. There will be service schedule notices and posters displayed as well as Facebook posts informing of the dates and times of Christmas events.

Although we don't have our own bell ringing team there is a group who hope to ring in St. Andrew's church on a regular basis. I'm sure that many of the villagers will enjoy the sound of the peals.

Pam Shults, Churchwarden

Dewlish Church Notes

WE ARE holding our **Christmas Bazaar** on **Saturday 4th December** at 2.30pm in the Dewlish Village Hall. Stalls will include new items, Christmas decorations, cakes and produce, toys and books, and a raffle. Teas and mince pies will also be served. We would be very grateful for any donations, especially cakes and raffle prizes. Please come and support us; we look forward to seeing you and enjoying your company once again.

The **Carol Service** is on **Sunday 19th December** starting at 3.00pm. We are hoping for the children to do the Nativity this year, though it may have to be a slightly different presentation. Everything is so dependent on the Covid situation at that time but at least we are looking forward to being able to sing the carols this year! The collection will be donated to the Children's Society.

Please note that our **Christmas Day Holy Communion** service **starts at 9.00am**. This is so that Sarah will be able to take three services that morning.

A very happy Christmas to all our friends, both in Dewlish and the other parishes!

Daphne Burg

Deadline for the next issue is mid-day 8th December

Parish Council puts brakes on Village Hall parking plan

THE application for the extension to the Village Hall (VH) car park, that was featured in the *Reporter* last month, came before the November Parish Council meeting. The plan, which would increase parking to 27 spaces at the expense of a portion of the recreation ground, was discussed by councillors. There was concern that there would be a loss of park area but Ed Frost, for the VH, said that in reality the proposed area is not generally used for recreation but more as a transit route to get to other parts of the park. He said that any loss of recreation area was far outweighed by the community benefit and to VH users, pointing out that the car park was often at capacity, including mornings at Ladybirds drop-off and popular Artsreach events. The layout of the proposed parking was questioned — pedestrian access would be made more difficult with the design benefitting the car user, it was said.

Using tarmac as a surface was a concern also, with some councillors suggesting that an alternative such as a grass grid might suit both extra parking when needed and recreation when not. Mr. Frost said that the demarcation of parking could be problematic and that the surface could become slippery. There was much discussion about the inclusion of facilitating electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the application, with some councillors rejecting the need for public EV charging, saying that a minority of villagers can afford electric cars and those that could, would have their own charger. However, chairman, Richard Macnair pointed out that the plan was only for the ducting for cabling rather than the installation of charging points. Another councillor saw the benefit, especially for visitors to the VH and said it made sense to include it in the car park plan rather than dig it up to install in the future. Councillors voted to object to the application as it stands on the basis that the loss of community facility did not outweigh community benefit, which was carried with a majority decision.

Two other planning applications that went before the PC were passed, one being a new biomass boiler for Longmead Community Farm, the other at The Old Rectory on Chapel Street. This was for a proposed orangery as a side extension and the reinstatement of a chimney. Councillors commended the owners for the inclusion of a history statement that gave context to the application.

Correspondence had been received about the potential for a speed indicator device (SID) sited on Milton Road which councillors agreed to discuss fully at the next meeting. The full cost of a SID, including traffic measurement, equipment and installation was thought to be around £2,000. This scheme was mentioned later during precept discussion, when ideas for spending within the community are raised. Cllr Macnair said that the PC was at the stage that the precept would need to increase after being static or downward for the last three years. Earlier, following the Dorset Councillor's report, clerk Wayne Lewin said that residents should expect Council Tax increases of 5.9% following the increase in county spending on adult social care, amongst other items.

Initial planning for the Milborne Jubilee Jamboree, as the weekend of celebrations in the village have been badged, is ongoing, with Cllr Stephens saying the working party have provisionally booked a band at the Sports Pavilion for the Saturday evening with other ideas being an afternoon picnic, Sunday street parties and maybe a royal-themed movie night.

Talks are to take place with Milton Abbas PC to investigate the

Continued on page 17

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Ring 01258 470333 to register or to obtain more information.

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some again

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Milborne St Andrew First School

TOGETHER
WE WILL
GET THROUGH THIS



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and search for: Milborne St Andrew

Supporters must be 18 years of age or older.

Milborne's Village Hall is really special!

RECENT comments on-line via Facebook and from elsewhere tell us that our Village Hall is misunderstood. A lot of people seem to think that our Village Hall is run by the Parish Council but this is not the case. The management and financing of the Village Hall is the responsibility of "The Village Hall", a completely independent organisation in the form of a charitable trust.

A bit of history:



The Village Hall and its surrounding land was "gifted" to the village in 1944 by Sidney Field and his wife Mona Isabel Field of Longthornes. They set up a charitable trust to manage the hall and site which was to be administered by a committee of trustees drawn from the groups that used the hall. Nearly 80 years on that charitable trust continues (charity no. 301153) with representative trustees from the various user groups carrying out all aspects of the management of the hall and its site. All the trustees are volunteers and are helped by other volunteer trustees with particular interests and expertise.

What do the Trustees do?

The hall Management Committee is currently composed of 12 members most of whom are Trustees and therefore accept financial responsibility for the well-being of the hall and site. The committee is headed by its president – a descendant of the Fields – and has three elected officers: a chair, a treasurer and a secretary. Other committee members take on particular responsibilities such as managing bookings, health and safety, managing the bar and other catering and managing the fabric of the building and site and the equipment therein. The committee meets every month and an AGM, open to the public, is held each spring. Minutes of the committee meetings are published on-line on the Village website.



Money Matters!

Regular users of the village hall will know that a fee is charged to use the hall and it is this fee that provides most of the income for the hall. From

time-to-time grants might be sought, and sometimes obtained, for particular projects such as new playpark equipment. Small amounts also come from profit on refreshment sales, films and Artsreach events.



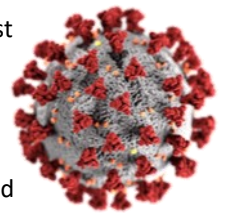
No fee is charged for using the playpark and recreation field although the maintenance of these areas cost more than £2,000 per year. Fortunately, the Parish Council helps out by paying for the grass cutting of the field and it also pays for two safety inspections of the playpark every year.

Outgoings are what you would expect with payments for gas, electricity etc., cleaning (much increased in 2020/2021 because of Covid precautions), licences for entertainment and alcohol sales, insurance and building and equipment maintenance.

Most years, the books break even, sometimes with a small surplus but there is rarely spare money for significant projects. Improvements, inside or out are debated at length and have to be prioritised, many put on the "back-burner" for years.

