

Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 15 Issue 9

October 2023

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Milborne St. Andrew



Dick enjoys his 90th birthday party

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

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Your *Reporter* Team

Linda Constant, Pete Constant, Rich Hawker,
Heather V. Hogg, David Payne, Ed Richards, Jo Whitfield,
John and Josie Wright

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907 (07843 018007)

Advertising renewals: Pete Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Rich Hawker 07393 309037

Editor: David Payne 01258 837700. Assistant Editor: Jo Whitfield

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

Village Quiz

GET ready for an evening filled with excitement, camaraderie, and a chance to test your knowledge! We're thrilled to announce our upcoming Quiz Night at the Village Hall, and we want you and your friends to be a part of the fun.

Here are the details:

- ◆ Date: Saturday, 14th October
- ◆ Bar open: 7.00pm
- ◆ Quiz starts: 7.30pm
- ◆ Teams of four
- ◆ Team Entry Fee: £5.00
- ◆ Bring your own snacks
- ◆ Our bar will be open

Our last Quiz Night was a roaring success and sold out quickly, so we encourage you to book your place early to avoid disappointment.

To reserve your team's spot, simply contact Linsey O'Neill at: Email: linsey.oneill@gmail.com or Phone: 07798 720812.

Gather your cleverest friends, bring your competitive spirit, and join us for a fantastic night of brain-teasers, laughter, and good company. We can't wait to see you there!

News from Trading Standards: Single-use plastics ban

SINGLE-USE plastics are only used once before they're thrown away. The problem with plastic waste is that it doesn't break down, it only breaks up into smaller and smaller parts. This impacts the environment and wildlife for years to come.

According to estimates, England uses 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery, most of which are plastic, and 721 million single-use plates per year. Of these, only 10% are recycled. If 2.7 billion pieces of cutlery were lined up, they would go round the world over eight and a half times (based on a 15cm piece of cutlery).

Previous efforts to eliminate avoidable plastic waste, include:

- One of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products announced in 2018.
- Restrictions on the supply of single-use plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds in 2020.
- Plastic Packaging Tax in April 2022 whereby a tax of £200 per tonne was introduced on plastic packaging manufactured in, or imported into the UK, that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic.
- The 5p single-use carrier bag charge, in May 2021 which was increased to a minimum charge of 10p and extended to all retailers, taking billions of bags out of circulation.

Last year the UK Government consulted on banning other types of single use plastic and they reported that over 95% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the bans.

So, in October 2023 a new ban on other single use plastics is set to come into force. The ban will include single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers. The ban on these items will include online and over-the-counter sales and supply, from new and existing stock.

It will mean that businesses can no longer supply, sell, or offer these types of single-use plastics to customers. Businesses will need to use alternative options instead. The UK Government announced the ban in January this year, giving businesses time to prepare for the change.

Anyone for cricket?

THE Parish Council (PC) meeting started with a moment of reflection following the loss of Cllr Redding, who passed away at the end of August.

The PC supported a request from Clerk Lewin to fund the cost of refreshments before the remembrance Parade as well as to purchase a wreath on behalf of the parish. The Clerk also requested funding for two silhouettes known as Unknown Tommy, which are available to purchase from the Royal British Legion for £350 for two, and would form part of the memorial service parade, as well as being used around the village throughout the year, and visits to the school for education purposes. Clerk stated that as well as the male silhouette there was the option to purchase a female called Woman of War. Cllr Batchelor said that one of each sex should be purchased, which was supported by a member of the public who said that that in order to educate and raise awareness having one of each would be relevant. The Clerk did not agree to purchase one of each sex. The PC agreed to approve the expenditure.

Cllr Parker from DC shared that the Household Support Fund (HSF) reopened for applications on Thursday 7th September 2023 for low-income households in the DC area.

The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of Dorset Council and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within eight weeks.

Dorset Council households will be able to apply if they have:

- an annual household net income of less than £30,000 and
- savings of less than £16,000 and
- not applied for a previous HSF payment within the last six months

Calculations for the annual net income should not include Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance or Child Benefit.

Applications are limited to one per household.

The next opening dates applications have been confirmed as:

- Thursday 5 October 2023
- Thursday 2 November 2023
- Tuesday 5 December 2023
- Wednesday 3 January 2024
- Tuesday 6 February 2024
- Tuesday 5 March 2024

Residents should apply online. The application form will open at 10am. Find more details including future application window dates at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund. Help to complete the form is available on 01305 221000.

There was discussion about the viability of a remote post office in Milborne St. Andrew. The remote post office would offer the same services as other post offices except for currency. It would only be for a couple of hours a week. If you think it's a good idea and would support a remote post office then please contact Cllr Batchelor by email AshleaBatchelor@outlook.com.

An application for S106 funding has been received for installation of a cricket pitch at the Sports Club. The Plush Cricket Club, that already has five players from Milborne St. Andrew, are looking to relocate their team and create a Milborne St. Andrew Cricket Club. The PC were not able to support at this time as the application needed some refining. Those making the request were asked to review the application and resubmit for discussion at the next PC meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Jo Whitfield

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Milton Abbas Surgery

Flu and Covid Clinics

We will be running a flu and covid vaccination clinic for **patients aged 65 years and over** on **Saturday 7th October 2023** at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall. Eligible patients will be invited via text or letter.

To book an appointment using the link in your text message, please follow these instructions:

- Click on the link in the text message
- Confirm your date of birth and click on the 'Submit' button
- Select the period 05/10/2023 – 19/10/2023 using the drop-down arrows and click on the 'Show' button
- Select one of the clinics by pressing the 'View' button
- Select one of the times by pressing the 'Book' button

If you cannot use the link in the text message or you are having problems, please contact the surgery and we will be happy to help you get booked in.

- ◇ We have a limited time – only four minutes per patient to give two vaccinations – so please wear clothes that mean we can easily access the top of both your arms
- ◇ Parking is limited at the Village Hall and there are a lot of patients attending, so if you can car share, walk or be dropped off that may be helpful
- ◇ Be prepared that there may be a queue so please bring an umbrella if it is raining

Please note that we are sending text message invitations in batches so please do not worry if you do not hear immediately from us. We will contact you again if we haven't heard back from our first invitation. Equally as important, if you **do not** want the flu or covid vaccination please either ring or email the practice and let us know. This is necessary so we don't use valuable resources re-inviting you.

Please understand the flu clinics are organised months in advance and vaccinations ordered a year ahead. In the last few weeks, we have been asked by NHS England to offer the covid vaccinations at the same time. This puts a huge amount of additional strain on the team and logistics. Details for availability, ordering, and delivery of the vaccines have not yet been confirmed to the practice but our hope is we will be able to offer the covid vaccination to those who are eligible and who would like one at the clinics.

In the past, we have offered flu vaccinations for both groups at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall (the over 65s and the under 65s) but we cannot do this safely when offering three different vaccines. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by this.

We will be running a limited number of clinics for other eligible patients to have their flu and covid vaccinations, and invitations will be sent out asking you to book in. Additional clinics we are looking at running will be on:

- **Saturday 23rd September** at Milton Abbas – Eligible patients under 65 years
- **Saturday 21st October** at Milton Abbas – Eligible patients under 65 years

Any further clinics after these dates are likely to be just flu vaccination clinics.

Patients who are eligible for the flu vaccination will include:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women

- all children aged two or three years on 31 August 2023
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person

Please note, this year patients who are aged between 50 years and 65 years who are not in a clinical risk group, will no longer be eligible for the flu vaccination.

Children aged six months to 18 years who are at risk will be booked in for their flu vaccination at the practice. We will be in contact with you when we have stock and are able to invite you. We will not be offering the covid vaccination for children under 18 years old.

If you feel you are eligible for flu and/or covid vaccinations and you have not been invited, please contact us at the surgery – we are happy to help.

Quit smoking with Stoptober 2023!

Did you know that if you stop smoking for 28 days, you're five times more likely to quit for good?

If you are thinking about quitting smoking this October but are not sure what steps to take, we encourage you to speak with LiveWell Dorset. Through their telephone coaching and stop-smoke packs delivered to your door, they will help you to start stopping. Go on their website www.livewelldorset.co.uk or call **0800 840 1628** for more details.

You can also download the free NHS Quit Smoking app which allows you to track your progress, see how much you're saving and get daily support. For more details, please go to the NHS Better Health website www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking

Carer Friendly ID Card

Do you care for a family member or friend? The Carer Friendly ID card is available for FREE to unpaid Carers and is fully funded by Dorset Council and BCP Council to make life better for unpaid Carers. It not only proves that you are a Carer, but it provides access to discounts and offers to help you save money.

For more information or to apply for a card, please speak with Carer Support Dorset on 0800 368 8349 if you are caring for someone living in the Dorset Council area. If you are caring for someone in the BCP area, you will need to speak with CRISP on 01202 128787.

Surgery Closures

Just a reminder that the surgery will be closed on Saturday 7th October 2023 for the Flu and Covid Clinic at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall as above.

