



Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 1 Issue 1

February 2009

Milborne St. Andrew

Massive support for saving the Royal Oak

There was standing room only in the village hall at the meeting to see if a consortium of villagers might buy the Royal Oak. More than 120 people attended the meeting that was organised by the Parish Council on behalf of the village community.

The Royal Oak closed almost three months ago and is being sold by Hall and Woodhouse with a price tag of £380,000. The asking price does not include the car park or fixtures and fittings but "in the present economic climate everything is negotiable" said Councillor Simon Curtis who led the meeting.

Mr Curtis added "As a village we need to decide should we just sit back and let the tide wash it away and be powerless. Or do we want a pub in our village, and if so can you put your money where your mouth is?" It is estimated that at least half a million pounds will be needed to get the pub up and running again and the plan is that villagers would buy shares of at least £250 to raise the money. It was explained that investors in similar projects in other villages contributed around £5,000 each.

Tony Dyer raised the question about what sort of pub the village actually wants. "Will villagers support a Gastro pub, should it be set up to be attractive to families, should it be a traditional 'local' concentrating on drink sales?" he asked. Other villagers asked whether or not the building was structurally sound. If not, the purchase price might reflect only a fraction of the cost of reopening the pub.

By the end of the meeting over 100 people had signed up to financially supporting the idea. A working group has been set up, under the stewardship of John Kane, to take things forward. A report of their first meeting is on page 14 of this edition of the Reporter.

A second public meeting is planned for Wednesday February 25th at 6.30 at the village hall. At this meeting potential investors will be asked to complete "pledge forms" to indicate the level of financial support available they are willing to make. We understand that the pledges will be non-binding but will be used to gauge the real level of support for a pub in our village. John Kane can be contacted on 07968 143126.



Twenty-five years and still making funds for Milborne School

The twenty-fifth annual Milborne Ten Mile and Fun Run took place on Sunday 11 January. 296 runners set off up Milton Road on a cold Sunday morning, but only four runners took part in the Two Mile run. This will probably be the last Two Mile run, unless it is run under another banner and not under AAA Rules.

First home in a time of 53.08 was Lee Rodriguez of Poole Runners, followed by George Miller also of Poole Runners just 43 seconds later, Third home from Yeovil Olympiads was Tristan Cooper in 55.45.

First lady home was Rachael Elliott of Team Kennet in the time of 62.52. In second place was Dawn Broomrom from Holmfirth Harriers in 65.01 and third place went to Christine Thomas of Poole Runners in 66.11.

Milborne's only runner, James Park clocked in at 81.30. Start training now for 2010 and lets see more Milborne runners, like we did a few years ago.

The Two mile run was won by Connor Pullen.

The runs have been organised by John Mills and his family for the past 10 years and all the profits from all 25 Runs have been given to Milborne First School. Photos show local runners Connor Pullen (left) and James Park (right).

Full results can be found on www.milbornestandrew.org.uk



Exit the Messenger, enter the *Reporter*

from the Reporter Team

WHEN Geoff Hodgson announced last autumn that he was planning to "retire" as editor of the Messenger he called a public meeting at the Sports Club. Half a dozen people attended the meeting and Geoff told us about the job of running a free community magazine. Three of us (now members of the *Reporter* team) met a few days later with some friends to see if we might take over the Messenger.

It was clear, right from the start, that costs would have to be cut if the Messenger was to survive. We investigated other ways of printing the magazine and found that we could both cut costs and improve the presentation by sharing the modern printing facilities of a neighbouring village. We made a decision to do just that.

The MSA Messenger was in the second year of a five-year contract for its printing machine with thousands of pounds of liabilities. The team was unwilling to take on these liabilities and, after taking legal advice, it became clear that we would have to distance ourselves completely from the MSA Messenger – The Milborne St. Andrew *Reporter* was born.

Starting afresh also meant that we would have no financial assets and so we applied to the Parish Council for a grant to allow us to start up. At the Parish Council meeting on 7th January the *Reporter* team was awarded a start-up grant of £250.00 to cover the printing costs of the first edition and the purchase of paper and other sundries. We expect advertising to pay the full cost of producing the *Reporter* within a month or two. As with the Messenger, all the work to produce the *Reporter* will be done by volunteers.

Footnote

Mr Hodgson has told the *Reporter* team that the contract for the machine is with the "Milborne St Andrew and Dewlish Messenger" and that lease payments come from the Messenger's own bank account. When the Messenger ceases to operate, Siemens – the company which leases the machine to the Messenger – will, as major creditor, have first claim on any money in the Messenger bank account. The *Reporter* team understands that the Messenger retains £700 in its bank account and that Mr Hodgson plans to continue paying the lease on the printing machine until July.

A note about money . . . and advertisements

THE Milborne St. Andrew *Reporter* is distributed free of charge to every household in Milborne St Andrew and quite a few households beyond. Each issue costs about £170 to produce and this money is raised by charging local businesses to advertise. We need about half the space in the *Reporter* to be used for advertisements to cover our costs.

If you contact one of our advertisers do tell them that you saw their advertisement in the *Reporter*.

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Back page £200.00 per annum

Community events at the Village Hall will be advertised free of charge

Other community events at half the above rates

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

reporter.ads@milbornestandrew.org.uk

Advertisers will also be listed in the Business Directory at

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

LOGS

£55.00 per load

contact

Mark Revell

Milborne St. Andrew

837 536

Wednesday Social Club New Years Party

WE had a very enjoyable afternoon at the village hall. We thought the cakes were never-ending! One thing we were puzzled about – we could not find any plates! We eventually found a few and managed to feed everyone!

Deana gave us a few wonderful songs and some of us even joined in! We had a competition based on "Who's Who" around the room, and a "brainteaser" questionnaire on the tables.

We had so much food that everybody went home with a "doggy bag" with many smiles on happy faces!

We hope everybody enjoyed themselves and hope to see a lot more people at our next meeting on the first Wednesday in February when Peter Robinson will give us a talk on precious gemstones. We hope this will interest you and encourage you to come along!

Eve Richardson

100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date – Monday 5th Jan 2009

1st prize £100 Richard Crisp

2nd prize £50 Val Hodges

3rd prize £36 Shirley Dunkley

Drawn approximately every 5 weeks

Next draw – Monday 16th Feb

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the *Reporter* team .

Your *Reporter* Team

Debbie Bennion, Ed Frost, Sue Gould, Heather V. Hogg
Margo Kirk, David Payne and Marion Regan.

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Copy for the next issue MUST be received by the 21st of this month

Enquiries and copy to: reporter@milbornestandrew.org.uk
E-copy as MS Word .doc, pictures as .jpg or .pdf files please
Paper copy to Sue Gould at 28 Stileham Bank DT11 0LE

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Information or eyesore?

