



Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2011

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter

Milborne St. Andrew

Magic in the snow



Photograph – Ed Richards

Did you notice?

DID you spot that the December *Reporter* was printed and not photocopied. The benefice photocopier that we usually use broke down for the second month running, this time without printing a single copy. We are pleased that Purely Print of Blandford came to our rescue and did the whole job for us. We could not afford to do this many times and still produce a free magazine without our advertisers. If you use one of our advertisers please tell them you saw their advertisement in the *Reporter* and if you would like a quote for any print job then try Purely Print (01258 459977) and thank them for helping get the December *Reporter* out on time.

David Payne

The Saga of Milton Road Corner . . . continues

AS the original plans for flower/shrub borders, a seat and a rubbish bin have foundered along with the funding, a compromise is being sought.

Two containers like those at The Royal Oak have been suggested. Andy, the pub landlord, has agreed that he could make them.

The Garden Club are happy to fill them with compost and plants such as heathers and evergreens under planted with bulbs. These can be supplemented with seasonal plants as the year goes on. The Club may have discount vouchers to use at Garden Centres for this. The maintenance would be minimal and the cost met by the Parish Council.

The County Council approve in principal but require a plan and then will attend to the fixing of the planters.

A site for the seat and bin will be found after a walk around the village. Any helpful suggestions will be welcome.

Janet Allen Tel: 01258 837551

You are all warmly invited to the popular Milborne St. Andrew

VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on
SATURDAY 29th January from 12.15pm

Main Course : Sweet : Wine/Tea/Coffee : Mints
£6.00 per head (children £3.00)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Tickets available from the Drop-In Centre at the Village Hall
from Friday 7th January (10.00am to 12 noon)

or call Melva as soon as possible to reserve tickets!
01258 837453

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

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

reporter.ads@milbornestandrew.org.uk

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A Christmas Celebration with the WI

AFTER our recent freezing spell of weather it was good to get out of the cold and celebrate the festive season with entertainment and delicious food – and our Christmas meeting always gives us just such a chance to relax and talk. In this we were ably assisted by our entertainer for the evening – introduced simply as ‘*The Amazing Norman*’, who with a modest and limited number of props (as well as apprehensive members) kept us guessing throughout. Amazing, considering Norman’s wizardly props only included string, voodoo magic, currency and a member’s much treasured item of jewellery – the last ‘disappearing’ but to its owner’s relief quickly retrieved!

Additionally, during our buffet we were treated to some seasonal poetry readings by Linda, Shirley, Sheila and June.

County Quiz – Although we did not win – this accolade went to Sutton Poyntz – we had gone through to the final and enjoyed a very sociable evening. **Children in Need** – Ann Mephram thanked all those who had helped to prepare the 40 bags, formally presented to the village school, who were very happy and pleased with our contributions. **Skittles** – Nelda reported that after a poor start we had an excellent finish, won four, lost two, beating Charminster with only one skittle! Some lovely games at different venues, thanks to all who had joined in during the season. **Bookends** – will be meeting in The Royal Oak after the Christmas lunch on the 14th December.

Looking forward – For all jazz lovers out there, make a note in your diaries – The Royal Oak will be hosting an Evening of Jazz on 30th March, trad and swing to Big Band (not to mention a reduced price for WI members!) Overall, 2011 will bring some interesting speakers and events, starting with something close to all our hearts – **Road Safety** – at our January meeting. Please come along on Thursday 13th January and hear all about it.

Pat Bull



Members enjoying a trick with our guest speaker at the December meeting.

Your *Reporter* Team

Janet Allen, Kate Chastey, Ed Frost, Sue Gould,
Heather V. Hogg, David Payne
and Ed Richards

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

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

Treeguy airlifted to hospital

BRIEFLY, on Wednesday 1st December, our village was on the regional television, and, the following day, the front page of the Echo. You may have heard the helicopters on that day. We were "famous" for all the wrong reasons, a very unusual and horrific accident took place. "Treeguy", Chris Baxter and his workmate Dan, had been working for several days reducing the canopy on an enormous copper beech tree in the old rectory garden in Chapel Street. On that Wednesday they were elevated in the bucket of the cherry picker (mobile lifting platform), when something happened to cause it to topple over, from the height of the canopy of the tree, right down to the driveway at the base of the hill. The fire service, in their report, said that they assisted the ambulance personnel to attend to the casualties, and to ensure they got to hospital as quickly as possible. We believe that both the air ambulance and the police helicopter were used to take them to hospital. Two of the nearby residents were in their gardens at the time, and heard the shout, one alerted the emergency services and, it is understood, went to assist, helping to keep one of the injured still to avoid further injury. The other resident went to make sure the couple who live in the rectory were OK, they were very shaken, and their daughter came in the afternoon to give them support. We understand that Dan is now at home, with his leg pinned, and Chris is still in hospital, where he may be for a few weeks. We've been told that he will mend, but it will take a while.

Sue Gould



Photograph by Mick Hopper

Milborne St Andrew Wednesday Social Club

27th November outing to The Regent Theatre, Christchurch

We had a very enjoyable afternoon outing to see South Pacific – it was great to hear the familiar songs from this very popular show. The performance was excellent and an added bonus for us was a Christmas market being held in the High Street. The Hot Roast Chestnuts were a real treat too. To round off the outing we had a delicious fish and chip supper at a restaurant in Broadstone. It was good to see Margaret Evans back with us again after her recent injury.

We shall certainly book this outing again. So, watch this space.

Christmas outing to Sherborne Castle Garden Centre and lunch at the Green Man, King Stag

The Christmas displays at The Castle Garden Centre, Sherborne set the scene for our celebrations. It gave us an opportunity to purchase some unusual gifts and to have a coffee and a chat before moving on to The Green Man, King Stag.

Our party lunch at The Green Man was delicious and we have booked for next year.

You are invited to our New Year Party on 12th January 2011 at The Royal Oak 2.00–5.00pm. This is the start of our 35th Anniversary celebrations.

- Cabaret performance by a professional entertainer.
- Hot Buffet.

Tickets £10.00. Please contact Margaret Evans on 01258 450518.

The committee would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and also at our special events that we have planned in this the Wednesday Club's 35th year.

Margaret Kirk – Chair

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club



SADLY, due to the snow and ice, our AGM had to be postponed until our next meeting on the 27th January. However, the good news is that the mulled wine will keep until then, and we are asking members to bring along some light bites to accompany it. Meanwhile we hope everyone is busy looking at seed and plant catalogues and keeping warm by the fire.

Our programme for 2011 is set out below, and we will be discussing more details of some of the events at our AGM. This will be a good time for existing members to renew their subscriptions, and any new members will be warmly welcomed.

Our annual dinner will be on the 12th February at The Royal Oak here in Milborne. Full details will be sent out to members and will also be available at the 27th January AGM. This was a very good evening last February and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Meanwhile we wish everyone Happy Gardening in 2011. Linda Harris

Gardening Club programme 2011

All meetings at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the fourth Thursday of each month, except **

27th January	AGM (postponed from December)
12th February	Annual Dinner at The Royal Oak **
24th February	Talk: Colour in the Garden without Flowers
24th March	Talk: The Bee Friendly Garden
28th April	Afternoon visit to the garden of Diana Guy, with tea **
15th May	Morning Plant Sale at the Village Hall **
23rd June	Members' Evening **
July	Annual Summer Outing – to be announced **
August	Social Event – to be announced **
10th September	Village Show **
22nd September	Talk: Dahlias
27th October	Talk: Immigrant Vegetables
1st December	AGM **

100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date – Tuesday 7th December 2010

1st prize	£100	Shirley Tawfiq
2nd prize	£50	Roy Sash
3rd prize	£24	Jon Riddle

The next draw is at 8.00pm, in The Royal Oak, on Tuesday 11th January 2011

Anyone is welcome to attend

New members always welcome

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

Final Letter . . .

Dear Friends

As I come to the end of my time as Vicar, I am very grateful for my time here.

