

Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 16 Issue 4

April 2024

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Milborne St. Andrew



**Exciting plans
for Mrs Ham's
house**

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Advertising copy MUST be received by the 14th of the month

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

Notes from the Parish Council meeting

DORSET Council (DC) and Parish Council (PC) elections will take place on 2nd May. Clerk Lewin was at the March Community Café to answer questions around the role of the PC and councillors. If you would like to apply to become a councillor forms are available from Clerk Lewin email milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk or via the DC website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/councillors/standing-as-a-councillor-for-dorset-council. Deadline for applications is 4.00pm on 5th April.

When the Neighbourhood Plan was developed in 2017 the number one priority was to instigate traffic calming measures on the A354, S106 funding from the Huntley Down development has been secured to support this. A report has been received from DC, indicating a number of things that DC is prepared to support, along with a number of alternatives for discussion. One option is for a build out from the pub in the road with a priority system for traffic going up Dorchester Hill. This would widen the pavement as well as slow the traffic coming down Dorchester Hill. It was agreed to give PC councillors more time to read the report and then come back together to discuss and prioritise.

Following the village sign being stolen from the Dewlish Road, the PC have looked into options to replace it. The quotes received were discussed by PC and it was agreed to go with DC option for delivery and installation of a replacement sign. It will take between 6–8 weeks for the sign to be made and installed.

The HIP is still not accessible. Clerk Lewin received an email from Wyatt Homes who has said that they are waiting for Wessex Water to make good the mess that was made last year. Cllr MacNair suggested that this be escalated to EA as the HIP was a condition of the planning permission.

The dog waste bin in Coles Lane has seen better days. DC no longer replace bins when they reach the end of their life. The bin will be replaced with an all-purpose waste bin. It was noted that there are dog waste bins overflowing in locations around the village. If you spot a bin that needs emptying, or a pothole that needs attention, or even a drain/gully that needs clearing then it is down to members of the public to report – which you can do on the DC website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement.

A member of the public raised a concern about the flooding in the village. She mentioned that Wessex Water had been arranging for the drains to be pumped out. She's not able to flush toilets or have a bath as there is nowhere for the waste water to go. Unfortunately this is not a matter for the PC, it's a matter for Wessex Water.

A request have been received for a bench at Snag Lane (Weatherby Castle walk). Currently there are a couple of concrete blocks there, which are not comfortable. It was agreed to purchase a bench and secure it to a concrete base.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th May at the Village Hall at 7.00pm. Please come along. *Jo Whitfield*

Village Hall AGM

THE Village Hall AGM will take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7.00pm.

All are invited and we are always looking for more people to help run this important asset in our village or have new ideas. There are various ways that you can contribute, so do come along and meet the current team.

The Village Hall – Working Hard to Make a Difference in our Community.

Exciting plan for Ham's Halt hotel

NEW life could be breathed into Corner House with an ambitious plan by a national hotel chain to turn it into a 20-bedroom hotel with all associated amenities. It is hoped Travelodge will bring a modern-day coach house to The Square, long since Crown House just around the corner closed its doors to long distance travellers and their horses. The new hotel, given the name 'Ham's Halt' in memory of Mrs Ham who lived at Corner House for many years, will give rest and sustenance to

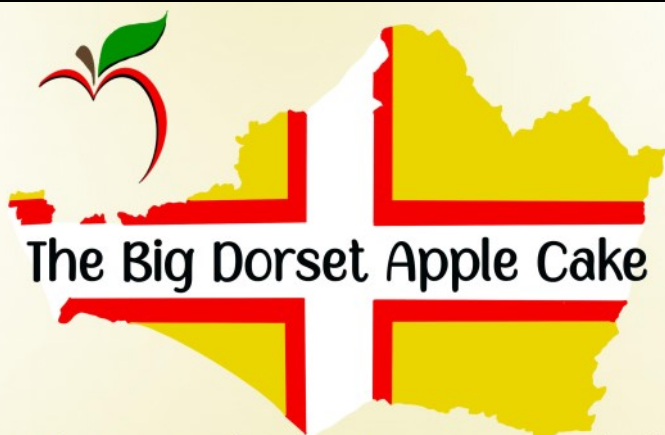


holidaymakers and business travellers alike, providing a handy stopover for those en route to the West Country or staying for a mini-break in mid-Dorset. In a nod to the troubled recent history of the building, after the gable end is rebuilt, a small pile of rubble will be left prominently in the reception area as a witness to its structural difficulties in recent times. Staff will also wear a hi-vis version of the Travelodge uniform, complete with hard hats to complement the theme. Of course, the building will be fully restored and each room will be exactly the same as any other of the hotel chain's bedrooms – there's no suggestion that guests need to wear protective Kevlar pyjamas (unless they wish to of course).

The old forge building at the end of the garden, opposite Londis, will become the dining area and will be a franchise of KFC. It will cater for hotel guests, offering a selection of meals including a full English breakfast with chicken drumsticks instead of sausages and corn on the cob in place of mushrooms, and a variety of other meals. If chicken breakfast is not to some tastes, guests will also have the opportunity to have a filled bap from Londis (or a bacon butty from the Community Café, on the second Saturday of the month). The restaurant will also be open to non-residents too, presenting another dining option for villagers and a venue for youngsters to meet up late into the evening.

The rear garden of Corner House will provide plentiful parking but there will also be some parking at the front of the hotel on The Square. A small piazza is planned using cobbles and will be fringed by planting, creating an ambient space to have a spritzer and watch the world and delivery vans go by. To enable this, the road will need to be narrowed, but it is thought that the benefits to visitors to the hotel will far outweigh the negligible drawbacks to road users. A permanent single lane scheme, similar to the traffic light system that was in place before the house was secured structurally, will be created since it seemed to work very well without much complaint previously. There will also be the option to make The Causeway and Chapel Street a one-way system to give free flowing movement for westbound traffic.

A presentation and consultation outlining the scheme that is going to go ahead is scheduled to take place on 1st April, 9.00am to midday.



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Ladybirds News

I saw this quote recently and it made me think of the difficult parents face when trying to get their child through the day. Life is all about balance and somethings have to be done for children just so that you can move on with the next task. At Preschool our only focus is the child and no other chores to take our attention away from them. Throughout our day we have so many glimmers of joy with the children which makes the job so rewarding. The daily encouragement and praise that goes into supporting children to persevere with new task or coping in a social situation is one of the constant things we do in order to develop children's confidence and self esteem. The ability to then share in their joy and pride when they recognise they can 'do it' is nothing short of heart warming. It may seem a little thing that a child can, after weeks of trying, zip up their lunch box, but to us it's a moment of shared celebration.

This is not the only thing that brings joy to a Preschool teacher's day!! Little things that make our lives easier and tidy up our space makes us so happy. We are thankful to MSA



First school for handing down this welly boot rack. We are now able take all the wellies out of their storage box and pair them up.

Mothers Day has just passed and we really hope that all the mums out there felt special on this day. Some of our children gave a picture of a pink colour monster (the colour of love) or planted cress seeds.



