



80P WHERE SOLD

# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 8 Issue 5

May 2016

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 [facebook.com/MilborneReporter](https://facebook.com/MilborneReporter)

Milborne St. Andrew



## Milborne St. Andrew Village History Group

DURING April's meeting Linda enthralled us by showing how much information she was able to find out about Daisy Cooper's family history by researching on many specialist websites. We found it fascinating to hear how many different websites there are and how much detail is accessible. The information about Daisy's family history was very relevant to our village.

The next meeting is on the 11th May when Jane will explain how she researched the information about Milborne's old school, local soldiers who died in combat during the wars as well as what she does as a volunteer for the Keep Military Museum.

In June a visiting archaeologist will talk to us about Roman soldiers, their weapons and organisation.

Anyone is welcome to join, just turn up at The Royal Oak on the second Wednesday of the month when you can join in and find out more about your village history. *Pam Shults*

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

### VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on

**Saturday 28th May from 12.15 to 2.00pm**

Wine or fruit juice

Braised pork with vegetables

Rice pudding

Coffee or tea/mints

Vegetarian option available

£6.50 per head

**Everyone welcome young and old alike**

Tickets and more information available from Josie Wright on 839090 or Chris Nowell 837543

### Disclaimer

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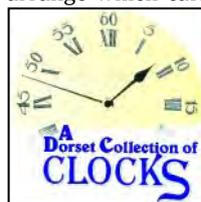
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## The Wednesday Club's visit to The Clock and Cider Museum

ON Wednesday 6th April, 24 members met at the Village Hall to arrange which cars to take to transport us to The Clock and Cider Museum at Owermoigne. On arrival we were given a talk about the various clocks on display dating from 1700 to 1850, all the clocks apart from two were made, and were found, in Dorset towns and villages.



The house had been purchased around 1961 when two of the brothers began to collect clocks. The number of clocks trebled and so it was decided to set up the museum. Most of the clocks in the collection had been made in Dorset and varied in style and age from Grandfathers to Church Tower clocks, the oldest of which was dated 1683.

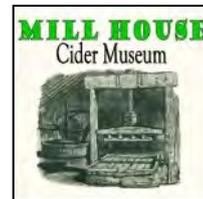
We next moved on to the Cider Museum, which housed apple pressing machines. Here we saw a video of the cider making process. All the equipment was farm based and used to produce the farmer's cider requirements for his own and guests consumption, for his workers and some to spare to sell locally. There was then a chance to sample some of the ciders and purchase some to take home. There was also a good selection of cheeses and other things to buy.

We then went into the nursery to buy plants; many of us will be returning as the weather improves to stock up on herbs, tomato plants and summer flowering plants.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th May at The Village Hall when Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue will be coming to talk about fire safety in the home and to answer any questions about our personal needs.

A date for your diary is Wednesday 1st June when we will be visiting Athelhampton House for a cream tea followed by a walk round the beautiful grounds. Last year's visit was a great success. If you would like to book a place please phone our chairman Ann Guy on 01258 837959, the cost will be £5.50 and we will be going in members' cars.

Both these events are open to members and non-members so please come and join us. *Lis Watts and José Thomas*



## Speeding in Milton Road

Speeding in the Milton Road has often been a cause for concern for many residents. Recently a driver from Milborne St. Andrew was charged with driving along the Milton Road at a speed exceeding 30mph. Admitting the offence to the court, the driver received three points on their licence, was fined £295 and ordered to pay costs of £85.

### Your *Reporter* Team

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

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Copy for the next issue MUST be received by the 14th May

Enquiries and copy to: [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)

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

Paper copy to David Payne at 7 Bladen View

## 'It all began with a camel' . . . at the April WI

WE agreed to maintain our monthly food bank collection, and have received a letter from Blandford food bank thanking us for our donations. Items for our barbola stall at the May Fair are now well in hand. Looking ahead to our summer supper, arranged for Friday, 24th June, Sheila Ryall has kindly offered to host this.

For 'Bookends' Shirley reported a mixed reception for our last book, 'Netherland'. We move on to Muriel Spark's 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie'. We intend to spend some time at our next meeting to celebrate Charlotte Bronte's bicentenary with a look at some of her books and her contribution to classic literature.

April is our annual meeting and therefore a time for reflection over the past year. Our Secretary, Treasurer and President presented their reports. All pointed to another eventful and extremely busy year, with varied and interesting speakers. We were thanked by Jenny Preston, as President, for taking on those jobs which make everything run smoothly, and she finished by saying it had been a privilege to act as our President. We now have a new Committee: Josie Wright, Linda Wright, Nelda Oakes, José Thomas, Angela Jones and Lesley Clarke. Jenny was re-elected as our President.

We were delighted to welcome our speaker, Dawn Lawrence, who is an author and illustrator of a number of books dedicated to the preservation of wild animals. Her books have each animal speaking in verse, which can be both humorous and sad. 'It all began with a camel . . .' she said, and this first book went on to cover 73 animals. Supported by Virginia McKenna (film star and founder of the Born Free Foundation), and working with wildlife trusts across the country, Dawn has gone on to cover many of our well-known animals but also unusual and bizarre species. Her books reflect the plight in which wild animals find themselves in today's world due to de-forestation, climate change and widespread poaching. As we heard some of her verses, we were all saddened by the plight of these threatened and endangered animals.

On Thursday, 12th May, Audrey Holloway will talk to us about 'My Dad, the Cumberland Miner'. We look forward to seeing you there.  
*Pat Bull*

## A Good Read by Shirley Dunkley *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson

THOSE of us who enjoyed 'Life after Life' will delight in another novel about the Todd family, but in no way is this book a sequel. It focuses instead on the life of Teddy Todd, peripheral in the first novel, his experience as a wartime bomber pilot, his career as a journalist after the war and his close personal relationships with his wife, Nancy, his daughter Viola and grandchildren Sunny and Bertie. It is the story of a good man. The most vivid and moving chapters concern his time with Bomber Command. We gradually feel his growing awareness of the doubtful morality of bombing civilians, which results in his determination to live a gentle and generous life – almost as some kind of recompense – though this is implicit rather than directly expressed. Atkinson brilliantly recreates the closeness of the air crew and the sense of an enclosed world within the plane, and always the shared knowledge of the possibility of a sudden and painful death.

Teddy survives, marries his childhood sweetheart and fathers one child with her, Viola, permanently emotionally damaged by her mother's premature death. In Viola the writer has created a truly irritating and selfish woman, portrayed without judgement and with more than a little humour. We meet a wide range of characters and follow the lives of some half a dozen, all observed with a keen eye for psychological truth and by the end of the book one is sad to part with them. Kate Atkinson possesses many writerly skills, vividly conjuring place and time, unflinching in uncovering danger and cruelty and in the end returning to the theme of her previous book – the nature of the creative experience and the all-powerful choices made by the writer.

## New website for Milton Abbas and Milborne St Andrew Surgery

THOSE of you who access our website will see that it has changed. Those of you who haven't used it, why not take a look at [www.masurgery.co.uk](http://www.masurgery.co.uk). At the moment the content is very similar to our previous website, but we hope you will find it easier to access the information you are looking for. In the future we are hoping to make more use of technology through our website, email and text messaging. If you would like to receive practice information via email or text please provide your contact details.

### Samples

If you are asked to bring a sample to the surgery please be aware of the following:

- Samples need to be at the surgery by 12 noon so they can be sent to the lab on that day. Late samples will miss the collection and may need to be provided again.
- Samples must be in a proper container and accompanied by the correct completed form.
- Reception and dispensary staff are not permitted to handle samples – there is a box at reception in which samples can be placed.
- Sample containers and forms can be collected from reception at any time during surgery opening hours.

### May Bank Holiday Closures

The surgery will be closed on Saturday 30th April and Monday 2nd May, as well as on 28th and 30th May for the Bank Holidays.

*Gillian Brindle, Practice Business Manager*

**Deadline for the June Reporter is 14th May**

The poster for the May Fayre and Novelty Dog Show features a vibrant rainbow arching across the top. Below the rainbow, various activities are listed on colorful banners: 'Cubs and Beavers Display', 'Cream Teas', 'Ice Cream', 'Marching Band', 'Games and Competitions', 'Bar', 'Have-a-Go Dog Agility', 'Search Dogs', 'Grand Raffle', 'Mega Bouncy Slide', 'Book Stall', 'Arts and Crafts', 'Vintage Vehicles', and 'Dog Show'. A speech bubble from a dog character says, 'Fun, Games, Food, Drink and Entertainment for all the family . . . And me!'. The event is held at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall on Saturday 21st May 2016, from 12.00 to 5.00pm. A 'Live Broadcast by wessexfm 96 & 97.2' logo is also present.