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

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club



AFTER a planned autumnal visit to Knoll Gardens in September, our speaker for October is Steve Jeffries of Dobbies Garden Centre. His talk is titled 'Autumn Colour', so, if you'd like to know which plants to choose to extend the life of your garden into autumn (Steve often brings plants to demonstrate his choices), do please come along to the Milborne St. Andrew village hall on Thursday 19th October at 7.30pm.

The cost is just £2 to non-members and includes light refreshments.

Mark Johnson



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Good Gourd! Monster pumpkins in Milborne

I DIDN'T expect to find myself down The Royal Oak one lunch time talking about pumpkins in July. I had the pleasure of meeting Alan and Janet Cousins, as well as Chris and Mike Surtees, to hear them share memories, photos and stories about the pumpkin competition that ran in the village for 15 years.

In 1978 Alan approached Chris and Mike Surtees, who ran The Royal Oak pub at the time, about having a pumpkin competition, and in the autumn the first pumpkins arrived in the lounge bar. This was the start of an annual event resulting in many hundreds of pounds of golden pumpkins being weighed. It became so popular that the annual weigh in had to take place in the skittle alley. Sometimes it was a struggle to get the pumpkins through the door.

Competition was fierce and secrets were guarded on how the big pumpkins were produced, though some used molasses and it's rumoured that others would pee on them!

Pumpkin plants for the competition were available to purchase from Alan, but competitors were allowed to source their own seeds and plants.

The first pumpkin weigh-in in 1978 was won by Roger and Nina Hanger with a vegetable that came in at a relatively modest



The first pumpkin competition in 1978

39lbs. The final winner in 1993 was Mark Paul with his 314lb monster squash – the largest pumpkin recorded.

Hall and Woodhouse supplied beer as a prize, and licensed trade inspector Geoff Pike would attend the competitions.

Word got around about the event, and in 1985 the village took on the challenge of competing with Mr Whatmore from Mill House Nurseries at Owermoigne.

Thanks Alan, Janet, Chris and Mike for sharing your memories – sounds like it was a lot of fun.

Jo Whitfield



The winner of the 1993 competition Mark Paul with Alan Cousins and Mike Surtees

Milborne St. Andrew Bridge Group – new timings

THE long balmy evenings of the summer are now over and the evenings are drawing in so why not take this opportunity to learn a new skill (or improve your existing skills) by joining the MSA Bridge Group? The MSA Bridge Group has now been going for around 11 years and several 'novices' have learned and developed their expertise in a very social and 'blame free' environment. There is no charge for joining or playing.

Following discussions among members we have decided to shift our weekly sessions at The Royal Oak in Milborne St. Andrew to Friday afternoons between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. This new 'slot' will mean that there will be no requirement for driving in the dark so, hopefully, anyone interested can travel in daylight.

For anyone who has never played before instruction will be provided along with a simple two-page 'crib' sheet. In fact, several of our 'regulars' had never played before joining the group but have enjoyed the way of learning and improving their game.

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie Benn

Blandford Food Bank

ALL around us we see the hard labour of our local farmers coming to fruition as they gather in their crops. These crops have been planted and lovingly nurtured until the time is right for them to be harvested.

I believe a donation to the food bank is a seed. A simple act but with the potential to bear considerable fruit. When it is collected from the food bank by someone less fortunate it opens the door for conversations to be had, private lives to be revealed and hidden worries uncovered. It helps expose financial problems, loneliness, isolation, domestic violence, stress and anxieties.

As a farmer nurtures his crop, we start to nurture people, slowly building trust and encouraging people to share with us the issues they are facing in life. We gently start to turn people's lives around and help them dare to dream of a new and better tomorrow.

Kindness – a simple word – but every donation is a small kindness with the potential for enormous and lifechanging consequences.

If you would like to make a donation, here is a list of items we would particularly appreciate.

Tinned meat * tinned fruit * tinned vegetables * pasta jars * UHT milk * fruit squash * tea (boxes of 40) * biscuits * rice pudding.

Gail Del-Pinto Food Bank Manager

The start of another school year at Ladybirds



WELL, here we are again – September – the start of a new school year. Last year's older children have started school and the younger ones are now our older children. Some are missing their big friends while others announce proudly, they 'are big'. All is relative as the new starters do seem very small. With the Government's pledge to fund all two-year-olds it seems many parents are looking for nurseries for them. If you are, book well in advance, as our colleagues in Dorchester already have a waiting list and are offering less than the publicised 15 hours a week. Ladybirds have limited spaces for two-year-olds but are still open for booking.

of washing hands, being kind to animals and how to take care of them. I must say the guinea pigs were very well behaved and spent the rest of the morning asleep under their blankets.

The weather has been glorious so there has been much outside play involving water. We are gradually washing all our toys with the children's help. Some have also washed the glass doors – sorry Hall! The old favourite of the playhouse was put up and repaired, some being resourceful by standing on the window ledge to reach the roof. Well done children good work and we look forward to more busy adventures throughout the year.

Liz Dyer

Milborne Ladybirds

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Milborne St Applecake?

MILTON ABBAS is famous for its thatched cottages, Tolpuddle for its Martyrs, Bere Regis for its Beer(!) but what is Milborne St. Andrew famous for? Well, hopefully, next year, our special village in the geographical centre of Dorset will be famous for producing the **Biggest Dorset Apple Cake in the World!**

Taking the example of the Denby Dale pie, where all the villagers pulled together and each made an individual small pastry square to go on top of the cooked pie in a patchwork to completely cover it. (August edition of the *Reporter*, Denby Dale pie article), the idea would be that lots of individual squares of apple cake, made by people in our village, could be put together to form a large square cake. One hundred 7–8 inch (18–20cm) squares would make a large 6 foot (2.0m) square.

We are hoping that quite a few people would be willing to make a cake, judging by the wonderful cakes produced each month for our community cafe in the Village Hall. There are already 25 volunteers on our list of bakers.

The date of this event is **Dorset Day, Saturday 1st June 2024**, at the Village Hall in Milborne St. Andrew. We would assemble the cake in the Village Hall on Friday afternoon and have one of our regular Community Cafes on Saturday 1st June to bring everyone together and sell portions of the Big Cake, with any profits going to our Village Hall.

The local press would be invited and perhaps the oldest resident living in the village could cut the cake? Any suggestions as to whom this might be?

Any recipe for Dorset apple cake is fine, they don't need to be identical as long as they are appropriately 7–8 inches square. Traditional or gluten free, vegan or innovative recipes are all

welcome as long as they are Dorset Apple Cakes.

Does anyone have a very old traditional recipe handed down to them? Please let us know if you would be willing to share the recipe, it would be great to be able to publish a selection of Dorset Cake recipes in the *Reporter*.

Square cake tins are available to borrow. Please feel free to make more than one cake if you are feeling generous, the cakes freeze well. As well as bakers we will need lots of willing purchasers of portions of cake on the big day.

Anyone who would like to be involved in this fun venture as either a baker or a buyer of cake to raise funds for our Village Hall or has any ideas and suggestions please email milborne.applecake@yahoo.com or sign the list at the Community Cafe held at the Village Hall each month.

Many thanks

Amy, Linsey, Penny, Rose, Sandie, Sarah, Susan

PS According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest cake in the world measured 5.3km long and 10cms wide (made in India, 2020). That's about the distance between Milborne St. Andrew and Bere Regis.

Father come hwome

*I got a little ceäke too, here, a-beäken o'n
Upon the vier. 'Tis done by this time though.
He's nice an' moist; vor when I wer a-meäken o'n
I stuck some bits ov apple in the dough.*

William Barnes

Village History Group

AT our last meeting in September, we had a very informative and professional speaker, Sara Loch. She outlined the history of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Blandford. It appears that there was a 'church' on the site where the current building stands prior to the great fire of Blandford in 1731. Sara showed us a drawing of the proposed rebuild, made by the Bastard brothers, who were responsible for the rebuild. She illustrated her talk with old and new photographs to show us how building work on the cupola and the apse had been undertaken in the past.

Most of the group were aware that the church had been covered by scaffolding and plastic due to restoration work. Sara was very involved with fundraising for the necessary work and had taken interesting pictures of previous works carried out and those that were in a precarious condition. During the works interesting 'graffiti' was found which enhanced the history of previous repairs and renovations.

The next meeting will be on the 11th October at 7.30pm. It will be an interesting session as Linda will use the 1925 hand drawn map, early twentieth census records and other materials to explore where people lived and worked in this village. All are welcome to come along in the function room of The Royal Oak pub.

Pam Shults



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Autumn Days and St. Mary's Warm Space

Autumn is my favourite time of year. I love the changing colours of the trees – the deep red, yellow and orange of the leaves; the crunchiness of leaves underfoot; looking for conkers; spotting the red and orange berries in hedgerows; the evocative smell of bonfires; crisp mornings; and low mist hanging over the hills and valleys. What's not to love?!

For some people though, as the summer comes to an end, the leaves fall from the trees, the days become colder, shorter and darker, autumn serves as a reminder of the coming winter months, and a sense of dread sets in. Many people find the winter months very difficult. With the cost of living crisis still ongoing, people are continuing to struggle with paying their bills and buying food, and now there will be the added worry of being able to keep warm as well. People go out less and become more isolated and lonely.

