



Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 15 Issue 3

March 2023

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Milborne St. Andrew



See pages 16-17

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Community events at the Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall, half page or less free of charge, other community events in Milborne St. Andrew at half the above rates for half page or less, all subject to availability.

Advertising copy MUST be received by the 10th of the month
msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

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

Enquiries and copy to: msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk
 E-copy as .docx or .pub files, pictures as .jpg files please.
 Paper copy to any of the team.

Coracle in concert

Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm

£10, £5 u18s, £25 family

01258 839060/www.artsreach.co.uk

OUR next Artsreach event will be on Saturday 18th March when we are pleased to be hosting the band "Coracle".



Coracle fuse traditional with contemporary in an exhilarating voyage which has British folk tradition at its very heart, cut loose by contemporary classical and splashes of early

music. Coracle combines the talent, imagination and creativity of three contrasting musicians; accordionist Paul Hutchinson (Belshazzar's Feast) is a BBC Folk Award Best Live Artist nominee. Dorset based Karen Wimhurst is a widely commissioned composer and clarinet player, influenced by traditional, jazz and contemporary classical music. Anna Tam was shortlisted as Fatea's 2021 Instrumentalist of the Year, and adds nyckelharpa, viola da gamba, hurdy gurdy and cello to her crystal clear vocal. Expect ethereal to turn gutsy, passion to be tempered by a good laugh and a tide of improvisation which means no two evenings are ever the same. Coracle tour Dorset with Artsreach, the counties touring arts charity.

For tickets, please visit artsreach.co.uk/event/coracle or call 01258 839060.

Lindsey O'Neill

Wednesday Club

ON Wednesday 1st February we met for the first real Wednesday Club gathering this year. Our speaker was our own treasurer, José Thomas.

After regaling us with her own and Harry's limericks at our last meeting, this time we were treated to hearing of her and Harry's exploits as they trod the boards over the years.

From quite an early age José sang; it was a very natural thing as her family lightened their mundane tasks with song as they worked around the house. So with such a beginning she naturally moved on to singing on stage in many of the musicals of the time. She showed us press cuttings of her in fabulous frocks in many productions, in one she was resplendent in a blonde wig! José's singing was really lovely, she played us a recording of herself and I must say we were stunned at the range and beauty of her voice.

For this talk she should have been accompanied by Harry, but unfortunately he was unable to come. He did however furnish her with his notes which, she said, he had insisted she read without any alteration. Harry had acted in many plays over the years and we were also shown some of his press cuttings.

José told us that the call of the limelight and particularly musicals was carrying on in the family as, if you went to the pantomime, you would have heard their son playing the musical accompaniment.

Sadly Harry Thomas passed away on 12th February, he will be missed.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st March at 2.00pm.

Josie Wright

Village Hall News

THE village hall committee have agreed to put the hall and field available for an event for the King's Coronation. What that event is depends on you. There will be a meeting on Sunday 5th March at 11.00pm.

The village quiz will be held on Saturday 4th March (see details page 26). Please support this event, they are always good fun and you don't need to be Einstein!

We are having a clear up day on Saturday 11th March 12 noon to 2.00pm straight after the café. We would welcome lots of people to come and help.

The Community Café continues to run every second Saturday of the month 10.00pm to 12 noon. It has proved very popular but there is still room for more people so come along and enjoy a bacon or sausage butty.

The last film night had to be cancelled due to the bad weather but *Mrs Harris goes to Paris* will now be shown on March 24th.

The extension of the car park will begin on 20th March so parking will be restricted while this is happening.

We have sprung a leak in the flat roof so please be careful when getting chairs and tables as there may be containers to collect the drips.

We were pleased to donate £750 to the Players towards new stage lights; if you went to the Panto we hope you appreciated them!

Don't forget there is an opportunity to become a Friend of the Village Hall. If you would be interested then please contact Sarah Ryan 01258 839230 or anyone on the committee. Linda Wright

Reporter 2022/2023 makes a loss

THE *Reporter's* accounts for the year show a loss of £641 after a dip in advertising and also donations made to local charities. Advertisement volume was down on two years ago, especially affected were one-off ads for spring and summer events which didn't go ahead due to the pandemic.

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 2023

Balance B/F from 2022	£6,496.07		
	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>
Advertising	£4,007.50	Printing	£4,302.00
Copies sold and donation	£27.60	Expenses	£182.00
Bank Interest	£7.67	Donations	£200.00
Total	£4,042.77	Total	£4,684.00
Total Income	£4,042.77		
Less Expenditure	£4,684.00		
Profit /Loss	£641.23		
Cash in bank 31st January 2023	£5,838.26		
Cash in hand 31st January 2023	£16.58		
Total in hand at 31st January 2023	£5,854.84		
Loss for year ending 31st January 2023	£641.23		

March – Perfect Pairings with Poetry

Stargazy (Starry Gazey) Pie with Mead

St. Piran is the patron saint of Cornwall and his feast day is celebrated on March 5th, which falls on a Sunday this year. Nowadays in Cornwall and elsewhere, people join parades, display the regional flag, sing “the Song of the Western Men”, eat cream teas, enter pasty making competitions and other Cornish themed events to mark the occasion.

There is little description of historic specific traditions associated with this day apart from the consumption of large amounts of alcohol and food during ‘Perrantide’, the week leading up to the 5th of March. The day following St. Piran’s Day was known by many as ‘Mazey Day’, a term which has now been adopted by the revived Golowan festival in Penzance. The phrase ‘drunk as a Perraner’ was used in 19th century Cornwall to describe people who had consumed large quantities of alcohol.

Cornish Pasties are traditionally associated with Cornwall. I first made Cornish pasties at school in the early 1960s. This was long before ‘Cookery’ had evolved into ‘Home Economics’ or ‘Food Technology’. My first ever attempt at making pastry was not a success and the pasties split in the oven leaving the filling dried up and inedible.

Ed loves all forms of pastry and he taught me to use a food processor instead of rubbing the fat into the flour by hand. As well as the results being more consistent it’s also quicker than waiting for frozen pastry to defrost. The March 2018 edition of the *Reporter* gives the full recipe and instructions for making pastry using a food processor (page 11). It’s available online as are all the previous editions of the *Reporter* from 2009.

Another traditional Cornish dish using pastry is Stargazy Pie which I must admit I’ve only ever seen photographs of and have



never attempted the real thing. The traditional dish uses whole pilchards with their heads poking out of the crust, gazing up at the stars – the thought of dealing with all those fish bones rather puts me off. My version of this recipe uses fish pie mix and is a lot easier to serve and eat. The pastry topping has cut out fishes and stars as a token nod to the provenance of the recipe.

Ingredients:

- 30g butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 leek, finely chopped
- 3 rashers smoked streaky bacon, finely chopped

- 20g plain flour + 1 teaspoon of mustard powder
- 3 tbsp dry white wine
- 250ml fish stock or milk
- 300ml double or single cream (optional)
- Pinch saffron strands (optional)
- small bunch fresh parsley, chopped
- 3 eggs, 2 hard-boiled and quartered, 1 beaten to glaze
- 200g puff or shortcrust pastry
- 2 x 400g packs of fish pie mix
- 1 teaspoon of salt, some freshly ground black pepper and a few gratings of nutmeg

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas 6.

Poach the fish pie mix in the fish stock or milk until opaque, drain, reserving the liquid.

Melt the butter in a pan over a low heat, add the onion, leek and bacon and cook, stirring, over a low heat until very soft but not browned. Don’t rush this.

