



# Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 13 Issue 3

March 2021

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## Valuing every one

One of the downsides of publications such as this magazine is the lapse in time between my writing these thoughts each month and the publication and distribution of this magazine.

As I write, it was last week when the number of lives lost to coronavirus in the United Kingdom reached the stark and harrowing total of 100,000. And by the time you read this that figure will be even higher. Most of us living today have not before experienced such a high death toll among our families, friends, neighbours, communities and countries.

Every one of those people who died was a valued and unique being, whose passing has left loved ones bereaved and in pain. Grief is always hard, but some circumstances have made bereavement as a result of the virus even harder than normal. Many have died without being able to spend their final days and hours with family members and friends. Many are grieving without the comfort of loved ones nearby. Funerals have been restricted to a few mourners, wakes forbidden and the solace of time spent with others remembering and retelling stories of lives past has been taken from us. The comfort of a hug or other physical demonstration of friendship has been stripped away from many.

This year, this Lent, we may well feel that we have joined Jesus in a place of wilderness, with the people and things we love inaccessible. When everything we are used to is taken away, we become deeply aware of our priorities in life. What is it we are missing most? What are we longing to have restored to us?

Lent has always been a time when Christians have chosen to relinquish some of the comforts in life in order that they can pay attention to the things that really matter: their relationship with God and with others. One of the positive things to have come out of the pandemic is that people have become ever more aware of the importance to them of family and friends. When they are not with us, we really miss them.

That's why death is so hard, because we know we have no more time on this earth to spend with them, though many believe that we shall be reunited in a time and place yet unknown. When I first started conducting funerals, I was saddened by just how many families had had splits and breakdowns, a falling-out perhaps years ago that was still having an impact.

The pandemic has faced so many of us with death. It reminds us that sometimes it is too late to restore a broken relationship in this world because death is final.

Forgiveness is a powerful thing. As coronavirus concentrates our minds on what is really important, maybe one area we need to think about is broken relationships and how we might restore them before it is too late. Forgiveness is not just a gift for the one forgiven; it sets the forgiver free too.

With best wishes  
Sarah

*Sarah*

## Easter is coming – halleluia

AS YOU will probably know, Lent started on the 17th February with Easter week at the end of March and beginning of April. Although I am writing this before the start of Lent, I know that Sarah has planned a range of ways of on-line study and praise, which can be done in lockdown. Also, planned other services in the hope that we will be able to run live events again in a COVID-19 safe way. You will see what is planned above right.

Sarah has organised two Lent courses and, although they have not started yet, I have bought the accompanying books and am very much looking forward to joining with others on Zoom. I have become competent on Zoom when I join meetings now, unlike at the start of lockdown when I struggled to 'unmute' and find the best place to sit so that the background isn't distracting. Prior to lockdown I would never have thought that on-line meetings, conversations, church services and other entertainments would become such an important part of life. So even at my stage in life I have embraced technology despite trepidation and apprehension.

In anticipation that we will be able to have services during Easter week, I have bought the necessary items e.g. the Easter Candle with transfer. I hope and pray that we will be able to see the candle lit when celebrating in our church.

When the third lockdown started it was decided to hold a weekly live service in one of

*Continued on page 5*

## Church news

I am working currently on the assumption that the pattern of 9.30am in church and 11.00am on Zoom will continue for a while, but I can't foretell the future so I don't really know.

If it does, the pattern would be

**7th March** Tolpuddle

**14th March** Dewlish

**21st March** Puddletown

**28th March** Milborne St. Andrew

### Lent Groups

It's not too late to join either of our Lent groups. We'd love to see you

### Wednesday 12 noon – starting 17th February

Holy Habits: Following Jesus by Andrew Roberts

If you want to know a bit more, a short video is available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CatMzNqFYME&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CatMzNqFYME&feature=emb_logo)

### Monday 7.30pm. – starting 1st March

Ezekiel: Living in the Light of God's Presence by Antony Billington

More information and to order the book here <https://lcc.org.uk/product/ezekiel/>

### Holy Week and Easter Services

It is still difficult to plan ahead with any certainty, but at the time of writing we hope to have the following services available in church.

These are for all the benefice, so please don't feel you can only come to the services in your own village. Travel is allowed locally to attend worship.

#### Maundy Thursday

6.00pm Holy Communion

Milborne St. Andrew

#### Good Friday

10.00am Reflections on the Passion with music Tolpuddle

6.00pm Reflections on the Passion with music Dewlish

#### Easter Day

9.30am Easter Holy Communion

Milborne St. Andrew

11.00am Easter Holy Communion

Puddletown

*The Revd Sarah Hillman*

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# Dewlish leopard mosaic saved for County Museum

GOOD news! The “incredibly rare” Dewlish leopard mosaic (previously mentioned in the December *Reporter*) has been saved from export after a fundraising campaign headed by the Dorset County Museum which raised the requisite £150,000.

Discovered in the 1974 “dig” in Dewlish, the 1,600-year-old mosaic shows a leopard bringing down an antelope in what one expert has described as “a brilliantly accomplished image of nature red in tooth and claw.” It will now be reunited with two other sections from the same mosaic which are in the County Museum’s care. *Geoff Bull*

## **Additionally the County Museum has provided the following background to how the winning bid was achieved:**

The mosaic, measuring 2m by 2.4m, was discovered in the grounds of Dewlish House and formed part of the flooring of a villa.

This purchase was made possible by nearly 100 donations from supporters both large and small. Key donations received include £50,000 from the Arts Council England/ V&A Purchase Grant Fund, £40,000 from Art Fund, £30,000 from the Headley Trust, and £10,000 from



**Credits:** from the left are Conservator Riva Boutylkova, Director Dr Jon Murden and Museum Technician Mark Pettit.

Copies of the monograph Dewlish Roman Villa, Dorset – Bill Putnam’s Excavations 1969-1979 by Iain Hewitt, Maureen Putnam, Jonathan Milward and Jonathan Monteith will be soon available from <https://dorsetcountymuseum.org/new-monographs-dewlish-roman-villa-and-excavations-of-a-medieval-site-at-lower-putton-lane/>.

*Photographs supplied by Dorset County Museum*

the Association for Roman Archaeology. Further support was given by many other organisations and individuals from Dorset and further afield, including Richard Beleson, a San Francisco-based benefactor who is passionate about keeping Roman artefacts on public display in the areas from which they come.

The mosaic had been subject to an export bar imposed by the UK Government to help prevent objects of national importance from leaving the country. The bar that was due to expire on the 16th of October last year, was granted an extension to January this year after the museum made known its intentions to buy the mosaic.

This historic piece will now be on show to the public in the new galleries of the museum as part of the £16.1 million redevelopment opening later this year.

Dr Clare Randall, archaeologist and Vice-Chairman of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, said:

We are delighted to be able to retain the Leopard and Gazelle mosaic from Dewlish villa within the area from which it originated. The mosaic is not only beautiful, and one of the finest examples of figure work from Roman Britain, but is part of the story of the Dewlish villa and its inhabitants. There were people living in Roman Dorset with wealth, connections and exquisite artistic taste, and it is objects like this that give us a chance to glimpse their lives.

