



# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 18 Issue 11

December 2025

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**Advertising copy MUST be received by the 13th of the month**

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

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

Enquiries and copy to: [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

## Combating anti-social behaviour – November PC

A RESIDENT came to the November Parish Council meeting to offer her experience as a police officer with regard to the ongoing vandalism and damage to properties, as we outlined in last month's *Reporter*. Jennie Sykes-Martin spoke about the anti-social behaviour that has been happening in Milborne, including breaking of windows (by ball bearings being fired) and more recently, a powerful laser light being shone into people's houses.

Ms Sykes-Martin said she had spoken to villagers who had been affected by these actions to build up a picture of the nature of events. She has liaised with the crime prevention officer and the PCSO, pointing out that their brief covers an extensive area. She said she had been given names of the suspected perpetrators by other residents, but as there wasn't any evidence, the police and CPS could not take it further. She focused on what could be done; she suggested a village WhatsApp group so that anti-social behaviour could be logged and then spoke more of preventative measures, such as sensor lights and security camera in the area that is the focus of the trouble, the War Memorial. Although pictures obtained may not fully identify the individuals, she said that the information could recognise patterns and would feed into intelligence for officers to follow up on. Ms Sykes-Martin also made clear that although restorative justice may not work with the youths involved, it may with their parents and with other consequences being eviction from council or similar houses, if applicable.

Councillors and members of the public asked questions about Ms Sykes-Martin's outline proposal and Chair, Cllr Macnair, thanked her for coming along to present her ideas and was optimistic for her involvement in tackling the issue. He asked if she would return to the January meeting with a costed proposal for councillors to assess.

The planning application for a housing development adjacent to the Dewlish road has been chased up, with Dorset Council saying they are in dialogue with the developer with regard to objections that had been raised by the PC, giving the applicant scope to address these concerns. Cllr Macnair pointed out that the aim of Planning is to enable development rather than hinder it. The future of the traffic calming alongside The Royal Oak will determine one aspect of the development's issues, that of connection to the village. Also, the placing of bus timetable boards and cross-hatching of the layby opposite Crown House is wrapped up in the traffic calming scheme.

The lowering of speed limits to 20mph on village roads south of the A354 is at consultation stage, but Cllr Macnair was heartened by the number of responses from the public, with the PC backing the proposal with its full support.



The willow at the War Memorial is in need to be drastically cut back since it is touching service wires and overgrown. It is likely to be pollarded as before in 2017. The tree officer will need to authorise.

Clerk, Wayne Lewin, suggested transferring £1,000 into the defibrillator fund, should any of the units require replacing. This would achieve the aim of the amount held in general reserves to 50% of the precept. For the forthcoming precept amount, Mr Lewin had carried out a draft cost analysis for future spending, which has indicated an overall rise of £600, which is close to the inflation rate.

*Ed Richards*

**The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 7th January, 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

## 'He's Behind You' . . . at the November 2025 WI

WITH a nod towards Christmas festivities our Speaker, Christine Orange, was here to talk about the history of Panto & Dame. With no previous background in pantomime, and at a loose end at the time, Christine volunteered to help at her local community centre with the annual pantomime – that was 17 years ago – and she is still very much involved in their productions. Taking us back to the very beginnings of the musical comedies we know today, back, in fact, to the ancient Greeks, to the commoners who had access to their own form of theatre, poking fun in a very lewd and bawdy way through acting. Over time, the dame became the key feature of the panto, always a male actor playing the part of an eccentric, comical woman, and dressed in hugely over the top costumes.

Pantos have now become mainly amateur productions since the participation of children as well as the audience, and the language very much toned down. Christine is heavily involved in the making of the elaborate costumes, some of which she brought along for us to see. Cheerfully volunteering to try some on, Lin Chatfield was transformed into 'Saucy Sally'. 'King Rat' and the 'Lord Mayor of London' – all very fetching – thank you and well done, Lin! *See front page.*

Christine is still very much a part of her local panto scene; she stressed the importance of supporting these amateur productions, 'go along, participate, and have a laugh'.

**Business matters followed** – our New Year lunch is at Ashley Wood Golf Club on 9th January; we will hold our Christmas party at next month's meeting, food and raffle prizes welcome; Heather, Linda, Angie and Josie will join next year's programme committee.

Some members attended a county-wide event at Athelhampton House for a cream tea and talk by the Estate Manager, very much enjoyed by all.

Veronica reported that Book Club members had discussed 'The Shepherd's Life' by James Rebanks, described as a good read, inevitably a lot about sheep as well as the hard life of the local shepherds. 'Vinegar Girl' by Anne Tyler is the next read.

Linda spoke about the Annual Meeting held recently at the Lighthouse, this was an interesting, amusing and factual report and everyone had clearly enjoyed the day – (winning first prize in the raffle, Linda, was a definite bonus)!

We meet again on Thursday 11th December, for our Christmas meeting.

*Pat Bull*

**Deadline for the next issue 9th  
December**

**Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at  
[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)**

The front cover picture was taken by Janet Voke on Sunday 2nd November just before the Remembrance Service in the church.



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# Chocolate Black Forest Christmas Trifle

## A delicious and simple to make dessert.

I VISITED Marks and “Spensive” Food Hall in Blandford last weekend and was lured into the puddings aisle. There are so many delicious Christmassy desserts in the shops and supermarkets at this time of the year, so why bother making your own? This home-made dessert is just as good (if not better) as those you might buy.

The USP of this recipe is really the size of each tiny portion. Much as I enjoy something sweet it can be a bit overwhelming to be served a large portion of something very rich and cloying at the end of an already substantial meal.

By using convenience foods, this dessert is very quick to make and freezes perfectly. Also, because of its diminutive size, it defrosts quickly.

At Christmastime I wallow in nostalgia and these little treats give me a chance to show off my mother’s silver coffee spoons (‘Mum’s Yorkshire Christmas Eve Trifle’ *Reporter* article December 2018) and my ancient set of tiny coffee cups, which were bought in North Cyprus and are a cheap Wedgwood lookalike.

Coffee cups were originally very small and elegant as coffee was an expensive luxury, not like the massive, almost bucket sized, portions of coffee that are often served nowadays.



### Chocolate Black Forest Christmas Trifle

#### Ingredients

1 packet of Cadbury Mini Yule logs

1 tin of Ambrosia chocolate custard

300ml double cream

A few spoons of Bonne Maman black cherry conserve

A few generous glugs of kirsch or cherry brandy

Grated chocolate to finish (or a sprinkle of sieved cocoa)

Edible silver glitter stars to sprinkle on top as a festive decoration

Tiny coffee cups or ramekins. If you intend to freeze them, make sure they are freezer proof!

#### Method

1. Cut up the mini yule logs and put a layer in the bottom of each container.



2. Add a spoonful of cherry jam, then sprinkle with the booze to moisten.

I used some Ukrainian cherry schnapps. My son spent last Christmas and indeed most of last year away in Eastern Europe and brought me back a bottle as a souvenir. It’s lovely to have him back home this Christmas.

3. Add a layer of chocolate custard
4. Then a layer of softly whipped double cream and decorate with chocolate or cocoa and festive touches.
5. Double wrap in foil and freeze. Defrost at room temperature.



I make a variety of these little freezable puddings.

My granddaughter Scarlett’s favourite is what she calls ‘Teeny Tiny Tiramisu’. Other variations, especially at this time of year, are chocolate orange mousse, sherry trifle and chocolate orange trifle.

