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Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 15 Issue 4

April 2023

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Milborne St. Andrew





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Copy for the next issue MUST be received by mid-day 14th April

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.

Milborne Village Quiz

ON Saturday 4th March The Milborne Village Quiz took place at the Village Hall.

It was a really fun-filled night. As I surveyed the hall it was very gratifying to recognise that pretty much everyone attending was from the village. I think there were only three or four faces I didn't know.



The hall was packed to the gunwales. As was the car park. None of us is getting any younger and it seems quite a few of our villagers aren't as sprightly as they once were either, preferring to drive to the hall rather than walk through the cold and dark.

There was a terrific buzz in the hall as everyone settled down with drinks and snacks and lively chat. In fact it was more a cacophony over which the poor question master, Steve O'Neill, had to bellow to get their attention. Once achieved the evening transitioned into a cadence of hush followed by a crescendo of noise as everyone settled on an answer – or gave up. Whereupon the QM bellowed again. An amplifier and microphone might be a good idea next time.

Linsey O'Neill had created a wonderful set of questions ranging from popular culture to chocolate to geography. Not to mention some fiendish Dingbats! There was the usual hint of controversy over a few disagreements – it was a hard fought battle, every point counted!



The quiz was ultimately won by team Ace High-Low Takes who consisted of Helen and Giles Pugh and Mike and Chris Surtees. Their team name will be engraved on the Village Quiz shield. Twice! They also won in 2019 but something impeded

getting the engraving done. Can't think what.

The help from the Village Hall committee was outstanding, as usual, so nobody was left doing too much. The bar team kept up admirably with the flow of drinks.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with such a great warm and friendly vibe. I'm not sure how much was raised for the Village Hall but I think it was fairly substantial.

A huge thank you must go to Linsey O'Neill who clearly put a great deal of thought and effort into the question rounds, created the posters and publicity for the event, organised the hall and chairs and even delivered some of the fliers.

When's the rematch?

Steve O'Neill

The Village Hall

MILBORNE ST ANDREW DT11 0JX

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/villagehall

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Notice of Meeting

Trustees of the Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall will hold the Annual General Meeting for the Charity on 26th April 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Present the Annual Report for 2022 to the Village
2. Discuss plans for the Hall for 2023 and beyond
3. Appoint Trustees

The meeting is intended to provide villagers with an opportunity to influence how the Hall is being managed and the plans for its future as an asset for the local community.

Nominations for new Trustees should be sent before April 24th to Sarah Ryan – 01258 839230 or, preferably, by email to chair.msavh@gmail.com

All Welcome

Sarah Ryan

Community Café date changed

OUR next Community Café should fall on 8th April 2023, however that is Easter weekend and whilst it would be lovely to celebrate with you we fear we may upset the Easter Bunny by stealing his / her thunder!

So we are going to hop forward a week and hold it on Saturday 15th April instead, but do not worry, if you didn't get to celebrate Easter yourself, then come and join us as the theme will continue and we will have an Easter Café for you all to enjoy.

Advanced Warning that there will be NO CAFÉ in May.

The gardening club have their Annual Plant Sale traditionally on 2nd Saturday of May, they sell plants and cakes, but you will not get your bacon butties and space to lounge around and chitter chatter.

Please support them and buy all your bits to fill those gaps in your garden whilst we have a little break and prepare to be back in June.

Thank you for all of your support. *The Community Café Team*

?? April Fools Day Quiz ??

At The Royal Oak, Milborne St Andrew
6.30pm for 7.00pm start. £5.00 for a team of 4

There will be a raffle

Order food on arrival between 6.30–6.50pm
– this will be served at 8.00pm

No need to book, just turn up on the night

If you have any questions please contact
Jenny on 01258 837121

Cover picture was taken by Manda Hunt, on her morning dog walk in The Grove on a very misty morning.



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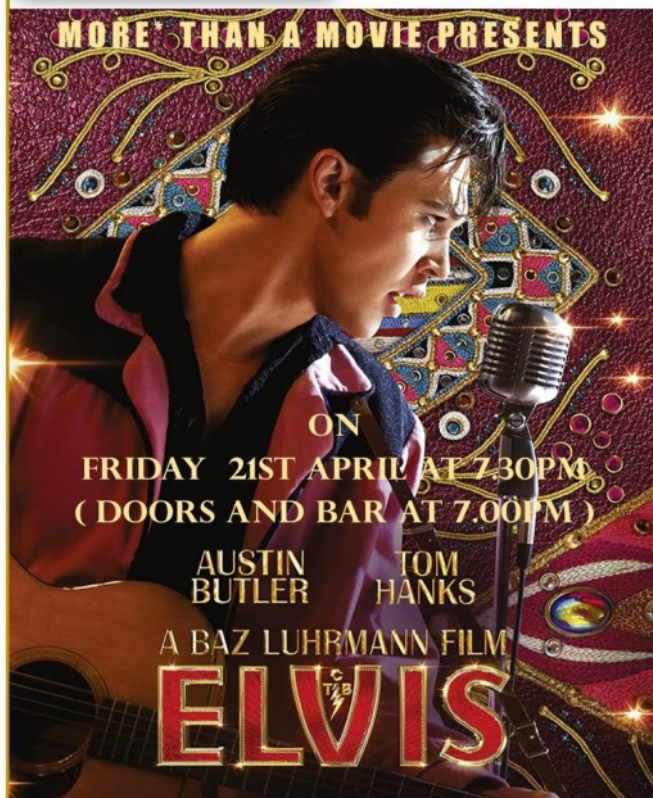
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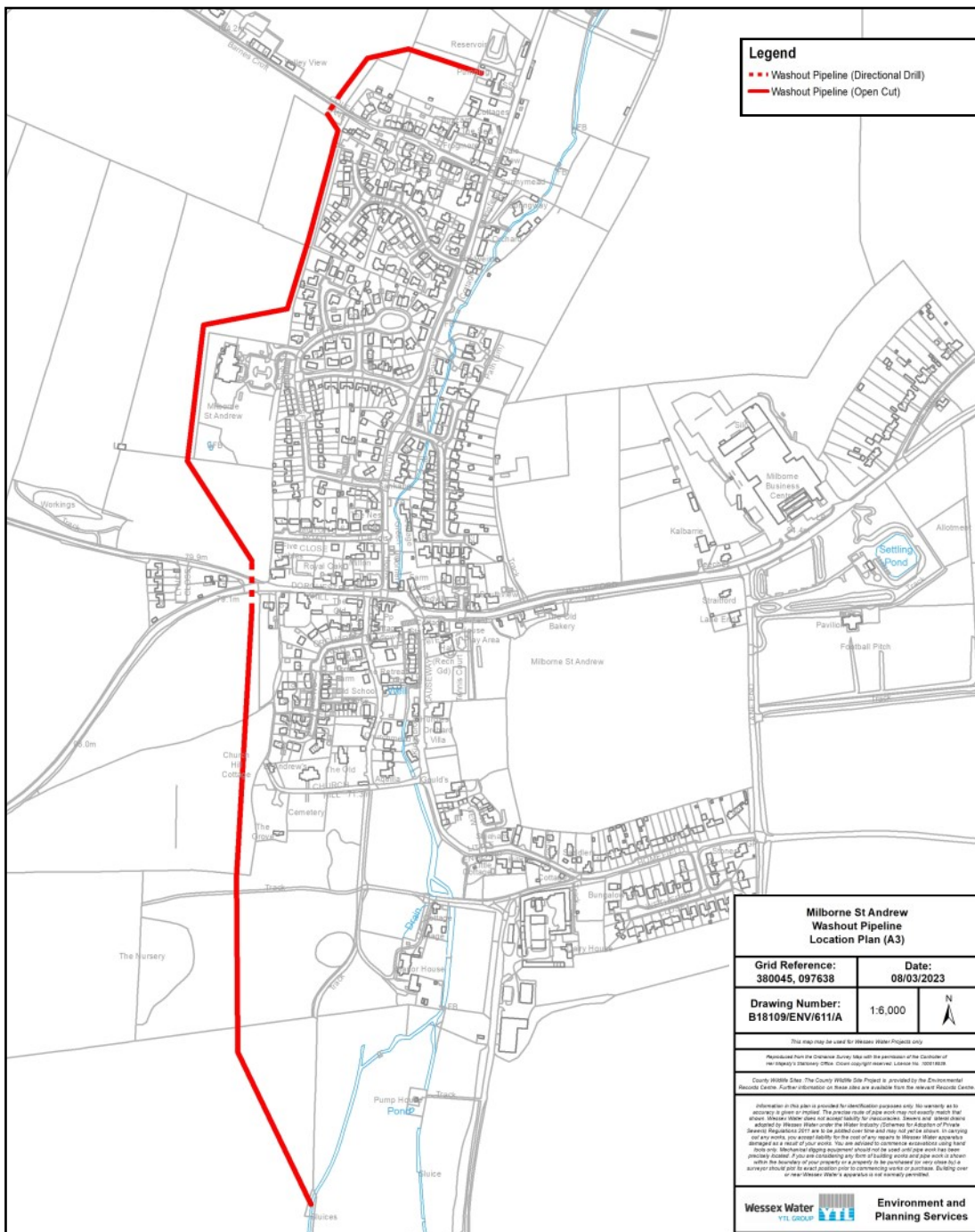
A £1 million project to improve water quality and reduce the potential for flooding in Milborne St. Andrew got under way in early March.