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## The Hambro Arms Milton Abbas

Tel. 01258 880233

### Sample Summer A La Carte Menu

#### Starters

Wood smoked pigeon breast with carrot puree, rocket salad and a balsamic jus

Mediterranean roasted tomato gazpacho

Goats cheese and heirloom tomato with basil

Chicken liver and whiskey pate with toasted homemade bread, spicy chutney and dressed leaves

Scallops with streaky bacon, pea puree and a black pudding crumb

Wild mushroom and Dorset blue vinny bruschetta

Mediterranean Mezze Board

Italian salami, Spanish chorizo, crusty ciabatta, home-marinated olives, sun-dried tomatoes, honey brie, Manchego cheese and olive oil with balsamic vinegar

#### Main Courses

Free-range chicken supreme served with Hassel back roasted potatoes, crispy chicken skin, seasonal vegetables and a tarragon cream sauce

Pan-fried breast of Gressingham duck served with fondant potato and roasted chantenay carrots and a black cherry jus

Wild mushroom and asparagus risotto with truffle oil and a parmesan crisp

'Jurassic Coast' herb crusted rack of lamb served with dauphinoise potatoes, seasonal vegetables and a minted jus

Linguine with tomatoes, garlic, anchovies and a spicy olive sauce

Scottish salmon with a stem ginger and chilli marinade and vegetable noodles

'Jurassic Coast' sirloin steak with a tower of twice cooked chips, confit tomato, flat cap mushroom and a peppercorn sauce

Doom Bar battered cod fillet with twice-cooked chips, homemade tartare sauce and pea puree

Hambro beef burger served with crispy bacon, smoked cheddar and chips

#### Desserts

Local cheese selection

Blue Vinny, black wax cheddar, Somerset brie and rosary goats cheese served with mixed rustic crackers, apple and celery

Eton Mess with summer fruits

Dorset apple cake served with clotted cream

Lemon posset with homemade shortbread

Dark chocolate torte with a hazelnut crumb and orange Chantilly cream

Vanilla cheesecake with a mixed fruit compote

*In addition to this a la carte menu, we also have a lighter lunchtime menu and on Sundays, a choice of roasts*

E-Mail: [info@hambroarms.com](mailto:info@hambroarms.com)

Website : [www.hambroarms.com](http://www.hambroarms.com)

# Round Robin Ramblers

*The local villages walking group*

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

**Sunday 1st May – 2.00pm**

**Winterborne Houghton**

Meet outside the church in Winterborne Houghton  
Grid reference: ST 820045 on OS Explorer Sheet 117 (approx. 4.5 miles).

**Wednesday 18th May – 11.00am**

**Abbotsbury and Ashley Chase**

Park in lay-by on the Bishop's Road, NE of Abbotsbury, where the SW Coastal Path crosses this road.

Grid reference: SY 588866 on OS Explorer Sheet OL15 (approx. 6.5 miles). Bring a packed lunch.

**Sunday 5th June – 2.00pm**

**Bishop's Caundle and Holwell**

Meet outside Bishop's Caundle Parish Church  
Grid reference: ST 886187 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles).

**Please note:**

**Who** All welcome including well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners. No pre-booking required just turn up.

**Wear** Suitable clothing for wet conditions and location, walking boots or Wellington boots.

**Bring** Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).

**Pace** We go at the pace of the slowest.

**Terrain** Expect mud, inclines and stiles.

**Aim** Keep fit, enjoy the Dorset countryside and each other's company.

**Legal** We look after one another but in the end you are responsible for yourself.

# Village Hall

## Annual General Meeting

ALL villagers were invited to the Village Hall Annual General Meeting to hear Paul Tasker's chairperson's report of progress in 2015. Although our treasurer was unable to be at the meeting she had written a full report which was read out. Following Paul's comprehensive explanation of the benefits of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), there was a unanimous vote to update the Village Hall's charity constitution and to apply to the Charity Commission to become a CIO.

The group said a big 'thank you' to Paul and wished him well as he retired as chair and a hall trustee. Pam was voted in as the new chairperson, Sarah as secretary while Elizabeth has agreed to remain treasurer until July when hopefully a new person will take up the role. Sandie stood down as booking clerk and Alison has agreed to take on that position. Two new trustees were voted on.

### Other Village Hall news

No doubt most people have been wondering what was happening on the top field. It looked very dramatic with a big yellow digger and a lot of noise but all that has been done is to level off an area of the land which is currently unused so that it can be planted with wildflower seeds to enlarge the existing meadow area. The trustees are seeking planning permission to add a picnic bench, seating and a shelter. Hopefully, planning permission will be given quickly so that by the summer, Milborne Sensory Meadows will be a lovely place to wander round, sit and enjoy the view while children can use their bikes on a cycle path. Following extensive consultations in 2014 it was agreed that as the MUGA is unsuitable for bikes, scooters or skateboards a place for children to ride their bikes should be created; however, it will not include BMX type metal ramps. If any villagers would like to know more please contact one of the trustees.



**Come along to the village picnic to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday!**

Join us for fun and games, fancy dress for children and adults, with prizes for all events

It's on Sunday 12th June at 2pm at the Village Hall playing field - free entry, but bring a picnic....it's sure to be a fun afternoon!

*Any help with this event would be gratefully appreciated. The next informal meeting is on 27th April at 7.30pm in the Royal Oak*

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# Suffragette (12)

Shown by 'Milborne Movies'

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall (DT11 0JX)  
on Friday 6th May 2016 at 7.30pm

SUFFRAGETTE is a powerful and thrilling film about the remarkable story of the real foot soldiers of the Suffragette movement. These women were not primarily from the genteel educated classes, they were working women who had seen peaceful protest achieve nothing so they turned to violence as the only route to change, in fact they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality – their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives. Maud (played by Carey Mulligan) is a fictional amalgam of working class women of the time and the story of her fight for dignity is as gripping and visceral as any thriller. Ironically, it took good men, such as Hugh Ellyn [Finbar Lynch] husband of the forthright chemist Edith Ellyn (Helena Bonham Carter) to back up the common sense of these women's attitudes in order to get the bill passed.

Mulligan deserves every bit of praise she gets for her difficult role. She's the emotional anchor of the story and one is awed by the waves of despair, fear, anguish, and determination that scroll across her face. Not only do we see what happens to Maud, we feel it. Helena Bonham Carter holds her own as Edith Ellyn, a local pharmacist who mixes the group's bombs in her pharmacy.

This is a beautiful film, with its astounding cinematography and production design. Bookended by grainy newsreel footage of actual pre-World War I marches and public parades by the women of the suffragette movement, Gavron's film uses the perspective of an ordinary woman to explore what instilled these women with such drive and determination.

The village hall and bar is open from 7.00pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50 can be obtained on the door.

## Yoga

### Yoga classes in the village hall

1.30 - 2.45pm on Thursday afternoons

Please bring a mat and wear comfortable clothes.

Individual classes tailored for you also available.

For information ring

**Sarah Ryan on 01258 839230**

or email [saryan6630@aol.com](mailto:saryan6630@aol.com)

*Yoga teacher, trainer, therapist*

## Fracking – It'll never happen here

### . . . or will it?

AROUND 40 people came to the fracking information meeting on 6th April. We watched a short DVD about ordinary peoples' experiences of fracking in Australia, then Charles Miller gave a talk.

I had imagined fracking would mean a pad or two (like a well) in each area. Wrong! It means dozens of wells, like a web, each only half a mile away from the next,



covering the landscape. And between each of those pads are large concrete roads to take the army of heavy trucks transporting hundreds of tonnes of equipment and water. The Australians talked about how their lives had been destroyed – farmers' wells were running dry (because the water had been extracted for fracking), water supplies were poisoned, their health was affected, and the disruption was immense.

Charles is extremely well qualified and knowledgeable, having worked in the oil industry for 25 years. He shared some alarming facts that the drilling companies are keeping quiet about – such as the fact that 65% of the concrete linings of fracking wells fail within 30 years. So what? Well, fracking takes place beneath the water table and involves large quantities of extremely toxic chemicals (to extract the gas from the rock), 40% of which can't be pumped out; chemicals which have effects similar to the nerve gas sarin, affecting the skin and mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth etc), the liver, the brain, not to mention respiratory problems and so on. So within 30 years of fracking starting in our village, 65% of the well protection will have failed, potentially allowing these hideous chemicals to escape into our water. Yes, you did read that right.

And what about the water that is used in the fracking process? It is too contaminated to be cleaned. Pumping it underground has caused earthquakes, and in any case, where will it go? So it is pumped into vast pits to hopefully evaporate. What about the residue? And what if the pit leaks and it ends up back in the water supply? No thanks!

