



Reporter


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News and Views from around the area

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April 2021

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Will Milborne's water quench the thirst of millions?

IF you've travelled up Milton Road over the last few months, you couldn't have failed to notice a splash before you'd left the village; yes, 'the springs are up'. Most of the winter there has been at least a large puddle, if not a body of water that was more lake-like on the northern stretch of the road. It's crystal clear that our valley village can be a damp place. What's also crystal clear is the water, so says a newly formed company that wants to bottle and sell Milborne spring water. The company, Aqua Milborna, believes that the underground watercourses are a fluid goldmine and they intend to tap these voluminous streams to compete in the ever-growing spring water market. Indeed, they see an international market that has a gap for spring water from mid-Dorset, especially one that appeals to a more refined palate.

Not only has Aqua Milborna (Bere Stream) – or Aqua Milborna BS for short, the name the bottled water is to be sold by – a fine nose and highly quaffable taste, the watercourses that supply it are, as villagers can attest, well stocked so keeping up with demand should not be a problem. Rainfall falling on chalk hills to the north of the village percolates through the chalk bedrock, feeding the many watercourses and, in turn, springs. It is this phenomenon that has so excited Aqua Milborna and it's no wonder their flagship product, BS, has such a distinctive taste – chalky, with earthy notes of geosmin and a whisper of sulphur. That the land that acts as a sponge for the spring

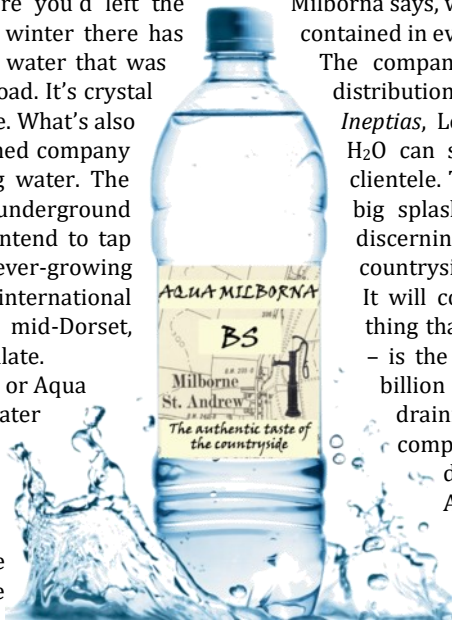
water is farmland can only add to the complex taste of BS, Aqua Milborna says, with a hearty injection of authentic rural farm life contained in every bottle.

The company says it has a firm interest from a global distribution company as well as names such as *Aqua Ineptias*, London's famous water bar, where magnums of H₂O can sell for over £1,000 to hydrate their showbiz clientele. The earthy Aqua Milborna BS is likely to make a big splash in celebrity circles who will, no doubt, be discerning enough to detect the bouquet of the Dorset countryside.

It will come with a torrent of irony for some that the thing that has dogged Milborne for years – excess water – is the basis for a business that aims to join a multi-billion pound market. It's hoped that industrial draining of the watercourses, that the spring water company are proposing, could help solve Milborne's damp issue that has caused floods over the years.

Aqua Milborna hopes to build a bottling plant near the source of the springs that it has attained the rights over. In their business plan, the company detail a direct to consumer point of sale – namely, the water pump in

The Draw, the alley between The Causeway and Chapel Street and within sight of the Bere Stream. Aqua Milborna are happy to answer any questions about their business and BS on the Zoom presentation on Thursday 1st April at 10.00am.



Another year of disrupted Lent and Easter Season

AS I write this we are in the middle of the Lent period and still in 'lockdown #3'. Being unable to meet for other than church services the courses that Sarah runs have been on Zoom. Every Lent I endeavour to pay more attention to the Bible and with the use of commentaries try to understand the depth of messages within the passages. For most of Lent last year I was on a cruise with my sister; not only did we attend church services but also joined in morning prayers and debates (on days when at sea). Knowing that I would be away for half of Lent I bought a book in advance and every evening we would read the passage, the commentary and the prayer then we would discuss it together. Only two days after I arrived home the country was put into 'lockdown #1'; as you will be aware all churches had to close and all services cancelled – Easter week did not happen in church last year. So, this year I am enjoying the online courses and, unless we are put into total lockdown again, will be able to join in the Easter week services in church.

Our churchyard is starting to look good again thanks to volunteers and helpers. A big thank you to neighbours of the church, one of whom has been very busy tidying the northern and western sections of the 'old' churchyard. There have been a wonderful display of snowdrops this year and the daffodils are also starting to come through. Currently we are focussing on how to manage our compost heaps, one rather large in the older section and one in the

newer section including the compost bins. One option would be to pay someone to remove all the branches but this would cost too much, another is to create a 'dead hedge'. This is a stock proof barrier behind which the compost can be stored. It is a very eco-friendly way of allowing the material to rot down and provides a habitat for insects and other small animals. We think that we have found someone to do some groundwork to level off the back of the new churchyard as well which is great.

We are about to have a Quinquennial Inspection of the building so we hope that there will be little remedial building work which needs to be done. If so, we will have to seek funding including grants and donations. I will keep you all informed.

And finally, a big thank you to Sarah, who during the last lockdown has continued to hold services on a weekly basis around the benefice and on Zoom. She has also prepared and led weekly Zoom Lent courses. We appreciate her efforts. It has been very hard work for her but welcomed by those who join in.

Pam Shults Churchwarden

Keep your eye on Facebook and notices to find out about the Easter Trail – prizes to be won.

The Milborne Players have Zoomed again!

WE have been reading possible audio productions and have decided on two short plays that we hope you will enjoy.

You will be able to listen to them on the Players web site soon.

They are *Box and Cox* by J M Morton which we hope will make you laugh and *The Looking Glass* by Edith Wharton which is more serious. They are dramatised for radio by Neville Teller.

Visit our website at www.milborneplayers.org.uk

Can you help?

OUR church is cleaned on a regular basis by a team of people who like to volunteer their time, not all are necessarily churchgoers. Some of the current helpers (now in their 80s) have decided that it is too much for them so are 'retiring'. We work in pairs to do the cleaning only once a week on a rota basis which means a turn every five to six weeks; usually takes just over an hour.

Please think about volunteering. To find out more email me on pamshults@btinternet.com or phone 01258 837203 or private message me on Messenger.

Pam Shults

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Easter Hope

Of all the Christian festivals, Easter is the one above all which celebrates life, joy, peace and hope.

The Easter message is one that proclaims from the rooftops that death is not the end, that light is always stronger than darkness and hope always greater than despair.

We are reminded of this each year as springtime emerges from the bleakness of winter. Trees display the utterly brilliant green-ness of fresh new leaves. Blossom bedecks our gardens and verges. Daffodils bring joy along roads and lanes. The songs of the birds uplift the soul.

In spite of everything we have faced in the past year, spring has sprung again and brought a reminder of the power of its life into our lives. Winter has passed, and the world seems to live again.

There has been much darkness in the past year, but there is always hope to be found. That is the long-lasting message of the Easter season, that no matter how bad things seem, no matter how deep the darkness, there is always something brighter to come.

Jesus's disciples knew the pain of loss when their beloved Friend and Master died. On the third day something transformational happened, and they were never the same from that time on.