Due to the success of St. Mary's Warm Space, which started at the end of January this year and ran through to the end of May, we will be opening up again on Wednesday 4th October. If you haven't been before, do come along and join us in the church room, in St. Mary's churchyard. We will be open from 10.00am–3.00pm for warmth, good company, laughter, tea, coffee, biscuits, soup, fun, games and crafts. There is no charge, and any donations that are received are put back into the running of it.

Our lovely team of volunteers look forward to seeing you there – old friends and new.

With all good wishes

Maggie

Notes from St Andrew's, Milborne

I AM writing this on the first day when it feels as if autumn has arrived. But on my evening walks for some time now, there have been many signs of the approaching season: blackberries, sloes, haws, and fields not only harvested but also being prepared for next year. As a fan of the autumn, I'm not complaining. But the summer weather has been rather changeable this year. More than one wedding for which I've played the organ has been accompanied by the sound of rain drumming on the church roof, although the September heatwave did compensate.

We celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving at 9.30am on Sunday, 1st October, when Tony will lead Morning Worship. All are welcome – "Come, ye thankful people, come!"

It was good that we could host the marriage of Martin McLaren and Emma Matthews in August. Martin's parents, Ian and Felicity, were heavily involved in the life of St. Andrew's until the family moved to Dorchester. Martin recalled helping his parents polish pews and clean brass as a child. Sadly, Martin's father died in 2016, but his Mum read during the ceremony. Members of the choir of St George's Church, Fordington (Emma's Church) attended, and it was lovely to have robed choristers in the stalls again. The Reverend Heidi Merrett, Curate of the Dorchester group, sang a solo during the registration of the marriage.

One wet and windy Saturday in July, we held our Village Fete and Dog Show in the village hall and playing field. Although numbers were down, a useful sum was raised, including a generous donation. (Thank you, you know who you are!). More recently, a skittles evening was held at The Royal Oak. This autumn, we hope to tackle some of the outstanding work highlighted in the most recent Quinquennial Report, "Ere the winter storms begin"!

We offer our condolences to the families of those who have died recently – Veronica Edwards, George Thorner, Mark Brady and Caron Redding. We pray that they may rest in peace, and that their families and friends may find strength and comfort at this time.

Continued on page 13

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

October 2023

1st October – Trinity 17/Harvest Festival

| | | |
|---------|------------------|------------|
| 9.30 am | Parish Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Harvest Festival | Milborne |
| 3.00 pm | Holy Baptism | Tolpuddle |
| 6.00 | Harvest Festival | Puddletown |
| 6.00 | Harvest Festival | Dewlish |

SATURDAY 7th October

| | | |
|---------|---|------------|
| 1.30 pm | Marriage of Daniel Robertson and Sophy Davies | Puddletown |
|---------|---|------------|

8th October – Trinity 18

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

15th October – Trinity 19

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 9.30 am | Parish Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Worship in Stillness | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Puddletown |
| 11.00 | Family Service | Dewlish |
| 2.30 pm | Marriage Anniversary Blessing Service | Milborne |

22nd October – Trinity 20

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 9.30 am | Parish Communion | Milborne |
| 10.00 | Go Fourth | Tolpuddle |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Dewlish |
| 11.00 | BCP Matins (traditional language) | Puddletown |

29th October – Bible Sunday

| | | |
|---------|--|----------|
| 11.00am | United Benefice Holy Communion followed by bring-and-share lunch | Milborne |
|---------|--|----------|

DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday – Thursday 8.30am; Saturday 9.00am

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

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

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Continued from page 11

I close with words from a hymn we used to sing at St. Stephen's, Bournemouth, at Harvest-time, written by William Walsham How, author of the more familiar "For All the Saints":

The ever-changing seasons
In silence come and go;
But Thou, eternal Father,
No time or change canst know.

Behold the bending orchards
With bounteous fruit are crowned;
Lord, in our hearts, more richly
Let heavenly fruits abound.
Enjoy the Autumn!

Tony Fox

Dewlish Church Notes

THANK YOU so much to all those who supported our Pop-up Market Stall on Bank Holiday Monday. I am delighted to say we raised £255, and this will go towards paying the cost of insurance for the church.

The cakes were delightful – thank you, ladies! Many thanks, too, to all our helpers, to those who provided the wonderful produce and, especially, to Maisie and Bertie who donated half the takings on their bead craft stall. That was so kind.

Our **Harvest Festival** is on Sunday 1st October at 6.00pm. We would be very grateful for any gifts of produce. Please leave them in the church porch, or at the back of the church. We look forward to seeing you at our thanksgiving. After a tough start, the gardens have been full of wonderful vegetables and flowers. We hope that the farmers have had a bountiful harvest too!

We are holding our **Harvest Supper** and **Harvest Auction** on Monday 2nd October in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. Please could you let Marg or Daphne (Tel: 01258 837466) know if you would like to come so that we have a rough idea of numbers to be catered for. The proceeds from the auction after the supper will be donated to WaterAid.

Daphne Burg

The Tree in the Tower

RECENT mention on Facebook of the elder tree, which once grew on the south face of the church tower just below the parapet, prompted many comments, and it was suggested it might be of interest to a wider audience.

The tree had been growing for many years, and the size of the trunk meant it was causing structural damage. It was removed as part of the major restoration programme instigated by the Reverend John Baillie, Vicar, undertaken in 1966/67. It caused an uproar, even being reported in the local paper! Milborne Church had become known as the church with the tree in the tower, and a Dendrologist brought a group of students to see it. Discovering that it had been removed, he accused the Vicar of sacrilege! He was pacified when told the Churchwardens had replanted it in the Churchyard where, according to the September 1968 edition of "Parish Life" (the forerunner of the *Reporter*), it was beginning to shoot. However, the tree didn't survive. The photograph showing the tree in situ was used for publicity when the restoration was complete, and celebrations took place, including the Flower Festival, "Meditation in Flowers", resulting in a beautifully illustrated book with meditations written by John Baillie. Perhaps I'll write about that in a future edition!" Tony Fox



Artificial intelligence and scams

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) uses computers and machines to maximum advantage to mimic the problem-solving and decision-making capabilities of the human mind. Businesses and government organisations around the world are racing to figure out how to make the best use of this technology.

AI has already helped:

Doctors analyse patient data, identifying health risks, developing personalized treatment plans and speeding up the development of new treatments.

An application that translates expressions on faces into sound to help people with visual impairments 'see' the emotion of the person they are talking with.

Research into bee populations, vital for our planet and food supplies, by analysing worldwide data from hives fitted with internet sensors, microphones and cameras.

However, AI can also be used negatively. Scammers and fraudsters can use AI to better trick people out of money. Using technology, they can pretend to be genuine businesses, change their voice to sound like someone they are not and to fake customer reviews on retail websites.

Enforcers and regulators are taking steps to come to terms with the AI challenge.

In the UK, the Government has proposed that AI must be used safely, be technically secure and function as designed. It must have appropriate transparency, an identified legal person responsible for it, and its use must comply with future regulatory guidance.

Within the European Union research is being carried out in various industries to attempt to create a thoughtful approach to rules, but at the same time some member states, such as Italy, have taken a firmer approach and have currently banned certain AI applications altogether. Similarly in the US, the Federal Government is assessing the impact of AI, while some states are looking to draft rules quickly.

Locally, the best kind of protection against scams and fraud is to be aware of the risks, be aware of the warning signs, and to spread the word about what to do if you become affected by scams. You can join 4,000 people in Dorset who have already learnt more by becoming a 'Friend Against Scams' at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk



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prosperous New Year for 2024

Every silver lining has a cloud!

SO, things have been what you might say “hectic” up at the Sports Club and my goodness they need to be. For a start, with no financial support from any quarter we are at the mercy of the current economic crisis and on the energy front, things are really hotting up.

Our electricity bill in August 2022 was £67, in August 2023 it was a staggering £231 so we are looking forward to winter when the gas gets switched on and someone asks to have the heating on or even a warm shower after the match.

There can be no let up and we have found of late that we can do most things but at present synchronised diving is not one of them.

Birthday parties, hen parties, wedding receptions, regular pitchup camping, folk group and end of school camping, football friendlies, football academy, dog training, wakes, business meetings, Surgery wellness craft sessions, yoga, stay and play Busy Bees, TikTok events, serious joggers, general mess around recreation and play have all happened and everyone enjoyed themselves and went away very happy and very, very impressed with the facilities on offer.

Saturday 2nd September was something else. It felt like everything was happening at once a sort of enjoyable and thoroughly memorable pandemonium. Why did we do it? Because we do and we are gluttons for punishment I suppose.

So on that day we had:

A surprise birthday party with teepee, bouncy castle, tents, trestle tables, music, pizzas from The Royal Oak set up in front of the Pavilion and loads of local people having fun at the same time, an U 16's football match on the lower pitch (both sharing the inside community space of the Pavilion) and a bouncy castle as a crazy way to watch the game.