Over the last five years or so, we have been on a journey together in modernising our approach to presenting the Christian Gospel, while respecting the historic forms of worship which are so special to many of our regular church members.

Across the Benefice, we have developed new ways of worshipping together alongside our more traditional services, including placing Family Services in the less formal surroundings of village halls and schools, and it has been great to see ordinary people in the pews playing a greater part in leading worship.

In a time when statistics show that the Church is perceived to be less and less relevant to everyday life, it has been wonderful to see two of our four churches in the Benefice grow in size, and worship develop in our Middle School to include regular Communion Services with around half of Year 5's each year choosing to be admitted to communion.

And so as I move on from here, I do so with a sense of privilege at being able to serve with you, and journey with you.

But I also think that the Church of England as a whole, has not fared as well in recent years, and I worry that as a church, we are losing touch with more and more people because of our own reluctance to embrace change.

Increasingly we are living in a society that is not rooted in the Church and faith which we profess. And increasingly, people see the Church as out of step with the national cultural values that have been developing in recent years.

Well publicised arguments about women bishops, and homosexuals in the church are making the Church seem increasingly irrelevant in a society which by and large has embraced the concept of equality in a way which the Church has not.

This is not only unfortunate for the church, but it is also contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- A gospel where the first people entrusted with the news of Jesus' resurrection were women, not men.
- A Gospel which proclaims that in Christ we are all equal, and where "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Gal 3:28.
- A Gospel which says "God is love, and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them." (1 John 4:16) yet the Church appears obsessed with denying homosexuals the fulfilment of mutual, self-giving, loving relationships.

In a recent YouGov survey, only 10% of the general population were opposed to women bishops and 27% against gay bishops, which shows just how out of step the church is. Even more disturbingly, among younger people (25-39's) this fell even further to 7% and 16%.

Sadly the picture which the Church is giving to many people, is one where being a Christian means having to be anti-equality and anti-gay. In the words of one teenager in our Benefice recently "Why should I listen to the church, while they are condemning my friends?"

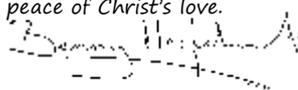
Unless the Church of England faces up to this discontinuity, my fear is that we will be less and less a Church for the nation, and become instead a chaplaincy for an ever dwindling group of people.

In this Benefice, however, I feel that we have made significant progress in addressing these issues over the last few years. When I came here five years ago, there were some sections of the Benefice where the ministry of women priests was not welcome. Yet today, through Sarah Godfrey's faithful and gifted ministry, these misgivings have largely melted away.

I have been grateful to those who have continued to work with me, despite not agreeing with my inclusive approach to sexuality, even when that has been publicised in the national press. I am also grateful to the many members of our congregations who have expressed their support for a more open, inclusive church.

It is my hope and prayer that this Benefice will continue to grow in openness to others and in modernising its ministry to make the Church relevant to our whole society - excluding no-one - and drawing everyone to the joy and peace of Christ's love.

May God Bless and Keep You in His Love



**CHURCH SERVICES
January 2011**

2nd JANUARY – Christmas 1

9.30am	Family Communion	Milborne
11.00	Holy Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish
4.00pm	Tolpuddle Praise	Tolpuddle Village Hall

THURSDAY 6th JANUARY

12.00	Lunch-time Communion	Milborne
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9th JANUARY – Epiphany

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown
9.30	Joint Methodist Covenant Service	Tolpuddle Chapel
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Family Service	Puddletown
11.00	Family Communion	Dewlish

16th JANUARY – Epiphany 2

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Said Communion	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown
11.00	Holy Communion	Dewlish
4.00pm	Milborne Praise!	Milborne Village Hall

THURSDAY 20th JANUARY

12.00	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown
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23rd JANUARY – Epiphany 3

9.30am	Holy Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Family Communion and Tower Celebration! With Creche and Sunday Seekers Guest Preacher: Ven Paul Taylor, Archdeacon of Sherborne	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

30th JANUARY Epiphany 4

11.00am	Benefice Communion With Creche and Sunday Seekers Benny's Farewell Service	Puddletown
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A Personal Note of Thanks

Benny, Mel, Zac and Iona would like to express their gratitude to everyone who has made the last five years such an enjoyable and healing time.

There are too many people to mention by name, but suffice to say that we have felt very loved and supported during our time here, and we would like to thank you for all the ways in which you have cared for us.

We will never forget it.

PS If you want to read more about my work in promoting a more open church, I have a Blog on the internet at <http://benny2010.blogspot.com/> or visit www.acceptingevangelicals.org

MILBORNE ST. ANDREW CHURCH NOTES

MILBORNE First School held their carol service in Church on Monday 6th December. This year they broke with tradition and held their Nativity play in school. The carol service was very enjoyable with readings and carols. The boys from year four who did the readings should be congratulated on their performance.

The Mill Singers Male Voice Choir entertained us all on Saturday 11th December in Church. Our advertising posters had a gimmick of 'raising the roof'. The choir certainly did that. Their performance was outstanding and the programme very varied with some festive music and readings with popular carols with which we all joined in. About 55 people supported the event and those who did not manage to come missed out on a great evening. The 'flush fund' is now £315 better off. Thank you to everyone who supported the Church on this occasion and also to the many helpers who made the evening so successful.

Christmas is always a very busy and enjoyable time in Church with Carol Service, Christingle and the very traditional and moving services at Christmas Eve Communion and Christmas Day Family Service. We must now look ahead to 2011 when their will be changes taking place with the departure of Benny.



Sunday 30th January
Benny's Farewell Service
 Benefice Communion
 Puddletown Church
 11.00am.

DEWLISH CHURCH NEWS

Thank you for being so generous

AT LAST I am able to give the amount raised for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust cycle ride. Our wonderful cyclists – Jason Gray, Aishea, Jo and Nigel Diment – collected £449, half of which will come back to our church. Thank you all very much. Jim hopes to be able to join you next year!

We were so pleased to see so many at our Christmas Bazaar in Dewlish Village Hall, despite the icy roads! The event raised £460 for church funds. We are extremely grateful to all who gave so generously. There was such a great atmosphere as well. We are so lucky to live in such a friendly village. *Daphne Burg*

Church Contacts

Vicar	Benny Hazlehurst	01305 848216
Associate Priest	Sarah Godfrey	01258 839067

Church Wardens

Milborne St. Andrew		Dewlish	
Eva Stockley	01258 837468	Jim Burg	01258 837466
Pat Tribe	01258 837684	Sue Britton	01258 837218

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Charles Morby 1918 – 2010



CHARLES was born in Dudley, in the West Midlands, on 25th August, 1918, the fifth child of Charles and Ruth Morby.

Charlie, as he was affectionately known to all, was stationed at Bovington Camp in the early days of the Second World War. After meeting Cissie, he and his pal, who happened to be courting Cissie's sister at the time, would cycle from Bovington to Milborne, often in the dark, to meet the

girls. Occasionally they would stop on the way to shoot roosting pheasants by moonlight, thus providing a tasty supper for the family. This was often followed by a jug or two of ale and a sing-song from 'Nigger' Brown around the fireside of 'The Royal Oak', with landlord Pop Higgins and his wife.

During these wartime liaisons, love blossomed for Charlie and Cissie and they were married in St. Andrew's Church on 24th April, 1943.

When they were newly married, they planned to live in the Midlands and in fact their furniture and other effects were actually en route to the Midlands, when Charlie received an offer of employment with Grays Stores in the Village, which he accepted, so a "u" turn was made and they relocated to Milborne.

Their marriage was blessed with five children, the eldest, Ruth, tragically dying in childhood from Polio, aged six years, Rita, the second born, sadly passed away some eleven years ago, leaving her son Mark, now married to Karen. They have a family of four children, Jessica, Sapphire, Charlie and Savannah.