The resurrection didn't mean they never had a bad day again. Most of them faced serious opposition; some of them died for their faith. But it gave them a deep hope that, whatever happened, however hard things were, however much they faced, they would not be conquered because of God's love and life for them. This gave them enormous courage to stand up for what they believed was right even when it resulted in persecution.

They knew that even the worst the world could throw at them was nothing compared with the love of the God who walked with them in the darkness and who would never leave them alone.

It is hard for us sometimes to see death as anything but negative; it causes so much pain. But Easter tells us that God's life is stronger than death and when we lift our eyes beyond the horizons of this world, we see there is so much more to come.

May this Easter bring you hope, peace and life-giving joy.

With best wishes

Sarah

Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne and Dewlish April 2020

1st April – Maundy Thursday

6.00pm Holy Communion Milborne

2nd April – Good Friday

10.00am Good Friday Service – Tolpuddle

music, prayers, reflection

6.00pm Good Friday service - Dewlish

music, prayers, reflection

4th April – Easter Day

9.30am Easter Holy Communion Milborne

11.00 Easter Holy Communion Puddletown

6.00pm Easter Holy Communion Dewlish

11th April – Easter 2

9.30am Parish Communion Milborne

11.00 Parish Communion Puddletown

11.00 Family Service Dewlish

18th April – Easter 3

9.30am Parish Communion Tolpuddle

9.30 Worship in Stillness Milborne

11.00 Parish Communion Dewlish

25th April – Easter 4

9.30am Parish Communion Milborne

11.00 Parish Communion Puddletown

11.00 BCP Matins Dewlish

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.15am; Saturday 9.00am

Monday – Puddletown Tuesday – Milborne

Wednesday – Dewlish Thursday – Tolpuddle

Saturday – Puddletown

This service plan is subject to change; up-to-date information can always be sought from the vicar or Pam Shults as churchwarden

Easter Church Flowers

IN Milborne we have a well-established tradition of residents contributing to buy flowers to decorate St Andrew's Church at Easter in memory of their relatives and friends. We normally have the church filled with wonderful white, scented lilies. However, we are not in normal times. Last year the church could not even open at Easter, and this year, although there will be a communion service it will be limited in content and numbers. Also there has not been the opportunity to source the flowers. Yet we feel it is likely that people may particularly wish to also commemorate those who have died during the pandemic

It has therefore been suggested that this year we ask for contributions to buy daffodil and narcissus bulbs to be planted in the churchyard,

probably along the paths. As the date of Easter changes, they would always bloom near to the festival but would hopefully provide a more permanent memorial for these difficult years. Of course, we would not be able to buy and plant them until later in the year, to bloom in 2022 and onwards.

If you would like to contribute to this, please give donations to Pam Shults at 26 Stileham Bank or Sally Dyer at 13 St. Andrews View, or bring to a service. They may also be left in the secure wall box to the left of the door inside the church, in which case, please label them for the bulbs. The names of those remembered are usually written in a book, which cannot be displayed this year, but please include them so there is a record for the future. *Sally Dyer*



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Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

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Front cover photographs and design by Heather V Hogg, *small top* Male Blackcap, *top* Goldfinch *bottom* Male Bullfinch all taken through the kitchen window.

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Milton Abbas Surgery

A Letter from the Partners

WE wanted to take a moment to update you all on the effects COVID has had, and continues to have, on the way we deliver healthcare to you all.

How has COVID affected the Surgery?

Firstly, this is an incredibly difficult time for us all. We understand everyone is feeling the stress, worry, anxiety and fear associated with this brutal illness and we'd like to remind our patients that the staff at the surgery of course feel the same way. We all have families and loved ones who, like you, we haven't seen or hugged for months. We all have the same fears and concerns for ourselves and our loved ones, and in some areas, these are heightened by the increased risk associated with our roles. Please be respectful to our team, who are working incredibly hard in difficult circumstances; there really is no excuse for rudeness at a time when we should all be pulling together.

As we are sure you are all aware, Milton Abbas Surgery is part of The Mid Dorset Primary Care Network. There are nine surgeries in the network from the local area, who have united to provide a covid vaccination service from The Atrium Health Centre in Dorchester. These clinics are run on the goodwill of the teams from all nine practices, including Milton Abbas, who are working additional hours during the evenings, weekdays and at the weekends, on top of their normal working weeks. Did you know the surgeries are only given approximately one week's notification of a vaccine delivery – sometimes less? In that short space of time between notification and the delivery of the vaccines, the clinics must be set up, a staff rota created for volunteers from the practices, patients invited, contingency plans agreed – it is a huge undertaking, all in addition to the running of our practices.

How can we work together to make life easier for everyone?

Due to Covid-19 we are having to telephone triage all GP appointments and the reception team will only be able to book a telephone appointment to speak with a doctor. These telephone appointments are booked into timed slots on our clinical system – the reception team can't just ask the GPs to give you a quick ring, each consultation involves looking at past history and must be documented, which takes time.

Urgent appointments will of course continue to be 'same day' as always, but please be aware that telephone appointments may not exactly run to time. For urgent appointments, there is NO choice of GP, it will simply be whoever is doing the urgent clinic – if your appointment is truly urgent for that day you must be prepared to see any of our GPs.

Though you will be given an approximate time for your telephone appointment, the clinicians may not be able to contact you at the exact time, depending on how their clinics are running, and therefore we ask you make sure you have your phone close to hand around the appointment time so as not to miss the call.

When you phone to make an appointment, please give the receptionist as much detail as you feel you are able to. It really helps us to judge the urgency of the appointment and ensures we get the correct clinician for your problem.

Let us take this opportunity to introduce our new team member, Clare Rushton, who has joined us as a First Contact Physiotherapist. Clare is an extremely experienced physio who will be the first (and best) point of contact for musculoskeletal problems, for example, all soft tissue injuries, sprains, strains and sports injuries; arthritis; muscular, tendon or ligament problems including carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow; any spinal or neck problems; spinal related pains in arms or legs including nerve symptoms, pins and needles

etc. Clare will be a huge asset to the team and will be working with us on Wednesdays.

We completely understand there are many of you still waiting to receive an invitation for your first Covid vaccination. Please understand invitations are subject to availability and distribution of the vaccines from NHS England. We will be inviting everyone in due course. If you would like more information, please see our website or Facebook page. Please don't contact the surgery as we will be unable to give you an exact date for your vaccine.

Again, please treat the team with respect – we may take a little longer to answer the phone; your prescription delivery may be a little slower, and you may have to wait a little longer for that routine appointment. As a team we strive to continue to provide you with the standards that you have been used to pre Covid, and whilst we are eager for the vaccination programme to be rolled out, this on top of our normal daily work has led to increased work pressures.

Final note of thanks...

It has been great to see so many of you at the vaccination clinic. We have had a massive uptake from our patients – well above the national average. So, thank you to you all – it is a huge step in controlling and defeating this virus and allowing us some return to normality.

Your health and the provision of care we supply is paramount in our daily planning. So please, remember that we are open. Don't put off ringing or coming to see us – if you think it is important, then it is, so pick up the phone and call us. But please bear with us; we are all trying our best in difficult and challenging circumstances.

We thank you for your continued patience and co-operation in these matters.