## **Easter is coming – halleluiah continued from page 3**

the benefice churches at 9.30am. Sarah has also invited anyone who wishes, to join in an 11.00am weekly Zoom service; if you would like details of these please get in touch. St. Andrew’s church remains open on a daily basis for private prayer and meditation. All are welcome but we ask that you respect the Covid-19 arrangements, including using the track and trace systems.

As a congregation we continue to collect donations for Blandford Food Bank, there is a crate in church if anyone would like to leave some items or they can be left with John and Josie Wright.

We are in need of groundwork in the far end of the new churchyard. There is still open space for burials but the ground, previously used as a wildflower area, needs levelling. If anyone can offer help, the Parish Church Council would be very grateful; contact me on 07913266230. Our churchyard volunteers have cleared areas in the ‘old churchyard’ as a substitute wildflower area. The monthly volunteer churchyard working party are hoping new people will join on the first Saturday of the month, starting in March weather permitting. Do come and join them from 10.00, usually for a couple of hours.

*Pam Shults Churchwarden*



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# A Good Read – The Heatwave

## by Kate Riordan



THIS is a tale full of foreboding with a French Provencal setting which adds to the tension as does the titled high temperatures. It is trailed as psychologically suspenseful and told solely through the

narration of Sylvie Durand the mother of two daughters, Elodie and Emma. Her comments are all aimed at her youngest daughter Emma, 13 years. Other female characters dominate. Her beloved Maman; her sister Camille, tenacious, ironic, down to earth; Margaret, her mother in law, quiet and watchful; Annette, the jealous wife of her ex-lover Laurent. It is a story which can immediately transport the reader to France in the height of summer. There is a lawless feeling. A rural, remote and feudal atmosphere. To talk about plot would be to immediately spoil the reading/absorption experience. It is a dual narrative, a switching of time zones which all adds to the build-up of tension. Beware it would be easy to be propelled through this story without picking up on valuable clues. Difficult to stay your need to know what is on the next page, but slow down and savour the moments. It is well paced, taut, and suspenseful. It tells of a dysfunctional family living on the outskirts, of old lives drifting apart and slowly breaking into pieces. A homecoming of Sylvie to her childhood home, La Reverie, and facing the past. There is considerable darkness in this journey. It is a daylight haunting handled well with gradual 'reveals' invoking scents, tastes, sounds. The heat is a character as is the slowly decaying house. Heralded as a "slow burn" - this is a good description for more than one reason. Character development is gradual and satisfying within a 'twisted' tale. Through a spiral of events in Elodie's life we gain an insight into childhood experiences (it reminded me of Lionel Shriver's 'Kevin'), and the conflicting emotions of parenthood.

The prose is tight, the characters secretive, edgy and the pace sinister. An antidote to lockdown lethargy within a pandemic winter.

*Carole Fornachon*

# Milton Abbas Surgery

WE now have **First Contact Physiotherapy** appointments available at the surgery where patients can have a consultation with them rather than go through the GP.

The role of First Contact Physiotherapists (FCPs) in Primary Care is to assess patients with soft tissue, muscle and joint pain and to decide on the most appropriate management pathway. They have expertise in the assessment and management of Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions, such as:

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- Spinal pain including lower back pain, mid-back pain and neck pain
- Spinal-related pain in arms or legs, including nerve symptoms, eg pins and needles or numbness

- Post-orthopaedic surgery

Speak to the reception team who can book you in.

## Update on the Covid vaccination clinics

The Covid vaccination clinics are continuing at The Atrium Health Centre in Dorchester. We would like to take this opportunity to remind patients of the following:

- We understand that a lot of you are anxious to have your vaccination, but please could we ask patients to wait for us to contact you either by text or telephone rather than contacting the surgery, unless there is an important reason for doing so.
- We are unable to invite everyone at once as we are given a limited amount of vaccines. This means that your neighbour/friend/spouse may get called before you, so please do not think that we have forgotten you if you haven't heard from us yet.
- Whilst waiting for us to contact you, you may receive a letter from the NHS inviting you to have the vaccination at one of the larger vaccination centres. This invitation is simply an additional option for people who are eligible, and it is your choice whether you are happy to travel or would prefer to wait for an appointment in Dorchester.
- We will be updating patients on our website and Facebook page as to which cohort we are currently inviting for vaccinations. If we have finished a specific age group and you have not been contacted, then please phone the surgery.
- When you are at the vaccination clinic, please arrive on time for your appointment rather than early otherwise this causes queues to form outside the clinic. Please can we also ask that you respect social distancing guidelines at all times and wear a face covering.

We would also like to say a big thank you to all the staff and volunteers involved in the clinic. Staff from all the nine surgeries are working extra hours including weekends and evenings on top of their day jobs to provide this service to the community. We are only notified of vaccine deliveries the week before the clinics, so everything happens at short notice and we rely so much on the good will of all involved.

Thank you as always to our patients for their understanding and patience. Keep following the guidelines and stay safe.

## Be clear on Cancer

It is important to be aware of any unexplained changes to your body, such as blood in your pee or poo, a lump, persistent bloating or pain that does not go away. It's probably nothing serious but diagnosing and finding cancer early makes it more treatable and can save lives.

So, if you have noticed any of the above, please phone us to book a telephone consultation with a GP or complete an eConsult online.

We are open, we are here for you and we are able to see you safely.

## Surgery email address

If you have a medical concern or question, please can you phone the surgery on 01258 880210 to book a telephone consultation with a GP or complete an eConsult online rather than use the surgery email address. By doing so, we can make sure that you access the medical help you need as speedily as possible.

Our surgery email address is really only for admin queries or for sending photos through for a booked appointment when requested to do so by a member of the team. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

## Surgery Facebook page

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

*Gillian Brindle*

## St. Andrew's church gives thanks again

AS OUR Events Committee continue to make masks, to sell for church funds, they have found another kind businessman who is willing to help to sell them. Darren, from the burger van found at Milborne Business Centre, has agreed to display new masks for sale on the counter of the van. Thank you, Darren.





SOMEONE'S been busy! People out and about the tracks and footpaths in the village may have spotted some cheerful and heart-warming artwork in recent weeks. A mystery artist has been placing beautifully painted stones on posts, ledges and walls for passers-by to enjoy and lift spirits during what has been a freezing and monotonous spell of lockdown. It seems that the elusive artist, who adorns each piece with an uplifting message, may have inspired others to do the same, as there appears to be more than one hand creating these delightful pieces of work. Whoever has been producing these little works of art, we and many others thank you for cheering us up!







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# Full steam ahead – with boots made for walking

ON Monday March 7th 1966, the US performed nuclear missile tests at their Nevada Test Site. Mike Millward of the British beat group The Fourmost died of leukaemia at the age of 23, and the last ever passenger train left Blandford Forum, one hundred and three years after the first one had departed. Three years previously, Dr. Beeching's axe had fallen and sealed the fate of the town's railhead. Whimsical British musical duo Flanders and Swann namechecked the town's loss in their 1964 song, *Slow Train*; 'No more will I go to Blandford Forum', the pair sang.



