



Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 14 Issue 11

December 2022

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

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Paper copy to any of the team.

Going Green at the Village Hall

THANKS to the infrastructure payment (£106) made by the developer of the new housing on Huntley Down to Dorset Council, the Village Hall is now able to move ahead with two major projects.

A 10.4kw array of solar panels will be attached to our south-facing roof and connected to a 9.4kwh storage battery, to provide green electricity for the hall. We expect to save several hundreds of pounds each year and reduce our carbon footprint by generating our own electrical power, and even have some to spare to sell back to the National Grid. These savings will be significant in keeping our costs down so that affordable rates can continue to be charged for the use of the hall. Installation is expected to be in the early spring next year.

And the extension to the car park will also go ahead. Parking problems at "big" events should be a thing of the past with 50% more parking spaces. Provision for future community-accessible electric vehicle charging will be built in, and our negotiations to be part of Dorset Council's Rural EV Infrastructure Strategy are progressing very well. Work on the car park extension is expected to start early next year.

These two projects complement other significant improvements that we have made at the hall over the last few months. The replacement of the windows and doors with energy-efficient units will be completed by Christmas, the new blinds and curtains in the main hall have transformed its appearance, the kitchen has been refurbished and even the gents' toilets have been upgraded!

We hope these improvements have helped and will help to make the Village Hall an attractive and affordable venue for all sorts of community activities – both formal and informal – over the coming years, and we are grateful for the continuing support of all the various and varied users of the hall.

Much more information about the Village Hall can be found on the village website at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/villagehall.

Ed Frost

Wednesday Social Club

WE met on 2nd November for our monthly meeting without the guiding light of our chairman, Jenny, who usually keeps us on the straight and narrow! We opened with an interim report on the club account, as the AGM is now being held in May. This allowed members to check on the finances after our switch from HSBC to Santander in July. The Treasurer then took names and money for our Christmas meal at The Royal Oak on Wednesday 7th December at 12.30pm for 1pm.

Finally we started on the planned activity of the afternoon, a beetle drive. After much discussion on whether the move after each game was clockwise or anticlockwise we began. It was a very noisy affair with shouts of delight when a six was scored and groans when it wasn't. We played seven games and the overall winner was Harry Thomas who then went on the win a raffle prize. Some folks get all the luck! An excellent afternoon was complete with the usual tea, coffee, biscuits, and a chat.

José Thomas

Birds of the Baltic: at the November WI

OUR speaker on 10th November was Margaret Wellspring, a keen birdwatcher and photographer. Travelling with a specialist company in Leeds, their party of ten travelled to Latvia and Lithuania to observe the Baltic's amazing variety of birds. Accompanied by guides, they travelled through many National



Parks as well as flood plains (inhabited by hundreds of cranes), and across to the Baltic Sea. In the process they spotted common sandpipers, black woodpeckers, white wagtails and many more colourful species including the very small pygmy owl – weighing only ounces and a tiny five inches tall. Margaret supplemented her fascinating talk with colourful pictures, as well as a soundtrack of bird song, culminating in a kaleidoscope of many of the birds she had seen during a memorable

visit. A visual treat for us all.

Chris Tucker reported back to us on the Dorset Federation's Annual meeting in Poole. She had particularly enjoyed the talk by Tish Collins about the work of the ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) which seeks to address the challenges and difficulties faced by many rural women.

The book club met to discuss 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' by Ernest Hemingway. A classic written in 1941 and set during the Spanish Civil War, it was not an easy read but worth the effort. We move on to 'The Husband's Secret' by Liane Moriarty. Some members will attend antiques expert, Paul Atterbury's talk and lunch at Athelhampton House on 15th November. We organised a wreath for Remembrance Day to be laid by Lin on our behalf.

Our meeting on Thursday, 8th December will be our Christmas party, 'bring and share' for the food as always. Donations will be made to a charity of our choice.

Pat Bull

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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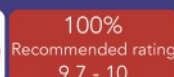


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Parish Council meeting update

THE Parish Council (PC) meeting is open for the public to attend, where there are opportunities to ask questions of the PC concerning agenda items as well as other items not on the agenda. If there is something that you would like to raise and discuss then please come along.

Clerk Lewin congratulated the village hall, on behalf of the PC, for the two awards of S106 funding from Huntley Down development. The funding is for two projects: solar panels and battery, and extension to the car park. Other village hall news; the Dorset Electric Vehicle Infrastructure initiative will be paying for the installation of an electric vehicle charging point.

Details of planning applications can be found at <https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/> – search by application number or address. Two planning applications were discussed.

P/HOU/2022/06425 – 22 Bladen View, Milborne St. Andrew. Application is to extend and modify existing property. Cllr Macnair was “twitchy” in relation to the scale of the development of the building, and that it was not in keeping with the area. On this basis it was agreed to object to this application.

P/VOC/2022/06349 – Huntley Down, Milborne St. Andrew. Application to amend approved plans for three plots. There was discussion about how Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Ltd have not stuck to the plan that was approved, and that they have developed to their original plan, which was not approved. Some felt that the developer has not been honest, and that they should not be allowed to get away with not delivering what was approved. The PC agreed to object to this application.

During the discussion about the Huntley Down planning application, it was pointed out that a wall has been built between social housing and private housing at Huntley Down. There is also a wall, that goes across a footpath – so to walk through you have to get off the pavement onto the road to walk around the wall. The member of public raising this was advised to write to the PC asking for their support in progressing this concern.

Mr Lock referred to the village risk assessment that is on the PC website, which is dated July 2016. It states that in reference to the sports club the risk “Management of the Club folds. Responsibility reverts to the Parish Council” the risk level is medium, and this should be changed to high. This should be considered when agreeing precept as the PC will need to plan how to fund the sports club. Mr Lock also pointed out that most of the policies on the website are dated 2016. Cllr Macnair assured Mr Lock that they had been updated, and tasked Clerk Lewin to review the documents and update the PC website.

There was much discussion around the security of the sports

club, and whether or not it is joint responsibility between the landlord (PC) and the trustees of the sports club. It was agreed that the constant arguing between PC and sports club is not very constructive and rather than send emails it would be more helpful for all involved to meet and “talk about it like adults”. Clerk Lewin will arrange a meeting for the PC, trustees of the sports club and the chair of the Allotments Association to discuss.

The PC agreed to support the application for S106 funding from Allotments Association.

Cllr Macleod gave a summary of the plan for community consultation for the spending of S106 funds. She suggested that individuals from the community should form a group. This group would be facilitated by Cllrs Macleod and Batchelor. The group would meet regularly, and though they would not make decisions they would come up with ideas for discussion. Cllr Macleod proposed the first meeting to be in March 2023, which gives her time to publicise the need for volunteers to join the group.

On the A354 there are vehicle activated signs (VAS) on Dorchester Hill and Blandford Hill, as you enter the village in each direction. VAS flash 30 when the vehicle is doing more than 30mph. Dorset Council recently put down speed wires to test whether they are effective, and the results showed that with VAS in place there is no speeding issue in either direction. The VAS are past their expected lifespan, and PC are exploring whether to replace these with speed indicating devices (SID), like the one that is on Milton Road. SIDs have been proved to be more effective than VAS to reduce vehicle speed issues, but you are unable to have both a SID and a VAS in the same place. Cllr Lewin proposed to spend £425 for wires to be placed down in both of the VAS locations and the VAS to be switched off to test that there is a speeding issue. It was agreed that this item be moved to the next meeting and that more information should be sought – the expected lifespan of the VAS, and how long the results from the speed wire tests would be valid for.