Son Roy was next into the Morby family and he has two daughters, Lisa and Hayley. Christine, the third girl is married to Phil and they have a daughter Kerry and a son, Steven. Last, but definitely not least, their fourth daughter Barbara arrived and the family was complete.

Charlie was never unemployed. He was a hard worker all his life, honest and conscientious, having had a variety of jobs over the years, Charlie was a delivery driver of coal and later bread and cakes, employed by Grays Stores, covering all the surrounding villages, where he became a well-known figure. He also worked as a storeman for some years at Blakell Engineering, who were based at the old 'Butlers' garage site at The Causeway, before becoming a paint sprayer in Blandford for John Ballard, finally retiring at the age of seventy-two.

He was involved in many aspects of village life and the community in general, for instance, he was part of the team who painted the inside of the church some years ago. He was caretaker of the Village Hall for over twenty years and he assisted in running the weekly bingo sessions held also in the Village Hall.

Charles was a big man in stature, a proud man, rarely seen without a collar and tie, footwear always gleaming, but also a quiet man, modest and unassuming, respected and well-liked by all who knew him. He was for many years the Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion, attending Remembrance Day parades regularly, this duty filling him with enormous pride.

Prior to Charlie's death he had been living at home with the help of daughter Barbara and the support of Milton Abbas Surgery which the family were very grateful.

Through his passing, the world has lost a good man in Charles Morby, a devoted Husband, loving Father, Grandad and Great Grandad, truly one of life's gentlemen, who adored his loved ones and in return was adored by them.

Flowers stolen from grave

JUST how mean can you get? On 27th November a tub of pansies and a rose bush were taken from a grave in St. Andrew's graveyard. This has caused enormous distress to the lady who placed them there and she asks that they be returned.

Rose, Ed, Sue, Sid and Melva wish all the regulars at the Friday Drop-In at the village hall a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Drop-In reopens on 7th January 2011, 10.00am–12.00 noon.

Ladybirds abandon plans for newbuild

MILBORNE Ladybirds Playgroup were disappointed recently when their bid for a new building fell through at the last moment. The successful group who will be celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2011 have always been based in the village hall. Surestart had agreed a sizeable contribution towards a purpose built playgroup building on the site of Milborne St. Andrew First School. Ladybirds applied to a number of other Charitable Foundations for further funding, but unfortunately none of these requests were successful in raising the total amount required for completion of the project.

Rob Sawdy, 2010 Chairman of the Ladybirds committee said he was disappointed by the decisions. 'Although not unexpected in these times of financial austerity it is nonetheless a disappointment to all concerned, huge amounts of work had gone into the bid. We have had support from countless friends who lent their considerable time and support to the committee and the subgroup who oversaw this project. To them all we extend our thanks and gratitude.'

Deborah Seeley the new Chairperson added, 'Ladybirds recently sent out a parent survey. All of the parents who returned the questionnaire said Ladybirds had good or very good relationships with children, activities and equipment. This is what Ladybirds is about, lovely children, supportive parents, fabulous staff and volunteers. We will continue to work with the school to maintain the excellent relationship we have and go on improving the current environment.'

'A Christmas Angel'

LADYBIRDS children have been busy making gifts and cards for family and friends. They have also enjoyed dressing up in Christmas outfits and playing Father Christmas – filling stockings and handing out presents. We have talked about Christmas being Jesus' birthday not just a time for receiving presents. The stories have become entwined and now Father and Mother Christmas have a baby called Jesus!



Wishing everyone a Happy New Year from Ladybirds Children and Helpers.
Liz Dyer



Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

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www.milborneladybirds.org.uk



LETTERS TO THE REPORTER

Dear Editor,

I was really disappointed that there was no School Nativity Play this year at St. Andrew's Church. Only half of the fourth year pupils were there and any other children sat with their parents. The vicar, though, was superb as she involved the children in lighting candles, singing a round and pulling crackers although, I believe, she had not been told of the new format.

The six children read connecting pieces of the Christmas story and introduced carols which were sung by an only half-full Church which, in the past, had been full almost to bursting point.

The annual enactment of the Christmas story was sadly missed, as was the normal parental/family/village support.

From a disappointed grandparent.
Name and address supplied

Dear Editor,

We are aware in school that a few parents were disappointed by this year's change of format for the school Christmas celebrations. Partly influenced by the necessary restructuring of the school this academic year, staff decided that this year we would take the opportunity to try something new. It was never our intention to disappoint and we will of course consider the comments received when planning for Christmas 2011. The night of the Carol Service was bitterly cold and icy and we were very grateful to all of those families who braved the Arctic conditions to join us. Having had to close the school for two days the previous week when the snow fell in Dorset, our planned preparation time was significantly curtailed. Despite this, the Year 4 children who had responsibility for the readings did a fabulous job and all sang with great enthusiasm. We were very proud to see them perform so confidently. A further thank you must be given to the staff, the majority of whom live outside of the village, who stayed on for the service rather than returning home. As with all such events they gave their time willingly. All of the children are now preparing for our Christmas Show in the final week of term, which will be attended by families and friends and is open to members of the village.

On behalf of all of the staff may I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2011 and thank the village for their continued support of the school
Anne Purdy, Headteacher

Dear Editor,

As a dog owning resident of MSA I consider myself privileged to have such wonderful access to country walks and the numerous waste bins provided by the local authority for the disposal of dog faeces are a welcome facility.

I feel less privileged, when having to witness the anti social behaviour of other dog owning residents of MSA. These antisocial dog owners appear to fall into two categories: the ones who allow their dog to foul the footpaths, roads and verges

and do not bother to remove the faeces. I am shocked at this unneighbourly conduct, as these offending dog owners are village residents and thus neighbours, but somehow feel it is acceptable to allow their dog to foul their neighbours' property and leave the fouling for their neighbour to deal with. This lazy, antisocial behaviour can even stretch to dogs being allowed to foul the road within feet of a bin, provided for the specific purpose of disposing of this waste!

However, of an even greater magnitude of antisocial conduct are the second type. These are the dog owners, who go to the trouble of collecting the dog faeces in a plastic bag, only then to discard it at the side of the path, in bushes and as recently witnessed, the truly gross, in the stream. This behaviour is genuinely baffling to understand. Just why would you collect dog faeces in a bag only then to leave it? Who do they think is going to collect this? What do they not understand about biodegradability? What do they think the next time they pass it by?

What is even harder to believe and more depressing, is the fact that there is more than one local dog owner who engages in this deviant behaviour. I have seen at least three different types of bags discarded around the paths on the route past Manor Farm, which indicates the village has a disproportionate amount of deviants amongst us.

Just who are these people? Someone reading this letter engages in this act! Someone reading this letter will recognise who is doing this! As a community, we should try to identify who is responsible for this and put a stop to it, as it is clearly not acceptable behaviour to the majority of people.

It is hard to believe, when we are all residents of a small village, and thus neighbours, that some amongst us would pollute their own living environment. It is akin to a dog defecating in its own bed. Given dogs do not tend to do this, it appears that the dogs in MSA have more sense than some of their owners!

Name and Address supplied

Dear Editor,

We would like to say thank you to all those villagers who bought our Christmas cards, Christmas puddings, marmalade and mincemeat this year. As a result of your support we have been able to make donations of £115.00 each to the St. Andrew's Church Fabric Fund and the Help for Heroes charity.
Rose and Ed Frost.

Dear Editor,

As some of you may know I was made redundant and decided to sell my home and make a new start in life. As I have not been successful in finding alternative employment yet I decided to move to Sturminster Newton and I have set up my own Art Studio/Workshop in order to do some painting (which was my favourite hobby) and some one-to-one teaching lessons in the hope of making a living until I manage to find employment. I would like to say farewell and thank you to all those friends in the village I have come to know over the eight years and a special thanks to Mike Mullet for his help with my last minute clearance difficulties.