The preserved section of track

buffer stops mounted on a very short section of railway track. This small act of preservation marks the southern end of the North Dorset Trailway, which provides a safe route for walkers, runners, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility scooters northwards to

Today, on a cold February morning I too am at Blandford Forum train station. The tracks, platforms and station buildings have long been swept away and the site is now a car park and housing. There is, however, a relic from the past in the form of a set of



Then

Sturminster Newton, a distance of some fourteen miles yonder. I have accessed the old station from a footbridge at the end of Alexandra Street, which is the second left turn along the one way Damory Street. An information board outlining the history of the Somerset and Dorset Railway which served the town provides interesting reading explaining the role it played transporting both passengers and goods for over a century. Anyway, I'm stamping my feet, they're getting cold. It's time to join the trailway and begin my three mile walk to Stourpaine.

If, like me, you thought railway lines were billiard table flat, think again. As I negotiate the wide clearing that used to serve as the station goods yard, the narrow ribbon of tarmac that closely follows the course of the original track bed starts to rise as it funnels under the bridge beneath Salisbury Street. The trail now becomes enclosed in a cutting. There are a lot of people enjoying their allotted daily exercise: dogs are being walked, joggers of varying ability are huffing down the gradient towards me and puffing their way past me up and out of town. A young woman pushing a pram is on her mobile phone and as I approach I overhear her say, "which is really annoying, as I got 191 in the last one." I wonder what the 191 represented; 191 runs in the first innings of an Ashes test against Australia at Lords? Or maybe the disappointing

result of her last IQ test? In between the comings and goings of people, the cutting is silent save for the sound of birds busying themselves in the undergrowth.

It's not long before I feel I am leaving the environs of Georgian Blandford. As the old line swings slightly to the right, the view opens out to reveal Milldown Nature Reserve and I catch a glimpse of the majestic River Stour through the naked trees to my left. It also starts to rain, which annoys me a little as Thomas Schafernaker, the BBC weatherman, told me last night that it was to be a sunny day. Three children on bikes grimace through the rain towards me, probably wishing they were in the confines of a warm school classroom, learning how to calculate the area of a circle.

Despite the rain, it is a very pleasant walk. A good surface makes a big difference, proving the trail is suitable for all. I begin to wonder how the trail navigates its way across the A350 Blandford to Shaftesbury Road. Having driven the A350 numerous times, there remains little evidence of any infrastructure that would take the old Somerset and Dorset Railway either over or under the carriageway. Although the path now dives steeply under the main road encased in a modern concrete box like subway structure, I deduce that originally there would have been some kind of overbridge. The red brick arches of the bridges that spanned the cutting on my way out of Blandford sported chalk graffiti intimating that, 'Nigel is a grass', 'Zoe sleeps with coppers' and other such scrawlings.\* Here, out in the open country the graffiti is more refined, 'Chris wuz ere', a game of noughts and crosses that seems to be unresolved and a smiley face with hearts as eyes.

Still climbing, the old line bears left and I pass the first of many people who tell me the rain we are suffering was not forecast. A brace of brightly lycra clad joggers pass me, steam ensuing from their warm damp clothing. Not unlike the old steam locomotives that used to



Now

pound up the permanent way here on their climb up the bank. The Somerset and Dorset Railway ran from Bath Green Park to Bournemouth West. As well as following the Stour valley to the south, the northern section meandered through The Mendip Hills, serving evocatively named places such as Midsomer Norton and Evercreech Junction. As the track both straightens and levels the rain eases off but is still a nuisance. More dog walkers inform me of the precipitation inaccuracy but fail to name and shame Thomas Schafernaker.

Bryanston School defines the skyline across the valley to my left, its multi-faceted roof peeps out between well established trees that surround it. Built between 1889 and 1894 the building and estate were the last of the grand stately homes to be built in England. During the 1930s, Bryanston School was the location of Anglo-German youth camps, where the Hitler Youth and Boy Scouts tried to develop links. I pause to think of the people who travelled this line as passengers. Pupils coming and going at the beginning and end of term time to Bryanston. Housewives travelling from Shillingstone to Blandford on market day and the troop trains that carried thousands of allied soldiers to their muster points on the south coast prior to D-Day, the lush 1944 summer green of the Stour Valley a contrast to the red blood



soaked beaches they would soon encounter in Normandy.

I soon dip under the A350 again, a longer tunnel with a steep brick retaining wall holding back the steep ground beyond its western portal. Graffiti artists seem to have either run out of chalk or got whatever they needed to get off their chests nearer to Blandford. An old abandoned concrete gangers hut still stands resolute, partly reclaimed by nature in the form of creeping ivy. Here, the men responsible for the maintenance of the track would store their tools and settle in on wet days with a can of tea brewed over the stove. Although the line had a rural feel, the gradients called for the use of heavier locomotives. The Pines Express, a through service from Manchester to Bournemouth was perhaps the most notorious of these. *Evening Star*, the last steam locomotive built for British Railways in 1960 was a regular performer on the route and was a bit of a brute, capable of running at 70 mph. Footplate crews were constantly reminded that the maximum permitted speed over the route was 60 mph in places – and told to restrain their charges!

Stepping off the railway at Stourpaine onto what would have been the old station approach road, the sun breaks through and highlights the steeple of Holy Trinity Church. The old wooden platform is still in situ, the station was actually named Stourpaine and Durweston Halt as it was sited equidistantly between the two villages. It's a short stroll up to Stourpaine village which is full of attractive and enchanting properties. I wonder how many of the residents here would like to be able to travel from here by rail again; a day trip to Bath perhaps?

On the day the railway closed, Nancy Sinatra topped the UK charts with *These Boots Were Made for Walking*. I begin to hum the tune as I turn around and retrace my footsteps back to Blandford. The North Dorset Railway certainly has a lot to offer. On a warm summer day it would make a perfect place to spend an hour or two. Next time, I will continue on towards Shillingstone and Sturminster Newton, hopefully under brighter skies. Oh, and if you're not sure how to calculate the area of a circle, the formula is  $A = \pi r^2$ .

Rich Hawker

\*Not their real names

## How do you choose a trader?

IN trading standards we hear a lot about unfair trading and sub standard service. Many of us will have seen various programmes on the television about the rarer, but more extreme cases, of rogue trading.

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## Try this quiz in March

1. What country has the shortest coastline in the world?
2. What is the point value of the pink ball in snooker?
3. What is the most expensive spice in the world by weight?
4. Which Queen had the shortest reign of Henry the VIII six wives?
5. Which Canadian artist released "Man, I Feel Like a Woman" in 1999?
6. Pip is the main character in which book by Charles Dickens?
7. What is the highest mountain in Nepal?
8. Who played Mrs Robinson in The Graduate?
9. What is the name of the man made canal that splits North and South America called?
10. Which band recorded the theme song to Friends?
11. Which King preceded Queen Victoria?
12. What was the first feature length animated movie ever released?
13. What is Gorgonzola?
14. Who directed Titanic, Avatar and The Terminator?
15. Who was the last Tsar of Russia?
16. For which film did Sandra Bullock win her Oscar?
17. Which horse is the only three times winner of the Grand National?
18. Name of the film which boasts the famous line "you can't handle the truth"?
19. Chives are a member of which family of vegetables?
20. Who was the first man to go into space?
21. Which character lived at Sunnybrook Farm?
22. Which musician was deported from Japan in 1984 for possession of marijuana?
23. Which Blackadder character always had a cunning plan?
24. In what year did Coronation Street first appear on ITV?
25. Who was the first to leave Take That?
26. What does HP stand for in HP Sauce?
27. What is the smallest country in the world?
28. In what century did the Peasants' Revolt take place?
29. Which novelist wrote of a farm run by pigs and the imaginary world of 1984.
30. Which English referee officiated at the 2010 World Cup final?