And along came Covid 19

In 2020 the Village Hall closed down for most of the year, similarly in 2021 and rental income dropped massively. Some outgoings went down a little, others such as insurance and cleaning went up and we seemed to be facing a financial crisis. We had reserves but were worried that they might be inadequate to get us through until normality returned. The Government, via Dorset Council, offered us support through the Local Restrictions Support Grants and, after some considerable debate, we accepted it.



As a result of the grant-aid we have remained solvent and have even had some resources to spare to deal with outstanding major maintenance issues at the hall: the hall floor has been treated to deal with a woodworm problem, the kitchen has (at long last) been refurbished, rotting steps for the playpark slide have been replaced and new football nets have been installed. Hopefully there will be sufficient funds to replace deteriorating windows and doors in the spring.

So . . . our Village Hall is special, really special

Our independence allows us to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of our users through a management committee composed of enthusiastic volunteers but, sadly, many of our regular user groups still choose not to be represented. Our Parish Council increasingly recognises the role of the Village Hall in providing community recreation space and is making a significant contribution towards costs but more financial support is desperately needed.

Our village hall is surviving but, with more support, both financial and practical, it could be thriving, providing a cultural, educational and recreational centre appropriate for our very special village, just as Mr and Mrs Field intended in 1944.

Ed Frost – Village Hall Treasurer

Autumn fun at Ladybirds

WITH the beautiful weather recently, we have been making the most of playing outside. Our new mud kitchen finally arrived; ordered in April and expected in June. Transport delays and supplier shortages caused the long wait. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing with it and hopefully will for many years to come. A big thank you goes out to Paul Stockley who raised the money needed with his sponsored bike ride. We also thank the community for supporting our Halloween coffee morning. The money raised for this will provide a children's entertainer for the Christmas party.

Autumn is a wonderful, colourful time. Ladybirds have played with the fallen leaves, talked about the colours, sizes and made



collages. We have experimented with mixing paints to change colours. The painting experiences continued with firework pictures. Many of our children are sensory learners so hand painting, shaving foam, lentil filling and pouring, and painting using toilet rolls and balls in trays have all been included to make firework art. Firework day means learning about keeping safe and we talked about making sure the animals were safe too. This all led to the old playhouse being used by the 'firefighters'. This house has been used so many times over the years, the children are able to fit it together themselves using the large screws and need to cooperate to hold and join pieces. If anyone has one of these houses they no longer need we would be very interested as ours is definitely getting to the end of its life. We have seen brilliant imaginative play outside where the tyres were arranged to make a fire engine, crates were 'on fire' and small lengths of garden hose used to put the fire out. The tyres then became a car which went off on many adventures.

By the time I write the next report it will almost be Christmas and we will let you know what exciting things the children have enjoyed about this magical time. Don't forget to let us know if you would like to join us in 2022.

Liz Dyer



Milborne Ladybirds

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Leader- liz@milborneladybirds.com 07771512427
Committee - secretary@milborneladybirds.com

Ofsted registered no.217717

www.milborneladybirds.com

Registered Charity no. 1087441

News from Longmead

THE team would like to take this opportunity to wish all a peaceful Christmas and New Year. The support we have received from the community this year has been tremendous - we are so grateful for all that have reached out to help or who have had us in their thoughts as we continue to support young people and families in these challenging times.

Christmas Holiday Club

We are bursting with excitement to announce a Christmas holiday club for children aged 4–14 in the local community. It will offer enriching and fun activities including Christmas crafts and baking, woodland skills, horticulture and animal care amongst many more! The activities will be led by trained professionals, who have a nurturing approach and a wealth of experience of working with children and young people of different ages, abilities and needs. If your child is keen to get crafty this Christmas, wants to get some close-up experience with animals or would like to try their hand at various woodland skills then the team at Longmead Community Farm are pleased to be able to offer this. The holiday club will run 10.00am–4.00pm on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st of December and will include a hot lunch. For more information on prices or to book a place please contact funatthefarm@longmead.org. We are able to support a wide range of children and as an organisation pride ourselves on being inclusive, so any enquiries are welcome. We are excited to be running this project in partnership with Dorset Council's Winter in Dorset 2021 programme. Please see their website or contact us if you are in receipt of free school meals and are eligible for a free place.

Meet and Mend Mondays

We are excited to have been awarded a grant from the National Lottery in conjunction with Ikea to support our volunteer work. Longmead Community Farm is a charity that supports young people and families through its therapeutic packages of support. In addition, the practitioners run groups for the community to encourage, celebrate and learn from our environment.

An important part of the project is our volunteers. They are the bedrock of the organisation and we couldn't function without them. Our volunteers meet, primarily on a Monday, to help with practical skills to support the project – when we say bedrock, we literally mean bedrock – the project would not be standing without them. But the practical help we receive is only one benefit of our weekly meets – it provides a space for community.

A space where creativity, making and



skill sharing is welcomed and encouraged, and where amazing things are produced by people working together. Imagine a space where waste materials can be turned into useful things, like broken wooden pallets becoming planters or animal shelters, repairing and fixing bikes to keep them going for years to come for the young people to learn to ride and enjoy the space they may find lacking in their daily lives. A space where you can grow, tend, sew, paint and cook.

Every community is full of people with a huge range of skills and know-how that can cook, garden, sew, construct, make, mend and build almost anything you can dream of. Imagine the amount of hands-on making and knowledge sharing that could happen when people are able to come together in a space set up to allow working on practical projects together! Whether it's DIY skills like hanging a shelf, learning to use tools and equipment or getting involved in a big making project to produce something for the farm. Whether it's keeping the garden flowerbeds tidy, helping to grow food, mucking out the animals, painting barns, making crafts to sell or helping with the cooking,

Longmead is here to get the community together, to celebrate the skills of all and to share skills with others for the future. It is a place to feel safe and unjudged, to talk or just work in silent companionship, to get in those daily steps and to share a meal together. It is a place to be and to connect and to support a project that gives so much to people's lives.

Meet and Mend Mondays will restart on January 17th from 10.00am to 4.00pm. A hot meal and drinks will be provided. Please do come along and see who we are and how you can be involved. Please contact EllaBarrow@longmead.org or 01258837960 if you would like further information.



MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

SCHOOL NEWS



ON Tuesday our Raccoons class took a trip to the newly refurbished Dorset Museum in Dorchester to learn about and see all the Roman artifacts that have been uncovered in and around Durnovaria (the Roman name for Dorchester). We then walked up to the Roman Town House and were lucky enough to be able to go inside and touch and feel the mosaics uncovered and see up close all the intricate designs of the mosaic pieces still in place. Thank you as always to our parent helpers on the day, your support is always appreciated.