The four-month Wessex Water scheme will see a new washout pipeline installed within private fields to the north and west of the village to ensure the quality and reliability of the water supply is retained all year round.

The work is part of ongoing plans to upgrade the water treatment centre at Milton Road and follows initial investigations work which took place in the village last year.

However, the washout system used to flush the boreholes from which water is extracted is ageing and will be replaced by the new pipeline, which Wessex Water has rerouted from an original route which used to cause extensive disruption in the village.

Project manager Kirstie Hearn said: “During the early design stages, it became clear that the existing washout facility at Milborne St. Andrew was not fit for purpose and that when it was



used it could cause local flooding.

“The original route for the washout main was along roads through the village but not only would it have needed disruptive road closures and diversions, but existing utilities and very high ground water levels made it very difficult.

“The new route is predominantly across private fields and removes the need for any road closures. The two short sections under the road will be installed using directional drilling and, where there are short sections of hedgerow removal, these will be replanted once the pipeline is complete.”

“We should be able to limit disruption locally as a result. We’ll be working hard to keep noise to a minimum and water supplies will be unaffected.”

The project is expected to be completed by July.

Proposed upgrades to the water treatment centre itself, including further improvements to the treatment of drinking water before it reaches customers' taps, remain at the design stage and will be brought forward at a later date.

Drawing showing the pipeline route

Perfect Pairings with Poetry –April

Madeira cake with Madeira wine

April 23rd is celebrated as the feast of St. George, the patron saint of England and also Shakespeare's birthday, so this month I am highlighting a typically traditional English cake. Perhaps, like our perceived national character, this cake is understated and not showy but is adaptable and has stood the test of time. Madeira cake was named after the Madeira wine which was served with it in the mid 1800's. Madeira cake is made with more flour than a Victoria sponge cake and therefore has a denser texture, so holds its shape when carved and iced, making it ideal for wedding cakes.



Madeira cake recipe

Ingredients

175g softened butter
175g caster sugar
225g self-raising flour
50g ground almonds
3 large eggs
finely grated rind of 1 lemon

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees C. Grease an 18cm deep round cake tin (or a 2lb loaf tin) and line base with baking parchment.

Put butter, sugar, flour, ground almonds, eggs and grated lemon into a large bowl. Beat for one minute to mix thoroughly. Turn into prepared tin and level the surface.

Bake in pre-heated oven for 60 minutes.

Leave in tin for 10 minutes to cool before turning out onto a wire rack.

Variations

As well as orange peel or lime you can make this into seed cake with the addition of caraway seeds. Seed cake was my father's

favourite cake but it is rarely seen nowadays.

Talking of seed cake, I love this extract from when David Copperfield had just become engaged to be married to Dora.

Miss Lavinia and Miss Clarissa partook, in their way, of my joy. It was the pleasantest tea-table in the world. Miss Clarissa presided. I cut and handed the sweet seed-cake – the little sisters had a bird-like fondness for picking up seeds and pecking at sugar; Miss Lavinia looked on with benignant patronage, as if our happy love were all her work; and we were perfectly contented with ourselves and one another.

Charles Dickens – David Copperfield 1849

(Incidentally this book also contains one of the best descriptions of drunkenness and its resultant hangover I have ever come across – in Chapter 24.)



Madeira wine originated from the Portuguese islands of the same name, which lie off the coast of Africa. As Portuguese winemakers discovered fortification as a safeguard against spoilage, so, too, did 17th-century winemakers in Madeira. However, the tropical climate of the islands, as well as the intense heat in the hold of a ship, led to a fortuitous

discovery. Heating the wine made for a distinct flavour many drinkers, including those in pre-revolutionary America, seemed to prefer. In fact, customers began asking for wine labelled “vinho da roda”, which means, “made the round trip”.

Since it wasn't exactly cost-effective to send bottles of wine on a trans-Atlantic trip just to boost their flavour profiles, winemakers in Madeira began storing the wine to actively harness heat. Madeira would be stored in rooms called *estufas*, where direct sunlight would hit the bottles. Today, many winemakers use technology to hasten the “*estufagem*” process, but some traditional winemakers still rely on the heat of the sun.

As Madeira Wine is fortified with brandy, as is sherry and port, it often has between 18–20% ABV making it one of the highest in alcohol. Some other types of fortified wine include Moscatel de Setúbal from Portugal, Marsala from Sicily and one of my favourites, Commandaria from Cyprus which has a long history going back over 3000 years.

In this day and age perhaps there should be a warning given to readers about the following cautionary tale? It's well worth searching for this on YouTube.



Have some Madeira m'dear (Flanders and Swan 1950s)

She was young, she was pure, she was new, she was nice
She was fair, she was sweet seventeen.
He was old, he was vile, and no stranger to vice
He was base, he was bad, he was mean.
He had slyly inveigled her up to his flat
To view his collection of stamps,
And he said as he hastened to put out the cat,
The wine, his cigar and the lamps:

"Have some madeira, m'dear. You really have nothing to fear.
I'm not trying to tempt you, that wouldn't be right,
You shouldn't drink spirits at this time of night.
Have some madeira, m'dear. It's really much nicer than beer.
I don't care for sherry, one cannot drink stout,
And port is a wine I can well do without
It's simply a case of chacun à son goût –
Have some madeira, m'dear!"

Unaware of the wiles of the snake-in-the-grass
And the fate of the maiden who totes,
She lowered her standards by raising her glass,
Her courage, her eyes and his hopes.
She sipped it, she drank it, she drained it, she did!
He promptly refilled it again,
And he said as he secretly carved one more notch
On the butt of his gold-headed cane:



"Have some madeira, m'dear,
I've got a small cask of it here.
And once it's been opened, you know it won't keep.
Do finish it up. It will help you to sleep.
Have some madeira, m'dear.
It's really an excellent year.
Now if it were gin, you'd be wrong to say yes
The evil gin does would be hard to assess
Besides it's inclined to affect me prowess,
Have some madeira, m'dear."

Then there flashed through her mind what her mother had said
With her antepenultimate breath,
"Oh my child, should you look on the wine that is red
Be prepared for a fate worse than death!"
She let go her glass with a shrill little cry,
Crash! Tinkle! it fell to the floor;
When he asked, "What in Heaven?" She made no reply,
Up her mind, and a dash for the door.

"Have some madeira, m'dear.
Rang out down the hall loud and clear
With a tremulous cry that was filled with despair,
As she fought to take breath in the cool midnight air,
Have some madeira, m'dear.
The words seemed to ring in her ear.
Until the next morning, she woke in her bed
With a smile on her lips and an ache in her head . . .
And a beard in her lug 'ole that tickled and said:
Have some madeira, m'dear!"

Rose Frost

Blazing a Trail at the March WI

WHEN considering career options the work of a stunt performer does not immediately spring to mind. For our speaker, Denise Edwards, it happened by chance. In order to perform daring acts for television, film and other productions, the stunt artist must be extremely fit. Denise has been a keen swimmer and diver all her life as well as a member of the British Synchronised Swimming team.