Fundraising

Coming to MSA on May 4th – Jumble Trail around the village.

Follow us for more info. Easter is on the horizon and we have just launched a fundraiser for this. We are looking to allocate the funds towards storage furniture and outside play resources. Do

join in with our Easter Fundraiser.

How to participate

★ I have designed 10 different Easter Egg designs which I will print off for anyone taking part. You can pick one design for your household, or you can pick multiple designs. They are £1 each. Let me know which ones you would like printed (I have numbered them in the photos), and I will deliver them to you and collect the money. They will all have a number allocated to them to go on a map so that the children (and adults) know where to hunt for eggs.

★ Colour in your design / designs and place them somewhere visible when walking by. They need to be displayed by the end of the day on Thursday 28th March as the Easter Holidays start on Friday 29th March.

★ Village Easter Egg Hunt maps can be purchased for £2 each and everyone gets a prize. Over the Easter Holidays take your map out on your walks with you, spot the colourful Easter Eggs in windows around the village, and note down their numbers on the map. Once you have completed your map come and collect your prize.

★ Hand your Easter Egg designs back into me between the 15th–17th April so that I can get them up to Ladybirds Pre-school ready for the Ladybirds to choose their favourite design on Friday 19th April. I will then deliver a prize to the winner.

To order your designs and your maps you can contact Carly, by text message/voicemail (be sure to leave your number) on 07834 060662, or by email: balance@rokananctuary.com

★ Anyone who does not live in Milborne St. Andrew that wishes to take part can use our window to display your designs. We want everyone to be able to enjoy this activity.

Thank you

Let's have some Easter fun .

Samantha Mercer

Easter Egg Hunt around M.S.A.

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- ★ COLOUR IN YOUR DESIGNS AND PUT THEM IN A WINDOW WHICH IS VISIBLE WHEN WALKING BY BEFORE THE 29TH MARCH
- ★ CHILDREN CAN BUY A VILLAGE EASTER EGG HUNT MAP FOR £2 PER CHILD. GO ON A HUNT AROUND THE VILLAGE TO SPOT THE EGGS OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, TICK THEM OFF ON YOUR MAP AS YOU FIND THEM, ONCE YOU HAVE FOUND THEM ALL COME AND COLLECT YOUR PRIZE
- ★ HAND YOUR EASTER EGG DESIGNS BACK IN 15TH-17TH APRIL, AND ON FRIDAY 19TH APRIL THE LADYBIRDS WILL CHOOSE A WINNER



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Voters encouraged to get their ID ready ahead of this year's local elections

RESIDENTS are reminded that they will need be registered to vote and show an approved form of photo ID when they go to the polling stations on 2nd May to elect Dorset Council councillors as well as Town and Parish Councils.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections also takes place on the same day.



Following the Elections Act 2022, photographic identification is a mandatory requirement for everyone voting at polling stations.

Residents will also need photo ID to vote at parliamentary general elections, expected to be called sometime this year.

Various forms of photo ID are accepted, including a

driving licence, passport, Older Person's Bus Pass, a blue badge or Disabled Person's Bus Pass. The full list of accepted ID can be found here: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id

Residents can also use an expired ID as long as the photograph is still a good likeness.

For those without accepted photo ID, a free Voter Authority Certificate can be obtained online. Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, 24th April to be processed in time for the 2nd May elections. The Voter Authority Certificate is valid for 10 years and is valid for all elections.

If you need further guidance, you can contact the Electoral services team on: Email: elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 01305 838299.

To cast your vote in the upcoming elections, you must be registered by Tuesday, 16th April, 2024. If you're not already registered, you can complete the process on the Government's website. Voters only need to register once, unless they have changed their name or address.

Postal votes

There is no need for people to provide photo ID if you vote by post, but you will need to give your National Insurance number and date of birth.

Once your postal vote is set up, whenever an election, referendum or poll at which you are entitled to vote is called, you will be sent a postal poll card giving details of the forthcoming election, referendum or poll. This will be followed by a postal vote pack. www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/voting-by-post

Jonathan Mair, Director of Legal and Democratic at Dorset Council, said: "With elections taking place in Dorset on 2nd May 2024, it is important that people who want to vote at polling stations have an accepted form of ID.

"We want everyone to be able to exercise their right to vote and we urge people to remember to take their photo ID with them when they go to their polling station, or if they don't have one, apply now for a free Voter Authority Certificate."

Karin Engdahl

Wednesday Club

AT our meeting on Wednesday 6th March our speaker was Pam Shults, she told us of the pleasures of cruising, we saw pictures of her cabin and all the activities



that are available on board the ship. We also saw some of the many exotic destinations where they docked. She brought a book of some of her painting she had done on board and brochures. It was a very interesting talk and many of us questioned her afterwards as we supped our tea and ate biscuits.

Next month on Wednesday 3rd April, our meeting will be at 5 Brooklands, Josie and John Wright's house. In the garden if fine, inside if not. There will be a cream tea with two scones each, currant or plain, strawberry jam and clotted cream. It will be your choice if the jam or cream comes first! You can also have tea or coffee. Hope to see you.

Josie Wright

Website checks to clean up e-commerce

DORSET Council Trading Standards have helped with national checks on websites for businesses offering renovation and repair work. The checks found that nationally, the vast majority of websites for these trade types don't comply with the law.

- 97% of 184 websites did not comply with relevant consumer protection law.
- 85% of websites did not comply with three or more laws.
- 14% failed to comply with six or more laws.

The Trading Standards profession is concerned that this lack of basic information, such as business contact details, may make it much harder for people to get things put right, or get a refund if things go wrong.

The checks also found websites failing to display company registration numbers. A registration number provides potential buyers with more certainty around the legitimacy of a company. This is even more important given that copycat and scam websites can exist.

Most businesses checked also failed to mention whether cancellation rights existed. Such omissions can potentially turn customers away, affecting a business' reputation and profits.

This year the national checks focussed on the Home Maintenance Sector. Businesses of all sizes were included in the check; small and large, local and national. Websites were checked for electricians, general builders, plumbers, window companies and gardeners.

The focus was on these trade groups first because they are the types of traders that Trading Standards continue to receive complaints about. Typically, that involves work carried out to a poor standard, unnecessary or excessively priced.

Dorset Council Trading Standards offer free business advice to businesses based in our area. If you'd like more information, then visit www.businesscompanion.info or call a business advisor on 01305 224702.

If you've concerns about a business or would like advice on your consumer rights, then visit the Citizens Advice consumer helpline at citizensadvice.org.uk/ consumer or phone 0808 2231133.



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Parish Council elections 2nd May

As many of you know the Dorset Council Unitary and the Town/Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 2nd May.

You the electorate, will vote in Councillors for the Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council.

If becoming a Parish Councillor is something that interests you, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Election Dates

Applications open **12th March 2024**

Forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or via the Dorset Council website

Deadline for applications is **4.00pm 5th April**.

If the elections are contested (there are more candidates than seats), this will be published on **8th April**.

If contested, the elections will be on **2nd May**

The results of the elections will be screened live on the Dorset Council website on **4th May**.

Failing that, they will be received by the Parish Clerk on **7th May**.