On Sunday some of our pupils helped commemorate our fallen heroes during the Remembrance Service. One of our Year 3 pupils, Lyra K. wrote a poem which she read out during the service.

Poppy, Poppy, Red and Bright

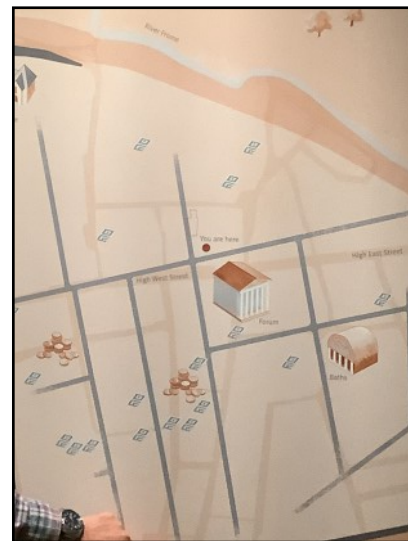
By Lyra Kendle

Poppy, poppy, red and bright
Shining brightly through the night
Giving hope, love and care
Knowing that the people are there

Through the war dark and grim
Poppies sprout reddening
Helping them find their hope
Buried deep, their memories forever to keep

People send love and care
Giving their lives to wars everywhere
Wishing war is finally over
And remembering those who sacrificed themselves

Now always remember poppy day
And respect the people who put the country first.



More pictures on page 21

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 Staddon

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

Continued from page 11

possibility of a Community Land Trust between the two PCs. Milton Abbas has land that has potential for affordable housing but it was too early to say what the tie up would look like.

A footpath that gets overgrown with bramble from farmland was put before the PC by a councillor. The path, that provides access to Homefield, has been obstructed by the bramble for many years, which has resulted in Dorset Council being approached to intervene. The PC agreed to write to the landowner and ask for the offending bramble to be removed.

A suggestion from a resident via the *Reporter* for PC meetings to be streamed live for those that cannot attend was discussed by councillors. They were less than warm to the request, with concerns of technical issues and WiFi capacity, cost and lack of appetite from parishioners as shown by previous Zoom meetings, so the streaming idea was firmly switched off by the PC.

The Reporter would like to clarify two points from the last PC meeting report. Regarding the electronic lock proposal for the Sports Club's gates, we would like to make it clear that the Parish Council's responsibility for maintenance or repair to any system is capped at £50 (i.e. half the cost of a new padlock).

Second, in reporting on the PC and the Sports Club, we would like to make clear a distinction in what Cllr Macnair was quoted as saying. What was written was: "Cllr Macnair stated that the PC sees the relationship between itself and the Sports Club as a 'mutually supportive relationship rather than the characterisation of a landlord-tenant' one where power is one-sided." Cllr Macnair would like us to point out that he actually said: 'mutually supportive rather than the characterisation of a landlord v. tenant'.

Ed Richards

Dorset council plea to avoid cash in car parks

DRIVERS using Dorset Council car parks are being asked to use cashless payments due to ongoing disruption to many ticket machines across the county.

If a machine is currently unable to accept cash payment, drivers will still need to pay for parking via a cashless method.

This may involve using a phone and will require locating the unique car park identification number. This is displayed on signs throughout the car park and can also be found on the side of the payment machine.

There are four cashless options to choose from:

- Downloading the Just Park app to your smartphone
 - Paying by mobile phone, using details found on the side of the payment machine
 - For those without a smartphone, you can register with JustPark online at home and pay by SMS (text message) in the car park
 - Some car park payment machines offer debit/credit card payment, this can be checked in advance online at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking)
- Drivers may find it beneficial to set some of these options up in advance, such as inputting car registration and card details into the JustPark app while at home or registering for SMS payment online.



Cllr Ray Bryan, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, said: "We're sorry for this disruption. This is very much a temporary measure and we are working hard to reinstate cash payments, which we know are the preferred option for many of our residents."

"Please be prepared to use a cashless method of payment while we work through this issue, it's going to take several weeks to get cash payments operating again."

It's hoped that cash payments will be available again in all car parks by early December.

Rosie and Katie go to the Groomers

Rosie and Katie are a lovely pair
Of Cockapoos that don't shed hair
So when their curly coats do grow
It's off to the groomers they must go

Emma awaits with brush in hand
And up on the table Rosie must stand
All the knots and tangles to be got out
But goodness me she doesn't half shout!

Into the bath and soaked to the skin
It's time for the bubbles and stuff to begin
When the rinsing of soap has all been done
That's when Emma really has her fun.

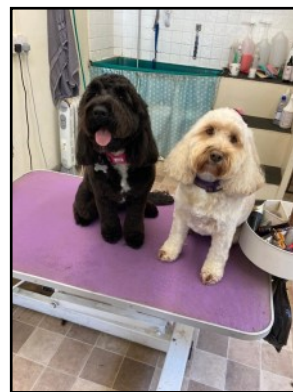
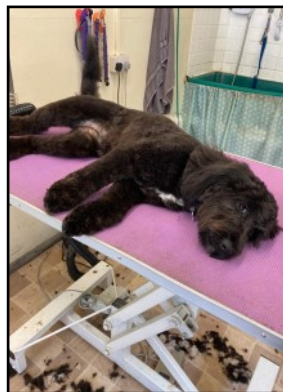
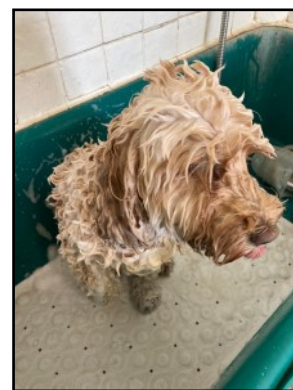
Blasted with hot air from the dryer
It's like being in an oven or deep fat fryer
At last she is dry and the fur's all fluffed up
She'll be glad when it's over cos next goes the pup!

The razor comes out all of a buzz
Then onto the floor goes all of the fuzz
Rosie looks like a sheep that's been shorn
The look on her face is very forlorn

I think I can read her poor little mind
And although Emma's been very kind
"It's nearly all over thank goodness for that
If I'm ever reborn I'll come back as a cat!"

By Elaine Anthony (inspired by Pam Ayers)

Photos courtesy of Emma The Dorset Dog Groomer





LEST WE

What a wonderful community for the service at the memorial on Sunday 14th

Special mention to Wayne Lewin for Rich Hawker, Rev Sarah Hillman, and B

And let's not forget Lyra and the they were a credit to the

After the service everyone w hall for refreshments. Thank helped in any way to make



FORGET

A fantastic turn out at the Remembrance service in November, over 100 people attended. Thanks to Jo Lovett, for organising the event, to Jo Lovett, Brian Burton for speaking at the service. The amazing children who took part, their parents and the school. Jo was invited back to the village to thank all that made cakes and to make it a very memorable day!