While working for the Berlin Circus she met Trevor Baylis, (better known as the inventor of the wind-up radio), who was working as an underwater escape artist. She joined him in escaping from a VW Beetle submerged in a ten foot deep tank of water – the first time she had taken part in a stunt of this kind. Advised by Equity to join the Stunt Register, she had to show versatility and gain extra qualifications in fencing, gymnastics, karate etc. This took two years to accomplish, followed by a six year apprenticeship, including a three year probation. Denise finally joined the only other four women on the register in 1982 and the rest is history!

Over her 40 years in the industry, Denise has worked on many well-known television productions, blockbuster and feature films, doubling for some famous faces on well-loved shows. In her various roles she has been set on fire, shot, fallen off horses, dived off cliffs, washed up as a dead body, jumped out of top floor windows! Denise was keen to stress how important trust in the people you work with is and how well-trained all the stunt artists are, fortunately suffering only minor injuries herself. She moved on to work as a Stunt Co-ordinator in television dramas such as *Grange Hill* and *Casualty*, a responsible job involving risk assessments. Although now mostly retired, Denise has lately doubled for older ladies on *Coronation Street*, *Call the Midwife*, *Vera* etc.

Although the work can be well-paid, with additional 'danger money', you are responsible for your own training, insurance, Equity subs and advertising costs, also any padding and wet suits. On the plus side, Denise still receives royalties today, often unexpected, but very welcome. Clearly, the industry has changed over the years; filming is technologically more advanced, and safety is taken ever more seriously. There are now 120 women on the Stunt Register.

From a simple beginning as an excellent swimmer and diver, Denise has blazed a trail through cinema and television screens. She still swims – it is very much her passion – and we thanked her for an awe-inspiring talk.

Business: Jenny reminded us that Camp Bestival takes place at Lulworth Castle on 28th-30th July, cakes will be welcome. Nominations for the new Committee are requested and subscriptions are due next month. It is with some sadness that we heard that Grace Davis, a founder member of our WI, has recently died.

We look forward to meeting again on Thursday, 13th April, for our Annual meeting and Beetle Drive.

Pat Bull

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Funding Boost for the Village Hall

TRUSTEES have had some recent success in obtaining funding for various improvement and developments at the Village Hall.

Dorset Council has approved considerable support from the S106 developer's fund (Huntley Down) and has covered the costs of our solar energy installation, our car park extension, new swings in the playground and the construction of a pétanque (boules) court. All should be up and running very shortly.

In addition, we're pleased to announce that a grant of £2,450 from the National Lottery has enabled us to buy a SMART TV and soundbar for users of the Village Hall.

The setup, all mounted on a wheelable trolley, is already available for our user groups and allows audio-visual presentations to be made with ease. The 75 inch TV is connectable to SMART phone, tablet or computer by WiFi (Apple AirPlay or Google Chromecast) or by a hard-wired connection and is quick, simple and straightforward to set up and use.

There is no additional charge for the equipment which is easily portable and can be used either in the Main Hall or smaller Committee Room.

Ed Frost (on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees).

Animal Health and Welfare

MOST farmers care passionately about the welfare of their animals. Rural Dorset often brings to mind pictures of healthy animals grazing in sunny fields of grass. However, when it comes to winter, things can look very different, especially after long periods of rain.

Some farmers house their cattle in barns over the winter months. Others keep cattle out in the fields and give them supplementary food such as silage, because grass has stopped growing. The ground around their feeders can get muddy and cows with their shaggy winter coats can look a bit bedraggled when it is wet. As long as the cattle have an area in the field that is well drained for them to lie down, then their welfare can usually be met.

Sheep are often put on fields of stubble turnips to eat. They quickly eat off the green tops of the plants and it might therefore look to the untrained eye that they are in a muddy field with nothing to eat. The reality is that they might have a really good source of food to give them the energy to cope with the cold wet weather.

Farmers are usually happy to speak with people who have concerns about their livestock. If you are worried about welfare standards on a farm you can always call the Dorset Council animal health line on 01305 224475, or email tradingstandards@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Unfortunately, there are occasions when a farmer might let welfare standards slip. Trading Standards will try to help and support the farmer to turn things around. Where necessarily they work closely with charities such as the Farm Community Network, who can provide volunteers to give practical advice to the farmer.

On rare occasions if a farmer ignores the advice, and the welfare of their livestock is not improved, Trading Standards can take the farmer to court. For very serious welfare breaches the farmer can be banned from keeping livestock.



Wednesday Club

WE started off on the first of March at our Wednesday Club with a rousing message from our chairperson, Jenny Balcon reminding us that in May we will be hosting our A.G.M. and we would like some more faces at the monthly committee meetings, with new ideas and suggestions for speakers and to partake of the delicious libations and cake! Something to be considered especially the cake!

Our speaker this time was Brian Bates, his talk was about Edith Piaf, 'the little sparrow'. She was a French singer who was very popular some time ago. She was a tiny little woman, who always wore black and who had the most compelling voice.

Her upbringing was tragic but her determination to sing and be loved was revealed in her passionate singing voice and her many lovers.

Then after a reviving cup of tea and biscuit we had a good gossip. Our next gathering is on Wednesday 5th April assembling at 2.00pm in the village hall car park, to make our way to Holme nurseries for a cream tea.

Josie Wright

MSA Coronation Picnic a right Royal knees up!

CELEBRATE the Coronation of King Charles III with us at the Village Hall on Sunday 7th May.

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With Stalls and Games, a Fancy Dress Competition, Punch and Judy, Ice Cream Van, a fun Treasure Hunt, Bouncy Castle, licensed bar and much, much more, this is a great opportunity to get the whole village together for a celebration to remember!

12noon - 4pm

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*Charges will apply for drinks and ice creams

** Some attractions TBC

To make it a success, we need your help, so if groups or individuals are able to run a stall, game or anything else to add to the fun, please get in touch.

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Joy at Easter

Spring and Easter are two things that bring me great joy (and not just because of Easter Eggs). As we emerge from another long and difficult winter, it is wonderful to see signs of spring peeking out at us in the hedgerows — snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses. The days are noticeably longer, and despite the sudden snow some parts of the country have just experienced, the days are also getting warmer. Spring really is springing, and as well as joy, it also brings me hope: hope of new life, which we can see in the lambs and calves playing in the fields, and in the green shoots sprouting up in our gardens.

The Christian festival of Easter also brings me joy and hope. Both are at the heart of the Easter message – joy that our Saviour Jesus Christ has conquered death and risen again; and the hope we have of a God who is faithful in Jesus. Christians have hope that despite all the difficulties and hardships we might be facing, we know we do not need to face them alone. With the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the continued cost of living crisis, it is easy to feel overcome by the darkness of life; but if we allow it to, the light of Jesus can shine into that darkness bringing us hope. The joy and hope that come through knowing God is not just for a select few, but is for everyone. That is the good news of the Easter message. Jesus died for every single one of us, whoever we are, whatever we may or may not have done. God loves us all and God's love for us is greater than we can possibly imagine.

So I wish you all a Happy Easter. One that is filled with joy and hope, and maybe the odd Easter Egg or two!

With warm wishes

Maggie

Changes to Communion Service

SINCE the pandemic, those of you who have attended our holy communion services will have noticed that we have been using simultaneous admission for the bread and wine (i.e. the priest dips or intincts the bread in the wine before handing it to the communicant) rather than the former practice of all receiving wine from the same chalice. This decision has been under review since 2020. From Easter Day, we will be returning to receiving wine from the common cup, as we did before the pandemic. This is a decision the wardens and I had agreed but we have now also been instructed to do so by the Bishop and Archdeacon. I am aware that while some people will be very pleased with this change, for others it will not be welcomed and will cause some concern. Receiving bread only is an option and has always been considered as making one's full communion. Churches which have already made this reversion to former practice have noticed no rise in illness as a result. Please do come and talk to me, if you are anxious

Sarah

Church news continued on page 13

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

April 2023

2nd April – Palm Sunday

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Palm Sunday service	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Matins	Dewlish
	(traditional language)	

6th April – Maundy Thursday

6.00pm	Holy Communion	Puddletown
--------	----------------	------------

7th April - Good Friday

10.00am	Good Friday Service - music, prayer, reflection	Tolpuddle
12 noon	The Good Friday Liturgy	Milborne
12 noon	Good Friday service for all ages	Puddletown
6.00pm	Good Friday service music, prayer, reflection	Dewlish

9th April – Easter Day

9.30am	Easter Communion	Milborne
9.30	Easter Communion	Tolpuddle
11.00	Easter Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Easter Communion	Dewlish

16th April – Easter 2

9.30am	Parish Communion followed by APCM	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	tbc	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

23rd April – Easter 3

10.00am	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	BCP Matins (traditional language)	Puddletown
11.00	joint Parish Communion followed by APCM for Milborne and Dewlish	Dewlish

30th April – Easter 4

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion with bring-and-share lunch	Puddletown
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DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.30am; Saturday 9.00am

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

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

Spring is our favourite time of the year



SPRING arrives with hope of better weather and longer hours of daylight, we can't say better weather as it's been cold, wet and windy. Even so the children have played outside every day.