From the Parish Council Meeting

THE multitude of posters pinned and stapled to telegraph poles around our village are an eyesore. That is the view of some villagers. "They make our village look untidy and should not be allowed" said one resident at the Parish Council meeting. "How else will we find out what's happening in the village?" was another villager's response.

All too often those who were organising and advertising local events were angered to find that their new posters had been removed by others.

Information or eyesore? Tell the Reporter what you think.



Road works imminent

From the Parish Council Meeting

THE re-alignment of the pavements at the junction of Milton Road and the A354 is to go ahead within the next few weeks. The painted curves and spots on the road have allowed an informed public consultation to be carried out.

Despite some opposition, villagers feel that the safety of pedestrians, especially school children, is the most important consideration. The new layout will allow pedestrians crossing to the south side of the village a view of traffic approaching from both directions. At the moment it is necessary to step out into the road to see and be seen by traffic coming down Dorchester Hill.

It's good to see action being taken before anyone is hurt.

Enter your team in the Village Quiz

THE village quiz will be held this year in the Village Hall on Saturday March 14th starting promptly at 7.00 p.m. Last year's winners, the W.I. will be setting the questions and ensuring fair play and we hope to welcome as many teams as we can fit tables into the hall. The charge will be £2 per person, 4 people to a team.

There will be teas and coffee available, but if you want to, bring a bottle of something more exciting, we can provide glasses. The Village Quiz is for FUN (plus a valuable trophy!) and the questions will be designed for a wide range of interests and knowledge, so **don't be shy** - family teams, neighbourhood teams, work colleagues or scratch teams of individuals who just want to join in are all welcome.

Shirley Dunkley



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DEWLISH CHURCH NOTES

WE were so lucky to have a mild and fairly fine evening when a sizeable group of us went Carol Singing round the village. A total of £203.67 was donated, and this money has been given to Shelter. Thank you to all those who sang and who donated so generously, with special thanks to Andrew and Hayley Killingback and to John and Dianne at The Oak for providing such delicious refreshments.

The Church was decorated beautifully for Christmas, with holly and candles, a splendid Christmas tree and the (nearly) life-size Nativity Scene. The Carol service, for which there was a packed Church, was delightful with our young people reading and performing so well. Thank you to all who took part, to the band, organists and Lesley, but especially to Jim Burg, who worked so hard in arranging it all. The collection of £120 was sent to the Children's Society.

Please note that we have a Candlemas Songs of Praise at 6 pm on 1 February. There will be no 11 am Morning Prayer on that day.

Daphne Burg

Church Contacts

Vicar	Benny Hazlehurst	01305 848216
	Sarah Godfrey	01305 839068
	Church Wardens	
Milborne St Andrew	Eva Stockley	01258 837468
	Pat Tribe	01258 837684
Dewlish	Jim Burg	01258 837466
	Sue Britton	01258 837218

www.milbornestandrewchurch.org.uk

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**THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE AND MILBORNE WITH DEWLISH
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Dear Friends

Few people can have remained unmoved by the pictures and news reports coming out of Israel and Gaza during the past few weeks. The sight of such suffering and fear in such an intractable situation is difficult to bear, with each side, Israel and Hamas, determined to destroy the other whatever the cost. And in the midst of the horror, the young learn to hate, and extremists are born and nurtured.

It can be easy to despair faced with such an impossible situation – to give up any hope of change.

But in the midst of this conflict and the other conflicts which it helps fuel around the Middle East, there are people who refuse to accept that this suffering has to continue unabated. There are those who refuse to be drawn into the vicious circle of hate and violence, and instead work for peace & justice against all the odds.

There are Palestinians who recognise Israel's right to exist and Israeli Jews who campaign for the rights of Palestinians. There are the UN workers, determined to stay to help feed the hungry and supply medicine to hospitals despite the shelling and constant air attacks.

And in the midst of the constant turmoil of the Middle East, there is an English Anglican priest who somehow manages to cross the boundaries that so divide peoples, tribes and religious groups in that war torn part of the world. Many of you will have heard of him – he is affectionately known to many as the Vicar of Baghdad, because of his role in leading **St George's Anglican Church in that city** – but his role is much wider than that. After spending **some years as the Archbishops' envoy to the Middle East**, *Canon Andrew White* formed FRRME (The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East) in 2005, and is constantly shuttling around the region talking to Muslims and Jews, Shia and Sunni, Palestinians and Israelis, Rabbis and Imams, governments and terrorists. Somehow, the doors of the most hardened opponents remain open to him, and somehow he retains a hope for the future and a love for all those involved which survives all the violence and hatred we see day after day.

Such people need our support and encouragement, as they work to achieve the impossible, and I am delighted that within this Benefice, the money raised from Lent Lunches **in Puddletown this year will go to support FRRME and Andrew's work. They will take place on every Monday during Lent in Puddletown Village Hall starting on the 2nd March, and all are welcome. There will be information about FRRME and Andrew's work on display, as well as a good lunch for a good cause.**

In the meantime, more information about Andrew and FRRME can be found on their website www.frrme.org

God Bless & Keep You, and all those who work for peace in this war-torn world.

SUNDAY SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2009

1st February (Candlemas)

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.30am Family Service Tolpuddle

9.30 Family Communion Milborne

11.00 Holy Communion Puddletown

With Sunday Seekers & Creche

6.00pm Candlemas Songs of Praise Dewlish

THURSDAY 5th February

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Milborne

8th February

3rd Sunday before Lent

8.15am 1662 said Communion Service Puddletown

9.30 1662 Morning Prayer Tolpuddle

9.30 Parish Communion Milborne

11.00 Family Service Puddletown

11.00 Family Communion Dewlish

THURSDAY 12th February

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Puddletown

15th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

9.30am Family Communion Tolpuddle

9.30 1662 Said Communion Milborne

11.00 1662 Morning Prayer Puddletown

11.00 Holy Communion Dewlish

4.00pm Milborne Valentine Praise! Milborne V Hall

THURSDAY 19th February

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Dewlish

22nd February

The Sunday before Lent

9.30am Holy Communion Tolpuddle

9.30 1662 Parish Communion Milborne

11.00 Family Communion Puddletown

With Creche & Sunday Seekers

11.00 Family Service Dewlish

25th February – Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Benefice Service Milborne

THURSDAY 26th February

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Tolpuddle

CHURCH CLEANING – w/e Sat

Feb 7 – Pat Tribe + Mary Bennett

Feb 14th – Sue Lucas + Carolyn Martin

Feb 21st – Margaret Hurley + Eva Stockley

Feb 28th – Elizabeth Walker + Pat Bull

MILBORNE ST ANDREW CHURCH NOTES

THE Christmas period really began for us on 21st December with the Christingle service. This was very well supported and, as well as the Christingles being given out, the knitted sheep were re-united with their flock around the Holy Family. This year the Nativity set was given a home for one night by 21 families, each keeping back a sheep and bringing it to the service.