Stir in the flour and mustard powder to make a roux and cook for a minute. Very, very gradually add the white wine and reserved fish stock, stirring well after each addition of liquid to remove any lumps. If you haven’t made a roux before don’t panic if it looks lumpy, just keep briskly stirring until it comes smooth again. When all the liquid is added, bring to the boil, then turn down to a very gentle simmer and cook for five minutes while stirring until the sauce has thickened and the flour is cooked. Don’t omit this stage or the sauce may taste floury and a bit gritty. Add the cream and saffron, if using, salt and some pepper and a few gratings of nutmeg, stir in the parsley and the cooked fish.

Roll out the pastry to about 3mm thick. Cut out a long, 2cm wide strip of pastry. Dampen the rim of a deep pie dish with water and press the pastry strip onto the rim. Spoon in the cooked fish mix. I put in the quartered hard-boiled eggs at this stage and gently push them into the mixture. Brush the pastry rim with beaten egg.

Cut out a piece of pastry a little bigger than the size of the dish. Carefully lower onto the pie dish. Trim, then knock the edges together with the back of a knife and crimp the edges to seal. Decorate with cut out stars and fishes. Brush the pastry with beaten egg and bake for 40–45 minutes until the pastry is golden and crisp.

Serve with Cornish new potatoes and green vegetables.

Mead

Mead is a beverage made from honey and has a long history. It is supposedly the very first alcoholic drink made by man. The Greeks described mead as “the nectar of the Gods,” while the Vikings enjoyed warm mead on chilly nights. The medieval English used mead to treat indigestion and the very first traces of mead were found in pottery dated around 7000BC in Ancient China.

Mead is mentioned in many works of literature, including Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, The Lord of the Rings, the Harry Potter books and it



has been made more widely known through the TV series Game of Thrones. Mead production in America has increased tenfold since the huge popularity of Game of Thrones, although the word 'mead' is never mentioned either in the books or on film. Mead is often associated with the Middle Ages and especially linked to King Arthur and Camelot although there is no archaeological evidence to support the existence of King Arthur.

There are lots of recipes for homemade mead, but I have to admit that I've always bought mine in the past. The last bottle I had was from Lyme Bay Winery (LymeBayWinery.co.uk).



Tintagel Castle in Cornwall has long been associated with King Arthur and there is an iconic statue of him on the cliffs. Thomas Hardy and his first wife Emma Gifford visited Tintagel soon after their first meeting. Emma lived nearby with her sister and her husband at the Old Rectory at St. Juliet's.

This is now a B&B business and you can choose to stay in Emma's room, Mr Hardy's room or the Rector's room. There is also a dog friendly option of a room in the converted stables, where Emma kept her horse, Fanny.

When Hardy returned to Dorset after first meeting Emma on 7th March 1870, at some point he wrote his famous poem 'Lyonnesse'. He dated it 1870 in his notebook but it wasn't published until 1914 after Emma's death. Until his own death he kept his writing desk calendar permanently displaying the date of their first meeting.

Lyonnesse is mentioned in Arthurian legend, but particularly in the tragic love-and-loss story of Tristan and Iseult. Lyonnesse is most notable as the home of the hero Tristan (one of the Knights of the Round Table), whose father Meliodas was king of Lyonnesse. After the death of Meliodas, Tristan became the heir of Lyonnesse, but he was never to take up his inheritance because Lyonnesse sank beneath the sea while he was away at his uncle King Mark's court in Cornwall.

Lyonnesse by Thomas Hardy

When I set out for Lyonnesse,
A hundred miles away,
The rime was on the spray,
And starlight lit my lonesomeness
When I set out for Lyonnesse
A hundred miles away.



What would bechance at Lyonnesse
While I should sojourn there
No prophet durst declare,
Nor did the wisest wizard guess
What would bechance at Lyonnesse
While I should sojourn there.

When I came back from Lyonnesse
With magic in my eyes,
All marked with mute surmise
My radiance rare and fathomless,
When I came back from Lyonnesse
With magic in my eyes!

Wishing you a happy Perrantide!

I'm including this rousing song as well as the Thomas Hardy poem as it was one of my favourites when I was at Junior school in the 1950's. It was memorably sung by Cormoran Strike in the latest TV series.

The Song of the Western Men

A good sword and a trusty hand!
A merry heart and true!
King James's men shall understand
What Cornish lads can do!
And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

And shall Trelawny live?
Or shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

Out spake their Captain brave and bold:
A merry wight was he:
Though London Tower were Michael's hold,
We'll set Trelawny free!
We'll cross the Tamar, land to land:
The Severn is no stay:
With "one and all," and hand in hand;
And who shall bid us nay?

And shall Trelawny live?
Or shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

And when we come to London Wall,
A pleasant sight to view,
Come forth! come forth! ye cowards all:
Here's men as good as you.
Trelawny he's in keep and hold;
Trelawny he may die:
Here's twenty thousand Cornish bold
Will know the reason why

And shall Trelawny live?
Or shall Trelawny die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

Rose Frost

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Abbey Swimming Club closes

IT IS with great sadness that the Abbey Swimming Club has had to permanently close after over 30 years as a Community Swimming Club.

The Abbey Swimming Club, located at the Milton Abbey School Pool, had its first swimming session on Tuesday 14th June 1988. The club was run solely by volunteers – including volunteer lifeguards, volunteer swimming teachers and all committee members. For almost 32 years (until we were forced to close in March 2020 due to Covid-19) we held around four swimming sessions per week for our members – all from the local community. Our members ages ranged from a few months to the over 80s.

For over 30 years we also ran children's and adult's swimming lessons, and for many years diving lessons, toddler swimming lessons, and aquafit. We had 'adult only' swimming sessions and monthly 'fun and floats' swimming sessions, to cater for all ages. We held regular galas at the pool – both fun galas and competitive galas – to cater for all abilities. We had close links with Milton Abbas surgery and offered 'back to fitness' sessions for surgery referrals.

The club was also a valued social club for all members. Throughout the years the club held regular social events to raise funds, such as New Year's Eve barn dances, summer barbeques, skittles evenings and quiz nights. Since 2001 we were actively involved with the Milton Abbas Street Fair and ran the cream tea stall. The whole swimming community came together at these events.

After COVID the club was hoping to re-open at the Milton Abbey School Pool as before. Unfortunately under new safeguarding rules Milton Abbey School would only allow the club to access the pool during some school holidays. After much searching we were unable to find an alternate pool that offered us the 'community club' that we previously had. So, sadly, the members voted to wind up the club in September 2022.

On the evening of Wednesday 18th January 2023, a farewell reception was held at the Milton Abbas Reading Rooms. The club assets have been distributed to local charities chosen by club members and the following cheques were presented during the evening:

- £7,000 to Wimborne Wagtails – A Dorset based Swimming Club for the Disabled. The cheque was received by the Club Chairman, Julian Vernon.
- £7,000 to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. The cheque was received by Becky Heath.
- £7,000 to Weldmar Hospicecare – A Dorset based charity providing specialist end of life care. The cheque was received by Marie Notley.
- £2,000 to Milton Abbas Street Fair. The cheque was received by the Chairman, Freddie Robinson.

Representatives from each organisation were present and said a few words of thanks and described how much the donation would mean for their organisation.