Dr Longley, Dr Rees and Dr Dean

Get out in nature

Monday 26th April to Sunday 2nd May is National Gardening Week. It's proven that plants and gardening have a positive effect on our mental health and happiness. For tips, information and how you can get involved in the country's biggest annual celebration of gardening, see the Royal Horticultural Society website www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/national-gardening-week.

And if you don't have a garden or any indoor plants, remember to pause and appreciate the natural world around you when you take your daily exercise. Whatever you do, take some time this April to appreciate being outside in our beautiful countryside and allow nature to work its wonders!

Latest news

Please can we encourage patients to follow our Facebook page @miltonabbassurgery and check our surgery website, for the latest surgery news and updates on the Covid vaccination clinics.

Gillian Brindle, Business Manager

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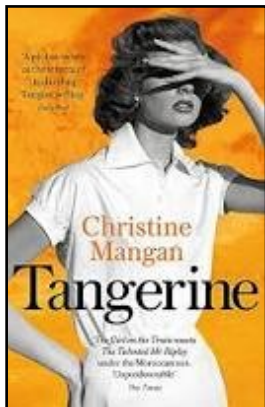
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A Good Read: “Tangerine” by Christine Mangan



THIS is a tangled tragedy, a tale of obsessive friendship between two women, Alice Shipley, fragile, cowed, recently married to John an insensitive philanderer who constantly undermines hers and Lucy Mason a scheming, fearless and enigmatic character, a chameleon with a covetous nature and inner rages. It is a cleverly plotted, suspenseful, slow burner of a tale set in 1950's Tangier, an exotic, colourful and menacing city into whose streets Alice is afraid to venture since she moved there with her husband at his behest during the year in which she

and Lucy have been apart following an initially unexplained tragedy, without any contact until the latter turns up on her doorstep. Foolishly she lets her in and the old feelings of being controlled and stifled by her friend start up again. The two, equally damaged, young women came together at a boarding school in Vermont. The reader is initiated into the psychological power games played throughout this friendship. It is all worryingly plausible. So, in Tangiers with its suffocating, oppressive heat, the tale tightly winds us in. The tension is ratcheted up as we follow the protagonists through the bustling medinas and dark souks of the ancient Moroccan city until John disappears. Then all the unresolved conflicts of their twisted friendship come to a head in the sticky, multifaceted metropolis. One reviewer writes of being “chilled to the bone” by the conclusion. It is no surprise to learn, therefore, that the first time author's degree was in eighteenth century Gothic literature! Reader beware, don't be fooled by what some have called “Trip Fiction”. It is a profound and disturbing narrative set in a claustrophobic atmosphere. There is always an element of not being sure what's going on or what the characters' intentions really are. Who, of the two main characters, for example, have underlying mental health issues? Lucy is an insinuating, cool, ruthless and charming woman somewhat Ripley-esque, some reviewers perceive, with the male characters turned into female for this unsettling novel. There is a much quoted saying about Tangiers “you cry when you arrive and you cry when you leave”. It is as much a character in the tale as are Alice and Lucy. Be warned! It leaves a lingering effect. *Carole Fornachon*

Plenty places to sit, but no bus shelter

BENCHES galore, with up to four new ones on the way for the village, the March PC meeting was told. A £500 donation has been offered by an anonymous couple who wish to thank the village for all the help the community has given to them over the years. They would like the plaque to commemorate those who have served, with a ‘Lest we forget’ message on the new bench at the War Memorial. A pledge of £500 has also been received for a bench to replace the one on the grassy corner at the junction of Hopsfield by a well-known village family, clerk, Wayne Lewin said.

Three more donations have been offered, £150 for a bench at the Sports Club and two of £50 for a bench within the Village Hall grounds. Some councillors were concerned that, due to its more remote nature, a bench at the Sports Club could be more susceptible to vandalism than at other locations, but after discussion agreed that the donations would be matched by the PC with the organisations responsible for making up the difference if they wanted to go ahead. They would also be responsible for the upkeep since the benches would not fall on the PCs asset register.

A bus shelter for the westbound service was discussed after being brought up by residents. Cllr Macnair said that broadband cabinets on the pavement in the layby opposite Crown House provided a logistical challenge, with the clerk suggesting that the only possible option would be a freestanding shelter. After enquiries, it was found that this would cover only half the pavement at a minimum cost of £2k. With the shelter ruled out, Cllr Cherry said that it was “back to umbrellas”, with Cllr Macnair seeing the silver lining in that having got the bus stop moved from its more perilous location, now “we can get wet safely”.

Dorset County councillor, Emma Parker's report included news that the council would help pay taxi fares for Covid vaccination appointments for people struggling financially. She will also take up with Enforcement at DC the complaint received by the PC of the dilapidated house in The Square. Although unsightly, Cllr Macnair said it was not in the PC's remit with reference to aesthetics of buildings. However, the safety of pedestrians and road users proved the focus of discussion since the scaffolding is over the pavement and has been there for many months.

There had also been a query from a resident about the precarious state of a garden wall along Coffin Path – the footpath from the top of Church Hill to the main road. The Rights of Way ranger had inspected it and concluded that there was no danger of it falling onto the path. The householder will have it repaired as soon as possible, the PC was told.

The Village Hall treasurer, Ed Frost, addressed the meeting with a potential plan to install electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the car park for both VH users and residents' cars. The cost would be £8k but this would mean a long repayment time so Mr Frost outlined a scheme used by Dorset Council that outsourced the financing and management. The company, JoJu Solar, offers zero cost installation and a share of the profits but only bodies such as councils can benefit from the scheme. After an initial discussion on the pros and cons of the charging points (parking space ‘loss’, day-to-day management, lack of use), councillors were reminded that they were being asked to volunteer for the VH committee on the project rather than debate EV charging points in general. Cllr Stephens agreed to be the PC's representative for the VH's working party.

Following a request from the Sports Club to include strimming of areas there in the village grass cutting contract, the PC agreed to discuss it at the next meeting which gives Mr Lock opportunity to provide the details of the areas to be cut for costing.

The date of the Annual Village Meeting (the ‘pitchfork meeting’ where residents are invited to have a say on next year's agenda) was set for Wednesday 12th May, with the AGM and monthly PC meeting all taking place on the same date, online. *Ed Richards*

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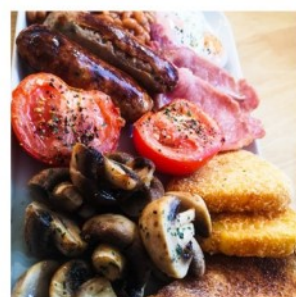
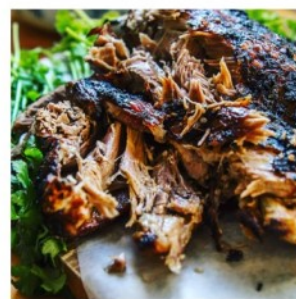
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The Reverend Sarah Hillman: Rural Dean

SARAH Hillman has been spiritual leader of this village for nearly ten years. Her most recent appointment is one of Rural Dean (a role dating back to Edward the Confessor and revived by the Bishop of Norwich in 1836/7) and the following article is the result of some questions I had about this and her answers.