In order to foster better working relationships it had been suggested that the location of future PC meetings could rotate around the locations in the village to include the church, pub, sports club, and village hall. It was agreed to keep the meetings at the village hall as this is the centre of the village and people will know where the meeting is.

The PC website contains meeting agendas and minutes, who’s who, and other things relevant to the parish. Take a look at <http://www.milbornestandrew-pc.org.uk/>.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Jo Whitfield



Huntley Down – wall between private and social housing

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ANASTASIA – A short story

Mikhail turned over underneath the warm quilt and wrapped his arm around Katya.

Other than the baby monitor's small dot of light, the room was dark.

In the adjacent small room Anastasia lay sleeping peacefully in her cot, she now slept through the night without a bottle.

The cruise missile that had evaded air defence systems was now flying at a 45 degree trajectory, heading towards the apartment block. The missile pierced the middle of the building travelling down through the central stairway. The blast punched its way out of the building, taking anything and everything in its path to escape.

Outside the darkness was lifting and dust was falling, a cacophony of shouts, screams, sirens, rumbling and cracking concrete. Mikhail and Katya crawled out of debris, wiping their faces, they appeared as if they had been immersed in a sack of cement.

In shock and confusion Mikhail and Katya became aware that they had been blasted outside of their building.

They began to scan their surroundings not knowing how or what had happened, gas explosion or missile?

Katya cried out "Moy molysh, moy molysh". She was becoming frantic as Mikhail took her in his arms, she fought to escape his hold on her, "Moy molysh, moy molysh".

The dust was now falling like sleet upon the chaos, the noise ever more deafening, sirens wailing, shouting, screaming, ambulances arriving in haste, fire engines hurtling towards the scene. Lorries were arriving loaded up with steel ladders, scaffolding poles and collars. Volunteers hurriedly unloading them anxious to start a rescue. More volunteers were assembling like ants in all directions, some equipped with hi vis vests and hard hats, others with nothing but simple tools and a willingness to help in any way they could.

Katya was acting crazily, frantically, desperately trying to escape her husband's hold on her and run into the building and rescue her Moy molysh.

"Moy molysh, moy molysh," she screamed.

A large, tall, powerfully built guy was approaching them, carrying a hard hat and wearing a hi-vis jacket. He was dressed in military fatigues with a wide tan coloured belt around his waist, this belt held an assortment of tools. This giant of a man shouted instructions to a nearby medical team upon which a young lady acknowledged his demand and came running over with her medic's bag.

The giant introduced himself to Mikhail and Katya, "My name is Yuri and this lady," putting a restraining hand on Katya's shoulder, "needs a sedative." The young medic proceeded to administer the dose.

"Now sir," Yuri said turning his attention to Mikhail, "Your names please."

"Mikhail and my wife Katya and our little daughter Anastasia, we cannot see her, help us find her please," Mikhail begged him.

"Ok Mikhail, where in the building did you live and where was your daughter's room?"

Mikhail pointed at the right hand side of the building "On the first floor."

Yuri turned around and stepped over rubble and picked up a ladder and asked Mikhail to follow him. Mikhail left Katya in the care of the young medic and rushed to catch up with

Yuri. At the foot of the building Yuri took from his belt what looked like a pen,

"This is a laser pen, I want you to point this at the position of the building where your little molysh may be." Yuri showed him how to operate the pen and instructed Mikhail firmly, "Do not enter the building, it's not safe and could collapse further."

Mikhail shone the red beam onto the concrete face that he calculated Anastasia's room would be. Yuri donned his hard hat and leant the steel ladder as safely as he could up against the building. Once he had climbed high enough he took from his belt a spray can and marked on the concrete a yellow cross over the laser red dot.

Yuri and Mikhail returned to the assembled crowd and taking a volunteer by the shoulder Yuri gave his instructions, "Melnik, I want total silence. Instruct all teams to stop and remain silent, absolute silence. Melnik, do this now." Melnik rushed away pointing and shouting out Yuri's orders and commands. All engines and compressors were extinguished, sirens silenced, and voices hushed and then became silent. All volunteers stood silently to attention. Yuri meanwhile had approached an ambulance and helped himself to a stethoscope that he wrapped around his neck, he looked like a giant battlefield medic. Yuri returned to the steel ladder leant up against the building and climbed up to the top rung, he turned to face the assembled crowd below and raised an index finger against his lips. Edging slowly off the ladder to position himself onto a concrete ledge, he lowered his bulky body down till he was laying flat.

Yuri inserted the ear pieces into his big flat ears and took the end of the stethoscope and planted the diaphragm onto the centre of the yellow cross and then remained still.

After a short while he moved the position of the diaphragm but within the marked cross, again he remained still, then after some time he repeated the exercise.

Below Katya was frantic, silently praying "please God let Yuri hear moy molysh."

Yuri had exhausted this position, he was shifting his body and stretched his arm to place the diaphragm into a narrow fissure and waited. He lay prone in this position for some time and then eventually withdrew his arm, took out the ear pieces and wrapped the stethoscope back around his neck. Yuri was manoeuvring his body slowly back onto the ladder ready to descend. At this sight Katya began to despair, she felt her gut fold and broke the silence with her sobbing. She could look no more, Katya put her hand to her mouth and buried her face in Mikhail's chest. Her husband held her tightly feeling every deep sob reverberate in his body.

Yuri reached the bottom of the ladder and turned to face the crowd, "Look Katya, look."

Mikhail said excitedly. Katya lifted her face from his chest and looked back at Yuri standing at the foot of their building. Yuri had folded his large powerful arms around each other and with a big grin started to sway his arms from side to side. He was rocking an imaginary baby and announced, "We now rescue little molysh."

The crowd silence now finished with spontaneous applause and cheering.

"Katya," Mikhail exclaimed, "We were right in naming her Anastasia."

Charles McHugh



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Tango Calor visit MSA Village Hall – 14th October

COURTESY of Artsreach, who are dedicated to bringing all sorts of live performances to Dorset which include drama, live music, children's shows and workshops, the Village Hall was privileged to host Tango Calor on Friday 14th October.

Being one of the finest exponents of traditional and contemporary South American tango music, Tango Calor didn't disappoint.

The vocals of Indira Roman are sensual and hot. Honestly, I don't think I've heard anything like it before. And although the song lyrics are not in English, so expressive is her voice, her artistry, there is no doubt what they're about. The whole performance is captivating, moving. Music, pure and simple, is the language.

The musicians, Mirek Salmon playing keyboards and Bandoneon (an Argentinian concertina, like a concertina on steroids), and Daryl Kellie playing guitar, were simply outstanding. Some of the finest musicians you're ever likely to meet.



The band were also extremely personable. Mirek had a great line in little stories about the instruments they played, the history of Tango, their tours and all sorts of things.

It was one of those nights when you settle down not quite sure of what to expect and then an hour later after what seemed like 10 minutes they're finishing their first set. The second half sped along too.

It was a fabulous night out and our thanks go to Linsey O'Neill and Angela Johnson for organising it. To Sandie Sach and Amy Stevens for running the bar. To Ian Karley for providing lights and sound. To Sarah Ryan for organising flyer drops and her team of droppers for delivering them.

Of course our thanks go to Artsreach for bringing Tango Calor to us and helping us to raise much needed funds for the Village Hall. But most of all our thanks go to Tango Calor for such a great night out.

Two or three times a year we bring you something from Artsreach that we think you, our community, will enjoy. They are invariably fantastic and they are a pretty cheap night out too. Especially if you consider you could turn your heating off for an evening. It would be great to see more of you at these events.

