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Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 16 Issue 2

February 2024

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

Sheer panic as MSA residents flee a garage fire

AT 5.45pm on Tuesday 19th December 2023, 19 year old welder Barnaby Rogers was working on a friend's car in his Hopsfield garage. An experienced welder he had just taken the important step of becoming self employed with many successes behind him and a bright future ahead.

However all that was soon in jeopardy. Feeling heat on his legs he realised that the car was on fire and soon the double garage was engulfed in flames. His mother, Adrienne, says that when she got there, there was nothing a bucket or a hose could do. She got some water but realised that it made no difference as it was out of her control. Helplessly they had to sit and wait as it burned. Although appearing "an age" it was only 15 minutes



before the fire crews from four stations arrived. The blaze was extinguished by 9.45pm. In the meantime a 200 metre cordon was placed around the garage and locals were evacuated to the village hall and

the public house, The Royal Oak. Places of safety were required due to the known presence of, empty, potentially explosive acetylene cylinders which were still highly flammable. Fin Liddy, an employee at the pub, says there were 50–100 people who realised that even they might have to be evacuated again. The sanctuary and support offered by those two places were incredibly valuable to anxious villagers during those tense hours.

The family have lived in the village for 30 years and in one night lost precious inherited tools together with props and costumes for their hobby of medieval re-enactment, camping and garden equipment. Barnaby's mother found enormous support from neighbours who gave tools and raised money to help her and her family in their plight. She speaks of being "brought to tears" by their kindness, humbled and grateful for their huge generosity especially at Christmas time when most were finding finances difficult to manage. They were shocked to discover that their 'outbuildings insurance had a £5k limit'. The evacuation of residents within a 200 metre radius of the fire had caused understandable fear and consternation amongst villagers (one of whom says she felt "sheer panic"), who praised the efficiency of fire and police crews. Adrienne's apologies, despite her discomfort at facing her neighbours, were warmly received. She tells me now that her family are struggling significantly following the fire which continues to affect her family. Currently still traumatised and sleepless, "seeing flames whenever (she) closes (her) eyes" they say they will be "forever grateful" to those who contributed with cash filled envelopes pushed through the door and a crowd funder set up by Julianne Notley. She estimates 97% of their belongings were lost but they continue to sift through the ashes to retrieve handle-less tools to clean and refurbish. The "mountain of clean-up work continues". An "overwhelming amount of £2k" has been given and Adrienne wishes to credit the warmth of local people in a caring and supportive village who rose to this occasion with immediate concern and practical help.

Carole Fornachon

Elopement, death and shooting: at the January WI

OUR President, Jenny, welcomed us to the first WI meeting of the New Year, which will no doubt be as busy as ever. The Ashley Wood Golf Club proved to be a warm and inviting venue for our post-Christmas meal, and much enjoyed by everyone.

Veronica reported that the Book Club had met at Sarah's to discuss *'The Red Tent'* by Anita Diamant, a story of the biblical women much overlooked in the bible, enjoyable but not considered a 'great read'. The next book is Billy Connolly's *'Tall Tales and Wee Stories'*, a complete change of genre.

I think we would all agree that Milborne St. Andrew is a lovely village in which to live, with a vibrant and busy community. However, our own Linda Wright offered to talk to us about some rather more turbulent times from village history. Newspapers are an important source of information and can be accessed easily on line. Hence the title of her talk – *'An elopement, a mysterious death and a shooting'*!

In 1852 *'in the beautiful village of Milborne St. Andrew'*, Miss Mary Simms eloped with Mr George Ingram of Bagber Farm and they were secretly married. The fathers of both were of equal status, and there would not seem to be any real reason not to marry in the traditional way. Apparently the married couple went on to have two children and live happily ever after.

In 1879, at a time when it was almost normal for deaths to happen suddenly, the reporting of the suspected mysterious deaths of two children caused a stir in the village. William Stickland, aged five, was taken ill and died suddenly, as was his sister shortly afterwards. They were buried, but the rumour mill and the mention of suspected poisoning led to the involvement of the Secretary of State and the bodies being exhumed. The mother was questioned, but no suspicious circumstances were identified. Not surprisingly, afterwards, the family moved away – a sad story.

Courts at the time dealt with many cases of poaching and the drunk and disorderly – Milborne was no different, there were after all three pubs in the village. And so to the colourful life of Alfred Dicker. Baptised in the church in 1828, he was 17 when he first appeared in court accused of poaching and sent to prison for three months. Dicker was a tall and heavily built man, and became a notorious poacher. He married a widow, Mary in 1854. There are many incidents then recorded of poaching, assaults on his wife, spells in prison and sentences of hard labour. Evidence produced by gamekeepers in court, included feathers and twigs – never the rabbit or bird, which had probably gone into the pot by then! One headline pronounced – *'Alfred Dicker a notorious poacher is shot'*. Described as belligerent and vicious, Dicker died at 84 in 1910. His poor wife Mary died at 81 at Blandford Workhouse in 1908. A miserable, hard and criminal life.

A fascinating talk: Linda gave us a mirror into some colourful village lives and illustrated how accessible social history can be.

Milborne WI is 79 years old next month, so there are celebrations to come. We meet on Thursday 8th February with the opera singer, Grace Lovelass. Please come along and join us.

Pat Bull

Deadline for the next issue 14th February

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2023 Weather in Milborne St. Andrew

The total rainfall for 2023 was 1318.7mm making it the 4th wettest year in the last 53 years.

The wettest year was 2014 with 1404.7mm.

There was rain on the first 14 days of January but after snow on the 15th and 18th, the rest of January was dry. The temperature fell to -5°C on 16th and 17th. February was the driest since 1998 with only 10.8mm of rain. March made up for the low rainfall in February with 142.7mm of rain with rain on every day in the last 17 days of the month. There was snow on 7th March. April was cooler and wetter than average with 72.0mm of rain. May was also wetter than average with 81.8mm of rain but the last two weeks of May became warm and dry. June was a glorious month with warm days and only 26.7mm of rain and it seemed we might be in for another hot dry summer but both July and August were cool and wet months with 124.4mm and 76.0mm of rain respectively. The temperature reached 29°C on 14th June but the temperature did not reach that again until the first week of September. The first two weeks of September were hot and dry with the temperature reaching 32°C on the 9th but the last two weeks of September were wet with 81.4mm of rain. The second half of October was the start of a prolonged period of storms and wet weather with 164.9mm of rain in October followed by 184.3mm of rain in November and 210.5mm of rain in December. The highest October to December rainfall was in 2000 with 658.9mm of rain.

The average temperature for the year in Milborne St. Andrew was 11.1°C which was the same as the average Central England Temperature for 2023. The Central England Temperature is the longest, continuous record of temperature in existence and was started in 1659. It is the average of temperatures at centres around the Midlands area. This record shows only a slight rise in summer temperatures but a more marked rise in winter temperatures.

We are fortunate to live in Dorset as Dorset seems to miss the worst of the extreme weather events that happen in the country but this year marks 200 years since the great storm of 1824 when Dorset came off worst. The storm occurred on 22nd November and damaged 86 houses at Chisel with the loss of 26 inhabitants. Houses on the Esplanade at Weymouth were flooded and boats drifted helplessly in the streets of Weymouth. The church at Fleet was destroyed and part of the Cobb at Lyme Regis was washed away. The storm caused much damage along the coast to Christchurch. It is not known exactly how many lives were lost but it exceeded 100.

Pluvius.



Winter wildlife

WE often think that the winter months are the least interesting for the local wildlife but often there is something new or unexpected. I am writing this just before Christmas, so of course do not know of what delights there are to come after the season's celebrations. I am a little disappointed that, as yet, I have not seen the regular winter visitors of Redwing and Fieldfare, but that is mostly because I have not looked in the right places of open fields of grassland or old stubble. However, I was pleased to hear that there have been flocks of Yellowhammers seen in the fields to the west of the village from the path we still call the Two Miler from the old fun run days. One spectacular sight this December has been the display, known as a murmuration, of thousands of Starlings in the late afternoon, circling, wheeling, and turning, prior to settling to roost. I have seen this at Ham Wall reserve in the Somerset levels but only this year in Milborne in such large numbers. Where exactly they have been roosting, I do not know, but wherever it is they will probably be making a lot of noise when they are settling down.

Many years ago, when my boys were not yet teenagers, we were walking in the area to the south of the village in the area known as the Beeches on the edge of Culeaze field and close to what was then called 'the Stickleback tank', where we found a mature eel making its way across a wet grassy field. It was quite a surprise, although I subsequently learnt that they will travel in this way in search of new watercourses. This year someone asked me about herons in the area and I said I was familiar with their occasional presence as one had emptied my pond of goldfish a few years ago. I now have a hinged net on the pond and have goldfish again. The reason for the question was that a heron had been seen not only standing on the topmost roofs at Huntley Down, but also in the stream at a time when it was in full flow. To their surprise the heron was clearly getting something from the stream and on closer inspection with binoculars saw that it was small young eels. Such good news that eels were still making their way upstream to this location, but producing young eels too. So, good for both; eels breeding and herons feeding. There are seven or more heronries in the county that are monitored by the British Trust for Ornithology, the closest of which is near the new wind turbines on the Puddletown road near Wareham.