Her background prepared her for a life of service to others. Coming, as she did, from a family guided by their beliefs in God, her parents, teachers, who believed in independent learning, both working in the Church of England as Lay Ministers. She had a retentive memory and excelled academically at boarding school later awarded a Sixth Form Scholarship. At Cambridge University whilst doing preparatory reading and considering a switch from Law to Sociology and Political Science she changed in her second year to study theology having been “hit by something that was missing...God”. Her path to ordination was hard and long during which time she worked extensively with children, teaching Maths and Science, running Brownies, lunchtime, evening and weekend clubs for 7–13 year olds, visiting lonely people, working as editorial assistant, reporter and proof reader for the Church Times also running a Book Club. Through St. John’s College, Nottingham, as a part time student, she obtained an MA in Mission and Ministry. Following her ordination as Deacon and then as priest, and prior to coming to MSA, she worked as a Curate in Sandy, Bedfordshire and as Priest in Charge to a group of four villages in Royston, Hertfordshire working alone for five years. During that time she felt a strong desire to move away and to experience team working. MSA initially fulfilled these desires until the ‘team’ moved away, leaving her, once again, a lone practitioner.

Some time ago she was recognised as a potential theological educator employing those skills with her parishioners. One of the systems of training she has run in Puddletown has been a Diocese of Salisbury Aldhelm Certificate Course for lay people. Parishioners from MSA attended. She described her time in MSA as the happiest she has known. Having told me six years ago that there is no guidance on the number of set hours priest in the Church of England should work she is aware that in some Diocese they are set at 48hrs, she has, in the past two years, taken on this further role initially that of Assistant Rural Dean, now Rural Dean.

I asked her to take some time to explain this new role.

It is a Bishop’s appointment, not one for which clergy can apply. The views of others within the deanery are canvassed as to whom might be the best person to appoint but the final decision lies with the Bishop alone. Sarah admits to some concern that, in her case, the lack of consultation (as she was already an Assistant Rural Dean) with deanery clergy might lead to some feeling overlooked but has had a good level of support from them so far. Her license ran from her appointment in November 2020 for the next seven years.

It is described as a liaison between the diocesan bishop and the priests and parishes of the Deanery, chairing meetings of the clergy. I am told that there are 39 churches in the Dorchester deanery, divided into a number of groupings or benefices. The deanery reaches to Buckland Newton and Minterne Magna in the north; Compton Valance and Sydling St Nicholas in the west; Overmoigne and Martinstown to the south and Milborne St. Andrew and Moreton to the east, including all parishes in between those boundaries. Dorchester town has three Anglican Churches, all the rest are villages. Currently there are seven

full-time parish clergy (with a further one to be appointed soon to the Crossways benefice), three part-time, a curate (curates are still in training) and a number of retired clergy. These numbers, she suggests, may become unsustainable in the future, as local church finances

decrease. Sarah explained further the, to me, complicated church structure. A deanery synod is an elected body with representatives from all the parishes in the deanery. Currently they meet three times a year. There is also a standing and pastoral committee comprising the deanery officers and six elected members. I wondered how onerous were the Rural Dean duties? She describes this as unquantifiable – some weeks there is more to do than others, but like all ministerial tasks the boundaries are unlimited. As well as chairing Deanery Chapter (a monthly gathering of the local clergy), Deanery Synod and its standing/pastoral committees jointly with the Lay Chair, she also attends a number of wider diocesan meetings in this role, but much of the work associated with the role is informal and in response to the needs of clergy and parishes.

I wondered at her role when clergy vacancies occur as there must be gaps in service. She explains that she supports parishes which are “in

vacancy”. When new clergy are appointed she is one of the selectors and interviewers along with the bishop, archdeacon and parish representatives. As a supportive rural dean, Sarah describes making a difference to the clergy for whom she has a responsibility. Her role is pastoral whilst acting as a link between bishops and parishes. In an ideal way as she states, this acts both ways and is not just about the bishop communicating with them but the deanery having a voice in the diocese. She maintains that it is essential to work closely with the archdeacon, in particular when problems and difficulties arise. In times when the number of clergy is falling, Sarah feels that collaborative ministry is essential. One of the things she hopes to do soon is to create a directory of who in the various churches, clergy and lay people, have specific gifts, skills and experiences that could be shared across the deanery.

I understand that the current Bishop of Salisbury, the Reverend Nicholas Holtam, has announced his retirement. This will take place in July so the Bishop of Sherborne will take on his duties after that until a new diocesan bishop is appointed. The process for that has already started but is a long one.

My final question to Sarah concerned her role as a deputy for the Archdeacon and her answer is that this happens only in relation to the regular “Visitation” to churches in the deanery. These visitations are nearly always carried out by the Rural Dean or Assistant Rural Dean. They check that required policies such as safeguarding are carried out and up-to-date, that building matters and faculties (a bit like church planning permission) are in order, and the goods and chattels of the church listed in the inventory are all accounted for. Visitations also provide a chance for the churchwardens to feed back any concerns they have.

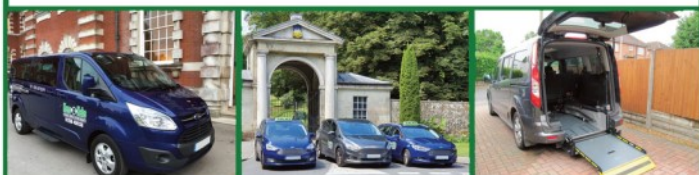
Sarah Hillman’s path to this responsible and potentially change agent role has, it seems, prepared her well for the myriad of tasks and decisions she is expected to fulfil. All this undertaken by someone who admits to feeling “happier with one to one contact than groups”. It is therefore, unsurprising, that, even before assuming this role she described her work as “more of a life than a job”

Carole Fornachon



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

Neighbourhood Plan 2.0

YES it's that time again. Would you believe that it was October 2019 when the current Neighbourhood Plan that began life in 2014 was ratified and adopted by Dorset Council?

For those who don't know, a neighbourhood plan is a far reaching document that is developed by people local to an area, in this case Milborne St. Andrew, in consultation with the local community. It considers a range of topics including housing, employment, transport, heritage, ecology and more. For example, it says where housing developments should be carried out and the kinds of housing to be developed. It sets out the standards to be followed such as parking requirements for new builds; who hasn't seen the effects of insufficient off-road parking; cars parked on pavements or blocking roads?

A current (less than two years old) neighbourhood plan carries a lot of weight in county planning decisions and enables us to exert some influence over how our village and community develops to support our unique set of needs. Of course, as it ages and falls out of date our Neighbourhood Plan's influence becomes diminished. It is for this reason that your parish council and a newly formed Neighbourhood Plan working group is undertaking a review and refresh of the current plan so that it continues to reflect our community's needs and has the right level of influence over county plans, strategy and decisions.

Over the coming months the Neighbourhood Plan working group will be launching a consultation with our community to discover what's important to you and to refresh the Neighbourhood Plan so that it will retain its full weight in planning decisions.

As a part of this drive you will see an article in the *Reporter* next month setting out some of the things that the working group recognise as potentially needing to be addressed from the current plan, parking recommendations for new build for example that didn't get adopted last time, and we will be seeking input from the village regarding what's important to you and what we should pursue.

So, please look out for the Neighbourhood Plan article in next month's *Reporter* and please actively contribute to the next phase of our beautiful village's future.