With organised dog training classes on the main pitch. A group of youngsters who had just turned up to use the community goal and still room on the drive for a steady stream to-ing and fro-ing to the allotments.

We thought “rock on, who cares! This is great fun and a sense of satisfaction making all this happen.

However there is always a cloud on a silver lining and it turns out that someone did care and thought it necessary to report the fact to the Council that it was too busy for them to *QUOTE: be able exercise their right to use the community space in accordance with the terms of the lease!*

It was of sufficient importance to be raised at the Parish Council meeting but it was pointed out that EVEN with everything happening, the open space between the drive and the main pitch was still available and bigger than the space at the Village Hall.

I suppose I should have realised that I can't please some of the people for even some of the time!! *Fake News reality checker:* We really don't have a problem letting people roam free just so long as they respect our space and our being and our security requirements.

Anyway, now for the really good news.

With the formation and registering of the Milborne St. Andrew Sports Club Cricket Club (MSASCC or MCC for short), organised team cricket and coaching for all levels will commence in 2024. The plan is to build an artificial wicket on the lower level roughly where the centre line of the existing lower football pitch is.

The existing pitch will be moved to the bottom of the site and turned through 90 degrees. The remaining lower space between

the Pavilion bank and the new wicket is big enough for five a side football or any other recreational activity and of course there is still the wilding area with winding paths for kiddies to roam safely.

We estimate that to get established to a level that we want to be at is going to cost in the order of £17,000.00. Then we can really move forward with a long-term plan.

To make this happen the Sports Club and the newly formed Milborne Cricket Club are applying for grant aided funding of £9,300 from the Huntley Down 106 Developer Sports and Leisure funding contribution. So in the same proverbial ball park as the cost of the pétanque court.

In addition, funding will be needed for a range of other matters including rebound netting similar to the Lane End boundary to make the playing of both sports possible that is in the order of a further £10,000 + another £7,000 for chain link fencing along the boundary with the bridleway.

The remaining funding (sight screens, practice nets, score keeping huts, covers, etc will be achieved by fundraising, money taken out of club funds and grants from other grant funding bodies and refreshments at matches and other events.

The wicket will be used for mid-week 20 over matches, weekend Dorset league matches/kids training sessions AND casual cricket use by members of the community who can turn up and play like they do on the MUGA.

In five years time, grass wickets may also have appeared but a high quality artificial wicket is considered the best option for establishing local community cricket.

So if you are interested in helping or supporting this initiative in any way please express that interest to any member of the sports club team and let's make things happen. In one day on the local Facebook page we attracted over 30 “likes” so in the order of magnitude of the 35 households who responded to and made up the findings of the Neighbourhood Plan review.

You might just like the idea to just go up and take in the moment on a balmy summer's day. Or you might just like the idea of playing cricket for the MCC!

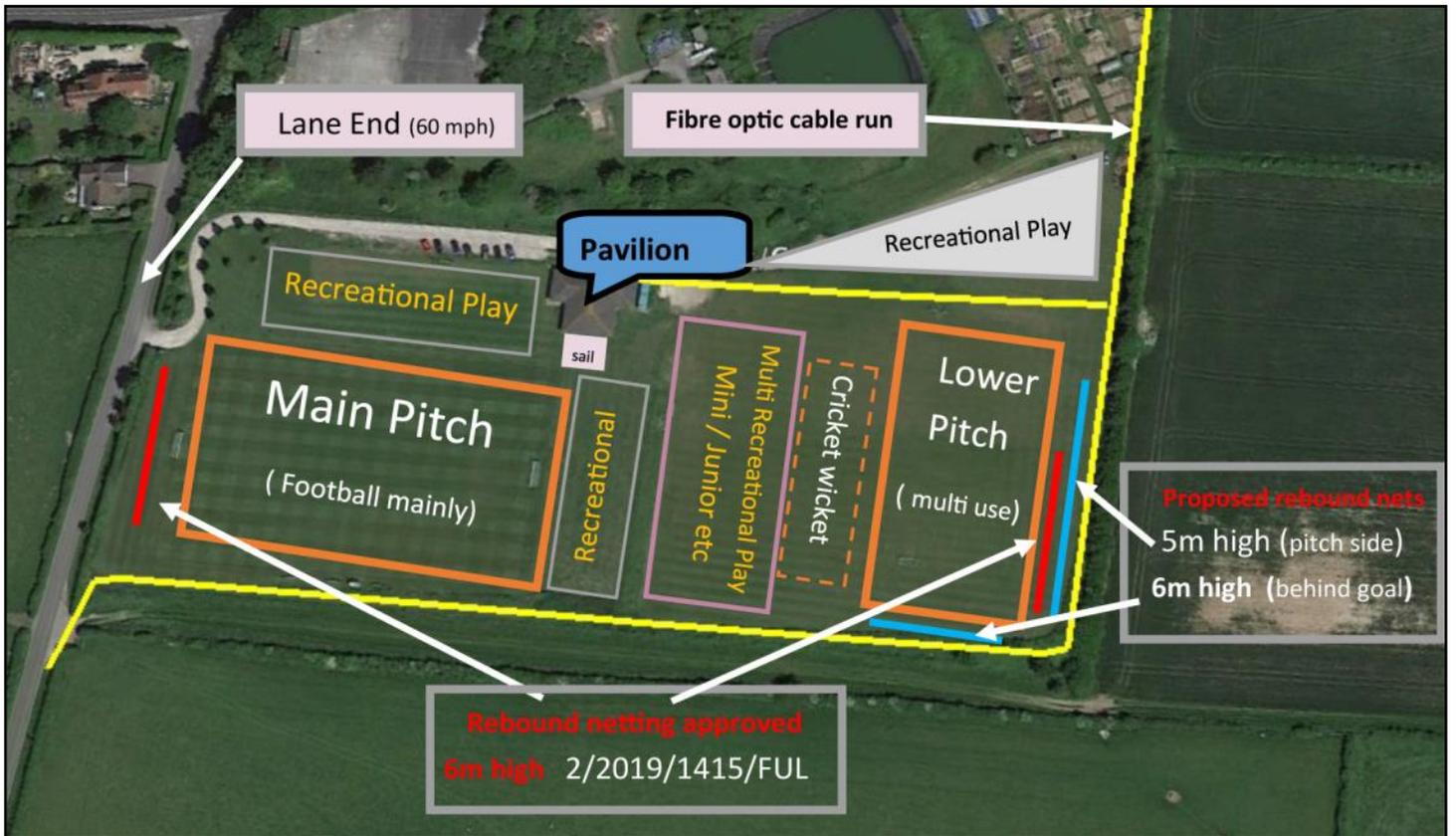
By the time you read this, if you do make it up there you should see a revitalised and freshly decorated pavilion exterior. We hope that you like it, there is reason for the colours if you are ‘Old’ local you will know, if you are a newbie and interested we can let you in on the secret. We have to thank two local people for that. Rupert Moreton of the Decorator Centre who provided the materials and the technical advice and Richard of Richard Andrews Décor who undertook the work despite the intense heat.

Things can only get better – can't they!!

But I repeat, there is no synchronised diving on the cards . . . just jumping into the deep end to continue to provide and develop a top notch community space . . .