There continue to be quite large numbers of hips and haws (berries of Wild Rose and Hawthorn) still on the bushes. This is probably a reflection on the relative warm weather there has



been until now, and the birds that would have eaten them have had enough other foods to forage. However, the holly berries are generally the first to go and have mostly been stripped off. So none for my Christmas wreath, but plenty of ivy, yew, and conifer as well as my flourishing mistletoe with berries, on an apple tree in my garden.

Pip Bowell



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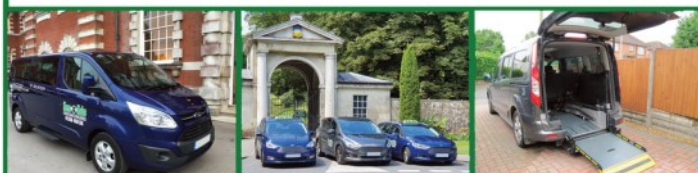
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Milborne Players 2024 Pantomime “Mother Goose”

THE time is now upon us, for the Milborne Players to present their 2024 Pantomime “Mother Goose”!!

Oh no it's not!! I hear everyone cry. The Players have been rehearsing since last October and have, over the weeks, brought Ron Karley and Joe McSavage's script to life. Again.

I say again, as this is not the first time this “Mother Goose” has been performed by the Players, but on a very different Milborne Village Hall stage and a very much updated script. However, several of the cast members – from the original performance 20 years ago – are appearing again.

The cast have been a brilliant group to work with over the last months, with all of them getting into their characters and line learning! Although I have stage managed the Players' pantomimes from 2009, this is the first time I have directed one. It has been a steep learning curve, directing all sorts of different characters. And that's just the cast.

I believe panto is one of the few times of the year when an entire family can come and watch, and all feel part of a performance. I would encourage anyone to buy a ticket and come and watch the Milborne Players' 2024 Pantomime “Mother Goose” on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd February 2024.

Tickets are available from the Milborne Londs shop and from our box office. Details available on our poster – see page 10.

Do tell your friends and family and we look forward to seeing you.
Andy Coetzee, Milborne Players 2024 Director

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Trading Standards will use the information you have provided to decide if to investigate unfair trading and illegal business activity. Often business advice is all that's needed. However, Trading Standards can take businesses to court when there have been major breaches and it's in the public interest to do so.

Here are just some examples of when you should report a business to Trading Standards:

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- fake goods
- misdescribed goods
- you were pressurised to buy something
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- A business seller has tried to stop you using your legal rights, such as saying you can't return faulty goods
- the price wasn't clear, or an unexpected extra cost was added
- a business is selling age restricted products to people underage
- work wasn't carried out properly at your address

 Trading Standards will contact you back if they need more information about what has happened. Often Trading Standards look for persistence, so even if they don't act on one complaint, they may use your evidence to act against the business in the future if other people make complaints too.

Welcome to new team member

BOB CLARK has joined the *Reporter* team and is taking over the job of distribution organiser.

Newbie on the Team

AS you may know, Rich is retiring as the general distributor of the *Reporter* and I have volunteered to replace him. My name is Bob Clark and I have lived at the far end of Chapel Street since 9th December 2020 with my wife Angie and old Red Setter called Arthur, who is probably more well known than either of us!

Following a career in the Maritime Industry, I am thoroughly enjoying retirement which started back in 2014 and I keep up my affinity for salt water by volunteering with the National Coastwatch Institution at Swanage. Playing Golf at Ashley Wood, Bowls at the Dolphin in Poole, I play Crib at The Royal Oak and eat out with the MSA Food and Wine Club. With this job only occupying one day a month or so, I am certain that I can just about slot it in! It will mean one day a month less of pulling weeds and cutting grass anyway!

Looking forward to meeting more of you – Bob

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Love and Lent

This year, as happens occasionally, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day.

At first glance there may not seem to be much they hold in common, but the link can be summed up in one word – love.

Not much is known about St. Valentine, other than that he was executed in the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius for converting people to Christianity. One story says that on the night before he died, he wrote a letter to a girl whom he had converted to Christianity and signed it "from your Valentine"; this led to the custom of writing love-letters and sending cards on Valentine's Day.

In his time, married men were excused from fighting in the army, because the Emperor saw wives as a distraction. Legend has it that Valentine married people in secret so they could avoid army service, which antagonised the authorities, and associated Valentine with love.

For Christians, Lent too is about love – responding to the love of God by self-discipline and prayer. This aspect often gets overshadowed by the idea of penitence and fasting, which can turn Lent into a time of misery and deprivation rather than one which has love at its heart. But even the penitence and fasting have a positive purpose – to get back to basics with one's relationship with God and to be people for whom God's love is the most important part of life.

In the temptations in the wilderness, Jesus responded three times that loving God was the most important thing, above satisfying physical desires (turning stones into bread), worshipping others (worshipping the tempter) and testing God (jumping off the Temple). Each time he was tempted, he responded by putting God first.

When we love, we aim to put the other first. Lent is a time that helps Christians to put God first in everything – hence the tradition of giving up things that distract us from that. Rather than a negative time of deprivation, it is a positive attempt to grow in faith and trust.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

With best wishes

Sarah

Notes from St. Andrew's

IT seems appropriate to be looking back to Christmas as we are in the throes of a "bleak midwinter" at present. Attendances over the Christmas period were up on previous years, and the Carol Service by Candlelight was beautiful. It was good to have the choir singing; we hope to build on that success, singing at festivals. We welcomed the Rev'd Jo Lacy-Smith as our Celebrant and preacher for the First Eucharist of Christmas on Christmas Eve, and Sarah led our celebrations on Christmas morning. The pipe organ was pressed into Service after the electronic instrument gave up the ghost shortly before the Carol Service. Our thanks go to Sarah and Michael Shorrocks for providing the refreshments after the Carol Service; they were much appreciated and enjoyed! Our flower arrangers did a wonderful job of making the Church look festive, and thanks to Becky for putting the Christmas tree in place.

The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated with our latest Milborne Praise, led by Tony. It was good to welcome so many, especially a family visiting for the first time. The Kings were placed in the Crib, and Iona helped with the offering of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Thanks to all who contributed in any way, not least to Angela for providing the delicious cake which we enjoyed with our refreshments after the Service. Our next Milborne Praise is on February 4th, and Worship in Stillness continues on the third Sunday of each month, led by Pam.

With Easter being early this year (Easter Day is March 31st), Lent begins on

Continued on page 11

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

February

4th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

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
4.00pm	Bubble Church NEW!	Puddletown Village Hall

11th February – Sunday next before Lent

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.30pm	Sunday Reflections	Tolpuddle

14th February – Ash Wednesday

6.00pm	United Benefice Holy Communion with imposition of ashes	Milborne
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18th February – Lent 1

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

25th February – Lent 2

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

DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday – Thursday. 8.30am; Saturday. 9.00am

On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman

(sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com) for the link

LENT

During Lent there will also be: **Wednesdays**

Compline in St. Andrew's, Milborne at 6.00pm

(beginning 21st February.) Thursdays **Evening Prayer** in All Saints', Dewlish at 6.30pm (beginning 22nd February.)

Church Contacts on page 11.

Deadline for the next issue

14th February

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The Milborne Players Present

MOTHER GOOSE

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Continued from page 9

February 14th, Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday Eucharist for the Benefice is being held in Milborne this year, at 6.00pm. Tony will lead Compline on Wednesday evenings during Lent, beginning on the 21st at 6.00pm. All are welcome to join us for this short act of devotion. As one Lenten prayer states: "As the earth spends longer in the light, so may we spend longer in Your presence, Lord, as we prepare for Easter."

A kind donor has made three items for us: a new Pulpit Desk, a noticeboard for the side of the Londis Shop, and a "Church Parking" sign. We are very grateful for these items and the skill that has gone into them. Thank you!

At the Epiphany Service we were reminded of the custom of marking our homes at this time invoking a blessing on them during the year ahead. ~~2014~~ **2015** ~~C+M+B+24~~ The letters signify the traditional names of the three Wise Men (well done, Cate!), but can also stand for the Latin phrase, "Christus Mansionem Benedicat." – Christ Bless this House. As I sit by the fire with a glass of Eggnog, may that be our prayer this year. May God bless us all!
Tony and Pam Churchwardens

Dewlish Church Notes

WE WERE delighted to see so many people at our Carol Service – 100, including children! It was such a joyous occasion; the children acted out the Nativity beautifully while the readers did so well too. Aiden (on organ) and Beccy on saxophone accompanied our singing. Thank you so much. Beccy started the service by playing "Walking in the Air" from *The Snowman*. Well done! It was beautiful!