Thanks and best wishes,

Neighbourhood Plan working group.

Wednesday Club to restart, hopefully in June



UNFORTUNATELY, like most of the clubs and societies in the village, the Wednesday Club has not met for some considerable time. With that in mind we are thinking ahead and hopefully would like to arrange a picnic on the village hall playing field at our meeting in June, weather permitting. If it should decide to rain on the first Wednesday of the month it may be a good idea to postpone until the next Wednesday then at least we can all get together. Should the rules about people meeting together be relaxed earlier the committee will arrange a meeting.

Jenny Balcon

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Open in May? The Village Hall

WITH the current guidelines it looks like the Village Hall will be open from the 17th May though of course this date isn't confirmed. With this date in mind we are looking at having a film night in June with the Covid precautions still in place, so fingers crossed. We have delayed the AGM to July 28th in the hope we can have it in the hall (it was on the field last year!).

Behind the scenes the usual maintenance goes on; just because the hall is closed the bills still have to be paid. The guttering has been replaced, broken bins removed and replaced. The zip wire has at last been overhauled and a swing seat for less able children has been ordered. The play park has had another inspection so there are a few things there that need attention. A new problem is possibly woodworm in the floor, so it is never ending!

We have been very fortunate to receive a local restriction support grant each month and have been able to help Ladybirds by giving them a rent holiday as they keep open but with smaller numbers.

Linda Wright

Kate and Rob swap planes for pizza with new business

THE pandemic has changed a lot of people's plans, but for Kate Trafford and husband, Rob, it prompted a career change and realisation of an ambition to start a pizza business inspired by local produce. The couple, who moved to Milborne in the summer of 2019, recently founded Coastal Crust Pizza and had their first night serving wood-fired pizzas from their catering trailer outside the Village Hall in March. Kate says they use artisan and local products and have been experimenting with different topping combinations. They also make all their own dough and sauces and serve pizza creations such as Nduja Honey Hot One (spicy nduja, tenderstem broccoli and honey) and the Cheesefest (Scamorza Italian cheese, Orwell soft cheese, Pratchett blue cheese and red onion marmalade) among others. They currently sell their tasty pizzas in Milborne on Tuesday evenings and in Swanage on Thursdays and Fridays. They hope to increase this to five evenings as well as being available for local events and weddings.



Kate was born and bred in Dorset and met Rob while they were both in the RAF and decided to settle in Milborne, moving to The Rings in July 2019. The turning point for starting Coastal Crust Pizza was when Kate was furloughed from her job in aviation, and concerned about her future in an industry that was hit hard by Covid. She put together a business plan in November and their wood-fired pizza venture was born, with the first night (other than a practice run for lucky family and friends!) just a few weeks ago. So, how's it gone so far? Kate says, "We've sold out every night – and we haven't argued – yet!" Although the generator breaking down on the opening night in Milborne wasn't ideal, though, as Kate says, "luckily you don't need electric to cook wood-fired pizza!"

Ed Richards



MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

SCHOOL NEWS



ON Monday the 8th of March we welcomed back ALL of our children after schools were nationally fully reopened. This coincided with the National British Science Week 2021, which was a perfect way to welcome those back who have been learning at home during lockdown and to give all the children time to reconnect with their love of learning and each other.



Rabbits

After investigating materials to discover which floated and which sank, we selected those that we thought would be best to build a boat. Unfortunately we had to cancel their maiden voyage due to weather but we are eagerly anticipating the boat race in the Milborne stream.

Robins

Well done Robins!

Our Robins class have been awarded the RSPB bronze award for the work they have done since September 2020. This has included writing weather poems, using weather adjectives and vocabulary whilst outside experiencing different weather. They also took part in the RSPB big bird watch, built a mini pond, a wildlife heap and toad habitat.

We will now work towards the silver award, starting with making bird feeders during science week. Every child has their own certificate as well.

Robins have also been working as scientists testing pivots and bringing in their own experiments to demonstrate to their class during Science Week.



Raccoons

Smashing stereotypes!

Raccoons class have welcomed a host of special guests into the classroom by Google Meets, challenging ideas of what a scientist might be like. Linking with the science of farming, geology, photography, engineering and coastal study.

The Raccoons class have heard first hand about careers that rely on working scientifically to do a good job. They have also been learning about World Changing Scientists from history and working as scientists themselves including making butter, testing drag, studying earthworms and conducting some sports science tests.

Thank you to all the parents who have enriched our learning this week.



Boat Building STEM Competition

The whole school has been busy testing, designing and building their own boats. We have a flotilla of fabulous vessels which will be judged this week by our panel with prizes to be given to one talented engineer from each year group. It has been such an exciting project and the children have created some excellent designs, using effective materials as well as tried and tested shapes and sizes.

CONTACTS

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

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Hunt

School Secretary: Mrs B Hosford

Chair of Governors: David French

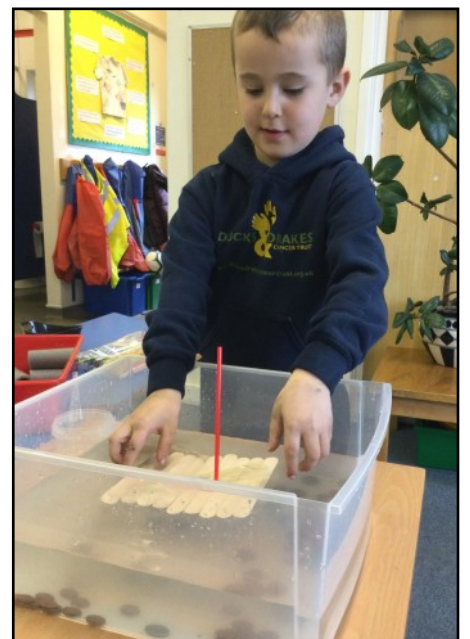
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We're so happy to be back

LADYBIRDS are open again and we are so pleased to be back to the excited chattering and endless energy of the children. With their strange little sayings, making endless cups of tea, brruming cars around, cutting and sticking, painting, story telling and many many more things.

All the children are now back and we have been joined by some more two year olds who have very quickly settled into the group. This term we have also reintroduced the Monday and Tuesday afternoon sessions for the 'school starters' to help them prepare for school in September. This gives us the opportunity to do activities that are not suitable for the two year olds. One of the disadvantages of being in a large hall with mixed abilities and ages is that the older children

get frustrated when their play is disrupted by younger children moving items. Many of you will remember the two year old 'transporter' who collects items and carries them to other areas. No fun when the dice needed for a game goes missing! The focus for the afternoons is still learning through play but with activities which involve more numbers and letters along with group time learning.



Since returning we have talked about Wales and St. David's Day, made some lovely flags and daffodil pictures. We covered World Book Day by reading lots of stories and dressing up. The children made sparkly hearts and flowers for their mum or grandma for Mother's Day along with a beautiful card. Next we will be looking at St. Patrick's Day (being inclusive) when we look at lucky charms and rainbows with gold at their end – think we'll give the Guinness tasting a miss for now!

