

# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 15 Issue 11

December 2023

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Copy for the next issue MUST be received by mid-day 9th December

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E-copy as .docx or .pub files, pictures as .jpg files please.  
Paper copy to any of the team.

## Wednesday Club news

OUR speaker for November was our treasurer José Thomas. The talk she gave us, 'At the Chalk Face', was about her long career in teaching, with many anecdotes from the classroom. She has been teaching all her life and her enjoyment for her chosen career was obvious. She shared with us her many experiences, with pupils and adults. We learned of her meeting Harry, who followed a similar career, and the birth of her two sons. She finished by playing a recording by her sons of a voice-over for a play she had been producing. This was for the unseen voice of Jesus. She was very satisfied with the result until she played the tape to the end and found they had also experimented with various impressions from Sean Connery to Dicky Bird, the cricket commentator. After much laughter we settled down to our usual tea and gossip.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas meal at The Crown in Blandford.

*Josie Wright*

## Don't fall prey to a loan shark

YOU may picture a loan shark as a TV soap gangster, but in reality, they are not always that easy to spot.

Illegal money lenders could be a neighbour who always stops to chat, a parent who you know from the school gate, a popular work colleague, even a long-standing family friend. All are expert manipulators, often befriending victims and offering a quick-fix loan.

Around Christmas they may be more active than usual, aware that with the cost-of-living crisis, people may be under increasing financial pressure.

Victims often aren't aware that they have borrowed from a loan shark until it's too late. Many people who report loan sharks think they were borrowing money from a friend. However, things can quickly turn nasty as they demand extortionate repayments and threaten violence when you can't pay.

Often people turn to loan sharks looking for a small amount of money over a short period of time to cover unexpected expenses. They may have been refused credit elsewhere and need cash at short notice. In the cost-of-living crisis, more people are being forced to borrow to cover basic living costs such as bills and food.

You may be dealing with a loan shark if:

- You are given no paperwork or details about the loan
- Repayments are adding up to much more than you borrowed
- You are intimidated if you struggle to pay
- They demand items like bank cards or a passport until you can pay

Credit unions offer an alternative, ethical and safe way of borrowing for people who may have been refused credit elsewhere. They can offer small loans at affordable rates. Visit [www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk](http://www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk) to find one nearest to you.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team work in partnership with Trading Standards to investigate and prosecute illegal lenders and support victims. If you think you have been targeted by a loan shark then visit the England Illegal Money Lending Team website [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk), call their 24/7 confidential hotline 0300 555 2222, or text a report to 078600 22116.



## Food bank donations

The Village Hall Committee would like to support the local food bank by leaving a box in the hall where non



perishable donations can be dropped if you are passing or during any events held. In addition, during any Village Hall run events there will be a cash donation option also available.

Please give a thought for those less fortunate and offer a little something, even if it's just your small loose change. All donations will be very much appreciated.

The collection service will be available until and reviewed at Easter.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any copy for the **January** issue should be received no later than **9th December**.

## Christmas Fair



**Saturday 2nd December**

in

**Milborne St Andrew Village Hall**

**From 11.30 to 2pm**

Mulled wine with mince pies

Crafts Gifts Kids stall

Cakes and produce

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# Dorchester Arts: Ensemble Pro Victoria

ON Saturday 14th October we were treated to a musical solo voice ensemble in St. Mary's Church, Dorchester. Not only the singers, all young early music specialists, but the church itself was beautiful and sumptuously adorned. There was an audience of more than a hundred people who all queued in the interval to buy one of their only two CD's. They have been described as "a force for original thinking, daring and triumphantly realised". The programme was mainly arranged around the works of Byrd (1540–1623) and Monteverdi (1567–1643) with one piece by Thomas Tallis (1505–1585), another by Jeune and one by Roger Parsons (1535–1571/2). The latter's promising career and life ended in the River Trent at Newark-on-Trent whilst drunk! There were atmospheric laments by Monteverdi for the death of his master/teacher Thomas Tallis and some short energetic pieces by him. They were sometimes accompanied by a Theorbo ("a long lute" see picture) played by James Bramley. The Director



James Bramley playing the Theorbo

(and tenor) Toby Ward; Soprano; Fiona Fraser. Alto; Elisabeth Paul, Anna Semple, Tenor; David de Winter, Bass; Simon Grant.

So, as promised we, the audience were transported 400 years back in time for a journey from England's Chapel Royal to the cutting edge of Venetian musical innovation. The programme explored the stark contrast between England's refined, solemn sacred

polyphony and the drama of Monteverdi's early-Baroque *Stile modern*. or 'modern style'. The Ensemble was founded at the University of Cambridge in 2015 and won joint first prize at the London International Festival of Early Music Young Ensemble



Altar and figure of Christ St. Mary's Church



Organ St. Mary's Church.

competition (2020) followed by a Gramophone award nomination for their 2021 debut recording *Robert Fayrfax, Music of Tudor Kings and Queens*, which included the premiere recording of extraordinarily joyous music from Henry VIII's first wedding. The Ensemble have travelled this year on international tours including music by Victoria and Vivanco in the place of their birth, Avila, Spain and music from the English Chapel Royal in Cagliari Cathedral, Sardinia. Next year, 2024, they dive into the world of the royal riding chapel as part of "*Henry VIII on Tour*", a cross disciplinary project studying royal progress, headed by Historic Palaces and the Universities of York and Newcastle. There are three new releases, one of which is an *Advent Calendar*, a sequence of readings and music, with former Archbishop Rowan Williams. *The Early English Review*. In Tudor Music Afterlives (the CD that we bought) they perform music that barely survived "*diverse fragments that were forgotten, discarded or overlooked put together in a stylish and vibrant performance*".

I feel we were fortunate to have had the opportunity in so local a venue to hear these extremely talented and dedicated young singers.

Carole Fornachon

- This group has little formal financial support and rely on the generosity of supporters. If, having heard their work you would wish to become a Friend the following is a contact website: [www.ensembleprovictoria.com/friend](http://www.ensembleprovictoria.com/friend)

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# Big surprise for Malcolm

SUNDAY October 29th 2023 will go down in the history of the Sports Club as being a very special day.

It was Malcolm Applin's birthday and you can see from the smile on his face that he was absolutely "chuffed to nuts" with his birthday present from the trustees. We think he must have cottoned on that something was up because when we called an emergency meeting to discuss the introduction of cricket he turned up in his best bib and tucker, not his usual tracksuit and trainers. Apart from a couple of close friends and associates who were present only the trustees were aware of what was about to happen.

For some time now the trustees had been thinking of how they could provide a lasting memory to the huge commitment Malcolm has made to the Sports club. There is not a match that goes by when praise is not heaped on the quality of the pitch. Even when Watford ladies turned up for a cup match they could not believe it. Teams in the Dorset league give their "eye teeth" to play on it. Even the referees bemoan the fact if the game they are officiating is on the lower pitch.

To have a pitch or a stand named after you is an honour and in Malcolm's case it is justly deserved, and we are proud to stand alongside him. Now that he has reached the milestone age of 90, we help him with some of the more arduous groundsman's duties.