A big thank-you, as always, to Jim who organised the whole service. He's been doing the Carol Service for so many years we have lost count of how many times!

The church looked wonderful for the Christmas period with its colourful decorations, the two Christmas tableaux and the candles alight in the windows. Thank you all.

The Christmas Day service was led by Sarah, and we were so pleased to have such a good congregation again. It was a lovely and fitting service to begin our special day! The collection taken at the service amounted to £205 and this has been donated to the Children's Society.

January will be a quiet month for us, but after that we shall be very busy preparing for Lent and Easter. All details will be included next month.
Daphne Burg

Church Contacts

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Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203
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Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466
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Benefice Office

Emma Hughes puddletownbenefice@outlook.com
or by telephone on 01305 849039



... from 1864 – Reformatory Runaway

This first appeared in *The Salisbury and Winchester Journal* in March 1864. The Reformatory was what is now Longmead farm.

King's quadrille band from Blandford afforded the music, and all the arrangements were successful and gratifying.

MILBORNE ST. ANDREW

THE REFORMATORY. - On Monday last there absconded from the Milborne Reformatory a boy named John Chainey, of Burton Bradstock, aged 14, answering to the following description:- 'Height, four feet seven-and-a-half inches, light brown hair, slightly freckled in face, brown mole on right side of upper lip, another on the right hand, cut inside of second finger of same hand, several cuts on back of first and second fingers of same hand, round blue mark on right wrist, 'J.C.' on back of same hand, dressed in corduroy trousers and cord sleeve waistcoat.' P.C. Thompson received information of the runaway, and traced him by Milborne Rings and on to Tolpuddle and Affpuddle towards Moreton, where he lost scent of him, but he there forwarded the information, as it is most likely he is making his way home. Mr. Stent missed the boy from the Reformatory about 8 a.m.

CRANBORNE

PETTY SESSIONS.— Before Lieut-Gen. C. Michel, Colonel Napier Sturt, M.P.,

Anyone for bridge?

2024 is now well under way and the opportunities for all the enjoyable outdoor evening activities are still a few months away. So now is a good opportunity to learn a new skill (or improve your existing skills) by joining the MSA Bridge Group.

The MSA Bridge Group has now been going for around 11 years and several 'novices' have learned and developed their expertise in a very social and 'blame free' environment. For anyone who has never played before instruction will be provided along with a simple two-page 'crib' sheet. In fact, several of our 'regulars' had never played before joining the group but have enjoyed the way of learning and improving their game.

We meet at The Royal Oak in Milborne St. Andrew with meetings being held every Friday afternoon. All sessions start at 2.30pm. There is no charge for joining or playing.

If you would like to try something new or to improve your playing skills by regular practice and would like more information please contact me, Laurie Benn, on 01258 837720 or by email at laurie@benn.me.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie Benn

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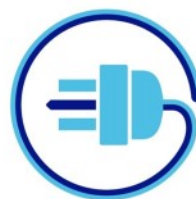
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DOORS AND BAR AT 7.00PM**

The Village Hall - Milborne St Andrew - DT11 0JX

MSA Food & Wine Club Christmas Dinner – 15th December 2023 (plus impromptu mystery tour!)

THIS annual event is always keenly anticipated by members of the Food & Wine club. This year, with a sumptuous dinner planned at the Langton Arms in Tarrant Monkton was no different.

What was a surprise was the magical mystery tour that preceded the main event.

With the benefit of hindsight there were clues. When we approached The Square to catch the coach, instead of it being parked in the Post Office bus stop it was parked on the Blandford Hill side pointing away from Blandford. No matter, I thought, it's probably come from Blandford and will turn around shortly; maybe it would turn left onto the causeway.

Boarding the coach our driver asked if we were going to the Langton Arms. Yes we said; we even explained about the ford that he might want to avoid. At 6.00pm on the dot we were all aboard and on our way. We didn't turn left. That's alright I thought, I expect he's going to drive down to the A35 and turn around the roundabout there. We had plenty of time after all. And there was another clue, why did they allow 45–60 minutes to get to Tarrant Monkton? We reached the roundabout and turned left onto the A35. Ah, I said to Linsey, we must be going up through Winterborne Kingston. That would seem reasonable. Alas at the Shell roundabout down by Bere Regis we turned right. At the same moment that Linsey said, "We're going to Langton Matravers!" I thought, "We're going to Langton Matravers!". Charlie, who was closer to the front than me, went to discover from the driver where we were going. His docket said The Langton Arms at Langton Matravers. Thanks to the miracle of modern telecoms we were able to check the booking and true enough we had indeed booked to go to the fictional Langton Arms at Langton Matravers.

With great good humour our driver turned around and wove his way across the highways and byways of Dorset providing on the way the tremendous sight of all the Christmas lights variously displayed across the county.

There were a few hairy moments negotiating the narrow lanes of Tarrants Launceston and Monkton. After a brief look at the ford discretion took the better part of valour and we navigated even tinier lanes to reach our oh so very welcoming destination only a few minutes late.

The staff of The Langton Arms were brilliant and very accommodating. Our group confessed to actually enjoying our magical mystery tour and it all made for a very jolly evening.

The food and wine, it must be said, was superb. Service was so astonishing that many dishes appeared to arrive as if by magic. All of the food was piping hot and delicious.

The very lovely team at The Langton Arms even gave our driver a lovely turkey dinner which was a fantastic surprise for him.

We finished our very convivial evening at about 11.00pm and were back in Milborne by 11.30pm or so having enjoyed some very raucous Christmas songs and carols along the way.

The Langton Arms provided a gorgeous feast and cosy surroundings. A fabulous night was had by all and I think it really set everyone up beautifully for the big day itself.

If you've not eaten at The Langton Arms I would thoroughly recommend it.

I sincerely hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

Steve, Chairman of the MSA Food & Wine Club.



Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club



IN January, Gardening Club started the year with a very interesting insight into the recent changes at Athelhampton under new ownership.

On Thursday 15th February, starting at 7.30pm in the village hall, we have Martin Young back with us to give advice on the best plants for our Milborne chalk soil and plants to attract pollinating insects. Hopefully, some plants will cover both bases!

Do come and join us, as a guest for £2 or membership is just £12 for the whole year. Everyone welcome, free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Angela and Mark Johnson

Hello from Ladybirds!!



I AM the new Leader and am so pleased to be taking on the management and leadership of the preschool in Milborne. I've been a qualified Early Years Teacher for around twelve years and with twenty years' experience in Early Years teaching and leadership roles.

I feel very welcomed here by all the families, children and staff and acknowledge all that has gone on before my arrival at this lovely new environment within the school. The children have adapted well to the new location and have taken my arrival in their stride. We have

also welcomed six new families this term and ideally would like to welcome more.

If you are a parent/carer of a young child it will be very worthwhile you checking your entitlement to childcare support as there are some major changes coming up.

Further information on this is available at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

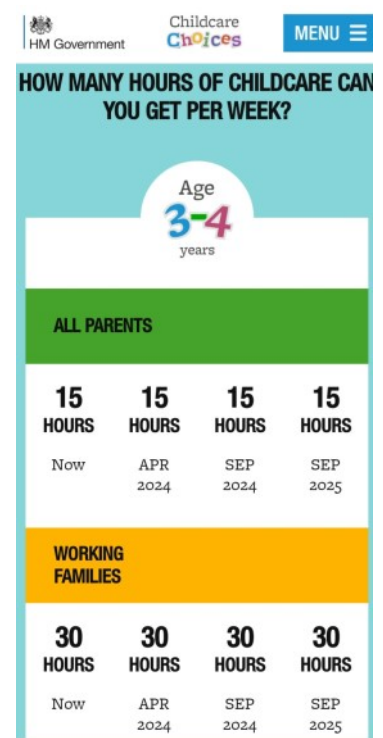
As I write this the term has just started its third week and we've been able to take the children's needs and interests to support learning. We've taken advantage of the weather to set toys in ice overnight outside to then explore in the morning and afternoon as it's taken that long to thaw.

Job Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Level 2 or Level 3 Preschool Practitioner for a minimum of nine hours maximum of 15 hours per week. Salary according to qualifications.

Please give me a call in preschool hours on 07767450967 or email leader@milborneladybirds.com

Samantha (Sam) Mercer



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We're still making a difference, not making do!

TWO months later than planned we have completed all the elements of Phase 1 of the Dorset Council 106 Funding Allocation. The total grant approved for the seven elements of the project was £11,478.16. The total amount spent was £15,548.26. That is not because of bad project management but because there was wriggle room to do more using sports club top up funding under the general headings of Formal Maintenance and Formal Enhancement.

We entered into the agreement knowing that if we underspent, the money would be returned, if we overspent, that was Ok but it was on the understanding that no extra funding would be forthcoming.