Take care and be safe – there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Liz Dyer

Milborne Ladybirds

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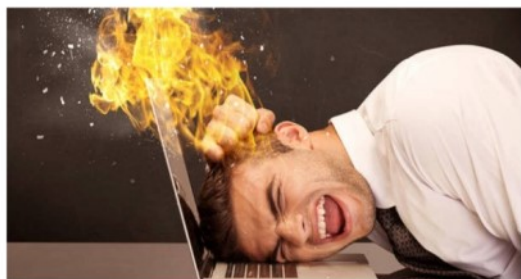
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Pauline Baxter – Her Life

I WAS asked to write a little bit about my mum, Pauline Baxter. She was regularly seen walking her little dog around the village, but not many people knew about her life.

Pauline was born in Norwich in 1930 and for many years lived in and around Cambridge. Life was so different then; she enjoyed riding in her father's pony and trap.

Sunday tea was a big thing – with thin brown bread and butter and winkles with vinegar.

Her father used to sell fish and shellfish and had a market stall selling vegetables on Cambridge market a very tough and competitive life. Maureen can remember many a time sitting in the dining room

with Pauline preparing crabs, winkles, eels and the like for his stall and serving on the stall.

Pauline left school at 14 to join her father in his shellfish business, but in 1946 aged 16 decided she needed a pay rise. She applied for a job at Pye Telecom and stayed there for 27 years mainly in the Pre-production department trialling the very first police walkie-talkies.

At 18 Pauline married and followed her husband Bill (who was in the Army) to Edinburgh. She got a job working on gyroscopic gunsights for Ferranti at the time. They moved to Glasgow and she worked in the Singer Sewing machine factory.

Pauline's life was a mixture of happiness and sadness. She had three children; Alison who sadly died four days after she was born, then Maureen came along and 2½ years later David. It was not until just recently that she asked if we could find out where Alison was buried – with a bit of detective work we managed to find the plot in a large cemetery in

Cambridge. She was so pleased as she had been unable to cope with the loss and grief at the time and there was no help available in those days.

Pauline loved ballroom and Latin American dancing and won many medals for her dancing in the Cambridge and Norfolk areas. Her friend Gill was a music teacher and taught Pauline to play the organ – something she continued to do for many years. When she moved to Dorset she took up



indoor bowls and joined a local league. She won many trophies for this too and reluctantly gave it up due to poor mobility. So that charming smile and glamorous look belied a very determined lady.

Pauline had some tough calls to deal with during her life. When she divorced she moved to Kings Lynn with her friend Gill. Sadly Gill died of cancer. She then met her partner Dave at a tea dance in Kings Lynn, and they moved to Lady Bailey to be near Maureen. Unfortunately, Dave died from cancer a few years later and Pauline was left on her own. After Dave's death she moved to her bungalow in Hopsfield in Milborne.

Pauline loved living in the village, being part of the

gardening club, the Wednesday club, the WI and the village lunch club as well as attending the film nights where she would try and bag a seat at the front as she was so small.

She was willing to try something new and in her 80s bought a Samsung Tablet and an iPhone so she could 'surf the net' and send us text messages. Once introduced to Facebook there was no stopping her – Facebook became part of her life.

Pauline loved her dogs and had a dog all her life. Many people will remember her walking around the village with her little dog Ruby and latterly Maisie. Even though she struggled to walk in later years, she was determined to do it however long it took her to get round and really enjoyed chatting to everyone she met along the way. Di Harris was a really good friend to her and often took Maisie out when Pauline could no longer do the walks. During lockdown, Di often stayed for a chat and brought her little treats such as a scone or shepherd's pie.

Pauline liked to visit garden centres and buy a few plants, but really she loved going to have afternoon tea and cakes. When her son David visited (he still lives in Cambridge) we always went out for afternoon tea which invariably ended up at The Lobster Pot on Portland.

It's going to be tough driving past her bungalow every day, and not seeing her out in the garden, or being able to pop in for a chat and helping her out, or seeing her walking down the road. At least I have lots of good memories of her and lots of photographs, and shared experiences.





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Chugging up to Stur with pasty power

LAST month's walk drew to a close in wet, cold Stourpaine, although I did report the sun broke through as I stepped off the North Dorset Trailway on my way up to the village. A mere three weeks on and I am back, swapping my thick parka coat and boots for t shirt and shorts. My legs have emerged, blinking into the sunlight midway through a particularly brutal lockdown and my feet are shod in my old faithful squeaky trainers. I'm intending to push on through to Sturminster Newton some six miles along the track bed of the former Somerset and Dorset railway; although that figure will double as I will have to walk back to my car here in Stourpaine.

The White Horse Inn cleverly doubles as the village shop. I buy a cheese and onion pasty for sustenance and weave my way through the pretty streets to the village hall car park. Families unload bicycles from racks, dogs jump excitedly out of car boots, elderly couples extend and lock walking poles having tucked their trousers into their socks. I can only imagine that today the world and their dog will congregate on a grand scale down at Lulworth Cove and Bournemouth Beach, as we are still not allowed to go to John Lewis or Sports Direct. Anyway, back to the task in hand. Beyond the car park and the impressive array of sports facilities the Stourpaine playing field has to offer, I can see the low embankment that once carried the railway. Turning left out of the car park, I crunch down a gravel lane and join the former railway at the water treatment works.

If you used to watch the 1970's BBC Saturday night drama *Secret Army*, you will be able to visualise the next mile or so of the trailway. The opening sequence of the programme revealed a series of still images, desolate deserted roads, canals, railway lines and forest paths; long straight vistas shot from a low position on the ground, thus exaggerating the sense of perspective as these avenues tapered off to a spot on the distant horizon. These stills invited the viewer to enter into a sense of escape, evasion and journey. Accompanied by sombre and emotive music written by Carl Davies, I used to find this opening



Evening Star at the head of the last Bournemouth to Manchester Pines Express

sequence quite sad. After fifty minutes of nail biting dramatic tension, I soon got used to the fact that there was very rarely a happy ending. Albert Foiret, played by the late great Bernard Hepton, was the proprietor of the Café Candide in wartime occupied Brussels. As part of a resistance group named *Lifeline*, Foiret and his staff hid downed British airmen and arranged their clandestine travel down the line to hopeful repatriation. Café Candide was swarming with German soldiers and officers, among them the merciless and sadistic Kessler, a senior Gestapo officer. The wine and food were good, Foiret's hospitality charmed the Wehrmacht, whilst his lover Monique Duchamps sang at the piano to keep the troops entertained. Alas, all too often, someone got betrayed by a collaborator and lots of brave blood was shed. I was only about eight years old when I first watched *Secret Army*. I found it all a bit harrowing. Later, the BBC commissioned 'Allo 'Allo which was a dichotomy of *Secret Army*; the harshness of a firing squad replaced by

such topics as *The Fallen Madonna with the big boobies*, and the camp SS officer, Lieutenant Gruber (with his little tank).

To cut a long story short, the trailway here is gun barrel straight and is lined symmetrically by an avenue of trees. If you crouch down low and look you could be excused for *The author at Shillingstone Station* humming Carl Davies' *Secret Army* haunting and evocative soundtrack. The trees give way; I leave 1943 and return to 2021. At this point I cross the River Stour for the first time. The original brick and stone bridge is long gone, only the supporting piers stand testament to what came before the modern footbridge. Fishing seems to be the order of the day on both banks where anglers appear to adhere to social distancing by keeping two rod lengths apart. The river looks clear, clean and healthy: unlike some of the fishermen.