Keep a look out for the next one and make an effort to get along and support it. You won't be disappointed. *Steve O'Neill*

Dreaming of a white Christmas

MANY thanks to Dick and Rosie Spencer for their help in making their alpacas our Christmas cover stars. Scaramouche, Galileo and Figaro – yes, the Spencers are Queen fans! – have lived in the paddock near their owners' home at The Rings for the last five years after they took them on from a herd near Shaftesbury. Having secured use of the paddock when



moving to The Rings, Dick and Rosie wondered what to put in it other than the chickens that were a definite on their list. But hearing that alpacas are formidable guards, they decided to take the plunge and protect their hens from marauding foxes with the three animals. The Spencers hope to use the fleeces to make yarn too – after shearing season next year they hope to have the minimum quantity of eight fleeces for processing at a mill in Wimborne. Rosie also has a wheel and has taken a spinning course. In the meantime, Figaro, Galileo and Scaramouche are quite happy to take on a cold winter with their warm coats; Dick says that even on the coldest days they prefer a snowy field to a warm stable.

Photos by Dick Spencer; text, cover montage: Ed Richards

Poem for Remembrance Day

"The inquisitive mind of a child"

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today,
The poppies, child, are flowers of love,
For the men that marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful Rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields the poppies grow.

But why are poppies so red mummy?
Why are poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child,
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, mummy,
Why does it have to be black?
Black my child, is a symbol of grief,
For the men who never came back.

But why mummy, are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain,
My tears are my fears for you my child,
For the world is forgetting again.

Author Unknown

Perfect Pairings with Poetry

December – Homemade Christmas Mince pies with Smoking Bishop

Homemade mincemeat

This recipe is very easy to make and jars of homemade mincemeat make excellent Christmas presents. They also sell like hot cakes at Christmas Fairs and school fundraisers. Mincemeat will keep in the cupboard for a couple of years and more, so make plenty and use it all year round. As well as being used for traditional mince pies, it is especially good as a filling for baked apples and also as a spicy addition to apple pie.

A variation on the usual mince pies is to fill the uncooked mince pie pastry cases with a layer of marzipan, top with a little mincemeat then add a few cranberries before covering with a pastry lid.



Ingredients

- 175 grams raisins
- 110 grams dried currants
- 110 grams candied mixed peel, finely chopped
- 175 grams suet, shredded (beef or vegetarian)
- 225 grams dark brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice
- 1 lemon, grated zest and juice
- 1 orange, grated zest and juice
- 1 apple (Bramley or cooking apple), cored and finely chopped
- 4 tablespoons brandy or rum.

You can substitute any dried fruit e.g. glacé cherries, apricots, cranberries

Method

Combine all the ingredients except the brandy in a large heat proof bowl. Cover with a sheet of foil and cook gently in a very low oven for three hours, stirring every hour. Allow to cool, stirring occasionally then when completely cold mix in the brandy and put in sterilised jars.

Smoking Bishop

Smoking bishop was the drink that the reformed Scrooge shared with Bob Cratchit at the end of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol".

Bishop was a slang word for port. Smoking Archbishop is made with claret, smoking Beadle with ginger wine and raisins, smoking Cardinal with champagne or Rhine wine and smoking Pope made with burgundy.

Ingredients

- 3 oranges
- 100g Demerara sugar
- 1 bottle red wine
- 1 bottle Ruby port
- 5 cloves
- 1 Cinnamon stick
- Orange peel for garnish.

Method

Peel the oranges, (I use a potato peeler) squeeze out the juice.

Warm the sugar, wine, port and orange peel and juice and spices but don't let it boil.

Strain through a fine sieve and serve.

Just before Christmas many years ago I was given a handsome copper punch bowl as a birthday gift and couldn't wait to use it for a Christmas party. I bought a couple of bottles of port and the same of red wine and made some smoking bishop for a drinks party to welcome some neighbours in our block of flats. They were a boozy lot and before too long every drop of the bishop had disappeared.

I looked on our wine rack for something else to offer our guests and by some miracle, at the very bottom, I found two more bottles of port which looked to have been there ages and were very dusty. So I mixed up the next batch of bishop and the party proceeded without a hitch. The next morning, when my husband took out all the empty bottles for recycling, he discovered the truth. Those old dusty bottles I'd used were very rare, very expensive vintage port which he had been saving for a special occasion!



The only poem I could think of connected with "Bishop" was the famous one by Elizabeth Bishop "One Art" but thinking about death and loss especially at this time of year is not conducive to feeling cheerful and full of Christmas spirit so instead I've chosen one to make you smile.

This poem reminds me of my early days teaching Infants, over 50 years ago now . . . and also when my small son was in his first school nativity play. Yes, he was one of Herod's guards. Perhaps a harbinger of his future career in the Royal Marines?

Just Doing My Job – Claire Bevan



I'm one of Herod's Henchmen.
We don't have much to say,
We just charge through the audience
In a Henchman sort of way.

We all wear woolly helmets
To hide our hair and ears,
And Wellingtons sprayed silver
To match our tinfoil spears.

Our swords are made of cardboard
So blood will not be spilled
If we trip and stab a parent
When the hall's completely filled.

We don't look very scary,
We're mostly small and shy,
And some of us wear glasses,
But we give the thing a try.

We whisper Henchman noises
While Herod hunts for strangers,
And then we all charge out again
Like nervous Power Rangers.

Yet when the play is over
And Miss is out of breath
We'll charge like Henchmen through the hall
And scare our mums to death

Merry Christmas!

Rose Frost

**Deadline for the next issue
8th December**



Milborne St. Andrew

Village Website

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

(search for Milborne St. Andrew)

Information about our village + quick links to:










Village Community

The Reporter (in colour)

Village Hall

Parish Council

Sports Club

First School

Royal Oak

Ladybirds Playgroup

And more . . .

Want to ring the bells for Christmas?



We need new ringers to continue our
500 year old tradition

OPEN DAY

Join us on Sunday 11th December, 2pm-3pm
@ St Andrew's church, Milborne
Come along and see what it is all about
Learn to ring the bells

We ring for services, weddings & special occasions

- Good exercise for body & brain
- Ages 12 & above - training provided
- You don't need to be super strong
- You don't need to be a regular church-goer
- A good sense of humour helps!

Contact:

Robin - 07506 737141
Emma - 07779 055190



Milton Abbas Surgery

A big thank you

WE would like to say a massive thank you to all of our lovely volunteer Health Champions who gave up their time to help with car parking and looked after the team with hot drinks during our recent flu and Covid clinics. We would also like to make a special mention of Nigel Hodder, Andrew Cheeseman and David Norman who also helped with car parking. You were all invaluable! Finally we would like to say a thank you to all the staff who gave up their weekends and days off to help run the clinics.

Flu Vaccinations

If you are eligible for a flu vaccination and have not yet had one, it's not too late – please call the surgery on 01258 880210 to book in for one.

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

Friday 23rd December – Open as usual

Saturday 24th December – Open as usual

Monday 26th December – CLOSED

Tuesday 27th December – CLOSED

Wednesday 28th December – Open as usual

Thursday 29th December – Open as usual

Friday 30th December – Open as usual

Saturday 31st December – Open as usual

Monday 2nd January – CLOSED

Tuesday 3rd January – Open as usual

Christmas Survival 2022

Christmas is an exciting time for many but there may be some of us who are struggling with financial concerns or loneliness.

Please don't skip meals to pay bills. Families or individuals can be referred to local food banks (Blandford or Dorchester) by Kelly, our Social Prescriber. Please call the surgery or send an email to miltonabbassurgery@nhs.net for her attention, and she will help in any way she can. There are also community fridges in Blandford and Dorchester, and you can just pop along to those.