So that relates to about a 74.24% split with the Sports Club making up the difference out of its own funds which is the norm expected by other grant funding bodies.

So what was the money spent on I hear you sigh

- Well, we now have an upgraded Fire Alarm replacing a defunct system that was well past its sell-by date.
- All the external walls, fascia and underside canopy have been repaired as necessary and repainted by Richard Andrew's Décor to a very high standard.
- The old poor-quality guttering has been ripped down and (about to be) replaced by deep flow guttering. It is here but not in place and that work is to be undertaken soon by Keith and Sam Jaques. Many thanks for your support.
- Upgrades and enhancements to the electrical system including energy saving PIR controls in both corridors and an uprated CCTV Security system.
- Drainage works to divert the run off of rain water from the driveway away from the pavilion.
- External 63 Amp electrical multi socketed distribution box and extension cabling for safe use of outside electrics. Already been used on a wedding reception and birthday party.
- Replacing the access locks to the main gate and the Pavilion with a digital keypad access control system to make the site more accessible to all without the need for the musical chair scenario of "pass the key" to the next user.

In addition and separate to all the above we have provided an additional keypad to the outside toilet and with grateful thanks to a donation from Dianne Brady we have also fitted 10 colour changing 'wall wash' lights under the veranda. These might be confusing to the night-time helicopter wargames and a beacon of multi changing lights to the residents of Bere Regis and users of Roke Road, but it should have a positive effect on the user experience. They were fitted yesterday but it is proving difficult to sync them to the controller. (My head hurts but we will win through in the end).

A Cunning Plan . . . Maybe

A little bit more on the keypad access control that will almost certainly change and improve over time because it is an extremely versatile and flexible system.

We can allocate codes to individuals or individual groups, sports teams and we can set the days and the times that those codes will be operative and we can set which of the three keypads they can use .

So the code for the Poole Town Ladies football team will only be operative on Sundays and will be for the gates and the Pavilion.

Every user group on the site Beavers, Busy Bees, Yoga, Stitchcraft will be allocated one code. The code that any Pavilion user is allocated will also be allocated to the separate CCTV and security system installed in the Pavilion and the containers, so still only one number to remember.

The 20 members or so of the Allotment group will have one

access code to remember. In their case, they can operate the keypads of the gates and the outside toilets with their single code.

Casual infrequent users (hirers) for birthday parties, pitch up camping, parking, one off community access a random code will be issued to the areas they require and at the end of the hire period the code will be automatically erased.

In addition to all the above we hope to be able to offer vehicular access to the site for any member of the community who for whatever reason wishes to use their car rather than just walk in through the pedestrian gates. So any member of the local community, and this includes the TIC TOC boys from Dorchester or the Band from Milton Abbas will have vehicular access through the gates and access to the outside toilet or whatever they need.

At this point you might like to sit down

Access codes are either: 1. set and known by both the person managing the system and the individual concerned and that person has to physically enter the numbers onto the relevant keypad

2. a select few (trustees) will have a key fob

3. Smart access can be provided by waving a mobile phone with an activated Smart App. In this instance the system allocates a random code that neither the owner of the phone or the system manager knows. The clever bit is, the mobile and the keypad know the number and only that phone can be used to open the maglock.

This is to be the preferred method for community users because the passing of numbers around to others is not possible unless you hand over your phone. An added flexibility is that say an allotment holder who lives in the community would like the opportunity to wave their mobile at the gate and watch it open, OK yes you can do so by either using the general number allocated to allotment group or the random number allocated to your mobile.

There is no intention of requiring everyone that either enters the site, the pavilion or the outside toilet to book in. First in, books in, last out locks up. Why would we want every member of the football team, supporters, party goers, Beaver dropper offers to do that!!

So once the gates are open just enter, tailgating is OK, OK . But just be careful who you tailgate into the outside toilet and make sure you shut the gates and doors when you leave. Security is equally important as accessibility.

Care will obviously be taken about the holding of personal data but that is deeply embedded in the Paxton Smart key system and is only accessible to one or two people with password protected access to the data entry.

Bring it on

Our second application for the reorientation of the lower football pitch and the introduction of an artificial cricket wicket is in the pipeline. The planning application for the rebound netting posts and nets to the southern and eastern boundaries adjoining the sports pitches is in the pipeline. This will avoid cattle, sheep and walkers being wacked on the head by either a cricket ball or football.

However, not a sod with be turned nor a spade entered into the ground or seed sown on the new pitch until the full funding for the wicket is in place. We are not a bottomless pit of money; our energy bills alone have nearly tripled without any increase in usage, and we have to remain financially viable. The only pit we need to see is the one metre cube concrete pits, (16 of) containing the sockets for the rebound posts.

Thankfully people do like us and what we are doing and find the place to be a fantastic venue. Now must get on and sort out these darned veranda lights.

Richard Lock

The Big Dorset Apple Cake – February update

OUR new webpage is now available featuring lots of recipes and other information.

Just go to our village website milbornestandrew.org.uk and click in The Big Dorset Apple Cake logo.

Someone emailed us to ask who is involved in organising this event. There is an organising team of twelve volunteers, who meet regularly to discuss the details, representing St. Andrew's Church, The Royal Oak, Milborne First School, the Community Cafe, the Food and Wine Club, the Village Hall and other interested villagers.

We have already had lots of offers to help on the day from individuals, if you have any ideas and suggestions or would like to help, please email Milborne.applecake@yahoo.com we would be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you very much to those who have responded to my appeal for very old traditional Dorset Apple Cake recipes. This month I'm featuring two recipes both accredited to ladies of mature years. This is to remind everyone that on Saturday June 1st, (Dorset Day) at our village hall, we will be attempting to assemble the biggest Dorset Apple Cake in the world. We are appealing for lots of volunteers in and around our village to bake a square Dorset Apple Cake – approximately 7–8 ins, 18–20cms, any recipe. These individual cakes will then be assembled to make a very big cake and we will sell portions of it to raise funds for the village hall.

Our first traditional Dorset apple cake recipe was emailed in by Caroline Richards and, features a very old recipe from near Shaftesbury:

I'd like to be involved with the Dorset apple cake baking. I love baking and apple cake is a favourite in our household!

I'm originally from North Yorkshire but when I moved down to Dorset (in the late 1990s) I was introduced to apple cake. I had a friend from university whose parents lived near Shaftesbury and I would visit her at her parental home. Her mum (now in her eighties) gave me an old family recipe that had been in their family. It's lovely, makes quite a big cake and like many family recipes, it doesn't have many instructions!

Dorset Apple Cake

10 oz self-raising flour
1/2 tsp mixed spice
pinch salt
6 oz margarine
6 oz caster sugar
2 oz currants
4 oz sultanas
12 oz cooking apples
3 eggs
2 tbsp milk

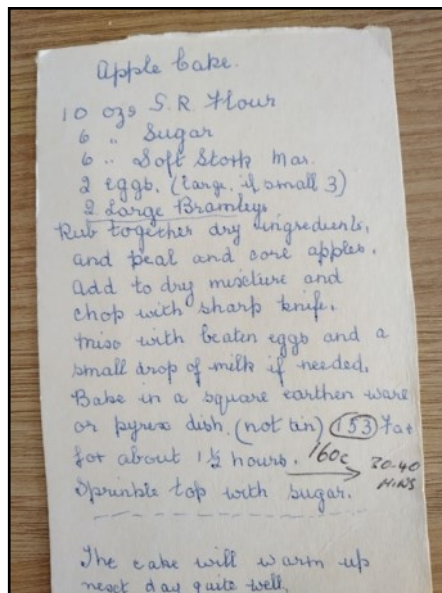
Sift flour, salt and spices into a large mixing bowl.
Rub in margarine and then stir in sugar, dried fruit.
Add peeled, chopped apples.
Mix together eggs and milk then mix into dry.
Should be a stiff mixture.

Bake for 1 hour 45 mins, 180°C. I find that it doesn't need that long and that I set my oven to 170°C as it can catch on the top. A sprinkle of brown sugar towards the end of the cooking time is also a good idea.



The addition of dried fruit may be contentious here, I don't know but this is certainly an old, family recipe from a Dorset family and baked when there was a glut of cooking apples. I look forward to getting involved.

Caroline Richards



The second of this month's recipes was emailed in by Michael Hopper. He was given this handwritten recipe by Mrs Daisy Cooper many years ago – see the picture. She was born Daisy Winifred Legg in 1909 in a small cottage in Little England, moved to Crown House and then to Chapel Street, she lived in the village all her life and died in 2006,

aged 97. She is buried in our churchyard. Mrs Cooper has been the subject of much research by people interested in local history. Linda Wright, who belongs to our Local History Group, has provided me with lots of fascinating information about her and her family. Anyone who would like to know more about this period in Milborne St.

Andrew's history will find more detailed information on our Big Dorset Apple Cake webpage at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/AppleCake. There is also a transcript of Anthony Fox's eulogy at Mrs Cooper's funeral at St. Andrew's Church which is such a moving and worthy tribute to her memory.