The only issue now to be resolved is where do we actually display the sign for all to see!! It could end up on the Pavilion wall facing the pitch, or pitch side somewhere. That will be largely down to Malcolm to decide.

One thing for certain is my idea fell on very stony ground. When I saw this picture, it reminded me of the "Angel of the North", so why couldn't we have a "Legend of the South" utilising a life-sized Madame Tussaud's mannequin of Malcolm holding the sign? It could be put anywhere and moved for mowing I suggested. "Yeh but" said Malcolm, "Where do you propose to put the stake to hold it in place?"

## Anyone for Cricket?

It now looks like our dream to have a cricket team and an artificial wicket up and running by the 2024 season is on a very sticky wicket and requires a lot more work to make it happen.

But fear not, we are up for the challenge.

To do so was contingent on obtaining support for 106 Developer funding from the Huntley Down development.

At the October 2023 Parish Council meeting the application to provide an all-weather artificial cricket pitch for the start of the 2024 season was presented for endorsement by the Council. Total amount requested **£11,123.00**.

The minutes of the meeting record the fact that "*Concerns were raised*" regarding the "*increase in costs*" and "*why a cricket pitch was prioritised over other recreational projects*". Both these matters were addressed during the meeting.

Members agreed to support the application. However, it was stipulated that this project should not be funded until the traffic calming project which had already been submitted to the s106 team at Dorset Council had been completed.

Then, if any residual funding was left, the cricket pitch installation should be considered alongside any other projects coming forward, as part of a community consultation.

It was pointed out at the meeting and in the application that this 106 funding application was only a minor part of the BIG IDEA.

It was hoped that it would bump start the seeking of grants from other funding bodies for the other essential elements of



the project, namely: Orientation of the lower-level football pitch: £1,500.00; Rebound ball retention netting and posts on the lower level: £13,200.00; Moveable goals: £3,700.00 and cricket scoring shed and scoreboard: £5,423.00. **A Total of £23,823 to be obtained from elsewhere and from the Sports Club's funds.**

That is where we are now, hoping for Plan A but with the caveats contained in the endorsement and the possible outcomes a move to Plan B might well be required to make cricket at the Sports Club a reality. We are now in the lap of the Gods, the Dorset Council Developer Fund evaluation team being "The Gods".

Councillors were clearly not as bowled over as they were with their support to facilitate the playing of pétanque / boules. The **£9,868.00** requested to construct a court at the February 2023 Council meeting was supported by Councillors and the CIL team at Dorset Council were informed of that outcome.

**Plan B, for those that are interested** is to look elsewhere outside the community for grant funding for the entire £45,000.00 ish (the ish is there because the initial planned spend for the Road Scheme phase 1 was £45,800 now a figure in excess of £60,000 is being bandied around!).

So, in answer to the question, "Anyone for Cricket? Hopefully yes and we are doing our best to make it happen as soon as we possibly can.

Is it just me I wonder!!

Richard Lock

## Christmas card making at WI

Our November meeting was held on Thursday 9th (meetings are always on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.).

We had some new members and some visitors. We are always pleased to see new faces. This month Sheila Burton, one of our very own members gave a demonstration of making Christmas cards (a very talented lady). Then some of our members had a go for themselves. Some very good cards were made. There then followed tea, biscuits and a catch-up chat.

Next month will be our Christmas meeting on the 14th December. which will have a party theme. Lots of food and some fun entertainment. Visitors are always welcome.

Lin Chatfield



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## Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

This is one of the most well known Christmas carols that will be sung in church, in schools, in concert halls and around the streets this Christmas. Children learn it at a young age, and it's the one carol they can sing and join in with when still quite small (in addition perhaps to Little Donkey!)

Carols sum up so well the sense and meaning of Christmas in the word – pictures they paint. Some of these images need taking with a pinch of salt – I'm sure baby Jesus *did* cry unlike the carol suggests. But carols have within them much truth as well.

"Be near me, Lord Jesus" – the heart of Christmas is about just that: Jesus coming to be near us, staying alongside us and loving us. Whatever life throws at us, Jesus walks with us. We are never alone with his presence beside us.

Christmas can be a time of real pressure, especially as the cost-of-living crisis isn't easing up yet, but this is the world God chose to make his home. Enjoyable as they are, the things we spend money on aren't necessary to sustain the true meaning of Christmas: that God came from heaven to live among us on earth, to show us what love looks like.

Love can be costly, but it doesn't take pounds and pennies to create it. It's something we can all be a part of. God's love comes to us wherever we are; it can fill a broken heart, ease the pain of loneliness, heal our inner wounds and give us hope for the future because no situation is ever too much for God to cope with, if we ask for help.

This Christmas, in the midst of all the festivities, why not take a moment to stop and pray the words of this carol – be near me, Lord Jesus. Whatever situation you find yourself in, wherever you are, it is a prayer that will be answered.

I wish you all a peaceful Advent and a Happy Christmas to you all.

*Sarah*

## Notes from St. Andrew's

THE Benefice Service on the last Sunday in October was the occasion of Maggie's last Service with us. It was very well attended and a highly emotional service as we said our "Goodbyes" (literally "God be with you".) We shared a bring-and-share lunch afterwards, and Maggie left with many cards, gifts, and our prayers and good wishes. She was

*Continued on page 11*

## Church Contacts

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

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### Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466  
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### Benefice Office

Emma Hughes  
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## Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne with Dewlish December 2023

### 3rd December – Advent Sunday

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

### 10th December – Advent 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
4.00pm	Bubble Church <b>NEW</b>	Puddletown Village Hall
5.30pm	Carol Service	Tolpuddle

### WEDNESDAY 13th 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	Milborne First School Christmas Service	Milborne

### THURSDAY 14th December

2.00pm	Puddletown CE First School Carol Service	Puddletown
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### SATURDAY 16th December

6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Milborne
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### 17th December – Advent 3

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

### 24th December – Advent 4/CHRISTMAS EVE

9.30am	United Benefice Holy Communion (said)	Puddletown
3.30pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle
5.00	Crib Service	Puddletown
10.00	Christmas Eve Holy Communion	Milborne
11.30	Midnight Mass	Puddletown

### MONDAY 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

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

### 31st December – Christmas 1

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
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## Finally, Ladybirds moving into school

WELL, it has taken longer than expected but finally Ofsted have endorsed our registration, and we can move into Milborne First School. Exciting times and opportunities to expand Ladybirds preschool within the wonderful environment of our village first school. Ladybirds remains a charity governed by the trustees not under the school academy or governors. We continue to welcome all children regardless of which school they will join when they become school aged. We would like to thank the parents and community, particularly the other Village Hall users and committee for their patience and understanding over the last 20 years.



the seeds, painting pumpkin pictures and collaging bats. Of course, there had to be the witch's cauldron and all the magic of mixing potions with magic spells. Room on the Broom and Meg and Mog books promoted imagination.

With plenty of rain the big puddle formed in the outside area and led to much fun jumping and riding vehicles through it. Boats, fish and ducks were added and impromptu "5 little ducks" appeared. Another excuse for a song, this group really enjoy songs, music and musical

movement.

