



R e p o r t e r

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News and Views from around the area

Volume 9 Issue 11

December 2017

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'Back in time for Christmas'

COME and join us for our Christmas Concert at **Puddletown Village Hall** on **Saturday, 9th December 2017 at 7.30pm.**

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Your *Reporter* Team

Janet Allen, Linda Constant, Pete Constant,
Carole Fornachon, Heather V. Hogg, David Payne, Ed Richards,
Susan Wilson, Jo Whitfield, John and Josie Wright

Advertising: Ed Richards 01258 837907 (07843 018007)

Advertising renewals: Pete Constant 01258 839246 (daytime)

Distribution: Janet Allen 01258 837551

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

Treasurer and photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team

Damage to Ladybirds' shed

ON returning to Ladybirds after the October half term break and following wet weather some of the toys and equipment in our brick shed were found to be water damaged. On inspection we discovered the metal roof is damaged letting in water. The cause is people climbing on the roof and probably happened during the October break.

During the summer Ladybirds replaced the inside wooden ceiling and insulation which unfortunately is also water damaged. The considerable amount to repair the shed is unlikely to be covered by insurance so the preschool will have to bear the cost, which is something we can ill-afford.

Liz Dyer – Ladybirds Leader

What a lot of hidden treasure around Milborne

AT last night's meeting of the Village History Group we were enthralled by hearing about the detectorist hobby. Both David and Margaret talked to the group about how they started this fascinating hobby and the many finds that they have dug up. Dave and Margaret are so dedicated that they will go out in rain, shine, or any weather as long as the ground is not frozen. They explained the etiquette and methods which should be followed and how they are involved with a group of detectorists. Their enthusiasm is catching and I am sure I am not the only one who really fancies having a go.

They have discovered many artefacts including 'hoards' which are now in museums in London, Dorchester and Blandford. We were challenged to identify some of the items that they had brought including a pilgrim's flask, shoe pattens, horse brass ornaments and merchant's tokens. They were kind enough to let us handle their display items as well as some which were brought in and belong to June Maitland. These were typical of items found around Milborne St. Andrew.

One find was from the Iron Age and some of the coins dated back to Roman times; my favourite was the Queen Elizabeth I silver coin which was in pristine condition.

There will be no meeting in December so the next History Group meeting will be 10th January in the Royal Oak at 7.30pm when we will continue to develop more in-depth information about notable buildings in Milborne St. Andrew.

Pam Shults



Christmas Carols for all

Come and join in this year's Carol Service in St. Andrew's Church, Milborne St. Andrew.

Saturday 16th December
at 6.00pm.



A candlelit service to
celebrate Christmas through
carols and readings.

All are welcome

The Reporter Team would like to thank Verina Cutler again (Heather's daughter) for the use of her picture of the Robin taken last year. She sent it to BBC South Today weather pictures and they used it for their cover page on Facebook for over a week, it got 1000's of likes.

Do we need to keep the village hall and adjoining land?

THE Village Hall Committee need new members. If there are not enough people then the organisation and running of the hall, which is currently done by the dwindling group, may not continue in the new year. Please think about volunteering to join the committee; phone or email if you would like to know more about what being a member entails. We are desperate for a treasurer so anyone out there who can help, please get in touch. It's not such a bad job, really.

At one time we were helped by friends of the village hall to do general jobs which keep the place tidy and in good working order. These have been things like cutting back hedges, cleaning interior walls, painting and generally helping with small maintenance jobs. Unfortunately, over the last couple of years the numbers have dropped putting more pressure on the committee. Do think about helping when the next call goes out.

One big pressing issue is the zip wire which is becoming unsuitable for use at the moment and children can't safely use it. The main problem is the ground surface and safety flooring. The committee thought that we could get rid of the bark chippings which are becoming unsuitable due to low depth levels and deterioration of the materials. We thought that we could buy play matting and turf to cover it instead which seemed a quick, easy and economic solution. However, we have been advised that before we can do this the ground level needs to be raised by importing soil. The nightmare continues unless anyone can help or knows of someone who can please get in touch with one of the committee.

On a more cheerful note, Christmas is coming and the hall will be available for hire. It will be decorated with a Christmas tree with glitter, tinsel and lots of baubles. On 22nd December at 6.00pm there will be singing of Christmas songs around an outdoor tree to which all are invited. Come and join the fun, bring your torches and wrap up warmly.

Pam Shults

Milton Abbas and Milborne St. Andrew Surgery news

AS we hurtle once again towards Christmas (where does the time go?), I thought I would reflect on the past year and look forward to the next. As you know, we have struggled all through 2017 with staff shortages in our dispensary, but hopefully by the time you read this we will be up to full capacity and will finally have a new dispensary manager in place.

We have had other staff changes this year: both Rick and Margaret retired after many years working at the surgery and we miss having them around. Charlie has been appointed as our new Healthcare Assistant and you will see her both in the surgery and in the community.

We continue to be impacted by changing our clinical system which is still bedding in. Our patients have been supportive of us during the changeover, generally understanding that things are still taking a little longer as we all get used to how it works.

Despite all of the challenges that 2017 has brought, the team at the surgery has continued to provide an outstanding service to our patients. Each staff member has done what they can to help their colleagues, and I am proud to be a part of such an amazing, hardworking and caring team.

A reminder that we will be closed over Christmas and New Year on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th December and Monday 1st January. Remember that you should call 111 if you need advice during closures or 999 in the case of an emergency.

Finally I would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy 2018.

Gillian Brindle – Practice Business Manager

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THE run up to Christmas is a busy time for shopping, but do we all know our rights?

Anything you buy must be:

- of satisfactory quality
- fit for its intended purpose
- as described

If the goods are faulty you are limited initially to the first 30 days after you bought them to ask for a refund. So, make sure any presents you buy are examined within 30 days if you can.

Once 30 days has passed you can only ask for the goods to be repaired or replaced. But this must be done at no cost to you, within a reasonable time and without causing you significant inconvenience. After just one attempt at repair or replacement, if the goods are still not satisfactory, you can ask for a refund.

If repair or replacement is not possible, then you can choose whether to keep the goods or return them. If you keep the goods, you can claim a reduction in price. If you return them you are normally entitled to a full refund, less a reasonable amount to take account of any use you've had if it's more than six months since you bought them.

For digital content, for example, computer programs, smartphone apps, e-books, CDs, DVDs, etc, your rights are roughly the same as for ordinary goods. But you do not get the initial 30 days to reject faulty digital content alone, and get a refund, unless the digital content is supplied as an inherent part of physical goods, such as computer systems, smartphones and washing machines.

For pre-shopping advice, advice about a consumer problem, or to report something to trading standards call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or visit citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer



How to . . . socialise

TO socialise, you need friends, and to get friends, you need to socialise!

Age UK Dorchester has revamped its **daycentre/Social Club** and caters for a variety of people and needs, and serves a number of different purposes, most of which are broadly preventive including:

- providing social contact and stimulation; reducing isolation and loneliness
- maintaining and/or restoring independence
- providing a break for carers
- offering activities which provide mental and physical stimulation
- promoting health and nutrition

Effective day services play a vital role in supporting individuals and in maintaining their contact with the community, and play a vital role in combating **social isolation and loneliness**, both for people living alone and people living with others.

Social contact may reduce the harmful effects of psychological stress, and even if physical quality of life is poor, older people can experience good emotional wellbeing, and a good mental quality of life.

Age UK Dorchester provides a Social Club, four days a week at

Rowan Cottage in Dorchester, 9.30am to 3.00pm, including a very much appreciated home-cooked lunch.

Other activities include indoor bowling, art, quizzes, board games and reminiscence activities.

If you or your relative **would like to attend, have fun, and to make new friends . . .** or would like to **volunteer** for one day per week, please contact: Lisa Holmes on telephone 01305 269444 or email lholfmes@ageukdorchester.org.uk



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Anyone for bridge?

THE Milborne St. Andrew social bridge group is just coming up to its fifth anniversary. We meet in The Royal Oak on Thursday evenings when there is no scheduled 'Pie Night' or 'Theme Night', or Wednesday evenings if there is, starting at 7.00pm. There are currently around 12 members – some of whom live as far away as Dewlish, Puddletown and Winterborne Kingston. Some can only play on Wednesday and others can only make Thursday, but there are generally six to eight of us available each week, though more would be welcome.