I shall miss you all and also miss living in Milborne and hope that if any of you are in the Sturminster Newton area you will look in on me at my Studio which is situated in the Blackmore Vale Gifts and Trophies shop opposite the Museum. I am sure I will be visiting the village again during 2011 but in the meantime, take care and wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Yours truly, Sue Marsh

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Weather in Milborne St. Andrew November 2010

THE first 22 days of November were quite mild and wet with rain on most days but the last eight days of the month were cold with air frosts each night and a light fall of snow on the 26th. The total rainfall for the month was 124.4mm which was 108% of average. The cold weather of late November continued into December with 6cm of snowfall on the first.

Snowfall in Southern England in November is unusual but has occurred in Milborne in six years out of the last 40. Snowfall in December has occurred in Milborne in 18 years out of the last 40 but the amount of snow was usually quite small and did not cause much disruption. The last time there was significant snow in Milborne in December to cause inconvenience was in 1997 but the worse December snowfall was in 1981 when 8cm fell on the 8th of that month followed by a much heavier fall on the 13th which drifted and blocked most roads in Dorset for a while. There were widespread power failures as the weight of snow brought down power lines and some places were without electricity for five days. Some water pumping stations were affected causing water supply failures. A temperature of -23°C was recorded in Shropshire at that time. The cold weather of that winter continued into the New Year with further heavy snowfall and drifting on the 8th of January.

According to the Shepherd's Kalendar; "If the sun shines clear and bright on Christmas day, it promises a peaceful year, free from clamours and strife, and foretells much plenty to ensue."

A clear and bright Christmas day would be very welcome this year. *Pluvius*



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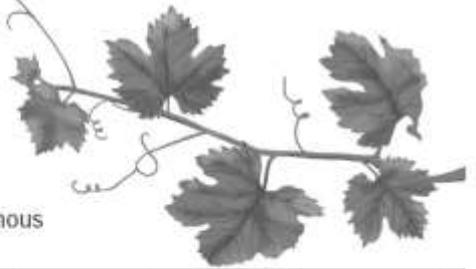
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All change in the Parish Council meeting

PERSONAL opinion – the new Parish Clerk is a breath of fresh air. Why? Firstly the Agenda was clear and short. Secondly, the order had been changed, everyone had a copy of what was going to happen, we could remark on it or anything else before the meeting even started, and at the end of the meeting comment on its contents. The meeting “proper” was focussed on decision making this month, trying to clear old problems away.

The first open session (before the meeting started) brought up old winter problems

The doggy poo bags are appearing again

Maybe something to do with dark morning walks, and the resulting anonymity? The advice was that if we see people leaving bags, you ask them to take the bags with them. The lack of gritting on some roads during the recent freezing weather was commented on, we heard that the policy now is for A roads and some B roads to be gritted, but no minor roads.

Robin asked if weed killer and ready-mix could be budgeted for, in readiness for a repair to the Wetherby Castle obelisk. The rules mean that a proper schedule of work would have to be submitted, usually by a commercial company, which would cost rather more than the PC can afford. The suggestion was made by a member of the public that a village team could offer an equally detailed specification of work; the Parish Council agreed that this would be acceptable. We do not know at present what monies remain in the fund, as all the previous paperwork is somewhere in six cardboard boxes in the new Parish Clerk's hall, at present, she cannot find it, or who the signatories were. Maybe someone in the village knows?

The meeting proper . . . we need a “vice chairman”

And, as no one would volunteer, Paul Morgan agreed, was nominated and seconded! He was not convincing in his joy at this new position! But thanks Paul – someone had to do it!

The word “Budget” can strike fear in most people's hearts

But it had to be done. We all had a copy of the proposed budget, very clear, the only big loser was the grant fund, however, there was a substantial amount left in the fund last year. But the main point was that our Parish Council managed a 0% increase in the precept!

A decision has been set in stone!

Which is what the seat, planters, and bin will be, when in place on Milton Road Corner. The containers will hopefully be made in the village, by Andrew Fox of The Royal Oak. The Gardening Club will fill the planters with suitable compost/soil, and the suggestion is to have heathers and evergreens underplanted with spring bulbs. Councillor Allen was keen on exploring other situations for the seat, however, to change a previously agreed plan would have taken several extra meetings, the decision was made to continue with the original plan and complete the task. In the open session at the end of the meeting, there were no objections to this.

We could do with some grit bins!

Think that was what we said at the beginning of the year. Another situation not resolved. The problem being that Paul (Cllr Morgan) is working from scratch again, finding the bins, and checking that they are acceptable. He has arranged with Mike Woodford of DCC to walk the village to check the agreed sites are accessible for the teams to fill with grit. The positions were decided at the October meeting, following suggestions from the public. If we can get hold of a white dumpy sack of grit, a 4th position, probably in the central village, will be decided.

In the earlier open session, Hilary Cox's Christmas letter was summarised by Della Jones, in which she says that villages are going to have to be resilient for themselves, this was linked to grit bins, with the example that it will be up to villages to make sure that they are kept filled. The letter also talked about the offer earlier in the year about white dumpy bags of grit, at this point it was obvious that none of the parish council members were aware of this letter. Indeed, the Reporter has been present at all but one meeting in the last two years, and cannot remember this letter being reported. We are going to try and obtain one or more of these elusive white

dumpy bags. It was still open time so Phillip asked if we would be able to take a wheelbarrow to wherever this bag was put, and take grit to a place of need. Yes we can – but for use on residential paths etc, not on private land. Also it should be organised by a residents led team to meet with various regulations. Yes – don't ask, I also found it really confusing!

Allotments – another step closer

Cllr John Harris has had seven enquiries of interest. The next step, he says, is to get an expert from the Soil Association to make sure the plot is suitable. Luckily the plot was not part of the original infill project, and has only been grazed previously. John has expressed a wish, or thought, that one allotment should be kept for children.

No more Minor Highway Maintenance

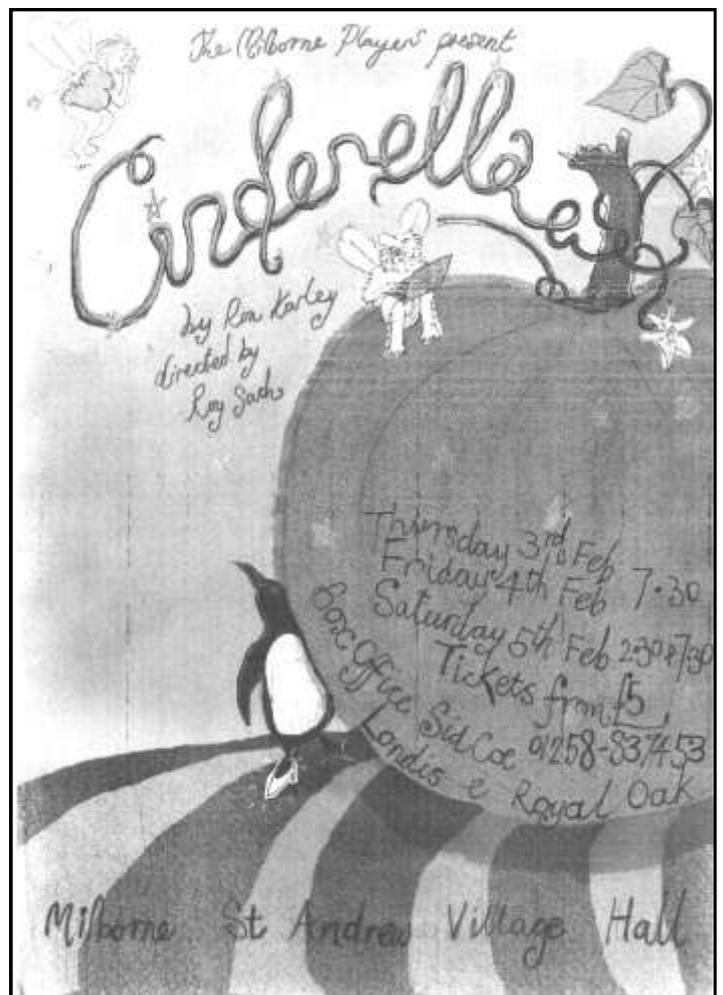
The Parish Council has been notified that there will no longer be any Minor Highway Maintenance, which includes weed killing on edges of roads and pavement. It is of concern that this may also include the present grass cutting of corners of roads, and the central green of Bladen View. Maybe this is going to be the role of the “big society” recently talked of.