The broad Stour Valley is defined to my left by Blandford Forest and to my right by Hod Hill, a late Iron Age hill fort. The gradient of the old track bed begins to rise and I reach a point where it appears to me that a bridge carrying a farm track over the railway has been filled in, the parapet of the overpass being level with my waist makes it a bit of a giveaway. Here, I consider the future of my cheese and onion pasty, choosing to save it until I arrive at Sturminster Newton. I am now passed regularly by cyclists in both directions. Dogs of all shapes and sizes are enjoying the sun and sidle up to me, then gallop back to their owners upon their calling. A family with a pram attend to a screaming baby who doesn't seem too keen on the idea of the North Dorset Trailway. The runners and joggers I encounter today are certainly enjoying the conditions, checking their smart watches from behind wraparound sunglasses. Drivers of the old steam locomotives would also check their pocket watches, ensuring the Pines Express or the local goods were running to schedule. Although the Somerset & Dorset Railway was referred to by some as *The Slow and Dirty*, there was always a sense of pride that trains arrived and departed on time.

Just outside Shillingstone, the old railway passes over the Wessex Ridgeway, a 136-mile designated path that begins in Marlborough and finishes on the coast at Lyme Regis. I wonder if it is as spectacular as the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire Ridgeway that I walked in 2015. Beginning at Overton Hill near Pewsey, I spent four very enjoyable days ambling 89 miles through English pre-history. My route took me over the Berkshire Downs high above the Vale of the White Horse, crossing the Thames gap next to George Michael's modest home at Goring-on-Thames, ascending the Chiltern Hills, past Chequers – the country retreat of the PM – before topping out at Ivinghoe Beacon with its fine view across middle England.

Viewed on a map, Shillingstone is a long slender village. It looks trim, obviously looks after itself and probably works out twice a day down by the river. When the Normans invaded in 1066 they recorded the conquered settlement here as Schelin Oakford; the Oakford name derived from its position as a ford over a river, perhaps amongst oak trees. Schelin was the name of the Norman Baron who acquired the manor and lands. Over the years the name changed to Shilling Oakford, before becoming Shillingstone sometime after 1881. Three days after completing my walk I told my dad these factoids about Shillingstone. He told me he'd been at school with someone called Norman Baron, whom he suggested was neither slim, and had probably never worked out either by a river or any other topographical feature . .

You don't get to see much of the village from the footpath, which lies to the left behind a tree-lined embankment. The Stour once again sidles up to the old railway and nuzzles into it, just as I arrive at Shillingstone Station. Here, a dedicated band of enthusiasts have set to



Continued on page 23



LETTERS to the Reporter

The Reporter has received a message from Phyll Briggs, who used to live in Bladen View, saying how much she enjoys reading the Reporter on-line each month, and thanks the team for all their work in producing an interesting magazine.

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Bird Flu at Christmas as told by an Animal Health Officer

AFTER a very busy year dealing with the various challenges Covid had thrown up running the Dorset Council Trading Standards Animal Health Team I was looking forward to a nice break over Christmas. In an attempt to be organised for once I had booked the week running up to Christmas off so I would have plenty of time for Christmas shopping. Unfortunately one phone call from the Government Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) ruined these plans. An outbreak of bird flu had been found in a small backyard flock of ducks and chickens near Gillingham. Bird flu is brought into the country by migratory birds and if it infects domestic birds it can have a devastating effect with very high mortality rates. It was reported that five of the six chickens in the affected flock died within 24 hours of becoming sick.

As soon as a case of bird flu is confirmed a three kilometre protection zone is put around the infected premises and it is Dorset Council's job to support APHA to visit as many properties as possible in that zone to see if the household are keeping poultry in their back gardens. In this outbreak the zone took in most of Gillingham which meant over 5,000 properties. I was very lucky as most of my colleagues in Trading Standards stepped forward to help out and so on the first day of foot patrols 13 of us were knocking on doors, maintaining a Covid social distance, in the area and three days later we had finished, just in time for a hectic Christmas Eve shopping spree.



As a result of various outbreaks around the country all poultry must be kept in housing and not allowed to free range. Further details of the rules can be found on the gov website. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.



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Shillingstone Station, c.1930

Shillingstone Station. Here, a dedicated band of enthusiasts have set to work restoring the station and a short section of track. Today volunteers are busy shovelling ballast under a newly laid section of track. There are plans to extend a mile or so northwards; exciting times. I check the North Dorset Railway website. It states, 'sadly, but understandably, we are now closed again to visitors.' The Prime Minister has said he can now see *'light at the end of the tunnel'*. Let's hope he's right. The station has been lovingly restored. I don't see a Fry's Chocolate dispensing machine on the platform, but I can imagine Bernard Cribbins giving Jenny Agutter and the other Railway Children a bollocking for playing on the railway line. The Shillingstone creamery dispatched the fruits of their labours to Bournemouth hotels from here, and moss harvested on the nearby hills was sent by train to London's Covent Garden Flower market. King Edward VII was an occasional visitor to the station, de-training here to visit friends at nearby Iwerne Minster House. The ornate station canopy is said to have been especially constructed to keep the royal bonce dry and out of the rain. Other notable passengers included war poet Rupert Brook, whose Naval Battalion was based at Blandford Camp. On 25th February 1915, Brook boarded a train here bound for Avonmouth, and thence to Gallipoli. He died from war wounds on a hospital ship in the Aegean Sea later that year. I take the cheese and onion pasty out from my bag. It seems a good spot to take a break and have a snack; once more I am tempted, once more I resist.

On leaving Shillingstone, the former track bed is privately owned and I soon find myself betwixt the old Somerset and Dorset and the River Stour. Here at Bere Marsh Farm, the Countryside Restoration Trust has recently taken over the reins. Established in 1993, the vision is to buy intensively farmed land with declining wildlife numbers and restore it to create a living countryside. Tenant farmers are installed, the rent is set low to allow them to farm in a wildlife friendly way. There is wetland, grassland and woodland. A small flock of Dorset sheep are planned, as are free range hens and an orchard. Barn owls have occupied a tumbledown barn on the farm for the last 25 years. It was feared the owls would be made homeless if the barn wasn't repaired. A team of carpenters, tilers and scaffolders swooped to their rescue and installed a new roof in just a matter of weeks during the winter. I am lucky to see one of these beautiful birds as it swoops in to land against a background of Hambledon Hill, whose lowering bulk dominates the horizon. Even from a distance it's hard not to be impressed by the sheer scale of the earthworks that took place on the steep slopes during Neolithic times.