The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity to learn and improve your playing skills in a social and 'blame free' environment. In line with the new year now is a good time for anyone with an interest in finding out about bridge to make a start by joining the group where you will be made very welcome. For anyone who has never played before instruction will be provided. In fact several of our 'regulars' had never played before joining the group but have enjoyed the way of learning and improving their game. There is no charge for joining or playing.

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie Benn

**Deadline for the next issue is mid-day
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pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk**

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Christmases during the Great War

MANY readers may have heard of the 'Christmas Truce' of 1914, where British and German Soldiers on the Western Front stopped fighting, chatted together, exchanged cigarettes and photographs, and played football. Here are a few descriptions of those events, in the words of some of the men involved, and some indication of what the Dorset Regiment were doing at Christmases throughout the Great War.

By the end of December 1914, war on the Western Front, in terms of actual fighting, had been put on hold. The early mobile battles at Mons and the Marne were over and static warfare in trenches had become the norm. The ground was so churned up, waterlogged and impassable, that fighting was impossible. The men had a rather repetitive and dull life, mainly trying to keep warm and feed themselves, while the Army as a whole was waiting for better weather, and awaiting reinforcements over and above the territorial units which had arrived in September and October.

Because the British High Command frowned on Christmas fraternisation, it is unsurprising that the regimental war diary of the 1st Battalion Dorset Regiment makes no mention of this in their trenches in front of Wulverghem (two companies were there, the rest in billets at nearby Neuve Église). Writing home on 26th December, 2nd Lieutenant Arthur Stanley-Clarke said "Christmas day was extraordinary in the trenches. Although I was back in billets I almost wish that I had been up there – not a shot was fired and hardly a man in trenches. Groups of English and Germans were seen walking about talking and for the day peace reigned – which was good – but today again the guns are shaking the house. We have had a cold spell during the past two days and snow is falling – of course we hate frost as it makes the trenches fall in and adds a lot of work; still everything is perfectly ripping and I'm not sure that I do not like snow better than mud but they are both becoming close friends of mine."

Private Clifford Lane of 1st Battalion, Hertfordshire Regiment, describes being soaked right through including his long woollen underpants, and how difficult it was to get dry with a tiny brazier. He was very pleased to receive a Gift Box from Princess Mary, containing cigarettes, tobacco and a bar of chocolate, and describes his Christmas Dinner as cold bully beef, and a cold lump of Christmas pudding.

Private Frank Sumpter of the London Rifle Brigade (LRB) describes how cold and snowy it was, and how the landscape was already a devastation of clay, mud and broken brick. He tells how he heard the Germans singing 'Silent Night, Holy Night', and saw them put up a notice saying 'Merry Christmas', so the LRB put up a similar notice and joined the singing. After a few minutes' singing, one German jumped on top of the trench and shouted 'Happy Christmas Tommy' so the whole section jumped up to reply. The Sergeant-Major was shouted down, and they all went forward to the barbed wire. They couldn't cross the wire but shook hands with their opponents and chatted about families, how old they were, and life in London, where some of the enemy had family living and working. Pte Sumpter says his officers gave the order 'no fraternisation' and then turned their backs, but didn't try to stop it. Not a shot was fired in his section all day. As an amusing end to the day, the Germans had placed a sign saying 'Gott mitt uns' (God with us) so the LRB raised a sign saying 'Got Mittens Too'.

Sergeant George Ashurst of the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers talks about no firing in his section of the line all day and men strolling about on top of the trench at teatime. He tells of their disappointment in reading about the day's events in the English newspapers, who condemned them for fraternising, making the point that those who weren't there fighting should not pass such remarks.

Lieutenant John Wedderburn-Maxwell of the Royal Field Artillery speaks of taking a letter from a German soldier, and posting it to the man's girlfriend in Manchester. It seems that men fighting at the

front have more in common with one another than with those who send them away to fight!

Rifleman Henry Williamson of the London Rifle Brigade remembered being sent a message from the Germans that their General Staff were visiting so they would have to resume shooting. They would fire high, but would the LRB kindly keep under cover in case regrettable accidents occurred. At 11.00pm they fired, but high into the sky. The LRB did not return fire, and indeed did not fire for 'a day or two' at which time new men had been brought forward by the Germans and those they had met had retired for rest, sniping started again, so they returned fire.

Back in Dorchester, hospitals had been geared up to treat wounded troops. Local women had been recruited as VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurses, and buildings such as Colliton House had been commandeered to provide extra capacity. From Brian Bates' excellent book 'Dorchester Remembers', here is a photo

of medical orderlies preparing to celebrate in 1914.

Of course, the Great War was not only taking place in France and Belgium. In July 1915 the 5th Battalion of the Dorset Regiment landed at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli peninsula. In the next



six months they lost relatively lightly in battle but heavily from the sickness that bedevilled soldiers in this campaign. Christmas 1915 would have been spent looking forward to evacuation to Egypt in January 1916.

The First Battalion was in India at Christmas 1914, readying for service in East Africa. Letters from soldiers there describe hot conditions, colourful markets and strange smells, but a more peaceful Christmas than their Regimental brothers in other locations.

The Second Dorsets were based in Kut, 100 miles south of Baghdad. In 1915 its population was around 6,500. During a siege by the Turks, about 1,750 men died from wounds or disease. The soldiers and civilians held out in freezing cold and then torrential rain against infantry assault, sniper fire, shelling, and bombing, until a relief force could get close enough for the defenders to break out. The three attempts to relieve Kut failed, at a cost of 23,000 casualties. Food ran out, and Christmas 1915 would have been a very hungry time. The oxen were the first to go, followed by the horses, camels, and finally, starlings, cats, dogs and even hedgehogs. After surrender in April 1916 2,600 British and 9,300 Indian other ranks were rounded up and marched away 800 miles (1030 kilometers) to Aleppo. Two-thirds of the British and about a seventh of the Indians were killed on the march and in captivity. Relative to the numbers of men involved, the British losses at Kut dwarf those of the bigger battles on the Western Front.

By December 1916, Dorset Battalions were fighting in India, Belgium, Palestine, Greece, France and Londonderry and being held prisoner in Aleppo, Germany and Belgium. Christmas in Dorchester must have been a very worrying time for family and friends of those overseas – nearly every household had a husband or a son serving. The sadness of those who had lost their menfolk can only be imagined.

Christmas 1918, when the Armistice had been signed, and people were looking forward to their loved ones coming home must have been a great celebration in Dorset and throughout the land (although my grandfather, by then in the Labour Corps, did not get home until 1920 having joined up in 1915!).

Susan Wilson
The Reporter would like to thank Tony Bates for permission to use the photograph from his book 'Dorchester Remembers'.



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



A perfect Christmas?

The glossy magazines for the past couple of months have been full of how to have the perfect Christmas this year, just as they were last year and the year before and the one before that and on and on. Decorations, food, presents, colour schemes, wine: all have to be just right.

But these monthly journals are somewhat contradictory in their approach. Many of them, as well as highlighting what makes the perfect celebration, now also contain articles along the lines of "How not to get stressed at Christmas"; "How to cope with the demands of Christmas" and "Ten tips to avoid festive breakdown". It seems that the quest for perfection is one that is doomed to fail.

What is it that most of us actually celebrate during the Christmas season? The magazines suggest that it is family, food, drink, parties, looking good and spending lots of money.

The real meaning is in the name: Christ – mas. Yet Christ is what often gets missed out of our Christmas preparations as we seek perfection. Someone once said: "Christmas without Christ leaves only M&S"; there's a lot of truth in that (though I hasten to add I have no particular downer on that national chain of shops).

The great news is that Christ doesn't expect perfection from us. For God, Christmas is about love, nothing more and nothing less. God comes into the world to show us what it means to love without boundaries, to love unconditionally.

By all means have fun on 25th December; let's enjoy the festivities. But let's also be honest about what we are really celebrating. Family, friends, gifts, decorations, mince pies, mulled wine are all good things in themselves, but they are not what makes Christmas. What does that is God's love. If there is no room for Jesus in your celebrations, be honest and call it something different.

As a Christian, I will be celebrating Christmas, but I could do that without any of the trimmings. It would be a dull occasion but when everything is stripped away what matters is Christ who will be with me whether I'm partying or eating alone.