Meeting Day Change

The calendar of the following year's meetings has been put together. With only a few exceptions, meetings have been moved to the third Wednesday in the month, to avoid clashing with other Parish Council meetings, meaning that our village representatives on NDDC and DCC do not have to split themselves in two to attend both meetings. The next meeting is slightly earlier on the 12th January 2011, 7.30pm in the Village Main Hall.

Sue Gould

The calendar of future meetings can be viewed on the village website along with minutes of meetings. The agenda for the next meeting will also be published on the village website about one week in advance of the meeting. Please go to www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/parishcouncil.





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OK we give in

THE trustees are at the end of their tether and cannot go on any longer and so must appeal for some outside help.

About a month ago a special 'tool' was provided to assist with the folding up of the legs of the new tables. It was quite a small device, grey in colour and plastic in material, rather like a spanner. It was hung on the control room notice board hook along with the instructions for use. The instructions are still there but a bit of waste without the aforementioned tool.

If anyone has the slightest inkling of its whereabouts please let us know, otherwise users will have to carry on with the Geoff Capes grip of steel method of releasing the legs ready for folding away. That does wonders for improving people's handshake technique, but very little else.

Not much has happened since the last update, however the roof work has been finished 'hooray' but the finish of the MUGA before Christmas is now in doubt, ya-boo, sucks. Bad weather is hampering the laying of the tarmac so maybe that Boxing Day tennis club meeting will have to be delayed.

As usual most of the user groups will be winding down over the Christmas break so that will give the Hall a chance to draw breath and get ready for the New Year.

We the trustees, that is, Maggie Redmill, Margaret Evans, Peter Dunkley, Jenny Preston, yours truly, Pat Tribe, Andy Coetzee, Elizabeth Humphrey and Katherine Pouchin would like to thank all our users for putting up with the recent upheaval and wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. The last three years has been a bit of a roller coaster ride and we are almost out of the tunnel and maybe we can get back to what passes for normality unless of course that darned light is a train coming the other way! Anyway thanks for putting up with the upheaval and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2011.

Looking at the online calendar of bookings it is interesting to note that we have had a number of clash of dates even as far away as September 2011. In 2011 we already have two wedding receptions booked in and there has been a marked rise in the number of bookings for private parties, birthdays and the like. So we must be doing something right!

We are still on the lookout for a bookings co-ordinator, someone who has a 'can do' attitude and will manage and record the bookings, send out the necessary invoices for payment and stick up the obligatory Hall Bookings weekly list. Interested? All hire fees are sent directly to our treasurer so the handling of all things money is not part of the deal.

Thinking of all things 'merry' we are always on the lookout to increase the merry band of trustees. The current team is supported by Sue Mullett our cleaner and a limited number of volunteers who help to keep the show on the road and the snow off, the latest being Sid Cole and his offer to help repair the play equipment . . . if you are interested, then do your homework; check out the meeting reports and things on the Village Hall section of the Village Website and come and join in the fun. It doesn't have to be a job for life, just a temporary community spirit payback thing. You will find that the only mudslinging is that which is done to the outside of the Hall as was evident on the front doors and walls on Sunday 12th December. Ho hum, those invisible people again!!

To end on a good news front, you will read elsewhere that Moviola has been reprieved for the time being and a very interesting programme has been planned for early 2011.

Happy New Year.

Richard Lock

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January:

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Sunday 30th January - Quiz at 8.00pm



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Community Contacts

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

Councils

Environment Agency Floodline		0845 9881188
North Dorset District Councillor	Michael Cox	01258 881396
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Pat Gubbins	01258 881348
	Chair: Mike Claydon	01258 837314
Parish Council –	Clerk: Colin Fletcher	01258 450639
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Michael Hopper	01258 837642

General – Adult

Drop-in Centre – POPP	Rose and Ed Frost	01258 837921
Computer Drop-in Sessions	Sue Gould	01258 837575
Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Memory Lane Swing Band	Bob Boorman	01258 839077
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 881709
Wednesday Social Club	Margaret Evans	01258 450518
Women's Institute	Linda Wright	01258 839255

General – Youth

Beavers	Sue Mullett	01258 839076
Cub Scouts	Jo Hewish	01305 852614
Hazelnuts out-of-school club	Hazel Barrett	01305 848588
Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scouts	Jim Burg	01258 837466
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Suzy Curtis	07808 252012
Youth Club age 8 – 14 yrs	Sallie Maitland-Gleed	01258 837442

Police

Police – Non-emergency contact		01202 222222
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	01202 223003
		07825 521850
Community Beat Officer (Dorch)	PC Charlie Dale	01305 222222
Community Service Vehicle	CSO Angie Partridge	01202 226000
Safer Neighbourhood Team		
Blandford Rural South	PC Dave Mullins and	01202 223003
	PCSO Luke Goddard	or 07825 521850

Or email blandfordruralsouthSNT@dorset.pnn.police.uk

School

Milborne 1st School		
Headteacher:	Anne Purdy	01258 837362
Chair Govs:	George Legg	
Friends of School Chair:	Angelica Cotterell	

Special Interest

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Food and Wine Society	Maureen Lock	01258 837929
Healthy Eaters	Heather Gipps	01258 837058
MSA Friendly Art Group	Elaine Anthony	01258 837089
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Ranters' Folk Session	Roger Harrall	01258 837371
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044

Sport

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
Adult Tap Dancing Milton Abbas	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504

Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
British Horse Society (Dorset)	Carol Shoopman	01258 880318
Circuit Training and Pilates	Claire Barratt	01929 554999
		07946 732769
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Andy Smith	01258 880310
Cricket – Junior (U11 – U13)	Andy Smith	01258 880310
Football – Adult	Paul Morgan	01258 837619
Football – Reserve Team	Andy Draper	07824 394436
Football – Under 15s	Grant Taylor	07879 841518
Football – Under 11s	Daryl Sims	01258 881397
Modern Sequence Dancing	Grace Davies	01258 837261
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club		
Chairman:	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Bookings:	Alice Harrall	01258 837371
Table-tennis (over 50's)	Sandra Shannon	01258 837253
Tap Dancing for Men and Women		01258 880523
Yoga	Sue Chapman	01305 848053

Village Hall

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Sec:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Richard Lock	01258 837929



Community Events Diary

Add your event to this diary by contacting the **Reporter** – tel: 01258 837921 or email: reporter@milbornestandrew.org.uk

January 2011

- Wednesday 5th **Milborne St. Andrew First School** new term starts.
Badminton restarts at Milborne First School 7.00–9.00pm. All adults welcome, just turn up.
- Friday 7th **Friday Drop-In** restarts Village Hall 10.00am.
- Wednesday 12th **Wednesday Club** New Year Party, with live entertainment and hot buffet. The Royal Oak. 2.00pm – see page 3.
Parish Council Meeting Village Hall. 7.30pm – see page 11.
- Wednesday 26th **Moviola** Village Hall 8.00pm – see below
- Thursday 27th **Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club AGM** Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 3.
- Saturday 29th **Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm – see page 2.



Sunday 30th

Benny's Farewell Service

Benefice Communion

Puddletown Church

11.00am.