Richard Lock





Wednesday Club visits Morton Walled Garden

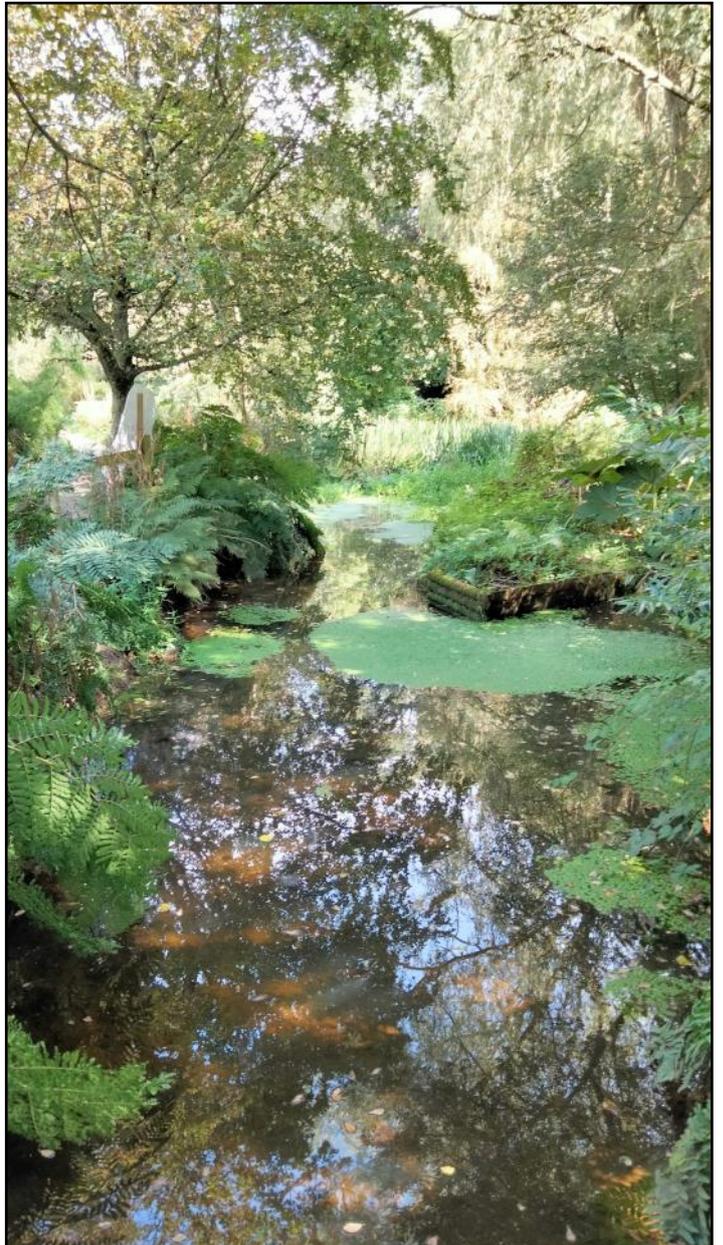
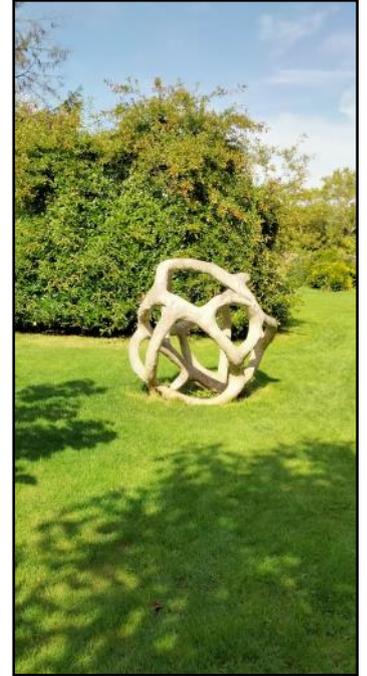
NEVER a dull moment at Wednesday Club meetings. In August we met in the hall as normal. It was a dull day and as the power had been turned off in the village we had no lighting, did this put us off, of course not. We squinted through the gloom as twenty of us prepared to play Corn Hole, a traditional game from the annals of time – two teams compete to chuck bean bags into a hole in a board with points also given for near misses. Much laughter ensued as you can imagine. Then it was time for a nice cup of tea – no power! Luckily we, being older and more prepared for any possibility, had brought some lemonade and as always nice biscuits. So our thirst from our exertions was quenched and we returned home happily.



September was one of our trips out, this time to Morton Walled Garden. We did our usual car share and arrived in convoy at about 2.30pm. It was a very warm day so the shade from the trees was very welcome. We strolled along enjoying the flowers, the small sculpture garden, the river and a look at the plant sale. After about an hour's walk we made our way to the café and a nice sit down. We were then served with a cream tea, which was very welcome and delicious, before we made our way home. Thanks to Lin for the photos.

Next month, join us at 2.00 on 4th October when we are having a talk from Robin Wale about his life in Somerset. He is reputed to be a very good speaker.

Josie Wright



Village Picnic at the Village Hall

THE first of what we hope will become an annual event, 'The Village Picnic' took place on Sunday the 3rd September, the day before many youngsters were heading back to school again. The thought process behind the picnic was that the village could come together, share stories of their summer, use all the new equipment that has recently been purchased for the community and do something for free after all the costs of entertaining over the long six week break. For those who came, that is exactly what happened. People were introduced to pétanque, gave it their best shot at ping pong and for those who wished to, got a cold drink from the well-stocked bar.

The joy of this village is that all of our facilities are within walking distance for most and so people could relax and use the bar without the worry of driving! The weather was on our side which was wonderful and meant many people stayed all afternoon. We all got tables out from the hall and if you didn't have your own chair it wasn't a problem as you could grab one from the hall too.

I wish to thank Susan and Linda for putting in a shift on the

bar followed by Jo Jo and Mark which was fab and meant that Sandie and I could sit back and relax for the afternoon!! Thank you Rich for putting up the bunting too even though he had to work on the day of the picnic itself.

So, should this become an annual event? All feedback is welcome as we would love to hear more from the village and what they want from their village hall. Please contact me, Amy Stephens via Facebook or email me, amytanswell81@gmail.com with your thoughts.

Along with table tennis equipment and the pétanque kit there are now four tennis rackets available which I have donated to the hall for anyone to use – bring your own balls!! There are two junior rackets and two adult ones. They are quite old but will be fine to use for fun if you wish to 'give it a go'. All the equipment is stored in the shed next to the hall and the code for the combination lock can be obtained by contacting Rich Hawker at Corner cottage or on 07393309037, so please do take advantage of these investments for the village and have a game or two.

Amy Stephens



Richard 'Dick' Bailey's 90th Birthday Party



RICHARD was born on Sept 9th 1933 in Dorchester and arrived in the village when he was two years of age. I think we can class him as a 'local'! He was brought up on Chapel Street and 67 years ago he bought the Old Police House at 1 Dorchester Hill where he has lived ever since. He borrowed £1,200 from his mum to buy the house and duly paid her back as soon as he could. He did many renovations and has always loved his garden.

He kept pigs for years and also had a passion for flying his racing pigeons. And apparently he wouldn't mind me telling you but he loved a bit of poaching with his mates. Fishing with friends was also a pastime. Richard has had a few jobs over the years. He started out as a dairyman, then was a labourer building houses in the village. He then became a fork lift driver for Express Dairies before ending his career at Eldridge Pope. He still gets a monthly beer allowance from them!

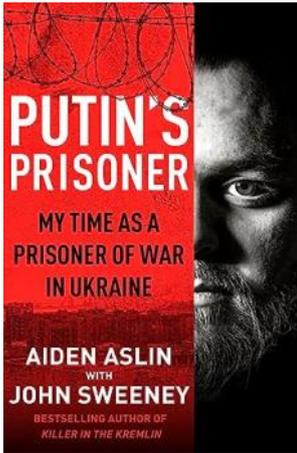
Richard married twice, had three children of his own which has generated a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren for him to enjoy. These days his grandson Jason still lives with him and he enjoys having carers twice a day to look out for him. He has found a woman who he is happy to talk to – Alexa has become his new best friend and he cannot understand how so many songs are available on his asking!! In his 90th year we have introduced a Fire Stick to the TV which means he is now also enjoying many a tv sitcom that he remembers.

Thank you to everyone who sent him well wishes for his big day and he said that he had the most wonderful time seeing many friends and lots of family.

Amy Stephens



Putin's Prisoner – My time as a Prisoner of War in Ukraine by Aiden Aslin with John Sweeney



A BRITISH man from Nottinghamshire, the author spent time fighting against ISIS in Syria, later settling in Ukraine, planning to marry his Ukrainian Fiancée. In 2018, with Russian annexation of Ukrainian land seemingly accepted by the wider world, and Ukraine fighting alone to push the invaders out since 2014, he joined the Ukrainian Marines to defend his adopted homeland. During this time, he recorded and posted on YouTube, many Russian atrocities, to try to interest mainstream

media in supporting the defence of his adopted country. This included Russian troops firing during agreed ceasefires and their use of cluster munitions against civilian housing. He told of his frustration at being told not to return fire when his unit was taking casualties during a ceasefire.

In February 2022, when Russia made its grab for the rest of Ukraine he and his unit fell back into the Illich steelworks at Mariopol. He describes vividly the conditions there – the boredom of patrol, eat, sleep, repeat, the joy when they were allowed to strip the local shops for supplies and the difficulties when those supplies ran out.

He was among over 1,000 soldiers who surrendered in April 2022. This phase of the book starts with him destroying his camera, phone and SIM cards, with all the film and photos he had produced to show Russian crimes. It mentions his fear that his YouTube persona might single him out for special treatment. He explains why he chose to surrender rather than try to travel 140 kilometres through Russian-invaded territory to reach Ukrainian forces, an option chosen by some soldiers when the siege of Mariopol ended.

This book describes the horrors of his imprisonment, the vicious treatment of prisoners, the gradual reduction to basic humanity and breaking of the soul. His particular experience of having a British Passport and being known for the YouTube channel makes very disturbing reading. In my life I have read many books about man's inhumanity to man, from atrocities by Nazis, Japanese, Soviets, Zulus, Incas, and during the Indian Mutiny, but I had to read the central part of the book in short bursts with breaks for normal life, as it's so horrifying. And shocking that a society which claims to be civilised and chairs the UN Security Council can employ citizens to treat other human beings so dreadfully. That there are still people in the world who enjoy inflicting terrible pain and suffering on fellow humans is truly horrifying.

The insights into the Donbas Republic as part of its partnership with Russia are interesting. In his experience the 'wannabes' of the Russia-supporting Donbas were crueler and more violent than their Russian overseers. (Reminding me of Korean Guards in Japanese PoW camps, French soldiers murdering an entire village at Orator-sur-Glane, the DDR trying to impress the Soviets and more). To me the biggest surprise was that another British man, Graham Phillips, helped the Russians with making films where Aiden was, at knifepoint, forced to say he was a mercenary, had tried to overthrow the

legal government of Donbas, and was being treated well by his captors.