On a rare occasion without rain the mud was uncovered and the toy diggers used. There were so many worms and with each one found there was a smiling child holding it up to show. Many

ended up in bug pots and you can be reassured all were returned to their natural habitat and lived another day.

We wish all our friends and supporters A Very Merry Christmas. *Liz Dyer*



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*Continued from page 9*

licensed to the Shaftesbury Team Ministry on Monday, 13th November.

On All Saints' Sunday, our Service reflected on some of the many Saints who "cheer us on from the grandstand" and were reminded that a Saint, not unlike a stained-glass window, is someone the light shines through. Our next Milborne Praise, on Advent Sunday, December 3rd, will look at some of the Advent traditions as we prepare for Christmas.

Remembrance Sunday saw a large congregation at St. Andrew's. Artwork by pupils from the First School enhanced our observance and added to the beautiful flower arrangements in the Church. It was lovely to have the Beavers with us in their uniforms and for them to parade their banner at the beginning of the Service to the strains of "O Valiant Hearts." Tony and Angela read the lessons, and Pam led the Intercessions and lit the candles, one for each of the fallen from this Parish. Sarah's powerful sermon was based on the final lines of the First Lesson, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." We then joined others at the Memorial Stone for the Act of Remembrance there. Rich Hawker's very moving poem spoke volumes. Milborne certainly did "Remember them".



Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday, December 2nd in the Village Hall from 11.30am – 2.00pm. Do come along and grab a bargain and help raise funds for St. Andrew's.

Our Christmas Services are as usual. Carols by Candlelight on Saturday, 16th December at 6.00pm. A small choir is being formed to sing three items; if you are interested in joining us, please contact Tony on 01258 837651 or 07368 145584 or email [tony.fox@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:tony.fox@tinyworld.co.uk), and I can supply you with the music. There will be a couple of rehearsals. Our Christmas Eve Eucharist is at 10.00pm (there is also a Midnight Mass in

*Continued on page 13*

## Who's feeling crafty?

CALLING all crafters and sewing enthusiasts, newly launched at Milborne's Sports Ground and Pavilion are weekly sewing classes for both adults and kids. Created by Clare and the Bear, a freelance designer, seamstress and creator of an online homewear store.

After moving into the village in 2021, Clare previously taught at Sew Jessalli in Blandford until its closure in July, she then decided to launch her very own sewing classes in September at her home in Milborne, introducing **Stitchcraft** sewing classes for kids. After the success of her Stitchcraft lessons, Clare relocated the classes up to the Pavilion at the start of November, to welcome additional students, introduce a third Stitchcraft class and also launch two new adult social sewing groups **Sewcial Crafters**.

If you or your child would like to learn how to sew, want to develop your sewing skills, or simply want to join a group to meet other lovely crafters then get in touch with Clare for more information or to join one of the groups.

Keep an eye out as Clare plans to launch weekend sewing and craft workshops very soon!

**Stitchcraft** are weekly afterschool classes aimed at children aged 6–16 years. All levels are welcome. Clare introduces new sewing techniques with each project so the children develop their skills each week.

**Sewcial Crafters** is an adults social sewing group, aimed at those who want some dedicated sewing time, those who may need some help and guidance with their projects and also a chance to meet other like-minded local crafters.

**Stitchcraft** (£9.00 per class or 4 classes for £30.00), Wednesday 4.15–5.15pm and 5.30–6.30pm. Thursday 4.00–5.00pm.

**Sewcial Crafters** (£10.00 per class), Thursday 1.00–3.00pm and 5.30–7.30pm, [clareandthebear@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clareandthebear@hotmail.co.uk) 07557356807 @sewclareandthebear.

---

## Why English is so hard

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

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

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

*Anonymous*

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Continued from page 11

Puddletown at 11.30pm), and on Christmas Morning, a Celebration for all the family at 10.15am.

We send our condolences to the families of the recently departed John Martin and Dorothy Paul. "We remember those upon another shore and in a greater light", as the Bidding Prayer from the King's College, Cambridge Carol Service reminds us.

Pam and I, the members of the PCC and all at St. Andrew's send our very best wishes for Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you to St. Andrew's over the festive period. Our thanks to all who have supported us over the past twelve months in whatever way. We do appreciate it.

*Tony & Pam, Churchwardens*



## Dewlish Church Notes

MAGGIE has now led her last service in our benefice before her move to Shaftesbury. Although we knew she would be with us for just a short while, we are all so sad to see her go and will miss her greatly; she has contributed so much in her ministry here, and we have become great friends. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

We now have a final figure for money raised at the Harvest Supper: £261, a really good sum. Additionally, Jim has a final figure for his sponsored Historic Churches cycle ride, and that amounted to £1,010, a wonderful amount. Enormous thanks to friends, family and the wonderful people of Dewlish. Half of that sum – £505 – will be returned to our church, and will be a tremendous help with all our incumbent costs.

### And now to December!

On Saturday 2nd December we shall be holding our **Christmas Bazaar**, starting at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Please do come and support us. Donations for the stalls would be most welcome, especially of cakes! Tea, coffee and mince pies will also be available, along with raffles. We look forward to seeing you!

Our **Carol Service** is on Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm. Jim very much hopes that children and young adults will take part. Please let us know (Tel: 01258 837466) if you would like to participate. Refreshments will be served in the Village Hall afterwards.

Finally, our Christmas morning **Holy Communion Service** is at 9.00am. We will not be holding a Christmas Eve service but there are others in the benefice.

*Daphne Burg*

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## Christmas Fair to support The Luccombe Hub

FRIENDS of Luccombe Hub (reg. charity 1188184) will be holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 16th December between 10.00am and 3.00pm. It will be held within the grounds of The Luccombe Hub based at Luccombe Business Park, Milton Abbas DT11 0BD.

We have a number of stallholders signed up (but would appreciate more) selling Christmassy stuff and there will be a raffle. We will be selling alcoholic and non alcoholic refreshments – this includes mulled wine/cider and hot chocolate just to whet your appetite. And there should also be a pizza van so that's lunch covered!

Entry is free so why not come along and join us for a fun day. We look forward to seeing you. And we are hoping Santa will put in an appearance so bring your youngsters along as well.

If you would like to have an indoor Christmas table please contact me on 07983 013781 or at friends@luccombehub.com for more information and a booking form. The table fee is £10.

**Note:** The Luccombe Hub is an alternative provision providing therapeutic education for children and young people with Special Educational Needs. This ranges from Autism Spectrum Disorders, attachment conditions, ADHD, and an array of social, emotional, and mental health difficulties which mean they do not thrive in mainstream education. With the help of the centre's animals and dedicated staff, The Luccombe Hub promotes positive changes for the young person through a therapeutic and nurturing approach to learning. It is Ofsted approved.

*Nigel Hodder*

## Bristol Balloon Festival

The tin box on wheels was wheeled out and fixed to the back of Dad's car, yippee, we're off on another adventure!

Mum was excited as she had wanted to go to see the big balloons with big wicker baskets for ages, she even went up in one once (no way Katie and me would ever be crazy enough to try that adventure)!