Anyone who is going to be on their own on Christmas Day and looking for something fun to do is invited to join a quiet but jolly get together at the Parish Centre in Blandford between 11.00am and 2.00pm. All the food and drink has been kindly donated by the community. For further information please contact Justine on 07494 141752.

If you need support over the Christmas or New Year Holidays, there are people ready and waiting to take your call:

Samaritans 116 123 or text 'SHOUT' to 85258 (24/7)

Connection 0800 652 0190 (24/7 Helpline)

Childline 0800 1111

Cruse Bereavement 0808 808 1677

The Silver Line 0800 470 80 90 (for anyone aged 55 years or over)

Around the World Challenge Update

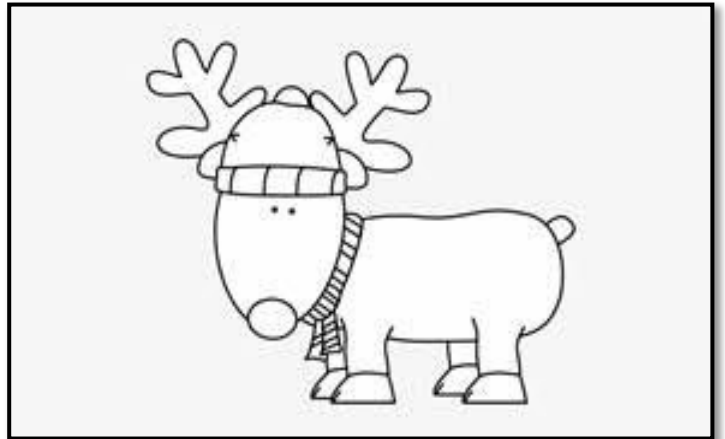
Back in October, Milton Abbas Surgery took part in a challenge of epic proportions! To encourage staff to be more active, the Mid Dorset Primary Care Network challenged all nine practices to an Around the World event – each practice was to see how far around the world they could travel by walking, running, or cycling. If you haven't already seen the update on our surgery page, we would like to tell you that we came . . . first with a distance of

3,403.9km!! Poundbury Surgery came a close second with 3,396.7km.

As a whole Practice Care Network we travelled a massive distance of 14,023.20km around the world (35% of the way) taking us to Bogia in Papua New Guinea, or Croker Island off the coast of Australia, or Antarctica – depending on whether you fancy it hot or cold! Well done to all who took part!

If you are inspired to get more active or try a new challenge, why not pick up a copy of our Milton Abbas Surgery Wellbeing Team Bulletin in our surgery waiting room to see highlights of groups and activities happening in your area.

A Christmas Card to our Patients



May this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note, and make way for a fresh and bright new year.

Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas!

From all of us at Milton Abbas Surgery

Village History Group

IN November the meeting was held in the Village Hall so that it was accessible for a wheelchair user. Brian Bates gave a very interesting talk titled 'An imaginary walk through 17th century Dorchester'. It was interesting to hear about the rich and poor, of fires, droughts, floods and famous people from the 1600s. Using a map of that period he 'walked' the audience through streets, pointing out where famous people lived and what is known about them.

He does all his research before he does a presentation or writes books, some of which were available on the night.

There will not be any meetings in December or January but will start again in February 2023.

The Milborne St. Andrew Village History book 2 is available in the Post Office or contact me on 01258 837203 or by email pamshults@btinternet.com

Pam Shults

Dorset Chamber Choir Christmas Concert

at Merley House, Merley House Lane, Wimborne BH21 3AA on Monday, 19th December 7.00pm. Celebrating 10 years since formation of the choir with Christmas Cantata: Geoffrey Bush and carols for choir and audience. Tickets on the door or from choir members £12, £5 students/children. Free parking.



***Enjoy an ICE CREAM or a DRINK and the MOVIE for an all-in ticket price of just £6.00**
Cash / Card accepted

The Village Hall - Milborne St Andrew - DT11 0JX

MORE* THAN A MOVIE PRESENTS



TOM CRUISE
TOP GUN MAVERICK

Friday 16th December at 7.30pm
Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

Chilling tales of the Death's Head Hawk-Moth and other tales

IT screams like a mouse and can fly up to 30mph . . . a harbinger of doom. Many superstitions are based around this distinctive moth. Considered to be a portent of death or grave misfortune. This fear is reflected in its scientific name, *Acherontia Atropos*. In Greek Mythology Acheron was known as the river of pain or sorrows and Atropos was the eldest of three fates who cut the thread of life.

Recently a seven year old boy in Lancashire found a terrifying "Silence of the Lambs" African Death Moth in his garden. The name is inspired by the eerie skull-shaped markings on its back. It was the size of a Bat! In the well known thriller Buffalo Bill it places a pupae in his victims' throats. It can hover like a hummingbird and attacks the hives of honey bees with its stout strong tongue. The shrill noise it makes is thought to subdue the worker bees of the nest it is robbing.

Kirk from Lancashire on holiday in Turkey has a phobia of moths. When they started flocking around him he lost his footing and fell 45 feet from a balcony suffering a skull fracture and massive brain haemorrhage. He spent 24 hours on life support and four days in a medically induced coma.

Sara had what she called an "irrational" fear of all creatures moth-like. In her nightmares, a mutated, enormous moth corners her in an alleyway and eats her, or his smaller counterpart nests and reproduces in her ear canal. Whilst helping to make pancakes at a friend's house she opened an 'old' canister of cinnamon shaking it into the batter. Appearing stuck she banged the sides and bottom. Approximately 25 moths "squeezed their nasty, furry bodies" out of the holes. She screamed her best "slasher-film" scream as the container flew from her hand. On another memorable occasion in July a Miller Moth entered her bedroom. Seeing the "meatiness" of its body and the shining of its eyes and knowing that if she didn't eliminate it he would invite four hundred of his friends to join him she sprayed room freshener on him until he was drowned. The next day his insect friends came to wreak revenge. A spider jumped onto her hand, a wasp flew straight into her face as ants climbed her legs.

To return to the Death's Head Hawk Moth. It has long inspired fear and for centuries has been considered a bad omen. It features in Bram Stoker's "Dracula". Thomas Hardy wrote about them in "Return of the Native" and John Keats mentioned them in his poem "Ode to Melancholy". Even its caterpillars are frightening. They have tail horns and bite attackers with their mandibles, feeding on deadly nightshade plants. Specimens of the Death's Head Hawk Moth were found in the bedchamber of George III. Dr Robert Willis who attended the monarch during his second bout of "madness" in 1801 collected the specimens and triggered a debate about their possible cause of his erratic behaviour (see picture and label).



An entomologist, Moses Harris wrote in 1840: "It is regarded not as the device of evil spirits-spirits enemies to man-conceived and fabricated in the dark, and the very fiery element whence it is supposed to have proceeded. Flying into their apartments in the evening at times it extinguishes the light; foretelling war, pestilence, hunger, death to man and beast." *Carole Fornachon*

Buying a new TV for Christmas?



Don't know what to do with the old one?



??

At the Village Hall we want to improve our facilities for meetings by providing SMART, WiFi connectable displays in the Main Hall and Committee Room.

If your old TV is a 55" or bigger and in good working order and you want to pass it on to a good home then let us know. We really would be grateful.

Please contact: Ed Frost (treasurer)
treasurer.msavh@gmail.com

07766 254881

The Village Hall

MILBORNE ST ANDREW DT11 0JX

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/villagehall

Surprises Galore up at the Sports Pavilion

LIFE can be full of surprises even at the age of 89 as Malcolm our intrepid groundsman found out.