Despite its claimed new morals, Graham Phillips still has a presence on Twitter and describes himself as 'an independent journalist of complete integrity'. Suffice to say that he has now wiped much of his older online material supporting Russia when it downed flight MH17 and other acts from the internet.

Aiden finds room for humour. Before surrender, there's a belly-laugh inducing description of trying to move a stove when vacating a trench system. He shares the soldier's fears – for his mates, his family back home, the impact of his imprisonment on them, and his anger that the FSB contacted them via social media to tell them lies about him, or in the case of the 'defence lawyer' at his show trial, to demand insistently payment of £5,000 from his mother.

The FSB regularly made him call 10 Downing Street, the Foreign Office and other Government Offices (under their supervision) to demand he be swapped for Viktor Medvedchuk, a Putin favourite arrested by Ukraine. There's a very funny episode where the FSB dials the DVLA and the Welsh lady at the call centre can't talk to him without the 11-digit number from his V5!

Later, on release, his British comrade, following him onto the Saudi private jet taking them to freedom, said to the chap welcoming him on board 'You don't half look like Roman Abramovich'. To be told 'I AM Roman Abramovich!' Abramovich and Mohammed bin Salman, who facilitated the release, are referred to as 'Knights in Black Satin' due to their chequered histories.

Humour apart, reading this book was as harrowing as anything I have ever read, but what impressed me, is that despite his six months in a worse hell than any of us could possibly imagine, he still sounds positive and his rebuilding his life, with his Ukrainian wife, and doing what he can to defend their country from the Russian invasion and associated torture, rape, kidnap and murder of the population. He still cares deeply about the comrades he left behind and what is happening to them and their families. I am sure he's getting the best of care to help deal with the memories of a time that will never truly leave his dreams.

I was pleased to see that his local MP, Robert Jenrick, was very helpful, using Parliamentary Privilege to discuss what was happening to Aiden, and supporting his family with contacting various Civil Service Departments. He also credits Boris Johnson and Liz Truss for their unfailing political support.

In many ways this is an inspiring book, because although Aiden hit rock bottom, and spent nights considering suicide, he has recovered enough to write this book with the help of John Sweeney. If this book were to be described in three words, I'd say:

Horrifying, Heart-rending, Inspiring.

I usually end reviews of this type of book with a literary quote. For this one, I'm stealing shamelessly from Aiden.

'The soldier fights, not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.'

GK Chesterton.

Five Stars. Should be mandatory reading for all journalists and politicians!

Susan Wilson



Chris Perrins Chimney Sweep



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FACEBOOK: Outward Hounds Pet Care & Walking Services, MSA.

Bookends' Good Reads: "Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys and "Betty Boothroyd: The Autobiography"

JEAN Rhys had not had anything published since 1939 when this novel, a prequel to Jane Eyre, made a sensational appearance in 1966 winning the Royal Society of Literature Award and the W.H. Smith Award for that year. It tells the story of the first Mrs Rochester who was of Creole descent as was its author. Both books are textbook guides to Victorian paternalism, the subjugation of women to male authority. Freedom for women in both stories is double edged. This tale is full of sexualised racism within a society marinated in and driven by hatred. Antoinette's (her given name before Rochester changed it) condemned isolation both in Jamaica and Thornfield led her to madness as a response. The overwhelming themes in both books are identity and belonging. It describes a beautiful exotic paradise with all the loveliness keeping the secret, at the same time alien, holding those disturbing secrets. The, unnamed, Rochester there to pick up an heiress following the emancipation of slaves and the gradual decay of the plantations, speaks of being mesmerised by its haunting perfection. There are social and racial currents which swirl around within in which it seems impossible to search for stability and identity. Antoinette becomes a "spiritless shell".

In discourse with Jane (in Jane Eyre) he blamed others for his marriage, "her relatives encouraged me: competitors piqued me: she allured me". He says he has no respect for himself, suffering "an inward contempt. I never loved, I never esteemed, I did not even know her", saying he was "physically influenced by the atmosphere and scene". In this novel he says to Augustine (friend and ex slave of Antoinette), "I feel that this place is my enemy and on your side". Antoinette was a hybrid, one of the women who walk between two cultures, just as Jane as a governess at Thornfield Hall was neither "gentry" nor working girl. The book uses multiple first person voices. There are elusive fragmented impressions, incomplete sentences, social and racial currents swirl. There is, cleverly, something "trippy" in the writing which echoes the widespread use of mind altering substances and "magic" ("obeah" or witchcraft in the book) this required navigation between differing states of mind. Thus Rochester is affected saying "everything that I imagined to be truth was false, only the magic and the dreams are true – all the rest's a lie . . . let it go, there is a secret – here . . . what I see is nothing. I want what it hides, that is not nothing". For most of the group this was what made it a fascinating and enjoyable read, for the minority it was what made it a difficult and annoying chore. Those who rated it highly found it enriched the original story and for that reason was satisfying, colourful and involving.

The down to earth tone and content of *Betty Boothroyd's* life story up to her resignation as Speaker found a completely different response. Ratings on the whole were lower but enjoyment evenly spread. Some members felt she was so well known that close examination of the book wasn't necessary. Of most interest was the intimate knowledge of Parliamentary procedure and her fierce protection of it. All agreed on her dedication and ability to convey quite complex matters in a fast moving, easy to read prose. Sentences were short and concise, her energy conveyed through her style. She certainly came across in her account as a well grounded person, loyal to her many friends across the political divide. Her devotion to the sovereignty of Parliament shone through every line. Many members found the reciting of votes for various purposes and the many, many names quoted too pedestrian to absorb and

contemplate. However, her upbringing in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, her amazing, supportive, politically active mother and the local close community all contributed to her deep rooted values and beliefs. These she carried into her many activities and positions within the world of politics. This was a fair and balanced account of a remarkable woman and covered a turbulent period of political history. Whilst Speaker for eight years her reign in Parliament was in good, safe hands. It has wit and style written by a dedicated and devoted person. Many others have written of her that she was inspiring and inspirational, breaking glass ceilings full of good-humoured reprimands for her Parliamentary colleagues all done with sharp wit. An amusing comment of hers in interview was "Perhaps I came out of the womb into the Labour movement". She had a zest for life and achieved a curious form of stardom. She wrote as she lived at a breathless speed "at pace" chronicling the glitter she brought to the job from her Chinese silk gown to her tiara making, as Giles Brandryth said of her "parliament counts for something". She is described as "a political superstar" with a gift for making friends with people from all walks of life. A most entertaining book with lots of satisfying pictures ranging from black and white to glorious colour. They tell their own story of inclusivity, anecdote and international characters. Her life was well balanced with lots of fun, risk taking and satisfaction. Surprisingly gripping in parts (especially the expulsion of Militant), altogether a Good Read!

Carole Fornachon

Repairs to the Sewer Network in Milborne St. Andrew

CLERK Lewin has received correspondence from Wessex Water:

They will be carrying out repairs on the sewer network in Milborne St. Andrew for three days in early October.

This follows investigations on the network that identified the need for this work, which helps to protect the environment, preventing foul water escaping and groundwater entering sewers, which can lead to flooding or storm overflows automatically discharging into rivers or the sea if the system becomes overwhelmed.

This work will take place between Monday 9th October 2023 for three days and is expected to finish on Wednesday 11th October 2023.

The use of 'no-dig' techniques will be in place, which are quicker and less intrusive than replacing the pipe in a conventional manner.

Two-way lights will be in place from the junctions of Stileham Bank and Hopsfield. Advanced no parking cones will be in position adjacent to the works on Milton Road, to ensure a safe area for the team while they carry out the work.

There may be some noise disruption whilst this work is carried out, but every effort will be made to keep this to a minimum and complete the work as quickly as possible.

Water and sewerage services can be used as normal unless advised otherwise.

Deadline for the next issue 14th October

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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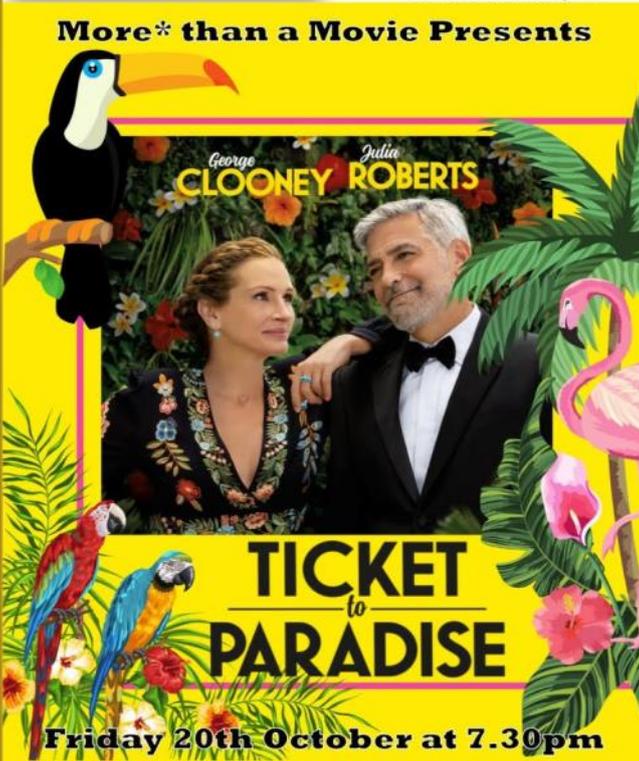
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More of Rosie's travels

Lucky us, off to the Lake District!