In today's strong

wind the children excitedly ran around with improvised kites (nappy sacks with wool strings). A lesson learnt was that they stop flying after being dragged through the puddle which always forms in the centre of our tarmac area.

We have been studying frogspawn that has developed into tadpoles. These we have been feeding with cucumber alongside the pondweed. Hopefully they won't all turn into frogs.

The children have decorated eggshells and planted cress seeds which quickly grow into cress 'hair'. They have also planted runner beans which will take a little longer to grow, so more patience is needed. Our story has been 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which lends itself to plenty of learning activities. We utilised the huge box that the Hall TV arrived in to make the Giant's castle which has proved very popular. Some of the older children had a go at writing 'The Giant's Castle' and 'Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum' while others painted a beanstalk green and stuck cut out

leaves onto the castle. Then one day the children discovered huge footprints coming from the castle. One child stood on one to show how much bigger it was than their feet. In the raised tray we had the small castle with a Popoid giant and the children were challenged to build a beanstalk from Duplo bricks for Jack to climb. Easy building vertically but not so easy to then go horizontal to get onto the tray without the upright column breaking.

Last month we had a lamb visit and this month we were pleased to welcome a Labrador puppy which belongs to one of the families. She was really good and socialised very well. If we're lucky Lyra will visit us again and the children can see how much she has grown.



Finally the children took part in World Book Day by sharing some of their favourite books and some dressed as their favourite characters. I couldn't share them all but choose the Hungry Caterpillar as it's one of our favourite books.
Liz Dyer

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Milborne St. Andrew Church News

AS I write this, we are almost midway through Lent, but the weather seems more suited to November! According to an old saying, "If March comes in like a Lion, it leaves like a lamb", so here's hoping for warmer weather to end the month.

Our midweek Service of Compline has been well-attended and appreciated. When you read this, one more will be on April 5th, the Wednesday in Holy Week. On Good Friday, there will be a Service in Church at 12 noon, led by the Churchwarden (other Services are available that day!). We gather at the foot of the Cross for the first of the traditional Three Hours. Our Service on Easter Day will be at 9.30am as usual.

We thank Hustings for sorting out the Church electrics, ensuring we could have heat again. "Well done" to those who braved an unheated Church on at least two occasions when it was decidedly warmer outside than in.

Eastertide has been referred to as "The Queen of Seasons"; it is the highlight of the Christian Year. George Herbert, who was a priest at Bemerton, near Salisbury, during the seventeenth century, wrote the following:

"Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavour?
We count three hundred, but we miss.
There is but one, and that one ever."

Whatever we go through, whatever life throws at us, God in Jesus has experienced it. Easter reassures us that death is not the end. To quote George Herbert again:

"Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing His praise without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise with Him may rise."

After the long dreary weeks of Lent (and, indeed, of winter), that is most certainly worth a resounding "Alleluia". On behalf of the Church Community of St. Andrew's, I wish you a very Happy and blessed Easter.
Tony Fox (Churchwarden)

Dewlish Church Notes

THANK YOU so much to Tina and her family for organising yet another Jumble Sale to raise funds for the upkeep of our church. There are always many really good bargains to be had so it's a pity that there are so few people coming to buy! This time £92.50 was raised, bringing the overall total to £435.50, a very welcome amount.

We are holding our final **Lent Lunch** on Tuesday 4th April in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. Please come and join us for a lovely lunch of soup, bread, cheese and grapes, and coffee or tea. We are asking for a minimum of £5 per head; all money is donated to WaterAid.

Our service on **Good Friday** is at 6.00pm, and on **Easter Day**, the most important day in the Christian calendar, at 11.00am.

The **church AGM** will be held on Sunday 23rd April after the 11.00am service. This, of course, will be combined with Milborne St. Andrew. All people on the church electoral roll are welcome to attend, and to share their thoughts on the running of the church.

Tina is having **another Jumble Sale** on Saturday 29th April in the Village Hall between 2.00pm–4.00pm. We do look forward to seeing you all there!

Finally, *we wish everyone a very happy Easter!* *Daphne Burg*

Deadline for the next issue 14th April

Peter (Pete) Gray

13th September 1932 – 24th January 2023



PETE was born at The Mill, Dewlish in 1932, and married in 1956 in Dewlish Church to Pat. Pete and Pat set up their home in Middle Street, Dewlish and had four sons, Christopher, David, Mark and Richard. In 1968 Pete and his family moved to Cheselbourne after building his bungalow, and then he went on to build his house and remained in the village until 1996, thereafter he then moved to Milborne St. Andrew and remained in the village until November 2022, after which he went into hospital and then to a nursing home in the final months of his life to be cared for.

Pete was very well known throughout the local villages as the local electrician. After working for SEB in the early 1950s, he then went on to work for H. Mears at Melcombe Bingham, and then started up his own electrical business in 1960, P.N. Gray Electrical Contractors. This company still continues to this day by his son, Mark, and so therefore the business that Pete started has been running for over 60 years.

Pete was a friendly, jovial gentleman who always had a great sense of humour and met many people over the years, the majority of which remained his friends until his passing.

Pete was a great sportsman, he enjoyed darts, football and cricket in his younger years, and in his later years enjoyed his regular trips to the golf course where he met friends for a game most Sunday mornings.

Anyone that met Pete would always be inspired by his knowledge of the village life he enjoyed.

Pete was a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and uncle to his family and he has left a large void in their lives, but as the family would agree, he lived his life to the full, and reached a wonderful age, 90 years old.

His funeral service in Dewlish Church on the 22nd February 2023 was well attended with over 150 friends and relatives to give him a wonderful send off.

Donations in memory of Pete have amounted to £600 for All Saints' Church, Dewlish.

The family would like to thank everyone for their support.



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Softly, Softly Catchee Monkey

Perseverance Pays off for Panel Project at the Village Hall



AS far as projects requiring money go this should have been pretty simple . . . but nothing is ever straightforward.

The idea of installing solar panels at the Village Hall came up at our monthly Management Committee meeting in April 2022 in a discussion about the car park extension and the provision of an electric vehicle (EV) charging point. We decided to investigate its feasibility and in May we managed to arrange a site visit from a technical representative of Low Carbon Dorset (LCD). He was enthusiastic about the idea, made recommendations about a suitable configuration and suggested that there could be a contribution from LCD of 40% of the costs.

Towards the end of June, we had managed to arrange three possible contractors to visit and provide quotations for the installation. Assuming a 40% contribution from LCD we agreed we could finance the balance from our remaining government Covid grant, so back to LCD to tie things up. "Sorry" they said, "No funds left in the pot".

At around this time our new windows and front door had been installed leaving the old patio and back doors looking decidedly tatty and the committee decided to spend the remaining Covid grant money on replacing these and to seek funding for the solar panels from elsewhere.

S106 development funding from the Huntley Down development was thought to be a possibility so the five-side application form was filled in and submitted to our Parish Council to invite their support for the project. The Parish Council endorsed our application at their July meeting and we were then able to pass it on to Dorset Council who would make the final decision.

Then came the summer . . . and early autumn, but in October we heard back from Dorset Council that they would provide funding for the project. Back to our preferred installer to confirm that we were able to go ahead. We also had confirmation that our car park extension proposal would be funded and we were able to confirm with the Dorset Council Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Project that they would fully fund the installation



of a 22kw EV charging point in the extended car park.

Fully funded solar panels, a fully funded car park extension and a fully funded EV charging point! Christmas came early at the Village Hall.

Just before Christmas, 24 solar panels (a 10.4kw system) were installed on our perfectly positioned south-facing roof and arrangements were made to fit the 9.6kwh storage battery, 3-phase inverter and associated wiring during February half term (whilst the Ladybirds playgroup were on holiday).