Right: Freddie Robinson accepting the cheque on behalf of the Milton Abbas Street Fair

Bottom left: Julian Vernon accepting the cheque on behalf of Wimborne Wagtails

Bottom centre: Becky Heath accepting the cheque on behalf of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

Bottom right: Marie Notley accepting the cheque on behalf of Weldmar Hospicecare



The King needs you

YES YOU! To celebrate the King's Coronation the Village Hall and field are available for a celebration on Sunday 7th May. But what celebration?? Well this is where YOU come into it. There will be a meeting on Sunday 5th March at 11.00pm in the village hall where all are invited to come for a brainstorming session to decide what event to hold. Please come with your ideas and let's do something to celebrate.

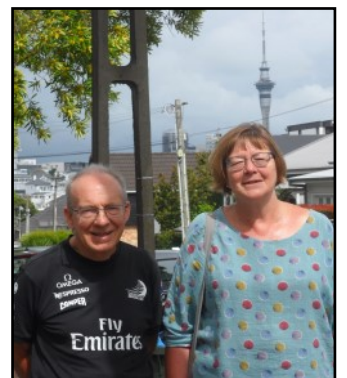
Linda Wright

Thank you Jo

IT was good to go away on holiday knowing that the *Reporter* was in good hands, thanks to Jo Whitfield for being at the helm.

I had the privilege to see Susan Wilson (pictured), who writes book reviews for the magazine while she was in Auckland.

I was hoping to meet Jan Beaumont who is a regular contributor with her poems, she lives in Auckland but for various reasons including Jan having an operation it was not to be. David Payne



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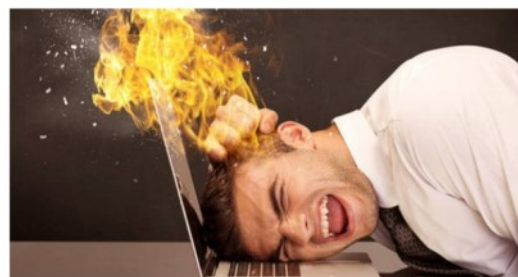
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Milton Abbas Surgery

SystemOnline and NHS App

Did you know that you can order prescriptions, see your vaccination records and recent blood test results online? There are a couple of ways to do this – you can use the NHS app or NHS website, or you can use the online service 'SystemOnline' via our surgery website.

Before you can use 'SystemOnline', we will need to create your own online account. This can be done by bringing two forms of ID into the surgery – one needs to be photo ID (Driving Licence or valid passport) and the other needs to be a utility bill with your address on. Our reception team can then register you for online services.

If you have the NHS app, at some point in the future you will be able to view your full records from a specific date onwards. We will make you aware of the date when we are closer to this happening.

MinuteKidney

MinuteKidney is a kidney health home testing service that enables eligible patients to conduct their annual albumin-to-creatinine (ACR) urine test from home. If you receive a text message from Wednesday 8th February onwards regarding the Kidney Health Home Testing Service, please be assured that this is not a scam message. It is being run through the Mid Dorset Primary Care Network, not the practice, but the results will come back to us. Only patients who are eligible will be invited.

Occupational Therapy Service

Laura recently started working as an Occupational Therapist for the Mid Dorset Primary Care Network a few months ago and has hit the ground running! Occupational therapy aims to improve your ability to do everyday tasks if you are having difficulties. Referrals to Laura can be made directly by yourself or through one of our Nurses or GPs. Laura will then arrange to meet you at your own home or in the environment you are finding challenging.

Wednesday 15th March – Young Carers Action Day

#YoungCarersActionDay 2023 is about Making Time for Young Carers. A young carer is someone under the age of 18 who looks after or helps to look after someone. It might be their mum or dad, grandparent, brother or sister or a close relative.

We know it's easy for young carers to start feeling overwhelmed because of everything they need to do for their caring role on top of all their schoolwork and revising for exams. It doesn't need to be this way; even just a ten-minute conversation can make all the difference.

If you are a young carer, it is important that you let the surgery know so that we can understand the challenges you face and help you find the support you need. Give us a call on 01258 880210 or please send an email to miltonabbassurgery@nhs.net for the attention of Kelly.

Remember, you are not alone in this - it's okay to ask for help.

Wellbeing Team Activities

"Big journeys begin with small steps"

Small actions or tweaks to your lifestyle can add up and make a big difference to how you feel and provide a great sense of achievement! Why not look at coming along to one of our Wellbeing Team groups?

- Beginners Line Dancing group is on Mondays at 2.00pm at Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall.
- Nurtured by Nature is on a Thursday at 3.00pm at Luccombe Hub Farm (weather permitting).
- Papercraft group is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall (from 1st March 2023)
- Our Walking group has been working on a new revised walking program scheduled to start mid/late February 2023, so should be up and going by now. If you would like to receive details of these walks, please just let our Reception Team know.
- Our Surgery Allotment is open to all who feel they would benefit from time outside, with nature and a little company. If this appeals to you, please just let our Reception Team know.

Our Wellbeing Team would love to see you! For more information about any of the above groups, please see our surgery website www.masurgery.co.uk or speak with Kelly, our Social Prescriber.

In Jolly Good Company

In Jolly Good Company exists to help alleviate the physical and mental issues caused by loneliness and isolation. They are a dementia friendly organisation and work with all ages to bring friendship, joy, and a sense of community to older people living in Dorset.

Why not sign up to their monthly Newsletter to stay informed of what they are up to locally? Just go to the bottom of their website page www.injollygoodcompany.com and complete the Newsletter request.



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Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris

Friday 24th March
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Food and Wine Club Burns Night at The Royal Oak

IN celebration of the renowned Scottish poet, Rabbie Burns, and to enjoy a fun filled night out, the Food and Wine club held our first event of 2023 at The Royal Oak on Saturday 28th January. Whilst Burns Night is of course on 25th January, it was decided that it was better to celebrate it on the closest weekend.

The members started to gather at 7.00pm to the rousing sound of the bagpipes played by Mr. Campbell De Burgh in the skittle alley. He is ex-Royal Navy Piper and currently plays in a pipe Band around Dorset. This was a surprise for the members, and served to provide a great start to the evening. Even some who are not so keen on the instrument were very taken by Campbell's playing.

At 7.30pm, Campbell piped the haggis into the room, which



had been excellently decorated in tartan, and Burns night paraphernalia by Sarah, Andy and their team at the pub. Meg Livingston then said two verses of the ode to the haggis in her wonderful Highland accent. Jim Park, in his kilt addressed the haggis with his sgian dubh (traditional clan dagger). This was followed by a

Toast to the Haggis, and a toast to "All the Lassies" present by Jim. The response Toast to "All the Laddies" present was given by Karen Park.

Tradition and custom complete, we tucked into the starters of either scotch broth or pea soup. It was commented on by



some as being the best scotch broth they had had for many a year.

Then the main event, haggis, neeps (turnip) and tatties (potatoes). The offering was either traditional haggis or the vegetarian option. This was served with creamy whisky sauce. This was again enjoyed by some members who



had never experienced the dish before. It was delicious and enjoyed by all.

Finally, for dessert, a slight variation on the traditional raspberry cranachan, which was served as a cheesecake, or vanilla ice cream. Those of us who were greedy enough to choose three courses were by now completely stuffed! All washed down with our individual favourite tippie of course, to make the night complete.

Our thanks must go to Sarah, Andy and the Team at The Royal Oak for putting on a great evening with great food, and of course the members for their great company.

Jim Park

CAR PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Work on the extension to the Car Park is now expected to begin on 20th March following a delay caused by the very wet weather.