Not all recipes freeze successfully, but I find that with a bit of experimenting most things work. It’s worth it to have something



at hand for last minute guests and to get organised ahead of large family gatherings. The photos are of last Christmas and capture the moment when Father Christmas arrived. You can just spot the Teeny Tiny Tiramisus at the bottom of the table, handily placed in front of my granddaughter.

**Note:** We are the custodians of a Father Christmas outfit, originally belonging to St. Andrew’s church. If anyone would like to borrow this, for a small donation to the Church, please get in touch.



#### Tesco prices at time of printing:

Cadbury Mini Yule logs. £2.85

Ambrosia chocolate custard. £1.00 (2 for £2.00)

Double Cream. £1.50

Bonne Maman Black Cherry Conserve. £2.90

De Kuyper Cherry Brandy Liqueur. £11.00. (Google ‘Prince Charles + Cherry Brandy for an amusing anecdote).

Merry Christmas!

Rose Frost



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## Thankee pardners! Whole lot of Wild West fun

A HUGE Thank You from The Stumblin' Stag, St Anderoo Gulch (aka Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall)!

What a rootin'-tootin', mystery-shootin' night that was at The Stumblin' Stag Saloon!

A massive thank you to everyone who came along, joined in the fun, and helped raise funds for our lovely Village Hall – you truly brought our Wild West whodunnit to life!

Special thanks go to the Milborne Players for their fantastic

performances, quick wit, and cowboy flair – we couldn't have done it without you.

And to our brilliant audience for dressing up, guessing the culprit, and keeping the laughter rolling all night long – you made it a night to remember.

Keep your eyes peeled for future events . . . who knows what mischief we'll dream up next time!

Until then – happy trails, partners!



## A Word from the *Reporter* Treasurer

THE *Reporter* is very fortunate to have a very loyal team of volunteers who give hours of their time to produce and deliver the *Reporter*. Without them there would be no *Reporter*. But similarly, without our advertisers, there would cease to be a village community magazine. The printing costs have risen sharply over the last few years and coupled with a growing village – 25 extra houses here, seven more there and plenty in the pipeline – further strain is put on the cost to produce the *Reporter*. After the last print company we used closed due to unforeseen circumstances, we were lucky enough to find a new printer this year at reasonable prices. We were also very grateful to receive a couple of very generous donations from readers.

So, the future of our very useful community *Reporter* is not assured – we do need help to keep it alive. In past times, we had over 50 advertisers but now we have just 30. In these digital

times, it's easy – and generally free – for businesses to advertise on social media and we know we have to compete. But advertising in the *Reporter* is a two-way thing; it gets your company directly into village homes to promote your services and it also says, "we're community-focused", supporting the magazine financially as well. So please, if you have a small business in Milborne, or know someone who runs one, please ask if they could help support the *Reporter* by advertising on our pages.

We have not increased our advertising in two years but sadly, we will have to in the new year, but only by 5%, which is a modest rise for the length of time. *Heather V Hogg Treasurer*

**Deadline for the next issue 9th December**



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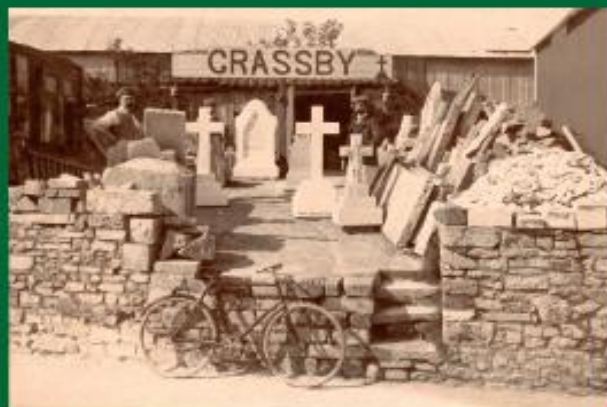
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# Milton Abbas Surgery

## Christmas Survival 2025

As festive and exciting Christmas time is for many, there are ones who may be struggling with financial concerns or loneliness.

Please don't skip meals to pay bills. Families or individuals can be referred to local food banks (Blandford or Dorchester) by Kelly or Anna, our Social Prescriber's. Please call the surgery or send an email to [miltonabbassurgery@nhs.net](mailto:miltonabbassurgery@nhs.net) for their attention, and they will help in any way they can. There are also community fridges in Blandford and Dorchester, and you can just pop along to those.

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

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

- **Samaritans** 116 123
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- **Connection** 0800 652 0190 (24/7 Helpline)
- **Childline** 0800 1111
- **Cruse Bereavement** 0808 808 1677
- **The Silver Line** 0800 4 70 80 90 (for anyone aged 55yrs or over)

You are not alone. We will get through this.

## Christmas and New Year Opening Times

**Wednesday 24th December** – Open as usual

**Thursday 25th December** – CLOSED

**Friday 26th December** – CLOSED

**Saturday 27th December** – Open as usual (may be subject to change)

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

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

**Wednesday 31st December** – Open as usual

**Thursday 1st January** – CLOSED

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

**Message from our Dispensary Team:** Please rest assured that while we will be closed for a couple of days, there is no need to panic. We kindly ask that you continue to order your medication as usual, and we'll ensure everything is processed as quickly as possible when we reopen. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

## A Christmas Card to our Patients



## Village History Group

THE November meeting was a great success. Author, Brent Shore, talked about the book that he wrote and published 'Blessed are the Meek'. It was centred around actual events that happened in the wider Manchester area at the end of the 19th century. Although he had used his 'artistic licence' to give interest to his story, he had researched a great deal so that the facts were accurate. Brent also informed us that this book was part of a trilogy he has written, centered on social and political events up until the Great War. He will be returning to talk about these books in November 2026.

The next History Group meeting will be on May 13th 2026 when Martin Papworth, Archaeologist, will talk about Badbury Rings and surrounding archaeological features. Martin was previously employed by the National Trust and has appeared in many television programmes.

John Smith, archaeologist unfortunately had to cancel his talk last month but has agreed to come in October 2026 to talk about 'Battle of Britain over Dorset in 1940'.

All are welcome to come to these talks. We usually ask for a small donation which helps to pay for speaker's fees. They will be advertised nearer the dates.

*Pam Shults*

## Milborne Players' Notes

WE are delighted to announce our website is now live on the world wide web! Despite a technical hitch last month, we successfully overcame it and are excited to welcome you online! Please visit us and complete our 4-question survey about how we can make buying our tickets as accessible as possible. Visit: [www.milborneplayers.org.uk/survey](http://www.milborneplayers.org.uk/survey).

Meanwhile, panto rehearsals for Sinbad in Space are in full swing. We are having a blast with such a diverse and delightfully ridiculous array of characters. As always, the children are bringing a special energy to the stage and next week we start rehearsing the songs with our talented musical director. We are showing sneak previews of some of the characters on our Facebook page – and on Instagram – from this month onwards.

Tickets go on sale from 1st December and can be purchased from the Community Café using cash or card, from the Londis store using cash or by calling the box office on 01258 839085. Bank transfers are also accepted. Tickets are an excellent Christmas gift idea; something to look forward to in mid-February after the winter months; and the imminent arrival of spring.

Mark your 2026 calendar with the pantomime dates: Thursday 12th, Friday 13th (lucky for us!) and Saturday 14th February.

*Kate Hawker*





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## Light in the darkness

"The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1.5)

I wonder if you've noticed how babies and young children are drawn towards lights. It is a pleasure watching a young child gaze at a Christmas tree full of twinkling lights, entranced by what they see.

We're at that time of year when days are short. We rise in the dark and get home in the dark. It's no wonder we fill our homes and streets with light – candles in the windows, fairy lights on trees, lamps shining out onto frosty gardens. Deep down, we know that light matters. Even the smallest flicker changes the darkness around it.