Recent Milborne St. Andrew history

TIME flies past us and events happen. It is only when something makes us stop and think, 'actually that was quite a while ago.' I have lived in Milborne St. Andrew for 51 years now, having moved from Briantspuddle, but I am in no way an oldest resident. However, I would like to record some of the changes I have seen since arriving. Initially, the building of the bungalow I live in, in 1970 by the Melcombe Bingham builders of Mears. I first saw the building as a flat concrete raft in a desert of rough ground and builders detritus. I followed the construction through to its completion ready for occupation on return from



honeymoon. At that time, we were informed that the field to the north of Bladen View was due for development too, but that took the best part of thirty years to take place with the construction of Huntley Down. The garden was a blank canvas, which rapidly became a wilderness of weeds prior to taming it. Soon after moving here, the boggy field called Stileham Bank on the other side of the Milton Abbas road was developed and we watched with interest the excavation into the hillside needed to produce levels for building and for accessible garages. Not long after that we saw the start of development of Weatherby Close. At the time the village school was still in the wonderful, quaint Victorian building with its many add-ons to accommodate increasing numbers of pupils. We were promised a new school by the County Council but it was many years before the new school appeared from a different route. I now note with interest young 20-something year olds looking for their names on bricks incorporated in the 'new' school. Time has clearly passed. The village hall whose existence was largely brought into being by the benevolence of a local philanthropic donation and was run as now by a volunteer committee. There was a certain amount of stiff reaction to any changes as to how it was run and maintained. The upper section of the property which now has some trees and a zip wire, was let as grazing to the farmer living next door.

At this time one of the important trades in the village was hurdle making, as the village supported four hurdle makers working various section of hazel coppice in the area, mostly in Milborne Wood. The yard where at least two kept materials and did some of their work is now marked by the bungalow called Hurdles alongside the village hall. Seeing the last of these hurdle makers cycling out of the village to work was a daily treat. Now although some of the wood is coppiced it is mostly done by a Puddletown worker and possibly another from Wool.

The regular flooding of the village now, luckily, seems to be a thing of the past thanks to the diligence of volunteers and officials as well as considerable underground work. The narrow

culvert under the main road through the village is always likely to be an issue but the fun of paddling down The Causeway in wellies is just a memory.

The new school was built as payback for allowing the old school playing field alongside the church to be developed as St. Andrew's View built as an offshoot to Orchard Rise. Orchard Rise produced an interesting event in that the walnut tree near the top was due to be felled but a prominent villager climbed into it and stayed in protest against its removal. This school has been of great benefit to the village in the absence of a rebuild on the old site.

Many changes have taken place at 'the factory' which have been recorded before, of milk and cheese and coleslaw having been prepared there. At the time of the coleslaw production old cabbage remains were taken by tractor and trailer to Ashley barn as cattle feed. Unfortunately, the cabbage generally had deteriorated such that it had acquired a strong odour and Ashley Barn area was known as 'Smelly Corner' for a while as a result. The new barn that has recently been built there replaced a low structure which was all that remained of a lovely, thatched barn, that was burnt down in the early 1970s. It is nice to see a replacement building of a similar stature to the original now in its place.

Wetherby Castle has always been a fascinating place for a walk to its sheltered mystery and to visit the obelisk at the top. It is a shame that the ash trees that surround it have grown so tall as in the early 1970s it was possible to see the obelisk from the road and additionally it was possible to see the top from our bungalow in Bladen View.

On my visits to the churchyard I make a point of looking along the grave markers to recall those village people from the past who have coloured the village and its life and think of events that they have been involved in or influenced. I also look at old photos of village activities, including; the maypole dancing at the school, the street party for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the snow, and the floods.

After this time spent in the village, I still have no good reason to leave.

Pip Bowell

NHS

Vaccines and regular testing are the best way to protect everyone from COVID-19 so we can do the things we love, with the people we love.

www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/vaccinations

#OurWayOut
JABS + TESTING = OUR WAY OUT

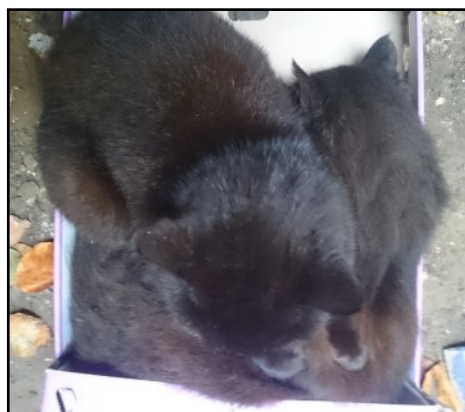
Christmas is coming and so is the deadline for the January issue of the *Reporter* which is mid-day 8th December. Send your stories and pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk



Small Businesses in (and around) MSA: no18: Farm Shop Owner

STEVE GOULD is a very busy man. He is currently involved in raising money for two large projects in his home village of Milton Abbas. Both are for local children. The most advanced is the projected Play Park for which he has garnered over £70,000. Secondly efforts have just begun to fund raise for a new, safe, Skate Park. Kittens were sold in sealed bids, offspring of Steve's cats from which he is rewarded with two litters a year. Over ten days this raised £1,079. He stresses that the cats are working farm cats keeping down the inevitable hordes of rats and pigeons attracted to farmyards and growing crops. The origins of his farm and subsequent farm shop lie in his retirement from the Civil Service as a Farm Manager 14 years ago.

After 28 years working, training and experiencing the intensive growing of vegetables and raising of animals he bought 20 acres of land at what is now called Steeptonbill subsequently renting 50 acres more. He tells me that his original intention was to produce food just for himself as he found no taste or goodness in supermarket produce. This is still his current stance. I understand that he grows always from seed, (believing plants bring disease), organic vegetables which are naturally high in sugar therefore full of taste. His belief is that Supermarkets fail to tell us the whole truth about the origins and make up of their vegetables and meat. Apart from growing brassicas, cabbages, kale, Brussel sprouts, purple sprouting broccoli, artichokes, both globe and Jerusalem, pumpkins, butternut squash, beetroot (particularly 'candy' beetroot)



kohlrabi and a greater move into herbs (coriander, basil, tarragon) garlic and shallots (the latter just planted) he keeps hens, sheep, ducks and pigs. So, he is self-sufficient apart from potatoes which he purchases from Honiton and fruit which is similarly organic and sourced locally. This, because although chalk soil on which he grows the majority of his produce and preserves his sheep from foot rot, causes scab in potatoes. Steve explains that although harmless is unsightly and therefore the potatoes don't sell. As he says "Nobody can buy quality, you can