Charles also talked about alternatives – did you know that Scotland will be completely self-sufficient in electricity by 2020, using tidal turbines underneath the sea? Why on earth would we destroy our countryside and our water to get fossil fuels out of the earth, when they in turn damage the climate?!

I could fill the Reporter with pages of data that Charles supplied, but suffice it to say, the general mood of the meeting was shock and outrage. *And we don't get to choose whether this happens – there will be no vote.*

Think it could never happen here? I was telling a friend on the Isle of Wight about the meeting. She told me that licences had been issued, bid for, sold, and fracking starts there this summer.

We are still at the stage of licences having been issued for our local area. This puts us in a stronger position to start fighting this early and try to stop it before it's too late.

I am not a politician, I'm just an ordinary mum who has loved living in this village for over 20 years. I don't want my children's home and health to be destroyed by this awful process, but I can't do it on my own.

As a starting point, how great would it be if we could get everyone in the village to sign a petition to our MP, Simon Hoare, saying we refuse to have fracking? If one person from every street in the village could get their neighbours to sign, we'd soon be able to give a really strong message. *Would you do it for your street please?* If you don't do it, who will...?

Contact Adrienne Rogers on 07881 026701 and I will email you the petition template.

*Adrienne Rogers*

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## Trading standards test Rabies plans

DORSET County Council trading standards service is responsible for responding to a wide range of animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth, Avian Influenza and Rabies.

We don't take the potential threat of animal disease lightly. The cost to the UK economy, the livelihood of farmers and the welfare of animals are all adversely affected by animal disease. There are contingency plans which we test periodically to ensure that if disease strikes we are ready.

We recently organised a multi-agency exercise to test the Rabies plans. Rabies is a viral disease of the central nervous system and can affect all mammals, including humans, dogs, cats, wildlife and farmed animals. Humans can contract rabies if they are bitten, scratched or licked on mucus membranes or broken skin by an infected animal. Once clinical signs develop, rabies is invariably fatal and there is no known cure. Signs of the disease include paralysis and aggression.

Rabies was eradicated in the UK in 1922 and there are strict control measures in place to ensure it is not reintroduced into the country. Formal arrangements allow people to move their pets across certain borders without being quarantined, but they have to be vaccinated, have a pet passport and only come into the country via approved transporters and routes.

Facilitated by officers from the County Council's Emergency Planning team, the exercise simulated a scenario where a boat arrived in Weymouth harbour from Morocco with a dog on board showing symptoms of rabies. This was intercepted by Border Agency staff who alerted vets from the Government's Animal and Plant Health Agency and officers from trading standards. Subsequently vets placed restrictions on the harbour and these restrictions, along with any illegal landings of animals, are a responsibility of trading standards in a Rabies control incident. The Harbour Master was actively involved and the Police role included assisting local authorities to enforce imposed restrictions.

In an outbreak or suspected outbreak, there would be a need for close coordination across a range of services and experts, testing communications in this way is therefore vital.

If you ever suspect an animal has, or is being illegally landed, or would like more information on the pet passport scheme, contact trading standards animal health line on 01305 224474. To learn more about the role of trading standards in animal health and welfare see <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/trading-standards/animal-health-and-welfare-advice>.

### Do you do **CRAFT** work?

Interested in having a go at some activities?

**WE** may be interested in **YOU!**

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH** Events Committee are running an **EVENT** in church one weekend in **JULY**.

We want people to share their crafting **SKILLS** and help **OTHERS** to have a go.

No skills? Come along to try out a few new activities!

More details from **PAM** on 837203 or **EVA** on 837468.

## Recipes for

### "When friendly summer calls again"

MANY years ago I was given a "Cooking Clips" file for keeping and organising recipes. Although looking very scruffy now, it's still in regular use and readers of a certain age will be able to date it from the picture on the front cover of a Holly Hobbie doll. It has different sections inside for storing recipes according to sweet or savoury, salads, baked goods, canapés, etc. Alas, all my recipes are just shoved inside the front cover in no particular order. For quite a while I kept thinking that one of these days I would get round to sorting them out, but I know now that the time will never come.

I really quite enjoy getting out all the scraps of dog-eared paper and faded magazine clips and each one brings back old memories. Many of the recipes are hand written and remind me so much of the person who wrote it. Often when hunting for a particular recipe I will find one I had completely forgotten about and this is the origin of the recipes for this month. Both are perfect for celebrating May Day or to enjoy on a warm summer evening.

### Expat's Pimms

50ml Pimms

50ml gin

25ml Cointreau

Chilled lemonade, soda water or sparkling wine to taste.

Put the Pimms, gin and Cointreau into a large jug or punchbowl. When ready to serve, top up with chilled lemonade/soda water/fizz then add cucumber slices, strawberries, or any sort of fruit to taste.

If using sparkling wine then serve in champagne glasses, if using soft drinks to dilute then serve in long glasses over lots of ice. Cheers!

### German Maibowle

A small bunch of sweet woodruff \*

A bottle of German Riesling

A bottle of German Sekt

1 tablespoon of runny honey

50ml brandy (Asbach Uralt if possible)

Garnish of fresh alpine strawberries.

Soak the sweet woodruff in the white wine in a large jug in the fridge overnight, then strain and discard the herb. Dissolve the honey in the wine and add the brandy. Chill in the fridge until ready to serve and then add the chilled sparkling wine and strawberries. Garnish with a few sprigs of freshly picked sweet woodruff leaves or flowers and serve in champagne or wine glasses.

Prost!



\*Sweet woodruff is a perennial plant which grows well in any shady spot. It is a useful addition to your herb garden and is available at many garden centres or on line.



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# Women, Witches, and Workers: what is May Day all about?

MAY DAY (1st May) is one of the most divisive and multi-faceted days of the year. Its historical origins leave just about everyone today with no firm idea of where those origins lie. So instead of enjoying the quiet reclusiveness of a warm spring day, I endeavoured to put my time to good use and sought some informed answers to the question of when and where May Day started. So by way of discovering the narrative of May Day in Europe, I hope I have produced an informed discussion of what the heck is actually going on.

So, to the beginning. In my research I found claims that the May Day festival actually started out as “Sham El-Nessim” – an Ancient Egyptian festival for promoting female fertility. Now, the source that claims this to be true is a dedicated site to outlining the “Pagan” calendar, so it does not take a genius to see that they of course are more likely to say that May Day is pagan. After doing some digging around, I found that this Sham El-Nessim festival (unsurprisingly) falls anytime between late April and early May, because Ancient Egyptian festivals often followed lunar cycles. The chances of the May Day festival having Ancient Egyptian origins is plausible, but appears to rely too much on the assumption that there were not already other festivals dedicated to 1st May across the Mediterranean world, and that Egyptian festival customs spread across all of Europe: for which there is frankly no evidence.

The next possibility is that it has Ancient Roman origins. Being an ancient Roman historian, this seemed intriguing and somewhat possible at first, as the Roman Empire controlled Europe for over two centuries, systematically absorbing and eliminating many religions and cultures along the way (e.g. the Samnites – ever heard of them?). Further, Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire and thus all of Europe, and dominated ideas of science, philosophy, religion, and all forms of life from the 3rd Century up until the present day, where the effects of Early Christian beliefs can be found almost everywhere we look. The Roman calendar set a date of 1st May for the Bona Dea (good goddess) festival. Evidence shows this to be consistent from around 150BC and the date was eventually officially set by Julius Caesar himself. So it is safe to say that at least some concrete early origin for the May Day festival can be found in Ancient Rome. The Bona Dea festival promoted fertility – both for the Earth and women – and involved women drinking wine at night and engaging in blood sacrifice. The unusual nature of this festival is stark, as women were never usually allowed to drink neat wine nor perform rituals at night: men were not allowed to be present at these gatherings either and they were conducted in private. Wine was heavily associated with sex and fertility, and its properties as an aphrodisiac were very well known at the time. Also, interestingly, the Roman historian Livy, along with Cicero and Ovid, claims that the Bona Dea festival was adopted by Rome from Magna Graecia. Magna Graecia means “big Greece” and was an area covering Southern Italy. It was a series of Greek colonies up until around the third century BC. Although it might seem a bit far-fetched, there is the possibility that the Egyptian festival Sham El-Nessim was absorbed by Greece when Alexander the Great conquered Egypt, and then transferred to Rome when they in turn conquered Greece. From there the festival made its way into Europe under the Roman Empire. Very much a long shot, but an interesting possibility all the same.