That's part of why Christmas still captures our imagination. Long before electricity or shopping lists, people gathered to celebrate the Nativity around warm fires that brought light and heat into their lives, chasing away the cold and dark.

The Christian story of Christmas tells us that light came into the world and has never been put out. Whether or not you'd describe yourself as religious, there's something profoundly human about that – the belief that hope can still be born in difficult times, that love can still shine when life feels in shadows.

During Advent we light the candles on our wreaths to remind us of the coming of hope into the world. For Christians, that's really the heart of Christmas: hope and light coming into our lives and never being put out. God comes not as a blinding flash but as something so very ordinary – in the birth of a baby, quietly bringing hope where it is most needed.

Ordinary – but extraordinary. For the birth of every baby is a miracle, which brings joy and hope.

The light that shone in Bethlehem still shines now – sometimes through faith, sometimes through friendship, always through love. As we celebrate again the story of that child's birth, we are reminded that God's light continues to shine, even in the darkest places, and that no darkness – not in the world, nor in our own lives – can overcome it.

As we light candles, look at the tree, or step out under the winter stars, may we see something of that light too – a light that brings hope, warmth, and peace, for this Christmas and the year to come.

With good wishes for a peaceful Advent and a happy Christmas.

*Sarah*

## Notes from St. Andrew's

NOVEMBER began with Milborne praise for All Saints' Day, which included a rousing rendition of "When the Saints go marching in." In the afternoon, we held the annual Service to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. It is one of the most moving services of the year, and a time when we come together as a Benefice to light a candle and remember with thanksgiving those who have meant, and continue to mean, so much to us. Tea and cake were provided afterwards. Thanks to those who made cakes for the occasion.

Remembrance Sunday saw a good  
*Continued on page 13*

## Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 07350414483  
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

### Churchwardens

**Milborne St. Andrew**

Tony Fox 07368 145584

**Dewlish**

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

### Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com  
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## Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne with Dewlish December

### 7th December – Advent 2

9.30am	Milborne Praise	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	BCP Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Dewlish
6.00pm	Carol Service	Tolpuddle

### 14th December – Advent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
3.00pm	Christingle	Milborne
6.00	Carol Service	Puddletown

### MONDAY 15th December

2.30pm	Milborne First School Christmas Service	Milborne
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### THURSDAY 18th December

9.30am	St Mary's CE Middle School Christmas Service	Puddletown
11.00	St Mary's CE Middle School Christmas Service	Puddletown
2.00pm	Puddletown CE First School Christmas Service	Puddletown

### SATURDAY 20th December

6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Milborne
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### 21st December – Advent 4

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
3.00pm	Carol Service	Dewlish

### WEDNESDAY 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

3.30pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle
5.00	Crib Service	Puddletown
10.00	Christmas Eve Holy Communion	Milborne
11.30	Midnight Mass	Puddletown

### THURSDAY 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30	Public Worship with Holy Communion by Extension	Tolpuddle
10.15	Christmas Celebration	Milborne
11.15	Christmas Praise	Puddletown

### 28th December – Christmas 1

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown Church Room
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### DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday – Thursday. 8.30am; Saturday. 9.00am  
On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman  
(sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com) for the link

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*Continued from page 11*

number gather to remember and give thanks for those who gave their lives in war, particularly those with a connection to this village. It was good to have representatives of the Beavers and Cubs present, as well as Finlay in full Naval Uniform. Sarah preached a powerful sermon. Sally and Tony read the lessons, and Pam helped Tony light the candles for each of those on our Roll of Honour. After the Service, nearly 100 people gathered at the Memorial Stone for an Act of commemoration led by Tony, assisted by Sarah. Penny read "In Flanders Fields", and Pam a poem written in 1918 as a response. Rose read the Roll of Honour, and Linda the Kohima Epitaph. Wreaths were laid on behalf of several village organisations and the War Widows Association. On Armistice Day, 11th November, a small group gathered to recall the moment when the "guns fell silent" at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918.

Now our thoughts turn to December, Advent and Christmas. Advent Sunday is November 30th this year, and there will be a Eucharist for the Benefice in Milborne Church at 11.00am, followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

On four Mondays in Advent (1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd of December) there will be a Book group in the Old Chapel from 10.30–12noon. We will use the Bishop of Chelmsford's Advent Book, "Listening to the Music of the Soul", as a basis for discussion. Advent Praise will be held at 9.30am on Sunday, the 7th, and a **Christingle Service** will be held at **3.00pm** on Sunday, the 14th. All are most welcome to come along and make a Christingle, and other Christmas decorations, and have a short act of worship. The Parish eucharist will take place at 9.30am that day, as usual.

Our Christmas Carol Service by candlelight will be held on Saturday, 20th December at 6.00pm. It is always popular, and we invite you to come along and sing some of your favourite Christmas Carols and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Our Christmas Eve Eucharist is at 10.00pm (Midnight, Bethlehem time). There is a later Midnight Mass in Puddletown at 11.30pm, open to anyone. On Christmas Morning, there will be a Service of celebration (Non-Communion) at 10.15am. On the Sunday after Christmas, we meet for a Benefice Eucharist in the Parish Room in Puddletown.

The fact that we celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, at the darkest time of the year, reminds us that no situation is too dark or bleak for the Light to break through. The following poem conveys the wonder of Christmas.

"In the manger, a different scene,  
A light that's both ancient and ever-green.  
The world is hushed in a holy trance,  
While carols weave their joyous dance.  
And through the night, as carols play  
There's Summer and Winter in one day.  
The miracle of a humble birth,  
Brings heaven to earth, and joy to all."

May I, on behalf of the Church family gathered at St. Andrew's, wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Tony (Churchwarden)

## Dewlish Church Notes

WE have just celebrated our Patronal Festival (we are All Saints' Church) and we wish to thank the ladies and Jim for their colourful flower arrangements. Jim led the service of Morning Prayer, with some good, rousing hymns! Thank you, Jim.

December brings us through Advent and into the Christmas period...

The **Carol Service** is on Sunday 21st December at 3.00pm, with the collection being donated to the Children's Society. We hope to have musicians playing, lots of carol singing, and, not least, the children acting out the Nativity, and reading the lessons.

Jim hopes that parents will contact him (Tel: 01258-837466) to let him know whether their children are able to take part. He will be in touch! We shall be serving refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards. Please do come!

Our **Christmas Day Service** is at 9.00am – an early start but we very much hope to see you there nevertheless!

There will be no service at Dewlish on Sunday 28th December; instead, we are invited to a **Benefice Service** at Puddletown at 11.00am.

*Daphne Burgn*

## At last, a good walk

I HAVE been unable to walk for pleasure for some of this year following a knee operation, but now have just managed a most rewarding one. We did the route we refer to as the 'two miler' being the walk, up Coles Lane, across towards the Dewlish road, and back home. The name comes from the old charity run for the school that used that route. It goes out into quiet countryside, past hedgerows and fields and some larger trees, with nearly a view of Corfe Castle in the Purbecks. It was quiet at the beginning but once we were alongside the open fields we stopped for the sound of skylarks above us. After a short while staring upwards we saw three of them soaring above, now visible, now vanished, but always the trilling song. Further on as we passed through the gate on the left we had the sight of a buzzard reaching over the tall hedge to our left. As we followed the path along the field, there were flocks of birds, mostly linnets but also goldfinches and a few long tailed tits. All twittering as they flew up and over the hedges and us as we



linnet

stood and watched them. We stopped on the seat under the trees of the 'Parish Pit, or Taylors Pond. The flat ground was golden brown with leaves from the ash, oak, horse chestnut, lime and whitebeam. No signs of any remnants of hazels as we proceeded towards the village. These nuts are one of the few trees that have not benefitted from this 'mast' year unlike the apples, pears, quinces and our walnut that yielded 14kilos of nuts, excluding the ones the squirrel took. The rain held off and visibility was good so it was a pleasurable bit of exercise.