only taste it". He mentions Ashmead Kernel Apples which look like russets but are not (apparently) and have a three week shelf life. The milk he sells is from Maggi Moos in Blandford, semi pasteurised and homogenised giving it a wonderfully rich flavour and colour. Most cheeses are sourced locally but many from Yeovil. Steve has fields full of rhubarb and lavender, the latter made into soap. Since 1979 when Portland Sheep were down in numbers to 70 animals he and four others had an intensive breeding programme and raised them up until they graze now in large flocks. He is Vice-chair of the Dorset Rare Breeds Survival Trust and still judges Portland sheep trials. He has a butcher who works solely for him as Farm Manager. As for his early life and influences; Steve's father, an official with the railway company, died when his son was three years old. His mother struggled to manage three children when they were turned out of their railway cottage. So Steve was "semi-fostered" to a farming family at the original River Cottage, Toller Whelme. The farmer there bred dairy animals for market also

greyhounds for racing. The last is an interest which has stayed with Steve until the present time. They also bought New Forest ponies, broke them in and trained them to pull traps. So all of his formative years were involved in and experiencing the breeding of animals. Importantly, his grandfather grew vegetables for shows. His first customers at Steeptonbill were Jamie and Ariane Jones, Yalbury Cottage at Bockhampton. Both parties went into business at the same time. So, Steve started by putting two trollies of vegetables at the end of his lane with an honesty box until one was stolen complete with vegetables! After that he moved the farm, which was then, just a small operation up the hill to where it is now. Now he has six staff and during the Covid lockdown eight volunteers. At that time he was delivering to as many as 640 customers a day. Now he is servicing many more restaurants, pubs and outside catering chefs. He tells me he drives long distances every day after the shop closes at 5.00pm. One day he covers the Dorchester area starting at Langham's Vineyard to Y.C's, Poundbury and all the chefs, on the next he will cover Abbotsbury, Weymouth, Portland then the next Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Cranborne. Steve prefers to stay away from large centres of population which would bring him into competition with supermarkets. In his reckoning he spends 114 hours per week at his work. He has a 4.45am slot at the Sherborne abattoir at which CCTV records every movement and vets are there looking at every animal to check them before slaughter. Movement Orders are required for all these trips. This busy man openly admits he can plant a field,

clean out pigs but can't "drive" a computer. However he conducts a large amount of his business on WhatsApp .

I understand that from 9.30–12.30pm at night his phone is constantly busy with orders from chefs who photograph their orders and WhatsApp them to him which are translated by his staff to the computer and all are aware of what is needed! Chefs come to the shop to be photographed, perhaps digging up leeks or red Brussel sprouts. Steve will tempt them with samples of his latest varieties giving them ideas for recipes. This way they are 'hooked' by a man, who, with his boundless, never fading enthusiasm, has become a Great Persuader and proselytiser for his healthier way of life. What he didn't mention were the awards and accolades his business has won. A finalist in the Countryside Alliance Awards (dubbed the "rural Oscars" among the judges were Clarissa Dickson Wright and Michael Gove), in 2017 voted by the Daily Telegraph in the top 20 farm shops in Britain, won the category for Best Customer care at the Dorset Food, Drink and Farming Awards. Especially mentioned was the fact that they went "the extra mile" for their customers.

I am grateful to Steve Gould for giving me his time and to pass on the thanks of the MSA Gardening Club who were the recipients of his engrossing talk to their group. It is good to meet and be enthused by someone who is keen to pass on his wisdom gained throughout a lifetime of experience.

The Farm Shop's opening hours are:
Monday–Sunday 9.00am–5.00pm. Address:
Catherine's Well,
DT11 0AT

Carole Fornachon



Playing the Man rather than the Ball . . . a question of Honour

Thank you to the Reporter team for offering me a right of reply having been heavily mentioned in the November edition. It is nice to know that the rules of Natural Justice apply to me when I believe my character, integrity, motives and actions are being so misrepresented.

Thank you also to Ed Richards for reporting the general gist of what was being said in such an open, impartial and factual manner. At least I found out in a more direct route than normal.

Thank you also to all those who know the "real me" and have contacted me offering support saying how horrible it must be to be constantly demonised and to have people passing off opinion-based gossip as fact in such a derogatory and defamatory manner behind my back. Luckily, I have a chip on both shoulders so my back is broad, but it is not pleasant for family members to hear or to be used as a means to get at me on Facebook and elsewhere.

It does leave me wondering why it was allowed to become quote "personal towards Mr Lock", . . . it certainly doesn't appear to be one serving the principle of OBJECTIVITY and it might well be having an impact on why people are backward in coming forward to join the Sports Club team.

I "hear" what has also been written in the Reporter

about the Council having a "mutually supportive" role with the Sports Club not the characterisation I have suggested of Landlord-tenant role. However, the reality is that I see very little evidence of that "talk" being "walked". I don't find that adopting a "tablets of stone" attitude works, nor does making decisions without the need to scrutinise every dotted "i" and crossed "t" of the lease.

For example, I have a gut instinct that an open sided canopy would create a wealth of opportunities and perhaps be a saviour for the continuation of the Sports Club. At the moment it is in a kite flying concept stage. It does need to be worked up or discounted as a non-flier in a mutually supportive way and is one of the examples included is the response to that idea. When I read it, I had my thoughts about where it fitted, yours may be different.

I like to get things done, without delay and bluster so at times I know there can be a clash of style that has to be worked through. The real irony in all of this is that it appears that the only item not discussed properly at the meeting was a proposed agenda item discussion paper I submitted on behalf of and with the authority of the Sports Club Trustees. It was on the following specific matters but didn't make it, but item three has now been clarified.

- 1. To suggest that going forward, the Parish Council, the Sports Club and Village Hall can work closely together in a more consistently supportive, open and collaborative manner.**
- 2. Councillors are invited to consider making a contribution towards the provision of the outside toilet facility.**
- 3. The Sports Club committee would welcome an affirmation from the Council that adopting a stance of "Landlord v Tenant" is a 'blocker' to the building of a positive relationship that should be focusing on providing solutions**

Councillors were also asked to endorse a positional statement that going forward a line is drawn in the sand. We are where we are, and that now is the time to unblock any barriers, start building bridges in a spirit of cooperation. Blame Games or "Playing the Man rather than the Ball" only hinder progress.