As planned, by mid-February the hardware was in place, connections made and the "On" switches thrown and . . . Nothing!

Three electricians later and there was confirmation that our 3-phase supply wasn't, in fact, 3-phase! All three cores of the incoming cable were connected to one single phase and had been for many, many years. This had to be corrected in order for our Solar PV installation to work.

The same morning, we contacted SSEN, our electricity network provider. They were impressive in their response. Their technician arrived at the Village Hall within two hours of my phone contact with head office. He confirmed the nature of the problem and made reassuring noises about its solution. Three days later, three SSEN vans and six technicians arrived on site and located the point under the road on Blandford Hill where our supply cable was connected to the area grid. That afternoon I received a call from SSEN telling me that temporary traffic lights had been ordered for a week's time so that a hole could be dug in the road to expose and correct the connection.

A week later, as planned, with temporary traffic lights in place a trench was excavated in the road on Blandford Hill and by 3.30pm our connection to the grid corrected. Superb service by SSEN.

A few days later, our installer's technician/electrician returned and the system was finally commissioned.

So now I am pleased to report that the Village Hall has a fully functioning solar panel and storage battery installation in place with the prospect of contributing over £1,500 each year to Village Hall finances by reducing electricity consumption from the grid and from income from feeding our excess solar panel generated electricity to the grid.

After quite a chase the monkey is well and truly caught!

We are pleased to acknowledge the help provided by Low Carbon Dorset, our Parish Council, Dorset Council and SSEN in making it all possible – eventually! Praise also to our installer – Dorset Energy Solutions – for their patience and professionalism throughout.

Ed Frost – on behalf of the Village Hall Managing Committee



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A Village Hall Champion – One of the Best



THE Mike Mullett memorial tree was unveiled by members of his family on Saturday 11th March in the Village Hall Park. Under a low grey sky and between a break in the drizzle, Sue Mullett, Mike's wife, removed the cover to reveal the commemorative plaque dedicating the tree to her late husband. Mike – who passed away in 2016 – was a very popular village stalwart, active in many aspects of community life including helping with the youth club in his teens, cub scouts and the Village Hall Committee.

Mike's grandchildren enthusiastically closed out the ceremony by shovelling fresh top soil around the base of the tree, a small *Crataegus persilimis Prunifolia* Hawthorn that Mike instructed be planted as his memorial. The tree will have glossy dark green foliage, which turns glowing shades of yellow, copper and orange in the autumn. Clusters of crimson berries will prove popular with a variety of wildlife such as honey bees and birds.

Several close friends also gathered to be a part of the proceedings. Mike's son, John who had travelled from Devon for the ceremony, said, "You couldn't get anything past dad; when I was younger he always seemed to know if I'd been up to no good!" John's son Matthew said, "Granddad was always so kind to me, he was great." Matthew's brother, Thomas, between shovelling soil added, "Grandad was a lovely man".

The Mike Mullet Tree is located on the southern boundary of the Village Hall Park. As the party dispersed, Sue popped the green veil that had covered the plaque into her pocket, informing the family she would keep it safe in Mike's memory box. She rounded things off by saying, "It was Mike's wish that a thorn tree be brought for the village hall grounds so that he would always be a thorn in the side of the village hall trustees!"

Rich Hawker

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Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club Members Tips



ON Thursday 20th April at 7.30pm in the village hall, we are looking forward to a 'Members Tips Evening'.

Mark will teach us how to make a mobile plant pot base, and Dave plans to give us tips on constructing a raised bed. Everyone is welcome to share any gardening tips and tricks they have.

Every month we have a 'bring something from your garden' competition with a prize for the item with the most votes.

Do come and join us. The evening will only set you back £2.00 and that even includes refreshments!

Angela Johnson (Treasurer)

Bingo night for Mandy and JJ

A BINGO evening is planned to raise funds for local woman, Mandy Ellis, to represent the UK at a specialist dog agility competition. Paragility means people who have mobility issues or other disabilities can enjoy taking part in agility competitions with their dog.

Mandy has lived with rheumatoid and osteoarthritis for many years but hopes to compete in the ParAgility World Championships (PAWC) in the Netherlands with her terrier JJ, after being accepted on the UK team. However, she needs to raise £1,000 to do so and has organised a bingo evening at Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall on Saturday 29th April at 6.30pm, with eyes down at 7.00pm.



If you'd like more information, text Mandy on 07803 544750 or email mandy.ellis.62@hotmail.co.uk.

WHITECHURCH VILLAGE HALL APRIL EVENTS

FAMILY EASTER DISCO, Entertainment, Easter fancy dress

- 1st April, 3pm - 5pm * £4 per child, adults FREE

KURLING - Every Thursday, 10am—12.30pm

CRAFTY NATTER, tea, etc (with or without crafting) - 7th and 21st

BINGO - 22nd, doors open 6.15pm, with bar

CORONATION PARTY with LATE SEPTEMBER BAND - May 5th

7pm onwards * £10, includes buffet

email wwwvh@gmail.com for info/bookings

The Reporter team would like to offer their sincere thanks for an anonymous donation.

Busy Bees need you!

BUSY BEES is looking for new leadership. Busy Bees is the village playgroup for under five's and their parents or carers. The group meets weekly on a Thursday during term times and takes place at the Sports Pavilion. The current leadership need to step down at the end of the school year and we are looking for some committed people to take over the running of the group, otherwise it will have to close.



Specifically, we are looking for a chairperson to take on running of the charity. We also need a person to be the group coordinator (and a trustee), who can open and set up the pavilion weekly, and then stay to greet families and

pack away at the end. Historically the coordinator role has always been undertaken by a parent who has a child in the group, and there is usually someone willing to open up if the coordinator can't make it one week.

This is a great little group and has always been an important part of the community. But Covid impacted us significantly and it has been tough to get going again. It would be a shame to see Busy Bees close, and we need new energy, enthusiasm and commitment to revamp and sustain the group.

If we are unable to find new leadership by the end of May, we will have to start the process of winding up the charity, and the group will close at the end of the summer term. Any money left in the charities bank account will be split amongst other village charities. If you are interested in being involved and would like a chat with no obligation, please contact Claire Tudge on 07970 734162.

Claire Tudge



Easter Concert with Dorset Chamber Choir

MONDAY 3rd April at 7.30pm at Broadstone United Reformed Church, Higher Blandford Road, Broadstone, BH18 9AB.

Choral Music for Passiontide, including Tallis: Mass for four voices, Anthems and Motets from 16th-19th centuries.

Tickets £10 (students/children £5) from choir members or at the door.

See www.dorsetchamberchoir.com

Deadline for the next issue 14th April

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team

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

Hedgehogs are back

THE hedgehog that had been visiting my garden to a feeding station seemed to have forgotten it was supposed to hibernate and was still visiting until mid December. But then in the weeks prior to Christmas it had been relatively mild, so as long as it came and took some food I was pleased to put some out for it. Then, all of a sudden, cold, and no visits. Well, yes, it has continued to be cold until today, Sunday the 12th of March, when my outside thermometer recorded 13°C. I checked the feeding station to see some food had gone so I have topped it up with dry 'Brambles' hedgehog food. If it continues to go, I will add some small amounts of the cheapest wet cat food I can buy.



Currently this is available in small sachets, in a box, from Tesco. I will monitor this as I don't want it to become mouldy which it will do if not eaten in a couple of days. I always put out hedgehog food in a dish inside a clear upturned plastic box with a hedgehog only sized entrance. About the size of half a CD. This ensures cats and surprisingly badgers don't get it. This cannot guarantee a rat cannot get it, but I monitor the feeding station with a trail camera to see what arrives. Should unwanted visitors use it I can stop for a while. Good luck if you try this yourself.

Pip Bowell

Elvis (2022)

Friday 21st April 2023 at 7.30pm

Village Hall, The Causeway, Milborne St Andrew

Doors and bar open 7.00pm

Tickets cost £6, which includes a drink or an ice-cream

Elvis

THE film explores the life and music of Elvis Presley (Austin Butler), seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). The story delves into the complex dynamic between Presley and Parker spanning over 20 years, from Presley's rise to fame to his unprecedented stardom, against the backdrop of the evolving cultural landscape and loss of innocence in America. Central to that journey is one of the most significant and influential people in Elvis's life, Priscilla Presley (Olivia DeJonge).