My hope is, of course, not that people will stop celebrating this festival, but that they will accept God's invitation to receive the love sent to the world through Jesus Christ. As Christina Rossetti put it:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

With best wishes

Sarah Hillman

A Fairy tale wedding

During October our church was twice filled with children and their parents. The first service was the school 'marriage' of Cinderella and Prince Charming. Luckily it was a fine day so no outfits were spoilt by bad weather. All the children dressed as fairy tale characters and were guests at the ceremony. Sarah Hillman spoke to those present about the importance of love for friends and family and how we should all show them how much we care.

The second service was the school Harvest Celebration led by the children. They sang some lovely songs and read passages about fruits, vegetables and for all those people who are involved in the production of them such as farmers and shop keepers. The weather was really wet but Sarah reminded us all that water is an essential part of growth and that we should be thankful that our country is not blighted by droughts like some parts of the world.

In November the building works got to their final stages; thanks to all for coping with the minor disruptions. You may also notice that the rest of the trees have been removed from the new churchyard. It is now a much brighter place and will not disrupt the graves as much as the old hedge and trees did.



Church Services December

3rd December – Advent Sunday

9.30am	Special Posada Service	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish
4.00pm	Christingle	Milborne

10th December – Advent 2

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.00pm	United Carol Service	Tolpuddle

SATURDAY 16th December

6.00pm	Carol Service	Milborne
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17th December – Advent 3

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Prayer (said)	Milborne
3.00pm	Carol Service	Dewlish
6.00	Carol Service	Puddletown

THURSDAY 21st December

1.00pm	Marriage of David Becker and Alison Aylmore	Puddletown
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24th December – Advent 4/Christmas eve

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Dewlish
3.30pm	Crib Service	Tolpuddle
5.00	Crib Service	Puddletown
11.30	Midnight Mass	Milborne
11.30	Midnight Mass	Puddletown

25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am	Christmas Holy Communion	Dewlish
9.30	Christmas Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
10.15	Christmas Celebration	Milborne
11.15	Christmas Praise	Puddletown

31st December – Christmas 1

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Puddletown
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Morning Prayers (Monday – Thursday.

8.15am Saturday 9.00am)

Monday – Puddletown	Tuesday – Milborne
Wednesday – Dewlish	Thursday – Tolpuddle
Saturday – Puddletown	



Do you need a lift to church?

If you have difficulty getting to church or need transport when the Benefice Service is at another church, we can arrange transport for you.

Please contact Pam on 837203.



About 60 attended the Remembrance Sunday service in church taken by Rev Rosie Coldwell, and afterwards at the Memorial Stone, for which we were blessed with sunshine. The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers brought their flags and wreath, and the collection of £165 has been given to the Royal British Legion.

Don't forget that there will be a Christingle service on the 3rd December at 4.00pm. All children and their grown-ups are welcome. The children will be making their Christingle oranges and a few craft items before Sarah leads us all in age-appropriate worship. All ages are welcome so please come along with your children, grandchildren or friends' children.

At the Christingle service we will be launching an Advent Angel Trail; children will be invited to find 24 pictures of angels in windows of homes around the village. The results will be given during the Christmas morning service in church and the child who finds the most angels will get a prize.

Pam Shults

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@tesco.net

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew
Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466 Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

Emma Hughes puddletownbenefice@outlook.com
or by telephone on 01305 849039

Dewlish Church Notes

A BIG thank-you to Bill Britton who volunteered to ride for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. Bill raised £433 in total, of which £216.50 came back to our church. Well done, Bill!

Our Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday 2nd December in the Village Hall starting at 2.30pm. Stalls will include new items, jewellery, cakes and produce, Christmas decorations, toys, books and puzzles. There will also be a raffle and teas. Donations for the stalls will be most welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.

The Carol Service will be on Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm in church, followed by teas in the Village Hall. If you would like your child to take part, please contact Jim on 01258 837466. The collection at the service will be donated to the Children's Society.

We shall also be Carol Singing around the village on Thursday 21st December, meeting at the crossroads at 6.30pm. The money collected will be given to Shelter. Please do join us.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Benefice Service in our church at 11.00am, and Sue has kindly offered refreshments afterwards.

We are sad to say that John Holdaway is retiring from cutting the churchyard grass, having looked after it so well for many years. John, we thank you sincerely for all the love and care you have given.

Daphne Burg

St. Andrews celebrates Trafalgar evening

ON Saturday 21st October, which was Trafalgar Day, we celebrated the event at The Royal Oak with our annual dinner. The committee and helpers did a wonderful job decorating the function room with lots of flags, bunting and a DVD, as well as some very interesting readings and pictures of this historic event.

The menu was leek and potato soup, followed by kedgeree, Pusser's Pot Mess, or wild mushroom risotto, with apple pie or fruit sorbet to finish. During the evening between each course there were various readings such as Dorset Men at Trafalgar, Nelson's Prayer, Naval Graces, and toasts, and we ended the evening singing naval sea shanties.



Thank you to The Royal Oak for a great menu, Tony Dyer for his information, the volunteers who did the readings, and of course the people who attended. Everyone was given a souvenir programme to remember a most enjoyable evening.

Eva Stockley

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Can you identify where this is in Milborne?



Be the first to send your answer to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to any member of the Reporter team.
 Reporter team members can be found on page 2
 No prize, just a bit of fun. Answer in the January Reporter.
 Last month's answer can be found on page 30

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*

Heathcote House **GUEST ACCOMMODATION**
Tel: 01258 837219

Heathcote House is a lovely Grade II listed guest house right in the heart of Milborne St Andrew. We offer a warm welcome and friendly service, all rooms have king size beds, en-suite bathrooms and are tastefully refurbished to a very high standard.

- Aga cooked breakfast served in the conservatory under an old grape vine.
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Heathcote House, Milborne St Andrew, Dorset DT11 0JG. Website: www.heathcotehouse.co.uk

Are you prepared?

PREPARING for the future is often something people put off thinking about. This autumn sees Dorset County Council launch an adult social care campaign called 'Prepare to live better'.

The campaign aims to educate people about the changing landscape of social care and encourage them to make provisions and plans for their future care needs.

Dorset County Council's Cabinet member for Health and Care Jill Haynes said: "Prepare to live better is all about encouraging people to stay active and keep as independent as possible.

"We naturally become more independent as we progress through life. But as we get older, it is even more important to stay independent.

"When it comes to adult social care we want to help people stay in their own home for longer. By thinking about the future and preparing for the costs of care, you can have more choice and control over the care you want."



Eighty-five per cent of people aged 51 to 75 have no plans for how they will pay for their care. One of the hardest things is knowing when to talk about care, but it's never too early to have those conversations with family and friends.

In Dorset we have a high number of older people who are isolated and lonely. By coordinating the efforts of social care, health and other agencies, we are striving to help people remain happily independent in their own homes and able to make informed choices about their support needs.

Staff will be out and about over the next few months visiting towns across the county and talking to people about planning for their future. You can find out more about living better at dorsetforyou.gov.uk/livebetter

Saturday 4th November 2017 10.00am to 2.00pm. Outside Natwest, New Bond Street, Weymouth DT4 8LY.

Wednesday 8th November 2017 10.00am to 2.00pm. South Street, Dorchester DT1 1BT.

Friday 19th January 2018 9.00am to 1.00pm. Blandford Market Place, Blandford Forum.

Saturday 3rd February 2018 10.00am to 2.00pm. Sainsburys, South Street, Wareham BH20 4NX.

The Reporter team would like to wish all
our readers, advertisers and
contributors a very happy Christmas.

A Good Read

Enduring Love by Ian McEwan

ENDURING LOVE is an amazing and intoxicating read. The reader is met with one of the most gripping and exciting first chapters which also presents an intriguing conundrum. What follows is a direct result of that incident. A dense mixture of religion, science, erotomania and the power of the protagonist's thoughts and actions.

Written in the first person and demanding intense concentration, it is a suspenseful tale. Its urgency is compelling. The characters standing out in 3D from the narrative which twists in a most satisfying and surprising way.

Those of you already acquainted with Ian McEwan will need no encouragement to read this astonishing piece of f(a)ction. For those who are not, this is a perfect introduction to his finger-on-the-pulse of modern life writing.

Carole Fornachon

Milborne Movies! Hidden Figures

Showing at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall,
8th December

Doors and bar open 7.00 for 7.30pm start

"Funny, heart-warming and inspirational" – *Metro*.