By Christmas Eve the church was looking truly festive with decorations in red, green and gold which had been produced by our loyal team of flower arrangers. The Christmas tree was set up and beautifully decorated by Shirley Jackson. The number of communicants at Midnight Mass was almost double

that of last year while the Family service on Christmas morning was also well supported.

With Christmas over we now look forward to the future and wonder if there is anyone interested in becoming a Lay Pastoral Assistant? Details of an LPA course have been circulated to all on the Church electoral roll but it is open to anybody. Sessions will be run on Wednesday evenings in Puddletown Church Room. By the time this is published the “taster” session will have passed, but that need not prevent anyone from joining. If you are interested, please contact Benny Hazlehurst (01305 848216).

Pat Tribe



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Horticultural Society Report

MEMBERS of the Horticultural Society are looking forward to another year of interesting visits and monthly talks on growing plants in containers, hanging baskets and the vegetable garden, selecting plants for new building developments, and a talk on the English landscape by Paul Atterbury (of BBC's Antiques Road Show fame). We elected a new committee at the AGM in November and we will be pleased to welcome anyone thinking of joining us at any of our meetings.

Annual subscriptions of £10 are now due and entitle members to a number of benefits when buying seeds, materials and equipment for the garden. Don't be put off by our name! Few of us think of ourselves as horticulturists; most just enjoy doing things in our gardens.

John Wright

Wed like to
talk to you
about cheeses.



Church Mice.

CAN ANYONE HELP?

Several members of the cleaning team at St. Andrews Church are going into hospital and may be out of action for a while.

We still need one or two volunteers to provide

temporary, occasional cover for these absences.

Contact Rose on 837921

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"Thoughts from the Funnel"

Personal recollections of 25 annual Milborne "Fun Runs"

HERE he comes! The first runner came into view. I checked the watches for the umpteenth time, glanced to make sure Alan (Alan Herridge the then MSA Head teacher) was ready and mentally crossed my fingers.

It was 30th December 1984 "What were we doing and why?"

Well it started after three local runners (Simon Foote, Bob Brown and John Milman) ran the 1983 London Marathon. The idea to hold "2" and "10" mile runs, to encourage fitness, involve the community but mainly raise money for the School, was born.

Through the "Friends of the School" and beyond, the organisation gradually took off as more and more issues arose. These included sponsorship, prizes, marshals, course layout, medals, certificates, drink stations, posters, advertising, Police, first aiders, signs, lead and following vehicles, parking, registration, starting and so on and on

I was involved with the organisation when, and I still believe it was said as a joke as I had recently completed an ASA swimming timekeepers exam, I was asked to be the race timekeeper!

We had decided that, like the Marathon, every runner would get a chocolate bar, but then came beer and other beverages, hot dogs, soup and prizes galore, the logistics were going well but could we organise a "race"? Experienced runners in the "10" would expect a well organised event.

The support and goodwill from the village was amazing, particularly as from scratch, the marshals were recruited and assigned. I still don't know how it all came together but it did.

As James Graham from Ferndown crossed the "line" I called his time, Alan wrote it down, a cloakroom ticket was thrust at James and his running number taken.

A Result! It worked and still does 24 years later!

From the front of the funnel I've seen many sights, usually tired, happy, proud, often sore and cold people achieving, or not, personal goals. So what is the attraction of these modest races in a small Dorset

village often in foul weather just after Christmas?

It's friendly, the "10" is a challenging course, there is clear enthusiasm but mainly, as always, it comes down to the people involved.

Sadly as the "2" mile race declines, numbers this year down to 4 from over 100 when it started, the "10" goes from strength to strength with 296 running this year, the highest number ever.

So it has changed, but it's been good to be part of, and I believe the village can be proud of this Milborne success.

I raise a glass to all those people who are or have been involved, may the event continue for another 25. I just wish the glass

could be raised in a village pub as I have after many Milborne runs over the years – but that's another story!

Some more personal recollections through wet or frozen rose-tinted spectacles:

- ⑦ of the event being held just after Christmas, usually the first Sunday I believe, and the excesses of the season still evident
- ⑦ of the event assembling in the Royal Oak car park, of a large numbers of runners and spectators and a "crammed" pub
- ⑦ of consistently over 100 runners in the "2" including the very young, the elderly, walkers, pram pushers, people striving

Tom Leech, headmaster of our local school (above) and Tony Chutter, who used to live in the village have both competed in most of the 25 runs



and running as hard as they could, others strolling and talking, a very eclectic mix

- ⑦ of the "10" mile course being changed to "all tarmac" after some runners complained about their best running shoes being used on a small muddy cross country section

- ⑦ of the dwindling number of spectators as every year less "locals" run in the "2 mile"

- ⑦ of homemade signs, fly away cups, perennial parking and toilet capacity problems!

- ⑦ of smiling, bubbly people at the start, often ashen, quiet and exhausted later

- ⑦ of "Parsley the Spaniel" who ran for a number of years, entry paid, he wore a running number and ate his Mars Bar, always having a better time than his master and beating him by a "lead"

- ⑦ of runners who cycled from Poole, ran and cycled home when triathlon was generally unknown

- ⑦ of runners with more enthusiasm than ability, and the finishing team having to stay well beyond the prize ceremony, after the "race set-up" had been dismantled and everyone else had gone

- ⑦ of rain so hard that we all sheltered in a horse-box at the finish not venturing out

- ⑦ of the year my main stopwatch failed and the backup was needed, that "heart stopping" moment seeing a dead watch still makes me shudder.



Richard Pearce who has been the official timekeeper at every "Fun Run"

Richard Pearce

ABBEY SWIMMING CLUB

The Club is based at Milton Abbey School, Milton Abbas, which has a 25 metre indoor swimming pool.

Membership is open to anyone. Members range in age from less than a year to over 80. This is a social and friendly club. Join us and keep fit.

The pool is hired for 4 sessions a week. Lifeguards supervise all sessions. RLSS National Lifeguard and Bronze Medallion courses are available as well as swimming lessons for adults and children.

Annual Membership

Adults £80. Senior Citizens £60. Juniors (17 and under) £28 as part of a family, £45 individual.
Children (3 and under as part of a family) free.