February

- Thursday 3rd **"Cinderella"** panto by The Milborne Players. Village Hall 7.30pm (also 2.30pm on Saturday 5th). Tickets from £5.00 – see pages 14 and 17.
- Friday 4th
- Saturday 5th

Milborne St. Andrew Moviola to continue in the New Year

THE season starts on Wednesday 26th January 2011 at 8.00pm in Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall with the film **"From Time to Time"** (PG)

This period drama, filmed at Athelhampton is a haunting ghost story spanning two worlds, that are two centuries apart and is based on a book called *Chimneys of Green Knowe* by Lucy M Boston. Manchester lad Tolly (Alex Etel) is sent to spend Christmas with his grandmother (Maggie Smith) at her crumbling country pile during the final days of World War II, where he travels back in time to appear as a ghost in the Napoleonic period and begins to unravel an age-old family mystery. He is witness to mysterious apparitions re-enacting one of the house's most horrific historical events. A hunt back in time for missing jewels becomes a voyage of self discovery. He discovers that Green Knowe holds secrets beyond his wildest dreams. The solution to the puzzle leads him into his greatest adventure yet. This film deals with snobbery, family relationships and the passing of an altogether more glamorous age in the usual Fellowes fashion. But it is most definitely a family film, with a sweeter, simpler premise than his previous endeavors.

The village hall is open from 7.30pm and the film starts at 8.00pm. Tickets £5.00.

To book advance tickets phone Maggie Redmill on 01258 837262.

Advanced notice for the following films:

"Made in Dagenham" on Wednesday **2nd March 2011** is a dramatization of the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, where female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination.

"The King's Speech" on Wednesday **6th April 2011** is a riveting, intimate account of how a British king triumphed over a speech impediment with the help of an unorthodox speech coach.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Beavers** Monday 6.00–7.15pm MH (term time only)
Computer drop-in session Monday 6.30–7.30pm CR (term time only)
Ladybirds Playgroup Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)
Players Monday 8.00–10pm MH
ABC Line dancers Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
Cub Scouts Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)
MSA Friendly Art Group second and fourth Wednesday 7.00–9.00pm CR
Wednesday Club first Wednesday 2.30–4.30pm MH
Gardening Club fourth Thursday 7.30–10pm MH
Healthy Eaters Thursday 7.00–8.00pm CR
Karate Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH
Village Hall Committee third Thursday 8.00–10.00pm
Women's Institute second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm
POPP Drop-In Friday 10.00am–12 noon CR
Youth Club every other Friday 6.30–8.30pm MH (term time only)
Sequence Dancing third Saturday 7.30–10.30pm MH
Village Lunch last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm MH/CR
Milborne Praise! third Sunday 4.00–5.30pm MH
Moviola about every six weeks, look out for the posters, 8.00pm MH
Artsreach Events – look out for the posters.

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

Regular Bookings at the First School

- Pilates** Monday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only)
Yoga Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm (term time only)
Badminton Wednesday 7.00–9.00pm (term time only)
Circuit Training every Thursday 7.00–8.00pm

January 2011 at the Sports Pavilion

Ballroom and Latin Dancing Lessons from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Friday 7th January, 14th January and 28th January.
Contact Alice Harrall on 837371 or email alice.harrall@gmail.com.

The Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Suzy Curtis 07808 252012.

Folk Club at 8.00pm on Friday 21st January 2011.
Contact Roger Harrall Tel. 837371 or email roger.harrall@gmail.com.

Hotpot Supper and Quiz at 7.30 for 8.00pm supper and quiz at 9.00pm on Saturday 8th January.
Contact Roger Harrall Tel. 837371 or email roger.harrall@gmail.com.

Pottery from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Wednesday 19th January. Then there will be a winter break until March.
Contact David Archer Tel. 07868 276296.

Table Tennis from 7.00pm to 9.00pm every Monday evening.
Contact Sandra Shannon Tel. 837253.

Football Training
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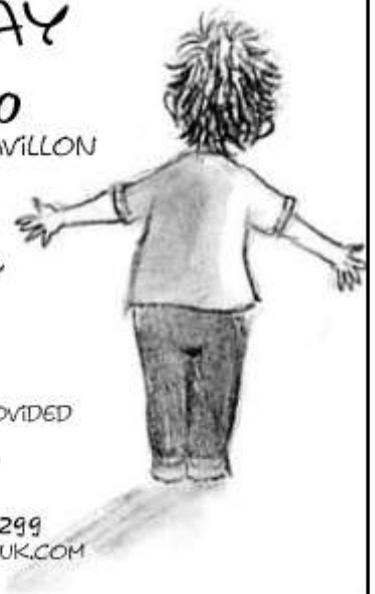
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HOMEWATCH NEWSLETTER

BLANDFORD SOUTH, NOVEMBER 2010

Local Incidents in November

Date	Village	Incident	Location
3rd Nov	Milton Abbas	Trailer Theft	Milton Abbas
3rd Nov	Milborne St. Andrew	Garden Equipment stolen	Chapel Street
4th Nov	Milton Abbas	600 Litres of heating oil stolen	Milton Abbas
11th Nov	Milton Abbas	Handbag Stolen	School
16th Nov	Milborne St. Andrew	Phone Stolen	Dorchester Hill
19th Nov	Milton Abbas	Theft of UK currency	Catherines Well
23rd Nov	Milton Abbas	Fencing cut and damaged	Steepton Bill

Christmas 2010

Read some advice about how to keep your home safe over the Christmas period.

- Put presents under the Christmas tree early on Christmas morning or keep the tree out of view from the window.
- Lock and bolt your doors and windows.
- If you are expecting a parcel, make sure someone is there when it is delivered, or ask a neighbour to take it in. Avoid having it left on the doorstep.
- Keep keys, mobile phones, purses, wallets and other valuable items locked away out of sight.
- Don't leave your keys in the door at any time.
- Never leave keys in view of the windows or doors.
- Once you've opened all your gifts, don't leave the boxes on view outside to advertise your good fortune to criminals.

Mindless damage to local pavillion

The cricket pavillion in Shillingstone has recently been a victim of crime on three occasions resulting in criminal damage.

The second occurrence was reported to the village PCSO Rich Mullins on a wet afternoon in November. PCSO Mullins and PCSO Barkshire made enquiries in the village, which led to the identification of the offender. Following the identification of the offender the offence was admitted.

As the offender is under 18 years we are unable to release their identity, but the process through which the offender will be dealt with is restorative justice. This involves the offender coming face to face with a representative of the pavillion which gives the offender an opportunity to apologise and put things right. This course of action is agreed during the meeting.

Anyone with information relating to any of the crimes mentioned here should contact local officers immediately on 01202 223003.

The next public PACT meeting is at 7.00pm at Blandford Corn Exchange on 11th

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kind Regards

PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard
Blandford Rural South

Safer Neighbourhood Team

01202 223003 07825521850

blandfordruralsouthSNT@dorset.pnn.police.uk



Ask Millie

– your problems solved



Dear Millie

When our friends come round for a meal they always bring cheap and nasty wine as a present. I am no wine expert but I like to serve a wine which goes with the food I have prepared. Should I suffer in silence and serve the wine they have brought or my own choice?

Millie says – You are the host, so it is up to you to make your guests feel welcome and their presents appreciated. I suggest you have your wine open on the table and ready to serve when your guests arrive, and perhaps open theirs later on. If it isn't drunk then you can always take it round to their house as a present on your next visit, commenting that you knew they liked this particular wine.

Last month's problem – barking dog next door

Millie says – Barking dogs are difficult to deal with even when it is your own dog. At least it is only for a short while each school day. I suggest you could offer to take their dog out for a walk at that time each day, then you could stroll down to The Royal Oak each afternoon with or without the dog. They serve tea and coffee as well as alcoholic drinks and food all day. Then you can return home fully relaxed and your problem is solved. Some villagers seem to have got into this routine without even having any barking dogs living nearby.

Next month's problem – *Dear Millie, Every Christmas it is a problem getting my children to write thank you letters to their relatives for presents received. Have you any suggestions?*

Questions and Answers welcome e-mail

millie@milbornestandrew.org.uk or address envelopes to Millie c/o Reporter and leave at the village hall.