You can always tell a very old recipe, not just because the measurements are in pounds and ounces, but also because the fat used is usually margarine not butter. Butter has always been



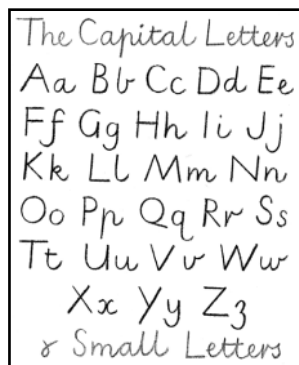
an expensive luxury, and at the moment it is about double the price of baking spread or margarine. My own mother, born Winifred Brook, in 1911, always referred to it as 'best butter' and to hear of anyone using it for baking would have been called a 'wicked waste!'

Mrs Cooper's is a very useful recipe because it uses a dish rather than a metal tin for baking the cake. Many people will have a square lasagne dish or something similar which would be ideal for making your contribution to The Big Dorset Apple Cake. As I've mentioned before, as long as the cake is square then it should fit into the patchwork mosaic of our finished joint village effort.

The name of everyone who bakes or buys a cake will be commemorated on a plaque which will be displayed at the village hall, your name will be a tangible and permanent part of our ongoing village history. Perhaps something to tell your grandchildren about? My nine-year-old grandson is visiting us from Kentucky at Easter and has told me he would like to make a Dorset Apple Cake to put in my freezer so he can be part of our Big Cake attempt.

To add your name to our list of bakers or buyers or to share your Dorset Apple Cake recipe, please email milborne.applecake@yahoo.com. If you have any questions then please come along to the community cafe at the village hall on Saturday 10th February between 10.00am and 12 noon.

The style of handwriting on a hand written recipe is also a clue to how old a recipe might be. Marion Richardson published her first handwriting books in the early part of the twentieth century and her cursive style continued to be taught in most British schools into the 1980's. Copperplate was used prior to the twentieth century; I find the history of calligraphy fascinating. I wonder if the children of the future will still be taught handwriting or if keyboards will completely take over?



Although many people now print their own labels when addressing Christmas cards, I still get quite a few handwritten envelopes and I can usually guess by their distinctive handwriting who has written the card before I open it. Last Christmas I was informed by the Post Office that I had a letter waiting for collection from Blandford P.O. which had been posted without a stamp. When I recognised the handwriting and realised who it was from, I declined to pay the extra postage and just walked away.

I treasure quite a few old books on our bookcase with the original owner's name written in by hand. My first dictionary was bought for my birthday in the 1950's by my mother and she wrote my name in it for me. It gives me a jolt of nostalgia every time I open the title page with my maiden name written boldly on it. Unchanging and timeless, there is no one left alive now, apart from myself, who would recognise her very distinctive and individual script.

Also on our bookcase, is a very battered copy of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which belonged to my mother's younger brother. Both siblings had to leave school when their father died when they were only 14 and 13 years old. It was a huge blow to them both as they had been awarded scholarships and were doing well at their grammar schools. No welfare state then, they had to abandon personal ambitions and earn a wage

to help support their family. Uncle Harold worked at Boots the Chemist by day (as a very basic worker, sweeping the floor at the end of the day) but enrolled in evening classes and hoped to continue his education this way. The book is covered with his handwritten pencil notes covering every spare inch of empty page. His love and knowledge of Shakespeare shines through in his thoughtful notes all these years later. Alas, despite all his efforts and years long commitment he never got to achieve his earnest desire of going to university.

The Second World War rather changed his plans, as it did for millions of people across the world. That generation didn't whine and whinge about their lot, but just shouldered the often heavy burden of both familial and patriotic duty and stoically got on with loyally supporting both their family and their country. They made us very proud of their sacrifice.

In keeping with the mood of remembrance of things past and wistful nostalgia I am including a poem by Thomas Hardy which I know I have included in the *Reporter* before (November 2009) as part of an appeal for more Church cleaners. It is another personal favourite of mine.

Old Furniture – Thomas Hardy

I know not how it may be with others
Who sit amid relics of householdry
That date from days of their mothers' mothers.
But well I know how it is with me
Continually.

I see the hands of the generations
That owned each shiny familiar thing
In play on its knobs and indentations,
And with its ancient fashioning
Still dallying:

Hands behind hands, growing paler and paler,
As in a mirror a candle-flame
Shows images of itself, each frailer
As it recedes, though the eye may frame
Its shape the same.

On the clock's dull dial a foggy finger,
Moving to set the minutes right
With tentative touches that lift and linger
In the wont of a moth on a summer night,
Creeps to my sight.

On this old viol, too, fingers are dancing –
As whilom – just over the strings by the nut,
The tip of a bow receding, advancing
In airy quivers, as if it would cut
The plaintive gut.

And I see a face by that box for tinder,
Glowing forth in fits from the dark,
And fading again, as the linden cinder
Kindles to red at the flinty spark,
Or goes out stark.

Well, well. It is best to be up and doing,
The world has no use for one today
Who eyes things thus – no aim pursuing!
He should not continue in this stay,
But sink away.

Rose Frost.



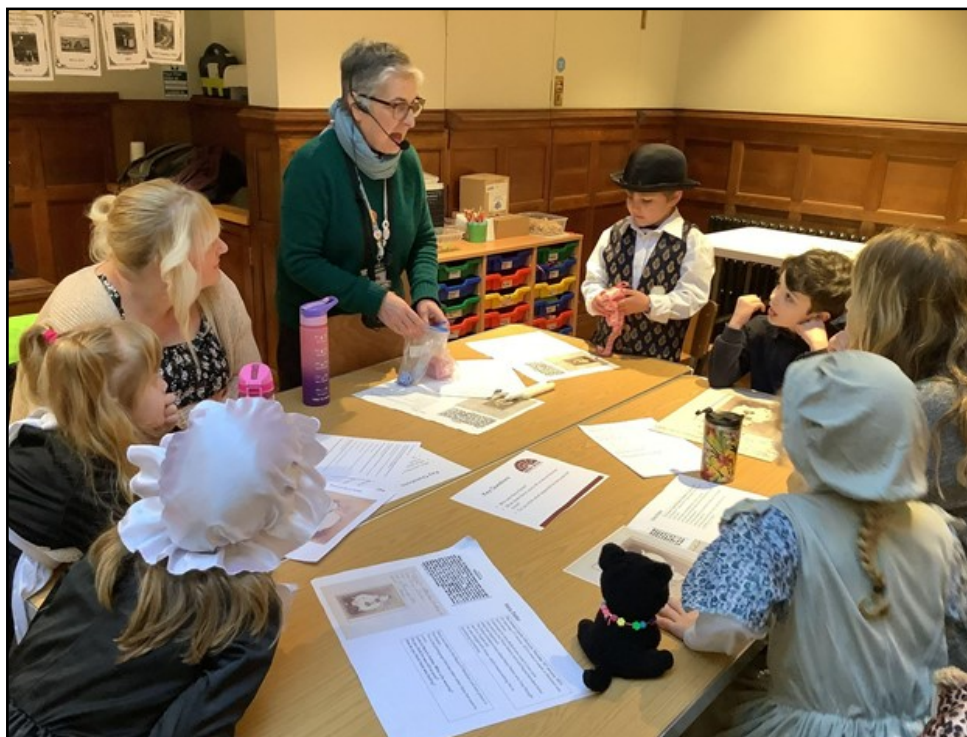
MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

At Milborne we nurture and celebrate every unique child

SCHOOL NEWS



THE Bluebell class have kick-started their Victorian topic with a trip to Shire Hall in Dorchester. We became detectives for the morning exploring artefacts to help us decide whether Harry Parker was guilty of his crime. Piecing all the clues together, the class decided he was guilty. The children then stood in the courtroom where Harry Parker was sentenced. They even visited the prison and holding cell where criminals would wait in small dark rooms. We then discovered Harry Parker went to a Reformatory School which once stood where Longmead farm is, but the children have decided they would not like to go to school in the Victorian times and prefer how things are today.



MSA May Fair has a new home



FRIENDS of Milborne First School have decided to change the location of their May Fair event on 25th May. This change has mainly been brought about by concerns relating to parking provision at the school.

We were worried that, in order to really give the event the opportunity to reach its full potential, we needed to ensure that people can come from far and wide to experience all the fun of the fair. The event will now be held at: **The Sports Pavilion, Lane End, Milborne St. Andrew.**

If you are a business owner and would like some low-cost publicity while providing a big boost to a community event, please contact us about sponsorship opportunities to suit your budget.

Options available from £50 to £250.
Email: msa_fos_chair@outlook.com

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

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362

Fax: (01258) 837170

Milton Abbas Surgery

Cervical Screening

You may have recently heard that the NHS has pledged to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040 for the first time ever, which could save thousands of lives every year in England. To achieve this pledge, the NHS needs to ensure women come forward for cervical screening.