Richard Lock

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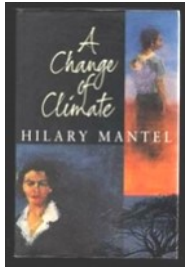
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A Good Read: A Change of Climate by Hilary Mantel



THIS book is set in 1950's South Africa during the Apartheid era and 1970's Norfolk. It was written in 1994 and considered by the New York Times as "one of the notable books of the year". It has a wry, almost black comedic style, and rests on a pivotal moment in the main

characters' lives. The Eldreds, Ralph and Anna are sundered apart in a heart breaking way. It is a spare, beautiful novel particularly accomplished during the African period. I believe that no-one writes with the powerful economy that Hilary Mantel has mastered. The meticulous planning of the story, the numerous threads to follow, the irresistible flow of thought with an ending that hits like a physical blow to the chest. It is suspenseful, the plots are deep and the characterizations entwine. It is complex, with a dichotomy of perceptions. Ralph is engaged in philanthropic work. He has no obvious faith anymore. What he has and does is inherited. However it is a portrayal of faith. He and Anna undertake missionary work in the late 50's in a dangerous and crowded South African township then move to Bechuanaland. This followed expulsion for being too sympathetic to black causes. It is here that they suffer an unspeakable loss. There are themes of forgiveness, of a clash of ideas and brutality. We as readers are aware that they need to acknowledge that lives are broken before they can be mended. Overall it is a risk taking book about safety, about how having any sense of security is false.

The author tackles some punishing subjects whilst maintaining the tension of a first rate thriller. Repressed memories from twenty years ago resurface and the Eldreds' family life disintegrates in the course of one summer. It is concerned with broken trust, faith and betrayal, injustice and bereavement. It could be considered a 'family saga'. The Eldreds, in their children's eyes are coping daily with what they call "Sad Cases and Good Causes". They are doing 'good work' but are in constant conflict. It is written in an impactful /elegant manner with strong, commanding characters. The timeline shifts back and forth. Hilary Mantel commands a wide ranging story with apparent ease (in both setting and theme). However she states that it was the most difficult she had ever written, struggling with plot and structure. She introduces politically uncomfortable truths and explains that she has read Law Reports of the time of other similar cases. Still for me her building of suspense is powerful. It is a thought provoking enquiry into the nature of good and evil. As such it is an ongoing and ever topical theme. If you like complex thrillers woven through with tussles about faith and family relationships written by an author of diverse output, this is for you.

Carole Fornachon

Friends of School news

WE have had a busy couple of months since returning to school. We went straight into planning mode and in early October held a Jumble Trail around the village. The idea was to sell unwanted and preloved items on



driveways, in front gardens etc. We had over 30 stall holders and despite a brief rain shower, it raised £185 for FoS. Our recent Halloween party at the Village Hall on 30th October was a real success. Children were able to dip their hand into a huge tub of homemade slippery slime to find a prize, pin the mask on the skeleton and a ghost toss

game. Families were also encouraged to bring their carved pumpkins, some of which were amazing! Food, drink and sweet treats were available. Thank you to everyone who came to this and to all our helpers – we raised an incredible £425!

What's next? Well, at the time of writing we are getting ready for our stall at the Milborne Christmas Market on Saturday 4th December 4.00–6.00pm where we will have lots of small craft items and stocking fillers for children, as well as hot chocolate cones and the necessary reindeer food for your little ones on Christmas Eve. We're really looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit so please do come along and see what we've got.



Along with an army of willing volunteers, we are in the midst of planning our Friends of School Christmas Lunch. A lovely day where we bring the children, school staff, governors together and our families cook Christmas lunch for them. It really is a lovely day enjoyed by all, especially the school children. Santa himself may pop in to pay a visit . . .

We are now selling raffle tickets for the Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary raffle. FoS have supported this event for several years and in last year's draw, we had a top prize winner! Tickets are available from the school until Friday 10th December.

Merry Christmas and best wishes to you all.

Marie, Co-chair



Yoga in the Village Hall – New Year, new resolution?

Have you been meaning to take up a gentle exercise recently? Why not make the New Year your time to start? I teach Hatha yoga (working with the breath) on Thursday afternoons during term time in the village hall. My students regularly tell me "I feel so much better when I leave the class". You will be made welcome in a small, friendly drop-in class.

Angela Johnson. Tel. 839060

PS. Don't feel you have to wait until January . . . there are three classes in December!



Milborne's Jubilee Jamboree *For all of your Family*

Between the 2nd and 5th June 2022

Your village is pulling together and putting on lots of events for one and all to join in with, so please save the dates and keep an eye out in the coming months for more details

More Than A Movie Downton Abbey!

Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

Friday December 10th

Doors and bar open 7.00 for a 7.30pm start

WE are showing Downton Abbey! It is 1927 and the Crawleys and their intrepid staff are preparing for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the King and Queen of England will unleash scandal, romance and intrigue that will leave the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

The film received great reviews both from critics and 'ordinary' audiences. From two reviews:

'There is plenty of humour and high spirits in this story and the acting is excellent. The production values are first-rate' and 'it hits all the right notes. It's extravagant, rich and exactly what you'd expect on a trip to Downton Abbey'.

I have just seen a short trailer for the film, which was made in 2019, and I am very much looking forward to seeing the whole film . . . (and I wasn't someone who had to see every episode when it was on television). The next film in the series is due out next March, so come and catch up before then!

If you have never been to a film night in the village hall, do come. It's lovely to spend the evening with friends (even if you don't know them all!) and watch a film in a relaxed atmosphere.

Sarah Ryan

Why did the telephone get upset with his girlfriend?
He gave her a ring but she was already engaged.

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Ian's emotional odyssey to take his dad home



Start of the journey at Coldstream

But instead of completing the entirety of the long journey home to Lochaber in The Highlands by car, Ian decided to turn the last stage of the trip into a solo two-wheeled adventure – and raise over £2,800 for Alzheimer's Society in the process. Civil servant Ian, who works for the Ministry of Defence, was keen to support the UK's leading dementia charity after his dad, Ian Livingstone Senior, (better known as 'Old Livy') was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2010.

"Over the years, we witnessed how Alzheimer's Society supported many people living with dementia and their families, and I wanted to help them to make a small difference," said Ian.

It was in the latter stages of Ian's father's illness in 2016, that his family made the difficult decision that he should leave Scotland – where he had lived his entire life – and move to Milborne St. Andrew with his wife Margaret so that Ian and his family could assist with his care.



Bedding down for the night on Rannoch Moor

mountains and the glens rather than to drive," said Ian. "It also seemed right to try to find a way to help all the thousands of people out there with dementia."