Saturday 29th October was Malcolm's birthday and by all accounts it was not a good day and by 4.30pm on Sunday 30th that day was not looking any better but by 7.00pm everything changed.

Bournemouth were home to Spurs on his birthday and they eventually lost 3-2. He had to watch the match alone because for some reason his friend and Club Vice President Ray was unable to make it to the game. At half time an announcement came over the stadium tannoy that a certain Malcolm Aplin, a former half time groundsman, and legend of the Dorset FA was 79!

Wrong, and to his surprise his son Gary had knocked 10 years off his life at a stroke, something he leaned over and put right to the BBC reporters who were sat close by doing the match commentary for Match of the Day.

So instead of being wined and dined in the Vitality hospitality suite Malcom ended up having fish and chips alone in his car after the match and then popped in to his son Gary on his way home. Not the birthday treat he would have liked but then it wasn't his 90th!

Sunday morning he was up bright and early preparing the pitch for the afternoon game and completely unaware of what was being planned by Hayley, Philip and Richard.

By halftime he was clearly feeling a bit down because there was no hint from any of us that anything was afoot. If he had gone into changing room four he would have seen Hayley, Philip and the team frantically preparing refreshments for the secret birthday party later that evening.

We could bear his glum face no longer so we arranged for Gary to text him to say that he would be popping in to see him. Malcolm stayed until the end of the match, secured the nets and flags and then left us to clean up the changing rooms and the kitchen and lock up. As soon as he left, we burst into action.

Tables and chairs were arranged, the food brought out, the TV put on with the 2009 BBC South 'Unsung Sports Hero' recording playing, large pink age 8 and 9 balloons set up the right way round and then we waited for the guests to arrive.

By 7.00pm most of the invited guests were there so another text message to Gary and he and his family drove Malcolm to the



Pavilion. When he entered the gates the element of surprise was lost but it was not until he entered the main room, the lights went up that he could fully take in just who exactly was singing "Happy Birthday".

Malcolm was clearly taken aback particularly when he looked around the room and saw that his friend Ray had come all the way from Hengistbury Head to be there. John Kane, one of the founders of the Sports Club, Jenny Balcon, David Payne, Christine and Mike Surtees, Kelvin the manager of the Milborne team and others were there too. When Jeanette, the Dorset FA Fixtures co-ordinator arrived later Malcolm was really surprised and taken aback, even quite emotional . . . say no more – nudge nudge. Some couldn't make it because of other commitments or Covid and Saira of Yoga left him a birthday present in the form of a Bournemouth AFC mug. That disappeared before anyone else could take ownership of it!

The whole evening was just a general get-together but things got really interesting when his friend Steve Small from the Bankes Charity did a "Michael Parkinson" on Malcolm. With some very humorous grilling some very interesting "surprises" were teased out into the open much to the delight of all concerned but not for publication here.

Now for the biggest surprise of modern times and in the annals of Milborne history. Most of the food had been masterminded and prepared by "Post Office Philip" and wow what a spread. Philip the vol au vent king surpassed himself and was aided and abetted by Ernst Wagner with a centrepiece apple cake with homemade apricot jam and cream filling made earlier in the day. The birthday cake duly arrived resplendent with a token number





of candles as the full-monty of 89 constituted a fire risk and we actually wanted Malcolm to be able to blow them all out!!!

Much to the surprise of Mike who tried to “splash the cash” for some drinks, everything was provided free of charge and everyone agreed that it had been a great idea to celebrate Malcolm’s achievements and to let him know that we cared and appreciated what he has done and still does to make the Sports Club facilities a credit to the local community and the pitches in particular, the best grassroots pitches in Dorset.

The next morning when I was clearing up Malcolm appeared and during the conversation that followed he said that he couldn’t get to sleep last night and that he had to take some sleeping tablets. I took that as a “thank you” meaning that he had enjoyed the surprise that had been laid on for him.

At the time of writing, I can also reveal that there is one more BIG surprise up our sleeve.

Hayley has managed to obtain a Bournemouth AFC shirt signed by the manager and all the current players, complete with a certificate of authenticity. By the time the *December Reporter* is delivered it will be a surprise no more.

Finally, well done Malcolm, you are a legend in your own goalmouth, so much so we have decided to name the main pitch after you. When a match is booked to be played on the Malcolm Aplin pitch the teams will know that they are on the best pitch in the Dorset FA.

The Team

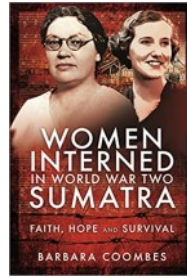
Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club



IN November we had our last meeting of the year which included the AGM, refreshments and a royal and plant themed quiz. The club does not meet in December, so our 2023 programme starts on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with a talk being given by an expert from The Gardens Group on: ‘Companion Planting’. So if you would like to know which plants make happy bed fellows together (literally!) please come and join us.

Mark Johnson

Women Interned in World War Two Sumatra – Faith, Hope and Survival by Barbara Coombes



I HAVE picked a series of books about Far East Prisoners of War lately. There are a few coming through the system, and it’s close to my heart since my friend died.

This is the latest, an excellent tome by Barbara Coombes, who started the research for it as part of her studies for an MA in Modern British Women’s History. I am so glad she chose to continue with the work, as it opened my eyes to the lives of two excellent ladies, and told the story of how they and many others, existed during 1941–45.

The book concentrates on two ladies, Margaret Dryburgh, a middle-aged missionary and teacher, and Shelagh Brown, a young secretary at the Singapore Naval Base, who had been raised as the child of a British expat in that country.

The first two sections concentrate on the family history, background and upbringing of these two ladies. The third on their lives after the fall of Singapore, sinking of escape ships, floating for days, landing on Sumatra, capture, internment, and aftermath. The stories are indeed harrowing, and I wept twice. Miss Dryburgh wrote a serialised story ‘Alice in Internment Land’ to entertain other internees. I could not read this aloud, it is so sad. And Miss Lea, who tried so hard to get the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to preserve the graves at Muntok and the other camps where so many died. This had me weeping in frustration – this poor lady died in 2005, yet others continued, including Australians, Kiwis and UK based children of those who were lost and the Netherlands War Graves Foundation. There is now a memorial, listing as many names as could be found, but the poor dead lie where they washed up from sea or were buried by their companions in internment.

The stories tell how the ladies organised themselves, entertained themselves, cared for their children, started again when moved to new camps, buried their dead, cared for their sick, dealt with cruelty, starvation, disease and disappointment, and longed for home, ‘Just Getting On With It’.

As with all Pen & Sword books the photographs arranged in clumps to save cost, but the narrative of the book is so compelling that this didn’t detract from the story of these brave ladies and how they kept up hope despite no communication with the outside world.

One observation on a slightly negative note – there is a lot of repetition of background information. We only need to be told once that communication was difficult between UK families and their overseas offshoots in the 1920s and 1930s, for example. This was mentioned several times, as was the difficulty for colonial children being sent to boarding school in England from a young age. This should not spoil what is an excellent book.

I think this volume would make a good addition to GCSE reading lists, covering as it does the transition from pre-war expat society and what happened in the countries after the war, Chinese politics (Miss Dryburgh was a missionary in Swatow before difficulties there caused her to transfer to Singapore), the good done by missionaries and others, post war effects on those interned and those who imprisoned them, the cruelty man can commit to man and what constitutes Justice for those crimes.