Heavy machinery will be on site whilst the area of the recreation field, adjacent to the existing car park, is excavated, a hard surface laid and new boundary fencing and gates put in place.

Parking in the current car park is likely to be reduced and access to the recreation field restricted for approximately one week.

The Village Hall

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www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/villagehall

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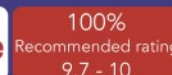


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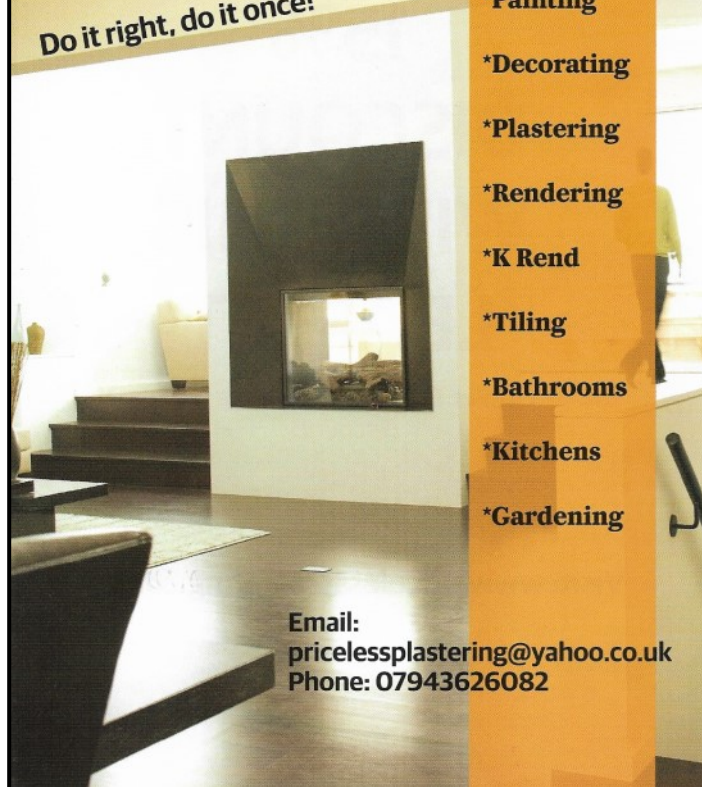
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LETTERS to the Reporter

Letter to the Editor

I would like, firstly, to thank Steve Parnaby for his letter praising Neighbourcar in the January issue of the Reporter. [My apologies to the editor for not reading Steve's letter in time to make the copy deadline for the last issue]. I was one of the Neighbourcar drivers who supported Steve during his three months off the road and it was a pleasure which I am sure my driver colleagues would agree.

Having said that, there are occasions where the six drivers in Milborne may not be able to help someone as we all have a life outside of Neighbourcar and may be caring for elderly relatives, working, or just playing golf which is my preference!

With this in mind, I have written an article that I hope you will publish to explain in greater detail how Neighbourcar works and how prospective clients or drivers can contact us. [see page 19]

Nigel Hodder, Transport Coordinator

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club – More sun or more rain?



ON Thursday 16th March at 7.30pm in the village hall, we are looking forward to an interesting and informative talk on 'Gardening for a Changing Climate' by Martin Young.

As our climate changes, we need plants that are adaptable and resilient. Martin will be giving us ideas and choices.

Do come and join us to learn about this important subject. The evening will only set you back £2 and that even includes refreshments!

Angela Johnson (Treasurer)

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A very English celebration at the February 2023 WI

ANOTHER year and another birthday for the WI in Milborne St. Andrew. We raised our glasses (and a piece of cake) to our 78 years! May the WI nationally continue to promote its traditional values and concerns.

It was generally agreed that our recent Christmas meal had been a very enjoyable event – particular thanks to Nelda and Lin for all their help in organising it. We raised £60 from the raffle alone. Jenny pointed out the number of interesting events coming up in the Dorset WI News, in particular the Ascot day out at the Races which is always very popular. Our thoughts and best wishes go to June Maitland, recovering from a recent illness; we hope to see you back at the WI before much longer.

Puppeteer Andrew Brewer brought along a golf bag with a difference, the unpacking and setting up of its contents taking some considerable time. This turned out to be his mobile puppet booth, and, whilst putting it all together in a very entertaining way, he talked us through the background and origin of a Punch and Judy show. The figure of Punch (derived from the Italian Punchinello) can be traced as far back as the 17th century and is even mentioned in Samuel Pepys' diary. Andrew's interest started when he was a teenager and has continued ever since. Although traditionally thought of as a seaside entertainment, his booth can be found at Fairs and Fetes around the county, including Milton Abbas Street Fair.

He introduced us to his cast of puppet characters, – Punch and his wife Judy, the baby, the dog Toby, the Crocodile, the Devil, Joey the clown, and of course the stick and the sausages. The humour is outrageously slapstick, and relies to a certain extent on interaction with the audience, usually children and the stories are very moral, Punch always loses! Andrew's last words to us said it all – 'Me and the booth have had some really good times . . .'. It is worth looking out for Andrew and his very English show next time you visit the seaside.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 9th March, when 'Stunt Lady' is the topic, with Denis Edwards, and the Exhibition is a Stunt Story.

Pat Bull



Jan Beaumont Poetry

When Jan Beaumont sat down on her couch in late March 2020, little did she realise how her life would change in the next year.

Three days before, the Prime Minister had announced that New Zealand would go into lockdown as a result of Covid 19. Jan had not written anything for 52 years and had never written a poem, but somehow the situation inspired her to write a poem called 'Let's All Drink to Lockdown,' a lighthearted verse about older people and how they were coping with being forced to stay at home for 4 weeks. She posted it on her Facebook page and within hours it had gone viral. Thousands of 'shares' ensued but sadly over time her name disappeared from the text.

As it continued being shared around the globe, by now hundreds of thousands of times, a new name was somehow linked to the poem - the famous British poet, Pam Ayres. Although Pam did her best to put the story straight, the error continued and on many occasions Jan herself received it with the message 'Have you seen Pam's new poem? It's so good!' Fortunately Jan now has her own band of dedicated followers who are only too happy to let everyone know who the correct poet is.

Because of the huge success of 'Let's All Drink to Lockdown' Jan has been interviewed on BBC Radio and other radio stations in Australia and New Zealand, she records her poetry which has been read on many stations and the poem has even been made into a song in the UK.



Above: Jan at her Cambridge Oaks Lifestyle Village reading

One of Jan's proudest moments is that she is one of 100 poets from around the world (aged from 9 to 92!) who appear in a book called 'Poems for a Pandemic' which is being used to fundraise for the NHS in the UK. She has also recorded her poems for the blind and visually disabled at Sight for Wight in Britain.

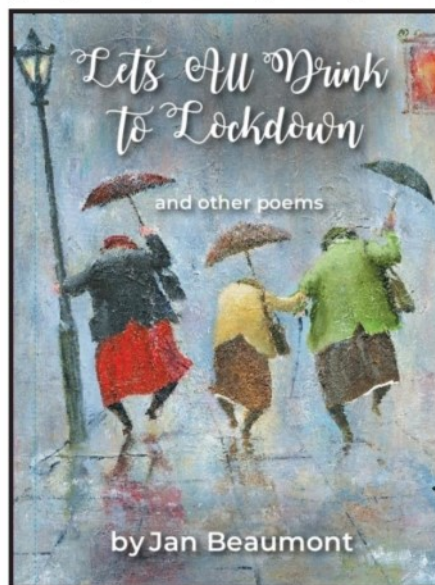
Jan Beaumont Poetry on Facebook is a vibrant page with over 200 poems to enjoy. Her followers are not only from mainstream countries such as the UK, North America, Australia and NZ but from more exotic places like Morocco, Zambia, Guam, Corfu, Israel, Tibet, Mauritania, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Pakistan amongst others.