Club Sessions

Tuesdays: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Fridays: 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Saturdays: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Sundays: 8.00 am – 9.00 am

Come to the pool during any club session for a free swim and pick up an Application Form or contact Robert (01258 880192) or Pat (01258 880601).

Christmas and New Year Update from Milborne St. Andrew WI

FOR the Christmas meeting Mr David Andrews provided a musical singalong during which members were encouraged to participate by trying their hand with the various instruments. After much laughter and varying degrees of success, their heroic efforts were rewarded with a delicious buffet supper and a dip into Mother Christmas's sack.

At the first meeting of the New Year Mrs Forrest gave an interesting illustrated talk on the role of the Geisha. She had herself lived in Japan for a number of years and was able to show examples of their dress and accessories, including a beautiful kimono.

Looking ahead – amongst other things, our annual Dinner, skittles match, Village Quiz (our winning team of last year are setting the questions) to name but a few . . .

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12 February when our Speaker is Sohani Gonzalez of Milborne St Andrew who will talk about 'Homeopathy'. Don't forget, if you have the second Thursday evening of the month free, why not come along to one of our meetings? We would love to see you there.

Pat Bull

December weather in Milborne St. Andrew coldest since 1996

DECEMBER 2008 rainfall in Milborne was 68.1mm which was only 57% of the average for that month with 38.6mm of that rain falling on the 12th making that the highest daily rainfall for the year. Rainfall was recorded on 14 days of the month. It is somewhat perverse that 98.8mm rain fell over 23 days in August last year. There were 17 nights with air frosts making it the coldest December since 1996.

Although 2008 probably seemed to be a wet year, the total rainfall for 2008 was 1042.8mm which was just 107% of our average annual rainfall. The rainfall in the July – October period was 132% of average and that is the period we will all recall with disappointment.

This winter so far to 15th January has been the coldest since 1996/7. The coldest winters I have recorded were in 1978/9, 1984/5 and 1985/6. Anyone who can recall the winter of 1962/3 will say that this winter has been positively balmy compared to that one but I was not recording temperatures at that time. The winter rainfall to date is 90.1mm compared to around 160mm average. January of last year was one of the mildest I have recorded and all sayings from Weather Lore rate a mild January as a bad omen. There is an old Scottish saying; "A January spring is worth naething" so perhaps we can look forward to a better summer this year.

Pluvius.

**Smiley
John
Sweep**



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In your Garden

Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *Designer Gardens*

SNOWDROPMANIA – OR GALANTHOPHILIA

SNOWDROPS are just starting to emerge through the fallen leaves of autumn and debris of the winter storms – a glimmer of spring to come. **Don't you just love them? How many times do you hear people say: 'I've just seen my first snowdrops of the year, maybe winter is coming to an end'. To the untrained eye, one snowdrop is very much like another; you have to peer inside to see the subtle differences that galanathophiles (snowdrop enthusiasts) rave about. In fact, snowdropmania is growing and some people will pay up to £150 for a single bulb! There are over 700 different varieties and if you have 'contracted' galanthophilia you will be searching for that one that is just that little bit different. You have to be good to tell one variety from another though, getting down on your knees in all weathers just to peer inside the flower – to check the green markings, the texture and colour of the leaves.**

Is it best to buy snowdrops 'in the green' (that is just after flowering,) or as bulbs? The head gardener of the Chelsea Physic Garden says 'in the green' as you can see if the leaves are mottled or discoloured, and the bulbs won't be dried out. However, if you do decide to buy bulbs ensure they are nice and plump – and if you buy 'in the green' check that the roots look nice and healthy. February is the best time to do this.

Snowdrops are great for naturalizing in grass and under deciduous trees and shrubs where they will get a good amount of spring sunshine

and shade in the summer to protect the bulbs from drying out. If you get the conditions right, they will readily multiply. Another good thing about snowdrops is that they are very tidy – their leaves die away by late spring, and they like being in a crowd, rarely having to be divided up.

Our native variety is *Galanthus nivalis* – it has been here since the early Middle Ages and is often found around churches and ruined abbeys and priories. *Galanthus nivalis* is the common snowdrop and flowers from January right through to March.



PLANTING COMBINATIONS

As well as being naturalized, snowdrops also look good when grown with ornamental grasses such as *Stipa gigantea*, *Stipa arundinacea* or *Molinia*. The bright white heads of the snowdrop peek through the grasses as they move in the wind. As a contrast try growing them between clumps of *Ophiopogon planiscapus* (black grass). Snowdrops look good when grown between the coloured stems of *Cornus alba* (Dogwood), and can be used to soften

the harsh green foliage of *Hellebores*. You can follow the theme by planting white *Narcissus Thalia*, followed by white tulips. You can make the emerging clumps of *Sedum* a little more interesting by planting snowdrops alongside.

If you want to see amazing display of snowdrops then go to Kingston Lacey in the early spring – keep an eye on the local papers for the dates when it is best to go.



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New Year, New Village Magazine, Old Problem!

Yes it's "DOG POO" again.

I have been on to North Dorset Council about Dog Litter Bins, and trying to get 2 bins which to date are not used, moved to more appropriate positions in the village, as they will only allow and empty 8 bins.

They do however point out that any litter bin can be used for dog waste and they would prefer that wrapped dog waste was placed in householders' own refuse sacks. The dog waste bins have to be emptied separately but do finish up along with other household waste. It has been seen, and there is certainly no need for carrier bags full of dog waste to be taken to the bins around the village. This fills them unnecessarily and makes it difficult for the dog walkers to use them when out and about.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy new year and hope that all dog owners will act responsibly with regard to their pet's waste whether at home or out and about in the village.

Lets keep our Village and local footpaths clean, tidy, and a pleasure for everyone to walk and enjoy.

Dave Andrews – Parish Councillor



Dog poo bags litter the hedgerow at Lane End

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PRINTERS ACCESSORIES MEDIA

What is going on at the Village Hall?

FOLLOWING the success of the recent People's Millions bid nothing seems to have happened at the Village Hall apart from a big fat cheque appearing on the wall and the hire charges going up! Well there are reasons and they are good ones and this article attempts to explain what is going on.

The BIG Lottery fund will not release any money until they are 100% sure that the project will go ahead as *planned*. As you can well imagine there are some very tight conditions that have to be observed and before Christmas we were told that until planning consent for the building extension was approved, the Grant would not receive the official 'Start Date' which enabled funds to be released.

Some 'midnight oil' was burned and some intense lobbying made and the result has been that a start date of the 7th January 2009 was agreed and the funds are now available for use. It is a pity that this was not agreed before Christmas because the Players were all geared up to carry out the extensive improvements to the stage / lighting / audio / hearing loop ready for the Pantomime. That has now been put back to their summer production.