Cervical screening at Milton Abbas Surgery is carried out by three very friendly and experienced nurses, and we have flexible appointments available throughout the week, up to 5.40pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 9am–10am.

If you have any concerns that you would like to talk through before your screening appointment or if you have had a previous bad experience that has left you worried about attending again, please ring the surgery and ask for Marianne, Bev or Hannah who would be very happy to call you back.

Our lovely nurses hope to see you soon. Please don't delay, take five minutes now to ring for an appointment on 01258 880210.

First Contact Physiotherapist

New muscle or joint pain? Did you know that you can book in to see our First Contact Physiotherapist Clare Rushton?

Clare works with us on a Wednesday, and can prescribe pain medication, order blood tests and x-rays, and refer you on to hospital services where necessary. Our GPs encourage you to book an appointment with Clare first before seeing them because seeing Clare gives you faster access to expert diagnosis (for example Clare can order MRIs if needed whereas GPs cannot) and you'll leave with the advice and exercises that you need to start tackling the problem.

Please speak to one of our receptionists to book an appointment.

Nourish Friendship Club

A warm and welcoming space for those wishing to meet new people or simply relax with a free hot drink (and possibly cake!). Thursdays 2pm–4pm at Nourish, United Reformed Church, Salisbury Street, Blandford DT11 7PY. If you have any questions, please call 01258 456093.

Introducing Anna

You may already have met our newest Receptionist Anna Ashley-Roche, but we are delighted to now welcome her to our Wellbeing Team as another Social Prescriber at the surgery.

Social Prescribing is about connecting people with non-medical needs to local sources of help and support. It empowers people to take control of their own health and wellbeing.

If you are struggling with your mental health, financial worries, bereavement, carer strain or any other concerns please do not feel that you are on your own – we are here to help. We all need support at one time or another, so do not be afraid to ask.

If you would like a listening ear about anything that is worrying you and would like help finding support, please contact the surgery on 01258 880210 or send an email to mawellbeingteam@dorsetgp.nhs.uk and one of our friendly Social Prescribers will get in touch.

Volunteering

Is your New Year's Resolution to help your community? Would you be able to volunteer a little bit of your time to call or visit someone who is lonely in your area? Then our Wellbeing Team Befrienders would love to hear from you!

Please call Kelly, one of our Social Prescribers at the surgery, to chat more; alternatively, you can send her an email kelly.best@dorsetgp.nhs.uk and she will get back to you.

HOPE Programme

We have had patients go along to previous sessions of the HOPE programme who highly recommend attending. For more details, please feel free to contact Maria from Help & Care on 07971 951579.



The poster for the HOPE Programme features the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group logo and the 'help & care Our Dorset' logo. The main text asks, 'Do you want to rediscover your strengths and increase your ability to cope and live well?' and advertises a 'FREE SELF-MANAGEMENT COURSE HELPING YOU TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR WELLBEING'. It lists topics covered in the 6-session course, including managing stress, mindfulness, dealing with setbacks, communication, getting active, and using strengths. A testimonial from Arushi, living with fibromyalgia, is included. The course details are: 6 weeks starting on Thursday February 22nd 2024, venue Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester, DT1 1RR, time 10am - 12.30pm, and contact Maria White at 07971951579. A small note at the bottom states: 'The Hope Programme has been developed by Coventry University and is delivered under current valid licence from Hope for the Community, CIC.'

the hope programme

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
help & care Our Dorset

Do you want to rediscover your strengths and increase your ability to cope and live well?

FREE SELF-MANAGEMENT COURSE HELPING YOU TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR WELLBEING

This 6 session course covers topics such as:

- Managing stress, fatigue and getting better sleep
- Mindfulness
- Dealing with setbacks
- Communication and relationships
- Getting active, creative and eating well
- Using your strengths to make you happier

"Truly amazing journey of life change with other people. The feeling of not being alone in my struggles made me feel empowered and gave me hope. It changed my life for better."

- Arushi, living with fibromyalgia

6 WEEKS STARTING ON: Thursday February 22nd 2024 and following six Thursdays
VENUE: Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester, DT1 1RR
TIME: 10am - 12.30pm
To book your place please contact: Maria White: 07971951579

The Hope Programme has been developed by Coventry University and is delivered under current valid licence from Hope for the Community, CIC.

Wednesday Club

WE started off the new year with a party on 3rd January, enjoying a bring and share buffet followed by games. The first game involved bringing to the club two statements about ourselves. One true and one false; much hilarity ensued as we guessed which one was true. We then moved on to testing our skill at how fast we could pass the parcel without getting caught with a forfeit. It was as always good to catch up with everyone and share all our Christmas stories.

Next month on 7th February at 2.00pm we will be bringing in our hobbies to exhibit our various skills. More details on that later.

Josie Wright



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St. Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown

Inspire today to shape tomorrow

Supporting Our Local Community in 2024

Just a few weeks into a new term at St Mary's feels an appropriate time to reflect on some of the achievements of our students and look forward to a bright and successful 2024.

Our vision at St. Mary's School is, 'Inspire today to shape tomorrow'. Our students regularly put this vision into action by shaping their local communities through their volunteering, charity and project work.



Approximately 50 of our Year 8 students are completing the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. This is the third year we have run the course in our Theology and Ethics lessons, in which students explore the concept of leadership, consider the importance of serving others and

examine how to bring transformation to their communities. Julia Goy, T&E lead at St. Mary's, said "The course has resulted in many impressive action projects and has given pupils a chance to grow in confidence, commitment and care for others."

Here are just some of the volunteering projects that the students have undertaken so far!

- Fundraising for local charities
- Making posters with messages of kindness for Dorchester Hospital
- Visiting local care homes and playing games with the residents
- Beach cleans
- Christmas shoebox appeal for a local charity called Heart Response... 55 shoeboxes were donated!
- Volunteering for a day with the RSPCA
- Helping at local churches
- Litter picks
- Making bird boxes for the local play park
- Washing cars to raise money to buy food for the local foodbank
- Volunteering at Arne RSPB nature reserve
- Organising an advent calendar appeal for a local foodbank



- Delivering the Parish Magazine
- Helping at a jumble sale for Vale Pantry
- Organising a music concert for elderly neighbours
- Encouraging families to donate over 200 chocolate advent calendars for Dorset Foodbank

In addition to the fabulous work of our Year 8s, in October we celebrated Wear it

Pink Day and raised money for Breast Cancer NOW! All Mary's students came to school in home clothes, with either a hint, a splash or a whole outfit of pink, in return for a £1 donation.



Along with cake sales and 5p collections, we raised an impressive £1,290!

And, as a result of our Harvest Festival celebrations in September, our pupils and their families donated a van-load of food and other products for Dorchester Food Bank!

That's just a taste of what our students have been doing to support their local community, and we look forward to seeing many of these projects develop and flourish in 2024. We are incredibly proud of them all.

We are always looking for opportunities to involve our students in supporting their local community. Please let us know of local projects, local needs or ways we can support the community in Milborne St. Andrew. We would love to hear your ideas!

Dr Tim Ennion Head of School

CONTACTS

For further information, admission details or to arrange a visit, please contact the school office

Head of School: Tim Ennion

Chair of Governors: Martin Kimberley

St Mary's School Association: Chairpersons: Briony Hosford and Marie Chappell

e-mail: office@stmaryscemiddle.uk

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The Ways of Milborne St. Andrew A 250 Year Family History by Andy Way

ANDY WAY has written this meticulously researched, well annotated and illustrated history of his namesake families in Milborne St. Andrew. Amusingly he comments that "Way as a surname was 'way ahead' of much more common names like White, Davis and Brown". He describes it as "an agricultural history [and] a personal record of [his] family members going back hundreds of years".

Starting with a family crest and the notion that its derivation is geographical 'at the way' from a wayside residence and the startling fact that not only is it the 12,078th most common surname in the world but that 46,708 people bear it. He then covers the fluctuations of population in MSA and the incidence of the name since 1841 to 1891. He covers all of the most important buildings and their histories in the village together with other prominent families and the categorisation of those living in Milborne Stileham, Milborne Churchstone using census information. "Annuitants" are mentioned living on annuities probably coming from the wills of their dead husbands. Others are listed by their occupations such as "Ag-lab", seamstress, laundress, assistant baker. There is an image of Milborne Stileham Reformatory Industrial School whose foundation contributed to the population growth in Milborne Stileham. It was known as "Dorset Reformatory for Boys" and is now "Longmead Community Farm". He quotes Thomas Hardy ("my third cousin 3x removed on my father's side") describing the range of objects required for working on the land in "The Mayor of Casterbridge" (chapter 4, page 22) as follows: "*Scythes, reap-hooks, sheep shears. Bill-hooks, spades, mattocks, and hoes at the ironmonger's; beehives, butter-firkins, churns, milking stools and pails, hay-rakes, field-flagons, and seed lips at the cooper's; cart-ropes and plough-harness at the saddler's; carts, wheel-barrows, and mill-gear at the wheelwright's and machinist's; horse embrocation at the chemist's; at the glover's and leather-cutter's, hedging gloves, thatcher's knee-caps, ploughman's leggings, villager's pattens and clogs*".