Others claim there to be a Germanic or “pagan” basis for the May Day festival. Just to be clear, “Pagan” is simply an umbrella term for any person holding religious beliefs other than those of the major world religions. The term “pagan” refers to the ancient origins of the festival, and Walpurgis Night is the English translation of *Walpurgisnacht*, one of the Dutch and German names for the night of 30th April, because it is the eve of the feast day of Saint Walpurga, an 8th-century abbess in Francia. In Germanic folklore Walpurgisnacht, also called Hexennacht (“Witches’ Night”), is believed to be the night of a witches’ meeting on the Brocken, the highest peak in the Harz Mountains in central Germany. People

believed that evil ghosts tried to prevent the “Queen of Spring” from entering the country. Believing it was dangerous to be outside on this night people lit fires and danced wildly to deter the witches from coming too close to them or their homes. Further, on May Day itself, young men in Rhineland may put a branch wrapped in colourful ribbons in the garden of a girl he would like to marry – perhaps early evidence of the Maypole and the act of wrapping ribbons around it.

Another place to look is Scandinavia. On 30th April at midnight, people all over Scandinavia would light huge bonfires to welcome spring – as a sign of hope for better weather and fertility as well as to burn off the dry and dead from winter and ward off evil spirits. This practice can be seen as far back as around the 5th Century AD, long before Christianity violently entered Scandinavia following the turn of the first millennium. This festival is referred to as Valborg’s night – Valborg is the alternative name for Sweden – and the huge bonfire would be accompanied by whole communities singing odes to the goddess of spring, Idun. Here we find more connections with spring and fertility and Valborg’s night is still celebrated in the same way today. The similarities to the Germanic traditions are more than coincidental, as fire is used to cleanse the air and the community in preparation for spring, driving off evil spirits and to promote fertility and rejuvenation of the land and the people. These traditions are also found right across Eastern Europe, from Germany, Scandinavia, and Holland, to the Czech Republic, Austria, Estonia, and Finland.

Closer to home, on 1st May in Scotland and Ireland there is the Beltane festival. It is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals—along with Samhain, Imbolc and Lughnasadh—and is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature. It marked the beginning of summer and was when cattle were driven out to the summer pastures. Rituals were performed to protect the cattle, crops and people, and to encourage growth. Special bonfires were kindled, and their flames, smoke and ashes were deemed to have protective powers. The people and their cattle would walk around the bonfire and sometimes leap over the flames or embers. These customs were also part of May Day festivals in other parts of Great Britain, in particular the Isle of Man.

So, having explored the early origins of the May Day festival, it is quite clear that the May Day festival does indeed stem from ancient times. It is most likely that our modern interpretation of May Day is

*Continued on page 29*

## Can you identify where this is in Milborne?

Be the first to send your  
answer to  
[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk) or  
give to any member of  
the *Reporter* team.  
*Reporter* team members can be  
found on page two.  
No prize, just a bit of fun.



Answer in the June *Reporter*.

Last month’s winner can  
be found on page 30.

**View the Reporter each  
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## Thy kingdom come

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recently written to all churches in the Church of England with a call to prayer in the run-up to Pentecost this year (8th to 15th May). Their desire is to see, in their words, "a great wave of prayer across our land".

This month I want to share with you some further words from their letter about this initiative. They write:

"Our hope is:

- For all Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- For all of us to have confidence to share the Gospel
- For all to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to follow him as disciples to live out the Gospel and to seek God's kingdom from day to day

"At the heart of our prayers will be the words that Jesus Christ himself taught us - 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory."

Prayer has to be at the heart of our relationship with God and our faith and mission, as we serve our communities and share God's good news with people where we live and work.

Look out for special events in our churches that week. They are open to anybody and everybody who wishes to come and pray, reflect and respond to the Archbishops' invitation.

Often we make prayer out to be something complicated, but it's very simple really. No special words are needed, though they can be helpful for some people - the Lord's Prayer being a prime example of that; no special place is needed, though some find particular spots or buildings can help them focus on God; there are no age limits; no time of day or night is excluded. Speaking to God is very easy; listening to God takes more practice, but again it can be done at any time in any place by anyone. Why not give it a go?

Best wishes,

*Sarah Hillman*

## St. Andrew's Church Notes

### Successful Good Friday event in St Andrew's

TWENTY-SIX children and many of their parents came to our short service and enjoyed making craft items as well as consuming cakes, sausages in rolls and drinks. It was great to see young families in church.

The craft items all related to Easter. We decorated boxes containing a small Easter egg and two teardrop beads to signify new life and the tears shed at the cross. We made 'stained glass' windows that when put in a window at home



## CHURCH SERVICES May 2016

### 1st May – Easter 6

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate . . .	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish

### Ascension Day – Thursday 5th May

6.30am	Morning Prayer	Dewlish on hill by mast
7.30pm	Holy Communion	Puddletown Church Room

### Saturday 7th May

1.00pm	Wedding	Tolpuddle
1.00	Wedding	Dewlish

### 8th May – Easter 7

8.15am	1662 Said Communion	Puddletown Church Room
9.30	Methodist United Service	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion + Baptism	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish

### 15th May – Pentecost

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Payer (said)	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

### 22nd May – Trinity Sunday

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Family Communion	Dewlish

### 29th May – Trinity Sunday

10.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion	Milborne
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### MORNING PRAYERS (Monday. – Thursday. 8.15 am Saturday 9.00 am)

Monday – Puddletown	Tuesday – Milborne
Wednesday – Dewlish	Thursday – Tolpuddle
Saturday – Puddletown	
(During church closure, Morning Prayer in Puddletown will be at the Vicarage.)	

## Church Contacts

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

### Churchwardens

**Milborne St. Andrew**

John Wright 839090 Pam Shults 837203

**Dewlish**

Jim Burg 837466 Sue Britton 837218

### Benefice Office

Emma Hughes  
puddletownbenefice@outlook.com  
or by telephone on 07812 687266

will remind us that we can worship God anywhere, not just in church, and that God's creation gave us colour and light. There was also egg decorating and a group activity making hand prints to decorate a banner that is now displayed in church. Some of the children at the service made an Easter Garden which gave us a chance to visualise the tomb in which Jesus was placed and see how he appeared to Mary after he had risen.

As well as watching the Easter Poem video, we watched an 'Open the Book' playlet about Good Friday which some of the children had seen at school; it was lovely that a few volunteered to take part in the crowd scenes.

### Easter Sunday Celebration

Attendance at the main Easter Sunday service, conducted by Rob van der Hart from the parish of Charminster and Stinsford, was down on last year, probably due to the clocks changing for summer time, and dreadful weather with hail. However everyone who came admired the beautiful flower displays and the remembrance lilies which our flower arrangers had so generously provided.

### Plans for new Chancel Roof

Our architect is still producing the plans needed for us to start asking contractors to tell us how much it will cost us. We will not know until June whether we will be lucky in getting a government grant towards the cost of the work so we now have a subgroup who are seeking other grants. Our Events Committee have a programme of fundraising events which we hope everyone in the village will support. As we mentioned last month we would be very pleased to hear of anyone or a business that would like to help us raise the money we need.

*John Wright and Pam Shults*

## Dewlish Church Notes

A BIG thank-you to all our hosts and hostesses who held Lent Lunches in their houses. We were treated each week to delicious soups, bread, cheese and grapes, but always remembered those who are not able to enjoy such things. So I am very pleased to say that, along with surplus money from the Agape Supper, I was able to send £351 to Water Aid.

The Agape Supper, led by Jim and attended by 13 people, also went well. The service is always very moving, as we remember Christ dying for us in such a horrific way.

All Saints again looked beautiful with all the Easter flowers, the service being led by Helier. Many thanks to him and to all the flower arrangers.

Our Spring Sale was a great success, raising £437.70 for church funds. The Easter stall was most attractive and all the cakes looked wonderful! We also had a great raffle. Thank you to everyone who gave, who manned stalls and teas, and to all those who came and supported us.

### And now to events in May and June . . .

Our **Ascension Day Service** will be at the top of Greenways, opposite the mast, at **6.30am** on Thursday 5th May (weather permitting).

We are raising money for **Christian Aid** by once again holding a **Coffee Morning** in the Village Hall on Saturday 14th May, 10.30am-12noon. We would dearly love donations for a new items stall, the raffle and cakes and produce. Coffee, teas and biscuits will also be served. We look forward to seeing you!

On Sunday 12th June we are holding a **special service** in church to mark the **Queen's official 90th birthday**. This will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

The **Pet Service** will be held on the following Sunday, 19th June, at 11.00am in the churchyard.

Please let us know what you can do to help us at our **Flower Festival** to be held on the weekend of 25-27th June, 2.00m-5.00pm. This can be with teas, greeting visitors in church or doing a flower display depicting an English summer's day. We would also love the children to create a garden on a tray.