NOMINATED for three Academy Awards including Best Picture, this is the true story of three brilliant and dedicated African-American mathematicians, Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia) and Mary Jackson (Janelle). Set in the '60s, when prejudice against black people is so high that they cannot use the same bathrooms as their white colleagues, these three women serve as the brain-force at NASA and help launch astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that turned around the Space Race.

As far as the viewer goes, the story dates back to the 1960s, but when you catch the tributes paid to the real Johnson, Vaughan, and Jackson during the credit roll, you know that this story of triumph needed to be told, right here, right now.

Sarah Ryan

Mellulah Yoga Retreat wins Gold at the Dorset Tourism Awards 2017

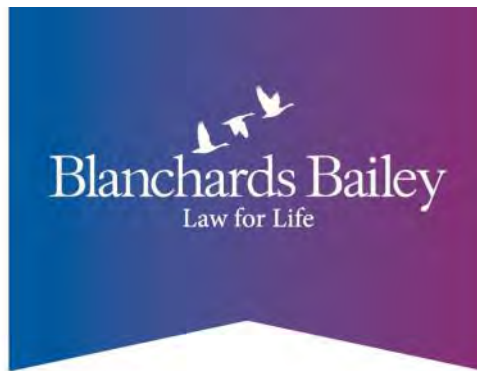
IN the middle of November, Dorset based Mellulah Therapy & Yoga Retreats, was awarded Gold in the Spa & Wellbeing Category at an exciting and inspiring ceremony at the Lighthouse in Poole.

Mellulah's Founder, Saira Francis, is making yoga more accessible by providing retreats for people from all backgrounds, age groups, budgets, gender and experience. Saira's holistic and traditional approach to yoga aims to take her clients back to the roots of this therapeutic practice. Her grounded ethos, and focus on the health benefits of yoga, ensures that everyone feels comfortable and welcome at her classes and retreats.

Judges were impressed by Saira's ability to create a warm and inviting environment for retreaters to relax and let go of daily stresses. Offering yoga for all abilities alongside healthy, locally sourced vegan meals and blissful meditation and relaxation, in beautiful quiet settings around North and West Dorset. Comments from judges were "We came away with our spirits lifted".

This is the first year that the DTA has included a Spa & Wellbeing Category confirming the growing trend towards yoga, meditation and holistic health within the tourism industry in the UK.

Saira runs a Vinyasa Flow Yoga class at the Milborne St. Andrew Sports & Social Club, Lane End, on Thursday evenings from 6.00–7.30pm for beginners and Friday mornings from 9.30–11.00am for mixed ability.



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A Year with the Food & Wine Club

THE Milborne St. Andrew Food & Wine Club, with its 68 members, is heading towards the end of another very successful year. A variety of exciting 'foodie' events to suit all tastes were on offer covering a broad range of tastes and prices. The events were also arranged so that some were at

lunchtime, some in the evening, some mid-week and some at weekends - so that everyone had a chance to attend as few or as many as they wished.

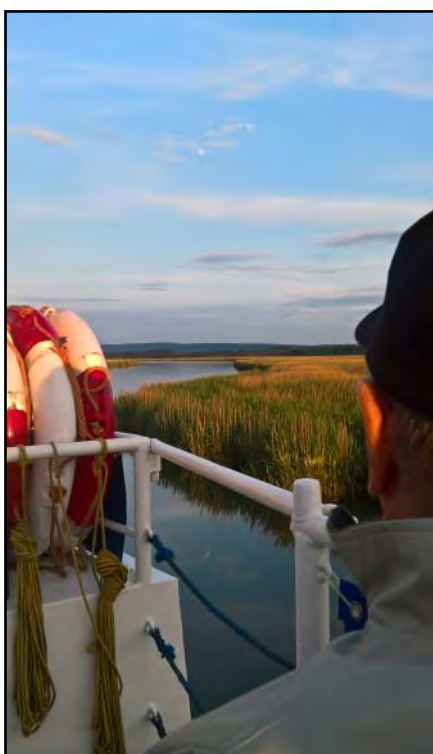
The year started with a lovely mid-week lunch at the refurbished Crown Hotel in Blandford. This was followed in early March with an Italian Wine & Cheese Tasting evening held in the Village Hall with a welcome glass of Prosecco followed by a selection of paired wines and speciality cheeses from several regions of Italy. Each wine came with a description and tasting notes provided by Dorset Wine in Poundbury and Turnbills Cheesemongers in Shaftesbury provided the wonderful cheeses. Samples of local foodstuffs were also provided and everyone went home satisfied and a bit merry!

April saw a lunchtime visit to Yalbury Cottage in Lower Bockhampton on a wonderful sunny day for more Prosecco and canapes on the terrace before a delicious lunch with coffee (also on the terrace!) afterwards. The garden was so inviting in the beautiful spring sunshine, that the Chairman had to remind her members that they had homes to go to! This was followed in May by a complete change of style with a morning visit to the Black Cow Vodka

Distillery in Beaminster. This included a tour of the distillery and a practical critique of the produce! We also managed to fit in a lunchtime visit to Rick Stein in Sandbanks at the end of May, which was an absolute winner for our members.

Due to popular demand, a return to the waves happened in June with a gentle River Cruise from Poole Quayside to Wareham. Piping hot fish and chips were consumed by the assembled members, who also made the most of a pub stop in Wareham before returning to the boat for the return to Poole. We managed to stay dry and though it was a bit windy no-one parted with their consumables.

A complete change in style saw our members bathed in a beautiful sunny July afternoon enjoying a scrumptious Afternoon Tea, held in the lovely garden of Linda and Alan Caldwell. The tea ('fit for a



Queen') was provided by the Committee and was further enhanced by the delightful musical accompaniment of Nina Garcia.

It was back to Milborne in August to support our Village Hall. There we organised an Evening of Yorkshire Food and Drink, in response to an idea to cover foods from different regions (Lincolnshire was covered the previous year). Our wonderful Committee Member Rose Frost produced a wondrous feast from her native county, which included such delicacies as North Riding Fish Trio, West Riding Meat & Potato Pie, Flamborough Fish Pie and Terry's Chocolate Orange & Cointreau Truffle Torte, to name a few – accompanied by wines and, of course, Yorkshire ales.

This was followed in September with our 'Safari Supper', which consisted of members visiting a nominated member's home for a surprise starter. Having finished our starter an envelope was opened which contained the differing locations that each member had to move to for their main course. This consumed, the same procedure was followed and everyone moved on to a third home for dessert and finally a fourth venue for coffee and drinks. The weather stayed fine for all the members walking to various corners of the village, and a great time was had by all.

October brought our annual Pie and Skittles night in the Royal Oak with yummy pies to eat, regular booze to drink and a nail-biting skittles tournament, which was superbly won by Helen Pugh. Unfortunately Sue Benn was unable to attend the evening, therefore was not able to defend her title from last year!

November provided yet another change of style with a Murder/Mystery play being staged by The Players in the Village Hall and members entering into the spirit of the occasion by wearing appropriate attire. The setting was a 'period' wedding celebration during which one of the guests met an untimely end. The 'audience' then had to determine who committed the dastardly deed and why. A prize was awarded to the most accurate detective work and also for the best dressed attendee. Guests provided 'sharing plates' of a variety of food and glasses of Prosecco were offered on arrival.

The final event of the year is now just around the corner with our AGM and Christmas Dinner to be held at Milton Abbey. As is customary,

a coach has been arranged to safely deliver our members to this lovely venue (and return) and the cost of this, along with all the wine consumed throughout the evening, will be met by the F&W Club. It is the policy of the F&W Club that any profits made throughout the year will be given back to its members at the AGM. We are not a profit-making organisation.

For further information, please contact Julie Johannsen, tel: 01258 839004 or email: msa.foodandwineclub@gmail.com



Pumpkins, poppies and more – a busy time at Ladybirds

THE return to Ladybirds after the October half term has led to a busy few weeks so far. The popular children's story of 'Room on the Broom' was very apt as we returned to celebrate Halloween. The children enjoyed carving pumpkins and making witch pictures incorporating triangles, our shape of the week. Dressing up with capes and witch hats was popular and this time the children also required wands as props to aid in their incredibly imaginative role play. Bug jelly was a big hit as was baking and decorating their very own spider cakes.

Halloween was closely followed by Bonfire night that produced some interesting neon finger paintings covered in glitter! It also gave us a chance to discuss traditions and safety. Many of the children had been to firework displays and were well aware of their need for gloves to hold sparklers.