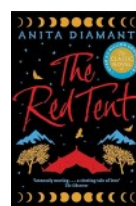
He writes of the Dorset dialect, the trials of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and other punishments for crimes which now seem minor but were dealt with harshly. School wasn't compulsory until the 1880's and the teaching of English not formalised until only 140 years ago. William Barnes' "Glossary of the Dorset Dialect" has a mention and the fact that it dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. Workhouses, vaccinations and other important historical totems are dealt with in this thorough history book. In 1834 The Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced and implemented on a piecemeal basis. From 1835 "Outdoor relief" then ended causing folk to turn to the Workhouse for support. Mechanisation on farms resulted in an outbreak of "rick-burning" and transportation for arson.

Mr Way tells us that the Church of St. Andrew was founded in 1069 and parts were built over the next 800 years. The North Transept being the last. In the Domesday Book the village was named as "Meleburne" and is recorded as having 10 households. Census returns, marriage, birth baptism and burial certificates together with other important views of the village from times past are included. It appears that a great many women were employed in the button industry whilst most farms were dairy and supplied milk to London markets. There were limekilns, an important part of the agricultural scene, as they produced lime for spreading on the land. Barley was one of the main crops used in the production of beer in Dorset and London Breweries.

Of interest are his comments on the continuity of the MSA population during the latter part of the 18th century and almost all of the 19th despite other small settlements being within walking distance. MSA is quoted as having a stable population i.e. most people born and raised in the village stayed there the rest of their lives. The village covers 2,600 acres (MSA itself 1745 acres and Milborne Stileham about 885 acres). I would recommend this as a fascinating read and an insight into this small village and its many iterations.

Carole Fornachon

Bookends' Good Read The Red Tent by Anita Diamant



THIS was a novel which the group felt unanimously they would not recommend to male readers. One member commented that it was like a biblical version of 'Call the Midwife'! The title was well named. It was a blood drenched tale of Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob who merits a few lines in Genesis.

The tent was where women retreated to give birth and to sit out their menstrual cycles. All of these activities although vital to the preservation of the tribes and species were considered unclean but also provided space away from the male gaze and from unwanted sexual or domestic pressures both of which were all enveloping. It encouraged gender solidarity and power, also periodically sacred female coalition. The novel gave an insight into places of banishment and exclusion and the Rabbinic network of "pure" word of mouth retelling of ancient texts. Very few lines in the Bible are given to women. The author shaped Dinah's voice. If accepted and read as a story and not religious history the narrative is rich, compelling, with frequent, but not overly graphic, sex. It is a well crafted tale, intricate, poignant and captivating.

In the second half there is incredible and intolerable violence with a nostalgia from a displaced Dinah in Egypt for the red tent. It is a unique story which one member described as like the Handmaid's Tale where women were submissive, cursed, born to be slaves to men. We are welcomed into women's biblical world pondering the mysteries of the life cycle with ritual purification.

It is set in the Middle Bronze Age 1800-1500BC when Mother was the universal goddess, a feminist ideology worshipping the body/self. An overall message is that women's bodies are amazing gifts to be celebrated. Strangely we also read of idol/pagan worship with little figures playing important parts in daily rituals.

Men throughout are seen as oppressive, offensive hypocrites, women as resilient. Dinah's brothers (except for Joseph) as psychotic and stupid. Bestiality and homosexuality are given routine activities. Jacob reveals cowardice when he changes his name to Israel. Thus his sons found the 12 Tribes of Israel (outside the scope of this female centric book). The group agreed that Diamant's research and attention to detail was admirable but too much attention was paid to trivialities in the face of later shattering events. An easy to read absorbing novel on an unknown area of the Bible. Carole Fornachon

Benjamin Baker's resting place



Further to the mention of the Baker family last month, this is the tombstone in Milborne Churchyard marking the grave of Benjamin Baker, "Who passed away the Homeland trusting in Jesus, December 6th, 1916, aged 60", and his wife, Mary Isabella Baker, who died September 25th, 1955, aged 95. Also commemorated are Benjamin Baker, senior, who died in 1915 aged 82; his wife, Mary, who died in 1891 aged 64 years; and Ella Louisa Baker, who

died in 1931 aged 59 (she was the daughter of Benjamin Baker senior). Around the kerb is inscribed, "You have gone on ahead to make the journey faster for me, as you were wont to do."

Tony Fox

Roger Westcott 1947–2023

WITH great sadness, we announce the loss of our dear father and friend, Roger Westcott, who passed away on the 30th of November 2023.

Hannah Maclellan, James Westcott and Wilma Dewey



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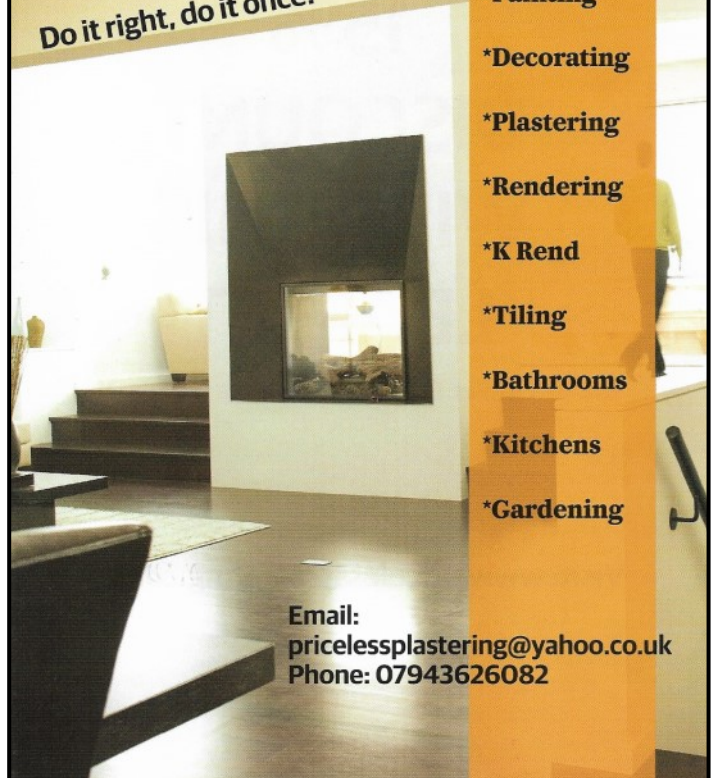
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Try this quiz that the editor has set. No prize just a bit of fun

1. Dorset Blue Vinney is a kind of what?
2. Which famous person was killed in a motorbike accident at Clouds Hill in Dorset?
3. In which year was the Dorset-Lativa link formed?
4. Who has just retired from being Town Crier of Dorchester?
5. What is the name given to the 96-mile stretch of coast between Exmouth in East Devon and Studland Bay in Dorset?
6. How tall is the Cerne Abbas giant?
7. What is the official county town of Dorset?
8. How many rivers drain into Poole Harbour?
9. Where was the comedian Alan Carr born?
10. Corfe Castle is believed to have been the inspiration for which fictional castle from a much-loved children's book series?
11. On 7th September 1978, Georgi Markov was on Waterloo Bridge when a man poked him with his umbrella. He was assassinated with a ricin pellet, where is he buried?
12. Who was the last woman to be hanged in Dorset?
13. Name Dorset's top ladies golfer?
14. What is Bournemouth AFC's nickname?
15. Name the Abbey half a mile east of Wool?
16. Who was the designer of the war memorial at the entrance to Bladen Valley at Briantspuddle, he also designed a typeface with the same name?
17. How many bells in the village church?
18. Who was the first person who vaccinated his family against Smallpox?
19. How many X12 service buses to Dorchester from Milborne St. Andrew are there?
20. Name the Tolpuddle Martyrs?
21. How many pages were in colour in the July Reporter?
22. What is the highest point in Dorset?
23. Which of these is not a real place in Dorset?
 1. Scratchy Bottom
 2. Shitterton
 3. Tincleton
 4. Burpwell
 5. Shaggs
 6. None, they're all real.
24. Where in Dorset would you find "The Cobb"?
25. Name the Dorset cliff which is the highest point on the South Coast?
26. Where does Chesil Beach start and end?
27. Who designed and engraved the windows in Morton church?
28. What is noteworthy about the post box found at Barnes Cross near Sherborne?
29. Which is the longest river in Dorset?
30. What is it considered unlucky to say on Portland?
31. Which of the following won't you find in Dorset?
 1. Motorway
 2. Cathedral
 3. Cities
32. What is a Dorset Knob?
33. Hall & Woodhouse, the brewery behind Badger Beers, can be found in which Dorset town?
34. Where was the first scout camp held in 1907?
35. Where would you find the Fossil Forest?
36. Which famous castle on the Isle of Purbeck was built by William the Conqueror?
37. What is the diameter of Culpepper's Dish just south of Briantspuddle?
38. Old Harry Rocks are connected by a chalk ridge-line with which Isle of Wight landmark?
39. Durnovaria is the Roman name for which place in Dorset?
40. Weymouth was famously a popular holiday spot for which royal?