*Pip Bowell*

# Ann Guy Tribute

ANN GUY (née Mitchell), was born on the 5th February 1953 to parents Dotty (where she got her middle name) and Arthur in Bitterne Southampton. Ann was a twin to her brother Steve, where both siblings were premature, and with Ann being born 15 minutes before Steve. Ann's view of this was that she had the hair and the good looks. Steve's view was that they had a second go in order to achieve perfection, and so the banter continued for the next 72 years.

Life in Southampton was good, with mum and dad both working hard to bring up five children including older brothers Jack and Den, and our older sister, Rosalie. These were the days before central heating and double glazing, so we often woke up in winter mornings with ice on the inside of the windows. Still this made us hard and set us up for life. Sundays were always treat days, with a roast lunchtime, and chocolates in the evening which we ate by the coal fire watching the TV.

Both Ann and Steve went to Bitterne Church of England Primary School which luckily was only about a ten-minute walk from home. After the eleven plus exams, they both went to Itchen College Grammar school, which again was only a ten-minute walk. Ann was being picked on and plagued by a slightly older guy, called Steven Turley who had had a number of warnings from Steve but had chosen to ignore them. So Steve had to take action, and Mr. Turley learned his lesson, problem solved. This was the way it was as the whole family looked after each other, which is still the case today. Ann's speciality at school was cooking and catering with us suffering from the concoctions which she brought home from school for the family to eat and say 'How good they were', whilst counting teeth left.

## Music

Both Ann and Steve were well into music, right from their early days. This became more prevalent in their teens when they started singing folk music as a duo with Steve on guitar. They were well known for their vocal harmonies and finished up singing in folk clubs all around Southampton and at charity events.

This progressed further when the Cutty Wren Folk Club (based at Hythe, Southampton) was formed, with Ann and Steve being resident acts. This really allowed them to progress musically with them appearing on stage at major folk festivals including Sidmouth and Reading, and sharing the stage with the likes of Billy Connolly and Jasper Carrott. It even resulted in them being part of a folk album (Frost Lane), which was a collection of the key acts at the Cutty Wren. The album quoted Ann and Steve "As being one of the most popular folk acts on the Coast. The 18 year-old twins have fine rapport, linked with technical ability and their work is truly beautiful. They go to great lengths to find material which suits not only their style, but also their personal beliefs".



## Track from Frost Lane – 'The Sea' by Fotheringay

When the Mary Rose was raised, Ann and Steve sang the theme tune, written by Rick Keeling, to the BBC programme featuring the event. Eventually they progressed towards folk rock which resulted in them forming a five-piece band called "Nightjar" with Chris on drums, Graham on lead guitar, Steve on bass, and Ann's Steve on rhythm guitar and vocals, with Ann being the lead vocalist. The band performed all over the Southampton and Hampshire areas with one interesting night

in New Milton where Chris decided to end the first set with some flares and red lights to represent the dawn at the end of the song "Stay with me till Dawn" by Judie Tzuke. All went well, until he set off the fireworks, which then filled the pub with smoke and set off all the fire alarms such that the pub had to be evacuated. The second set, when it started and the smoke had cleared, was a bit subdued.



The band doing a set at Southampton University where the harmonies were echoing back off the far wall in the concert hall. Really powerful stuff and exceptionally happy days. When Steve went to university, Ann moved to Woking, progressed to doing musical shows and was a key member with lead parts in a number of amateur music societies.

Ann moved to Woking to pursue her career with British Telecom and was for many years a leading light at Woking Operatic Society where her beautiful voice combined with her great acting ability meant she took many principal roles in shows such as, Showboat, Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, Carousel, Brigadoon and many more.

Whilst at Woking, Ann met Colin and they got married on 4th August 1990 at the Trinity Methodist Church in Woking, which we all remember as it was a very hot day. This brought in a new era for Ann's life where she had another family from





Colin's previous marriage, which included, sons, Ashley and Darren, and her daughter Mandi. Associated with this were grandchildren, Connor, Suzie, Vicki, Jack and Rebeka. She treated them all as part of her own family, taking care of them when she could.

Ann moved with Colin from Woking down to Bracknell with them both running a pet shop which fulfilled Ann's love of animals. After many years, the pet shop was closed, with Ann and Colin moving down to Winterborne Whitechurch in Dorset along with their two dogs, Mitch and Shelly. Ann continued acting with the local drama society and was part of a singing group locally, as well as the hilarious 'Poems and Pies' shows they put on together to entertain us all – who can forget the inimitable rendition of "Rindacella"!

#### **Bulgaria – Mummy Ann**

When Mandi first met Ann she wasn't sure, as Ann was very young for her dad (Colin) and only nine years older than Mandi. But as time went on they blended to a very close relationship with Mandi calling her Mummy Ann. Her memories are so many! Ann was a lady who gave so much, especially to Colin and his family, he was a very lucky man, they all were. Early memories, tons, Mandi worked in their pet shop for quite a while at a low time in her life and to get there Ann and Colin bought her an old Victor car, so low to the ground I could have done an impression of the Flintstones, windows wouldn't stay up even with pieces of wood, so rainy days and a 20 minute journey I turned up like a drowned rat.

When my dad passed we got even closer and Ann became the person I spoke to about life. Ann loved to come to Bulgaria and used to potter around the house. "I'm not getting in the way, am I?" she used to say, with meals out with friends, trips to the local bar, she even helped me do a petsit with a friend Bernie, which was hilarious because "he was the local celebrity, a very eccentric alcoholic – a week" absolutely packed with laughter and he absolutely loved her. She always took Bulgarian honey home, a year's supply till next time. She loved Bulgaria and we loved her visits.

Following the passing of Colin in September 2011, Ann moved to Milborne St. Andrew, going out to crib nights and participating in local activities with her many friends including her trusty Jack Russel, Beth. Unfortunately over the last few years, Ann's health began to fade, but despite the inconvenience and suffering she soldiered on, up to the point where there were too many things wrong. We all miss her company, friendship, love and laughs.



## **MUSIC AT ST PETER'S** Dorchester

THERE is much music to enjoy at St. Peter's Church Dorchester (DT1 1XA) during December! We hope you can join us for some or all of the many fantastic concerts, services and musical events taking place. On Saturday 13th December between 12.30pm and 1.00pm, our Christmas lunchtime concert takes place. The programme comprises one complete work, Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols', performed by vocal consort and harpist Marni Lai. Admission is free and all are very welcome.

On Sunday 14th December at 10.30am there is a service of Choral Eucharist, with some fantastic seasonal music: Schubert's Mass in G as the setting, Judith Weir's 'Drop down ye heavens' as the introit and Philip Stopford's 'There is no rose' as the motet. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards.

The traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place on Saturday 20th December at 4.30pm with glorious choral settings, favourite congregational carols, descants and all the trimmings! The service is free to attend and all are welcome.

Finally, Choral Midnight Mass takes place on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm. This includes Will Todd's beautiful carol 'My Lord has come', the exquisite setting of 'O magnum mysterium' by Morten Lauridsen and Charpentier's 'Messe de minuit', which will be accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. The service is free to attend and all are very welcome.