Having our Bid started does not mean that the money is in the Village Hall bank, far from it! At every stage of the project an invoice will need to be submitted to the BIG Lottery and the funds are released to cover the invoice.

The money also must be spent on the projects specifically identified and voted on in our Bid. As you can imagine, we, the trustees have had numerous suggestions about how the £51k can be spent but 'no can do'.

The Fitpoint is on order, plans for the small extension to the Committee Room and Main Hall have been drawn up and a survey of the top field ready for the wild flower area commenced. So things are moving on albeit slowly and in the background.

Richard Lock

Milborne St. Andrew New Year Bash

THE village hall was transformed into a red and gold James Bond themed party venue with 70 helium balloons, candles, decorated tables and more.

70 guests were greeted, on arrival, with a glass of Martini. A lavish buffet followed. The film of Doctor No was projected onto a large screen throughout the meal.

Dancing went on until midnight when crackers, poppers, streamers and fun balloons were let off. The party welcomed in New Year with champagne and a very long version of Auld Lang Syne.

Thank you to everyone who cooked, collected, set up the hall and cleared up the bomb site on New Year's day.

Happy New Year

Marion Regan

Community Contacts

Councils

Environment Agency Floodline		0845 9881188
North Dorset District Council	Cllr Michael Cox	01258 881396
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Pat Gubbins	01258 881348
	Chair: Mike Claydon	01258 837314
Parish Council –	Clerk: Colin Fletcher	01258 450639
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Simon Curtis	01258 839000

General – Adult

Drop-in Centre – POPP	Rose and Ed Frost	01258 837921
IT Club (Connecting Dorset)	Sue Gould	01258 837575
Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Memory Lane Swing Band	Bob Boorman	01258 839077
Wednesday Social Club	Margaret Evans	01258 837767
Women's Institute	Heather Hogg	01258 837392

General – Youth

Beavers and Cubs	Sue Mullett	01258 839076
Hazelnuts out-of-school club	Hazel Barrett	01305 848588
Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Marion Bishop	01305 848427
Ranger Guides	Adreinne	07870 887049
Scouts	Jim Burg	01258 837466
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Jane Williams	01258 839291
Youth Club age 8-13 yrs	Sallie Maitland-Gleed	01258 837442

Police

Police – Non-emergency contact		01202 222222
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	01202 223003
		07825 521850
Community Beat Officer (Dorchester)	PC Charlie Dale	01305 222222
Community Service Vehicle	CSO Angie Partridge	01202 226000

School

Milborne 1st School		
Headmaster:	Tom Leech	01258 837362
Chair Govs:	George Legg	
Friends of School:	Judith Harman	

Special Interest

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Food & Wine Society	Tony Dyer	01258 837061
Friendly Art Group	Sue Marsh	01258 837414
Horticultural Society	Shirley Dunkley	01258 837446
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033

Sport

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
Adult Tap Dancing	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Milton Abbas		
Archers – Crossways	Michelle Jones	01258 837045
Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
British Horse Society (Dorset)	Carol Shoopman	01258 880318

Circuit Training and Pilates	Claire Barratt	01929 554999
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	07946 732769
Cricket – Junior (11 – U13)	Derek Lamb	01258 837696
Cricket – Junior (age 8 and up)		01258 880523
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Derek Lamb	01258 880523
Football – Adult	Grant Taylor	01258 837691
Football – Youngsters	Grant Taylor	01258 837691
Friendly Mountain Biking	George Cherry	01258 837786
Get Walking		
Modern Sequence Dancing	Grace Davies	01258 837261
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club		
Chairman:	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Bookings:	Jenny Balcon	01258 837121
Table-tennis (over 50's)	Geoff Hodgson	01258 837472
Tap Dancing for Men and Women		01258 880523

Village Hall

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Sec:	Paul Prickett	01258 839097
Milborne St Andrew		
Chairman:	Richard Lock	01258 837929
Caretaker/Booking Sec:	Alison Riddle	01258 837030

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If you would like to be added to this list, then contact the Reporter

History in the making

Grumpy's view of the world

WELL it's January 2009 and it's all change right across the world it seems. There's a new President taking back America from the edge of depression and war and we've got a new Village magazine!

Hopefully this will be a fresh start for us all where people can get on with another and find ways of working together to improve our lots in life. Let's face it the way things have been heading things surely can only get better. We're all broke and we're all worried about jobs. I hear people moaning about how bad things are all the time but surely if things are this bad it's a time where you've got nothing to lose as you've lost it already. Perhaps now's a time to maybe change things and take a risk. Do something a bit different. After all the powers that be that we were lead to place all our faith in have truly messed things up. Of course they are continuing to arrange things such that us minions have to pay and they continue to line their nests. So maybe now's a time for us ordinary folk to say enough is enough, we are taking things into our own hands and we're going to have our voices heard. Us Brits are often told to just be quiet and not make a fuss. Well being a Grumpy B I don't mind saying what I think.

Just think they did it in Tolpuddle and changed the country . . . In fact they pretty much changed the world to a large extent. Hmmm didn't some guy just say this in front of a stripy flag ?

How about looking for inspiration to make a change rather than why things are so miserable. Grumpy can be good if you do something about it. Heavens that's almost like what that Mr Kennedy said! Maybe I should stand for . . .

Doh! I'm in the wrong country.

America found it's United Can Britain find its Great?

Grumpy B

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SAVE OUR PUB

PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY ownership of the Royal Oak Public House in Milborne St. Andrew has become a real possibility after about 120 people packed the village hall at a meeting called by the Parish Council in early January.

At the meeting, contact details were provided by more than 80 people who said they may be interested in forming a community consortium to purchase and operate the pub. A small working group has since been formed, chaired by village resident Tony Dyer who said many further expressions of interest had been received since the meeting and the group had already taken some early steps towards achieving the goal of transforming the Royal Oak into a thriving village pub.

"We were greatly encouraged by the level of support expressed at the open meeting, both by numbers present and indications of possible pledges," said Mr Dyer.

"Since then an informal working group has been busy gathering information on a whole host of aspects concerning the condition of the building, the pub's viability as a business and how much money will need to be raised in order to turn the vision into reality."

Mr Dyer said the group was scheduled to meet with a Wimborne publican who would advise on running costs and how much a free house would need to turn over in order to be viable. He said the working group hoped to have the answers to a lot of questions at the meeting at the village hall on February 25th. "This meeting may well determine whether we press ahead or not so we do hope people attend it if they can," he said.

"People will be asked to fill-out 'pledge forms' saying how much they may be willing to invest in a community-owned pub. This could be as little as fifty pounds but we really need people to invest more than that if they can."