Critic Review – "The story of the King has been told many times, but nothing like Baz Luhrmann's sensational, impressionistic take on Elvis Presley (played with pitch-perfect resonance by an explosively charismatic Austin Butler)."

Canzonetta

Sings Sacred Music for Holy Week

at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Bere Regis

Sunday April 2nd at 3.00pm

CANZONETTA brings their annual Palm Sunday concert to St. John's, Bere Regis once again, with a wonderful programme of sacred music for Holy Week. We will bring you the Renaissance composers Palestrina and Agostini, the 18th century with Pergolesi and Martini, into the 19th and 20th with Schubert, Malcolm and Fauré, pausing to take in a couple of gospel songs, then on to the modern era as we include Rutter's lovely blessing and a beautiful new a capella composition, written especially for us by Dr. Richard Hall with words by Philippa Daffern.

As we trace the story of Holy Week in song and in poetry readings, we invite you to share our love of making harmonious music in this lovely historic church.

The concert is free but there will be a leaving collection in aid of the church. There will be refreshments served afterwards.

Barbara Rawlings

Those Bloody Holes

By Jan Beaumont ©

Old Tommy went missing last Sunday
And nobody knew where he'd gone
Half of the town is out looking
And the hunt for him's still going on.

The roads around here are just awful
There are potholes like never before
But although everyone's been complaining
They just don't seem to care anymore.

The news came in late on the Monday
It hit everyone like a bomb
They're just hoping it's not what it looks like
And those boots don't belong to Old Tom!
(Picture shared via my friend Ron!) 😊



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Milton Abbas Surgery

Carers Afternoon Tea

WE would like to warmly invite all our unpaid carers to another Carers Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall 2.00pm till 4.00pm.

Whether you would like to come on your own for some 'me time' or with the person you care for, it would be great to see you. Tea, coffee, and cake will be available. A representative of Carer Support Dorset will also be there to offer advice and support, so please feel free to pop in to say hello and ask questions even if you are not able to stay long.

Invitations will be sent out closer to the date. If you are interested in coming along, please let us know either by calling the surgery or by sending an email to our surgery Wellbeing Team mawellbeingteam@dorsetgp.nhs.uk. Alternatively, please feel free to just turn up on the day. We would love to see you!

Plant and Veg Swap

Our Plant and Veg swap is back for 2023! If you have any spare seedlings, plants, or vegetables, please drop them off in our surgery foyer and then anyone who comes to the surgery can pick up something on their way out.

With the increase of food and energy bills, we at Milton Abbas Surgery would like to encourage our patients to consider growing their own veg. You do not need a huge amount of space or any special pots – vegetables and plants can grow in any kind of container – cans, ice cream tubs, even wellington boots! It's also a fantastic way to keep busy outside in the fresh air, and get the kids involved too. Why not take a look at these two websites for inspiration and tips: www.gardenersworld.com/plants/vegetable-crops-for-beginners and www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables

Our surgery Allotment is open to anyone who feels that they would benefit from some time outside with nature. You can do as much or as little as you like, even if you would just like to come along for a chat and company you would be most welcome. Our group meets on Thursdays at 9.30am but the allotment is there all week so if you like to come along but cannot make that day or time, please just let us know.

If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please let Reception know and they will pass your details on to our Wellbeing Team. Alternatively, please send an email to mawellbeingteam@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Dementia Friendly Singing Group

Following on from the success of her "Sing Together for Health and Wellbeing" group on Tuesdays at 1.45pm, Caroline Pugh is now starting a new group after Easter primarily for those living with Dementia.

"Sing Together – Connection through Song" will take place at 3.00pm on Tuesdays from 25th April 2023 at the Blandford Rugby Club House, 53 East Street, Blandford Forum DT11 7DX. Have fun singing well-known songs, boosting wellbeing, and unlocking memories. Open to all, donations welcome. For more information, please phone Caroline on 07984 828642.

Surgery Closures

The surgery will be closed on Friday 7th April and Monday 10th April for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

We will also be closed on Monday 1st May (Early May Bank Holiday), Monday 8th May (Coronation Bank Holiday) and Monday 29th May (Late May Bank Holiday).

We apologize for any inconvenience caused. For out of hours care or advice during closures, please call 111. In the case of an emergency, call 999.

The Secret's Out

By Jan Beaumont ©

Easter is coming and I am quite sad
That this *year* someone's not popping by
For such a long time he's been coming around
And I feel like I just want to cry.

For my grandson is growing and learning so much
But some of those things aren't so great
For last week he informed me that someone's 'not real'
And he'll no longer sneak in the gate.

Of course it's the loved Easter Bunny he means
And he now knows the egg hunt's a sham
He's quite well aware that 'the grownups hide eggs'
And that everything else is a scam.

Its not just the Bunny who's 'outed' it seems
For the Tooth Fairy also is gone
And as for the jolly old bringer of toys
Santa's visits are no longer on.

No more beer and biscuits left out on a plate
No carrots for reindeer to crunch
It's as if a large part of his childhood has gone
But I think that he's long had a hunch.

But losing the magic of hiding those eggs,
And paying for each little tooth
Will make my world much less endearing I fear
Now these once-little-kids know the truth.

The excitement of wondering what Santa would bring
All those presents we hid round the house
And how when they'd finally gone down for the night
The way we'd sneak round like a mouse. 🐭

But there are so many more good times ahead
As we watch all the things they've achieved
So I'll keep all those memories tucked inside my heart
Of the time when they truly believed.



Deadline for the next issue 14th April

*Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at
msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a
member of the team*

Dorset Home Library Service Survey – what our readers say

The results of a recently carried out survey with clients of Dorset Home Library Service have now been published, showing the importance it has in our local communities, and how much those receiving it value the service.

Dorset Home Library Service is provided by Dorset Libraries and delivered by Royal Voluntary Service volunteers. Books and talking books are chosen individually for each client and delivered every three or four weeks by RVS volunteers. It not only provides a link to the library and a regular supply of new reading materials, but also a much looked forward to visit by a trusted volunteer. The Home Library Service is available free of charge to those who cannot easily access the library due to health or mobility issue, including carers, and can be delivered short or long term.

Out of 400 recipients of the service across Dorset, 126 replies were received. Participants were asked about how they rated their book choices, the convenience of the deliveries, and their volunteer. The answers gave a picture of a well-received and organised service, with 86% finding the delivery arrangements convenient, 97% saying their book choices were always or mostly in line with stated preferences, and 99% rating their volunteer as 'good' or 'excellent'. Roughly half the visits are still carried out as doorstep deliveries following on from tighter guidance during the Covid 19 pandemic, but the other half have now returned to the volunteer entering the home when visiting and delivering books. 94% would recommend the service to family and friends.

Some comments made which are representative of the majority of responses received:

'Excellent, friendly service, thoughtful choice of books.'

'While I do make some requests, I do appreciate a 'random' selection of books which widens my sphere of reading.'

'My volunteer brings my books indoors for me and we sit and chat for a bit, which is lovely as I am mostly housebound and live on my own.'

'So many hours can be lost with your nose in a good book, and nice to have a chat with your volunteer too!'

'This service is very useful as I can't leave my husband for long and there is no public transport from our village.'

'The service is excellent: punctual, appropriate and always delivered with a smile. Books selected are suitable, and content and subject matter always match my mother's preferences.'

'This service is a lifeline for those who are housebound. A big thank you for your support!'

To enquire about receiving the Home Library Service please contact Maria Jacobson, RVS Service Manager, on 01305 236666, e-mail maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk, or speak to a member of staff at your library.



Blandford enquiry office re-opens Police Station opening times

Blandford Police Station

Salisbury Road, Blandford, Dorset DT11 7HR

Open: Wednesday 9.00am to 4.30pm

Saturday 9.00am to 16.30pm

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday closed.

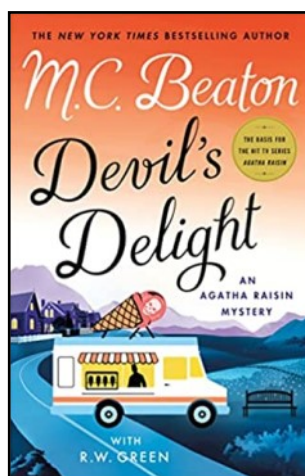
Normal policing patrols will continue when the Enquiry Office is closed. Alternative contact is via the online reporting services on our website. **When life or safety is at risk always dial 999.**

Please note that when attending to ensure effort is made to arrive approximately one hour prior to closing time to allow your enquiry to be dealt with.