Busy busy busy, we have never been to such a crowded place, there were more people than we'd ever seen in our life but guess who was there, our friends George and Kim from home. We found a lovely grassy spot to watch all the balloons take off but although we saw lots of balloons blown up none of them took off as it was too windy, what a swizz! Still we did get some pizza off Mum.

Day two was much better for us, a six mile walk by the river and across fields near Keynsham. We saw a lock, funny, there is a man in our village called 'Lock' but it didn't look like him, just some floating tin box in between some big gates. There was a big stone stile to climb over but luckily the farmer had put a dog size hole in it so we could climb through, how kind.

After dinner we went on another outing to see the balloons again. Dad parked the car in a field at the top of a hill and this time there were millions of big balloons (well at least 50) so Mum was very happy.

Day three we were off to Glastonbury, Mum always fancied going to the festival there but what a shame, she was too late and missed it! We had a nice lunch in a pub so we could watch the ladies footie, lots of cheering so I guess we won. There were lots of unusual/weird shops and people in the town but there were also lots of flowers in baskets and even the phone box was covered in flowers, very pretty but I don't know how people got in to make a call! We had planned a nice walk for us dogs up to the top of the Tor but then it poured with rain so we didn't go, instead we dashed to the tin box with Dad. Mum went off taking photos of murals painted on the walls around the town, nice if you like that sort of thing which she does.

Day four. A six mile walk around Chew Magna, lots of good smells to sniff! Walked through a big field with amazing maize, it was even taller than Dad, lucky he knew which way to go because you couldn't see out across the field! We saw the 'Standing Stones' but not many were still standing, must have been the strong wind blowing last night. Mum and Dad had a picnic and we gave Dad our best 'save us a bit' look and guess what, he did, yummy ham sandwich! We saw lots of orange things swimming in a pond, mum said they were fish but they didn't look much like the ones on Dads plate that he has with chips!

Back home to sunny Dorset after that and we think the cosy tin box on wheels has been packed away until next spring, hopefully back with more adventure next year! Bye for now, *Rosie and Katie*



## Celebrating Harvest in 1986

Holy Trinity Church, Skipton, South Yorkshire

Plums red and purple reflecting the light  
Piled high on the steps, what a wonderful sight.  
Melons and lemons and bright tangerines,  
Apricots tumbling among runner beans.  
Peas in their pods and a tall sheaf of corn  
With apples and pears plucked early that morn.  
The eagle is polished, with wings widely spread  
He peers with disdain through the grapes on his head.  
Hops twining upward on lectern and pew  
The grand harvest loaf on the altar to view.  
Out peals the organ – the farmers are here,  
With fleeces and plough and a barrel of beer.

Thank God for our harvest from home and away,  
Thank God for our lives as we witness this day.

Sorry this was missing from the October Reporter. Ed

## Local small-ads

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# MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### A Message from Mrs Cheeseman

We are so proud of our school. Our recent survey told us that 100% of our families feel that their children are happy and learn well at our school and that they would recommend it to others. Ofsted agreed with the views of our families and staff that our school remains a 'Good' school and noticed that our children get along harmoniously when they play and learn a broad and balanced curriculum. All visitors to our school who come to work with us notice our amazing children and what a warm school environment we have. Thank you to the staff team, to our children and the school community and to the wider village community for working together to achieve this. I feel very fortunate to work at our fabulous village school.

Mrs Cheeseman

### Literacy Festival

Our Year 4's went to Thomas Hardy School (THS) to listen to an author of two children's books 'Tentacle Boy' and 'Son of the Sea' by Richard Pickard. He talked about the early books he read that inspired him and the films he enjoyed watching.



Year 1 & 2 children went to THS to hear a talk from an author called Neil Layton who talked about his inspirations to write his latest story 'The Story of Stars'.

He talked about other books he has illustrated about different cultures, constellations and the environment.

As well as being a published author, writing a set of 'The Story of . . .' books, he is also an illustrator for lots of other authors. He did a demonstration of how to draw the Danny McGee character from 'Danny McGee Drinks the Sea' by Andy Stanton.

On Sunday 12th November, the school took part in our village's Remembrance Service.

It was a lovely morning and very moving to see so many from our community come together.

The children have been working very hard to create some 'poppy art' to decorate the Church, which looked fantastic and gained lots of compliments.

A very special thank you to George, who laid our wreath and to Aria, Alice, Myles, Evelyn, Jon and Ben, who read the names of the fallen and their own poems during the service. They did a remarkable job and read beautifully. They should be very proud of themselves.



## CONTACTS

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

**Head of School:** Michelle Cheeseman

**School Receptionist/Admin Assistant:** Holly Latham-Winning

**Chair of Governors:** Caleb Brown

**FOS Chairman:** Kate O'Kelly

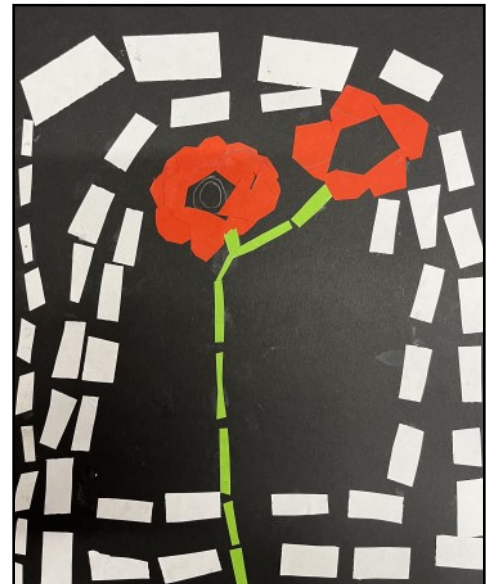
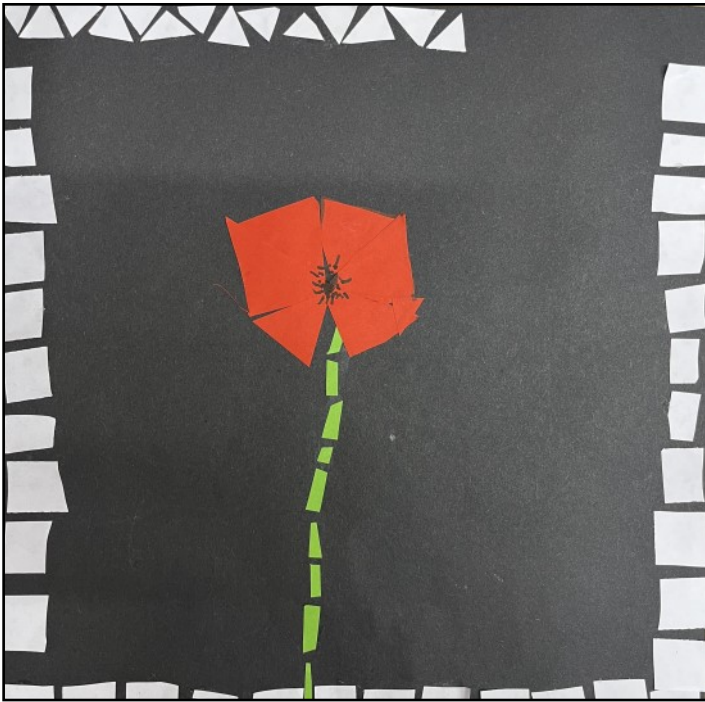
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## Gardening Club helps smarten up the village



THE Gardening Club have been busy! We hope that you have noticed that the tatty old planter at the head of Milton Road disappeared in October, to be replaced by two amazing new ones in November. This was a joint project between the Club and the Parish Council to try to smarten up the village. The photos show the 'before' and 'after'.