She is often asked to write special one-off poems for different organisations, as varied as a poem about a cemetery or one to persuade older drivers that it may just be time to give up the car!

Since starting on her poetic journey, Jan has been asked to speak to many different groups such as 60s Up, Probus, U3A, Lions, Dinner and Garden Clubs and Retirement Villages. Her first speaking engagement was at Cambridge Oaks Lifestyle Village, suggested by a follower of her poetry page and she has spoken at groups from Kamo to the Waikato. In October she will be speaking in Levin on the International Day of Older Persons.

'Let's All Drink to Lockdown' has been read in an Israeli Synagogue and also read to the congregation after Sunday Mass in a Catholic Church, where apparently it was very well received! Her poems frequently appear in Church, Women's Institute, U3A and other newsletters. 'I feel as if I'm not only international but interdenominational' Jan jokes.

She really enjoys writing political verse. 'Donald Trump gave me so much material,' she says. 'I'm almost sad he's gone!' The Royal Family, well known figures, NZ politics, Brexit and others have all become topics. Along with the ship stuck in the Suez Canal, the Australian mouse invasion, World Naked Gardening Day, clutter, socks that go missing and others.



Above: Jan's upcoming poetry book.

In August the first book of Jan's poems will be hot off the press, something she is very excited about.

It just goes to show that, no matter what your age, a new and exciting journey can happen for any of us.

To contact Jan regarding speaking or to order a book of her enjoyable poetry, please contact her at jan@gramercy-cards.com

The Reporter would like to thank **Just 1 Seasons Ltd** from New Zealand for letting us publish this article.

Lets all drink to Lockdown

By Jan Beaumont ©

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For four weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

Mrs Harris goes to Paris

Friday 24th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Village Hall, The Causeway, Milborne St Andrew

Doors and bar open 7.00pm

Tickets cost £6, which includes a drink or an ice-cream

Mrs Harris goes to Paris

In partnership with the House of Dior, Mrs. Harris goes to Paris tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior.

This is described as a well-directed and well-acted film about an English charwoman who becomes besotted with a Dior dress, and eventually manages to cobble up the funds to go to the House of Dior in Paris to buy one. But a Dior dress is not something she can buy off-the-rack, and so Mrs Harris has time for side adventures. The film is well-directed and well-acted, and allegedly the re-creations of Dior are authentic.

A lovely feel good film . . . something we all need right now.

Milborne St. Andrew Village History Group

DUE to circumstances, we were unable to hold a big meeting in February; however, a few people did manage to get together to explore what topics might be interesting in the future. The small group also heard from Carolyn, who regularly volunteers as a curator at the Blandford Museum. She explained the work she does and told us about the current project of historical digital equipment display; well worth a visit.

Unfortunately, there will not be any meetings in March, April or May but they will resume on the 14th June in the function room of The Royal Oak. We hope to have a speaker but this has not been confirmed. Look out for posters nearer the time.

As usual, if you are interested in local history, you are welcome to come along, no membership is needed.

Pam Shults

Easter Flowers

EARLY next month we will be celebrating Easter and in Milborne we have a well established tradition of providing the church flowers on Easter Sunday with donations in memory of friends and relatives. We always try to include white Easter lilies, which look and smell beautiful, though they are sometimes difficult to get. We also have a book in which the names of those who are being remembered are written and this is on display in the church at the time.

If you would like to remember someone in this way please give any contribution to Sally Dyer (St. Andrew's View) or Lin Chatfield (Bladen View). You can also bring it to any service, or put it in the safe to the right of the church door, in which case please label it for flowers. It is important that you also include the names of those whom you are remembering so that they can be put in the book. Last year we had a very generous amount so we were also able to buy a lot more narcissi bulbs for the churchyard to add to the ones bought during the covid years. They were planted last autumn so there should be a very good show this spring. Hopefully they will be out over Easter too.

Sally Dyer



Deadline for the next issue 14th March

**Jan Beaumont lives in Auckland, New Zealand and has kindly given the
Reporter permission to use her poems.**



Cinderella

Well, we did it! Cinderella, her prince, her fairy godmother, her animal friends, those terrible stepsisters and their dreadful mother finally adorned the stage of our Village Hall, after two years in the making. We all loved bringing our revered writer's hard work to life. We hope we made Ron proud and that you enjoyed an evening of laughter and memorable visual feasts. Apologies for any trauma caused by the sight of Aconite's garden party attire in those yellow tights, eye watering short green dress and Ginger Spice style knee length boots! Please spread the word if you enjoyed watching us.

We are super excited already at the prospect of our next panto in 2024.

Katie Hawker



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Come and join us . . . Milton Abbas Neighbourcar



MILTON ABBAS Neighbourcar was formed in 2010 and during the past thirteen years we have completed almost 9,000 trips covering a total distance in excess of 120,000 miles (not quite to the moon and back but still

five times around the world). It has drivers and clients in most of the villages where Milton Abbas Surgery has patients.

Over 400 patients have benefited from joining Neighbourcar which just costs a £5 one off registration fee to help with our administration costs and overheads. They have been driven to various destinations over the years by 66 different drivers. On one occasion we even took a client's cat to Havant for a specialist veterinary procedure to remove a tumour and returned the next day to collect it. We did not charge the cat, but the client paid up – not a cheap trip, even at only 45p per mile!

Primarily, we undertake trips to medical appointments which can include dentist, chiropodist, etc. in addition to standard surgery and hospital journeys. Occasionally we will take a client on an emergency shopping trip or to a coffee morning or lunch club as we believe this is good for their wellbeing and are willing to help but medical trips will always be the priority.

The problem is that today we now only have 25 registered drivers which sounds a lot until you try to plan a trip for a client and find many of them are unavailable on the day or time in question.

So, if you would like to support your neighbours and help us to improve our community transport service, please give us a call on **01258 470333** which can always be found in the Community Contacts section in this magazine. Don't worry if you cannot commit to every day – we do realise you have a life outside of Neighbourcar. But any time you can give up would be gratefully received – not more so than by the clients you would be supporting. We will ask you to undertake a DBS check and seek a reference. Please note this number is a "message only" service, but it is monitored at least once a day and I or our Recruitment Officer will get back to you once we have heard your message.

Equally, if you would like to register as a client to use our services, please ring the same number.

I look forward to hearing from potential new clients and drivers alike. Neighbourcar is here to help you with your transport difficulties. *Nigel Hodder, Transport Coordinator*

WHITECHURCH VILLAGE HALL MARCH EVENTS

KURLING - Every Thursday, 10am—12.30pm

CRAFTY NATTER - 10th, 24th, 11am then fortnightly

QUIZ - 11TH, Teams up to 6, £2 pp, 7pm BAR OPEN

EASTER BINGO - 18th, 7pm start, Doors open 6.15pm

BAR open during and after

FAMILY DISCO WITH ENTERTAINMENT - 1st April, 3pm - 5pm

£4 per child, adults FREE

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Flood water and spring litter pick

IT WON'T be a surprise to know that there was lots of discussion around flooding!