To that end, the first meeting of the new Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council will be Wednesday **15th May**.

Role of the Parish Council Directly responsible for:

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Rivers and reservoirs

Becoming a Parish Councillor is a wonderful and fulfilling role, enabling you to express your individuality on behalf of the community.

The eligibility criteria are only that you must be 18 years of age (or older), to have lived in the Parish for a year (or more), or be on the Electors List as of **12th March 2024**.

I really look forward to hearing and seeing you. *Wayne Lewin*
Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to the
Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council

Riparian Owners

A RIPARIAN owner is someone who has either a main river or a stream running through, beneath or adjacent to the boundary of their land.

Ordinary watercourses include brooks, becks, ditches, streams or culverts.

If you own a watercourse, you are responsible for ensuring that water flows through it naturally and for maintaining it by removing blockages that may impede the flow of water or cause flooding.

In order to allow the water to flow freely, riparian owners have the following responsibilities.

- Clearing any in-channel natural or man-made blockages in watercourses and keep any culverts, weirs and mill gates clear of debris.
- Clearing any trees and shrubs growing on the banks which may contribute to blockage.

If there is a lack of maintenance, or changes are made to the watercourse that cause or contribute to flooding, you may have to pay for the damages and could face legal action.

The Color Purple (2023)

Friday 19th April 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

For those that saw the original, the rough edges of Steven Spielberg's 1985 adaptation of *The Color Purple* have been softened by the evocative energy of this movie-musical's three female leads.

Synopsis:

In 1909 Celie a black American girl is given away in marriage by her abusive father to a local farmer Albert who treats her cruelly. Celie is God fearing and deliverance comes in the form of jazz singer who takes her away to another city far away from her misery. She now gets her long due happiness.

Building on the legacy of the previous film adaptation while incorporating elements of the stage musical, *The Color Purple* is a crowd-pleasing testament to resilience in the face of trauma.

Much more than a remake, the musical film version of *The Color Purple* stands on its own as a vibrant, uplifting experience – and the singing and dancing are superb.

Historical walking map planned

ON Wednesday 13th March we met to further plan an historical walking map of the village. We were able to consolidate our ideas. We decided to create a one sheet 'paper' to show the buildings of interest with a quick legend about each. Many thanks to those who have already given us some basic information. We also discussed creating a booklet (not unlike the one the school children produced in the 1980's) which could outline more of the history of things that were no longer part of the village; for example, the hops fields, the hurdle making field, etc. This would be a longer-term project.

We would welcome more information about the historical buildings and houses in our village. And the help of anyone who might be interested in this project.

We also discussed inviting speakers, whose topics might be of interest, but not necessarily about our village. It was decided that these could be organised and visitors charged a small entry fee per person, to cover the cost of the speaker's fees.

As there will not be anyone to organise and run the meeting in April, we decided to cancel the scheduled date of the 10th April. However, on the 8th May at 7.30pm, we will have a speaker in the village hall. Brian Bates has given us talks in the past and we know that his subject will be of interest. He will talk about the Tolpuddle Martyrs. More details will follow in the next *Reporter* and posters will be displayed. All are welcome to come to the talk.

Pam Shults

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



Fools for Christ

A pint of dove's milk. A spaghetti harvest. Big Ben goes digital.

Three of the well-known pranks that have been played on April Fool's Day over the years.

The history of fooling goes back many hundreds of years and includes the tradition of the Court Jester, who as part of his role could speak the truth that others couldn't.

There is too a long tradition of people acting in seemingly foolish ways as part of their following of Christ. People who wouldn't recant their faith and who ended up being killed, others who won't toe the line with oppressive governments and end up imprisoned. Those who stand up against the prevailing culture because of their faith and end up being harmed in some way. All seemingly foolish acts, but not so in the eyes of God.

St. Paul described himself as a "fool for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4.10). and in the world's eyes he was. Giving up a revered and respected position and becoming one of those whom he had originally persecuted was not the way to a quiet life. But Paul trusted that God would ultimately make all things well, so how others viewed him was in many ways irrelevant.

Another Bible verse suggests that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than human strength (1 Corinthians 1.25). I wonder what that means for you as you read it.

It gives me hope – that when I feel weak and vulnerable, I can rely on God's strength and wisdom which are so much greater than my own. The Bible is full of seemingly weak humans who do amazing things with God's strength. As the Easter season continues, we are reminded that this is the power that is stronger than death and the love that cannot be quenched.

With best wishes

Sarah

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

April

7th April – Easter 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Milborne Praise	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Dewlish
4.00pm	Bubble Church	Puddletown VH

14th April – Easter 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown CR
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.30pm	Sunday Reflection	Tolpuddle

21st April – Easter 4

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion followed by APCM and bring + share lunch	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

28th April – Easter 5

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
10.00	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Puddletown
11.00am	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

News from St. Andrew's Church

LENT has been a busy time for our church services. We hosted the Benefice's Ash Wednesday service when there was the imposition of ashes followed by a communion. We held Evening Compline services on a Wednesday night which were attended by a few. As I write this, arrangements are being made for the Good Friday Liturgy service and for the Easter Sunday Communion service.



Sarah has run a Lent Course based on the book and film 'Chocolat'. It proved to be very thought provoking. It was interesting hearing people's thoughts and interpretations of some of the issues raised by the story.

We look forward to the display of flowers at Easter, which have been purchased with donations made by people who wish to remember their loved ones who have died. Traditionally lilies were provided but they are hard to source so other flowers may be displayed.

The Church Council is in ongoing discussion with Fundraising and Giving Officers from Salisbury Diocese so that they can find ways to increase necessary capital to pay for our church's upkeep. We are hoping to 'go digital' as so many people no longer carry cash around with them. We are also exploring ways to raise more money to help maintain our church, which is the oldest and most historic building in the village.

As always, we are grateful to all who do support the church, whether by being part of the congregation, one of the members who clean, flower arrange, garden and do many more necessary voluntary roles or who make regular financial donations. A big thank you to all who currently help. If anyone is interested in supporting the church in any way, please get in touch with one of the Churchwardens.

Pam and Tony, Churchwardens

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784

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

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

Tony Fox 01258 837651

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

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30 years of Weldmar at the March WI

WE immediately associate the name Weldmar with their wonderful hospice care and many of us visit their charity shops on the high street. Frances Gleason, our speaker, is part of what she calls 'team Weldmar' – for her, a very happy place. Weldmar Hospice Care is a charity which provides specialist end-of-life care to people across Dorset who are living with life-limiting illness.



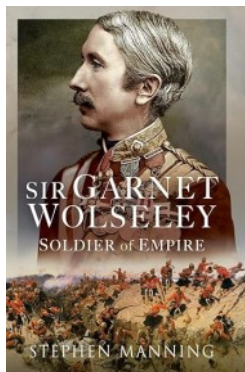
An important aspect of this care is to also support people's loved ones throughout what can be one of life's most difficult journeys. As well as inpatient hospices, much thought goes into providing 'hands on' care to patients in the comfort and familiarity of their own surroundings at home. Frances stressed that the journey 'begins with us and ends with us, but it does not always end there' – counselling for relatives is available afterwards if it is needed.