Also in November we had our AGM and social with a quiz, and Gardening Club next meets on January 18th – new members welcome.

*Angela Johnson*

## History Group looks into Longmead's past

IN November we had an interesting meeting where we explored all the information that we currently hold about Longmead. Most of the articles and references relate to when it was a 'reformatory' school and when it was classed as an 'Industrial School'.

We found out that in the early 20th Century the 'council' took over the buildings and a sale of equipment was held in 1920. We discovered that some of those who attended remembered the building being used by the Sacred Dancers (who apparently danced at the day organised for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977). Some had memories of staff and leaders over the years but not much else was forthcoming.

If anyone has further information it would be of great interest to our group. Please get in touch.

*Pam Shults* pamshults@btinternet.com

## Known unto God

AT THE Remembrance Service in St. Andrew's this year, there was an additional name on the Roll of Honour. This particular soldier had not been featured for at least 40 years since the new Roll was drawn up, following the loss of the original (which hung in the Methodist Chapel for many years).

I was doing some research of my own when I noticed a Samuel Copp, aged 35, was killed in action on 12th April 1917 (just two days before my own Gt. Gt. Uncle), "Son of Richard Copp of Milborne St. Andrew". He was serving with the 6th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment at the time of his death. Like so many others from the Great War, he has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Richard Copp lived in Chapel Street, died in 1936 at the age of 90, and is buried in our churchyard. According to the 1911 census, when he was living in Maiden Newton, he was born at South Brent on Dartmoor. I remember my Mum and Iris Haynes speaking of "Old man Copp!" who lived in the cottage next to the Old School.

So, we add another name to our roll of honour. But, as we read on so many headstones in Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries across the Somme and beyond, "A Soldier of the Great War, Known unto God". But. Now "We" will remember him.

*Tony Fox*

## Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions available to speak at community groups

Dorset Council's volunteer digital champions are friendly volunteers who can help people get online and increase their confidence with all things digital.

They provide face-to-face support in libraries across the county and are now extending the service to community groups and organisations.

Community organisations can, on a one-off basis, book a digital champion to talk to their group.

The digital champion can also carry out a troubleshooting session on any digital issues people might have.

Any community group that would like to book a digital champion can do so by booking at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/book-a-digital-champion](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/book-a-digital-champion).



**PLEASE NOTE:** Any copy for the **January** issue should be received no later than **9th December**.



# The Big Dorset Apple Cake – December update

WOW! Following our appeal in the last two editions of the *Reporter* for your recipes for Dorset Apple Cake, we have been delighted by the response, thank you all so much. I intend to publish all the recipes in the New Year on a special dedicated page in the Village Hall section of the Milborne St. Andrew website ([www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/villagehall](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/villagehall)) and I will hopefully publish a selection of them month by month in the *Reporter*.

For this month's recipe I am featuring a festive Christmas-Spiced Dorset Apple Cake variation and also the very first recipe to be sent into our own email address. These recipes are to remind everyone that Saturday 1st June 2024 is Dorset Day and to celebrate this we are staging 'The Big Dorset Apple Cake' event. We are hoping to assemble the biggest Dorset Apple Cake in the world and to sell pieces of it to raise funds for the Village Hall. This cake will be made up of lots of individual square cakes made by volunteers and assembled to make one enormous cake. If you would like to volunteer to take part in this fun venture, either by baking a cake or by buying a cake on Dorset Day (or both!), then please email your name to [milborne.applecake@yahoo.com](mailto:milborne.applecake@yahoo.com). A huge thank you to those who have already volunteered.

It was so heartening to get the first positive response to our appeal and was the start of a deluge of delicious sounding recipes, I can't wait to try them. I'm still hoping for a very old traditional recipe to be emailed in, can anyone help? Perhaps one that your mother or grandmother used to make?

Sometimes when a new venture (such as the Big Dorset Apple Cake) is started there is a period of waiting after the initial launch to see if other people think it's a good idea as well or if the whole thing was a mistake and no one will take an interest. It's a huge relief when the first positive comments arrive.

Someone queried why we were holding the event in June rather than in the Autumn time when apples are bountiful. It was felt that as Dorset Day (June 1st) is on a Saturday in 2024, that would be a good date for attracting media publicity. Apples are available all year round and are relatively cheap and if you are careful when harvesting apples from your own tree they can be stored for months. Make sure you take away any that are bruised or damaged, then wrap each apple in a newspaper and put them in a box. The reason you wrap them up is to stop them from touching each other. It's true about the one rotten apple in the barrel. Store them in a cool place, inspect them regularly and they should last until May/June next year.



published on the website or in the *Reporter* with your recipe or if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

## Christmas spices

We sometimes take the all-purpose 'mixed spice' used in this month's recipe and many Dorset Apple Cake recipes, very much for granted. However, if you look carefully at the tiny writing on the label, then you can discover how many different spices make



up the mixture. Most of these spices originated far from our shores and our ancestors wouldn't have had access to any of these flavours.

Spices started to become popular in England in medieval times when soldiers and traders brought them back from far-flung corners of the globe. Their rarity made spices a prized commodity, reserved mostly for the rich and royalty. Since Christmas was a time of great feasts, many spices became synonymous with this time of year, with traditional dishes given an exotic overhaul with the introduction of some amazingly flavoursome spices.

## Cinnamon

Thought to be more valuable than gold in some ancient cultures, cinnamon has a long history and led to many traders and sailors – including Christopher Columbus – scouring the world for a source of the spice. Derived from the inner bark of *Cinnamomum* trees, cinnamon was found to be native to countries such as Sri Lanka and India. It's not just the flavour of cinnamon that is useful in cooking – it also inhibits the growth of bacteria on meat, and has been used for its preservative qualities since ancient times.



## Cloves

Cloves are actually flower buds from a tree native to Indonesia and are used as a spice due to the aromatic quality they bring to cuisine. Cloves are known to have been around for thousands of years, after a ceramic vessel containing cloves dating back to 1721 BCE was discovered in Syria. It is even believed a Chinese leader in the Han Dynasty required anyone who spoke to him to chew cloves to freshen their breath first! As well as being popular in Christmas culinary creations, cloves are also regularly used together with cinnamon and cumin in Mexican and Peruvian food.

## Nutmeg

This spice is made by grinding seeds from the nutmeg tree into powder. Nutmeg is another Christmas food stalwart that is native to Indonesia, first discovered on the island of Pulau Ay approximately 3,500 years ago. Nutmeg was quickly discovered to have many useful properties, helping to preserve food and believed to ward off the plague. Traders who first discovered the spice kept its origin secret so they could keep the monopoly on the prized item. Many battles followed to gain control over the island source, but nowadays that isn't a problem, as at least 10,000 tonnes of nutmeg is produced across the world every year.