Following issues in January with flood water, there was a meeting with members of the Parish Council (PC), Flood Warden, Simon Hoare MP (for North Dorset), Cllr Emma Parker (Dorset Council), Wessex Water, Dorset Council flood team and highways management, and the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss the events. This included a walk from Huntley Down to March Bridge. Cllr Macnair was surprised to see so many people ignored the road closed signs. The key root cause for the issues experienced was that this winter has been one of the wettest on record. This means that the stream was running at full capacity. It has been confirmed that measures under the A354 were working well, but it was backing up in places, and it reached full capacity at March Bridge. The reason the pump was not deployed is that the pump moves water from the road into a culvert under the road, which has now been integrated with the wider drainage work that was done after the last flooding in 2012. So there was nowhere to move the water to. Highways did accept that there could be a blockage, and will investigate this.

DC have agreed to fund a sandbag store, and it has been suggested that it be sited on the grass area on the corner of Milton Road Close. The design of the store will be scoped out so that sandbags will be kept dry.

You will be aware of potholes on Milton Road, and some people raised concerns about blocked drains in the village. DC no longer have the funds nor resources to proactively fix potholes or clear blocked drains, and they rely on the public to report them. You can report these on the DC website at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement.

No-one has come forward to form a working party for the King's Coronation, though a request for funding of £500 to pay for a blues band at the Sports Pavilion on the bank holiday Monday had been received. It was suggested that the genre of the band would not encourage the village together, and also that the event on the bank holiday would mean that people would be back at work the next day. It was agreed to not support this request.

With the planned litter pick last year being cancelled, the next one will happen on 23rd April. If you would like to help pick litter then be at the village hall at 10.00am.

Over the last few meetings speed wires on Blandford Hill and Dorchester Hill have been discussed. Clerk Lewin recommended that wires should not be placed as he thought it was not value for money at this time. Cllr Williams was keen for Speed Indicating Devices to replace the current signs that flash 30pmh, as they have been proved to be more effective, but the rest of the Cllrs agreed with the recommendation from the Clerk.

Many of you will have seen a post on Facebook a few weeks ago asking for opinion about changing the speed limit to 20mph on Chapel Street, Hopsfield and The Causeway. Most people did not support Hopsfield nor Chapel Street, though quite a number of people raised concern that the area of Dewlish Road that goes past Lynch Close is national speed limit and should be reduced to 30mph. The PC will look into this, along with applying to change The Causeway to 20mph. If you think the speed limit for Chapel Street should be 20mph then contact Clerk Lewin.

Date of next meeting 15th March 2023 Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall at 7.00pm. It would be great to see more people at the meeting to join in discussions and have their opinions heard. Put the date in your diary now!

Jo Whitfield



MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

At Milborne we nurture and celebrate every unique child

SCHOOL NEWS



To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, our school hosted its first Milborne Breakfast. A chance for our families to come together, eat croissants, drink coffee and have a good old natter! It was a really special morning enjoyed by all and a lovely way to start the day. We're hoping to make this a regular thing, so watch this space!!!



On Thursday 9th February, Milborne St. Andrew First School held its very first Valentines Disco hosted by our wonderful Friends of School team. And what a disco it was! The hall was completely transformed with homemade decorations, fairy lights and of course, a disco ball! The children were blown away and had an absolutely fantastic time, getting their faces painted and eating yummy cupcakes. Thank you Friends of School for all of your hard work making this such a magical event. The children were full of smiles all evening and I have a feeling this disco is the first of many!



CONTACTS

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

Acting Head of School: Michelle Cheeseman

School Receptionist/Admin Assistant: Holly Latham-Winning

Chair of Governors: Caleb Brown

FOS Chairman: Kate O'Kelly

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362

Fax: (01258) 837170

Food, Glorious Food

By Jan Beaumont ©

Now I toddle off to bed
A place to lay my weary head
It has been a lovely day
Met such nice folks along the way

Trying to lose covid weight
So if I don't stay up too late
I can go to sleep and dream
Of chocolate, pizza and ice cream

Of course it doesn't taste as nice
When you're asleep, but good advice
Is just to dream you're eating grub
Then you won't end up like a chub.

And pretty soon it will be light
And you'll have lost weight overnight
So then you can leap out of bed
And to the kitchen quickly head

For you'll have nothing in your tum
And there is room for something yum
Coffee, toast and jam and then
Its flaming diet time again!



An abundance of snowdrops adorn the 'Parish Pit', along the Dewlish road

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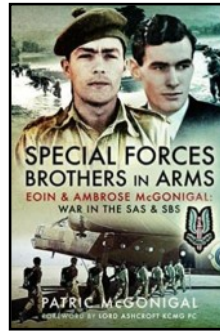
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Special Forces Brothers in Arms

By Patric McGonigal



THIS is an interesting and exciting first book by Mr. McGonigal. Its subject is his Grandfather, Ambrose McGonigal, known to many who served in Northern Ireland as one of the few Catholic Judges the IRA didn't manage to murder, and Ambrose's brother Eoin. These two brothers, both lawyers by profession, were early members of Special Forces in the British Army, Eoin in the SAS, and Ambrose the SBS.

The book covers their childhoods, education, family background and the context of early twentieth century turbulence on the island of Ireland. They were superb rugby players, and toured with the Irish Team, meeting one Blair Mayne during that time. He features heavily later in their story.

Eoin was one of the first two officers selected from an Irish Regiment for Commando training in 1940, and the stories of his training in Arran alongside Mayne are highly entertaining. They were the closest of friends, and it's intriguing to me that after the disappearance of Eoin on the first ever SAS parachute drop (in Libya), Mayne was incredibly distressed and angry, which may help to explain some of his later behaviours which have been discussed at length elsewhere. The book also sheds light on why Mayne's VC award was downgraded.

Ambrose McGonigal, MC and Bar, carried out many coastal raids with the SBS and led local resistance fighters in Yugoslavia. His career, although longer than his brother's, doesn't receive quite the same coverage. Eoin joined up first and his story is entwined with the story of the birth of Special Forces as we know them today, which means there is more to say.

Ambrose's career as a lawyer and judge are very interesting to read about, as is his attitude to having to have a bodyguard at all times, and to protect his family from those who wanted to kill them due to his chosen career. (Like Catholics in the RUC, Catholic Judges spoiled the narrative that there were no Catholics in those professions, so the IRA used their own means to reduce the numbers.)

This book covers a lot of the story of the founding of the SAS and its initial missions in Africa, which would make a volume by itself. It details the birth of the Commandos and the difficulties of establishing both organisations in the face of opposition from senior, established Military figures. The hard training, disappointments at cancelled operations, loss of morale, disbandments, formation of new units, all weave a fascinating tale of these two brothers' lives, and make for a great read.

The author has done extensive research using official and unofficial documents, letters, conversations with those who were there, as well as family memories.

Susan Wilson

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**Deadline for the next issue
14th March**

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Lent – life and death

As Lent wends its way towards Holy Week and Easter, the thoughts of many Christians turn towards the death and resurrection of Jesus, having been reminded of our own mortality at its beginning on Ash Wednesday when we hear the words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

Mortality is not something we tend to think too much about unless we or someone we love reaches the point when death is on the near horizon. And we can approach it in differing ways.

Reflecting on our mortality can lead us to celebrate life or fear death. We have only one life – so often that only really hits when we become aware how limited our own span of days has become.