Clearly, running costs are high for this local charity, and Frances cited the many instances of fund raising which take place all the time, such as the always well-attended Summer Fete, local coffee mornings, sponsored walks and sky dives, etc. Volunteers are really important to Weldmar, who cannot survive without them; they make up 'the beating heart' of the charity and there are opportunities for everyone from all walks of life to join.

We thanked Frances for her thoughtful and heartfelt talk.

Business: Jenny reminded us that it is time to think about nominations for a new Committee next month. Nelda has organised a demonstration on the use of a defibrillator at the beginning of next month's Annual meeting which will be on Thursday 11th April. Please do come along and join us. *Pat Bull*

Sir Garnet Wolseley – Soldier of Empire by Stephen Manning



THIS book is written by an eminent specialist in Victorian Military History with several titles to his name. It appealed to me because my school history curriculum didn't focus on the campaigns and careers of Victorian Generals, and I wanted to know more.

Unusually for the Victorian Army, Field Marshall Lord Wolseley did not buy his way into rank, being a poor man. He earned it though meritorious actions on battlefields in Burma, India,

China, The Crimea, Canada, Egypt, South Africa and the Sudan. His particular skill seems to have been understanding soldiers and how to motivate them and keep them supplied (excellent logistics were a fundamental aspect to his campaigns).

The book examines the man and his career, as well as each campaign, with descriptions of his experiences as both an officer and a commander.

I was fascinated by the Asante War. Firstly, the reason for it – the Asante were fighting the British for the right to continue colonising their neighbouring countries and selling the inhabitants into slavery. The British, at the forefront of abolition, were fighting to stop this. My head swirled at the information that West Indian Troops were fighting for the British against Africans who wanted to continue making money from the slave trade! Secondly the problems of moving food, water, weapons and ammunition across difficult terrain whilst being sniped at, and how his changed approach cost fewer British Lives in the campaign.

It seems he didn't suffer fools gladly, and his disagreements with the Duke of Cambridge, Head of the Army at the time, are covered. This included relationships with Queen Victoria and her son the Duke of Connaught, who fought under Wolseley was full of praise for him, convincing his Mother to remove her objection to a peerage being granted for his service.

This was a very enjoyable book, also giving insight into the Siege of Khartoum, the folly of General Gordon, and Wolseley's failure to rescue him before the town fell to the Mahdi. Wolseley pressured the Government to relieve Khartoum, but the situation was complex and Gladstone dithered for months so everything happened too late. In an echo of present times, the Mahdi was determined to convert everyone in the world to Islam, and Britain was fighting this.

Wolseley was a great Army Reformer and worked with Cardwell on his reforms, which ended promotion by payment and introduced a new Army Structure (much hated by the Duke of Cambridge who did everything he could to disrupt and overturn it). He introduced the Lee-Metford magazine rifle and the Maxim Machine Gun, improved artillery and shells, improved training, drill and musketry and worked hard but unsuccessfully to improve soldiers' pay and to increase the size of the Army.

I enjoyed this book and learned a lot from it. *Susan Wilson*

Deadline for the next issue 14th April

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

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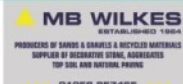
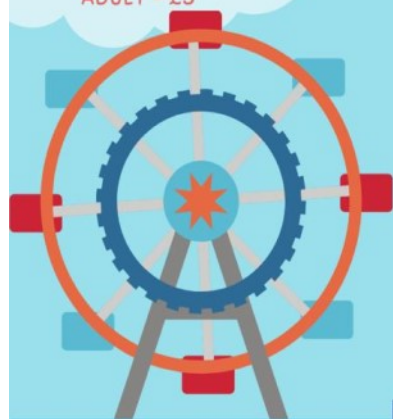
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These painted stones were found by the river Frome – have you seen any? If so take a photo of them and send to the *Reporter*.

FRIENDS OF MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL
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FAMILY PRIZE BINGO NIGHT

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CASH PREFERRED



FRIENDS OF
MILBORNE ST ANDREW
FIRST SCHOOL

April update – the Big Dorset Apple Cake

TWO months to go until The Big Dorset Apple Cake which takes place in the village hall on Dorset Day, Saturday June 1st. Media interest is growing and we hope to attract a bit of good publicity for our village. Perhaps some cake-loving philanthropic multimillionaire will notice our efforts and make a generous donation of enough money to build a brand-new village hall for us? I live in hope!

Thank you to those who kindly signed up at February's and March's Community Cafe to bake a Dorset Apple Cake or to come along on the big day to buy a cake, your generosity and support is much appreciated. I realise that not everyone is a baker, but nearly everyone enjoys eating cake!

Also, many thanks to those who have taken the trouble to email milborne.applecake@yahoo.com to offer their support and to bake a cake, it's lovely to hear from you and I am heartened by the response. I'm really looking forward to meeting a lot of new people at our event in the village hall on Saturday 1st June.

We are hoping that lots of kind people in our village and round about will generously contribute a large number of 7–8 inch, (18–20cm) square shaped homemade Dorset Apple Cakes which will be put together to make one enormous cake (square cake tins are available to borrow). This special cake will then be cut up and sold in large or small portions to raise funds for MSA village hall. Everyone who makes a cake will have their name inscribed on a special scroll which will be displayed in the village hall for posterity.

Air fryer Dorset apple cake recipe

I must confess that I don't have an air fryer, I have a gas oven which has about half the running cost of an electric oven. However, everyone I know who has an air fryer is very enthusiastic and uses them for most things. I've had lots of kitchen gadgets over the years, many of which, after the initial enthusiasm waned, tended to be put away at the back of a cupboard and then given away after a while.



Growing up in the 1950's we had very few kitchen gadgets, a traditional mixing bowl and a wooden spoon was the basic baking kit. We had a metal sieve for the flour, but no weighing scales, mum measured the flour and sugar using a cup or a mug, margarine was measured by eye. We had a metal conical spring with a wooden handle for whipping cream or meringues. It was hard work and took ages, as did creaming together the rock-hard margarine with the granulated sugar. I can remember when my mother proudly brought home a small electric



hand mixer in the mid 1960's and us both being astonished at how much time and effort it saved. We didn't have caster sugar

as it was more expensive. Today, caster sugar is more than double the price of granulated sugar. In those days every penny was counted, but it was not only the cost, our kitchen was very, very small and had only two tiny cupboards and one shelf. There wasn't room in the cupboards for a wide range of ingredients. I look at my baking cupboard nowadays and see granulated, castor, golden caster, Demerara, icing, dark brown and light brown soft sugars!

An air fryer is a small convection oven. It is used as an alternative to deep frying to fry food without using so much oil.

Air fryers usually have a removable cooking basket or tray where you place the food. Air frying differs from traditional baking because normal ovens use gas or electricity to produce heat. Air Fryers use rapid air technology to create heat. This makes the process quicker than normal convection ovens.