WE love the Lakes, it always means lots of lovely walks and swims. This time we met up with our old friends Bulmer and Tilly again, extra fun times. The tin box on wheels is parked right near Lake Derwent, perfect for us dogs and Mum and Dad said the view was spectacular. Mum went to stock up the cupboards with her old friend Mandy while Dad took us on a hike to Friars



Crag, much better than shopping! After dinner two enormous white birds with longnecks came right up to the caravan, they were followed by two smaller scruffy birds that Mum said were their babies, I think she got it wrong 'cos they looked nothing like their mum and dad, they looked more like ugly ducklings! They even had the cheek to pinch a drink out of our water bowl!

The other good thing about being 'up north' is that it doesn't get dark until really late so we got to go out for an extra walk before bed every night, what a bonus!

Even though the weather was a bit showery it didn't stop us all going out for a ride, we ended up, at a place called Hill Top, apparently someone famous called Beatrix Potter lived there. Mum and her friend went off to look around but luckily Dad didn't want to go so we all went off for a walk to a nice lake, we all had a swim and



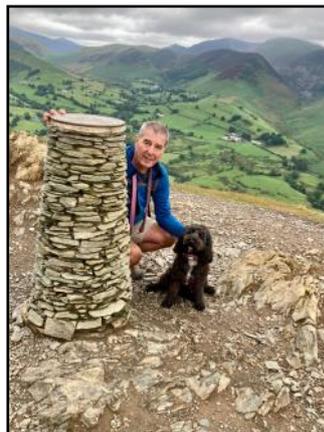
dear old Bulmer had a great time as swimming is his favourite thing to do. There was a café by the lake and uncle Colin had a bacon roll but didn't give us any, meany (I bet uncle George would have done)!



Everyone was very excited as a family of Ospreys had a nest on the other side of the lake and they had a special camera taking film of them, us dogs would have rather carried on swimming!

Katie's first fell

One morning Rosie didn't feel too good so she stayed behind with Tilly and Bulmer while Mum and Dad took me on an adventure. We went off to do a walk up a mountain, Dad wasn't sure if Mum would make it to the top of Catbells (what a strange name for a mountain) but she showed him and followed me up quite easily. It was a bit tricky in places and they had to use their



hands to scramble up but I just leapt up and Mum said I was like a mountain goat, bloomin' cheek, everyone knows I'm a Cockapoo!

Well it was soon time to move on and Dad packed everything up into the tin box and we all said goodbye to our friends. We thought we were heading home but guess what, we were off on ANOTHER holiday, Northumberland here we come!

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Exploring West Dorset at the September WI

AFTER the summer break seemed an ideal time to reflect on how lucky we are to live in Dorset. To help us with this was our speaker, Jackie Winter, local author and herself a keen explorer of the quiet lanes and villages in West Dorset. Dorset's miles of beautiful coastline, stunning views and countryside are full of variety. Pretty villages are reached along quiet, winding lanes, rural signposts showing us the way to remote churches and historical manor houses. Pubs and tea shops abound, offering home-made cakes and puddings – plum and marzipan crumble, marmalade bread and butter pudding, to name but two – well worth a visit! Jackie gave us fascinating insights into local customs, traditions and quirks. Like all of us, she has her favourite spots, some remote and hard to find, but all well worth the finding.

In the absence of our President, Nelda stepped in and took us through some business matters. It was lovely to welcome five visitors, and we hope to see them again at future meetings. Thanks were expressed to Dee for arranging the very enjoyable summer afternoon tea, and to Josie for hosting the Quiz night. A reminder that the DFWI Annual meeting is on 12th October at the Lighthouse in Poole; three members are attending. Arrangements were made for the next pub lunch on Thursday 21st September and the skittles matches. Our WI News is full of events taking us to Christmas.

The Book Club met to discuss Betty Boothroyd's Autobiography, a larger than life politician and the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons. We move on to George Eliot's 'Silas Marner'.

Our 'flower of the month' competition was won by Lin Chatfield's beautiful single rose – not for the first time – so she keeps the cup!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th October, when Amanda Gillett will talk to us about 'Julia's House'. Please do come along and join us, you will be very welcome. *Pat Bull*

One Year On By Jan Beaumont[©]

Paddington knew there was something not right
And somehow it didn't seem fair
For there was a teacup and handbag
But also a sad, empty chair.

He'd hoped for a nice get together
It had been quite some time since the last
But seemingly she'd not be coming
As his dear friend had peacefully passed.

He knew just how much he would miss her
But although she'll no longer be seen
Paddington always will hold in his heart
The day he had tea with the Queen!



Ticket to Paradise

Friday 20th October 2023 at 7.30pm
Village Hall, The Causeway, Milborne St. Andrew
Doors and bar open 7.00pm
Tickets cost £6, which includes a drink or an ice-cream

David and Georgia, two divorced parents who can't stand each other, head to Bali after their daughter, Lily, announces her plans to marry a local islander she just met while on holiday. They decide to put aside their differences and work together to stop the wedding, believing that doing so will keep Lily from making a dreadful mistake similar to their own.

Julia Roberts and George Clooney star with the backdrop of beautiful scenery in this lighthearted romcom story – what else could you want from *Ticket to Paradise*?



Could you help us?

DO you have time on a Tuesday afternoon between 5.00–6.00pm, every week in term-time, to volunteer with Milton Abbas Riding for Disabled Group?

We help children with learning and physical disabilities to develop through pony riding which can make a big difference to their lives. It is also hugely rewarding for our volunteers.

You don't need any experience with ponies but you would need to feel comfortable being close to them. Experienced "horsey people" would also be very welcome!

Ring Sue Hodder on 07739 469946 or email suehodder01@talktalk.net to find out more.



LETTERS to the Reporter

Ring of bells

I would like to pass on my thanks to all of the St. Andrew Church bell ringers.

On a warm summers evening hearing the glorious chimes echoing through the open window I for one am delighted by this most wonderful heavenly sound.

*Thank you.
Charles McHugh.*

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Foraging (or Scrumping)

(I have used the App 'what3words' to identify locations that I have found each of the items listed).

Foraging – 'To search in the wild for items to eat or use.'

Scrumping (dialect) – 'To steal (apples) from a garden or orchard.'
(*Dictionary definitions*)

These are two apparently distinct activities, of which, I can admit to have indulged in both. However, I would claim to have stopped scrumping when I left Kent and its delightful cherry orchards when I was a teenager.

But then, there is the concern about retrieving items to eat or use without entering a garden or orchard, whose required items are extended on branches outside the boundaries of these properties, or even have fallen to the ground outside them. There are strange items of ownership and damage that apparently extend to being able to cut growth from a neighbour's property that has extended over yours as long as you return the cut items.

Wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) (workbench.empty.donates)

Wild garlic, or Ramsons being the common name, grows in profusion in many sheltered banks and hedgerows. It is possible to eat the bulbs, the leaves and the flowers, but we generally only use the leaves picked when young and fresh in the spring. It is not as strong a flavour as bulb garlic but also affects the breath less. Garlic butter can be made using one 500g pack of butter and three to four generous handfuls of leaves. The leaves are mixed in a food processor and then mixed evenly with the softened butter. It is then rolled into a long sausage shape with cling film to about one inch in diameter. This is then cooled in the fridge and then sliced into short pieces to give discs, which can then be stored in the deep freeze for up to one year when you can make the next batch. The discs put on just cooked steak run deliciously into the meat.

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) (rebel.thinkers.flash)

From early May the creamy white flowers appear on this hedgerow bush. The flowers can be used to make a fizzy spring drink that lasts for only six weeks.

Recipe 12 heads of flowers, 2 lemons, 2 tablespoons of white wine vinegar, 1¼ lbs sugar, 1 gallon of cold water.

Boil the water and pour over the sugar. When cold add the flower heads, the lemon rind, lemon juice (no pith), and the white wine vinegar. Allow to stand for 24 hours, then bottle in plastic lemonade bottles. Release the pressure daily. Ready to drink in a fortnight.

Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) (pipe.minimums.pets)

The fresh new leaves of the tree in the early spring make a delicious tangy snack. Then, later in the year the tree may produce the nuts or masts, which can be opened to reveal the four nuts in each nut case. This is a rather tedious and time-consuming process as the husks are very tough, but the tasty nuts are full of flavour and some nut oil.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyma*) (many hedgerows)

In a similar way to Beech, the leaf tips of Hawthorn have a crisp almost lemony flavour and have the rural name of 'bread and cheese' but are at their best in the spring when they are just opening. It is interesting that a small bird commonly seen in these bushes, the yellowhammer, has the song 'A little bit of bread and no cheese'.