The Milborne Players

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3rd, 4th and 5th February 2011

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Caroline Nobbs – Production Manager

Carols in the Pub

THE "Weatherbury Singers" presented their very first Christmas Carol session during the evening of Tuesday 14th December at The Royal Oak in Milborne St. Andrew. Locals squeezed into the bar and restaurant area, and armed with a song sheet and a pint (and a few Santa hats!), all joined in heartily with the traditional tunes and words. The whole atmosphere was very warm – literally! There were two sessions but the volume of the singing did not diminish at all. Who could forget The Twelve Days of Christmas, and why does everyone go manic with the "Five Gold Rings"?

Grateful thanks should go to Sarah, Andy and Jo-Jo of The Royal Oak for their welcoming hospitality, the mulled wine and mince pies, and for allowing the choir to take a collection during the evening on behalf of The Children's Society. An even greater thanks must go to you, the locals, who took the trouble to support the evening, the choir, the pub and the collection pots.

There were some pretty good voices out there in the bar so if any of you would like to consider joining our community choir then do contact me (01258 837453). *Sid Coe* (Weatherbury Singers Sec.)

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The Square to Warren Hill and back

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

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

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

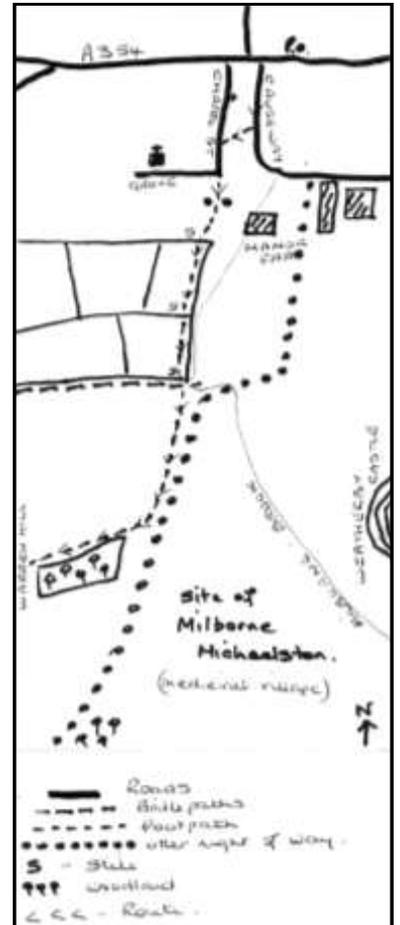
As you walk up this path you will get a good view of Wetherby Castle, a small Iron Age Hill Fort. Also on your left you will notice the undulations on the field alongside the track. This is the site of the Medieval Village, Milborne Michaelston.

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

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

To return to The Square follow the same route back.

Anne Snape



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Episode Three

In which the Grumpy Old Moaner of Hillside Cottage learns nothing of Christmas Cheer and the animals learn how to organize

HELLO again, Seven of Nine here from the hen house where my eight sisters and I have been reading a letter from the Old Moaner to *The Times*, which is recycled as our bedding when the Old Moaner has finished shouting at it.



We can't make out all of the letter as my sister Clarissa has used it for its intended purpose. She wasn't aiming at the Old Moaner's letter but at a picture of Osborne drinking champagne in a place called China. We chickens don't know what "Osborne", "Champagne" or "China" are, but we all know that the Old Moaner hates Osbornes. Ruffus the sheep dog, who is the cleverest animal at Hillside Cottage, says that Osbornes can get into your savings and take half away – he heard the Old Moaner explaining this at length to the postman.

Anyway, it seems the Old Moaner is very cross because the price of his Christmas goose has doubled and he tells *The Times* that he is going to have a fat chicken for his Christmas dinner this year!

So we girls have all gone on a diet. Winter is an easy time to diet because there aren't any caterpillars and sometimes the ground is too hard to dig for worms. Ruffus has been very helpful and got us a lot of advice from the three Tawny Owls that live in the beech trees north of Hillside Cottage. The owls brought us presents to help with the diet – some old hay they had in last year's nests, and some sloe and buckthorn berries they were keeping in case of a bad winter. These things fill you up but don't put fat on, so the owls say.

Having Ruffus introduce us to the three owls has been really good for us because they are nearly as clever as Ruffus – between them they have come up with a very complicated plan to stop the Old Moaner eating one of us for Christmas.

The owls have arranged for a real goose to fly over Hillside Cottage every day from the east. The Old Moaner has seen this and written another letter to *The Times* saying he is having wild goose for free and won't have to pay the high price Tesco's want, and which he can't afford anyway because of the Osborne having taken all his money.

The Old Moaner has been trying to shoot the goose, but he is such a terrible shot that even without the owls on lookout and Ruffus knocking his leg at just the right moment we don't think he has any chance of getting his free lunch this way. Of course, he will not be able to tell anyone about his failure to kill the goose and so has to pretend he had tasty wild goose for lunch!

As soon as Christmas is over we girls are coming off the diet and looking forward to some tasty leftovers from the Old Moaner's vegetarian Christmas lunch.

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In your Garden

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

Jobs in the Winter Garden

I HOPE, like me, that you managed to protect your tender plants and wrap up your pots before the snow and freezing weather hit us. January and February are often the worst months of the year (in gardening terms) – wet, cold, windy and this year freezing cold and snow to boot!

All your bulbs should now be in, but if, like me, you didn't manage to plant them all before the ground froze over, do it as soon as you can. They may not flower as well, but it's better than leaving the bulbs to rot in the shed and they probably won't be any good at all next year.

If the weather conditions are suitable i.e. the ground is not frozen or waterlogged, this is a good time of the year to plant bare root roses, trees and hedging whips. They will get their roots into ground and as soon as the temperature increases they will start to grow – giving you a head start in the spring. Bare root plants are also a lot less expensive than their container grown counterparts.

The evergreens in your garden will be providing the colour now, as will berries of holly and cotoneaster. Have a look at your garden and make a note of the areas that look a bit grim and that could do with a bit of winter structure and a bit of colour. Colour and interest can be created with grasses and seedheads left on over winter. They also look good covered in frost. For additional colour *Nandina domestica* commonly known as Heavenly Bamboo gives you fantastic red leaves and bright red berries which can be brought into the house to give a festive feel to your flower arrangements.

Balance rounded evergreen shapes such as *Choisya ternata* with spiky architectural shapes such as *phormiums* or *Chaemerops humilis* (Chusan Palm), or plants with extra large leaves such as *Fatsia japonica*. *Fatsia* might look tender, but in fact it will stand a good hard frost and

perk up again as soon as the weather warms up. These plants have their own 'architecture' – spectacular shapes that bring a distinctive year round presence to a garden.

Some plants can be clipped and shaped – the small leaved *Ilex crenata* is often used, and of course we all know box (*Buxus sempervirens*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*). Remember though that the beautifully tight shape of these plants is usually defined by their age and specimen plants can be expensive to buy for this reason. You don't have to go to the extremes of Levens Hall in Cumbria, but you can use smaller topiary shapes to mark the end of a border, or to provide repetition throughout your border.



I've probably mentioned it before, but there is no beating the bleached white stems of *Betula utilis jacquemontii*. Underplanted with feathery grasses that catch the light, low growing black grass *Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'* and white hellebores – lovely.