*Daphne Burg*

## Have your say on the future of mobile libraries

WITH the number of residents that use public mobile library service steadily declining, Dorset County Council is looking at how to maintain access to library services for vulnerable people in the continuing financial situation.

Residents can already access library services in a variety of ways including online, through the home library service and within the buildings themselves.

Dorset County Council is encouraging existing users to comment on the proposed changes to the service. In particular: To understand the impact of removing the public mobile library services in more detail and to look at overcoming access issues by:

- Extending the Home Library Service in partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS)
- Consider the opportunities available within communities to create access to library services and contact with other people through car-sharing, good neighbour schemes etc.

Cllr Colin Jamieson, Dorset County Council's Cabinet member for economy and growth, said: "Although the need to look at the service has come from current budget limitations, it is good business practice to reassess our offering to help us deliver a targeted library service to residents.

"We want to understand the impact of any changes on our customers and by working with communities and the voluntary sector, we will try to reduce the effects that any alterations may bring."

Forms are available through the libraries, on the mobile library vehicles and online at [www.dorsetforyou.com/mobile-library-consultation](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/mobile-library-consultation). The consultation ends on 14th May.

Following consultation last year which looked at the numbers of people using the mobile library services a new, reduced timetable of services will start from 9th May.



### Do you need a lift to church?

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

Please contact Pam on 837203 or John on 839090.

## 100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date – Tuesday 19th April 2016

1st £100	Rose Johnson
2nd £50.00	Tony Dyer
3rd £5.00	Joh Riddle

The next draw is on Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 8.00pm in The Royal Oak

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*

**New members always welcome.** Contact

June Maitland 837235 or  
Denise Sanderson 837049

Payments may be made by a cheque payable to  
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*Please speak to Denise Sanderson, Jenny Balcon  
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## This Month in History: May

### Births

**May 10th, 1838:** John Wilkes Booth, an American stage actor most famous for the assassination of US President Abraham Lincoln, was born in Bel Air, Maryland. After assassinating Lincoln, Booth was pursued to a barn in Virginia and died when he refused to surrender and the barn was set aflame. (Further, on May 10th 1994, the writer of this monthly history article was born! Woo!)

**May 14th, 1944:** George Lucas, an American actor, writer, producer, and director, was born in Modesto, California. Most famously a director, he only actually directed *Star Wars* and *Star Wars Episodes I-III*, and did not direct any of the Indiana Jones movies. However, he wrote and produced **all** of the Indiana Jones and *Star Wars* movies (except the latest movie *The Force Awakens* in which he had no part), thus his greatest film achievements are instead as a writer and producer.

**May 17th, 1961:** Eithne Pádraigín Ní Bhraonáin, better known as Enya, is an Irish singer and songwriter born in Gweedore, County Donegal, Ireland. Enya is famously reclusive and has yet to hold a concert tour, even with an estimated 75 million albums sold worldwide, making her one of the world's best-selling artists! Her successes and musical talents are extensive; she is Ireland's best-selling solo artist, has sung and recorded in ten languages and won multiple awards, including (but not limited to) six World Music Awards, four Grammys and a nomination for a Golden Globe Award for "May It Be", a song she recorded for *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*.

### Deaths

**May 5th, 1821:** Napoleon Bonaparte "the Little Corporal", died in exile on the remote British island of St. Helena aged 51. Although a controversial figure, and one most famous for his military achievements, Napoleon has a lasting legacy as not just a strategist but also a liberalist. He devised and instated the Napoleonic Code in 1804, which has remained the civil code in France, and has been established in over a quarter of the world. It forbids privileges based on birth, allows freedom of religion, and specifies that government jobs should only go to the most qualified.

**May 18th, 1995:** Elizabeth Montgomery, a popular actress most famous for her role in the hit TV series *Bewitched* – aired from 1964 to 1972 – died of cancer aged 62. As well as starring in over 30 movies and numerous television episodes, Elizabeth was also a charitable and progressive political activist. She was an ardent critic of the Vietnam War and actively championed AIDS research, women's rights, and gay rights; even serving as Grand Marshal for the Gay Rights Parade in 1956.

**May 27th, 1910:** Robert Heinrich Herman Koch, a German microbiologist, died aged 66 in Baden-Baden. He was a pioneer who discovered the specific causative agents of tuberculosis, cholera, and anthrax. He also created and improved laboratory technologies and techniques in the field of microbiology and his "Koch's postulates" remain even today the "gold standard" in medical microbiology. He received a Nobel Prize in 1905 for his contributions to medicine and bacteriology.

### Events

**May 2nd, 1611:** After seven years of work by 47 scholars, Robert Parker sent the King James Bible to print. It later became the standard English language Bible. The motivation behind its publication was simply that the king hoped to end protests by the Puritan faction of the Church of England.

**May 6th, 1954:** Roger Bannister becomes the first man to run a mile in under four minutes. His famous run took place at the Iffley Road Sports Ground in Oxford, and he finished with a time of 3:59.4. Although impressive, Bannister states he was more proud of his contributions to medicine than sports, and his record only stood for a mere 46 days. Today a four minute mile is a benchmark for male professional middle-distance athletes.

**May 29th, 1660:** Charles Stuart enters London to become King Charles II, restoring England's monarchy following Oliver Cromwell's commonwealth. His coronation was April 21st 1661, and he reigned for twenty four years. During his reign, Charles was a serial womaniser and was a great patron of the arts and although he died penniless, he was not a bloodthirsty nor cruel King. *Mark Ferguson*

## Hey all you village wine lovers

### Did you know?

In the beginning was the cork, next after many centuries came the corkscrew or bottlescrew (as it was initially called).

The screw was made for the cork and not vice versa, and for the last 300 year's man's ingenuity has been taxed in producing a handy machine to remove corks from bottles quickly, smoothly and efficiently.



No one knows its origin, but it is thought it might have originated from the "worm", a device to remove bullets from muzzle loading firearms back in 1631. The first patent for a corkscrew was by Thomas Henshall back in 1795.

There are references to corkscrews being used as early as 1676. From the mid 17th century it became more common to mature wine in bottles rather than casks, they were also used for uncorking beers and medicine bottles.

As you are aware, corkscrews come as novelties, as well as practical models. Collectors will pay from a few pounds to thousands for a rare type.

I started collecting about 15 years ago but my collecting came to a standstill when I retired due to a lack of finance!

I never managed to afford anything particularly rare but thought I could share a few pictures of some of my collection. If you do have an old corkscrew I would be interested in seeing it, just send me an e-mail or phone me. *(Details from the editor at the Reporter.)*

Sadly, the pop of the cork is on the wane thanks to screwtops. Fortunately, the French are slow to take this up, regardless, one can still enjoy the GLUG! *Chris Nowell*

## Is getting out to meet others a challenge for you?

## We can help by visiting you at home

A SERVICE has started in Milborne St. Andrew to link volunteer visitors with people who have difficulties getting out and meeting others. This could be because they have mobility problems, or they have to care for someone at home who cannot be left alone, or they have difficulties leaving the house, or they have a short or long term condition which makes it difficult to go out, etc. Anyone of any age can contact us to find out more so call the co-ordinator on 0794 7929 074 or send an email to [msafriendlyvisitors@gmail.com](mailto:msafriendlyvisitors@gmail.com).

# Community Contacts

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

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

## COUNCILS

North Dorset District Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
	Jane Somper	01258 471089
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council – Milborne St. Andrew	Clerk: Colin Hampton	01258 837011
	Chair: Jenny Balcon	01258 837121
<b>Floods</b> A354 problems contact the Highways Agency		03001 235000
Dorset Direct		01305 221000
<a href="mailto:dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk">dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems">www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems</a>		
Environment Agency Floodline		08459 881188
South West Highways <a href="mailto:hello@swhitd.co.uk">hello@swhitd.co.uk</a>		01404 821500
Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline		03458 505959

## GENERAL – ADULT

Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 881709
Wednesday Social Club	Ann Guy	01258 837959
Women's Institute	Josie Wright	01258 839090

## GENERAL – YOUTH

Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group	Mike Mullett	01258 837114
Secretary:	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Leanne Brown	07899 808185
	Lianne Hall	07846 256694
Youth Club age 8 – 14 years	Lianne Summers	01258 839081

## POLICE

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

## SCHOOL

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

## SPECIAL INTEREST

Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	John Maddell	01258 837954
MSA Gardening Club	Richard Lock	01258 837929
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
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504
Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Colin Chastey	01258 882162
Football – Adult	Jamie Haylock	07894 685893