Keep up with events via our website:

[www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org](http://www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org) or by following us on social media: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/musicatstpetersdorch> – X (Twitter): @musicatstpeter – Instagram @musicatstpetersdorch. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, subscribe through the website or drop us a line at: [musicatstpeters@mail.com](mailto:musicatstpeters@mail.com) All of our social media and contact details can be found at: [linktr.ee/musicatstpeters](http://linktr.ee/musicatstpeters).

John, Liz and baby Ruth  
wish their many friends a very  
Happy Christmas and a  
prosperous New Year for 2026

David and Barbara would like to  
wish their many friends a very  
Happy Christmas and a  
prosperous New Year for 2026

Belinda and Robert wish  
their many friends a very  
Happy Christmas and a  
healthy New Year for 2026



# St Mary's

## CE Middle School Puddletown

*Inspire today to shape tomorrow*



The opening term of the school year has been as action-packed as ever at St. Mary's! These are just a few of the events and activities that have happened during the closing months of 2025.

Year 6 have returned from a four day stay at New Barn Field Centre, located in the beautiful countryside above Bradford Peverell. The children spent the week enjoying an incredible range of fabulous activities, from sports to working with clay, and from learning about the history and geography of Bradford Peverell to making fire, churning butter, grinding wheat to make flour, making Viking Savlon cream, shelter building, analysing Viking tools and artifacts, orienteering, and, last but not least, they got to meet a wide range of animals from tortoises to turkeys! Needless



to say, the children loved every minute of the trip and soon overcame any feelings of homesickness.

Our school community marked Armistice Day with a special remembrance service on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The whole school came together in the hall to remember those who gave their lives in the wars, including the 28 young men from our own Puddletown parish. Each tutor group made poppy wreaths which were laid around the flagpole at the front of the school.

The school has been smelling sweeter than usual this November thanks to visitors from high street chain, Lush. The team from Lush have worked with all our students to give them a fascinating insight into the science that underpins the cosmetics. The students then got the chance to



make their own bath bombs to take home!

We have been focussing on the future at St. Mary's as we offer prospective new families the opportunity to visit our wonderful school. Our big Open Evening is always a terrific event, and this year was no exception. It was fabulous to see so many families come together to explore all the amazing opportunities and experiences that St. Mary's has to offer. The school was buzzing with excited Year 4 children from our local partner schools as well as from schools outside of our immediate area. Parents and children got to meet the staff and participate in a wide range of fun activities across the school. We hope everyone



enjoyed their time with us and got a glimpse of the vibrant community we cherish here at St. Mary's! A huge thank you to the St. Mary's School Association for providing tea, coffee and snacks to keep everyone's energy up! We have also enjoyed showing parents around our school during the school day. We offer several open mornings during the autumn and spring terms that allow families to experience the excitement of a regular school day at St. Mary's. Our next open morning takes place on Thursday 8th January at 9.30am. If you are a parent of a child in Year 4, it would be great to see you on 8th January. Please book a place by emailing or phoning the school office (contact details below).

Thank you for your valued support this year and very best wishes for a relaxing Christmas when it arrives.



### CONTACTS

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

Head of School: Tim Ennion

Chair of Governors: Adrian Whiting

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

e-mail: [office@stmaryscemiddle.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscemiddle.uk)

website: [www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk)

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## A day in my life 6th November 1953 part 1

FRIDAY MORNING – there are lovely frosty patterns on the inside of my bedroom window. I snuggle under the blankets for just one more minute. Then mum is calling, ‘Are you out of bed? Breakfast’s ready!’ Fried egg and fried bread, smashing. ‘Now drink your tea, it’s nice and sweet.’ The kitchen is warm with its coke boiler, but soon I am off to school.

I walk to school; it’s only about half a mile. First I pass the other new council houses. Then down to the main road, not many cars just the trolley buses whizzing up and down. The two trolley poles clip onto very high wires – the excitement when one springs off and the driver has to hook it back on with a long stick – but not today.

I walk past the little parade of shops, the shoe shop, the ironmonger, then the grocer’s – mum takes me in there sometimes when she does her shopping. Sugar is weighed on the big scales and poured into a stiff blue bag, cheese is cut with a wire and wrapped in white paper and other things are put in brown scrunchy bags that Mrs Monroe twirls round and round so it looks like rabbit’s ears at the top. But the best thing is the till. When she presses the keys the drawer flies out with a crash, making all the thrupenny bits and half crowns jingle.

Next along the road comes the prefabs, 24 houses built in about a week, with thin, thin walls but already lots of people are living there. My friend Janice runs out and we walk the rest of the way together.

At school the day always starts with assembly. We sing some hymns and listen to a bible story, we have to be as quiet as mice! Then we go to our classrooms. I am in Mr Stevenson’s class; he is the English teacher. The desks are all in rows facing the front, the tops slope down and open so you can put all your books inside. There is a little ridge for your pencil and a hole with a little white pot in it. Today is a special day – we are going to be allowed to write in ink! Mr Stevenson comes round and fills the little pots with ink from a big bottle, then he gives us each a pen. It’s a wooden stick with a round metal thing pushed on the end, and into that goes the shiny nib. I dip my pen into the ink and try to write – it’s hard, too much ink and you make a blot and you have to be careful not to smudge your writing while the ink is wet. Then if you press too hard you cross the nib and break it. At our playtime at 10 o’clock, the milk monitor goes off to collect our milk. We have a third of a pint each in a glass bottle. On very cold days the milk starts to freeze and the ice on the top pushes off the foil cap. After break we have another lesson; we always stay in one classroom and the teacher comes to us. This time it’s maths. Times tables we learn by heart, saying them over and over again. Mr Smith writes sums on the blackboard in chalk, after the blackboard monitor has cleaned all the old work off. It is very special to be a monitor for anything. I’m not – I talk in class and Mr Smith throws chalk at me!

I hear the bell – lunch time.

*Josie Wright*

*(to be continued)*

### Deadline for the next issue 9th December

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

The Reporter would welcome any new advertisers in this well-read magazine.

## An Eclectic Evening with Hot Fingers

**at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall  
Saturday 29th November, at 7.30pm**

GET ready to tap your toes and swing along as the sensational Hot Fingers bring their irresistible blend of vintage acoustic music to Milborne St Andrew Village Hall.

Frontman Tom ‘Spats’ Langham has been entertaining audiences since his teens, dazzling on tenor banjo, guitar, ukulele and vocals. Over the years, he’s shared the stage with legendary names including The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, The Temperance Seven and Acker Bilk.

Joining him is the incomparable Malcolm Sked on tuba, sousaphone and double-bass, whose world tours with Bob Kerr’s Whoopee Band and The Charleston Chasers have cemented his place in the world of vintage jazz. Completing the line-up are stunning vocalist Emily Campbell and the brilliant Danny Blyth, a true multi-instrumentalist on clarinets, guitar, mandolin and harmonica. Together, they regularly sell out venues up and down the UK.

Expect an unforgettable night of music from the 1920s and 1930s, featuring hot jazz, country blues, gypsy swing, novelty foxtrots, gospel and more—a joyful journey through the golden age of swing.

This event is presented in association with Artsreach.

### Tickets:

**Standard £12.50**

**Under 18s £6**

**Family ticket £35**

Book online at [artsreach.co.uk/event/hot-fingers-1](http://artsreach.co.uk/event/hot-fingers-1) or call 01258 839060 to reserve your seat.

Don’t miss this chance to experience a night of toe-tapping, heart-warming vintage music right here in Milborne St. Andrew!

## SUDOKU

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

No prize, just a bit of fun.