Road Traffic Collisions, Property Release, Section 165 seized motor vehicle release, Prohibition release, Sex Offender registration – can take up to one hour to complete.

Thank you for your consideration and enabling us to provide as prompt a service as possible.

Devil's Delight by MC Beaton – an Agatha Raisin story



FOR those who don't know, MC Beaton is a pen name of Marion Chesney Gibbons, who also wrote as Jennie Tremaine, Sarah Chester, Ann Fairfax and Charlotte Ward. In this particular incarnation she was known as 'Queen of the Village Mystery' for her Agatha Raisin and Hamish MacBeth stories.

You'll note my use of the term 'was known'. MC died in 2019 at the ripe old age of 83, after a very interesting life, yet like Jim Reeves' records, her books continue to be published. This is

due to a collaboration with R W Green, who worked with her towards the end of her life, and seems to have been chosen by her to continue the work. Whether he's now producing 'new' work or finishing works in progress when she died isn't clear, but as someone who has read much of her work, I'd say the style, characters and formula remain unchanged.

Like all Agatha Raisin Mysteries, it's set in the fictional Cotswold village of Carsley, where Agatha 'retired' after selling a successful PR Agency she had created in London. In this instance the mystery involves a Nudist Club, Ice Cream Wars, and a Public School. The Detective Agency Agatha now runs as a result of stumbling through so many mysteries in the past is involved from more than one angle, and it's interesting to see how the various threads are drawn together. Of course Agatha's relationships are a constant background to the detecting, whether with the people who work for her, her ex-husband the author James Lacy, or the various police officers she knows through her detecting encounters.

I enjoyed this book very much. Like all the stories, the mystery is solved in the end, and as with mysteries solved by Miss Marple, Peter Wimsey and Albert Campion, the baddies get their come-uppance in imaginative ways.

Susan Wilson

Help protect ground nesting birds

DID you know over half of England's most threatened breeding bird species nest on or near the ground?

If you ask a child where birds nest, they are likely to say a tree, hedge or nest box. It's an image we've all grown up with but for some of our most threatened species it's simply not true. Over half of England's most threatened breeding species nest on or near to the ground, including curlew, little tern, nightjar and lapwing. Almost every natural habitat in the English countryside can be home to ground nesting birds and these threatened species are under increasing pressure due habitat loss, predators and climate change.

More people than ever are enjoying the benefits that spending time in the countryside offers for our health and wellbeing too. Yet for ground nesting birds this can cause additional pressure during breeding season, when the places they nest in become busy with visitors who often don't realise birds may nest on the ground.

As birds nesting on the ground are at higher risk from predators; the nests, and eggs they contain, are often extremely well camouflaged, making them very hard to see and avoid. The good news is that it's very simple to help give these birds the space they need during breeding season. By sticking to paths, watching your step and keeping dogs on a short lead while you enjoy the countryside, you can help give rare ground nesting birds the best chance of survival.



"A skylark egg can be as small as 17mm, that's around the width of a 5p piece. And when those eggs hatch, chicks can be just as well camouflaged and vulnerable. When scared, a chick's instinct is often to stay quiet and avoid detection, so if you see an adult bird calling out in distress or trying to catch your attention, back away carefully to help protect nests from harm." *Mike Shurmer, Head of Species for RSPB England.*

Many coastal areas can be home to ground nesting birds; little tern, ringed plover and oystercatchers often make homes near the tide's edge. As these vulnerable birds are easy prey for lots of predators, dogs running through nesting sites can be very stressful for breeding birds and alarm calls by parent birds will often attract the attention of predators.

Wetlands are vital for wading species including lapwing and redshank, which make their nests in grassy pastures, before leading chicks to wetter areas to feed. Young chicks are more at risk to disturbance, getting cold and the impacts from predators when separated from parent birds.

Rare birds like woodlark and nightjar nest on heathland sites, which are often popular places to walk, cycle, horse ride and

picnic too. By keeping yourself and your animals to the footpaths you can help to keep chicks safe. Fire risk can also be very high on heathlands, so pack a picnic rather than a BBQ and take any litter home.

Uplands and moors are vitals homes to ground nesting birds including curlew, lapwing, golden plover and snipe. The hen harrier, one of the UK's most threatened birds of prey, also nests at ground level in some upland areas.

Our conservation scientists have developed methods to help protect nesting birds from environmental threats including climate change, wildfire and sea level rise, which can be delivered through managing landscapes for wildlife. We've seen fantastic results for species including roseate tern and stone curlew, but to protect ground nesting birds across the countryside, everyone can play a part by watching where they step. To find out more, search #WatchYourStep on Twitter or Facebook.

We work closely with partners and communities to protect wildlife across our network of over 300+ UK nature reserves and in the wider countryside. To find out more about RSPB reserves near you or to help fund the vital work we do to protect wildlife, visit www.rspb.org.uk.

Older is Better By Jan Beaumont[®]

I'm so glad I'm now getting older
There are benefits I never knew
For because I'm 'antique'
Things I say when I speak
Are accepted, like things that I do!

There's a phrase that I trot out quite often
When I've done something weird or bizarre
And that's 'Senior Moment'
Two words that I use
When my actions are not 'up to par'.

Then they smile and they give me a cuddle
And they think 'poor old dear, it's so sad'
But what they don't get
Is I'm not that old yet
And to shock them just makes me feel glad!

This world is so PC and boring
And I've played by the rules long enough
But my time is now here
And I'm making it clear
That if you don't like it that's tough!

It's not that I want to be bolshie
But I reckon that I've paid my dues
So I'd like to say
At the end of the day
I will play the game just as I choose!

'Cos I've been on this earth for a long time
I've played fair, tried to do what was right
But till my race is run
I just want to have fun
Before somebody turns out the light!!

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New village sports link really is up in the air

AN exciting new plan to link up the village with its recreational sites is in the offing. A huge cash injection from the S106 contribution from housebuilding in the village was earmarked for access to recreational facilities. It has been of concern for many years that the A354 is a barrier for residents north of the road to easily reach the recreation ground on The Causeway and the more remote Sports Club at Lane End, both on the other side of the road. The proposed plan would see a large footbridge crossing the main road to join up the north and the south of the village to pedestrians. Residents would be able to walk over the busy road with ease using the bridge and arrive directly at the recreation ground. Once here, the really exciting part of the scheme – and forward journey to the Sports Club – is envisaged; a gondola ride, similar to a ski-lift will be the sensational new way to get to the pavilion up at the top of the village. It will provide a fast and fun way to access all the Sports Club has to offer, whether it's to play a bit of footie, stretch yourself into the yoga class or do sit, down, stay with the dog trainer. This unusual and bold transportation system will definitely put Milborne on the map and likely will draw in visitors eager to try it out for themselves.

But the innovation doesn't stop there. In a bid to be both super-environmentally conscious and tick all the boxes marked 'Active Living', the chair lift will not be powered conventionally using grid-based electricity. No, the exercise opportunities keep coming as the sports-goers will be powered to the top of the hill by Milborne power! That is, Milborne people power – yes, gym-type equipment such as treadmills and rowing machines stationed at the foot of the lift will allow residents to get physical to enable others to exert their energy by propelling them to the Sports Club at the top of the village. The gym powerhouse will be sited underground to minimise unnecessary land use, but it will be subject to the highest standard of waterproofing given the area's known high water table; rowing machines are not thought effective in flood conditions.

The opportunity to power the lift will obviously be most welcomed by the villagers in the 60+ age group who have been clamouring for an exercise output after missing their swivel and

thrust after the multi fit-point was transferred from the rec to the Sports Club some time ago. It's a win-win scheme that is sure to make Milborne the fittest village in north Dorset.

The pedestrian bridge across the A354 is sure to be a popular idea as the village Facebook page can attest whenever any improvements to Milborne are put forward. However, it may come with its own problems in construction as the scheme head



architect, Sven Svensson, says demolition of houses to make it fit can't be ruled out. He said, "We very much do like not to demolish your pretty houses but, how you say, you cannot be making an omelette without the cracking of the eggs". But staunch opponent, Clara Bunting of campaign group Save Our Buildings, vehemently disagreed, saying, "That's just not true, there are lots of recipes in today's modern world that do not require eggs or their cracking to make an omelette, like chickpea and flour batter, but Mr Svensson just wants to smash eggs to smithereens for the fun of it." She added, "Hang on, why are we talking about omelettes?"