Susan Wilson



MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

SCHOOL NEWS



Upon arrival in the classroom this morning we discovered a sticky, gooey mess! Someone had raided our honey store. The children thought it could be one of two characters . . . Tom Bear or Bumblebear so we decided to investigate. We thought about what we could do and thought that going on a bear hunt would be best. So we shared the story to look and listen for clues as to where we could go. We went through long wavy grass, over the pond via the bridge instead of the river, through the thick oozy mud in our outdoor area, wooded area of trees like the forest, a blanket tunnel as the snowstorm and through the willow cave. Along our journey we discovered clues to different ingredients and as we tiptoed up to the wildlife area to venture into the 'cave' we found Tom Bear sat with a recipe . . . so of course we decided that we needed to follow his recipe and headed back to the classroom to do just that followed by a delicious banana crunch for snack.



The children of Milborne St. Andrew First School created poppies out of clay as a symbol of remembrance. Each beautiful poppy is unique and together they look magical!



Continued 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

Acting Head of School: Michelle Cheeseman

School Receptionist/Admin Assistant

Mrs Holly Latham-Winning

Chair of Governors: David French

FOS Chairman: Marie Chappell

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362

Fax: (01258) 837170

Sarum Lights: Heaven and Earth at Salisbury Cathedral

LAST year November 2021 saw the opening of Sarum Lights: Heaven and Earth at Salisbury Cathedral, a sound and light show depicting the beauty and wonder of planet earth and the universe.

Created by artist Peter Walker and composer David Harper of Luxmuralis, visitors were invited to make their way around an astonishing series of abstract displays that transported them from sunrise to sunset, earth to space, ocean to land and beyond.

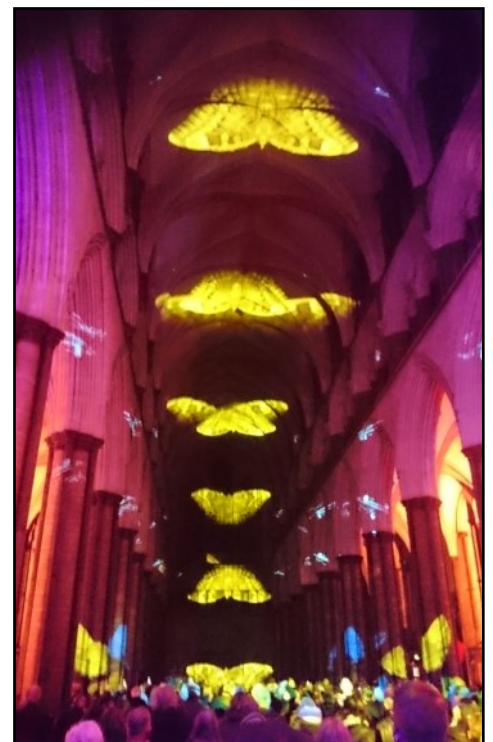
Inspired by a passage from Genesis, the 40-minute display took as its starting point the moment when God invites Abraham to look up at the stars and reflect on his legacy. You were then transported through the journey of life, from the big bang to the foundations of DNA and the first heartbeat.

As you stepped inside the Cathedral you were transported into the wondrous world of wildlife, nature and the living planet.

Using sound and music to express the awe that Abraham must have felt looking up into the night sky, the Luxmuralis team captured the viewer's imagination using different light and music spaces created on the West Front, in the Cloisters and in the Cathedral itself to remind us what an amazing world we live in.

This year Salisbury Cathedral was again adorned with the greatest paintings and artworks of the Renaissance period as the immersive light show returned with a new theme premiering installations that took visitors on a "spellbinding" journey into the world of the great Italian masters.

Carole Fornachon



People attending the Remembrance stone on Remembrance Sunday

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



It's Christmas-time

Part of TV ritual at this time of year is the Christmas ads that large supermarkets and other stores create to entertain us and persuade us all that we need to spend our money with them as we prepare for the festive season.

Aware that money is tight for many this year, John Lewis has taken a decision to approach things differently for 2022. Its ad features a middle-aged man desperately trying to teach himself to skateboard. He watches videos on-line to try to learn techniques, goes to the skate park in the dark to practise and gets laughed at by others. He ends up with bumps and bruises, a bandaged wrist and falls off loads, but he keeps on persevering. Eventually he manages to master how to pick up the board without bending down and rejoices in his achievement.

Towards the end of the 90-second film we learn why it was so important for him to learn to skateboard. A foster child, Ellie, turns up on his doorstep with her social worker. In Ellie's hand is a skateboard.

As part of his welcome to Ellie and wanting to help her feel at home, the man has taken up a sport he knows is important to her. In spite of the knocks and bruises he has undergone as a result, he doesn't give up trying to enter Ellie's world in order to connect with her.

This is exactly what God does at Christmas-time. He takes on a human life in order to make connections with us, so that we feel at home in God's home. He enters our bruised, broken and battered world and brings love into it. He shows through the example of Jesus how care for the outcast and the forgotten works. God doesn't take the form of a rich, powerful and wealthy person, but chooses a humble life with an ordinary village girl as mother, a carpenter as father and a lowly cattle dwelling for his maternity ward with a manger for a bed.

In his early life Jesus and his parents become refugees in Egypt to escape Herod's violence and death threats. Most of his childhood and adult life is spent in an occupied nation.

Echoes of the life that many people in 2022 find themselves in across our world. God didn't leave us to navigate our broken world by ourselves but came to dwell with us right in the heart of the joy and pain of human life. God shared our world so that we might find a place in God's home and feel at ease and connected there.

That is the heart of the Christmas message. It is a message for all, however broken and battered we are by the things life throws at us. Christmas reminds us that we are never alone

A peaceful Advent and a Happy Christmas to you all

Sarah

St. Andrew's church updates

AT the end of September, we had a lovely Harvest Festival Communion Service which was well attended. Lots of produce were brought into church. Many people took most of the 'perishables' (mostly fruit and vegetables) and gave a donation to be sent to WaterAid. The packeted and dry goods were donated to a couple of local people in need and the rest went to a local Foodbank.

John led the Worship in Stillness service; his theme was 'Friendship and Neighbours'. It was very interesting with

Continued on page 21

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

Tony Fox 01258 837651

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

or by telephone on 01305 849039

Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne with Dewlish

December 2022

4th December – Advent 2

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

11th December – Advent 3

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

WEDNESDAY 14th December

2.00pm	Milborne First School Christmas Service	Milborne
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THURSDAY 15th December

9.30am	St. Mary's CE Middle School Christmas Service	Puddletown
11.00	St. Mary's CE Middle School Christmas Service	Puddletown
2.00pm	Puddletown CE First School Carol Service	Puddletown

SATURDAY 17th December

6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Milborne
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18th December – Advent 4

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

SATURDAY 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

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

SUNDAY 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

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

DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.30am; Saturday 9.00am

On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman
sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

Deadline for the next issue 8th December

Witches and Fireworks at Ladybirds



made magic spells using the outside area to mix potions. With wands made of sticks, feathers and ribbons the children made us invisible or turned us into frogs. They joined in jumping like frogs – lots of brilliant exercise. We had a cauldron hanging from a tripod next to a blackboard listing gruesome ingredients to make potions. Outside play included dinosaurs which led to great imaginative play. Thank you to villagers who provided a cauldron and pieces of decking.

Fireworks night followed and although it was wet several children went trick or treating dressed up as pumpkins, cats and superheroes. They talked about it being dark and it being a bit scary. It's ok to be scared

THIS month there have been many things to spark the imagination of our Ladybirds. Starting with Halloween. We enjoyed one of our favourite books Room on the Broom and

sometimes but we do need to keep safe so a bit of learning on how to call the fire brigade and keep away from fire. Then if something really bad happens like our costume caught fire we

learnt how to stop, drop and roll. This action was demonstrated many times by our energetic children. Our book of the week, Whatever Next! We made rockets and pretended to go to the



moon for a picnic. From other books we read about other planets and made a display of our galaxy with lots of glitter stars.