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

## Whizz, Bang! £600 raised for Ladybirds

Wow !!! That was some fireworks display from Connor and Finn in Homefield. What an amazing display that was enjoyed not by just their family but the whole community who could view it from their own doorsteps. Our thanks go to them and the whole community from whom we have received a donation in excess in £600. We are so grateful and honoured to receive this and we will let you know once we have made a decision on what this will buy for the children.



**Milborne Ladybirds**

Is your child aged 2+ and not yet attending preschool?

We have limited places from now to the end of July so please contact us if you are thinking about starting.  
[secretary@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:secretary@milborneladybirds.com) / 07767-450967

If you are looking at starting from September 2026 please drop us a line so we can add you to our waiting list.

You may be eligible for a funded place. To check go to:  
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# Milborne Ladybirds

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Email [secretary@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:secretary@milborneladybirds.com)

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[www.milborneladybirds.com](http://www.milborneladybirds.com)

Registered Charity no. 1087441



# Junior Corner

No prise lust a bit of fun. Answers on page 25

Where is this?



## Junior Quiz

1. How many Kings visited the baby Jesus?
2. Where did the name "Boxing Day" come from?
3. How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?
4. Most other Christian Countries have their big Christmas Meal when?
5. The Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square is a present from which country?

## Riddle

A man is looking at a photograph. When asked who was in the picture he said "Brothers and Sisters have I none but that man's father is my father's son". Who was in the picture?

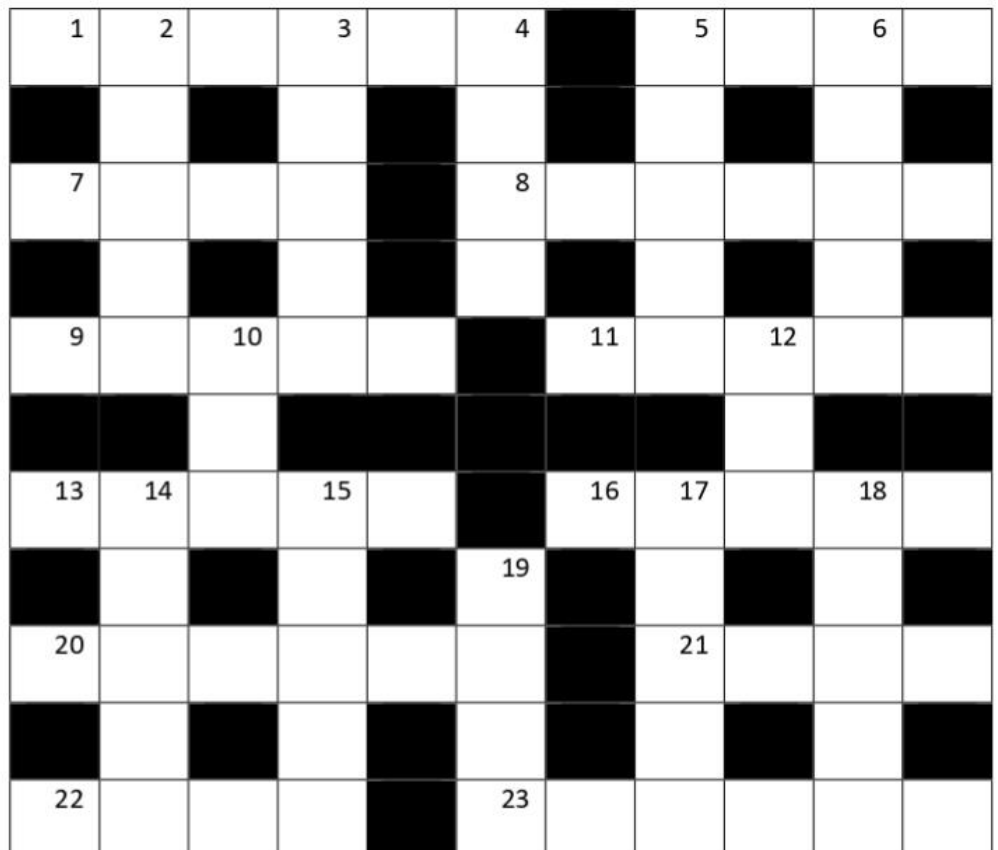
## Junior Crossword – CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1 S. American River
- 5 Metal
- 7 An arm or a leg
- 8 Golfers assistant?
- 9 Food on a stick
- 11 Chilli con \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Male Duck
- 16 Jewish Priest
- 20 West Bromwich \_\_\_\_\_
- 21 Killer of the seas
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Regis
- 23 Tracked transports

### DOWN

- 2 American Corn
- 3 African Equine
- 4 French City
- 5 Asian Country
- 6 Constellation of the Hunter
- 10 Sounding Sheepish
- 12 Steal
- 14 Road car race
- 15 Cutter
- 17 Smell
- 18 Cured Pork
- 19 Unit of Speed at sea



*The Reporter team wish all our readers, distributors, advertisers and all those who contribute to the content of the magazine a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year*

## Please help the editor

Please ensure that your anti-virus software is up to date before e-mailing. Copy should be sent as a Word (or other text file) and do not embed pictures, logos, etc. into the document.

It is really helpful if you send it in 9pt black and do not use underlining, UPPER CASE formatting (even for heading) or include any tables or graphics.

Photos should be sent as separate .jpeg files.

Do not send articles or photographs by .pdf. All these things may seem small but it does make all the difference in time saved later.

# Food traceability from farm to fork

FOOD traceability has become a cornerstone of the UK food industry, ensuring safety, quality, and consumer confidence.

Food traceability involves documenting and verifying each stage of production, processing and distribution. For the UK meat market this means that when farmed livestock such as sheep, cattle and pigs are born, each is given their own identification, such as unique ear tag numbers. All the animal's movements are then recorded throughout its life. When given feed and medicines this too is recorded, so checks can be made to make sure that nothing compromises the safety of the finished product that we eat.

The Dorset Council Trading Standards Animal Health and Welfare Team regularly check livestock keepers to make sure that all necessary records are kept. When on farm they also check on the welfare of the livestock to ensure that they are fit and healthy and are kept in suitable conditions.

In other areas of food production, the Animal Health and Welfare Team carry out checks on arable farms to make sure herbicides and pesticides are used safely, and also to check that the finished products are stored in a safe environment, so preventing any chance of contamination.

Advanced technologies like blockchain and radio frequency identification tags are increasingly being used to enhance food traceability. These tools allow real-time tracking and can provide consumers with detailed information about the meat they buy. Consumers can scan QR codes on some meat packaging to view its full history. This helps people make more informed choices, supporting local farmers or opting for ethically sourced products.



The importance of traceability became clear during past food safety crises, such as the horsemeat scandal and more recently with animal feed contaminated with botulism. These incidents showed the importance for robust systems to maintain trust in the food supply chain.

## Wednesday Club notes

OUR meeting on 5th November was different as we gathered in a semi circle – seated of course – to watch a hands on demonstration from our own Angie Clarke and Lin Chatfield of some very individual Christmas decorations. They are both well known for their flower arrangements in church but this was different. Although it was mostly greenery, this came from either the hedgerows or foliage from their gardens. They decorated frames, using moss, holly, berries, pine cones, teasel heads and leaves then adding some small candles and a little sparkle. They also brought oranges pierced with cloves, which made a lovely Christmassy smell. A really enjoyable meeting.

Next month will be our Christmas meal at the golf club, it will be on Thursday 4th December, gathering at the village hall car park at 12.15pm.