Answers on page 29

## Farewell, Captain Sir Thomas Moore

By Jan Beaumont ©

Goodbye Sir Tom, the time has come  
For you to go to rest  
Your time on earth was much acclaimed  
You really passed the test  
Your memory will never fade  
You were one of a kind  
We loved you and we're really sad  
You've left us all behind.  
I'm sure there'll be a welcome  
From so many gone before  
And they'll all cheer and say "Here's Tom!"  
As you walk through the door.

Front cover photographs by Louisa Mills.

These are Arolla Valais Blacknose Sheep.

Cover designed by Heather V Hogg.

Photos throughout the magazine are from various people.

Thanks.

## Fossil guide Martin strikes gold (again!)

JURASSIC Coast Guides, owned and run by Milborne man, Martin Curtis, has won two gold awards in the annual event organised by Dorset Tourism. Martin's guided walks and fossil hunting on the Jurassic Coast gave his business top spot in two categories, Experience of the Year and International Visitor Experience of the Year. Martin has struck gold at the awards ceremony before, but to do so after such a testing year for businesses who have had to adapt and tailor their services in the face of Covid is even more of an accolade.



Photograph by David Lewis

It was the changes he made when faced with the pandemic and all that it entailed that he believes helped Jurassic Coast Guides survive. He said, "As a business I've learned that I need to adapt to changing situations quickly and be as flexible as possible. I've learned that clients are much more conscious when it comes to safety and have been more grateful for added safety measures that I had in place."

It turned out to be a busy summer for Martin with visitors flocking to Dorset once the floodgates opened for people after being locked down during last spring. Martin said, "I felt fortunate that I was able to offer outdoor experiences within the guidelines and I was honoured to have key workers book my experiences for some much-needed time out."

The awards event is a staple of the local tourism industry and usually has a lavish black-tie evening celebrating the winners and runners-up of the 22 categories. It was clear things were going to be different this year – or even if the awards were to go ahead at all. Awards organiser Robin Barker said: "It would have been very easy to cancel the awards this year – we did think long and hard about it, but the level of early entries we received in spite of everything, and the creativity and determination shown by entrants inspired us to find a way to make this happen."



Photograph by David Lewis

The event, held in early February, went ahead online with winners announced via a series of Zoom broadcasts. Chair of the Judging Panel Professor Peter Jones said, "Dorset tourism is demonstrating resilience and fortitude in coping with the impact and implications of Covid-19 in some amazing ways. Entrants demonstrated creativity and innovation, passion for the industry, and enthusiasm in providing a great experience for their customers in the most difficult of circumstances." Although there are many unknowns as to what this summer – and future ones too – will look like, Martin believes that holidaying in the UK is a trend that will continue to grow. He's hopeful for the future of his business, which offers guided walks and tours, including shore excursions for cruise passengers arriving at Portland port, as well as fossil walks on Charmouth beach. He said, "I'm very optimistic about the future of Jurassic Coast Guides. With the explosion of 'staycation holidays' people are now more aware of what the UK has to offer and are favouring outdoor experiences."

Ed Richards

## Computer Problems?



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moment, we hope to be back in a  
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## Food donations still being collected

Last month Sandie Sach told us that the Dorchester foodbank, due to an unprecedented increase in referrals, were running short of staple items. The foodbank, based at the Dorford Centre opposite the Top o' Town car park, would really appreciate **teabags, small jars of coffee, tuna, Smash and tinned potatoes** in particular, as well as washing powder, washing up liquid, multi-purpose surface cleaner, shampoo, spray deodorant (male and female), baked beans, pasta sauce, fish (not just tuna!), tinned vegetables such as peas, carrots, mushrooms, sweetcorn, rice pudding, custard, tinned fruit, cereal, including variety packs and porridge pots/sachets and jam. All products should have a good 'use by' date on them.

If you can't make it to the Dorford Centre (open between 10.00am and 2.00pm on weekdays), Sandie is continuing to take donations personally and drop them off at the foodbank. You can leave your food donations at her house – she currently has a box in her porch where items can be left. She is planning to continue to make a monthly trip to the foodbank until Easter or the end of lockdown. If you can't get to Sandie, she is willing to collect from you. Contact Sandie on 07825 880807.



*A bootful ready to be delivered to the foodbank*

## What's on with Artsreach

THROUGHOUT this pandemic time, one group of people which has been hard hit is actors, comedians, singers, musicians and dancers. Our own Dorset charity, Artsreach, has been working very hard to try and find ways of bringing them to audiences in Covid-secure ways. In the short summer interval when restrictions were relaxed a bit, there were a few events outside, or even in village halls with socially distanced audiences, and, more and more, they are supporting events online.

Interestingly, they are in the vanguard, identifying the need for more help for young people, and are hoping to get dedicated volunteers in the community, to work with them in bringing events specifically for children and teenagers. To find out what they have on offer, go to their digital diary which is regularly updated. You can also sign up to receive regular emails from them. <https://artsreach.co.uk/news/digital-diary>.

If you are interested in helping with Artsreach in Milborne please contact me, [saryan6630@gmail.com](mailto:saryan6630@gmail.com) Sarah Ryan

## Reporter 2020/2021 makes a loss

THE *Reporter's* accounts for the year ending show a loss of nearly £800 after a dip in advertising and also donations made to local charities. Advertisement volume was down on last year, especially affected were one-off ads for spring and summer events which didn't go ahead due to the pandemic. Covid meant the *Reporter* wasn't printed in April and May which saved printing costs, although our advertisers were given three months free, and those editions were published online too. Two donations to local charities totalling £200 were also made by the *Reporter*.

Producing the *Reporter* is made possible by two important factors – the hard work and time given by dedicated volunteers, and the revenue provided by our advertisers. We thank all local businesses who have supported us in the last year. The *Reporter* is the best place for businesses to get their message into every village home, and some of our advertisers have been here from the very beginning. We also thank our deliverers for getting each issue through your door, come rain or shine.

Also our thanks go to Jenny Balcon for once again examining our accounts.