Mr Dyer said that if there was sufficient support to proceed after the next crucial meeting, a formal steering group would be appointed. He said the community would be updated through regular announcements in local media. Investors would receive regular and detailed updates via the post.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting on February 25th can obtain a pledge form from the post office and lodge it there in a sealed envelope provided. Pledge forms can also be obtained by contacting Geoff Hodgson, Tel: 837472, email: geoff@foxpound.co.uk

Parish needs more Councillors

Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council is looking for three new Councillors – would you like to become involved?

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SAVE OUR PUB



Meeting of potential investors

**6.30pm on Wednesday,
February 25th
at the village hall**

Following the public meeting facilitated by the Parish Council on Wednesday, January 7th, a small, informal working group has met to consider further steps towards the formation of a community consortium to acquire the Royal Oak.

Accordingly, the group has called a further meeting at which a steering group can be formally appointed.

Potential investors will be asked to fill out "pledge forms" (confidential*, non-binding) to enable the steering group to gauge the level of likely monetary support before embarking on the process of incorporation, feasibility work, survey commissioning, etc.

All interested members of the community are urged to attend. Anyone who is unable to attend can pick up a pledge form at the Post Office and lodge it there in a sealed envelope provided.

*Details of pledges, i.e. who and how much, will be confidential to one, yet to be nominated, member of the steering group. Only the total amount pledged will be made public.

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So if you want to find out how this could possibly be possible and to
see that there are absolutely no catches at all why not pop along to
the village hall on Monday evening at 6.15. Over the coming months I'll
tell you more through the pages of this magazine and you're very
welcome to come and ask me more.

Kelvin Kinkaid

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It's a dog's life . . .

INDEED it is. The year started with freezing conditions, both from a weather perspective and an economic one. Whilst the ground has now thawed (much to the disappointment of us owners of low-slung, long coated hounds – post-walkie hose-downs resume), it's clear that UK plc will remain in the deep freeze for some time. With every market one cares to mention suffering a downturn – stock, jobs, property, retail, it truly *is* a dog's life. Two walks a day and a bowl of grub = contentment. No money worries, no job to lose (I'm sure my Springers would chuckle if they heard themselves being described as 'working dogs'), no assets to watch slide off the graph. They've got their own private healthcare system (there's never a waiting list at the vets, funny that), great social life ("I wonder who's sniffing about in The Grove today?") and plenty of time for oh, just lolling about being dog-tired. Their biggest anxieties revolve around being ready for a walk before the first wellie is pulled on, or bagging the plumpest spot by the radiator. (Underfloor heating is on the way at our house, but we're keeping it quiet from them, don't want them to get their hopes up too soon before they get their paws on it).

Every month, this column aims to inform and entertain in a dog-centric way. It will shine a spotlight on local doggie people, cover local issues and generally scratch it's head at how our canines have wheedled a cushy little niche in our lives. But though Milborne's canine contingent appears to fare well in the lifestyle stakes, the lot of the hard done by will be recognised too.

It's hoped that it's not just dog owners that will be interested, but the dogless too. In fact, it's a good chance that one of the local issues that will be looked at is non-dog owners No.1 pet hate: dog mess. (Although it's fair to say this problem affects most responsible dog-owners in the same way – steam, ears – but I don't want to put my foot in it straight away). So fun for everyone.



Ed Richards

Come and Sing

THE Weatherbury Singers invite you to Come and Sing Handel's *Zadok The Priest*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* and Parry's *I Was Glad* on Saturday 14th March in St George's Church, Fordington, Dorchester. Registration at 10.30am with a performance starting at 5.30pm. Cost (includes scores) £15 with morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea included.

Conductor: Michael Brown; Organist: Peter Lattimer.

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Walks around Milborne

The Square to Warren Hill and back – about two and a half miles

LEAVE The Square and walk down the Causeway as far as Brookside Cottage. Turn right here crossing the river and proceed to Chapel Street. Turn left into Chapel Street and walk to the end of the road, then continue ahead through the gate into Manor Farm. Follow the track passing through the old gate pillars. You will see Manor Farm House on your left. Just after passing some trees on the right, bear slightly to the right and head for a stile.

There is a second stile to cross after about 250 metres. You will now see Milborne Brook on your left. Follow the river to the next stile which is alongside a magnificent row of Beech Trees. Cross this stile and you will notice that the river bears off to the left.

Once over the stile take your bearings. There is a bridleway here which goes off to the left and right, but you need to take the footpath straight ahead. It is a well worn track heading south. The path climbs slightly uphill and after about 250 metres look out for a gateway on your right.

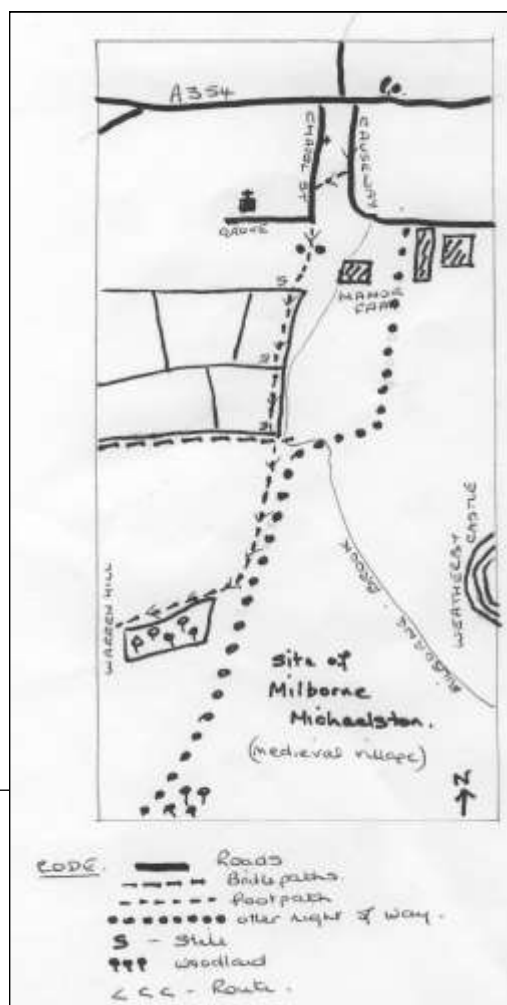
As you walk up this path you will get a good view of Wetherby Castle, a small Iron Age Hill Fort. Also on your left you will notice the undulations on the field alongside the track. This is the site of the Medieval Village, Milborne Michaelston.

When you get to the gateway on your right, turn off here and follow the track up to an area of woodland. The path follows the northern edge of the woodland to the end of the wood. This area is called Warren Hill.