Monday saw us walk the children to the memorial and talk to them about Remembrance Sunday and of course the poppies. Some beautiful artwork was produced and for snack the children decorated their own poppy biscuits.

It will be a busy time as always over the next few weeks in the lead up to Christmas. The children will be making gifts and cards along with baking, an activity that proves forever popular.

Katie Cutts



Ofsted registered no.217717



Registered Charity no. 1087441

Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

Ofsted reported

"Children demonstrate an eagerness to learn, gain control and coordination in their physical skills and become confident communicators"

We offer a high quality preschool experience for children aged 2 years to school age in Milborne St Andrew and the surrounding area

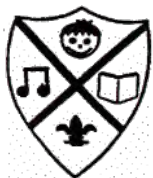
Rated GOOD again by Ofsted

We have Highly qualified staff who using the ethos of learning through play help children to achieve their potential

Opening times:

Monday & Tuesday 9.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 - 13.00
Term time only.
Minimum attendance 3 hours per day starting at 9.00am

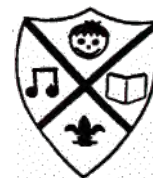
To find out more please contact
Liz Dyer (Leader) 01258 839117; 07771 512427 or email liz@milborneladybirds.com
Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044
www.milborneladybirds.com



MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together, playing together

SCHOOL NEWS



Socks in a Box!

Milborne's Harvest collection this year was socks!

Each class collected socks of all different colours and sizes and put them in a box to be delivered to the refugees in Calais (France).



Brooke and I, Milborne's Pupil Voice representatives, took the socks collected to St. Osmund's Middle School where they were collected by the 'Blandford Cares' charity. They will be taking them direct to France.

Brooke and I arrived at St. Osmund's, and were shown to the hall, where all the socks collected by various different schools were being collated and packed up to then be loaded onto the van for their journey to Calais.

There were also lots of other different activities to do, so we decided to make some pom-pom's. Brooke chose a sparkly pink coloured wool and I chose a sparkly purple coloured wool. We were shown what to do and then left to carry on by ourselves to finish them.

It was then time to go back to school, so Brooke's mum brought us back. It was a short drive. The whole experience was one of the best times of our lives and we loved it!

Written by

Tess Padwicke-Barratt (Puffins class)

Another school photograph on page 29

Milborne St. Andrew First School will be doing the Wessex FM 'School Report' week commencing 4th December and will be available as a Podcast afterwards for download from Wessex FM website, if anyone would like to listen to it again or missed it the first time round.

CONTACTS

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

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Hunt

School Secretary: Mrs B Hosford

Chair of Governors: Miss Jane Pope

FOS Chairman: Mrs Caroline Richards

e-mail: office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk Tel: (01258) 837362 Fax: (01258) 837170

Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

North Dorset District Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
	Jane Somper	01258 471089
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council –	Clerk: Colin Hampton	01258 837011
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Joy Robinson	01258 837661

Floods A354 problems contact the Highways Agency	03001 235000
Dorset Direct	01305 221000
dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems	
Environment Agency Floodline	08459 881188
South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk	01404 821500
Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline	03458 505959

GENERAL — ADULT

Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
Wednesday Social Club	Sheila Burton	01258 839033
Women's Institute	Josie Wright	01258 839090

GENERAL — YOUTH

Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group (Secretary)	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Leanne Brown	07899 808185
	Julianne Hall	07846 256694
Youth Club age 8 – 13 years	Joanne Miller	01258 881496

POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact		101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard	101
Home watch Co-ordinator	Joy Robinson	01258 837661

SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Hunt	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Miss Jane Pope	
Friends of School Chair:	Caroline Richards	

SPECIAL INTEREST

Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	Anna Cullen	01258 837143
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Ranters' Folk Session	Roger Harrall	01258 837371
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

SPORT

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Colin Chastey	01258 882162
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07540 626174

Football – Under 12s

Chairman	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Manager/coach	Andy Brown	07427 503373
Treasurer	Simon Buckingham	01258 839122
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports & Social Club	Chairman: Richard Lock	01258 837929
	Bookings: Richard Lock	01258 837929
Table Tennis	Pauline Pitfield	01258 839123
Tap Dancing for Adults	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Tennis	Stephen Lang	07916 312452
Yoga (at school)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Saira Francis	01258 880505
Yoga (at village hall)	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230
Meditation (at Sports & Social Club)	Phillip Harris	

Phillip.harris@hotmail.com

VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Chris Uden	01258 837295
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Pam Shults	01258 837203
Booking Secretary:	Alison Riddle	01258 837030

HEALTH

Bere Regis Surgery		01929 471268
Milborne St. Andrew Surgery		01258 837383
Milton Abbas Surgery		01258 880210
Puddletown Surgery		01305 848333
NHS for emergencies		111
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 880229

The Village Hall Invites Singalong around our Christmas tree

Join in with others
in this outdoor fun

event on
Friday 22nd
December at
6.30pm

*Wear warm
clothing and
bring your
torches*



Community Events Diary

Add your event to this diary by contacting the **Reporter** – tel: 01258 837700 or email: msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

December

- Saturday 2nd** **Christmas Bazaar** Dewlish village hall 2.30pm – see page 9
- Sunday 3rd** **Christingle service and launch of the Advent Angel** Trail St. Andrew's church 4.00pm
- Wednesday 6th** **Wednesday Club Christmas Party** The Royal Oak skittle alley. Tickets £8 each 2.00pm – see page 25
- Friday 8th** **Milborne Movies** *Hidden Figures* village hall Tickets £3.50 Doors and bar from 7.00pm for 7.30pm start – see page 11 and below
- Saturday 9th** **Weatherby Singers** *Back in time for Christmas* Puddletown village hall tickets £8.00 children under 16 free 7.30pm – see page 2
- Tuesday 12th** **Reporter mid-day deadline** for January issue. Note earlier date email articles and photos to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk by mid-day
- Wednesday 13th** **100 Club draw** The Royal Oak 8.00pm – see page 17
- Thursday 14th** **WI** celebrate Christmas with music and a party
- Saturday 16th** **Christmas Carols for all** St. Andrew's church 6.00pm – see page 3
- Sunday 17th** **Christmas with Canzonetta** St. John's church Tolpuddle 3.00pm – see page 25
- Thursday 21st** **Carol singing around Dewlish** meet at the crossroads at 6.30pm – see page 9
- Friday 22nd** **Singalong around the Christmas tree** outside the village hall 6.00pm – see page 16
- Sunday 24th** **Midnight Mass** St. Andrew church 11.30pm
- January**
- Friday 5th** **WI Christmas Lunch** The Royal Oak – see page 19
- Wednesday 10th** **History group meeting** The Royal Oak 7.30pm

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Ladybirds Playgroup** Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)
- Beavers** Monday 5.00–6.30pm MH (term time only)
- Scouts** Monday 6.00–8.00pm CR/MH
- Players** Monday 8.00–10.00pm MH
- ABC Line Dancers** Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Cub Scouts** Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)
- Wednesday Club** first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
- Yoga** Thursday 1.30–2.45pm MH
- Gardening Club** third Thursday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Karate** Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH
- Village Hall Committee** third Thursday every two months 7.30–10.00pm
- Women's Institute** second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm
- Youth Club 8–13 years** every other Friday MH (term time only)
- Village Lunch** last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm MH
- Artsreach Events** – look out for the posters.

Check Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

- Pilates** Monday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only)
- Yoga** Tuesday 6.30–8.00pm (term time only)
- Badminton** Wednesday 6.30–8.30pm (term time only)
- Circuit training** Thursday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only)

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

- Table Tennis** Monday 7.00–9.00pm. Information from Pauline Pitfield 01258 839123
- Meditation Group** Tuesday 7.30–8.30pm. Information from Phillip Harris on 07765 786123 or phillip_harris@hotmail.co.uk
- The Busy Bees** Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Leanne Brown on 07899808185.
- Yoga** (Mellulah) Thursday (evening): Friday (mornings)
- Private parties, birthdays, wedding** receptions check online calendar
- U13 Football matches** check online calendar
- Ladies Premiership** (regional) matches check online calendar
- Dorset FA** (gentlemen) matches 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.

100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw date – Wednesday 8th November

£100 Pip Johns

£25 Angela Johnson

The next draw is on Wednesday 13th December and then on the second Wednesday of each month


at 8.00pm in The Royal Oak

Everyone is welcome to attend.