Football – Treasurer	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Football – Minis	Nicola Malone	07788 217579
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07540 626174
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club Chairman	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Bookings:	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Table Tennis	Pauline Pitfield	01258 839123
Tap Dancing for Adults	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Tennis	Dennis Nelson	01258 837734
Tennis (Members Secretary)	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Yoga (at school)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at village hall)	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230

## VILLAGE HALL

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Chairman/Secretary:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Pam Shults	01258 837203
Booking Secretary:	Sandie Sach	01258 837033

## HEALTH

Bere Regis Surgery		01929 471268
Milborne St. Andrew Surgery		01258 837383
Milton Abbas Surgery		01258 880210
Puddletown Surgery		01305 848333
NHS for emergencies		111
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 881709



## Milborne Movies

Friday 6th May  
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# Community Events Diary

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

- May**
- Wednesday 4th** **Wednesday Club** Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue will be coming to talk about fire safety in the home. Village Hall 2.00pm – see page 2.
- Friday 6th** **Suffragette(12)** shown by 'Milborne Movies' Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 7 and 16.
- Wednesday 11th** **Village History Group** The Royal Oak 7.30pm all welcome – see page 2.
- Thursday 12th** **WI** Audrey Holloway will talk about 'My Dad, the Cumberland Miner'. Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 3.
- Saturday 14th** **Gardening Club plant sale, coffee morning and car wash** Village Hall 10.00am to 12 noon – see page 30.  
**Reporter** latest date for the June issue. Copy and pictures to [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk) or any member of the Reporter team.
- Wednesday 18th** **Parish Council** Village Hall Committee Room 7.30pm.
- Saturday 21st** **May Fayre and novelty dog show** Village Hall 12 noon to 5.00pm – see pages 3 and 25.
- Tuesday 24th** **100 Club** draw The Royal Oak 8.00pm – see page 13 for latest winners.
- Saturday 28th** **Village Lunch** Village Hall. 12.15pm – see page 2 for menu.
- June**
- Sunday 12th** **The Queen's 90th birthday Village Picnic** Village Hall playing field from 2.00pm. All welcome. – see page 5

## Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Ladybirds Playgroup** Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)
- Beavers** Monday 5.00–6.30pm MH (term time only)
- Scouts** Monday 6.00–8.00pm CR/MH
- Players** Monday 8.00–10.00pm MH
- ABC Line Dancers** Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Cub Scouts** Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)
- Wednesday Club** first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
- Yoga** Thursday 1.30–2.45pm MH
- Gardening Club** third Thursday 7.30–10.00pm MH
- Karate** Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH
- Village Hall Committee** third Thursday every two months 7.30–10.00pm
- Women's Institute** second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm
- Youth Club 8–14 years** every other Friday MH (term time only)
- Village Lunch** last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm MH
- Artsreach Events** – look out for the posters.

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

## Regular Bookings at the First School

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

## May at the Sports Club

- Every Saturday football Milborne or Corfe Mullen 3.00pm.**
- Table Tennis** Monday 7.00–9.00pm. Information from Pauline Pitfield 01258 839123
- The Busy Bees** Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Wendy Britton on 07867 720283.

*Please let the Reporter know if there are any alterations to this list or you would like something added.*

## Gardening questions

DO you have a gardening question for our expert Maureen Lock to answer? Send your questions to the *Reporter* at [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk), our Facebook page or give to a Reporter team member whose details can be found on page 2.

## Milborne 100 Club

- 1st PRIZE £100    2nd PRIZE £50  
3rd PRIZE depends on number of members paid  
For only £1 a week you can have three chances for a prize in every draw (minimum £5.00)

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For information contact:

- John Sanderson    Football Club    837049  
June Maitland    Church    837235  
Denise Sanderson    Collector    837049



### MAY SCHEDULE 2016

**Lunch extra on all outings**

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**WEDNESDAY May 4th**  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY May 14th**  
**EXBURY GARDENS**  
£26.50 incl  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY May 21st**  
Milborne St Andrew May Fayre  
£8.50 return  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 25th May**  
**Mystery Lunch**  
£8.50 return  
\*\*\*\*\*



# In the time of the Dinosaurs with the Ladybirds



THIS month we have gone back in time to learn about dinosaurs. We have created dinosaur lookout posts inside on the stage, followed their footprints and built dens to shelter in. Every year there are small children who find dinosaurs fascinating and love playing with the toy ones, and every year there is a child who can tell you the names and pronounce them better than we do. It is strange that a child who doesn't say normal words clearly can say Tyrannosaurus, Diplodocus or Stegosaurus clearly.

At the time of the dinosaurs there were swamps and volcanoes. The photo shows an adult making volcanoes with bicarbonate of soda, washing up liquid, food colouring and vinegar inside a yogurt drink bottle surrounded by compost. The children were fascinated wanting it repeated several times. We would love to do this on a larger scale – someone suggested cola and Mentos; which would be wonderful if not a bit messy. The lovely weather meant we could do our experiments outside, albeit on a small scale, causing as little mess as possible.

I have started looking at numbers of children who would like to attend Ladybirds next year – that is the school year starting September 2016. In order to get budgeting and staffing levels right it would be great if you can let us know if you have a child who could join us between September 2016 and May 2017. There is no commitment to the starting date or changing your mind, but advance knowledge of numbers is a very big help.

Who can come to Ladybirds? Any three or four year old – 15 hours a week is grant funded and additional hours payable in fees. Plus any two year old – some are entitled to 15 hours grant funding (for eligibility look on Dorset For You website) otherwise fee paying. *Liz Dyer*



## Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

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To find out more please contact  
Liz Dyer (Leader) 01258 839117 or 07771 512427  
Lucy Bishop (secretary) 07866 267044  
[www.milborneladybirds.org.uk](http://www.milborneladybirds.org.uk)



# Milborne St. Andrew First School



Learning together, playing together;  
all for one, one for all  
**School News**

## Decorating, Rolling and Pedalling!

We are now in our summer term at Milborne St. Andrew First School, but our spring term finished with two days of Easter celebrations. All children, friends and family joined us for our Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church on Wednesday 23rd March. We then had our annual egg decorating and egg rolling competition on the last day of term, Thursday 24th March. As always we had some fabulous creations made by the children, and no one envied the judge in having to pick winners! Friends of School donated the prizes and provided refreshments. They also organised an Easter Egg hunt for the children on the last day of term.

During the spring term, Wild Art Club were investigating the creatures that live in the deepest, darkest abyssal zone of the ocean, at depths of 6,000-11,000m. Amongst many other things, the club discovered that . . .

- scientists know more about the surface of the planet Mars than they do about our deepest oceans here on Earth
- many creatures of the deep use BIOLUMINESCENCE to communicate, hunt and defend themselves. Some even squirt glowing goo into the water, to confuse predators who are trying to eat them!

They created ink resistant pictures, and made scraperboards to depict some of the flashing and glowing creatures.



## CONTACTS

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

**Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hunt      **Secretary, School Office:** Mrs Lynn Pearcey

**Chair of Governors:** Miss Jane Pope      **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Becky Hunter

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

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## Tortoise Management and Hibernation (*Testudo graeca*)

IT is very distressing to read evidence of poor management of pet tortoises as highlighted in the Blackmore Vale Magazine of 29th January where a tortoise was attacked by rats during hibernation. There was a time when the appalling and cruel import of tortoises from Mediterranean areas allowed for their ready sale for a very low price. This in turn meant that many tortoises were bought for very little money, kept poorly and then died in a relatively short time. Luckily, import is now illegal and only UK bred tortoises can be bought and generally breeders are very careful to whom they sell them. They are also therefore much more expensive, and consequently owners are more likely to investigate proper management of them, as with proper care they can live for up to one hundred and twenty years old.



In owning this animal, it is important to bear in mind its usual habitat and make appropriate allowance for trying to keep them outside the climate in which they normally live. An important reference source for management advice is the Tortoise Trust website, ([www.tortoisetrust.org](http://www.tortoisetrust.org)) which gives comprehensive guidance on the subject. Most particularly there is advice regarding hibernation. As I have discovered, while the animal is torpid they are very susceptible to attack, particularly by rodents that may have access to their sleeping boxes. This can happen during sleeping time in the summer, as well as if kept in a vulnerable container in the winter. The recommendation for hibernation that will be found in the Tortoise Trust website will sound rather surprising, but is the safest. A temperature of less than zero Celsius will clearly be detrimental to the animal, with the risk that the eyes are the first part to freeze. It is therefore important to ensure that hibernation temperature is sufficiently above that. However, a maximum temperature is also advisable as the creature, although asleep, will continue to metabolise its reserves faster as the ambient temperature rises and consequently starve to death in its sleep. The ideal temperature is therefore a steady seven degrees Celsius, which can only be supplied by the use of a refrigerator, and that with the addition of easy access for air for respiration. Of course, hibernating in a ventilated refrigerator would preclude the risk of rodent attack. It is important also to ensure the tortoise has enough fat reserves to survive the winter. This can be done by measuring the length of the carapace and weighing the animal and applying these two figures to a graph that can be found on the website ensuring the figures are above a specified level.