### Reporter Balance Sheet year ending 31st January 2021

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>
Advertising	£2618.75	Printing	£3083.34
Copies sold and donation	£60.20	Expenses	£403.30
Bank Interest	£14.90		
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£2693.85</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£3486.64</u></b>
Receipts	£2693.85	Payments	£3486.64
B/F Cash	£31.88	C/F Cash	£33.18
B/F Bank	<u>£7918.44</u>	C/F Bank	<u>£7124.35</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£10644.17</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£10644.17</u></b>
Cash in Bank 31st January 2021	£7124.35		
Cash in hand 31st January 2021	£33.18		
<b>TOTAL IN HAND at 31st January 2021</b>	<b><u>£7157.43</u></b>		
Loss for year ending 31st January 2021	£792.89		

**Deadline for the next issue 14th March. Send your stories and pictures to [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)**

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## Milborne St. Andrew Food and Wine Club Valentine's meal

**F**OR those of you new to the village the Milborne St. Andrew Food and Wine club was formed around 20 years ago as a social club for people who enjoy good food, good wine (although it has to be said my experience to date is that good drink of any variety is very much enjoyed) and great company. Great company being the most important of these. And with a membership of 59 people we do what we can to support local hospitality businesses.

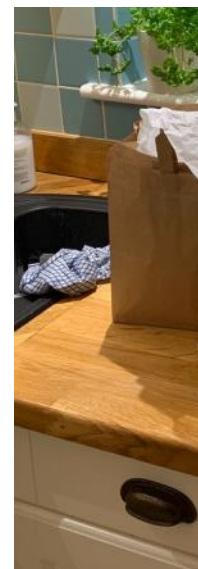
We are not a culinary club although we do have some very fine cooks as you'd imagine. As a group we enjoy a variety of events from fine dining, pub visits, picnics, cream teas, foody events in the Village Hall and once a year, in normal circumstances, we have the annual Christmas dinner which is a really lavish affair with transport provided so nobody has to abstain if they don't want to.

I say in normal circumstances. This past year has been anything but normal. Nevertheless, with a little creativity we have been able to organise a few very enjoyable if socially distanced events including a Sunday lunch at the Cock and Bottle at Morden before everything kicked off. We held a Doorstep Delivery Cream Tea in June. My favourite of the year was something new to me, the Safari Lunch in August. This is one of the occasions where the keen cooks among us come into play. The basic principle is that those who enjoy doing so will cook either a starter, a main or a pudding and we all journey (Safari) between houses to meet up (this year in groups of six and strictly outside) for each of the starter, main and pudding so spending each with a different group of friends. It was brilliant fun and all executed in a Covid secure way.

In September we managed to have a picnic at Langham Wine Estate which was lovely and very peaceful and finally for 2020 we organised a Christmas in a Box which was a very inventive and highly enjoyable meal supplied by Yalbury Cafe and delivered to each member's home. Which brings us up to date.

On February 13th 2021 we organised a luxury Valentine's meal supplied by Flames and Feasts who are based in Bulbarrow. They provided a sumptuous meal in a box with instructions for heating up and serving at home. The food was glorious. My wife and I supplemented it with some fabulous wine we happened to have knocking about the place and I know, because we have the photos to prove it, that everyone else really enjoyed their food and had a great time with glorious wines. The only sadness was that we couldn't all get together but who knows, maybe with the vaccine rollout continuing apace we'll soon be able to get together for a really good old fashioned get together in a pub or something. Fingers crossed.

If you enjoy great food, great drinks and great company why not join us? We're developing another full programme for this year hopefully with more contact and less social distancing. Email for details [msa.foodandwineclub@gmail.com](mailto:msa.foodandwineclub@gmail.com). Steve O'Neill









## You think you've got it tough!

As many of you will know my brother died recently and John and I have been sorting through the mountain of paperwork he left – he was reluctant to throw away anything.

We found some very old letters that Mum had obviously saved, some from my Dad when he was stationed in Egypt during the war welcoming his new daughter into the world and one from Dorothy, an old friend of Mum's.

Dorothy had been in service (a servant in a big house) with Mum just before the war, and she told me many stories of their adventures in London. This letter was written in September 1940 when Mum had left for a visit home to Durham and Dorothy was catching her up with the news.

... so far all is well, the house is still intact for how long it's hard to say. The bombing has been horrific here, Bond Street, Dove Street, Green Park and St. James' have all been bombed this week, so we are certainly in the thick of it. I went on the roof yesterday and picked up a lot of shrapnel.

We all sleep in the basement, I have got Miss Carol's wireless for the duration. The rest of the house is all ready for the homeless, her Ladyship seems quite keen to have them. Percy [the bootboy] is not quite so nervous now he has more company, but still ducks under the table when the bombs go whizzing past. I don't blame him either, I was glad to hear the 'All Clear' this morning.

I have had some great experiences, but have come out of it all unharmed so far. I saw a great air battle over the Thames, I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

The Aeolian Hall meetings are off as we can't get up Bond Street at present, Oxford Street shops have got it badly. We were in Berkeley Square after the bomb dropped. There isn't a pane of glass left anywhere, we were wading in it. What a destruction for no purpose.

Hope to hear from you sometime soon, but don't advise you to pay London a visit at the moment.

Best love Dorothy

Ps Cinders is OK and courting the grey pussy. [!]

Josie Wright



## LETTERS to the Reporter

### Helpful villager awards

May I use your letter page to thank everyone for all the kind compliments I have received from the village and the family for the award given to me, and to congratulate Sandie and Amy.

The year has been rather unusual and many have played vital roles to help those who needed protection and assistance. I was only a very small part.

Again thank you. I very much appreciate your kindness and hope I may be allowed to assist in what ever way I can in the future.

Philip Smith.

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## Loungewear is having a moment

DO we see this as the “*Slob-Chic Style of the Coronavirus Pandemic*” (New Yorker) when there’s no-one to dress up for except the cat and Zoom? There is a momentum towards a streamlined sense of comfort and utility which has been a long time coming. Major historical events have always changed the way people dress. The 1918 flu pandemic, the Great Depression and the Second World War all affected fashion, both during the event and in the years that followed. High fashion adoption is when we see tracksuits on the catwalk during London Fashion Week as now. There is a new acronym attached to this trend JOMO – the joy of missing out! Well-being takes centre stage. With relaxed shapes, loungewear aligns well with the ‘gender neutrality movement’. The giant retailer, John Lewis has seen a spike in loungewear and cites working from home as a factor. Words cropping up in advertising; *Relax* was mentioned at 60 retailers; *chill* at 55; *comfy* at 52 and *cozy* at 45. Most popular are; *two piece co-ordinates/tracksuits*; *joggers* heavily backed by mass market retailers in both drawstring and elasticated styles in ‘*teddy textures/fuzzy fabrics*; *Cashmere* is the key for joggers and sweaters with M&S, Jigsaw and Crew top stockists; *cardigans* spurred on by Katie Holmes’ viral moment wearing a cashmere bra and cardigan; *Dressing Gowns* are a staple within loungewear, to elevate the item look to luxury fabrics such as silk or cashmere, or *even the machine washable adult onesie*. The Kardashian and Jenner clan are poster girls for the off-duty look. Zara’s version was sold out within three days of launching and has inspired mass retailers to invest in the trend; the *Sleep Shirt* as its hero product is designed to be worn both day and night; *Duvet dressing* voluminous silhouettes and quilted padded fabrics are central to the theme; *layering* has been a key styling aesthetic. Fashion commentators call it *The Great Loungewear Pivot of 2020*. *Weighted blankets* appearing on Christmas and Birthday lists.