Air fryers cook food that would normally be cooked in oil. The air fryer's cooking chamber radiates heat from a heating element near the food. A fan then moves the hot air around the food. The temperature in an air fryer varies depending on the model, but the heating chamber of a typical commercial air fryer can reach 250 degrees Celsius (482 degrees Fahrenheit).

Air fryers have maintained their spot as far and away the most popular kitchen gadget for Britons, while breadmakers and the tablecloth are disappearing from kitchens and mealtimes, according to a recent report.

Annual sales figures from Lakeland (2023) show sales of air fryers were up 1,175% on 2022 – when they were already soaring in popularity – as households continue their efforts to save energy on standard ovens.

Meanwhile, sales of traditional ovenware fell by 14% as households moved away from oven-based meals, and slow cooker sales saw a slight 3% dip as consumers invested in air fryers over most other appliances.

Additionally, with the multifunctional air fryer going from strength to strength, customers may be using these devices to bake instead.

This recipe is the simplest recipe I have found for an apple cake, but I'm afraid that due to my not having an air fryer, I haven't been able to test it.





Four ingredient Dorset Apple Cake

225g brown sugar

3 eggs

1 large peeled and diced cooking apple

125g self-raising flour

Method

Add the brown sugar and eggs to a large mixing bowl, mix until the mixture is smooth.

Then add the flour and mix well.

Fold the apples into the batter, mixing, so they are evenly distributed.

Spray your cake pan with olive oil spray.

Pour the batter into the cake pan, and set it into the air fryer at 160°C for 12–15 minutes.

Before removing, stick a toothpick in the centre of the cake to make sure it's fully cooked. If not, add a couple of minutes.

Plate, serve, and enjoy!

However you bake your Dorset apple cake either in an air fryer or by more conventional methods we would be very grateful for your support, remember any Dorset apple cake recipe is welcome. Please register your support by emailing us at milborne.applecake@yahoo.com or take a look at our Applecake page on the village website for lots of different recipes and further details: www.milbornestandrew.org.uk, click on the Applecake logo. Alternatively, you can sign up at April's Community Café on Saturday 13th April 10.00am–12 noon or text/telephone 07824 638237.

Footnote:

Unfortunately, the Gluten Free recipe was omitted from last month's article. Here it is now:

Gluten Free Dorset Apple Cake

Ingredients

225g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing

450g Bramley apples

Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon

225g caster sugar, plus extra for dredging

3 large eggs

225g gluten-free self-raising flour

2 tsp gluten-free baking powder

25g ground almonds

1 tsp mixed spice

1 tbsp demerara sugar

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4.

Grease a deep 23–24cm springform cake tin and line with baking paper.

Peel, core and cut the apples into 1cm pieces, and toss with the lemon juice.

Cream together the butter, caster sugar and lemon zest in a bowl until pale and fluffy.

Beat in the eggs, one at a time, adding a little flour with each addition to keep the mixture smooth.

Sift the remaining flour and the baking powder into the bowl and fold in with the ground almonds and mixed spice. Stir the apple pieces into the mixture.

Spoon into the prepared cake tin, lightly level the top and sprinkle with the demerara sugar.

Bake in the oven for one hour or until well-risen, brown and a skewer inserted into the centre of the

cake comes out clean. If the cake starts to look a little too brown, cover with a sheet of baking paper after about 45 minutes.

Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes. Remove the cake from the tin and place on a serving plate. Dredge heavily with the extra caster sugar.

Cut the cake into generous wedges and serve warm with a spoonful of clotted cream, if you wish.

This and many other Dorset apple cake recipes can be found at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/applecake. *Rose Frost*



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The Reporter

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Respect For Self – We are kind to ourselves and responsible for our own learning

Respect For Others – We are kind to each other. Our differences make us stronger

Respect For Our World – We are part of nature. We will work together to make the world a better place

Book Week and World Book Day 2024

The magic of book week; some of the activities that took place in our school included poetry day, a gigantic reading den (equipped with fairy lights and fluffy cushions!) and our teachers sharing their favourite books with all the classes.

The highlight of the week was World Book Day with our children coming to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. It was such a brilliant day and everyone (including the staff!) got to showcase their outfits in our 'costume parade'!

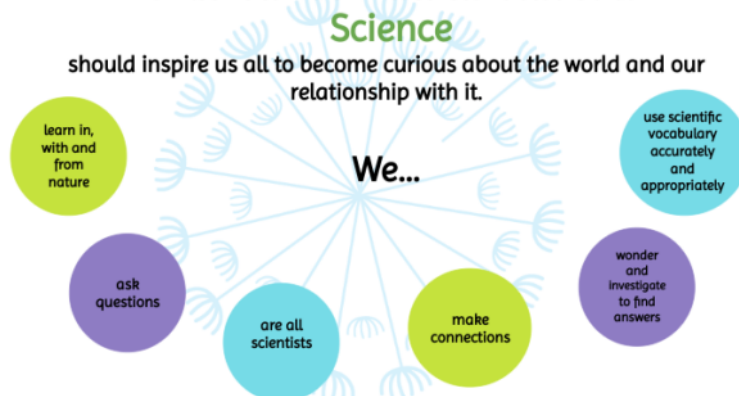


Science Week 2024

Science Week at Milborne was all about time. Each class learnt about a significant scientist and how he/she has impacted our lives today. Our children took part in lots of hands on, outdoor learning whilst focusing on each of our science principles throughout the week, and some of our family and friends came into school to talk to the children about how science is used in their jobs. This is our science vision:



At Milborne St Andrew First School we believe that



Discover Dorset: North Dorset Trailway Network launches a new website

The North Dorset Trailway Network (NDTN), a cherished fixture of local life and tourism, has taken a leap into the digital age with the launch of its new, more user-friendly website. This fresh online platform stands as a beacon to those seeking a motorised-traffic free route for recreation or sustainable transport.

The NDTN, a registered charity since 2006, has dedicated itself to establishing a safe and accessible route for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, and those with disabilities. The trailway, which traces the historic Somerset and Dorset Railway lines, spans 14 miles from Sturminster Newton to Spetisbury, with an additional section at Stalbridge.



This new website, designed by Parrot Creative, offers a wealth of information about the Trailway and its surroundings. From historical insights to practical details about the route, visitors to the site will find everything they need to plan a trip. Whether you're a local resident seeking a peaceful afternoon walk or a tourist looking to explore the Dorset landscape, the NDTN's website will be your go-to resource.

Living in Sturminster Newton for the past eight year and starting Parrot Creative right here has been an incredible journey. I've walked the North Dorset Trailway more times than I can count, and each time it feels like a new experience. So, when we had the opportunity to work on the Trailway's new website, it felt personal. It was an opportunity to give back to the community that has given us so much

Kacper Jednorowicz, Director at Parrot Creative

Notably, the website provides extensive details on the future extension strategy of the Trailway. This includes plans to link the North Dorset Trailway with the Somerset section of the Somerset and Dorset Railway, and efforts to extend the Trailway both northwards to Stalbridge and southwards to Poole. The strategy also highlights the importance of creating safe road crossings where detours are necessary.