Further information on husbandry and correct dietary requirements can also be found on the website as well as much more helpful details about keeping tortoises and turtles.

*Pip Howell*

**The deadline for the June Reporter is 14th May.  
Get your copy and pictures in early to avoid disappointment.**

## BUS2GO Motoring Along

APRIL saw the start of our spring/summer schedule with increased outings, one per week. Our mystery lunch was to The Egg Cup Tea Rooms, Vurlands Animal Farm, Swyre, where 30 passengers enjoyed a delicious lunch with stunning views over the Ridgeway to one side and the Jurassic coast to the other.



The weather held up long enough for an opportunity to say 'hello' to the new born lamb and piglets. On our return journey, we drove past Hardy's Monument, which is now fully restored and for the 'hale and hearty' offers stunning views from the top!

We are all looking forward to our outing to The Exchange, Sturminster, as we celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. Our outing is a 'sell-out', with 60 passengers all set for an afternoon of song, dance and jokes with Neil Sands and his supporting cast.

Looking forward to May, we are visiting Exbury Gardens and, at the end of the month, is our final mystery lunch of the season - please see poster.

In June we offer five outings, these include, Somerset Lavender Farm (limited to 16 passengers), a visit to Abbotsbury Swannery and an outing to Christchurch.

We shall be at Blandford Georgian Fayre and our village May Fayre, where you can play our ever popular game, 'Quick Silver' or pop along to our information stand where you can chat to our volunteers and discover our 'project vision' for the future. With our increased passenger numbers, we welcome additional Volunteers and Trustees.

Our partnership with the RVS Befriending Service continues to thrive, as each month we welcome on board new passengers who are able to share with us the Bus2Go experience.

For further details of the RVS Befriending Service, which covers Milborne St. Andrew, Winterborne Whitechurch, Winterborne Stickland, Milton Abbas and Blandford. Contact: Dee Bonham Christie: 07850 500 552

Last month we gave a very warm welcome to Kathryn Pochin, who has kindly offered her time and expertise to volunteer as an 'on board' escort on our outings. Thank you Kathryn. *Margo*

**Five churches Fete at Athelhampton House on  
Bank Holiday Monday 29th August, 12noon-4.00pm  
If you would like a CRAFT STALL at the fete for a  
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Eva Stockley Tel: 01258 837468.**

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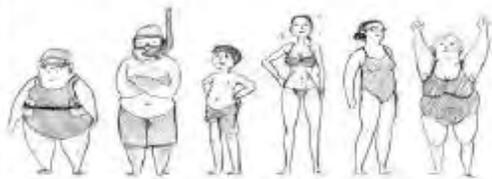
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## In your Garden

Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *designerGardens*

### Your garden in May

GARDEN centres are now in full swing with all manner of pretty and colourful plants to tempt us. May is a good time to start visiting gardens – the National Garden Scheme (NGS) Gardens Open for Charity, otherwise known as The Yellow Book has details of the gardens open in our region.

You can pick up copies of this at any garden centre, nursery and the tourist information offices.



#### Damp shade

Damp shade is one of the most common 'problem areas' in the garden. I always say look at what grows well in the wild and the conditions those plants are growing in, and you will see what will grow well in your own garden. Damp shade is, in fact, shade without tree roots. It's not particularly wet, or dry – just damp. Often this will be on the north side of your house or the area between buildings. Many people think the only thing



you can do is to turn it into a foliage garden with box, ivy and ferns – but all these dark colours can make it look even more gloomy. Use these for

background structure, but bring the area alive with variegated plants and flowers with pale, pastel colours. Plants such as Bleeding Heart *Dicentra spectabilis*, bee balm – *Monarda*, *Astilbe*, *Astrantia*, *Actaea*, *pulmonaria*, *hosta* and *heuchera*.



Lily of the Valley *Convallaria majalis* 'Albostriata', with very attractive striped leaves lightens up a dull area, and, of course, the fragrance is distinctive. Another early summer favourite is *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' – its foliage is green and silver and it has a froth of small blue flowers from March to June.

A very unusual and dramatic perennial that likes shade is *Podophyllum versipelle* 'Spotty Dotty'. It is almost prehistoric in appearance. I first saw one at Compton Acres and was really taken with it. The flowers are deep maroon and are held beneath the leaves – it flowers from April to June and has very pretty foliage from April to October. In fact, Compton Acres is a good garden to visit to get planting ideas – it has lots of different aspects and there is something for everyone.

Epimediums are good shade loving plants and have attractive shaped leaves and lots of yellow or white flowers. They flower March to April and again (if you're lucky) in October to November. They need to be cut back to the ground in February to encourage the new growth. They are good for ground cover too.

For late colour hydrangeas and phlox thrive in damp shade.

So with this list of plants your damp shade area should start to look spectacular.

If you have a problem finding a plant, there are many nurseries that offer mail order plants these days and they generally arrive in very good condition.

If you have any gardening related queries, I would love to hear from you. Drop a line to the Reporter Team, who will forward the queries to me and I will answer them in the next issue of the magazine.

Enjoy your garden.

Maureen Lock

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**For sale** – LG 37LH2000 37-inch television with freeview. Good condition. £50.00. Tel. 837700.

## Gardening questions

DO you have gardening question for our expert Maureen Lock to answer? Send your questions to the *Reporter* at [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk), our Facebook page or give to a Reporter team member whose details can be found on page 2.



## Fun for all at the village May Fayre

THIS year's May Fayre is set to start with a boom, boom, crash as the Dolphin Marching Band open the day's events and will be performing during the afternoon, on Saturday 21st May. Also on hand to help open the day's event will be the Milborne Cubs and Beavers, who are marking a big milestone in national Scouting – 100 years of Cub Scouting and 30 years of Beavers.

The call went out in last month's Reporter asking former cubs and scouts to get in touch if they'd like to be part of the anniversary celebrations. If you'd like to take part in the parade and running up the flag, contact Mike Mullett on (01258) 837114 (apologies for the incorrect number published in last month's Reporter).

There are lots of new things to see and do this time around, as well as all the old favourites. We welcome back Dorset Search Dogs, whose capable canines will amaze you with their finely-tuned noses, finding fayre-goers who take up their challenge of 'get lost at no cost, get found for two pounds'. The team, who work hand in hand with the emergency services, will also put on a display demonstrating why they are so essential in the real-life search for missing persons.

Something new for 2016 is a mix of classic and curious vehicles, showcased by their owners from Milborne. We hope to have a variety of vintage cars, classics from the not too distant past and a couple of interesting motorbikes for the nostalgic.

There will be loads of fun and activities for children to get stuck into – not least attempting to milk a cow that the Friends of School are bringing to the May Fayre. We think it may not be a real one, but kids, both small and big will have great fun in learning how it's done. And how about driving a mini Land Rover, kids?! Little Landies will have two of their scaled-down trucks to drive around an obstacle course. There'll also be mini-golf, hook-a-duck and other games and - if they're got enough energy left (course!), kids will have a whale of a time on the mega slide and bouncy castle.

Local craft makers have been invited this year and you'll be able to browse their stalls both inside the Village Hall and on the field. If you'd like a stall or know someone who may, then contact Emma Bratley asap to book your pitch, on 07920 060706 or [emmabratley@live.co.uk](mailto:emmabratley@live.co.uk)

Milborne's clubs and societies will be providing a variety of stalls – there will be plants on sale (Gardening Club), the church have been up in 'Grannie's attic' for their stall; there are books, dvd's, bath-inspired goodies ('bathbola' from the WI) and lots more. Peckish? A barbecue is once again being run on behalf of the Scouts, as well as a cake stall (of course!), cream teas and ice cream also on offer. Drinks will be available at the bar, with soft drinks, teas and coffees also.

The popular dog show has got some fun classes again this year – rosettes and prizes will be handed out to the Most Handsome Male dog and the Prettiest Girl, as judged by Damory vet, David Harding, who we welcome back from four years ago. Our first class we hope will be embraced warmly by contestants: Dog Most Like Its Owner. Handlers are encouraged to use props and embellishments to bring out their similarities – though there may be some that feel they don't need to! Temptation Alley also returns, which invites dogs to be walked along a path peppered with a plethora of distractions: tennis balls, toys, smelly slippers and sausages. Past canine contestants have displayed their obedience and willpower; others used the opportunity as an 'all you can eat buffet'!