69% of people on social media attribute their cosy wear to the lockdown. It seems women benefit the most by this trend. Images from cinema and TV of women being pulled into corsets to achieve the desirable and highly restrictive tiny waists. However much women have struggled against the restrictions of undergarments both in the past and more recently it has been to no avail. She was doomed to her position in society: a slave to fashion, cosseted and striving to be pleasing to men, whatever the cost. There is not fiction without fact. Women clearly did suffer for the sake of fashion, just as many do today with high heels and plastic surgery. Ridiculously large crinolines, protruding bustles and heavily boned corsets did restrict movement and the range of activities they could enjoy. Now we all, if you believe the media, seek *comfortability*. Coming to your screen soon when temperatures rise, is a descendant of the *Mother Hubbard dress of the 19th century* and the ‘*house dress*’ of the 40’s and 50’s. Described as the ‘one-and-done’ outfit, sans restrictions such as elastic waists or zips, wearers will be able to sit through Zoom calls or renovate their kitchens in comfort. It will have a free flowing silhouette and provide all the mobility needed, taking on different forms from floral maxis to bathing suit cover-ups. Named after a children’s book which illustrated the smock-like style it is predicted to be adopted by women of all age groups and social classes. This may be some of you already. Are your pyjamas covid couture? With so much time on our hands and dressed in ‘night’ attire is the wit who wrote “There’s gonna be a lot of quaranteens running about in 2033” too much off the beam?

Carole Fornachon

With the deepest sorrow and sadness I would like to inform you of the sudden death of my mum, Pauline Baxter, on Thursday 18th February. Maureen Lock

## Looking back at Christmas

REBECCA had just returned home from university for Christmas. Life was very exciting in her second year studying the arts, but now she could relax for a week or two with the familiar Christmas celebrations. On the Sunday before Christmas the church was performing the annual concert of readings and carols with the various scenes acted out by the young people of the parish. Rebecca knew the form well. She had first appeared, aged two months, as baby Jesus when her mother had been cast as Mary, and since then she had been everything from a small sheep to the angel Gabriel. Now it was a case of filling the gaps in the cast where necessary.

This year Rebecca was asked to shadow one of the very young kings. He was only six and needed someone to check that he didn’t run away or leave his gold box anywhere, and prompt him when he forgot his words. Her mother found a bright and glittery shawl to wrap around her. This had been treasured by Rebecca’s grandmother and passed on to her mother a few years ago. A golden scarf was found for her to wear in her hair, and the combination seemed to give the right image. All was set for another wonderful Christmas, just the same as it always had been.

What was *not* quite the same was that Rebecca had now formed a close relationship with Philip. As far as she was concerned Philip was the star of her course at uni, and as he was going to be home for Christmas just ten miles away, the urge to see him was very strong. She’d arranged that he’d come to the church concert, and that she’d visit him for the following weekend. This was unfortunate as traditionally that was the time that Rebecca and her parents went to see Granny.

Things were tense at the concert. Philip arrived at the last moment so he had only a brief introduction to her parents and then sat next to them coughing and fidgeting, and he was clearly not able to sing the carols in tune. Rebecca ushered her king to the manger when the time came for the gifts to be presented, but she hadn’t anticipated his interest in her shawl. He was fascinated by the gold embroidery and gave it a huge tug telling the whole audience ‘Here’s some more gold for Jesus.’ Rebecca hurriedly left the stage wearing an old pair of jeans and a T-shirt proclaiming ‘Who loves you, Baby?’ By the time she had finished back-stage Philip had already left.

Christmas Day was cold but sunny, and the quiet family traditions were followed and enjoyed. Philip was temporarily ignored. It was on Boxing Day that the family focussed on the dilemma of the Christmas visit to Granny. It became clear that some sort of compromise was needed. Rebecca found an unexpected ally in her father who, in an inspired moment, saw a way out of spending a rather boring whole weekend with mother-in-law.

‘How about we go to Granny on Saturday as usual, then I take Rebecca to her friend on Sunday morning?’ he said to his wife at lunch. ‘You’ll be able to have a good chat all day with your mum and really put the world straight for next year.’ This simple suggestion was greeted with smiles of relief all round.

Plans for the weekend were quickly changed, and Granny was pleased with the less arduous schedule. When Saturday came all went happily until Granny was first unable to follow Rebecca’s stories of university, and then distressed to hear of the trouble that her shawl had created at the concert.

On Sunday Granny wiped a tear from her eye as her only grandchild was driven away, and Rebecca found that the anticipated day with Philip and his family wasn’t as she’d expected. His sore throat had got considerably worse, and unlike her he had two demanding younger sisters and a younger brother, on top of which a large number of other friends dropped in during the day to play boisterous games and make a lot of noise. Rebecca felt very left out of the party and it was a happy reunion when Dad rounded up his family on Sunday evening and took them home.

They all felt that normality had returned the next weekend as Rebecca went back to university, Dad got ready to go back to work, and Mum put away the Christmas decorations ready for another year of keeping house. ‘It’ll all be better next Christmas,’ thought Rebecca. It would certainly be different; no Christmas concert, no Philip, and no Granny.

John Wright

## Ladybirds happy to reopen safely

LADYBIRDS are so pleased to announce that after our temporary Covid closure we reopened on 23rd February. After consulting with parents and trustees we are so excited to be opening for all our little Ladybirds. By the time you read this we will be back to playing with our friends in a safe bubble

We have been keeping in touch by sending recorded stories and ideas of things to do at home, but it's not the same as real interaction. We hope it will not be long before everyone is back to normal and enjoying socialising. One thing that has been good is seeing people out walking, experiencing the beautiful area we live in. It is something Ladybirds like to do and at this time of year there is so much to see – from ice in puddles and plants growing to listening to birds singing.



One of the activities we suggested was making a Valentine card. The photo shows some Valentine cards made by one of our children. Another task was to make a Love Hedgehog – after completing his this little artist said it looked like a 'hog fish'. I see what he means and it reminds me we haven't read the Rainbow Fish for a long time. I'll add that to the planning particularly as it is a book relating to sharing and friendships. Lifelong skills that we all need!

Next time I write I will be able to report on our 'new normal' and what we've been up to together.

Take care and stay safe.

Liz Dyer

# Milborne Ladybirds

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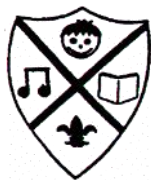
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Liz Dyer (Leader) on 01258 839117;  
07771 512427; [liz@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:liz@milborneladybirds.com)  
Committee on [secretary@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:secretary@milborneladybirds.com)

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# MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun

## SCHOOL NEWS



Raccoons planted five apple trees to add to the two we already have to create an orchard in our outdoor classroom. The children dug the ground, worked together and carefully put the trees in. The children watered them and have been keeping an eye on them to ensure they are settling into their new home well. The saplings had been grown by Brodie, one of our classmates, from seed and kindly given to school last week.



We are travelling (virtually) from Milborne St. Andrew to the South Pole. After discovering a penguin on our doorstep we found out that they live in Antarctica, and we made a boat, after investigating materials that could take us there . . . first stop across the English Channel and into France where we decided to have lunch and made a delicious croque monsieur. Where will we stop next?