## Ginger

Native to Southeast Asia, ginger was widely used in ancient cultures to treat various illnesses and ailments. By the 1st century, it was already being cultivated in multiple countries and being transported to Europe. Many people turn to ginger today to help settle the stomach, but it's most popularly used in an array of cooking. As well as festive treats such as gingerbread, ginger is served everywhere from sushi bars as a pickled accompaniment, to the sauces of Indian curries.

## Christmas-Spiced Dorset Apple Cake

Many Dorset Apple Cake recipes have sultanas in the list of ingredients, you can swap the sultanas with raisins if you like, as raisins are more shrivelled than sultanas and so more readily absorb flavours when marinated. This spicy variation brings a festive twist to any recipe using dried fruit.

For the boozy sultanas, combine:

Juice and zest of half a lemon

Juice and zest of half an orange

2 tablespoons of dark rum or brandy

1 level teaspoon of mixed spice (cinnamon, coriander seed, nutmeg, cloves, pimento, ginger)

50g sultanas (or weight according to your recipe)

Soak the sultanas in the spicy mixture for 24 hours or overnight in a covered container.

Add the now nicely plumped up sultanas to your favourite Dorset Apple cake recipe. If there is any liquid that hasn't been absorbed by the sultanas after marinating, I add that as well as the soaked sultanas as an optional extra. Waste not, want not. Well, it can't hurt, can it?

Even if you are too busy at this time of year to make a cake, then put a few spoonfuls of bought mincemeat from a jar into the middles of some halved (or whole) and cored cooking apples (no need to peel them). Then bake in a medium oven in a covered oven proof dish with a few drops of water or wine for 15–30 minutes until soft. I don't add extra sugar as the mincemeat is intensely sweet but if you have an extra sweet

tooth then you can sprinkle with some Demerara sugar before baking. Sublime served with clotted cream.

## This recipe has been emailed in by Rob Greening

I've seen your article in the *Reporter* for Milborne St. Andrew regarding the biggest Dorset apple cake. I have a recipe that I've had since middle school back in 1987 and I believe 'the best tasting recipe for apple cake'. I would like to share my recipe with you.

## Ingredients

225g Wholemeal Flour

2 tsp Baking Powder

Pinch of Salt

1 tsp Mixed Spice

175g Light Brown Sugar

150g Melted Butter

2 Braeburn Apples

2 large Eggs Beaten

Small handful Sultanas

Demerara Sugar to Top

2 tsp Flaked Almonds

## Method

Set the oven to Gas mark 3 / 160 fan oven

Grease the tin with a little butter. Mix together the dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Dice the apples thinly and add to the mixture, add the butter and eggs.

Mix until you can see apples throughout the mixture and add the mixture to the tin. Place the tin in the centre of the oven and let bake for 1 hour, after 1 hour top with demerara sugar and almonds then bake for a further 5–15 minutes or until a knife comes out clean from the centre.

I hope this recipe will help others and I most certainly cannot wait to take part in this.

*Rob Greening*

I found this poem and thought it fitted well with this month's article. It was written by Deb Blakey who is a spice merchant at Savory Spice, Oklahoma City. Savory Spice has nearly thirty stores located throughout the USA. [savoryspiceshop.com](http://savoryspiceshop.com) – 'Savoring the world one spice at a time'

"Besides being a spice merchant, I am also a musician and a writer, poetry being my favorite genre. I sat down the other day and tried to put on paper some of the magic and music that I find in the wide world of herbs and spices. I think of spices as secret gifts of the earth that enhance our lives and brighten our days with health and fragrance. I am delighted to have this opportunity to share the result with you. Peace and Happy Christmas."

*Continued on page 23*





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## Village Website

[www.milbornestandrew.org.uk](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk)

(search for Milborne St. Andrew)

Information about our village + quick links to:



Village Community



The Reporter (in colour)



Village Hall



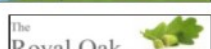
Parish Council



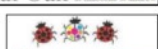
Sports Club



First School



Royal Oak



Ladybirds Playgroup

And more . . .

Save the date!

# Festive Bingo

At the Village Hall

**Saturday 2nd December**

Eyes down 7.30pm  
Bar opens 7pm

Numbers on bingo balls: 1, 6, 12, 28, 44, 66, 9, 19, 13, 7, 32, 47, 4, 21, 8

### Sacred Spice by Debra Dotter Blakley

Fragrant and beautiful Star Anise  
Pepper worth fortunes, crossing the seas,  
Garlic to heal you and Cumin to shout  
Cinnamon, sweet as a kiss on the mouth.

Cloves for preserving and for pain  
Nutmeg, the bringer of fortune and fame,  
Cardamom, Sesame, pale Ginger too,  
Swirled into curries, stir-fries or stews.

Comfortable herbs of Basil and Thyme,  
Sage and Oregano, Tarragon, Freeze Dried Chives.  
Parsley, helping the others to blend,  
Rosemary, Lovage, Marjoram, Mint.

Set them to simmer for tincture or tea,  
for poison or poultice, or visions to see.  
Powerful Turmeric, worker of wonders,  
Allspice from islands of sunshine and thunder.

Bark, root and berry, leaf, seed and flower,  
pick, dry and sort them, sweat them for hours.  
Born of Creation and blessing us twice,  
with health and with flavor, sweet sacred spice.

When I asked permission to use this poem in the *Reporter*, I received a most friendly and encouraging email in response from Christina Hinton who manages the store on behalf of Abe Blakley. I will be sending them the link to our village website and this article in the *Reporter*. We may be living in a remote corner of Deepest Dorset, but through the wonders of the internet we are connected with a whole world of people. As someone who grew up before the World Wide Web was even thought about I still find that remarkable. I wonder what the good people living in Oklahoma City will think when they read about our village activities in the *Reporter*?

Next month's Big Dorset Apple Cake article will be of interest to all of us who will be embarking on a January weight loss regime after the indulgences of the festive season. There will be recipes for Weight Watchers and Slimming World versions of Dorset Apple Cake. If you have any questions then please come along to the next Community Cafe at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th December. You can sign our growing list of cake makers and cake buyers and bring in your favourite apple cake recipe to share.

Rose Frost

David would like to wish his many  
friends at the Wednesday Club a very  
Happy Christmas

Barbara and David would like to  
wish their many friends a very  
Happy Christmas and a  
prosperous New Year for 2024



News Just In.....

### ... from 1890 - Fire in Milborne

NEWS of a devastating fire in August 1890 in a Milborne bakehouse, as reported in the *Blandford Weekly News* at the time. The unfortunate baker called – well, you can guess what his name was – had more than enough reason to feel aggrieved as the fire engine from the town arrived far too late as it was tied up with red tape.

Do any readers have an inkling where the bakehouse was? Get in touch if you think you can throw some light on the burnt out bakehouse or the unlucky baker.