I rejoin the trail, passing through another section of cutting. For the first time today I find myself utterly alone. There is a hiatus in other human activity and it feels quite eerie. I feel very much as if someone is watching me. When I got home and began writing this piece, my research revealed that a woodland burial site is adjacent to the trail at this point. The two acre plot was originally a vineyard. It is effectively an eco friendly graveyard, coffins can be made from wicker or other biodegradable materials. Traditional headstones are replaced by wooden plaques and a tree is planted to complement the grave (and

will be replaced free of charge if it dies within five years.) Perhaps I was being watched by the green spirits? Time and nature has taken its toll here on the old railway. The slopes of the cutting – in days of steam kept clear of foliage to minimise the risk of lineside fires being started by sparks from locomotive chimneys – are now thick with well-established trees and creeping ivy. A train would no longer fit between the wooded canopies here. Even little Thomas the Tank Engine would think twice, sucking in through his smokebox door teeth, taking on a facial expression of 'no can do' in either Johnny Morris or Ringo Starr style. Nature always takes back what is rightly its own. As I break into the tepid sunshine again it's nice to see others in the distance heading towards me. The way ahead towards Sturminster Newton sits low down on the floor of the Stour Valley. Away in the distance to my left beyond Okeford Fitzpaine, the land rises sharply. Okeford Hill becomes Ibberton Hill, before melding into Wooland Hill with twin radio masts protruding skywards. Today, they seem to be sticking two metaphorical fingers up to the long winter months. On my right hand side, not as high as Bullbarrow, the sun picks out the distant town of Shaftesbury laying atop the crest which rises from the north eastern quarter of Blackmore Vale. Is it me, or can I hear the strains of a brass band wafting on the breeze? I pick out the tune, New World Symphony, the music that accompanied the iconic Ridley Scott 1973 Hovis advert. The poor young sod pushing his heavy bike up to the top of Gold Hill; "Last stop on round will be old Ma Biggoty's place, t'was like taking bread to the top of the world. T'was a grand ride back though, I knew baker would have kettle on and doorsteps of that Hovis ready. 'There's wheat germ in that loaf', he'd say. 'Get it inside you boy, and you'll be goin' up that hill as fast as you come down'". Joseph Gladwin, who played Wally Batty in the hit comedy *Last of the Summer Wine*, supplied the dulcet toned voiceover to accompany Dvorak's musical score.

With cheese and onion flavoured thoughts on my mind I cross the Stour for the last time. Signposts try to tempt me the short distance to Fiddleford Mill, which does sound nice. I know there are some picturesque riverside walks along the banks of the Stour around here; maybe next time. There is a final flurry of people enjoying the sun and the great outdoors as trail ends rather abruptly at a car park in downtown Stur. After munching my pasty I turn on my heels and



The impressive Hambledon Hill

retrace my footsteps back to Stourpaine. I feel uplifted by both the benefits of the exercise and the early spring-like weather. This section of the North Dorset Trailway has proven to be an interesting ride. There are plans to make the trail way accessible as far north as Stalbridge. There is still the section further south between Blandford and Spetisbury to explore, and with the weather on the up I will have to look out OL25 for more local off piste inspiration. Happy days . . .

Rich Hawker

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By Jan Beaumont®

Some people are right into fitness
While others go down to the pub
But one thing I am sure gives great pleasure
Is to be in a gardening club.

Everyone likes something different
Each person has something they love
And I'm sure that for most of you gardeners
It's your hand in a gardening glove!

'Life begins the day you start a garden'
So the old Chinese proverb declares
A life full of flowers and veges and fruit
There's no pleasure that even compares.

I once saw a quote that delighted
And I thought it was really quite clever
It said that 'one always should garden
As if you'll be living forever'.

Now I've heard that gardening adds years to your life
And also adds life to your years
And the beauty that you'll have created
Is worth any blood sweat and tears.

You could spend every day in the garden
Just enjoying your time in the sun
But I truly believe that God made rainy days
So that gardeners could get housework done!

Pardon?

By Jan Beaumont®

My hearing didn't seem as good
As it once used to be
And so I had a hearing test
And they agreed with me.

It seems I'd lost a small amount
Of hearing in both ears
But now I sport new hearing aids
And the sound's gone up two gears!

I'm ok without them on the phone
And one-on-one I'm great
But certain things just drive me nuts
Perhaps you can relate.

If I am watching Netflix
And they mumble or they've got
An accent that is pretty strong
Then I miss such a lot.

I'm fine if there's subtitles
But if not I get quite mad
As I can't watch some great TV
Like West Wing or Breaking Bad!

And if my fridge is not shut tight
And my hearing aids aren't in
I miss the "beep beep beep"
After getting tonic for my gin!

I guess I've reached my 'Best Before . . .'
As I'm really no spring chick
But I'm hoping that my 'Use By' date
Just doesn't come as quick!!

Gardening Club – Spring is in the air!



LOCKDOWN is lifting (keep your fingers crossed) and early flowering plants are starting to bloom. Linda Harris has sent in photos of her cheerful pots containing tulips, heuchera, pansies and chinese witch hazel. The latter has a lovely scent but does not like chalky soil, so needs to be grown in a pot.



Environmental Gardening for April

Courtesy of the RHS magazine 'The Garden', the Gardening Club offer you top greener gardening tips for the beginning of April.

Sowing Annuals

To encourage pollinators, sow corn marigold and cornflower seeds directly into sunny areas of soil.

Checking for pests

Warmer weather increases the aphid and caterpillar population; so check regularly and remove by hand.

Planting comfrey

Its leaves make a liquid fertiliser and as a ground cover plant it is good for pollinators.

Mulching bare soil

A thick layer of rotted organic matter suppresses weeds, insulates roots and conserves moisture in summer.

Go wild

Think about letting an area of your garden to go wild. Even a small patch behind your shed will benefit wildlife.



MSA Gardening Club – a FREE talk via ZOOM!

OUR gardening club normally meets in the village hall on the third Thursday of each month. When meetings start again we'd love to see you there . . . watch this space.

Would you like to plan your autumn garden from the comfort of your home? George Lockwood will be giving a talk on 'Plants for Autumn Colour' (with an emphasis on plants for chalky soil) via Zoom on 22nd April, starting at 7.30pm. Interested? You're welcome to join us; simply email Mark Johnson nearer the time at manda.johnson@outlook.com and the meeting ID and password will be sent to you.

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

More information about many community organisations can be found on www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council –	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Richard Macnair	07774 081551

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

Flooding: Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188

Environmental Incident: Environment Agency Hotline 08008 807060

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk 01404 821500

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

MSA Flood Warden, Non-Emergency Only: Mark Johnson 01258 839060

GENERAL — ADULT

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

GENERAL — YOUTH

Milborne Ladybirds	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group	Sam Elliott	07873 762035
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Claire Tudge	07970 734162
Youth Club age 8 – 13 years	Joanne Miller	07940 017577

POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact		101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and	101
	PCSO Luke Goddard	101
Home watch Co-ordinator	Richard Macnair	01258 837912

SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Hunt	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	David French	
Friends of School co-Chair:	Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis	

SPECIAL INTEREST

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Dog Training Behaviour	Natasja Lewis	07896 275357
Food and Wine Club	Rose Frost	01258 837921
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	Anna Cullen	01258 837143
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

SPORT

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Information	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	Bruce Dyer	01258 839117
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839

Football – Under 14s

Manager/coach	Andy Brown	07427 503373
Treasurer	Simon Buckingham	01258 839122
Skittles – Dewlish	Simon Ross	01258 837606
Sports & Social Club	Chairman: Richard Lock	01258 837929
	Bookings: Richard Lock	01258 837929
Tap Dancing for Adults	Kevin Selby	01305 250386
Tennis	Rich Hawker	07393 309037
Yoga (at school)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Saira Francis	01258 880505
Yoga (at Village Hall)	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230

VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chair:	Bernie Cosgrove	01258 837152
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230
Booking Secretary:	Alison Riddle	01258 837148

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