This is as far as the right of way goes, but it is worth stopping to admire the views across the village and eastwards to Wetherby Castle.

To return to the square follow the same route back.

Anne Snape



MILBORNE VILLAGE PLAN

Help needed to distribute and collect

THE Village Plan Questionnaire will be ready shortly. Copies will be distributed to both adults and young people in all village households on Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th February. They will be collected two weeks later.

Volunteers able to help should contact Peter Dunkley – 837446 or Tony Dyer – 837061



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MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL



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all for one, one for all



SCHOOL NEWS

A happy New Year to all from Milborne St Andrew First School. The end of last term was a very busy time in school with many Christmas activities being enjoyed by all. Christmas assemblies were given by each class and the year 4 children told the Christmas story during the nativity performance at St Andrews church. In the last week of term all pupils, staff and governors were treated to a Christmas lunch, with **all the trimmings, funded, cooked and served by Friends of School. It's quite a mammoth task to serve over 100 meals from such a small kitchen and many thanks go to all those involved.** The afternoon visit of Father Christmas was as ever thoroughly enjoyed by the children.



Year 4 pupils at the school Nativity performance



Christmas lunch for all

This New Year will be a changing one for the school as after 15 years as head teacher Tom Leech will be retiring at the end of the summer term. The governors are in the process of selecting the successor and news will follow in due course.

In recent years we have been pleased to have been granted extended school status by the Local Authority given our provision of after school clubs and morning crèche facility. **As part of this status we have now teamed up with Mid Dorset Children's Centre. Their aim is to support parents to give their children aged 0-5 years old the best start in life by providing new learning experiences, ensuring children are safe from harm, helping families get the most from their local community and services and promoting healthy lifestyles.** In the reception foyer a timetable of events is displayed and flyers are available for collection. If you would like any further information please see Mrs Pugh who will forward details on to centre as required.

FRIENDS OF SCHOOL

The school is extremely well supported by the Friends of School, who raise additional funds for the school to allow activities and resources for pupils which would otherwise be unavailable within the school budget. A successful Christmas Fayre raised almost £800 and was enjoyed by all who attended. The Milborne Road Race was again this year assisted by many Friends of School supporters and thanks go to all for giving their time. This term the major fundraising will come from the Easter Fayre which will be held on Thursday 26th March 2009 from 3.00pm. Please come and join us and take the opportunity to see this successful school at first hand.

CONTACTS

If you require any information about the school, including admissions details for children please contact the school office.

Headteacher: Mr Tom Leech, Secretary, school office: Mrs Helen Pugh

Chair of Governors: Mr George Legg, FOS Chairman: Mrs Sally Taylor

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

Tel: (01258) 837362 Fax: (01258) 837170

Milborne St. Andrew Carol Singing

THANK you to everyone who came out to sing carols in the village on December 11th. Milborne St Andrew is fortunate to have so many splendid voices to sing to us. Thanks to Bridgette and her neighbours who provided a welcoming fire, hot wine and nibbles to the singers.

Due to the generosity of the village we collected £100. £50 has been donated to Mosaic and £50 to help the start up of the Milborne St. Andrew Reporter. Receipts are displayed in the village hall.

Marion Regan



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Aladdin

If you want to forget about the credit crunch for a while we suggest coming to see ALADDIN at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall on the 5th, 6th or 7th of February! But be quick, as tickets are selling fast!

The Milborne Players annual extravaganza is rattling through the final rehearsals, and promises to be our best Pantomime ever, this year at any rate!

Poor old Widow Twankey's new washing machine keeps breaking down, and her customers are all getting shirty! Her sons, Aladdin and Wishee Washee do their best to help, but one's a dreamer and the other's a little bit dim (but ever so nice!). Her two laundry maids, Daz and Ariel, always seem to have other things on their minds too, so they're not a lot of help either.

How will she ever pay the Emperor the rent? Could Aladdin's long lost "Uncle" Abanazar possibly hold the answer . . . or will Aladdin end up between a rock and a hard place never seeing the beautiful Princess ever again?

With a supporting cast made up of Peking peasants, dancers, scary guards, Mrs Wok (who runs the local takeaway), Mustaphacarrot (who seems to have four legs!) and some characters who just pop out of nowhere when objects get rubbed up the wrong way, ALADDIN promises to leap from laugh to laugh, with plenty of well known songs in between to enjoy as well!

This version of "Aladdin", written by John Cummings & Richard Grafton, is directed by Jon Riddle, ably assisted by Caroline Nobbs, and occupies almost the whole society with thirty members of the cast adding to the fun and laughter of the story. Don't miss it!

Performances at 7.30 pm on Thursday 5th, Friday 6th and Saturday 7th February 2009 (with Sat. Matinee at 2.30 pm) in Milborne St Andrew Village Hall. Ticket Bookings: Sid Coe on 01258 837453.

More information at www.milborneplayers.org.uk



YOUTH CLUB UPDATE

FOLLOWING the meeting of the MSA Youth Club Committee on 13th Jan 09, we are delighted to report that, to date, we have 32 fully paid up members who have enjoyed Autumn activities such as canoeing, a Halloween party, Christmas Card competition, calendar making, a rock guitar/drums demo and ended the term with an ice-skating party in Poole with presents for all members. Future events for the Spring are to include a self-defence demo by the Karate club, a return visit from the "rock band", more new equipment and a couple of fund-raisers which can include all the family, so watch this space or the MSA web-site for updates on those.

Although the Senior Section hasn't been running for a while, due to Lin Atkins resigning as Club Leader, we have decided to extend the age limit of the Juniors up to 14 from 13 to cater for those that may be missing out. This doesn't necessarily mean that there will never be a Senior section again, but until someone who is suitable to take on as Leader steps up and trains, the club will have to remain on the back-burner.

Meanwhile, our sessions remain on fortnightly Fridays, 6.30 – 8.30 in the Hall for 8 – 14yrs, £1 for members and £1.50 for non-members and a Tuck Shop is always open! We offer a free "taster" session for new-comers to give it a try, and then the Annual Subscription is still only £5, which covers all insurances for trips, outside activities and excursions.

We have Sandra Northover as Club Leader, with Wendy Joyce as Assistant Leader, plus 3 other CRB checked Volunteer helpers.

Our dates up to Easter are: Feb 13th and 27th, March 13th and 27th and April 3rd when we break up until April 24th.

For more details, please check out the MSA website or telephone Sallie (Committee Secretary) on 01258 837442.