Unfortunately, our new Deputy has left to concentrate on teaching, so we are again a 'man' down. Are there any lovely person out there with at least a Level 3 in childcare or teacher status that is available to join us, even just a couple of mornings would relieve the pressure on us. If so please contact Liz on 07771 512427. Liz Dyer



Milborne Ladybirds

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Leader- liz@milborneladybirds.com 07771512427

Committee - secretary@milborneladybirds.com

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Continued from page 19

readings from the bible as well as from poems and general literature works. The hymns were relevant to the theme as well.

On All Saints Sunday, several of the St. Andrew's congregation joined the others from the all the benefice churches in All Saints Church, Dewlish. After the service there was an opportunity to join in a 'bring and share' lunch in the village hall.

On the first Sunday in November, we had a larger than normal congregation for our Celebrate service which explored our 'relationship with God'. In the afternoon, the church was nearly filled with people who came to reflect on friends and family who have died. Everyone lit a candle in remembrance. Sarah delivered a lovely meaningful service with hymns, poems, readings and prayers. People stayed after the service to enjoy cake, coffee or tea. It was heartening to see so many respectful people of all ages.

We are now looking forward to the Christmas services, including the Candle Lit Carol Service on Saturday 17th December at 6.00pm Other services will be shown on each church's notice boards, so keep looking to join in the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a New Year.

Pam and Tony, Churchwardens

Dewlish Church Notes

IT WAS lovely to see so many people at our Benefice Service to celebrate All Saints' Day, and held in Dewlish. The church was decorated by Sue, Wendy and Marg with beautiful white flowers. Thank you! The service, led by Sarah and Maggie, was followed by a bring-and-share lunch – delicious as usual – and this also provided a perfect opportunity to talk with our friends from other parishes.

On Saturday 3rd December we are holding our **Christmas Bazaar** in the Village Hall, starting at 2.30pm. We do hope to see you all. The usual stalls will be there: cakes and produce, new items, Christmas goods, toys, raffles and teas. We shall be very pleased to receive any donations.

Our **Carol Service** is on Sunday 18th December at 3.00pm in the church. Jim hopes that the children will play their part in presenting the Nativity story and Bible readings. Afterwards, we are having teas and refreshments in the Village Hall. Please do come and join us!

The **Christmas Day Service** is at 9.30am. **PLEASE NOTE** the change of time from our usual pattern of services.

Finally, I would like to extend our good wishes for all the readers to have a very happy Christmas and a joyful and peaceful New Year!

Daphne Burg

St. Andrew's Events Committee

THANKS to those who came to our Quiz night on the 15th October, we all had a good time. Jenny, the quiz master and Rose her assistant, did a wonderful job of challenging the contestants' knowledge of a range of subjects. Much laughter was heard as were groans, when the answers were revealed. The Royal Oak were wonderful hosts and provided most of our group with the usual high standard of food during the break. Raffle prizes were appreciated as was the prize for the team who had the highest scores. The event raised £98 for the church.

The committee are now in the process of planning the Christmas Market, which we hope will be successful. Find out how it all went in the January issue of the *Reporter*.

Wishing all our supporters and the rest of Milborne St. Andrew's residents a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Pam Shults Chair of the Events Committee

Continued from page 16

Robins class had a visit to Pizza Express in Dorchester, where they looked at and tried various toppings including red onion, mushrooms, olives, mozzarella cheese and three different coloured tomatoes! The children then made margarita pizzas to eat back at school. A very yummy day.



**Deadline for the next issue
8th December**



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LETTERS to the Reporter

Dear Editor

Like many, I always enjoy Rose Frost's contributions to the Reporter. I particularly loved her October article, telling us about the Perfect Pairing of Dorset Apple Cake with Mulled Cider, and ending with Thomas Hardy's poem. I was so pleased to read that (out loud to myself, as she stipulated) and enjoy it, as I always feel a bit bad about NOT enjoying Hardy usually. I was put off him decades ago, studying *The Mayor of Casterbridge* for 'O' Levels.

Thank you for the magazine and its really good writing.

Sarah Ryan

Dear Sir,

It was with some interest that I saw the colourful advertisements in the Reporter and around the village for THE VILLAGE QUIZ on the 22nd October. Additionally, encouraged by some of my fellow badminton players we decided to go along. In previous years it has been a good village occasion and particularly an opportunity for newer people to the village to see a single event without the commitment to a club or regular event. Questions, usually set by a previous year's winners have always been wonderfully varied and the result of some effort on those responsible for setting them. I am well aware of this as I was actively involved in it when the school were the organisers of it in years past.

We arrived at the hall to be confronted by a notice to say the event had been 'postponed'. What a shame. However, 'postponed', means to be scheduled at some future date. I have therefore been watching the notice on the village hall board to see when the event is to be rescheduled, or for a new date to be published in the Reporter. Unfortunately, there has been nothing, and the information has trickled down to me that, 'scheduled' means, 'cancelled'.

What a shame. I do understand that this has always been an event when it is not known until the very night how many teams will be present, but it would be nice to try again for the sake of the question setters and those who would still like to come. After all, if Mastermind, University Challenge and Only Connect have such a strong following surely Milborne St. Andrew can show our ability too.

Philip (Pip) Bowell

Having heard conflicting reasons why the quiz was postponed, the editor asked the chair of the Village Hall if they would like to put the record straight, here is their reply.

I am so very sorry that your team turned up and were disappointed. Yes, we did decide to postpone, regretfully and after quite a lot of discussion, because, in spite of our enquiries, no-one had let us know that they were coming, and so we thought it would be better to wait 'til the New Year. We advertised our decision as much as we could. Unfortunately, we do need to know beforehand nowadays – we still haven't got back to any kind of normal since Covid, with the result that attendance at events seems utterly unpredictable. We are definitely going to set another date for it and very much hope to see you there!

Very best wishes

Sarah Ryan, Chair of the Village Hall Committee

Where to get trusted advice on consumer problems?

WITH budgets stretched we want to make sure we are buying wisely and know what to do to get our money back, or problems sorted, if a purchase goes wrong. This is especially true as we approach Christmas, a time when we all probably spend a bit more.

If you've read our trading standards' editorials before, then you'll know that we often mention the Citizens Advice consumer service, their website and helpline. They are the one stop shop for independent and trusted consumer advice, assistance and to report something to Trading Standards.

Topics covered include energy, holidays, buying or repairing a car, scams, insurance, water, phone internet and TV, home improvements, issues with your post as well as when something goes wrong with a purchase, or if you change your mind.

Many people access this trusted advice through the consumer section of the Citizens Advice website at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> There you'll find pre-shopping advice and what to do when things go wrong, including template letters to help you to sort out simple consumer problems for yourself.

When you need more tailored advice, usually because you have a more complex problem and the general guidance on the website is not specific enough, then you can chat with a web advisor using the Citizens Advice online web chat facility.

When you haven't access to the internet, or if you would just prefer to speak with an advisor, then you can call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. This is also the number to use to report something to trading standards.

If you would just prefer to speak with someone in person, then this is supported though the network of local Citizens Advice offices found in Dorset's larger towns.

As you can see there are many ways to receive independent and trusted consumer advice from Citizens Advice. Hopefully nothing will go wrong with your purchases this Christmas, but if it does then Citizens Advice is here to help.



**Deadline for the next issue
8th December**

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Milborne Sports First about to record a win 4-1 against Portland United Youth Panthers Reserves at Lane End at the end of October.