New members always welcome

Payments may be made by cheque or standing order.

Contact Andy Mott for details 01258 837208




Milborne Movies
at the Village Hall
on the BIG screen

Supported by **Viridor CREDITS**

Milborne Movies

Friday 8th December
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm



Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

Tickets £3.50

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to the Reporter

Dear Editor,

Yesterday this ancient mariner had the great honour of laying the Royal British Legion wreath at the Memorial Stone, alongside wreaths from the Milborne Scout Pack and the Sports Club. My splendid aide, Eleanor, a member of the Milborne Scout Pack, counted well over eighty people present including several young ones. This was a goodly looking assembly but it represented less than 7% of the village population!



The wreath from the Sports Club was a most welcome addition this year bringing to mind the happier, sporting days, of those men of Milborne who so gallantly laid down their lives for our freedom.

Next year, on the centenary of the 1918 Armistice, it would be wonderful to see a much larger attendance and more wreaths or memorial poppy crosses laid, whether from Village organisations or individuals.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them"

Let us hope that more people will.

Most sincerely
Tony Dyer

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The Magic of a Fairground Life . . . at the November WI

WITH Christmas well and truly on the horizon, we decided to continue our now annual tradition of a donation to charity, which this year will be to our local Food Bank. As well as the usual party food, we may bring along a raffle prize (wrapped), the proceeds of which will go to the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Also don't forget Christmas cards for distribution! Christmas Lunch will be on Friday 5th January at the Royal Oak. Linda has prepared menu choice forms and asks that these, together with remittance due, should be returned to her at our next meeting.

We have all enjoyed a varied and interesting programme of events this year, and Lesley, Shirley and Heather are to meet to look at next year's programme. Bookends members met to short-list their choices for next year's books, which are nevertheless subject to availability from the library.

Val Andrews had attended the recent special Annual Meeting of the Dorset Federation for their Centenary year and reported on the day's interesting and varied programme of events. Speakers included Janet Street-Porter, the writer and broadcaster, who talked about her life and work in print, radio and television. A well-attended and much enjoyed day.

Our speaker, Kay Townsend, comes from a long line of showmen, going back as far as 1876 when her great grandfather bought a small children's roundabout which was pulled by a horse. She illustrated her fairground life with slides showing how the showmen earned their living, and the move from horses to traction engines to transport the larger rides and equipment around the country. The original rides were often heavily decorated and ornate, all made of wood and locally made.

Today's rides, by contrast, are very streamlined, incredibly expensive and, sadly, all the traction engines are built abroad. Many of the hand-made wooden fairground horses have been burnt; those that are left are sought-after items. Changing times have meant that the showman's way of life has had to change to survive, operating costs make the rides expensive and there is much competition from the theme parks where fixed entry means all rides are free. Kay's evocative talk took us all back to a magical time.

Our competition was won by Jose Thomas, for her poem aptly named 'Merry go round', so enjoyed by all.

At next month's meeting we will celebrate Christmas with music and a party on Thursday 14th December. We look forward to an enjoyable and seasonal time.

Pat Bull



**BT internet
scam is
affecting
residents in Dorset**

MANY reports have been made from residents across Dorset stating that people claiming to be from BT Open Reach are asking for remote access to computers to 'make checks' on things like connection speed, routers and security software.

These people are convincing and quite insistent.

To offer reassurance about the legitimacy of the request, people are being provided with a telephone number to call. Once the number given is dialled it is answered by a supposed BT operator. Please be aware – this is not a trusted way to verify a caller's identity. Always use the company contact number found on a utility bill or correspondence from that company. Never trust a number given to you over the phone to confirm identity.

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Terry's chocolate orange truffle torte

WHEN Delia first demonstrated the recipe for her famous truffle torte on television on the 6th of December 1990 it was so popular that there was a Europe-wide shortage of liquid glucose!

This is my Christmassy version: it is quick and very easy to make, freezes perfectly and is great to make ahead for when you are really busy at Christmas time.

Terry's Chocolate Orange was created by Terry's in 1932 at the Chocolate Works factory in York. The company opened the Art Deco-style factory, The Chocolate Works, in 1926, and began launching new products. These included the Dessert Chocolate Apple (1926), Terry's All Gold (1931) and the Chocolate Orange (1932). At the onset of World War II, confectionery production was immediately halted. The factory was taken over by F. Hills and Sons of Manchester as a shadow factory to manufacture and repair aircraft propeller blades.



With the factory handed back to the company post-war, production was difficult due to continued rationing in the United Kingdom and limited imports of raw cocoa. In 1954, production of the Chocolate Apple was phased out in favour of increased production of the Chocolate Orange. In 1979, Terry's launched the Chocolate Lemon, but it was withdrawn three years later.

On 29th May 2016, the UK product size was reduced from 175g to 157g by changing the moulded shape of each segment to leave an air gap between each piece. At one time it was estimated that a chocolate orange was found in a tenth of British Christmas stockings.

As a child, I didn't ever have a Christmas stocking. On Christmas Eve we children were sent upstairs to the airing cupboard to fetch down a clean white pillowcase each. These were hung on either side of the dining room fireplace ready for "Father Christmas" to fill. My brother and I had rumpled the secret of course but we didn't want to discourage mum and dad. One year I can remember choosing a bolster case instead of a pillowcase and being sent back to change it and got a telling off for being greedy. I don't expect many people remember bolsters; they were a long, double size pillow which went on a double bed with individual pillows on top.

This recipe uses a bag of Terry's chocolate orange minis, available in most supermarkets, to decorate the top of the torte. You could also use segments from a tin of mandarin oranges, swirls of cream, edible glitter, sparklers and anything else you like to make this pudding look suitably festive. There is quite a lot of chocolate used in this recipe, so it can work out to be very expensive. Chocolate varies a lot in price and quality; often supermarkets' own brands are a little bit cheaper.

Ingredients

450g dark chocolate
75 ml Cointreau or Grand Marnier (you could use Tesco plain chocolate



with a hint of zest of orange if you prefer not to use alcohol)
5 tablespoons liquid glucose
570 ml double cream
100g chocolate orange Club Biscuits, crushed
Cocoa powder to finish
Terry's chocolate orange minis (or mandarin oranges etc)

Method

Crush the Club Biscuits and sprinkle evenly on the base of large cake tin, lightly oiled and lined on the base with a parchment circle (you can use two smaller tins if you prefer then you can eat one and freeze one for another time)

Melt the chocolate with the liqueur and liquid glucose in a bowl over a pan of simmering water

When melted and smooth leave to cool for about five minutes

Lightly whip the cream until it is just starting to thicken

Fold half the cream into the chocolate mixture, then fold the

chocolate cream mixture into the remaining lightly whipped cream

Spoon it into the tin on top of the biscuit crumbs

Cover the tin with cling film and chill in the fridge overnight then, if freezing, unmount, cover with foil and place in the freezer.

To serve from chilled



Run a knife round the edge of the tin and invert onto a serving plate.

Give it a good shake and it should plop out – I've not had a disaster yet!

Sift a little cocoa powder over the biscuits and decorate with your choice of garnish.

It is very rich and very chocolaty so serve in very small portions with a dash of single cream over the top.

**** Always serve straight from the fridge as it**

is difficult to slice neatly when at room temperature.**

For good measure and because it's nearly Christmas, I offer one of my favourite poems about chocolate to you. It always, always makes me smile – the perfect example of how one or two well-placed words can somehow manipulate the whole poem . . .

Four o'clock fantasy

I look at you with lust – so smooth and long,
So firm, cream-filled, yet softening to my tongue,
Your sleek, smooth covering heaven to my eyes.
My conscience pricks. I know I am unwise.

Your sensuous shapeliness invades my soul
With urgent passion to consume you, whole.
In my desire to press you to my lips
I feel you slinking slowly to my hips.

It breaks my heart to leave you lying there . . .

Yes – how much is that chocolate éclair?

Author – Yvonne M. Fee

Merry Christmas!

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DID you know the *Reporter* has a Facebook page? Nearly 200 people like our page, but if you're not one of them and would like a handy way to read Milborne's monthly online, then like our page. Each month you'll find snippets of articles and photos posted there as well as a one click link to the latest *Reporter*, as soon as it has been published. The entire magazine is in colour, so it is the best way to see the photos and other content, whether on a PC, tablet or mobile phone.