Apart from practical navigation, the website also highlights places of interest along the Trailway, enriching the experience for visitors. These include the old station site at Spetisbury, which has been tidied and includes a picnic area and information boards. In Blandford, otters can often be seen from the bridge where the Trailway crosses the Stour. Other points of interest include the Big Yellow Bus Garden Project at Shillingstone, the restored Shillingstone Station, and the Fiddleford Manor English Heritage site. In Sturminster Newton, a restored water mill dating from the 1600s and a town museum are among the highlights.

By launching this new website, the NDTN is taking strides to promote the Trailway and garner support for its extension. The user-friendly website serves not only as an informative tool, but also as an invitation for both locals and visitors to discover and appreciate the natural beauty of Dorset. Whether you're planning a quiet walk, a cycling trip, a horse ride, or a day of exploration, the North Dorset Trailway Network's new website is sure to enhance your experience.

To discover more about the North Dorset Trailway Network and plan your next adventure, visit their new website at www.northdorsettrailway.org.uk

Friendship By Jan Beaumont©

I've not long had a birthday
You might say I'm getting old
I'm not the girl I used to be
It's sad, but must be told.

I once was fairly agile
But these days I've slowed right down
I'd rather have an early night
Than go out and paint the town.

Back then I sure could hold my drink
I never had much trouble
If they gave me just a single
I'd say "Hell no, pour a double!"

But now I've reached this ripe old age
And things are not the same
And after two stiff drinks I feel
I may forget my name!

Back then I could just party on
Until the morning light
But now I just get tired and want to
Turn in for the night.

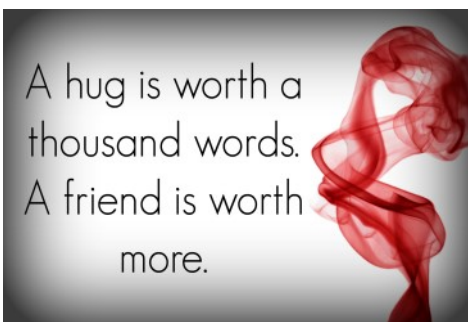
My knees are quite arthritic
I need glasses just to see
My hearing now is not the best
What has become of me?

I've slowed down quite dramatically
My energy is done
If the building was on fire
I don't think that I could run!

But some things never change and I
Have joy that never ends
I know that I'm so lucky to
Have such amazing friends.

For friends and family mean so much
Especially as we age
And though we are no longer young
We're all on the same page!

So treasure all your friends and just
Make sure you're always there
To show them that you love them and
How much you really care!





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WORLD Book Day has been one of our highlights of the year in school. World Book Day is a well-known international initiative



to promote and encourage a love of books and reading, and every year we set our students the challenge of coming to school dressed as their favourite character from a book. As always, the pupils (and staff!) rose to the challenge, filling the school with excitement and probably every literary character you can think of, from James Herriot to Willy Wonka and every possible fantastic beast in-between! We had a

fabulous day, packed with fun activities and learning, to share our love of books. As we regularly say to students and parents, if there's one thing you can do at home that will make all the difference to your love of learning and success at school, it's to immerse yourself in a great book!



From the wonder of books to the awe of space and the universe; in March, Year 5 were lucky enough to have the chance to experience the University of Southampton's Explorer Dome! The dome is a giant, inflatable planetarium that offers children and adults an amazing opportunity to be plunged into deep space and learn about a plethora of wonders, from our own Earth to the solar system, the Milky Way and the universe. Each Year 5 group got to spend time in the Explorer Dome, which just about squeezed into the school hall for the day. We are very grateful to the University of Southampton team for taking us on an experience that was truly out of this world!



Our students continue to make a difference in our local community. We are proud that many of our Year 8s are participating in the Young Leaders Award that encourages youngsters to plan and lead community projects. Faye, who is in Year 8, has excelled as a Young Leader, and as part of the Award organised a massive donation of blankets, food and all sorts of



other items for the animals of Monkey World. Owing to the success of her efforts, Faye was able to take several large crates of donations to the Ape Rescue Centre in Bovington. Really well done, Faye!

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 website: www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk

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The Ways Of Milborne. An excerpt from this fascinating local history

SOME of you may remember my writing a resume of this book. Andy Way (the author) felt that you all might enjoy some of the characters and events within its pages. As Andy writes,

“Joseph, born in MSA in 1816, and baptised on 31st May that year is the most colourful character in the Way family tree. Of all the people in this book, Joseph is probably the central character”. On February 24th 1840, Joseph, aged 23 years (but possibly only 18 years!) is committed by a Rev. Templer to Dorchester Prison for “*breaking into a pigeon house and stealing pigeons*” Joseph is described as *5 foot 5 and three quarters tall, dark brown hair, dark blue eyes, and a fair complexion*. He has a “*very small scar over the right eyebrow. He had a slight blow on the bridge of his nose, and a very slight scar on the right cheek bone*”. The “*little finger (on his) right hand (is) crooked*”. However Joseph is acquitted of this charge, and released on 14th March; during his two weeks in gaol his behaviour is described as “*orderly*” in the record. As we will see, regrettably this close shave is merely a portent of what’s to come. Just over seven months later, on October 10th 1840. Joseph is sentenced to two months hard labour in Dorchester Prison for trespass, which is further explained as “*breaking a window*”. Note that, like his brother Samuel 12 years previously, he is committed by TH Bastard Esq, “*a magistrate for Dorsetshire*”, who obviously didn’t like the Ways of MSA; although he was acquitted in 1835 (there is a note in the record) suggesting that the reason is ‘ominous’. Nonetheless, it appears that Joseph is let out two days later as an RW Andrews (probably of Holy Trinity Church, Dorchester), gives mention in the church records – pays a fine on his behalf”.

There is an intervening period of happier times when Joseph marries Sarah Hammett in 1841 in Milton Abbas. They have three children Edwin, Ellen and Albert.

“What then happened to Joseph that he was not recorded in the 1851 census? Well, he makes his final appearance in Dorchester prison – now a repeat offender-aged 29 years Compared with stealing pigeons or breaking a window, this time it is really serious. He is received and committed on 13th March 1846 at the Court of Assize for the crime of Arson. His sentence is horrific: “Transportation for Life”. He is removed from jail on 21st April and sent to Millbank prison in Westminster: “By an Act of Parliament of 1843, Millbank . . . became a holding depot for convicts prior to transportation. Every person sentenced to transportation was sent to Millbank first, where they were held for three months before their final destination was decided. By 1850, around 4,000 people were condemned annually to transportation from the UK. Prisoners awaiting transportation were kept in solitary confinement and restricted to silence for the first half of their sentence”

The Wikipedia entry for Millbank also states that “*sentences of five years to ten years in the National Penitentiary were offered as an alternative to transportation to those who thought most likely to reform*” but obviously Joseph did not benefit from such leniency. This was really how transportation was legally viewed by the powers-that-be at the time, namely a “*public exhibition of the King’s mercy*” or “*a condition of pardon, rather than a sentence itself*” for crimes which could have otherwise attract the death sentence. There was an account of Joseph’s case in Lloyd’s Weekly London Newspaper March 22nd 1846 edition. Joseph tried to get a job with the Biles. They wouldn’t take him on so he set a hayrick alight. This appears to get to the heart of the conditions of agricultural labourers in a community

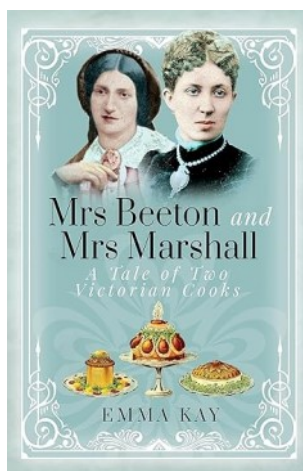
like MSA. A man called William Prince commented “*This is enough to open any farmer’s eyes. They turn men away who have a wife and family they had better give a man a sovereign than turn him away*”

To find out more about Joseph, his absences and a disputed child read the next edition of the *Reporter*.