Village Hall News

WELL the weather might be miserable but it's all bright at the village hall. Thanks to an application for the money allocated to the village from the new development, we have been successful in securing funds for solar panels and an extension to the car park. Huge thanks to our treasurer Ed Frost for negotiating all the paper work.

The community café, on the second Saturday of the month, is going well with a good number of volunteers offering to help and/or make cakes. If you would like to volunteer then just let the "team" know, you won't be expected to help every month.

Apologies for having to cancel the village quiz due to lack of support. We will try again next year when perhaps you are feeling brainier!

Thanks to Rich Hawker the zip wire area has been cleared of weeds.

We are considering, whether during the winter, we could show the film on an afternoon as well or instead of an evening. We are aware that some people don't like coming out at night when it is dark.

How do people feel about eating your fish and chips in the hall with others? The idea has been put on Facebook so we will see what the reaction is.

We are planning a New Year's Eve party in the hall; say goodbye to 2022 and hello 2023 with friends and family! Look out for posters and Facebook for more info.

Linda Wright

More than a movie

TOP GUN: MAVERICK

Friday 16th December 2022 at 7.30pm

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Tickets cost £6.00, which includes a drink or an ice-cream

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A great action packed film that should be seen on a big screen!

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Donated to the parish church of Milborne St Andrew by John Gould Esq 1712

IN THE year 1712, Queen Anne was the queen of the Great Britain. She was the younger daughter of James the second and younger sister of Mary, who jointly ruled with her husband William the third of Orange following 'The Glorious Revolution' of 1688. The year 1712 was the last year when 'the royal touch' was used to cure scrofula, a form of tuberculosis. It was believed if the affected swellings of the body were touched by royalty, the disease would be cured.

In the same year Milborne St. Andrew church was given the brass candelabra that hangs in the north aisle of the church. It is of a model similar to those in other churches and particularly, a larger one in Southwark Cathedral. It is recorded in the British History Online 1970 as follows:



Candelabrum: In N. aisle, of brass, with large lower ball, four, originally six, scrolled radial sconce brackets, two small upper balls with radial scrolls, and dove finial at top; lower ball inscribed

'Given to the parish church of Milborne St. Andrews by John Gould Esqr. anno dom. 1712', with arms of 'Gould impaling Jewe'; fitting hangs from roof on twisted iron rods hooked and linked together.

The coat of arms of the Gould family, in layman's language, consists of a lion standing on its back legs with two diagonal lines crossed through it. The name Jewe or in some cases spelled 'lue' was that of his wife's family from Hazelbury Bryan around 1316, but disappeared as the name was combined with the name of Bryan so is no longer found in active heraldry. It is interesting to see that part of her property in Hazelbury was maintained by a fee of one red rose each year. Her family coat of arms were of three curly haired men facing left with a

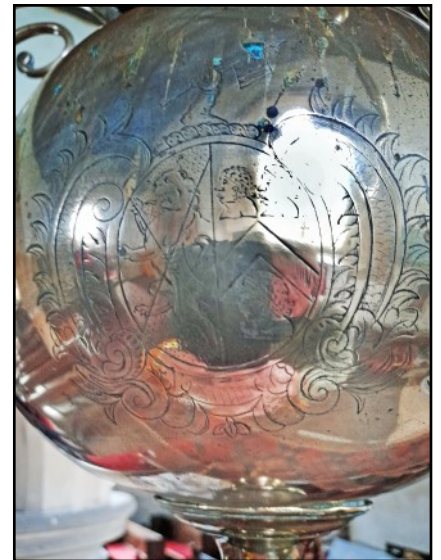
chevron dividing the centre although when she married her own surname had become Cole. The word impaling means 'halved by' as a sign of marriage. John Gould was from Upwey and married Judith Cole on 13th March 1683. She had land in Milborne St. Andrew where they lived and is assumed they named their house Goulds Farm. Unfortunately, she died on February the 9th in 1684, when John assumed the property and subsequently donated the candelabra to the church. This was originally made to illuminate the West Gallery, where the village choir and band performed for church services in a wooden gallery in the now empty open tower first floor. It was hung from an upper beam in the middle of the roof. It was moved to its present position as part of the massive rebuilding and restoration by G E Street in 1876 when most of the church's wall were rebuilt.

On closer examination it can be seen that the sconces are of a slightly different design, with some having a bolt to hold the candleholder and some where the candleholder screws directly into the base. All of the sconces show signs of slight damage. Have they been dropped sometime in the past?

It now has all six sconces, although there were only four when a previous history of the church was written by Rev Peter and Biddy Matthews in the 1970s, and five until 1988 when a new replacement was made to commemorate the christening of Jonathan Peter Lane. It is inscribed on the upper surface of the sconce:-

Jonathan Peter Lane Christened 2nd October 1988

Jonathan and his parents lived in Bladen View, then moved to Poxwell.



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Sports Club News Flash

WE are pleased to announce that Darren Pye and Philip Smith have joined the team making things happen up at the community sports and recreation ground. We still need more to join in the fun particularly someone willing and able to assist Malcolm with the management of the pitches.



Just a reminder that we are here to help you keep some sense of normality in these difficult times. So, if you are looking for a venue to hold your family party or whatever, we are offering "Arthur Daley" type discount deals to members of our community.



Give us a call, let's make it happen, inside or out. Quidditch disc golf and indoor games and a pool table being the latest additions to our repertoire. The smart TV, the sound system and the kitchen are all thrown in at no extra cost. *Richard Lock*



Poppies at the Memorial Stone

What's on in Milborne/Dewlish

DECEMBER

Thursday 1st

Friday 2nd

Saturday 3rd

Wednesday 7th

Thursday 8th

Thursday 8th

Thursday 8th

Saturday 10th

Sunday 11th

Thursday 15th

Friday 16th

Saturday 17th

Sunday 18th

Thursday 22nd

Saturday 24th

Sunday 25th

Thursday 29th

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Christmas Market Milborne First School 3.00pm – see page 24.

Christmas Bazaar Dewlish Village Hall, 2.30pm.

Wednesday Club Christmas lunch The Royal Oak 12.30 for 1.00pm.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

WI Christmas party

Mid-day deadline for copy for the *Reporter* msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team.

Community Café Village Hall 10.00am to 12.00 midday.

Open day for new bell ringers St. Andrew's Church 2.00pm – see page 11.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Milborne movie *Top Gun: Maverick* Village Hall 7.30pm.

Candle lit Carol Service St. Andrew's Church 6.00pm.

Carol Service Dewlish Church 3.00pm.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion St. Andrew's Church 10.00pm.

Christmas Celebration St. Andrew's Church 10.00am.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

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.

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 5.30–6.30pm.

Football Saturdays and Sundays.

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 6.30–7.30pm (term time only).



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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: Amanda Crocker	
	dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
	Chair: Chris Uden	07973 167117
Parish Council	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
Milborne St. Andrew	milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
	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, Cubs and 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		
Acting Head of School	Michelle Cheeseman	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	David French	
Friends of School co-Chair:	Marie Chappell	

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	Steve O'Neill	07490 691121
MSA Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
MSA Gardening Club	Mark Johnson	01258 839060
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793319
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 – Milborne Sports	Kelvin Dormer-Woolley	07544 725855
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		
Chairman:	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230
Booking Secretary:	Alison Riddle	01258 837148

HEALTH

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Friday 16th

Carvery from 6.00pm

Tuesday 20th

Christmas Carols 6.00pm

Christmas Day

open for drinks midday–2.00pm



Dorchester Hill, Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset DT11 0JG
Visit www.theroyaloakmilborne.co.uk
or for enquiries email hello@theroyaloakmilborne.co.uk

TO BOOK CALL
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