When we live with fear, we cannot properly experience love or joy or beauty, for fear limits our life and makes it nothing more than existence.

I came across a poem by Mary Oliver (Pulitzer-prize-winning poet), which highlights a way of living life to the full:

When death comes

When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse

to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles-pox,

when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,

I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,
and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth,
tending, as all music does, toward silence,
and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.

I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

Lent is not all about doom and gloom; its discipline and self-sacrificial side is about enabling us to live more fully the life we have been gifted from God. And what better way can there be of that than embracing the life we have been given?

Sarah

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

March 2023

5th March – Lent 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Morning Worship	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Dewlish

12th March – Lent 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.30pm	Sunday Reflections	Tolpuddle

19th March – Mothering Sunday/Lent 4

9.30am	Parish Communion + Holy Baptism of Millie King	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

26th March – Passion Sunday

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
10.00	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish

MONDAY 27th March

1.45pm	Milborne First School Easter Service	Milborne
--------	--------------------------------------	----------

TUESDAY 28th March

2.00pm	Puddletown CE First School Easter Service	Puddletown
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WEDNESDAY 29th March

9.30am	St Mary's CE Middle School Easter Service	Puddletown
11.00	St Mary's CE Middle School Easter Service	Puddletown

DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.30am; Saturday 9.00am

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

LENT

During Lent there will also be:

Wednesdays Compline in St Andrew's, Milborne at
6.00pm

Thursdays Evening Prayer in All Saints', Dewlish at
6.30pm

The Celebrate team are away on 5th March, but there will still be a service but it will have a different format from usual.

Church contacts can be found on page 31.

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St. Andrew's news

AT the beginning of February, we said "Goodbye" to the Christmas Season, and by the end of the month, we had entered Lent, those "Forty days and forty nights" when we prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week and Easter. We welcomed the Archdeacon of Sherborne as our Celebrant at the Eucharist on 12th February, when Margaret, the Benefice "Lay Reader", preached a challenging sermon.

A gentle reminder that Christmas wreaths etc., should now be removed from graves before they grow in and become a hazard when Paul begins cutting the grass for the new season.

"For one Night Only" used to be an advertising slogan for special events when I was in London; in this case, it is "For one Service only". On the first Sunday in March at 9.30am, the Celebrate Service will be an act of Morning Prayer/Morning Worship led by the Churchwarden, as members of the Celebrate team are away. On Wednesdays during Lent, the Office of Compline (Night Prayer) will be said in Milborne Church at 6.00pm. This is a short devotional service with a hymn or two. We hear a lot about "giving up" things for Lent, but we need time to draw closer to God and recharge our batteries. As one prayer expresses it, "As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day, grant that we may spend longer in the light of Your presence, O Lord." Attending the short service of Compline, or one of the Lent courses (see elsewhere in the *Reporter*) can be a way of doing just that.

Some of you will remember Fr. John Spruyt and his wife, Paddi, who did so much for the Church here in Milborne and Dewlish in the 1970s. Paddi celebrated her 97th birthday at the beginning of February. She lives near her daughter, Katie, in Gloucestershire. Greetings were sent from Milborne.

We hold June and Cynthia in our prayers and assure them of our love following a spell in the hospital.

Tony and Pam, Churchwardens

Dewlish Church Notes

AFTER a very quiet – and cold and wet! – January we are now looking forward to Spring! We have things planned for Lent which, by the time you read this, will have already begun.

Each Thursday, beginning on 2nd March, Jim will be leading **Evening Prayer** in the church, at 6.30pm.

We are holding three **Lent Lunches**, which will consist of soup, bread, cheese, grapes and a hot drink. The money raised (minimum of £5, please) will be donated to WaterAid. The dates and venues are as follow: 7th March at Parsonage Farm; 21st March Upton; 4th April, Dewlish Village Hall all at 12.30pm. Please come and support a really good cause, enjoy good food and meet up with other people in a friendly atmosphere.

There are also two **Lent Courses** available. The first one, "**Women of Holy Week**", based on a book by Paula Gooder, will be held in the Royal Oak at Milborne St. Andrew on Mondays, 2.00pm – 3.15pm. These sessions will be led by Maggie, our curate. The second, "**A Place for Us**", based on the film, *West Side Story*, will be held in the Church Room, Puddletown, at 7.30pm. This commences on Tuesday 28th February so I hope interested people will get their Parish Magazine in time to attend and see the film.

Our **Spring Sale** (for church funds) has been planned for Saturday 25th March, in Dewlish Village Hall, 10.30am to 12 noon. Our stalls will include new items, cakes and produce, toys, Easter goods and a raffle. Coffees, teas, and hot cross buns will be available so please come and join us. Donations to stalls etc. would be most welcome.

Daphne Burg

What's on in Milborne

March

Wednesday 1st

Thursday 2nd

Thursday 2nd

Saturday 4th

Wednesday 8th

Thursday 9th

Thursday, 9th

Saturday 11th

Tuesday 14th

Wednesday 15th

Thursday 16th

Thursday 16th

Thursday 16th

Saturday 18th

Thursday 23rd

Friday 24th

Wednesday 22nd

Thursday 30th

Wednesday Club 2.00pm.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Kickboxercise First School 7.00–8.00pm – see page 21.

Milborne Village Quiz Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm start – see page 26.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Kickboxercise First School 7.00–8.00pm.

WI 'Stunt Lady' Denis Edwards Village Hall 7.30pm.

Community Café Village Hall 10.00am to 12.00 mid-day – see page 26.

Mid-day deadline for copy for the *Reporter* msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk.

Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7.00pm.

Kickboxercise First School 7.00–8.00pm.

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm.

Gardening Club 'Gardening for a Changing Climate' by Martin Young Village Hall 7.30pm.

Coracle in Concert Village Hall 7.30pm.

Kickboxercise First School 7.00–8.00pm.

More than a movie *Mrs Harris goes to Paris* Village Hall Doors and bar open 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Bridge The Royal Oak 7.00pm ..

Kickboxercise First School 7.00–8.00pm.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

Ladybirds Playgroup Monday–Friday 8.30am.

Players Monday 7.00pm weekly.

Line Dancing Tuesday 7.30pm weekly.

Wednesday Club 2.00pm 1st Wednesday monthly.

Yoga Thursday 3.30pm weekly.

Karate Thursday 5.10pm weekly.

Women's Institute 7.30pm 2nd Thursday monthly.

Gardening Club 7.30pm 3rd Thursday monthly.

Artsreach Events – look out for the posters.

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

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30–11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Claire Tudge on 07970 734162.

Yoga (Mellulah) Thursday (evening): Friday (mornings).

Beavers Friday 5.30–6.45pm.

Football Saturdays and Sundays.

Private parties, birthdays, wedding receptions check online calendar.

Check the Sports & Social online calendar on the village website for any other events you might be able to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

Pilates Monday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only).

Yoga Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm (term time only).

Badminton Wednesday 6.30–7.30pm (term time only).

Kickboxercise Thursday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only).



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Some important facts about e-cigarettes

VAPING, which involves inhaling vapourised nicotine using a device known as an e-cigarette or vape, has become increasingly popular in recent years. According to the NHS and Public Health England, vaping is a lot less harmful than smoking cigarettes. They're great for people trying to stop smoking, but are not recommended for non-smokers.

However, as with most consumer goods, when a product is popular there is more demand for it and a gap in the market can open for illegal supplies. Illegal products may be unsafe for people to use and there may be no control over the age of people they are sold to.