## CONTACTS

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

**Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hunt

**School Secretary:** Mrs B Hosford

**Chair of Governors:** David French

**FOS Chairman:** Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis

e-mail: [office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk)

website: [www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk)

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## Gardening Club – Keeping busy during lockdown



IT'S March! Spring is approaching and if you look carefully, there are signs that it's coming in the form of delicate, beautiful snowdrops, iris and crocuses appearing as if from nowhere. It's also time to plan ahead; our member Val Andrews has already sown tomato and cucumber seeds and advises that March is a good month for sowing seeds in general. So come on! Get busy, plan ahead and let your garden raise your spirits. We hope you enjoy the photos of dwarf iris, hellebore and seed planting sent in by our members Linda Harris, Maureen Lock and Val Andrews.

### Environmental Gardening for March

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

### Pruning hedges

Birds start nesting in March, so check for nests before carrying out work.

### Choosing online suppliers

To reduce the risk of spreading pests and diseases always order plants and seeds from reputable UK suppliers.

### Paper pots

Old newspapers make great pots to sow seeds (many construction methods on YouTube)

### Seed trays and pots

Source garden centres selling plants in biodegradable containers. Think about making your own seed trays from fruit boxes or crates.

### A compost bin

Composting at home is the most environmentally friendly way to deal with your garden waste. Now is a good time to install one in partial shade directly on to the soil.

Mark Johnson



## No drama - just bins and benches

FEBRUARY'S Parish Council meeting had over 3,000 people watching, accompanied occasionally by the *Benny Hill* theme tune, courtesy of one online viewer. This, of course, was the Handforth Parish Council, which took place on the same evening as our own village PC, the thousands watching hoping for a repeat of the antics seen on the viral video of Jackie Weaver and the muted chairman. The Milborne Parish Council, by contrast, had four people viewing, who heard the lowdown of community benches and bins, with a dash of ire directed at the county council over planning; councillors no doubt happy not to be starring in their own pantomime.

After last month's offer to residents to donate to the cost of a bench, one family has come forward to cover the £500 price tag for one to be installed on Lane End as a memorial. Two other residents had approached the council with donations (£250 in total) to part-fund a bench, although one was for a seat at the War Memorial and the other at the Sports Club. There followed discussion about formalising the procedure of the donation to cost ratio and whether new benches should appear on the asset register. Clerk, Wayne Lewin, noted that all previously installed benches funded by donations were now all on the asset register, meaning their maintenance and replacement is the PC's responsibility. It was suggested that any new bench should achieve at least half its cost by donation and that they would be under Parish Council ownership. It was agreed that residents would be offered the opportunity to fund one or two new benches – at the War Memorial and Sports Club – with pledges sought from the public for their cost. If you are interested in funding a bench, then contact the PC (*see Community Contacts, page 31*).

The fate of the Stileham Bank bench has improved vastly in the last month; at January's meeting it was said to be in a very poor state, but it has had its slats reattached and, Lazarus-like, it has a new lease of life and is now judged to be fit for purpose, ie bottom parking.

The Parish Pit – the triangle of land along the Dewlish road – will have a bin installed, councillors agreed, since it was an area of the village without one and there had been reports of dog fouling on the bridleways to Coles Lane. There was an offer of a donation from a resident to sponsor a new bin, which was met with warm interest from councillors. Marion Clemens made the suggestion on behalf of Trophy Pet Foods, of which a sign would be displayed on the bin. The item will be discussed next month. Mrs Clemens was praised for her community mindedness for her idea to put her company's biodegradable poo bags on a roll for dog walkers to take from near the Coles Lane bin. She has already placed a roll of free bags on a post near The Grove.

County councillor, Emma Parker, gave an update which included the news that Council Tax would increase by 5% but her annoyance was with the planning department which had not replied to her requests on behalf of the PC, even though she had escalated it to senior level. Cllr Macnair said that pre-commencement conditions are statutory – the PC had requested the status of these with regard to the Huntley Down development. The snail's pace and brick wall of Planning was in sharp contrast with pot hole fixing; Cllr Macnair noted earlier that he logged an item on dorsetforyou.gov.uk about the deep hole on Little England hill – within 36 hours, it had been filled.

Cllr Witherden was thanked for her work on the Local Plan, which she had reviewed and commented on. There were some revisions required and she said it was a "not very imaginative plan" which appeared to be a rehash of the previous councils' plans. The PC agreed that the consultation would be publicised for residents to comment.

The proposal of an 'eco hub' in Winterborne Whitechurch, comprising a solar farm, charging points for 12 electric vehicles and a café, shop and public rest facilities, was mentioned by Cllr Parker for those interested wishing to attend a public meeting next month. Information from the company proposing the development can be found at [www.blandfordhillecohub.co.uk](http://www.blandfordhillecohub.co.uk)

Ed Richards

View the Reporter each month in colour at  
[www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter)



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# Colourful Signs of Spring

Amy Stephens



Amy Stephens



Amy Stephens



John Wright



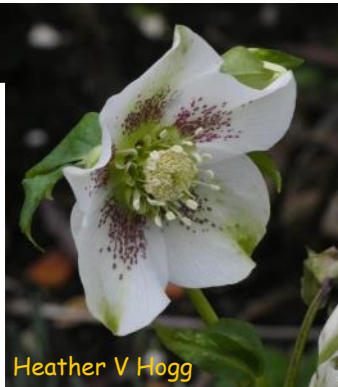
Heather V Hogg



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**Milborne Players**

HAVE you listened to our broadcast of 'A Christmas Carol'? Any feedback would be welcome. Send it to our secretary Ian Karley.

We have had another Zoom Committee Meeting and after the success of 'A Christmas Carol' we intend to present another broadcast, title yet to be decided.

Zoom will also be used for our AGM on 29th March at 8.00pm. All members will be provided with a link and documentation. If you would like to attend please contact Ian Karley.

You can contact the Milborne Players secretary Ian Karley at [secretary@milborneplayers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@milborneplayers.org.uk)

You can still listen to 'A Christmas Carol' on our Website [www.milborneplayers.org.uk](http://www.milborneplayers.org.uk)

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

**SUDOKU**

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

No prize, just a bit of fun.



# Rosie's day by the big river

Hello everyone, we had another lovely trip in the tin box last September, we went to a place called Henley next to a big river called the Thames. When we arrived we had a nice day walking by the river and after our walk we had lazy afternoon at the caravan. Guess what, after dinner my auntie and uncle turned up! I was so pleased to see them as I hadn't seen them for sooo long. Auntie Janet had brought me some treats and a lovely little pink rabbit toy, the trouble was I got sooo excited that I jumped up and knocked her drink all over her, oh dear was I in the bad books, yes I was! Still, I'm sure she will forgive me as she does love me really.

We all had a good time, we did another lovely walk by the river to Henley but poor dad had to go back after one mile because of his poorly knee but he did drive to the pub to meet us for lunch. It was a nice pub, a bit posh but they did let me in the garden! My mum is a vegetarian, that means she doesn't eat animals but all they had for her to eat was a whole cauliflower! She told the lady she wasn't keen on cauliflower so they said they'd cook her something else, guess what they came out with, a plate of fancy carrots, she couldn't believe it! I don't know what the fuss was about, I'd love a plate of carrots! She said that wasn't enough for a meal so they brought out some lovely chips so that was alright.