Contact: andy.way@adaptcentre.

Carole Fornachon

Mrs Beeton and Mrs Marshall – A Tale of two Victorian Cooks by Emma Kay



Cooking is a hobby of mine, which started as a child, learning to cook using the copy of ‘Mrs Beeton’s Book of Household Management’, given to my Mother on her marriage in 1955. It promises ‘a tale of two cooks’, and I thought it would tell a story of rivalry between the two ladies, both famous for developing and transforming home cooking in the Victorian era.

It turned out to be two separate life stories, starting with Mrs Marshall. I learned a lot about

her, even more about her relatives and their life stories, and finally about her cooking school, well-attended cookery demonstrations, massive retailing empire and transformational recipes.

The section on Mrs Beeton followed a similar pattern – less about cooking and more about her marriage, her husband and his feud with her family, her descendants and her publishing career (which was more about fashion and general ‘womens’ interests’ than cooking).

Sadly, a potentially interesting topic, backed up by some excellent contemporary photographs, and information about the author’s collection of kitchenalia, is spoiled for me by the writing style. I found the book easy to put down for any distraction possible, rather than a compelling tale. The author is a well-respected academic with many publications to her name; I found the book less of a ‘tale’ than a ‘list of stuff that may or may not be related’. Others may think differently, and I’d rather have read it than not, but I didn’t enjoy it as much as I’d have expected.

One must credit the research and knowledge of the author, and her superb tribute to Anthony Haynes, known as Tony, who collected memorabilia related to these two ladies as well as a vast range of old cookery books from the seventeenth century onwards.

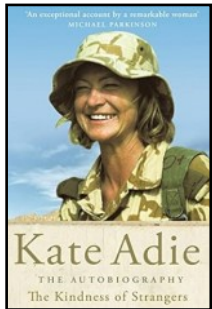
Susan Wilson

Deadline for the next issue 14th April

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

Bookends' Good Read: "The Autobiography: The Kindness of Strangers"

by Kate Adie



THIS was considered to be an amazingly factual and admirable chronicle of this astonishingly brave but intensely private woman. Her writing is evocative, compelling and demanding. Most of the group found her inspirational, witty and entertaining. Some commented on her intense compassion whilst holding up a mirror to other countries' intolerances and histories. All felt thankful and better

informed whilst appreciating her discussions on the management of risk, the nature of fear and the need to be tireless, as was she, to always do the right thing. Her eye for the absurd whilst maintaining reasoned and level reporting together with her sharp mind and rigorous principles was set against her ability to lighten our mood whenever we picked up the book. In the Balkans she learnt her lesson when "poopooing history in favour of journalism". This earned her a rifle muzzle against her throat, despite this she had the emotional distance to describe the conflict there as "dirty, mean and vicious". She saw "lunacy" reigning fuelled by Balkan hatred whilst life continued to be "nasty and determined" witnessing the "mundane, the bizarre and those who carried courage naturally with them". It prompted her to comment that "TV news is a promiscuous medium alighting briefly on a few verified facts hopeless where eight hundred centuries of disputed history are concerned". Her ability to sum up a race or a situation in a few words was a constant delight.

The American troops with their "bouncy behaviour . . . several thousand GI's 10% women, 30% black, 100% dim" commenting that "idiot recognition" was a central part of BBC training! Whilst all the reporting was powerful, Northern Ireland hit home. Images of a grieving widow howling spread-eagled on her husband's coffin "a terrible signalling of mortality". The Hunger Strikes which she described as a "rather foreign habit vaguely sanctioned by Gothic Catholicism of the South . . . (the participants) sitting on the threshold of the man who wronged them until reparation or death came".

It is a frighteningly authentic portrait describing an atmosphere of hatred and anger with Mr Adams quietly "oozing hypocrisy" and Paisley "spouting bigotry . . . a personal opponent of the Anti-Christ shouting medieval insults" during the Pope's visit. She vividly describes existing at survival level-stressed, washed out and desperate but very determined (despite) . . . "the doors we knocked on produc(ing) spit and insult".

It is a very long, closely written and dense account. Too long for many group members and not a true autobiography lacking, as it did, many personal details of Kate Adie's life. We learnt, in a brief sentence, of her adoption and later in an equally brief account of tracing her natural mother and gaining an extended family. However, her expertise as a writer and witty raconteur were universally accepted. For some it was her compassion which shone throughout this unforgettable tale of bravery and determination to bring the news to the waiting public.

Carole Fornachon

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, each column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

No prize, just a bit of fun.

				9				4	
				2		4			9
		4			6			8	
6	9	4		7				3	
				8					
7		5					9		
9		7					3		
1	2			6					
					3				6

Something for children (or adults!) to colour



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Milton Abbas Surgery

Plant and Veg Swap

Our Plant and Veg swap is back for 2024! If you have any spare seedlings, plants, or vegetables, please drop them off in our surgery foyer and then anyone who comes to the surgery can pick up something on their way out.

Nothing beats the taste of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs grown in your own garden – or the satisfaction and enjoyment you can get from doing it. Not sure what to grow or where to start? The Royal Horticultural Society have all the tips and advice you need, including a Grow Your Own newsletter featuring handy fruit and vegetable tips, advice on what to do in your garden or allotment. Go to www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own for more information.

Did you know that May is National Walking Month?

Walking is an easy and accessible way to improve physical and mental health and even a 20-minute walk can reduce the risk of several preventable health conditions, including certain cancers, depression, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes.

Why not join our Walking Group on a Wednesday at 10.00am? For more information and to see the walking programme for May 2024 please see our surgery website: www.masurgery.co.uk/wellbeing-team. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printout of the programme, please let Kelly or Anna, our Social Prescribers, know and they can arrange for one to be sent to you.

Or perhaps now you have mastered the habit of going for a walk, you would like to challenge yourself further? Why not look at the NHS running plan for beginners – Couch to 5K. See www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise to download the weekly programmes.

Whatever you end up doing this May, let's keep on moving forward. Do something today that your future self will thank you for!

Cancelling GP and Nurse Appointments

Recently there have been several instances where patients have not turned up for their booked GP or Nurses appointments. Some of these appointments are up to 40 minutes long, so missing your appointment or forgetting to cancel means we waste valuable GP or Nurse time.