**Deadline for the next issue 9th December**

Would you like to be part of the team that produces a valued community asset? Yes, we're looking for new people to join our friendly group at the **Reporter** and help to run the village magazine that has served Milborne for the last 16 years. Are you interested in helping us continue on into the future with commitment and maybe some fresh ideas? It could also be the ideal opportunity for you to add some experience to your CV.

So how about it? We'd love to have you aboard!

If you'd like to get involved or just to know a little more, then get in touch with editor, David Payne, or email

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



 **The Milborne Players Present** 

# Sinbad in Space

Written by Ron Karley

12th, 13th, 14th  
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For more information visit [www.milborneplayers.org.uk](http://www.milborneplayers.org.uk)



# A Letter of Thanks

Dear Villagers,

I am sure many of you, like me, were shocked and saddened to hear of the untimely resignation of our wonderful first school Head Teacher Michelle Cheeseman. I wanted to publicly acknowledge the fantastic work that she did in her role whilst at the school making such a significant contribution to the lives of village families. I feel it is only fitting to share some of her outstanding achievements here having seen the school grow over the past 10 years as a parent and now ex-chair of FOS.

Michelle started at the school as a class teacher for my older daughter in her final year at Milborne, at the time, my youngest was in year 1. Except, this was 2020 and lockdown was imposed in March. Michelle had to carefully navigate her way through, nurturing the children via online learning, ensuring they stayed interested and that when they returned it was to a welcoming, supportive atmosphere. This she did in spades! Her creative, enthusiastic and caring approach allowed the pupils to flourish despite the lockdown difficulties.

Throughout the next academic year, Michelle continued to provide stable, nurturing schooling creating fantastic online resources and often, undoubtedly, putting Milborne first, despite having 3 children of her own experiencing lockdown schooling and all its joys! When the school learned she had secured the headship after the prior more corporate approach, parents were fully behind her and governors and the MAT knew she would be an excellent leader in our community.

Immediately, Michelle reached out to the families at the school and at Ladybirds, paving the way for an inclusive, open and determined new direction. She championed Eco schools, the Harmony curriculum and achieved one of the greatest developments in the 10 years I was a parent – enabling Ladybirds to move to a permanent classroom at school. This secured the setting as the go-to place for all our village children from 2-9 and saved our brilliant little school, I am sure, from being at risk of closure due to falling roll. Numbers had steadily declined since 2015 and with Michelle's leadership and positive community ethos, visits to look around school were frequent and pupils transferred from other schools on the strength of her ambitious changes.

Michelle held community events, made sure the school was represented locally, forged amazing relationships with Puddletown middle school and, as previously mentioned, Ladybirds. Not to mention the continuing and fostering of the partnership with the church and local charity Mosaic. Milborne was alive with learning, wonderful visits and enrichment, something our village children so vitally needed after those long months of no social interaction or outdoor play. Children at the school flourished.

Michelle secured funding for a refurbishment to the



library, improved core subject curricula, revamped the fire circle and forest school area and also DT provision finding previously hidden away children's tools in a bid to catch up on fine motor skills and bring learning outside. Her endless positivity and passion for teaching bore through and it was as recently as this year in July when my middle daughter's cohort left Puddletown that I believe I witnessed one of Michelle's proudest moments. We were at the Young Leaders Assembly show casing the amazing work the Puddletown y8 pupils do for charities towards this prestigious award and she was sat near me. As the awards

were read out, for the entire cohort of 4 year 8 classes at Puddletown, from several feeder first schools, her year 4 class of old Milborne's took centre stage! The top prize went to an old Milborne student and Michelle turned to me and said something along the lines of 'This is why I do this, brilliant, just brilliant!' She was so very proud of them all.

I know am definitely not alone in wishing to express my sadness and dismay at her resignation. We have lost an inspiring, thoughtful and above all caring community leader and we must all now thank her for the amazing service she has given to our village children. I sincerely hope she is not lost to the profession.

In the past 4 years, I have known 3 Head teachers (including Michelle) who have sadly resigned. On Radio 4 recently on the 12/11 on PM, Martha Lane-Fox, founder of Lastminute.com and current president of the British Chamber of Commerce said 'We are living in a culture where accountability has morphed into instant annihilation. Yes, leaders must be accountable...but the speed at which scrutiny turns into spectacle is breathtaking'. This was in reference to resignations happening alarmingly quickly in public institutions. Unfortunately third time around I cannot help agreeing with Baroness Lane-Fox. I wonder – who is going to want to lead our schools in the coming years?

Whatever she turns her capable hand to, I am sure Michelle will continue to be a positive role model. If I am half the person she is; I will be truly thankful. With very best wishes for the future and the highest regard – GOOD LUCK Michelle!

Thank-you all for taking the time to read this. If you need any further information as to why I felt it necessary to write this, you need only search for:

\* This Ofsted report from 2023: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50221415>

\* The Dorset Echo archive for articles about Milborne First School

\* Or (before it is all changed and updated) do have a look at the brilliant revamped Milborne First School Website all of which reflect her wonderful years at Milborne.

Kate O'Kelly  
Former Milborne First School parent and ex FOS and Ladybirds committee member.



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# Balancing Paid Work with Caring

JUGGLING work and caring responsibilities can be challenging, but there are steps you can take to make it easier. You're doing an incredible job balancing both, and there's support out there to help.

## Does Your Employer Know About Your Caring Role?

Many Carers are surprised to learn that they have rights at work. Your employer may already have support in place, like a Carers Policy or a designated Carers lead who can offer advice. It's worth having a conversation with your line manager or HR team to see what support is available to you.

## Your Legal Rights at Work

As an unpaid Carer, you have several important rights to help balance your work and caring duties:

- Carer's Leave Act 2023: Employees can take one week of unpaid leave per year to care for someone with long-term care needs. Many employers choose to make this paid leave.
- Dependant Rights: You're entitled to unpaid time off for emergencies involving dependants, such as a spouse, child, or someone you care for.
- Parental Rights: If you're a parent, you can take up to 18 weeks of unpaid parental leave to care for your child.
- Flexible Working: You have the right to request flexible working, such as adjusting your hours, working from home, or changing your work pattern to fit your caring responsibilities. This is a great way to make your work-life balance more manageable.

## Tips for Talking to Your Employer

Talking to your employer about your caring role might concern you, but it's an important step in getting the support you need. Here are some tips to make the conversation a little easier:

**Take Time to Prepare:** It can be helpful to write down your care responsibilities and how they affect your work. This will make it easier to explain your situation clearly.

- Know Your Rights: Understanding your rights at work can help you feel more confident. We offer Carer's Rights and Carer's Rights at Work sessions to support you in this.
- Choose the Right Person and Time: Speak to your line manager or HR and find a time when you can have a quiet, uninterrupted conversation.
- Be Honest and Open: Sharing personal information can feel hard and is totally your choice, but remember if they can understand your situation, they are more likely to know how to help.
- Work Together on Solutions: Think about practical adjustments that could help, such as flexible hours or working from home.
- Ask for Support: Let your employer know how they can support you—whether it's understanding your need for flexibility or helping you access resources for Carers.

Feeling nervous is completely normal. Sharing personal information can be hard, but starting this conversation is a key step towards creating a supportive work environment.

## Share Helpful Resources

You can also share helpful resources with your employer, such as:

- Forward Carers: provide advice and support for Employers and train staff to become Carer workplace Champions. The next sessions are available here at Calendly
- Carers UK: Their website offers key information on your rights at work.

Remember, many employers are becoming more aware of the challenges Carers face and want to help. You don't have to do this alone, and there is support available to make this balance a little easier.