But most villagers may look on these minor downsides as well worth it to ensure safe crossing of the A354 and then be able to 'fly' up to the Sports Club. Which does lead to the question, will a dry ski slope for the return journey to The Causeway be the next phase of the scheme?

A presentation of the proposal is expected to go ahead on 1st April, until noon.

Stunning views from Black Down

THIS 114 hectare site, south of Winterborne Abbas, adopts the high ground between the coast and the countryside with stunning views of both.

Black Down is an ex-Forestry Commission site owned and managed by Dorset Council's Ranger Team. There is great habitat variation across the site with acid grassland, mixed forestry and lowland heath. The ecological variation also comes



from the different slope aspects. The warm, southern facing slopes are home to various reptiles including the Common Lizard, with the wet, north facing ones being home to many species of mosses and lichens.

Visitors are now able to park at our car park on the western approach and walk across the newly laid footpaths leading to Hardy Monument, the woodlands or up to the grassland which boasts some of the best views of the Jurassic Coast in the area.

The area is well connected to local rights of way including the South Dorset Ridgeway National Trail.

Dorset Council



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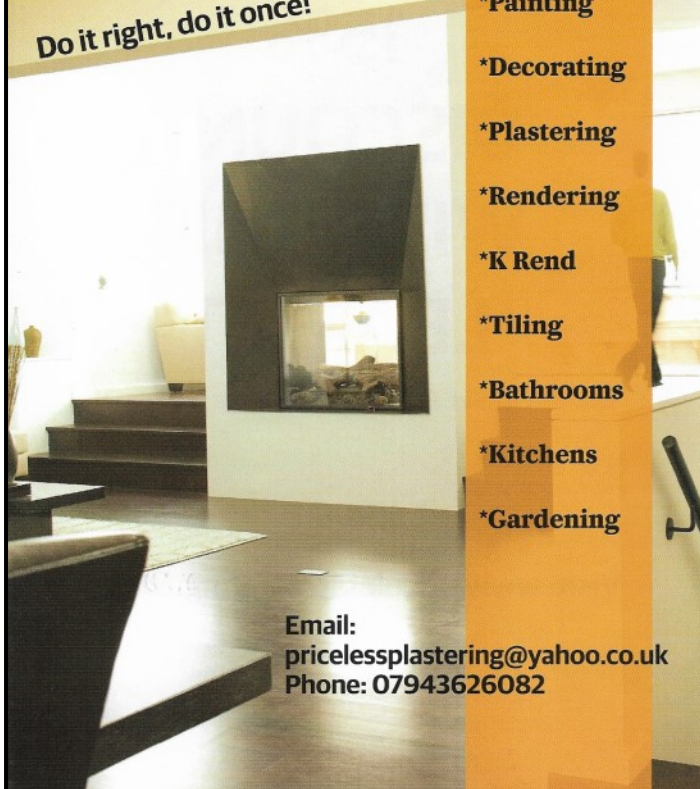
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Huntley Down planning concerns

CLERK Lewin has been in touch with Wyatt Homes regarding the Huntley Down Heathland Infrastructure Project (HIP). Wyatt Homes confirmed that dog waste bins will be installed, a kissing gate was part of the plan and will be installed, and they are waiting for the area to grass over before the work is completed and the area is opened.

The salt bin on Coles Lane is empty. It appears that this bin was not on the Dorset Council (DC) list. DC have agreed to add it to their list and top it up in due course.

The Dewlish Road is national speed limit not far after turning into it from Dorchester Hill. Previously it had been highlighted to the Parish Council (PC) that the sign should be moved to beyond the Lynch Close turning. A request has been made to DC for this.

Cllr Witherden will be standing down from the PC but will stay in touch as an adviser for planning. This means there is a vacancy – if you would like to know more please get in touch with Clerk Lewin.

Cllr Parker from DC was in attendance at a planning meeting where the retrospective planning for the Huntley Down development was discussed. She shared her frustration about the meeting, "I was just stunned by the whole process of it". The developers haven't built the site to how it should have been built. Enforcement advised the developer to submit retrospective planning, which they did. Cllr Parker objected to the application with reasons of privacy and overbearing but the committee were not in support of her objection. Cllr Parker said that it appears that developers can put in whatever application they like, then build whatever they like, then put in retrospective planning and it will be approved!

A meeting has taken place for the planning of the King's Coronation celebration. PC has received an outline email from Rich Hawker who is acting on behalf of the group organising the event. It was suggested that the event will be 12 noon to 4.00pm on the Sunday of the Coronation bank holiday weekend, at the Village Hall and grounds, and the funding will pay for events like Punch and Judy, bouncy castle, maypole, and props and prizes for a treasure hunt.

St. Andrews Church had applied for an application in for S106 funding, and it was planned to discuss it at this meeting but DC had already made a decision to reject the application. It seems that DC are not adhering to their protocols, and not giving the PC an opportunity to have a discussion or have an opinion.

Cllr Stephens suggested that the PC use Facebook more, as a noticeboard and a place of support for the community. She suggested that a post could be made once a month with relevant information to help parishioners. These posts could also be placed in the *Reporter*. Other Cllrs were in support of the suggestion.

There was discussion about purchasing a community marquee that could be hired out and used at the various locations around the village like the Village Hall, church, Sports Club for example. Other Cllrs were in support of it though questions were raised regarding how big it could be and still be portable, where it would be stored, how it would be rented out, who would put it up, insurance for it. Cllr Stephens will consider these questions and start considering a more detailed proposal.

Don't forget the litter pick on Sunday 23rd April, starting at 10.00am at the Village Hall. Equipment will be provided.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 5th April 2023 Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting is open for members of the public and press to attend. Members of the public are invited to ask questions of the PC concerning Agenda items or other matters.

Jo Whitfield

What's on in April

April

Saturday 1st

April Fool's Day Quiz The Royal Oak
7.00pm – see pages 3. and 31.

Sunday 2nd

Canzonetta sings **Sacred Music for Holy Week** Parish Church of St John the Baptist
Bere Regis 3.00 pm – see page 21.

Tuesday 4th

Lent Lunch Dewlish Village Hall 12.30pm – see page 13.

Wednesday 5th

Wednesday Club Holme Nurseries for cream tea meet 2.00pm at Village Hall.

Wednesday 5th

Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7pm.

Sunday 9th

Easter Day Communion St. Andrews church, Milborne 9.30am.

Thursday 13th

WI Annual meeting and Beetle Drive

Friday 14th

Mid-day deadline for copy for the *Reporter* msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk.

Saturday 15th

Community Café Village Hall 10.00am to 12.00 mid-day – see page 8.

Thursday 20th

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening club
Members Tips evening Village Hall 7.30pm.

Friday 21st

More than a movie *Elvis* (2022) Village Hall
Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm tickets £6 includes a drink or ice-cream – see page 21.

Sunday 23rd

St. Andrews Church AGM after the 11.00am service – see page 13.

Wednesday 26th

Village Hall AGM Village Hall 7.00pm – see page 3.

Saturday 29th

Jumble Sale Dewlish Village Hall, 2.00–4.00pm – see page 13.

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 5.30–6.45pm.

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).

Kickboxercise Thursday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only).

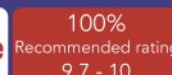


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Community Contacts

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		
Head of School	Michelle Cheeseman	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Caleb Brown	
Friends of School Chair:	Kate O'Kelly	

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	Bill Love	01258 837677
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

Kickboxercise	Jon Dodd	07742 015121
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

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 07983 013781

April Fools Day Quiz

At The Royal Oak, Milborne St Andrew
6.30pm for 7.00pm start. £5.00 for a team of 4

There will be a raffle

Order food on arrival between 6.30–6.50pm
– this will be served at 8.00pm

No need to book, just turn up on the night

If you have any questions please contact
Jenny on 01258 837121

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What's on in April 2023

Sunday 9th – Easter Sunday
all children receive chocolates

Thursday 13th Tex Mex Theme Night

Thursday 27th Pie Night

Saturday 6th May
Live music with Nina Garcia
and full televised coverage of The Coronation

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

TO BOOK CALL
01258 837248