#### MILBORNE ST. ANDREW

**FIRE.**— On Friday last a fire was discovered in a bakehouse belonging to Mr. Baker of this village. The flames spread too quickly to be overcome by ordinary means, and a messenger was sent to Milton Abbas to fetch the Abbey fire engine, and telegraph to Blandford for a fire engine. The Milton Abbey engine was soon on the spot, and the fire was extinguished after it had almost completely gutted the building. By good fortune the wind blew the flames of the burning building against a slated building which was next to it, and the conflagration did not spread. Had the wind been in an opposite direction it is very probable that nothing could have saved a row of thatched dwelling-houses, of which the burning building was the last. The Blandford fire engine did not start in reply to the first telegram as it was unsigned, after-wards a telegram was sent by the Sergeant of the police, and the brigade started, but too late to be of any avail. The damage done was very considerable, as the adjoining slated dwelling-house was occupied by the baker as a store house for flour, and to obviate any danger in that direction a large amount of water was thrown on the building, and a quantity of the flour stored was damaged thereby.



## Computer Problems?



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Enquiries to:  
[msavillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:msavillagehall@gmail.com)  
07866 313999



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IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

# Milton Abbas Surgery

## Do more with the NHS App

If you're a patient at our practice, you can use the NHS App to access a range of NHS services on your smartphone or tablet.

It doesn't replace existing services. You can still contact us in the usual ways. But, once you have verified your identity in the app, you will have easy, 24/7 access to a growing range of health services and information. You can:

- order repeat prescriptions
- access NHS 111 online
- find NHS services
- view your health records
- book appointments
- and much more . . .

If you already use Systmonline you can continue to use it. But the NHS App will give you easy and secure access on your smartphone. If you have any problems using the NHS App, you can select 'help' in the top right-hand corner of the app or visit [nhs.uk/helpmeapp](https://nhs.uk/helpmeapp).

The Mid Dorset Practice Care Network, of which Milton Abbas Surgery is part of, now has a YouTube channel which has short videos on how to use Systmonline and the NHS app. To view the videos please go to [www.youtube.com/@MidDorsetPCN/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/@MidDorsetPCN/playlists)

## Patient Voice

Your surgery needs you! The Patient Voice meetings are open to ALL patients of the Practice over 18 years old and are usually held at the Reading Rooms from 7.00pm once every quarter. The aim is to provide a channel of communication between patients, practice partners, and staff to help develop and build on the quality of healthcare services.

We would really appreciate support in how we can better our service provision, and would love to hear what patients from all backgrounds have to say – young adults, parents, working families, carers etc. These meetings are not for individual complaints or single issues, the objective is to make sure we have a good representation of the diversity of our patient population and then work together to develop services for our patients.

The next meeting will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at the Milton Abbas Reading Room.

If you are interested in knowing more or would like to read the minutes of the most recent Patient Voice meeting, please visit our surgery website [www.masurgery.co.uk/patient-voice](https://www.masurgery.co.uk/patient-voice). Alternatively, if you would prefer to speak with someone or receive meeting notes via the post, please contact the Secretary Nigel Hodder on 07983 013781.

## Flu Vaccinations

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

## Christmas Survival 2023

As festive and exciting Christmas time is for many, there are ones who may be 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](mailto: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.

As of going to print, we are not aware of any activities or meals happening locally specifically for ones who find themselves on their own, but if this changes, we shall make sure to post details on our surgery Facebook page and website. If you do not have use of the internet, you can always call Kelly our Social Prescriber at the surgery, and she can let you know if we hear of anything.

There are also people out there who are ready and able to take your call:

- **Samaritans** 116 123
- 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 4 70 80 90 (for anyone aged 55 years or over)

You are not alone. We will get through this.

## Christmas and New Year Opening Times

**Saturday 23rd December** – Open as usual

**Monday 25th December** – CLOSED

**Tuesday 26th December** – CLOSED

**Wednesday 27th December** – Open as usual

**Thursday 28th December** – Open as usual

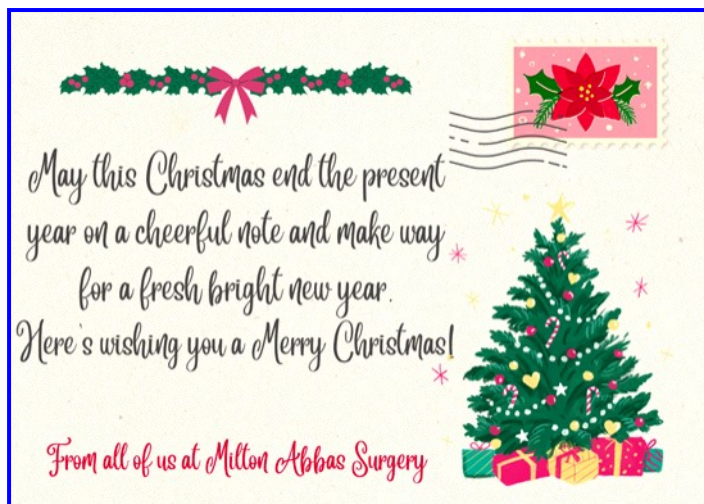
**Friday 29th December** – Open as usual

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

**Monday 1st January** – CLOSED

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

## A Christmas Card to our Patients



**PLEASE NOTE:** Any copy for the **January** issue should be received no later than **9th December.**



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## In the spotlight – Larry from the Players

MEET LARRY. Larry was first introduced to the Milborne Players in 2012 by his now partner Adrienne, a long-term Players' member who clearly enhanced Larry's life in more ways than one! His first character was Happy Harry the Jester and Larry's talent for entertaining was firmly sealed from that moment onwards.



In his (much younger) years, Larry played some minor roles in nativity plays, but the acting and stage bug didn't really grab him until much later, after his relocation to Dorset from Essex in 2006. Under the bright lights of the throbbing metropolis of Sturminster Newton, he took the plunge at an open mic night performing stand-up comedy (thanks to Tim Vine for his material). And so Larry had his first seductive taste of the thrill of being on the stage and in the limelight.

A "nervous excitement" is how Larry describes the minutes and seconds before he struts his stuff on the stage. Preceding this is a glance at the audience he is

about to encounter, via a little known means that only those backstage are privy to. He is genuinely appreciative of the audience and this drives him to take every opportunity to crank up the ante and ensure his character takes comedic risks. Most of us who've had the pleasure (or other!) of seeing Larry in the annual pantomime will be well acquainted with how he uses his physicality to embed some hilarious moments into our memories. Embellishment, audience interaction and going 'off script' (ssshh, don't tell the director) are all the ways Larry entertains us; and how he reaps his own gratification on stage.

About 11 years ago, Larry dipped his toe into the world of poetry writing by brightening up the days of his colleagues by creatively announcing to them information of a somewhat mundane nature:

*The working day has just begun  
It's far too early for a few and some  
What lies ahead we can't expect  
And oh . . . your mail is ready to collect.*

Now fully immersed into his own blog – as well as a bespoke and custom poetry writing service – Larry is enjoying the challenge of writing a once weekly poem based upon . . . err, absolutely anything and everything. Nothing is off limits.

Spice up your Friday evenings with Larry's weekly poem published here at <https://wisforduck.wordpress.com>

See Larry next on stage in a starring role in the next Milborne Players' pantomime during the first weekend of February 2024. You won't be disappointed!