## Advertise in the *Reporter* and get results

This publication relies on advertisers to pay for all production costs. If you reply to one of our advertisements, please mention that you saw it in the Milborne St. Andrew *Reporter*

A poster for a performance by Sarah McQuaid. The top half features her name 'SARAH McQUAID' in a large, white, hand-drawn style font. Below her name, it says 'Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Ards International Guitar Festival'. The middle section shows a photograph of Sarah McQuaid, a woman with long brown hair, sitting cross-legged on a wooden floor, looking thoughtfully to the side. To the right of the photo, there are two quotes: 'Her subtle mastery onstage launches her straight into my fave shows ever.' from the Huffington Post, and 'One of the most instantly recognisable voices in current music... Shades of Joni Mitchell in a jam with Karen Carpenter and Lana Del Rey.' from Trust The Doc. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the photo area. The bottom section of the poster is a white box containing the text: 'MILBORNE ST ANDREW VILLAGE HALL', 'Sunday 25 January, 7:30pm', '£12.50, £6 (u18s), £35 (family)', 'online at artsreach.co.uk', and 'or Tel: 01258 839255'. It also mentions 'Bar, Refreshments &amp; Ice Creams available'. Logos for Artsreach, Arts Council England, and Dorset Council are at the bottom right.

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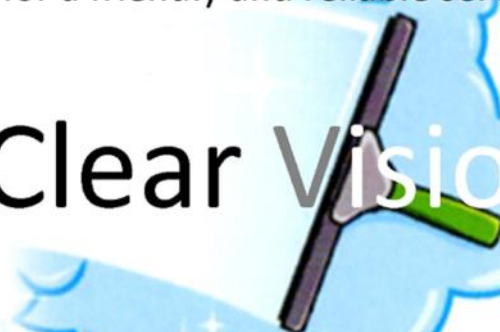
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bringing some Christmas cheer again  
this year assisted by Rudolph the  
reindeer and his elf.

Santa and his helpers will be visiting on  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

and we will be collecting donations for  
**Ducks and Drakes Cancer Trust**  
so please be generous!

**See him in Milborne at  
6.35pm at the Village Hall  
and 6.45pm at the school**

*(Timings are approximate)*

Listen out for the bells!

## What's on in December

<b>Thursday 4th</b>	<b>Wednesday Club</b> Christmas lunch meet Village Hall 12.15pm.
<b>Friday 5th</b>	<b>Bridge</b> The Royal Oak 2.30pm.
<b>Tuesday 9th</b>	<b>Deadline</b> for the December <i>Reporter</i> . Send your articles and photographs via email to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Team.
<b>Thursday 11th</b>	<b>WI</b> Christmas meeting Village Hall 7.30pm.
<b>Saturday 13th</b>	<b>Community Café</b> Village Hall 10.00am to midday.
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	<b>#Willdoes charity Christmas tractor run</b> through the village.
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	<b>Canzonetta at Christmas</b> St. Mary's Church, Winterborne Whitechurch 3.00pm.
<b>Monday 15th</b>	<b>Carols at Christmas</b> Wimborne Methodist Church 7.00pm – see page 27.
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	<b>Candelit Carol Service</b> St. Andrew's church 6.00pm.
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> St. Peters church Dorchester 4.30pm.
<b>Tuesday 24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Holy Communion</b> 10.00pm
<b>Wednesday 25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day Celebration</b> 10.15am St. Andrew's church.

## What's on in January

<b>Wednesday 7th</b>	<b>Wednesday Club</b> Village Hall 2.00pm.
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	<b>Sarah McQuaid</b> Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 23.

### Junior Corner Answers

**Where is it** – Portland Bill Lighthouse

### Quiz

3. Presents (in boxes) were not opened on 25th which was a religious day and not a day for enjoyment. They were therefore opened the following day – Boxing Day.
- 9 – Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and of course Rudolph!
- Christmas Eve in the Evening
- Norway

**Riddle** - Himself

A	M	A	Z	O	N		I	R	O	N
	A		E		I		N		R	
L	I	M	B		C	A	D	D	I	E
	Z		R		E		I		O	
K	E	B	A	B		C	A	R	N	E
		A						O		
D	R	A	K	E		R	A	B	B	I
	A		N		K		R		A	
A	L	B	I	O	N		O	R	C	A
	L		F		O		M		O	
L	Y	M	E		T	R	A	I	N	S

### Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

**Players** Monday 7.00pm weekly.  
**Move It Or Lose It** Tuesday 10.15am.  
**Line Dancing** Tuesday 7.30pm weekly.  
**Wednesday Club** 2.00pm 1st Wednesday monthly.  
**Yoga** Thursday 3.30pm weekly (term time only).  
**Karate** Thursday 5.10pm weekly.  
**Women's Institute** 7.30pm 2nd Thursday monthly.  
**Gardening Club** 7.30pm 3rd Thursday monthly.  
**Artsreach Events** – look out for the posters.  
 Check the Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

### Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

**Pilates** Monday 6.30–7.30pm.  
**Yoga** (Iyengar) Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm.  
**Stitchcraft** (kids) Wednesday 4.15–5.15pm and 5.30–6.30pm,  
 Thursday 4.00–5.00pm  
**Surgery Wellbeing Papercraft Group** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
 1.30–3.30pm.  
**Sewcial Crafters** (adults) Thursday 1.00–3.00pm and  
 5.30–7.30pm  
**Yoga** (Mellulah) 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.

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# Community Contacts

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

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

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

### Dewlish Village Hall

Chairman:	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall		
Chairman:	Linsey O'Neill	07798 720812
Booking Secretary:	Susan Poet	07866 313999
MSA Sports & Social Club	Bookings: Philip Smith	07776 561105

## 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,

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**Flooding:** Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188

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

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

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

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

## GENERAL — ADULT

Bellringers	Robin Mears	01305 848021
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
Wednesday Social Club	Josie Wright	01258 839090
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471732

## GENERAL — YOUTH

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Denise Saunders	07483 857613
Milborne Ladybirds	Samantha Mercer	07767 450967

## POLICE

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

Contact us | Dorset Police Online is dealt with in exactly the same way as non-emergency 101 phone calls.

## SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Head of School	Michelle Cheeseman	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Paul Tasker	
Friends of School Chair:	Kate O'Kelly	
St. Mary's Puddletown	Tim Ennion	01305 848293

## 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

### Hardy Country Bowmen

Circuit training

Cricket – Dewlish

Karate

Move it or lose it

Pilates (school)

Football – Milborne Sports

Football – Veterans

Skittles – Dewlish

Tap Dancing for Adults

Tennis

Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)

Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)

Yoga (at Village Hall)

### Pam Shults

01258 837203

## SPORT

### Mike Healy

01300 342134

### Grace Martin

01305 213885

### Elaine Kellaway

01258 837696

### Peter Thompson

07873 116118

[wessexmartialarts@gmail.com](mailto:wessexmartialarts@gmail.com)

### Pippa Thurgood

07545 241291

### Claire Barratt

07703 648869

### Kelvin Dormer-Woolley

07544 725855

### Paul David

07841 506839

### Simon Ross

01258 837606

### Kevin Selby

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### Rich Hawker

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### Sue Chapman

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### Saira Francis

01258 880505

### Angela Johnson

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### Milton Abbas Surgery

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### Puddletown Surgery

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Brie & Cranberry Sandwich Finger

Beef & Caramelised Onion Sandwich Finger

Cheddar & Onion Tartlet

Festive Sausage Roll

Maple Bacon & Parmesan Scone

Lemon Scone with Ginger Curd

Pistachio & Dark Chocolate Profiterole

Rum & Raisin Cake

Salted Caramel Brownie

Stollen Shortbread

Mini Mince Pie

Pot of Dorset Tea

**£19.50**