Well you'll never believe what I saw one night, mum took me out late to do my doggy doos and I saw the funniest little creature I've ever seen, it was like a small guinea pig with a pointy nose and covered in sharp spikes, mum said it was a hedgehog but I think that was because we found it near the hedge, anyway I kept well back in case I got prickles in my nose!

One day we went into Henley where they have the famous regatta, we weren't in the regatta but we did have a



lovely boat ride along the Thames. Mum saw lots of grand houses but said she wouldn't swap our little house in Dorset for one of them. I sat nicely on Dad's lap watching all the ducks and spying into people's gardens.



On our last day we drove to Windsor, I was well excited as that's where the Queen lives sometimes. It's a lovely town and we saw the huge castle but we couldn't go in because the Queen has got lots of Corgis so they don't allow other dogs in. There is a lovely park there so we had a picnic and I had my photo taken with the Queen and her dogs (not the real Queen just a statue) but it was still fun.

We're having a rest for a while because of this bloomin' lockdown thing but we'll be off on our travels just as soon as we are allowed. Bye for now, love Rosie.

## The End of the Line

By Jan Beaumont ©

I've had a new request from friends who live a way from here  
To see if I would like to pen a verse  
About a place that no one goes unless their time has come  
And the final mode of transport is a hearse!

Of course it is the cemetery, the final resting place  
Of all of those we loved who've now 'gone on'  
And although it's often thought of as a place that gives you chills  
It's not somewhere you may just 'chance upon'.

For it's a place we visit to remember ones we lost  
It may be a much-loved mother or a dad  
And it can be so peaceful as you bend and place some flowers  
And you think of all the memories that you had.

You may have seen a program on TV just recently  
A brilliant series they called 'After Life'  
Where people go to sit and just be near the one they love  
That's what Tony did when he had lost his wife.

It can be oh so interesting wandering round the plots  
The stories on the headstones can amaze  
Like crews of ships that foundered off the country's perilous coast  
Thank goodness we have none of that these days.

It may seem strange but often there are social gatherings there  
Amongst the graves where those who've left us lie  
The occasion can be joyous as we all accept the fact  
That you're not forgotten just because you die!

There have been times I was stressed with what life's thrown my way  
And I take the time to visit and reflect  
And the peace just overcomes me and I almost want to stay  
And not return to all the chaos I expect!

But life goes on and so we go back to the noisy world  
And leave our loved ones sleeping peacefully  
Just knowing that one day we'll be together once again  
So save a comfy place right there for me!

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## Answers to quiz on page 13.

1. Monaco
2. Six
3. Saffron
4. Anne of Cleves
5. Shania Twain
6. Great Expectations
7. Mount Everest
8. Anne Bancroft
9. The Panama Canal
10. The Rembrandts
11. William IV
12. Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs
13. Cheese
14. James Cameron
15. Nicholas II
16. The Blind Side
17. Red Rum
18. A Few Good Men
19. Onion (allium)
20. Yuri Gagarin
21. Rebecca
22. Paul McCartney
23. Baldrick
24. 1960
25. Robbie Williams
26. Houses of Parliament
27. Vatican City
28. 14th Century
29. George Orwell
30. Howard Webb

## Bitcoin-related scam emails

BE vigilant of unsolicited emails promoting cryptocurrency (notably Bitcoin) investment opportunities. We've received over 750 reports this week about Bitcoin-related phishing emails that use fake celebrity endorsements to try and lure victims into investment scams. The links in the emails lead to fraudulent websites that are designed to steal your money, as well as personal and financial information.

How you can protect yourself:

**Investment opportunities:** Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into making a transaction on the spot.

**Seek advice first:** Speak with a trusted friend or family members, and seek independent professional advice before making significant financial decisions.

**FCA register:** Use the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

For more information about how to invest safely, please visit:

<https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart>

**Report suspicious emails:** If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, you can report it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service by forwarding the email to - [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

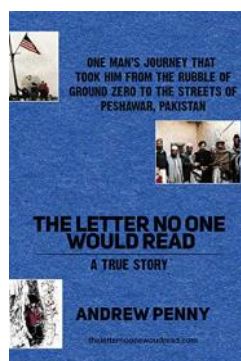
To see examples of the Bitcoin-related phishing emails that have been reported to us, follow Action Fraud on

- Twitter <https://twitter.com/actionfrauduk> or
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/actionfraud/>

## The letter no one would read

By Andrew Penny

ANDREW Penny is an American author, adopted from a southern European family when very young. It's not clear what his profession may be, but he is affluent enough to own a flat in a nice part of New York, and to be able to drop everything on a whim and disappear for a month or so with no visible means of support. His book tells the story of the impact on him of being in New York on the 11th September 2001, helping with clearing up/rescue at Ground Zero in the following days, and the impact the actions of the terrorists and their victims had on his life.



This involved him heading to Pakistan to see the plight of Afghan refugees living close to the border. His simplistic world view led him to this because 'the twin towers happened because of US involvement in Afghanistan'. The book tells at great length and in mind-numbing detail the events, experiences, and people that met him on arrival. He describes in simple terms the interaction between Pakistanis and Afghans, trails interminably from refugee camp to refugee village, describing similar circumstances and telling similar stories of the things that had happened to the refugees in each place. He seems surprised when he 'discovers' that small boys are used to weave rugs in Pakistan, that deformed people beg for a living, that street children are not welcome in restaurants, and that beggars can be both aggressive and persistent.

After twenty six chapters of this, we finally get to the letter that's the supposed subject of the book. It's written by another person with no input from the author, whose self-appointed job it is to take this letter back to the USA and gather political and financial help for the Christian communities who are struggling to survive and create civilised villages and communities for refugees and Christian citizens. The final chapter tells what happened to those efforts, although the title of the book is a clue.

Whilst there was some interesting descriptive work in this book, I was annoyed by the lack of knowledge and awareness which this man took to a foreign country with him and his confidence that he would get by, get home and become a better person as a result of his trip. He put himself into danger, and it was only by stumbling across a number of good, kind and helpful people that he got away with it. His simplistic view of politics and lack of historical knowledge is also worrying in someone who is no doubt now set up as a Subject Matter Expert on Afghan refugees, Pakistani politics, and the persecution of Christians in Islamic countries.

The book needs a good proof reader, as I spotted several typing mistakes.

The author also has a dim view of the intelligence of his readers, note the title – 'Peshawar, Pakistan'. As opposed to 'Peshawar, Texas'?


My summary – The author claims that his book is an attempt to draw attention to the treatment of the Christian minority in Muslim Pakistan. This goal is relegated to in the final chapter of a book of 'what worthy stuff I did on my holidays'.

Susan Wilson



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# Community Contacts

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

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

## COUNCILS

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

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

**Flooding:** Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188

**Environmental Incident:** Environment Agency Hotline 08008 807060

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

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

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

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

## GENERAL — ADULT

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

## GENERAL — YOUTH

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

## POLICE

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

## SCHOOL

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

## SPECIAL INTEREST

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

## SPORT

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

## Football – Under 14s

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

## VILLAGE HALL

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

## HEALTH

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

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