Answers on page 27

Indiana Jones and the Dial Of Destiny

Friday 16th February 2024 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

DAREDEVIL archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA.

With plenty of entertaining action and a few surprising twists, Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny ends the series on a high note

Let's face it, we could all do with a little action, escapism, comedy and fun at this time of year!

More than 100 arrests made during Christmas campaign crackdown on drink and drug driving

DORSET Police's Christmas drink and drug drive campaign, which targeted people who drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, proved successful.

Between Friday 1st December 2023 and Monday 1st January 2024, party-goers were encouraged to plan their journeys home, reminded of the potential consequences if they are caught driving while under the influence and encouraged to report suspected drink or drug drivers to the police.

During the campaign, Dorset Police arrested 113 people in connection with 127 suspected drink and drug driving offences during December, and some drivers were arrested on suspicion of both drink and drug-related offences. Of the 113 arrests, 71 people were arrested on suspicion of drink driving; 53 people on suspicion of drug driving and three further arrests were made for failing to provide a sample for analysis.

The number of arrests made during the campaign has increased when compared to the same campaign period last year, when 85 arrests were made.

If you suspect someone of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, please dial 999 immediately with the vehicle information and direction of travel.

If you have information relating to someone who regularly drives under the influence of drugs or alcohol, please call 101 or fill in an intelligence form on our website: www.dorset.police.uk.

Julie Heath, (Dorset Police, Dorset Alert Coordinator, Dorset)



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First School
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Answers to quiz on page 25

1. Cheese
2. T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)
3. 1992
4. Alistair Chisholm
5. The Jurassic Coast
6. 55 metres (180 ft)
7. Dorchester
8. Four, River Frome, River Piddle, the Corfe River and the Sherford River
9. Portwey Hospital, Weymouth June 14, 1976
10. Kirrin Castle – The Famous Five, by Enid Blyton
11. St. Candida and the Holy Cross Church cemetery in Whitchurch Canoncorum
12. Elizabeth Martha Brown in 1856
13. Georgia Kelly Hall, MBE
14. The Cherries
15. Bindon Abbey
16. Eric Gill
17. Six
18. Benjamin Jesty
19. Five, 07.55, 10.01, 12.01, 14.01, 16.16
20. George Loveless, James Loveless, John Standfield, Thomas Standfield, James Brine, James Hammett
21. Twelve
22. Lewesdon Hill, at an impressive height of 279m (915 feet) 2 meters higher than Pilsdon Pen and 5 meters higher than Bulbarrow
23. Burpwell.
24. Lyme Regis
25. Golden Cap – at 191 metres (627 ft) it is the highest point on the south coast of Great Britain
26. West Bay, Portland
27. Laurence Whistler
28. It is the oldest working post box in the UK – dating from 1853
29. River Stour, at 60 miles in length
30. The word “rabbit”
31. All of the above
32. A kind of biscuit. These hard, dry savoury biscuits are made by the Moore’s company.
33. Blandford Forum (specifically in the village of Blandford St. Mary)
34. Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour
35. On the cliffs to the east of Lulworth Cove
36. Corfe Castle
37. 90 metres
38. The Needles
39. Dorchester
40. King George III

**Could you set a quiz like this – or better?
If so, then send it the Reporter**

Here’s to The Girls

By Jan Beaumont ©

Some are just little’uns
And some are much bigger
Some are a pain
And some highlight your figure.

Those that don’t have them
Feel they have missed out
While those who are larger
Just toss them about!

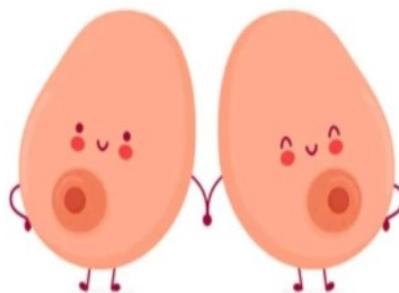
Some big busted ladies
Have been forced to downsize
For whenever they run
They get two large black eyes. 🙄🙄

Some pay huge dollars
To improve what they’ve got
And it’s quite hard to tell
If they’re natural or not!

Then when we get older
And things start to slide
It will soon become plain
That those things we can’t hide.

The God-given ones
Will begin to show wear
Whilst the silicone boobs
Will stay perky and fair.

But whatever you’re blessed with
Be they real, big or small
They still are two beauties
And so, bless ‘em all!



Milborne St. Andrew

Swift stream, by olden name a bourne,
This valley ran from ancient dawn,
‘Fore mankind changed all nature’s face,
And left his footprint on this place.

Since once his mark is made then so,
It shall with generations grow,
Far rooftops cloaking meadows green,
And God’s small creatures little seen.

First came the Mill, and flour from corn,
And thus the name in part was born,
St. Andrews Church was builded then
The village took that sign – amen.

And yet, in truth, as it now stands,
Long settled midst these rolling lands,
It joins with God’s creations wide,
Both home in hallowed countryside.

The Royal Oak, past years the inne,
Where trav’lers would abide within
Or local men might spend a night,
With friends and ale the world to right.

From patchwork field or distant farm,
Or modest hamlets wooded charm,
And villages around that lie,
The winding roads together tie.

Surrounding hills which watching keep
Their vigil, while below sound sleep
Good country folk, who now’days share
Frail nature, and make her their care.

For like the Mill this wheel has turned,
Mankind at least his place has earned,
And now the farmer often may
Be guardian of what once he slay.

And so in mill bourne, St. Andrew,
There live some many from the few,
Where hillock, wood and heaven’s plan,
Now show their peace to humble man.

John Seymour

Notes from the January 2024 Parish Council meeting

FOR those of the village needing sandbags, the store, located at the Village Hall, has been created and there is now signage on the shed, and sandbags have been used already.

Following on from Milborne ‘Spring into Action’ request at the previous Parish Council (PC) meeting, 240 bulbs were bought along with fertiliser and a bulb planting tool. Bulbs have been planted around the jubilee tree and the memorial stone with a plan to plant some at Lane End. English bluebells were also bought with the money left over.

You may have noticed the cordoned off dangerous structure at the junction of

Continued from page 29

BURROW



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Continued from page 27

Milton Road and A354. This is a criminal matter as it threatens the highway. Dorset Council (DC) were looking for assurances that the building structure will be made safe by end of January.

Clerk Lewin had chased DC regarding the traffic calming, and they are looking to come to a conclusion by the end of January (2024!).

Minor brown water flooding had been reported by members of the public. At the time of the PC meeting water levels in the village were at critical point.

Clerk Lewin contacted Wyatt Homes regarding the HIP as to why it was not yet open. Grass needs to be resown and a chance for it to grow – they estimate that it will open late spring (2024).

There were discussions about the Precept for 24/25 – band D properties it will increase just over £3 per council tax paying household. See PC website for more details.

Planning P/HOU/2023/07112 – Former Coach House The Old Rectory Chapel Street was supported by the PC.

NOTE: Anyone can attend PC meetings. If you have something that you would like to discuss regarding the parish then please attend the meetings – councillors cannot respond to posts on the village Facebook. PC meetings are generally on the first Wednesday of the month. When attending please be aware of the agenda. Please don't waste time interrupting the chair, Cllr Macnair, at inappropriate points on the agenda. Minutes from previous PC meetings can be found on the PC website along with the agenda.

Come along to the PC meetings and be part of the conversations. Have your say about the village where you live. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at the Village Hall – 7.00pm start.

Jo Whitfield

What's on in February

February

Thursday 1st

Friday 2nd

Saturday 3rd

Friday 2nd

Wednesday 7th

Wednesday 7th

Thursday 8th

Friday 9th

Saturday 10th

Wednesday 14th

Thursday 15th

Mother Goose pantomime

Village Hall 7.00pm

2.00pm and 7.00pm

Fairtrade café Milborne First School

1.45–2.45pm see advert page 7.

Wednesday Club Hobbies Village Hall

2.00pm.

Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.00pm everyone welcome.

WI with opera singer, Grace Lovelass Village Hall 7.30pm all welcome.

Bridge The Royal Oak 2.30pm.

Community Café Village Hall 10.00am–12 noon see page 2.

Mid-day deadline for copy for the January Reporter Send copy, photographs to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team. Team members can be found on page 2.

Gardening Club Martin Young giving advice on plants on chalk soil. Village Hall 7.30pm.

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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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

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 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

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	Samantha Mercer	07767 450967

POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact (North Rural team)	101
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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



Thank YOU

for supporting these and many other community events in 2023 at the

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