Sallie Maitland-Gleed

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Roger's Rant

WHAT is "Folk" Music? My favourite definition is that it is popular music of the past, transmitted orally from person to person (also today it is often via the internet, CD or MP3 player), so the repertoire ranges from the Tudors (i.e. Greensleaves to pop songs of the 60's & 70's). This can be unaccompanied singing, singing with acoustic instrumental accompaniment or just tunes – most of which were originally dance tunes.

Our Ranters' Sessions take the form of a sing/play around the room with each person taking a turn to sing or play, with the rest of the group joining in with the courses or song, playing along with the tunes and on occasions we have been graced with a Poet or Storyteller. In between the above there is lots of chatter and friendly banter passing around the room. We also welcome people who just like to come and enjoy listening to the performers. Refreshments are available.

Next Rant: Friday 20th February – 8.00 pm – Sports Club

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MILBORNE SPORTS FOOTBALL CLUB

At a recent meeting of the Milborne St Andrew Sports Football Club a decision was made that for the 2008/2009 season a second Saturday team would be entered into Dorset Division 1V. This is believed to be the first time in the history of Milborne Sports Football Club that two Saturday teams have been run at the same time.

Chairman, Mike Lathbury, commented that with the adults who have now moved into second place of the Dorset Division III League looking that once again they would gain promotion, there was a need to run a reserve side.

The basis of the Committee's reasoning is that Dorset Division II Football in which the first team are likely to be playing next season is an extremely competitive league played at a very high standard. It was felt that there was a need to give opportunity to the youth of Milborne along with others by operating a reserve team. It was felt that it would be unfair to ask youngsters who are currently playing youth football or others who are not playing football at all to step into a squad playing at division II level. Therefore, a reserve team playing in Dorset Division 1V will serve the purpose of both giving current members of the squad who are not playing regularly and youngsters coming up through the youth system and others who are not currently playing football at all the opportunity to participate.

If you are interested in playing or helping with the running of this new reserve team then please contact Club Secretary, Paul Morgan on 01258 837619. Alternatively, speak to the Chairman, Mike Lathbury or any other member of the Milborne Football Club Committee.

Other contact numbers for some of the committee:

John Kane 837108 Malcolm Aplin 837335

John Sanderson 837049 Mike Torfitt 6 Hopsfield

Sports Club Update

THINGS have moved a pace over the last few months at the Lane End sports facility. Mark Farwell, contractor, has finished the levelling and seeding of the bottom end of the site. With luck this area will be available for use by next year.

The Football Club committee have been active and have installed

floodlights down one side of the main pitch, which are being used for training by both the adults and some of the youth sections.

A fundraising quiz night has been arranged for the 6th December. Arranged and organised by Tom Lane, Adult Team Assistant Manager.

The Table Tennis Club continues to thrive with an increasing membership. It has been debated as to whether the Monday night sessions should now be added to possibly an afternoon session. We would be particularly interested to hear from anybody who would be able to attend afternoon sessions. If sufficient interest is shown then an afternoon session for table tennis will be arranged.

The Football Club decided that next season they will run a Reserve Team. Details of that elsewhere in the *Reporter*.

A reminder that the sports pavilion is available for hire and is an ideal venue for birthday celebrations, conferences, even wedding parties, etc. If you are interested in hiring the facility then please contact the Booking Secretary, Jenny Balcon, or the Club Secretary, Paul Morgan, on 837019.

Milborne 100 Club

JOIN NOW

Please make your subscription
(cheques payable to M.S.A. F.C.) to any of the following:

John Kane 837108; Pat Tribe 837 684;
June Maitland 837 235; Brian Pitman

Proceeds shared equally between
St Andrews Church
and the Milborne Football Club

IN RECOGNITION OF A JOB WELL DONE

from the Reporter team

THANKS must go to Geoff and Sue Hodgson for an amazing task well done over the last few years. On their own they have updated the style of the MSA Messenger, and searched out interesting and sometimes controversial stories – do you remember the hairdryer speed camera? We will miss the expertise Geoff showed in putting together the front page scoops, and also his ability to reduce the facts to a small paragraph. As we have found these last few months, putting together a magazine is a lot of organising, chasing, discussing, and delegating; together with the decision making, which, for us, has been very difficult. This Sue and Geoff did with quiet efficiency whilst also carrying on their day jobs.

We hope to follow their lead, updating and improving, but also learning the skills that Geoff and Sue showed, in this new magazine.

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Forthcoming Events

Valentines Meal - Saturday 14th February

As last year, we will be offering a special valentine meal with a gift for your partner.
Book early to avoid disappointment.

Italian Night - Saturday 28th February

For all of you Italian food lovers. Three courses of authentic Italian cooking for only £19.95.
By reservation only.

Gourmet Evening - Saturday 14th March

The Gourmet season begins again. These are real gastronomic events. Five stunning courses, with fine wines to accompany each.
All five courses with fine wines only £39.95. Bookings are already being taken.

Italian Evening Saturday February 28th

Starters

Tuscan bean soup with asiago toast (v)
Orostini de fagato - Pate crostini with rocket leaves
Mozzerella, beef tomato and basil with a balsamic syrup (v)
Marinated artichoke hearts with olives and parmesan shavings (v)

Main Courses

Cacciatora chicken - casserole of chicken in a tomato, olive and garlic sauce
Seafood linguine - salmon, cockles, mussels and chorizo with a dill and white wine cream sauce
Italian meat loaf served with a tomato and basil sauce
Stuffed pork tenderloin with prosciutto and a wild mushroom sauce

Desserts

Torta di mele - Apple flan with honeycomb ice cream
Zuccotto - Chocolate sponge with a kumquat anglaise
Bongo - chocolate profiteroles with fresh vanilla cream
Crespelle dolce - sweet pancakes with mixed berries and cassis liquor sauce

All three courses only £19.95

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Valentines Meal Saturday 14th February

Starters

Roasted butternut squash soup served with herb croutons
Homemade crab cakes served with a spicy avocado sauce
Salad of feta cheese, olives, sun-blushed tomato and rocket leaves
Dorset pate with a redcurrant, port and orange sauce served with toasted brioche

Intermediate course

Passion fruit shot

Main Courses

Roasted fillet of cod with ratatouille and basil mashed potatoes served with seasonal vegetables
Sirloin steak with parmesan and a peppercorn sauce served with fondant potatoes and seasonal vegetables
Penne pasta with chicken and broccoli in a sun-dried tomato sauce
Flat mushroom, mozzarella and aubergine wellington in a spiced tomato sauce served with seasonal vegetables

Desserts to share

Assiette of:
Chocolate, cherry and almond bread pudding
Poached pears with a star anise and cinnamon sauce
Fruits of the forest crème brûlée
Chocolate covered strawberries
Or
A platter of British cheeses with fruit chutney and savoury biscuits

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