Facing damaged wheels, extreme heat and torrential rain along the way, Ian's determination to honour his dad's memory remained undimmed throughout the trek. "Dad's courage when facing his illness inspired me to embrace the fear of failure, be courageous, to live and to embark on the journey," said Ian, who slept in a tent most nights along the way. "Dad loved his cycling so I made a spur of the moment decision to carry him home on a bike and show him some of the old country on the way.

"I decided to do it despite cycling very little myself this year and having various injuries. I also knew there would be thousands of midges, but while there were many reasons why it

WITH his late-father's ashes stowed safely in his saddle bag, one Milborne man has completed the most personal of expeditions to lay him to rest. After losing his father to dementia, Ian Livingstone knew his 79-year-old dad's wish had always been for his ashes to be returned more than 500 miles away to his Scottish homeland.

Knowing he was raising money to help others with dementia gave Ian added motivation as he embarked on the tough two-week cycle ride. "I'm sure dad would have laughed his head off if he had seen me on my journey, but it just seemed right to cycle through the

might not work, I decided to give it a go and enjoy it in dad's honour."

Starting in Coldstream in the Scottish Borders, Ian's near 600 mile trek, which included 32,000ft of ascent, took him from the south of Scotland to the north, and then east to west.

It included countless places his dad loved including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberfoyle, his dad's favourite chippy in Callander, the Cairngorms and Cape Wrath, before heading to Lochaber in the Scottish Highlands, the place his dad was so proud to call home.

"It turned out to be an unforgettable, fun and fantastic journey, and the old fella is home now where he belongs," added Ian. "There were many challenges, but it was also full of magical landscapes and amazing memories, both old and new. It's not lost on me that the journey was made in support of Alzheimer's, a condition that often strips you of your memories and creates anxiety, but for me it was the polar opposite. It really helped me to recall so many positive memories and chase away the anxiety I had been feeling.

"It may have been a journey about saying goodbye but it was also very much about being grateful for what we have and remembering to live."

Andy Kendall, Alzheimer's Society Community Fundraiser, said: "We were incredibly moved to hear about Ian's special journey, and so grateful that he decided to raise money for Alzheimer's Society along the way. "The last year has been tough for everyone, but for many of the 8,020 people living with dementia in Dorset, the impact of coronavirus has been catastrophic and every penny our fundraisers raise will make a huge difference by providing a lifeline for people affected by dementia.

"We are in awe of amazing supporters like Ian whose fundraising efforts help fund our services, including our Dementia Connect support line, which have been used over six million times since the first lockdown began in March 2020, showing that people need us now more than ever."

The *Reporter* is pleased to donate £100 to Alzheimer's Society in recognition of Ian's achievement and tribute to his dad for this most deserving cause. If you'd like to donate too, visit <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-livingston2>.

To read Ian's blog detailing his journey, visit <https://livyslifecycle.co.uk>



A well deserved fluid break



Ian near Fort William with Ben Nevis in background

WANTED



Look out for this man!

Coming to a house near you soon, but where is he now? Sitting in a porch in the village, but where? If you see him, please let the Reporter know. No prize, just a bit of fun.

FOUND



A sponsor for Lighting up Milborne St. Andrew this Christmas

A resident has volunteered to sponsor this year's "Light Up Milborne", the competition for the best Christmas decorations in the village, with a cash prize of £20.00. You'll need to have your decs up and lit by the time the judging takes place at 6.30pm on Saturday 11th December. Get twinkling!

Milborne St Andrew's Christmas Fair 2021 Saturday 4th December Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall From 4.00 to 6.00pm

Mulled wine with mince pies
Crafts Gifts Tombola
Cakes and produce Café
Children's activities

50p entry

Lucky entry ticket wins a prize
In aid of St. Andrew's Church



News from the Village Hall

WE have purchased two new picnic benches for the field and also a dog poo bag dispenser so there should be no reason for any dog mess. We will continue to monitor the situation.

As you may have seen we have been invaded by moles. Several have been caught but still the mounds appear! Please be aware that the ground can be very uneven where they make their runs; it is an issue that will need to be remedied once we know that the moles have gone.

By the time you read this the hall will be decked out for the festive season. The committee wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Linda Wright

Local small-ads

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

For Sale – 1970s era child's pushchair from Mothercare. Includes hood and leg cover. £5. Phone 01258 837329.

Anyone for Bridge?

The MSA Bridge Group restarted its activities after the long Covid shut down at the beginning of September, showing that life is returning to normal. We meet at The Royal Oak and will be continuing as before the pandemic with meetings being held on Wednesday evenings in weeks when the pub is staging a Pie Night or a Theme Night and on Thursday evenings when the pub has no events scheduled. Both will start at 7.00pm. The first meeting in December 2021 will be on Thursday 2nd and then Wednesday 8th.



The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity to learn and improve your playing skills in a social and 'blame free' environment. As the evenings draw in now is a good time for anyone with an interest in finding out about bridge to make a start by joining the group

where you will be made very welcome. For anyone who has never played before instruction will be provided along with a simple two-page 'crib' sheet. In fact, several of our 'regulars' had never played before joining the group but have enjoyed the way of learning and improving their game. There is no charge for joining or playing.

If you would like to try something new or to improve your playing skills by regular practice and would like more information please contact me, Laurie Benn, on 01258 837720 or by email at laurie@benn.me.uk. If you feel that evening meetings are not convenient, please get back to me and it may be possible to arrange other times.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie Benn

What did the fish say when it swam into a wall?
Dam!

Village Lunch AGM
The Royal Oak
Monday 10th January at 12.15pm
All welcome.

A night to remember

WELL, The Hitman Blues Band was a knockout! Our first indoor Blues gig for two years raised the roof of the Village Hall and raised £217 for our charity, Milton Abbas RDA group. This nine piece band of (mostly) New Yorkers gave us a night to remember



and, for the first time on their UK tour, they were called back to the stage for two encores. Massive thanks to all who supported the evening, particularly our amazing technician, Gren, who had a challenging stage plot to set up and our brilliant bar staff, Sandie and Amy. Praise was heaped on the reception we gave the band and the great atmosphere in our not so "little village hall" by our US visitors who are now off to Glasgow!

Barbara Rawlings



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What's on in Milborne

December

Wednesday 1st

Wednesday Club, Christmas Lunch, The Royal Oak 12 noon.

Thursday 2nd

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Friday 3rd

Charity Bingo in aid of Mosaic, The Royal Oak

Saturday 4th

Christmas Bazaar Dewlish Village Hall 2.30pm

Saturday 4th

Christmas Fair Village Hall 4.00pm.

Tuesday 7th

MSA Food and Wine Club Christmas Dinner – Hotel Du Vin, Poole

Wednesday 8th

History Group The Royal Oak 7.30pm.