Our Facebook page has posts highlighting some of the great stuff we cover from the upcoming magazine and gives you a chance to comment on the stories and articles – or even suggest things you'd like to see in our pages or online. But you'll also see photos and other posts that aren't in the magazine. So why not join us? Just search on Facebook for 'Milborne Reporter' or use the URL: www.facebook.com/MilborneReporter/





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Milborne St Andrew Reporter


27 October at 10:00

November's Reporter will be with you soon, here's a preview of what's inside: photos from Cinderella's wedding and volcanic eruptions at school, our small business feature stretches out with 'the Yoga teacher, the importance of Trafalgar Day, curry sauce for Remembrance Day and a well-deserved award for a Milborne business.

There's also church news, book reviews, hedgehog update and all the latest from village clubs and societies. Not forgetting all the handy contacts, what's on and letters page, the Reporter is jam-packed as usual!

See it all online, in colour, now:
<http://milbornestandrew.org.uk/.../Reporter%20Arc.../2017-11.pdf>





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Round the World with Pam Shults at the Wednesday Club's AGM

ON Wednesday 4th November it was the Wednesday Club's AGM. The entire Committee were re elected with Jenny Balcon remaining as Chairperson. José Thomas talked us through the audited accounts which were approved and Jenny presented the Annual Report. With there being no further business we stepped onto a cruise ship and



Pam gave us a tour round the world, supported by the excellent watercolour paintings that she had painted in the art class onboard her cruise ship. She took us to many places too numerous to mention but to name a few, Bermuda, Panama, Peru, New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka (where she painted this picture of an elephant) and The Maldives. Each place was accompanied by personal anecdotes of her visit which held us all enthralled. It was an excellent, informative and amusing talk for which we sincerely thank her and we look forward to travelling with Pam again after her next adventure!

Our next meeting will be a Christmas Party in the Skittle Alley at The Royal Oak on Wednesday 6th December starting at 2.00pm. The cost is £8 per head and places must be pre booked.

On Wednesday 10th January, a week later than our usual first Wednesday in the month meeting, we will be having a New Year lunch at The Royal Oak at 12.30pm for 1 o'clock; the cost will be £15 per head for two courses. Please contact Sheila on 839033 if you wish to book a place. There will be a non refundable deposit of £5 on booking.

We look forward to seeing all members at these events and hope that we may get some new members to enjoy the varied programme planned for 2018.

Lis Watts



Christmas with Canzonetta

SUNDAY 17th December at 3.00pm in St. John's church, Tolpuddle. We are very lucky to have the popular singing group 'Canzonetta' coming to us for their Christmas concert. Formed in 2004, this east Dorset based singing ensemble covers a varied range of singing styles from the 16th century to the 20th century. Hear their selection of Christmas songs and carols which will include favourites such as The Shepherds' Farewell by Berlioz and O Holy Night by Adam as well as some less well known vocal gems. Guest soloist will be treble William Bishop.

Still no start date for Fox View

VILLAGERS living near the remaining undeveloped land in Fox View have an undetermined wait before the developers build the planned remaining five properties.

Originally the developer, Ankers & Rawlings, had stated that work was to begin at the end of 2015 or the start of 2016 with completion in September 2016. This was delayed due to other overrunning projects. The developer then hoped to start around the middle of 2017.

With no sign of any activity to date, the *Reporter* contacted Ankers & Rawlings for an update. A spokesman for the company stated that there is now no planned start date for the development. It would therefore appear that local residents are stuck with an undeveloped building site for the foreseeable future.

Don't forget 12th December deadline for next *Reporter*

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Lest we forget – Memories of 1914–1918

EACH year at the Act of Remembrance in Milborne St. Andrew on Remembrance Sunday at 11.00am all the names of the fallen from our village are read out. I know that each name has a story behind it and the loss of life would have been a massive blow for each family affected. This year, as usual, there was a gathering of villagers at our war memorial. We stood in the sunshine in that beautiful and tranquil spot by the stream and reflected on the huge sacrifice of that whole generation and, of course, succeeding generations. It was heartening to see the young people from the scouting community taking such a full part, also several generations from the same family sharing the poignant, short, simple and dignified ceremony. Thank you to all those who helped organise this year's event and also to those who took part.

Next year, 2018, 11th November will mark 100 years since the end of the Great War and an appeal was made on behalf of The Royal British Legion for volunteers to help organise a fitting commemoration in this village for the centenary.

Many people now living in the village were born elsewhere and I'm sure a great many will have their own war hero in their family. Perhaps throughout 2018 we could share some of their stories through the pages of the *Reporter*?

This is my father's elder brother's story, Roland Hartley Booth, who died aged just 16. Alas, I have no photograph of him.

After my brother's death in 2013 I was given some boxes of old family papers and when going through them found this letter to my grandfather Arthur Booth from Arnold Jerram. Both their 16 year old



sons were listed as "missing believed killed"; Roland Booth, class 1 boy and Harry Jerram, midshipman on HMS *Hawke* which was torpedoed by the Germans and sunk off Aberdeen on October 15th 1914 with only 74 men saved from a crew of 594:

Medbourne House
Berrylands
Surbiton
April 17. 1915

Dear Mr Booth

I am going up to London today and will see some of the Admiralty officials. I will let you know the result if anything can be done.

The enclosed may be of a little interest but it is all very sad. However we know that both our boys died doing their duty and now they are "with Christ".

Yours very sincerely,
Arnold E Jerram

Tell Mrs Booth to try and think of her boy as still with his Comrades and Officers of his ship.

All together on the other side of the veil. Comrades together there as they were here. Still on duty.

The enclosed documents he sent are copies of the telegram received from the Admiralty and from the King and Queen, the newspaper

accounts of the disaster from "The Scotsman" and "The Times", also personal letters of condolence received from Lieut. Commander Rosoman and Harry Evitt, Boatswain HMS *Hawke*, the official evidence from Stoker Petty Officer Crittenden and various extracts from letters and accounts. On the last page is a copy of an article from "The Globe" October 26th 1914,

Amsterdam Sunday Night

Captain Lieutenant Weddigen, Commander of the German Submarine OU9 who, according to Berlin Reports was responsible for the sinking of the Cruiser *Hawke*, has been decorated with the Order of Merit – Reuter.

Then the final pencilled entry reads Captain Weddington (sic) U29 sunk March 1915.

On 18 March 1915 U-29 was rammed by the British battleship HMS *Dreadnought* in the Pentland Firth. U-29 had broken the surface immediately ahead of *Dreadnought* after firing a torpedo at HMS *Neptune* and *Dreadnought* cut the submarine in two after a short chase. There were no survivors from the submarine.

Weddigen was born in Herford, Germany in 1882 and between the wars a newly built army barracks there was named Otto-Weddigen-Kaserne in his honour.

When I first went out to live and work in a British Forces school in 1974 I was based in Herford and lived in the teachers' mess just round the corner from the very same barracks which was at the time home to the 14th/20th Kings Hussars.

My uncle's name is inscribed on a commemorative tablet within his local church at Newsome village near Huddersfield and also on the gravestone of his parents in the graveyard there. As with many families, the effect of the death of their eldest son was devastating for my grandparents. My grandmother became very depressed and was confined to York Retreat and certified as insane. She died there in an influenza epidemic. My father was only three years old when his mother was "taken away". In those days any mental health problems were a source of shame and not spoken of. The older brothers were sent away to boarding school and my father joined them at a very young age. Eventually my grandfather remarried and my grandmother's name was never mentioned again by anybody in the family. I was 16 years old before I found out about the skeleton in our family closet! Her name was Ruthetta Booth.

I like to think that, as well as his name, my son Roland has inherited some of his great uncle's characteristics. He has served as part of the Her Majesty's Naval Service for over 20 years, often aboard submarines, and spends quite a bit of time training in the seas around Scotland.

"... ears that have greened but will never be gold
And flowers in the bud that will never bloom"

Thomas Hardy (The Dynasts)

Rose Frost

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Round Robin Ramblers

The local villages walking group

WALKS are normally held on the first Sunday and the third Wednesday of each month. Please join us as we enjoy exercise, good company and the wonderful Dorset countryside. Any questions, please feel free to contact: Ian Bromilow, 01258 880044.