If you can't attend an appointment, please can we ask that you cancel it in advance so someone else can receive the care they need. This can be done either over the phone or by replying to your text reminder. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter – **It could make a huge difference to another patient.**

Op COURAGE

Op COURAGE provides specialist care and support for people who've served in the Armed Forces and are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. This service can also help if you're finding life difficult after leaving the military.

It does not matter how long ago you left the armed forces or how long you served for. You can contact Op COURAGE even if you left many years ago. You can also contact Op COURAGE if you're still serving but have a discharge date.

Please call 0300 034 9986 or visit www.nhs.uk/opcourage for more information.

Surgery Closures

The surgery will be closed on **Friday 29th March** and **Monday 1st April** 2024 for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. We will also be closed on **Monday 6th May** (Early May Bank Holiday) and **Monday 27th May** 2024 (Late May Bank Holiday).

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



Community Drop In

Your Surgery as part of Mid Dorset PCN invites you to our monthly community drop-in sessions being held at

Dorchester Library
on the fourth Wednesday of each month
10am – 12pm

Come along and meet your PCN Carers and Social Prescribing Leads, together with other community Services.

An opportunity to socialise, have some refreshments and find out what support is available in your communities

Mid Dorset Primary Care Network

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club – our next meeting



IN March our speaker gave us a range of hints and tips to help us grow our own vegetables more successfully. In April, we consider garden design. On 18th April, Julie Haycock, a professional garden designer, will give us an introduction to garden design.

If you feel that you could do more with your outside space and need some inspiration and new ideas, why not come along? We start at 7.30pm in the village hall on the third Thursday of the month. Cost is just £2 for non members and includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

Angela & Mark Johnson

Deadline for the next issue 14th April

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



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Try Pétanque this spring!

PÉTANQUE is back for the new season by the Village Hall with the first official game on Saturday 13th April – the date being scheduled to coincide with the Community Café at the hall. So you can get fuelled up with a bacon butty and cup of tea and cake, then head out to the pétanque court suitably refreshed! However, you don't need to wait until then if you'd like to have an informal game, just contact Rich Hawker next door at Corner Cottage (details below) and he'll provide you with the kit to get started.



It's an easy game to play for beginners and is suitable for all ages.

Players toss hollow metal balls (the *boules*) aiming to get them as close as they can to the small wooden target ball, known as the jack.

Teams are generally made up of singles, doubles or triples and each player will have two or three boules to try and get closest to the jack. In the event of a close match, a tape

measure or even piece of string can be used to assess which team is the winner. It's easy but fun, so why not come along and give it a try, especially as we have a fantastic purpose-built court here



in Milborne. The Pétanque group would like to thank Barry Andrews Property Maintenance for his kind donation of £200 and further sponsors would be welcomed and appreciated.

If you have any questions or would like to add your suggestions, please get in touch: milborne.petanque@gmail.com Further updates and more in depth details will appear here in future issues of the *Reporter*.

To borrow boules, please contact Rich on 07393 309037.

Help! 😞

By Jan Beaumont[©]

I'm getting older
Without any doubt
For I got in the bath
And I couldn't get out!

At my place I've only
A shower, you see
So having a bath was
Like heaven to me.

I lay back in the bubbles
And soaked for a while
Felt just like a movie star
Lounging in style!

It was time to get dried
But I found I was stuck
For my knees wouldn't work
I was right out of luck.

I tried and I tried but
It really was tough
Looks like someone will find me
Sat here in the buff.

It wouldn't be nice
In fact it would be rude
For someone to walk in
And see me here. Nude.

Thank heavens I managed
To exit the tub
All scrubbed up and shiny
No longer a grub.

I'll never get in there again
There's no doubt
Unless there's a volunteer
To get me out!



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Dorset Wildlife Trust partners with Natural England to acquire Lyscombe Farm

WILDLIFE Trust and Natural England have purchased 335 hectares of chalk downland and farmland at Lyscombe, 10 miles north-east of Dorchester. The land has been acquired for nature conservation and environmental restoration. It was made possible through Natural England's National Nature Reserves programme, and planned nutrient mitigation credit scheme, alongside generous donations from Dorset Wildlife Trust's members and supporters.

The farm lies within the Dorset Downs in an area of chalk grassland, scrub, wildflower meadows and ancient woodland. Existing designations include a 50-hectare Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and several Scheduled Monuments including Lyscombe Chapel. For several decades, the farm has practiced wildlife-friendly land management techniques within the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.



Whilst the primary interest of all the partners is to see the area managed for nature recovery, this will also serve to reduce the levels of harmful nutrients entering Poole Harbour. Poole Harbour's wildlife and water quality is suffering badly from an excess of nutrients coming down its waterways. These originate from both housing (via treated sewage which still contains high levels of nutrients) and significantly, from fertilisers and manure applied to farmed land. By adopting a more sustainable form of land management, nutrients entering the top of the catchment at Lyscombe will be reduced both by removing inputs, and through natural recovery measures such as creating new wetland habitat that can capture nutrients.

Over the coming years, Dorset Wildlife Trust plans to enhance the habitat to support the site's downland and enable increases in wildlife abundance throughout the landscape. We plan to use natural regeneration techniques and a rewilding approach blended with traditional conservation management and we will continue to graze livestock across the land. Through working with neighbouring landowners and farmers, the ambition is to use Lyscombe as a nucleus from which to create a nature recovery network across the wider Dorset Downs landscape.

What's on in April

Wednesday 3rd	Wednesday Club Members Cream Tea 2.00pm.
Friday 5th	Bridge The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
Friday 5th	Quiz Night The Royal Oak.
Saturday 6th	Murder Mystery Night Village Hall 7.00pm.
Thursday 11th	WI. Village Hall 7.30pm.
Friday 12th	Bridge The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
Saturday 13th	Pétanque introductory session following the Community Café.
Saturday 13th	Community Café Village Hall 10.00am–12 noon see page 2.
Sunday 14th	Reporter deadline for copy for the May issue – send copy and photographs by mid-day via msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team. Team members can be found on page two.
Friday 19th	Bridge The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
Friday 19th	Milborne Movies <i>The Colour Purple</i> Village Hall 7.30pm.
Saturday 20th	Family Bingo in aid of Milborne St. Andrew First School. Village Hall from 5.45pm.
Wednesday 24th	Village Hall AGM 7.00pm.
Thursday 25th	Gardening Club Village Hall 7.30pm.
Friday 26th	Bridge The Royal Oak 2.30pm.

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 9.00am.
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



Milborne St. Andrew

Village Website

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

(search for Milborne St. Andrew)

Information about our village + quick links to:



Village Community



The Reporter (in colour)



Village Hall



Parish Council



Sports Club



First School



Royal Oak



Ladybirds Playgroup

And more . . .



A FAMILY FRIENDLY TRADITIONAL VILLAGE PUB IN MILBORNE ST. ANDREW

April 2024

April 5th – Quiz Night

April 11th – Theme Night Mediterranean Night

April 25th – Pie Night

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

**TO BOOK CALL
01258 837248**