Wednesday 8th

Deadline for copy for the *Reporter*.

Wednesday 8th

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Thursday 9th

WI Village Hall 7.30pm.

Friday 10th

Milborne Movies Village Hall 7.30pm.

Saturday 18th

Carol Service St. Andrew's Church 6.00pm.

Sunday 19th

Carol Service Dewlish church 3.00pm.

Friday 24th

Holly Communion St. Andrew's Church 10.00pm.

Friday 24th

Live music with Nina Garcia, The Royal Oak.

January

Wednesday 5th

Wednesday Club New Year's Party, Village Hall 2.00pm.

Thursday 6th

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Monday 10th

Village Lunch AGM The Royal Oak 12.15pm.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

Ladybirds Playgroup Monday–Friday 8.30am.

Players Monday 7.00pm weekly.

Line Dancing Tuesday 7.30pm weekly.

Wednesday Club 2.00pm 1st Wednesday monthly.

Yoga Thursday 3.30pm weekly.

Karate Thursday 5.10pm weekly.

Women's Institute 7.30pm 2nd Thursday monthly.

Gardening Club 7.30pm 3rd Thursday monthly.

Village Lunch 12.15–2.30pm last Saturday monthly.

Artsreach Events – look out for the posters.

Check the Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30–11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Claire Tudge on 07970 734162.

Yoga (Mellulah) Thursday (evening): Friday (mornings).

Beavers Friday 5.00–6.30pm.

Football Saturdays and Sunday.

Private parties, birthdays, wedding receptions check online calendar.

Check the Sports & Social online calendar on the village website for any other events you might be able to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

Pilates Monday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only).

Yoga Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm (term time only).

Badminton Wednesday 6.30–8.30pm (term time only).



West Gallery Carol Concert
An evening of joyous Dorset music
by the **Ridgeway Singers & Band**
led by **Phil Humphries & Tim Laycock**



Bridport - St Swithun's Church, Allington. Sun 19 Dec 7.00pm
Dorchester - Dorford Centre. Wed 22 Dec 7.00pm

Seasonal refreshments available

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• www.ridgewaysingersandband.org
• www.ticketsource.co.uk
• Bridport Tourist Info Centre

For concerts at Stalbridge on 11 December and Alderholt on 12 December, see www.artsreach.co.uk



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Ooh la la! At the Village Hall

ON Wednesday 10th November 41 members of MSA Food and Wine Club met up in the Village Hall for an evening of French food and wine tasting. It was a welcome return to one of our favourite venues after a long pause. The last F&W Club VH event was a Dorset evening on June 1st 2019.



Penny and Harry Pearce who had spent a number of years living in the Dordogne presented a fascinating and most entertaining event. En-route to Nouvelle Aquitaine we paused in the Loire for a welcome drink of Kir Royale made with Bouvet Ladubay Brut from Saumur before embarking on a virtual and atmospheric journey from Bordeaux to Bergerac, tasting

various wines from châteaux vineyards bordering the Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne, paired with palette cleansing nibbles and accompanied by some interesting, and some flippant, information from Penny.

Our sommeliers were kept busy pouring the wines and of course due to Covid precautions we were unable to use spittoons so we had to swallow. (They say every cloud has a

silver lining!).

The wine tasting was followed by the opportunity to buy wine at discounted prices to accompany either luscious Chicken Provençal steeped in herbs, garlic (of course), tomatoes, dates, olives and dry white wine, or vegetarian tart – layers of summer vegetables, fresh herbs and tangy goats' cheese filling a buttery crust in this Provençal-inspired tart which was served with a side salad. The perfect way to enjoy a culinary getaway to sunny, beautiful southern France, especially at this time of year. Dessert was a choice of the classic creamy crème brûlée or rich, indulgent mousse au chocolat, each with a taste of golden dessert wine. All cooked and served by members of our committee, dressed appropriately with a French theme.



Many thanks to the committee (and Kelly) for all your help, as usual a great team effort. Of course, very special thanks are due to Penny and Harry for the inspiration behind this and for all your hard work in preparing for and presenting the event. Well done to Penny for keeping going with your talk despite the distraction from one or two of our rather garrulous members. Penny intends to email her tasting notes to everyone so if you missed anything you can read it for yourself. I'm sure all those who attended really appreciated her efforts and will have many happy memories of a fabulous evening, even if there were one or two instances of gueule de bois the next morning!

The last event of 2021 will be our Annual Christmas Dinner in December.

Milborne St. Andrew Food and Wine Club events held in 2021

1. February 13th/14th (Saturday/Sunday) Flames and Feasts Valentine's Day Doorstep Delivery.
2. March 20th (Saturday) Thimble Inn Doorstep Delivery
3. April – Easter food photo competition
4. May 21st (Friday) Langham's Wine Estate Fizz Friday
5. July 10th (Saturday) Garden Party
6. August 21st (Saturday) Royal Oak buffet
7. August 30th (Monday) F&W stall at the Village Fete
8. September 15th (Wednesday) Langton Arms with Rawston Farm shop
9. September 24th (Friday) Macmillan Cancer Bring and Buy
10. October 17th (Sunday) Lunch Thimble Inn
11. November 10th (Wednesday) French wine tasting at the Village Hall
12. December 7th (Tuesday) Christmas Dinner – Hotel Du Vin, Poole

Rose Frost



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Milborne Ladybirds

We are recruiting – Deputy Leader/Leader

Liz Dyer is retiring at the end of the school year, after 20 years as Leader of Ladybirds preschool.

We are currently seeking a Deputy to work alongside Liz in her final year with the prospect of becoming **Leader in September 2022.**

The role requires a recognised qualification in Childcare - minimum Level 3 with at least 2 years' experience. An enhanced DBS check will be completed.

If you are interested please contact Liz Dyer: liz@milborneladybirds.com



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Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk:	
	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, footpaths and parking, 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

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

Scouts/Beavers	Sam Elliott	07873 762035
Busy Bees	Claire Tudge	07970 734162
Milborne Ladybirds	Liz Dyer	01258 839117

POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact	101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins 101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard 101

SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Staddon	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	Gren Davis	07876 793319
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

SPORT

Hardy Country Bowmen	Mike Healy	01300 342134
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
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)	Angela Johnson	01258 839060

VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chair:		
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

VENUE FOR HIRE

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NEVER let anyone into your property unless you know them.

To find an approved trades person or report an incident to Trading Standards, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0345 404 05 06** or visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

If you suspect a rogue trader or distraction burglar is at your door, call the police on **999**.





www.dorset.police.uk



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Boxing Day open for drinks only from Midday



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