Sunday 3rd December – 1.30pm

Hambledon Hill

Meet near St. Mary's Church, Shroton

Grid reference: ST 860124 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Sunday 4th January – 1.30pm

Bryantspuddle Heath and Oakerswood

Meet at the parking area on the heath, at the first main junction south of Briantspuddle

Grid reference: SY 815923 on OS Explorer Sheet OL 15 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Wednesday 17th January – 11.00am

Fontmell Down

Meet outside St. Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

Grid reference: ST 866170 on Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 6.75 miles)

Bring a packed lunch.

Please note:

- Who** All welcome including well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners. No pre-booking required just turn up.
- Wear** Suitable clothing for wet conditions and location, walking boots or Wellington boots.
- Bring** Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).
- Pace** We go at the pace of the slowest.
- Terrain** Expect mud, inclines and stiles.
- Aim** Keep fit, enjoy the Dorset countryside and each other's company.
- Legal** We look after one another but in the end you are responsible for yourself.

No Change at Gardening Club



THE Gardening Club AGM was held on 16th November. The Chairman reported that it had been an interesting and successful year for the club. She thanked all committee members for their hard and supportive work during the year. There had been an increase in membership and thanks to a profitable plant sale and careful spending, the finances were in good order. This was shown by the financial statement presented by the treasurer, Ann Guy, and accepted by all present.

As no one new volunteered for the committee this year's members were unanimously re-elected.

The business meeting was followed by a presentation by Dudley Higginson of Christchurch on the Otters of Blandford. He had a wonderful film of these attractive creatures swimming, hunting and playing near Blandford bridge accompanied by other shots of river life on the Stour throughout the year. This was followed by a short film on Kingfishers, again with spectacular footage of the birds.

The evening finished with the provision of mulled wine and mince pies making a convivial end to our meeting and our year. Next year's varied activities will appear in the January *Reporter*.

Sally Dyer

Year 2 Turtles class at Milborne St. Andrew First School



Reindeers and Christmas trees

DON'T miss Avon Heath's **festive conservation tasks** on **Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December** (various time slots available) – great fun for all the family! Help remove unwanted Scots Pine trees from the heathland and burn them on the bonfire; you're welcome to take any home that you wish to keep. Tools, gloves, hot drinks and mince pies provided. £4 per family. Please book.

Due to popular demand, we are offering an extra two days of **Reindeer Making** sessions. Our original session on 18th December is full booked, but we still have some spaces on **Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th December**. Reindeers cost £8, including a fluffy red nose!

Book your places TODAY! Call 01425 478082.

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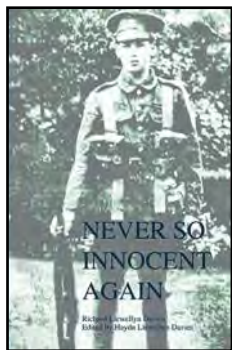
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Never So Innocent Again by Richard Llewellyn Davies and Haydn Llewellyn Davies



I ASKED to review this book because although it is one of many commemorating the Great War, it is a diary written by a father, edited by his son, and therefore a very personal memoir of great events. I was not disappointed. From the front cover, depicting a 16 year old soldier and friend of the author, to the quality paper, layout of the pages, with plenty of space at the top and around the paragraphs, the book has a personal feel. Many of the author's sayings to his son are reported, and ring true of

today's soldiery, as do the reactions to death, destruction and general emburgerances by the Army.

Highlights include the young soldier about to embark for France and wondering whether he would be up to the task, his reaction on heading into the line and description of an Irish battalion seen coming down for some R&R as the Monmouths arrived in France. I enjoyed the occasional quotes from the 'Wipers Times' and the references to daily life in and out of the line.

The writing style is very simple, almost childlike, which makes for easy reading, although the text deals with some very serious and complex matters. It's hard to put oneself into the mindset of a young man wrenched from a tiny Welsh village into the mincing machine of the Western Front, but the author's language and writing style go a long way to engaging the reader. His description of being fed fish and chips from newspaper for the first time and the life behind the lines being described as 'holidays' are endearing. Throughout the book one feels very close to the writer as he describes the 'small matters' that history books ignore, such as meals, lice, laundry and the amount of drill, cleaning and boredom that are involved in training for deployment.

The author learned quickly from older soldiers who had been in the trenches already – for example if German machine guns are firing high it's because they have a patrol out, so be extra wary when in your listening post to avoid capture. The descriptions of preparations for battle are interesting, and his description of breakfast – one egg, a bacon rasher and a rissole, with a slice of bread you could dip in the bacon fat if you were nice to the cook, puts some of the modern Army's offerings to shame.

Having fought at Second Ypres, the Monmouthshires moved on to the Somme in time for June 1916 and his description of the battle and more of how he felt physically and mentally afterwards, is very moving. I am in awe of his pride that they held on and never gave thought to not doing so, both then and throughout later battles. He reports those shot at dawn for 'cowardice' in an unsentimental and understanding way, but feels he couldn't have let his mates down. This sentiment also occurs in 'Somme Mud' by EPF Lynch, another very personal memoir, by an Australian soldier. The British Army's structure based around fighting for your mates, your company, battalion and regiment certainly works! Later in the book he explores his own feelings as he felt himself 'on edge' when on home leave, and how he dealt with the restless and angry feelings by long walks in the lovely countryside near his home.

I was saddened several times about the attrition rate. Although very familiar with the large numbers of casualties in this war, the loss of 110 from one Company, two thirds of a battalion and eight of the nine men who joined up from his home village, make for very sombre reading. He also shows sympathy for German soldiers, who he said were never heard singing in their trenches again after the Somme. At Passchendaele he wonders why they still marched forward in three rows, shoulder to shoulder, when the Allies had perfected the techniques of open order advance, creeping barrage and other ways to reduce casualties. After six weeks on the Somme his battalion was disbanded and he along with others transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. He was lucky enough to get leave at this point and describes

the difficulties of travel, the constant checking of passes to be sure he was moving back legally, and the emotion of meeting with the mother of his best friend, who had been killed.

Other things don't appear to have changed in the British Army – apparently when Mills Bombs were introduced, bombing squads were called 'grenadiers'. The Guards Brigade pleaded with the King, their Colonel-in-Chief, and they were renamed 'bombing squads'. The damned impertinence of infantry!

He touches on the Germans' 'scorched earth' policy as they withdrew, and its effect on the civilian population as well as on the soldiery finding lethal booby traps. He points out that although absolutely desperate on withdrawal from Mons and in 1918, British troops refrained from such underhand actions.

After the Somme, he returned to Ypres, and describes improved training and communications, proving that senior Officers were learning from experience and new techniques were being introduced to deal with modern warfare. He praises the Royal Engineers for the detail of their scale models.

Although prepared for the ignition of mines at Messines Ridge, his description of his feelings before the battle, of the mines exploding, and how they ran forward after the explosion to find frightened and shocked German soldiers show that nothing could have prepared them fully for what happened.

After Messines and another spot of home leave, he returned to France, where Army incompetence/individual intransigence resulted in his being posted to the Royal Navy. Having wangled a way to return to his unit, he was put on a charge for being AWOL whilst being in the Navy! Even worse, colleagues addressed him as 'Hello Sailor'!

Interestingly, this man showed a lot of sympathy and comradeship to the German soldiers who he had fought. He had very little time for French people, who he thought exploited the soldiers who were there to help them for instance charging for water in addition to fields for camping. He was very rude to French tourists who came to Wales, but always would have a drink with German ones.

I would recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Great War, particularly told from the soldier's point of view. Historians give us the big picture, but the tiny minutiae of an infantryman's life answer the questions of how men raised themselves to do extraordinary things during exceptional times. I thank Haydn Llewellyn Davies for his patience and love in producing such a wonderful memorial to his father.

*Shall I see them coming, coming
In their ragged broken line
Walking wounded in the sunlight,
Clothed in majesty divine.*

*For the fairer of the lilies,
That God's summer ever sees
Ne'er was clothed in royal beauty
such as decks the least of these.*

*Tattered, torn and bloody khaki,
Gleams of white flesh in the sun,
Raiment worthy of their beauty,
And the great things they have done.*

*Purple robes and snowy linen
Have for earthly kings sufficed,
But these bloody sweaty tatters
Were the robes of Jesus Christ*

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*Saturday 23rd - Live Music with
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*Tuesday 26th - Boxing Day
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*Sunday 31st - New Year's Eve
join us til late to see in 2018*

*Monday 1st January
New Year's Day Brunch Buffet
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