Trading Standards view shops selling illegal vapes and vaping products to children as one of the top threats on the UK's high streets. Hundreds of thousands of illegal vapes have already been seized. The concern is that cheap and brightly coloured vapes are ending up in the hands of children, who are then likely to become addicted to nicotine.

The Association of Convenience Stores has updated its advice on selling vapes, helping retailers to tackle the huge rise in illegal products. Some of the key areas highlighted include:

- Disposable devices must have no more than 600 puffs.
- Warnings must cover 30% of the front and back of the pack.
- There is only one phrase that's allowed on pack warnings in the UK, 'This product contains nicotine which is a highly addictive substance'.

Any vape not following the points above is not allowed onto the UK market.



Retailers are also encouraged to challenge anyone trying to buy vapes, or vaping products, who look younger than 25, as legally you must be 18 years old to buy them.

You can report illegal sales to Trading Standards by simply calling the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 2231133.

From the Floodwarden

A DRY spell at the end of January and beginning of February enabled floodwater to flow away and groundwater pressure to fall. Wessex Water were able to stop pumping ground and floodwater from their sewerage system and sent a letter to residents explaining the problems they had faced and the actions they had taken.

It is noted that surface water remained on the Milton Road near to Huntley Down long after the road surface nearby had dried.

The Environment Agency, Dorset Council and Wessex Water have agreed to collaborate and work together to try and improve their response in times of flooding.

The provision of sandbags is being considered by the Parish Council.

Mark Johnson, Floodwarden (non-emergency)

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Behind the scenes of the panto

HOPEFULLY you managed to get to see The Milborne Players' production of Cinderella earlier in February. If you didn't then you missed a hilarious pantomime, with lots of boos, laughs, oh yes you dids, a robot, and not forgetting the extremely stylish ugly sisters!

Back in October I responded to a post on Facebook asking for volunteers to help dames with their costume changes. The post indicated that there would be a great atmosphere and lots of fun—and that's exactly what it was!

I didn't know what to expect. Arriving backstage on the night of the dress rehearsal I met the actors and actresses as well as Jo, who also volunteered to help. We were both assigned an ugly sister, given a script indicating details of the costume

changes, and shown in the direction of the clothes rail. It was well organised with each costume on a hanger, and all accessories attached in a bag. There was a box with lots of wigs, a big box of makeup. Before I knew it, people were stripping off, and getting on their costumes. We were asked to do the makeup for the ugly sisters and after a quick google search and watching a 1 minute 26 second YouTube video we were experts! Larry, my ugly sister, was a bit confused when I set about his eyebrows with a Pritt stick, but I was trying to hide his brows so I could draw them higher up his forehead – that's what it said to do on YouTube!

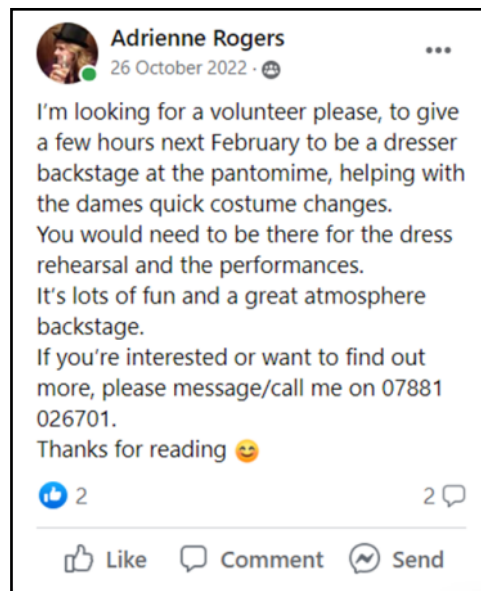
I hadn't really thought about what went on backstage before seeing it for myself. The amount of organisation involved was incredible. There were so many props! The chaps placing the props had this fine tuned with a table laid out with all kinds of paraphernalia ready to go. The thought and effort that goes into the costumes is unbelievable. The beehive costume was hand sewn, and the belisha beacon ball gown, with the flashing hat, who would have even thought of that, let alone have the talent to make it?

I thought that scripts for these productions were bought from some company that has a library of plays and pantos to perform. Little did I know that this pantomime was written by an extremely clever man called Ron. How it fitted together, the jokes, the animals, the robot, the probation officer, the story was ingenious!

Don't tell them I said so, but The Milborne Players are a lovely bunch of people – oh yes they are! And they are looking for people to join them in their productions, both on stage and backstage. So what are you waiting for? Hurry up and contact Gren Davis on 07876 793319.

I had so much fun at the pantomime, and I didn't even see it! If I get the chance to help out again then I will jump at it.

Jo Whitfield



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Saturday 11th March 12-2pm

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News from Ladybirds

THIS month started with children and parents wading through water to get to us. Many of the children found it exciting to arrive in wellies having paddled in flood water or riding on shoulders. Some parents with babes in buggies and toddlers found it more challenging. It was great to see comradery kick in with families supporting each other. With the water receding the authorities put up a drone to photo the floods. It took off from the Hall field with the children excitedly looking on.



Our topic in February was Chinese New Year. We talked about the animals and read a story of the competition they had to cross a river. The crafty Rat won but did he cheat by riding on the Ox's back? We made lucky red envelopes and included a chocolate coin for good fortune. Then we tried making fortune

cookies which proved to be a little tricky but tasted good. Role play was a Chinese restaurant with wool noodles and chop-sticks. At snack time we ate real noodles having investigated some dried noodles before adding hot water.



tried not to make loud noises and frighten her. 'Happy' was as her name says and contentedly moved around the room, following children, frolicking, and bleating. Like any baby she was fed, had her nappy changed and lay on a towel under a table for naps.

We had a wonderful day looking after an orphan lamb. 'Happy', a one-day old lamb, spent the day at Ladybirds. The children learnt about lambs and how to look after them. Some helped to feed 'Happy' a bottle and

Liz Dyer

Milborne Ladybirds

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Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997
Parish Council Dewlish	Clerk: Amanda Crocker	
	dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
	Chair: Chris Uden	07973 167117
Parish Council	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
Milborne St. Andrew	milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
	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 or call 01305 221000

Flooding: Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188

Environmental Incident: Environment Agency Hotline 08008 807060 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

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

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

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

GENERAL — ADULT

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

GENERAL — YOUTH

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

POLICE

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

SCHOOL

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

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	Steve O'Neill	07490 691121
MSA Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
MSA Gardening Club	Bill Love	01258 837677
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793319
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

SPORT

Hardy Country Bowmen	Mike Healy	01300 342134
Badminton	Bruce Dyer	01258 839117
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696

Kickboxercise	Jon Dodd	07742 015121
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Football – Milborne Sports	Kelvin Dormer-Woolley	07544 725855
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839
Skittles – Dewlish	Simon Ross	01258 837606
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)	Angela Johnson	01258 839060

VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
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 07983 013781

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203 Tony Fox 01258 837651

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466 Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

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




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A FAMILY FRIENDLY TRADITIONAL VILLAGE PUB IN MILBORNE ST. ANDREW

What's on in March 2023

Sunday 19th Mother's Day
– *all mothers receive a gift*

Thursday 30th Pie Night

Dorchester Hill, Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset DT11 0JG
Visit www.theroyalokmilborne.co.uk
or for enquiries email hello@theroyalokmilborne.co.uk

TO BOOK CALL
01258 837248