To end on a sad note this month – I read that one of our most remarkable trees fell victim to vandals in early December. Someone took an axe to the oldest of the Holy Thorns near Glastonbury in Somerset. The old and gnarled hawthorn tree is, according to legend, descended from one planted by Joseph of Arimathea. And – it's not the first time it has happened – Cromwell's soldiers hacked down Holy Thorns in the 17th Century to discourage pilgrims visiting the trees. I suppose they did have a reason! *Joseph of Arimathea was, according to the Gospels, the man who donated his own prepared tomb for the burial of Jesus after Jesus' Crucifixion.*

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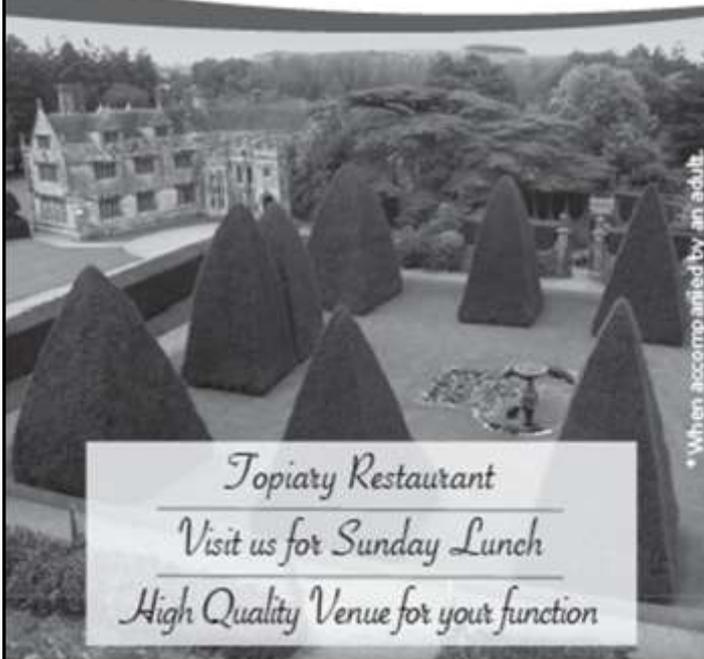
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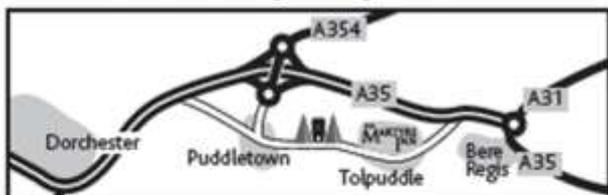


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SCHOOL NEWS

ONCE again this year Friends of School peeled the sprouts, cooked the turkey and served the whole school including staff and governors a fabulous Christmas lunch. They are able to do this through their fundraising earlier in the year, which included the recent Christmas Fayre. Father Christmas was kind enough to meet children at the Fayre and returned after the lunch to deliver a present to each pupil and member of staff. We know how busy he is at this time of year so we would like everyone to know how grateful we are that he was able to find time to visit us, especially when it is so cold to get around.



For many years the Christmas tree that stands outside the school has been taken on the last day of term to St. Andrew's Church to continue to be enjoyed. This year we are very pleased that

Gregory Distribution (manager Nigel House is pictured with some of our Year 4 pupils) have sponsored the tree. Local resident and driver for the company Pete Jackson was instrumental in making the arrangements for which we are very grateful.

The snow caught up with us in the first few days in December, when an unprecedented number of schools in Dorset closed. We close the school only as a last resort, taking into account the safety of pupils and staff, many of whom have a considerable distance to travel to school. Although the views from up at the school are fabulous in such conditions, the road can quickly become far too treacherous for the pupils to negotiate safely were we to open.

Once again this year we are encouraging parents to dispense with Christmas cards and leave a general message on our display board in exchange for a small donation. The collection will then be forwarded to Mosaic, the charity supporting bereaved children which is based in the village.



CONTACTS

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

Headteacher: Mrs Anne Purdy, **Secretary, School Office:** Mrs Helen Pugh
Chair of Governors: Mr George Legg, **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Angelica Cotterell
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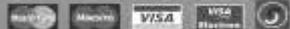
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Grid reference: SU 032199 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 5.5 miles)

SUNDAY 6th February – 1.30pm (note earlier starting time)

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Club is not a 'closed shop'

AFTER having three successive promotions Milborne Sports are adjusting to life in what is a very competitive higher league. Having suffered a loss of important players to injury a run of poor results has left them in fourth place having played more games than other teams. However, 2011 promises better results for manager Paul Hammond, with three players looking likely to return from long term injuries, and, if results go their way, there is no reason why another promotion may not still come their way.

Although the first team were disappointingly dumped out of the cup after extra time by what can only be described as an ordinary looking Alderholt outfit, the Reserves were due to play a quarter final game in their cup on the 11th December against a strong Bournemouth University team. Despite calls on their team from the first team, the Reserves are hoping to make headway in the new year and move away from the lower reaches of the league under the guidance of Tom Lane. As regards the youth sector, Grant and Glenn have given great commitment in providing football for lesser players at under 15 level. Despite the odds, they have for a long time been giving encouragement to players who may not have found a game elsewhere and there have been noticeable advancements. Meanwhile Bob Mowlem is making great strides with his youth academy, with numbers seeming to increase weekly. With parents and relatives also showing solid support, and Bob's unbounding enthusiasm, this is likely to provide dividends in the future.

Despite what people may believe, the club is not a 'closed shop' and any volunteers at any level will always be welcome. The first team continue to try and play attractive football as anyone who has watched will attest, and for anyone who has played football or just likes to watch, then perhaps come up to Lane End on a Saturday afternoon, and see some live football played on what is recognised as one of the best pitches in the locality.

Finally, as it is now the New Year, may I pass on Milborne Sports best wishes, although belated, to all for a happy, healthy and successful 2011.

Mike Lathbury, Chairman

Floodlight appeal

MILBORNE Sports would like to give thanks to all those who have donated to the floodlight appeal.

We have received the following amounts:

£48.80 from collection box in the village store

£29.00 from collection box in the Post Office

£75.00 – money raised at The Royal Oak

£100.00 – anonymous donation

£40.00 – anonymous donation

£100.00 from the Football Club

£50.00 from one of the persons who caused the damage.

A big thank you to all who contributed.

John Kane

Hotpot Supper and Quiz

at 7.30 for 8.00pm supper and quiz at 9.00pm
on Saturday 8th January 2011

Contact Roger Harrall Tel. 837371 or email
roger.harrall@gmail.com

ABBEY SWIMMING CLUB

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

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

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

Annual Membership

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

Children (3 and under as part of a family) free.

Club Sessions

Tuesdays: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Fridays: 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Saturdays: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Sundays: 8.00 am – 9.00 am

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



The Hambro Arms

Milton Abbas, Dorset

As we enter a New Year, Dave Wootton and his team are more committed than ever to offer a special place where the local community can meet to enjoy a quiet drink or a quality meal. Our motto remains **'quality food at an affordable price, in a warm and hospitable environment'**. We will strongly resist the temptation to lower the quality of the produce we use. If you haven't joined us for a while we have some January offers to encourage you.
We look forward to welcoming you all.

Valentines Meal

Saturday 12th and Monday 14th February

We are taking bookings for our special Valentines Meal, which will be available on Saturday and Monday evening. The special meal will be three courses with a gift for your partner. All for only £21.95. Book early to avoid disappointment. Look out for the menu on our website early in the New Year.

Curry Night 28th January

The last Friday of each month is our curry night. Start with pappadoms and a selection of chutneys with four homemade curries, rice and naan bread.

Come and eat as much as you like.

Only £11.95

Reservations advisable.

January 2 for 1 offer

In January, we are delighted to offer readers 2 main courses for the price of 1 from our main menu or specials board Monday to Friday lunchtime and evening. Just telephone us to make the reservation quoting the '2 for 1 offer'.

Charity Quiz for Rainbow Pre-School

Sunday 23rd January at 7:45pm

As usual, the event will be hosted by Graham Senior. All entry fees (£2 per person) will be donated to the charity. Please come and support this worthwhile cause

Friday Fish and Chip Supper

In addition to our fresh fish and chips to take away service. We are offering in January the opportunity to come and eat in at The Hambro. From 6.00 to 7.00pm every Friday you can enjoy fresh fish, chips and peas for only £5.95, Sausages in batter, chips and peas for only £4.95 or for the children Chicken nuggets and chips for only £3.95. We invite you to bring the whole family.

Eat, drink and sleep blissfully

The Hambro Arms, Milton Abbas, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0BP

Tel. 01258 880233 www.hambroarms.com