Cherries (*Prunus avium*) (actual.glee.costumed)

We were very pleased to find these trees in the field, now a wood, planted courtesy of Brian May, of Queen fame. There was a lot of fruit one year and we picked a one litre freezer box full,

eating some as we picked. On the following day we had thought to take the remains as a picnic bonus. On taking the box from the fridge found, on opening it, that there were a lot of small larvae on the fruit. What a shame.

Red currants (*Ribes rubrum*) (kit.elders.juniors)

These are relatively common in woodland with dappled light, but the berries tend to be few and far between, on rather spindly bushes, that are often single stem plants. Given the patience to pick enough they make a tangy fruity mouthful.

Crab apples (*Malus sylvestris*) (washable.funded.sunblock) (groomed.bandstand.spire) (glides.grub.submit)

These are genuine crab apples, unlike many trees that are grown in gardens as decorative *Malus* varieties or even more common, the trees growing as a result of discarded apple cores. I know, for example of at least seven of these discarded core trees on the A35 between the Stinsford roundabout (digitally.toddler.waddled), and the Kingston Pond Toilets. (dummy.lousy.organic). A lovely clear golden jelly can be made from the quite tart fruit, which is great with venison or even on its own on bread and butter.

Raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*) (reseller.surprised.create)

These tiny raspberries are the wild form of the cultivated ones and, as such are just as tasty when enough are collected. Often raspberries in the wild, are bird sown, from cultivated berries, but the really wild plants have much tastier fruit.

Fungi

This is a specialist field when foraging for anything other than field mushrooms (*Agaricus campestris*) which are relatively easy to identify. To be confident, either take a course or go with an expert in the field. A one day field trip with someone like John Wright [not the one who lives in Milborne] who lives in Dorset is well worthwhile.

Bramble or blackberries (Everywhere)

There can be hardly anyone who has not fallen for the temptation to pick and eat these delicious berries. With stewed apple, or as jam there is little to compare in flavour, or even better, is to make bramble jelly which will take more berries to make but has the most subtle perfume on the palate. When picking blackberries, it will be found that there is some variation in size, flavour and spikiness of the prickles, this is because there are at least 36 varieties in the country! When to pick is interesting, as the options are, to pick early when the sugar has not reached its maximum, but when fewer flies have put their dirty feet on them, or later when the flavour has developed, and the sugar content is much higher. This higher sugar content can be particularly useful when making jam as it improves the set. In Dorset it is said blackberries should not be picked after the first of October as the devil has 'pissed' on them! Is this perhaps to do with the flies or the mould beginning to grow. Our ancestors who made these rules, must have had some justifications.

Dog rose (*Rosa canina*) (mocked.headstone.preoccupied)

The delicate pink and white flowers are a pleasure to see in midsummer, but in September in most years, the bright red hips adorn the hedgerows in many places. In WW2 because rose hips contain vitamin C, a syrup was recommended to be prepared. Take 3lbs of rose hips and chop finely and add to 4 pints of boiling water and reboil and skim. Filter TWICE through fine muslin to remove ALL fine hairs. Reboil the pulp with a further two pints of water and refilter. Combine the fluids and reduce to three pints, add 2lbs of sugar. Bottle and store. Dilute to taste.

Continued on page 29



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Continued from page 27

Blackthorn or sloes (*Prunus spinosa*)

As with blackberries, these are to be found in many places and despite the incredibly astringent taste to the tongue, their low sugar content and their vicious spines they continue to be very popular in the preparation of Sloe Gin. It is advisable to leave picking until after the berries have been frosted as the skins have been bletted and the sugar is made more 'available'. Ideally, once prepared the mixture should be ready for the sour sweet liqueur to enjoy at Christmas.

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) (interval.headliner.recording) (salary.accompany.notebook)

Large numbers of the nuts from these trees can be collected,



but not in every year, and different trees may produce larger nuts. This may be because the soil is better or it is damper. This year (2023) has been very good for the quantity of nuts but unfortunately there is high number (20–30%) with the grubs of the filbert weevil (*Curculio*

occidentis) either present or has left its emergence hole in the shell and no nut. However, don't be put off, the rest of the nuts are great. I have, in the past, made hazelnut praline for use in cakes or tarts.

Walnut (*Juglans regia*)

There are no trees in a position to gather in the wild that I know of, but some trees overhang the road where when ripe and dropping, can often be picked up.

Fig (*Ficus carica*)

The same applies to figs, but occasionally they can be seen overhanging roads. My father-in-law who grew figs said they should never be picked but caught when they fall off the tree as it is only then that they are properly ripe. This may, of course, stray into the definition of 'scrumpling'.

Pip Howell

Milborne Players News

SINCE the last issue of the *Reporter* in August, the Milborne Players have gathered to read through and exchange thoughts on a number of pantomime scripts with which to entertain you next February! We have decided on an adaptation of a much loved pantomime, written by our own Ron Karley again.

So, rehearsals are in full swing now with much enthusiasm amongst us all; memories of the success of our 2023 pantomime still fresh in our memories. Whilst we are fully cast, we are always hoping to welcome new members to the Players. New members always bring fresh ideas and somehow invigorate everyone, no matter what they contribute. We'd love to have people helping out backstage or front of house. You don't need to join the Players as an official member either. Just show up at the Village Hall at 8:00pm on a Monday evening and one of us will welcome you and chat about what you'd like to do.

Or you can ring or message myself on 07804 600204 or Andy on 07825 133408.

A brief side note that the Dorchester Literary Festival is being held this month, running from 14th to 21st October. Find the programme of events at dorchesterliteraryfestival.com. There's some great authors attending to talk about their books, including Polly Toynbee, Alan Titchmarsh and Dorset writer Joanna Quinn, author of *The Whalebone Theatre*.

Kate Hawker

What's on in October

October

- Sunday 1st** **Harvest Thanksgiving** St. Andrews church 9.30pm.
- Wednesday 4th** **Wednesday Club** talk by Robin Wale about his life in Somerset. Village Hall 2.00pm.
- Wednesday 4th** **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 7.00pm.
- Friday 6th** **Bridge** The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
- Saturday 7th** **Community Café** Village Hall 10.00am.
- Wednesday 11th** **History Group** Linda will talk about the 1925 hand drawn map and early census records The Royal Oak 7.30pm
- Thursday 12th** **WI.** Amanda Gillett will talk about 'Julia's House' Village Hall 7.30pm.
- Friday 13th** **Bridge** The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
- Saturday 14th** **Village Quiz** Village Hall. quiz starts 7.30pm – see page 3.
- Saturday 14th** **Reporter deadline for the October issue** – send copy and photographs by mid-day via msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team.
- Thursday 19th** **Gardening Club** talk by Steve Jeffries on Autumn Colour Village Hall 7.30pm.
- Friday 20th** **Bridge** The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
- Friday 20th** **Milborne Movie Ticket to Paradise** Village Hall 7.30pm.
- November**
- Saturday 4th** **Blue Remembered Hills** – play, Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 31.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Ladybirds Playgroup** Monday–Friday 8.30am.
- Players** Monday 7.00pm weekly.
- Line Dancing** Tuesday 7.30pm weekly.
- Wednesday Club** 2.00pm 1st Wednesday monthly.
- Yoga** Thursday 3.30pm weekly.
- Karate** Thursday 5.10pm weekly.
- Women's Institute** 7.30pm 2nd Thursday monthly.
- Gardening Club** 7.30pm 3rd Thursday monthly.
- Artsreach Events** – look out for the posters.
- Check the Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

- Busy Bees** Under 5 Group from 9.30–11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Claire Tudge on 07970 734162.
- Yoga** (Mellulah) Thursday (evening): Friday (mornings).
- Beavers** Friday 5.30–6.45pm.
- Football** Saturdays and Sundays.
- Private parties, birthdays, wedding** receptions check online calendar.
- Check the Sports & Social online calendar on the village website for any other events you might be able to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

- Pilates** Monday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only).
- Yoga** Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm (term time only).
- Badminton** Wednesday 6.30–8.00pm (term time only).
- Kickboxercise** Thursday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only).

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For information, ring Sarah Ryan 01258 839230
 or email: saryan6630@gmail.com
www.sarahryanyoga.co.uk

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Community Contacts

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

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 08008 807060

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

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

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

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

GENERAL — ADULT

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

GENERAL — YOUTH

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Scouts, Cubs and Beavers | Sam Elliott | 07873 762035 |
| Busy Bees | Claire Tudge | 07970 734162 |
| Milborne Ladybirds | Liz Dyer | 01258 839117 |

POLICE

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Police – Non-emergency contact | | 101 |
| Community Beat Officer | PC Dave Mullins | 101 |
| Safer Neighbourhood Team | PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard | 101 |

SCHOOL

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

SPECIAL INTEREST

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 |

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BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS

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 The Village Hall, Lytchett Matravers

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 and at The Village Hall, Milborne St Andrew

Sat 4 November
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Tickets £10. At castleplayers.com or 01202 912351

This amateur production of "Blue Remembered Hills" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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