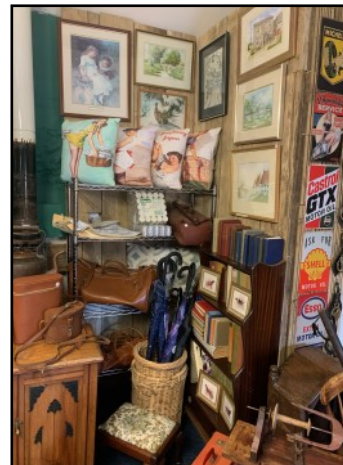
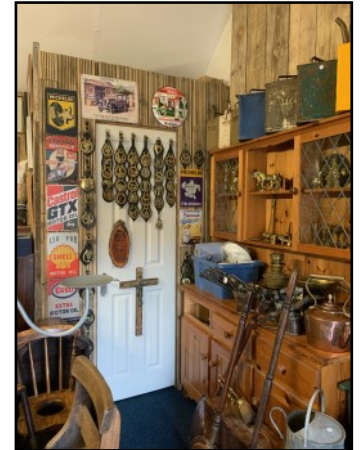
As ever, if you'd like to get involved front of house or back stage, we'd be so happy to have you join us. Message or call me on 07804 600204 or come along to rehearsals at the Village Hall at 8.00pm on a Monday evening.

Kate Hawker

## Antiques too at Crafty Barn Tearooms

DORSET'S Crafty Barn Tearoom at Luccombe Business Centre has opened another unit which is selling Antiques, curios and collectibles. It is open the same hours as the Tearoom (everyday except Wednesday 10.00am-4.00pm) However from December 1st we are open everyday until Christmas Eve as we will have fresh non drop Nordmann Christmas trees for sale as we have done on previous years. Fresh door wreaths are available also. Enjoy a super hot chocolate while choosing your tree.

Luccombe Business Centre DT11 0BD and follow the signs.



## Can you help the Reporter?

**Do you like writing?** We are looking for people to write articles for the magazine, submitting things that they think the village would be interested in please contact the Editor, David Payne 01258 837700 or email [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk).





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**The Reporter team would like to wish all our readers and contributors a very Happy Christmas**

## What's on in December

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	<b>Christmas Fair</b> Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall 11.30am–2.00pm.
<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	<b>Christmas Bazaar</b> Dewlish Village Hall 2.30pm.
<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	<b>Festive Bingo</b> Village Hall Eyes down 7.30pm.
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>Wednesday Club Christmas Lunch</b> Crown Hotel Blandford 12.30am.
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> Village Hall 7.00pm.
<b>Friday 8th</b>	<b>Bridge</b> The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	<b>Community Café</b> Village Hall 10.00am.
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	<b>Mid-day deadline for copy for the January Reporter</b> Send copy, photographs to <a href="mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk">msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk</a> or give to a member of the team. Team members can be found on page 2.
<b>Thursday 14th</b>	<b>WI Party</b> theme Village Hall 7.30pm.
<b>Friday 15th</b>	<b>Bridge</b> The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	<b>Christmas Fair</b> 10.00am – 3.00pm The Luccombe Hub based at Luccombe Business Park, Milton Abbas – see page 14.
<b>Saturday 16th</b>	<b>Carols by candlelight</b> St. Andrew's church 6.00pm
<b>Friday 22nd</b>	<b>Bridge</b> The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Eucharist</b> St. Andrew's church 10.00pm.
<b>Saturday 25th</b>	<b>Christmas Celebration</b> St. Andrew's church 10.15am.

**View the Reporter each month in colour at [www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index)**

## Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

**Players** Monday 7.00pm weekly.  
**Line Dancing** Tuesday 7.30pm weekly.  
**Wednesday Club** 2.00pm 1st Wednesday monthly.  
**Yoga** Thursday 3.30pm weekly (term time only)  
**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

**Stitchcraft** (kids) Wednesday 4.15–5.15pm and 5.30–6.30pm, Thursday 4.00–5.00pm  
**Sewcial Crafters** (adults) Thursday 1.00–3.00pm and 5.30–7.30pm  
**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


**Ladybirds Playgroup** Monday–Friday 8.30am.  
**Pilates** Monday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only).  
**Yoga** Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm (term time only).  
**Badminton** Wednesday 6.30–8.00pm (term time only).  
**Kickboxercise** Thursday 7.00–8.00pm.



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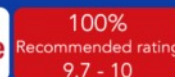


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# Community Contacts

More information about many community organisations can be found on [www.milbornestandrew.org.uk](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk)

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

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

Dewlish Village Hall		
Chairman:	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617

Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall		
Chairman:	Linsey O'Neill	07798 720812
Booking Secretary:	Susan Poet	07866 313999
MSA Sports & Social Club	Chairman: Richard Lock	01258 837929
	Bookings: Richard Lock	01258 837929

## 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	Chair: Richard Macnair	07774 081551
	milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	

**Dorset Council Services:** For matters relating to roads repairs, bins, litter, environmental health, planning, footpaths and parking, [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or call 01305 221000

**Flooding:** Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188

**Environmental Incident:** Environment Agency Hotline 0800 80 70 60

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

South West Highways [hello@swhitd.co.uk](mailto:hello@swhitd.co.uk) 01404 821500

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

MSA Flood Warden, Non-emergency only: Mark Johnson 01258 839060

## GENERAL — ADULT

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

## GENERAL — YOUTH

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

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
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

## 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

## Farewell to the Events Committee of St. Andrew's Church

IT IS with regret that I write to inform you that the current Events Committee will cease to be at the end of this year.

The Events Committee was first started in 2013 with the purpose of providing social events which would also bring in some finances towards the upkeep of our old church building.

Many thanks go to all who have supported our organised events. Especial thanks to those who have been on the committee, giving their time, efforts and supplying necessary items such as cakes, raffle prizes, etc. Those members deserve the whole hearted thanks from the Parochial Church Council. They include Anne, Caroline, Eva, Di, Hazel, Jenny, Josie, Jo, Marion, Maureen and Rose. Also, thanks to those people who have helped with the Summer and Christmas markets and many other events by giving up their time and in supplying goods.

If anyone or a group would like to rise to the challenge of organising social events and fundraising on behalf of the church they would be welcomed with enthusiasm.

Happy Christmas to all.

*Pam Shults, Retiring Chair*

## Have you something to share?

Send your stories and pictures to

[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)

or give them to a member of the team.





# A FAMILY FRIENDLY TRADITIONAL VILLAGE PUB IN MILBORNE ST. ANDREW

## December 2023



Tuesday December 19th  
Christmas Carols 7.00pm



Christmas Day open 12–2.00pm  
for drinks only

29th December end of year quiz 8.00pm

*Happy Christmas from all at The Royal Oak*

Dorchester Hill, Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset DT11 0JG  
Visit [www.theroyalokmilborne.co.uk](http://www.theroyalokmilborne.co.uk)  
or for enquiries email [hello@theroyalokmilborne.co.uk](mailto:hello@theroyalokmilborne.co.uk)

TO BOOK CALL  
**01258 837248**