We also invite along Purbeck Agility, who will run a 'scurry' all afternoon. This is an agility course that you can have a go at yourself – with your dog, of course – with the three fastest entrants winning rosettes and prizes. Terry of Purbeck Agility will also be demonstrating his 'dance routine' with his dog.

So, come along and have some fun, and support the local groups of Milborne on **Saturday 21st May from noon to 5.00pm** at the Village Hall and recreation ground.

*Ed Richards*

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# LETTERS to the Reporter

Thank you to Peter and Elaine Anthony for running the Crib League at The Royal Oak so successfully this year. Monday evenings have been most enjoyable despite my position propping up the rest of the players from the bottom of the league.

It's wonderful that people are willing and keen to organise these activities and we are very lucky to have them at The Royal Oak. Thanks also to Andy, Sarah, Jo and the team for hosting us.

Susan Wilson

## Information Evening Re: Fracking

I attended information evening about Fracking at the Milborne Village Hall on 6th April, and before I arrived, I was not sure of what to expect. Like most people I have heard about Fracking in the media, and have watched a few news stories about it, but I knew little else.

The evening was very informative; first there was a short film about the impact of Fracking in farming and rural communities in Australia, followed by a talk with slides from Charles Miller, an oil/drilling industry expert, in which the Fracking process was explained step by step, and details of the chemicals used and their long term impact explained. There were also comparisons with "green" energy – wind, and tidal power.

To be honest, what I saw and heard frightened me – really frightened me. And not just the Fracking process, but also how it appears that our government seems hell bent on making Fracking a reality, and are taking steps to remove all obstacles to it. I think it is fair to say that all of the 40 or so people who attended had a feeling that the situation is hopeless.

And they would be right, if we do nothing. If each of us say "there's nothing I can do, I'm just one person, what difference will it make?" then Fracking will become a reality. But we can do something – each of us; we can sign a petition, write to our MP, distribute information, host an evening like this one. The situation is only hopeless if we let it be.

But don't take my word for it. Find out about Fracking for yourself; make your own mind up. But whatever you do, do something.

Yours sincerely, Larry Lagrue

Dear Editor,

When I attended the talk in the village hall on fracking I was looking forward to learning more about the fracking process and how it would impact our village should it come here. What we received was a presentation that while it raised many valid concerns appeared to deliberately set out to mislead on fracking in the UK with frequent interjections from the frack free North Dorset representatives, including recommendations on how we should vote in the EU referendum.

Images of open pits for flowback fluid and the 350, although later stated to be 395 toxic chemicals that will be pumped into the ground understandably created a great deal of fear about

this process, which was clearly the desired effect. However, open pits are not legal in the UK and the Environment Agency will only licence non-hazardous chemicals of which it has only licensed three to date, not the 350 toxic ones we were led to believe, all of which have to be made available to the public in terms of composition but not quantity (the only company to frack to date has published these quantities). These are just some of the factual inaccuracies that I was aware of with my rudimentary understanding.

When challenged on these points the answer seemed to be that because that's what has happened in the US it will happen here. This is simply comparing apples with oranges. The US regulations fall at State level so vary from State to State, unlike the UK. Likewise, the land owner also owns the minerals under the land which tends to promote the wildcat operations that have caused many of the problems in the US. This is not the case in the UK. When pressed the speaker and the frack free advocates fell back on the argument that we can't trust Government or private companies which led them to talk further on what was quite frankly their political viewpoint.

The Q&A session at the end was sadly more of an opportunity for political ideology and a debate on democracy in the UK rather than getting down to the facts of fracking and what we can do about it. Indeed, when one person rightly asked a question along the lines of "if we have no representation then how can we oppose fracking", the answer from the speaker was that as far as he can see people will have to return to rioting. This was a staggeringly unhelpful approach to people with genuine concerns and a need to understand what practical action they can take if they feel the need.

For those concerned about fracking I would recommend doing basic open source research from both sides of the debate. The .government website has a series of "facts about fracking" booklets along with guidance on fracking in the UK. As with all official publications I would take the time to weed out what is law and what is merely guidance for the companies in order to understand what they can be held to account for.

Personally, I have concerns about fracking in the MSA licence blocks as I don't believe we have the infrastructure to support it. Our roads already have a large number of HGV's and the increase that fracking would bring is unsustainable without some form of upgrade. Similarly, I have concerns about what happens decades from now in terms of plugging and monitoring of old wells. However, if we choose to oppose fracking then it must be done in a way that cannot just be dismissed by the authorities as the actions of NIMBY's. At every stage from exploration onwards there is a planning requirement which is judged against strict criteria. It is factual objections based on these criteria that will be considered, not opinions on trustworthiness or claims about chemicals that can be easily dismissed. The list of these criteria is on the .government website and I would suggest that any objections should be made against these broad criteria. You can also lobby your MP before the planning process is even considered as well as engaging with the landowners whose permission is needed to drill. These actions will also ensure that if fracking does go ahead we can shape the level of impact on our area eg. requiring steel storage tanks rather than pits, enclosed methane burners and green completion measures.

I would also suggest that the Parish Council may want to engage with the United Kingdom Onshore Oil and Gas organisation as even if a test well is drilled then a community should receive payment of £100,000, and if production takes place one per cent of revenues after costs every year, which would be a considerable sum. Exactly how a local community is defined and how that money is disbursed needs to be explored as if fracking does take place, with or without our support, then we should make it work for us.

Regards, Edward Ebborn.

### “Recently, a friend told me the Government is set to make changes to Inheritance Tax. Is this true and how could this affect my family?”



**Jerome Dodge**

Principal - Wills and Estate Planning

This is true. The Government is introducing an extra Inheritance Tax allowance that will be phased in from April 2017 to April 2020.

The change could extend the Inheritance Tax allowance from £325,000 to £500,000 for an individual, and from £650,000 to £1m for a married couple.

It is a huge difference and could affect how much your family receives, but the extra allowance is not straightforward and can easily be lost. Taking professional advice on

both the structure of your Will and your assets in light of the new law means you could save your family many thousands of pounds.

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important to work with a legal team that keeps you abreast of the situation.

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Continued from page 11

a huge jumbled amalgamation of different customs drawn from across Europe. This is because the Romans conquered almost all of Europe, forming a melting pot into which these ideas were mixed and spread. Following the Romans, the Angles, Jutes and Saxons invaded Britain (collectively known as the Anglo-Saxons) from Germany and Holland, thus allowing for the spread of the Germanic beliefs. Following this, the Vikings invaded, conquered, and settled in most of the British Isles, bringing their Scandinavian beliefs with them. All of this led to the complexities of the English language as a whole, as it is a large mix of Greek, Latin, German, French, and a multitude of other languages, and the same can be said for our customs and especially May Day.

So the origins of May Day, and all of the strange customs that accompany it, can be attributed to ancient times. Ideas of fertility and rejuvenation, signalled by the arrival of warmer weather, are the true origins of this most ancient and complex of festivals. However, in order to do justice to you the readers and my own curiosity, there are some avenues still to explore. Namely, the association with socialism and what the heck Morris Dancing is supposed to be.

So to the left. International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in some places, is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement, anarchists, socialists, and communists, and occurs every year on May Day. The date was chosen for International Workers' Day by the Second International Socialist Committee to commemorate the Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago on 4th May 1886. The Haymarket affair was a peaceful rally of workers striking in support of the eight-hour day movement (eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest), and was also in reaction to the killing of several workers the previous day by the police. An unknown person threw a dynamite bomb at police as they acted to

disperse the public meeting. The bomb blast and ensuing gunfire resulted in the deaths of seven police officers and at least four civilians; scores of others were wounded. May Day is a national public holiday in many countries, but in only some of those countries is it celebrated specifically as "Labour Day" or "International Workers' Day". Some countries celebrate a Labour Day on other dates significant to them, such as the United States, which celebrates Labor Day on the first Monday of September. So although May Day can be attributed with workers and in this country the Labour party, this is not a consistent thing across Europe at all and you could say the May Day festival was "hijacked" for political means.

There have been organised riots and protests in the UK on 1st May for many years, but May Day was not made a public holiday until 1978. Interestingly, Labour Day is not in fact always on 1st May, but is instead held on the first Monday of May. The political associations with 1st May are a strange mix of assertions as Britain does not actually have its own "Labour Day" or even a "Workers Day", and May Day in the UK – from a political point of view – falls on the Bank Holiday: and could in fact be any day from late April to early May. It is finally clear then that "May Day" and 1st May can in fact be very different days. May 1st has been for centuries a day of religious observation across Western Europe, and in the UK 1st May during the 16th century was given over for prayers and ceremonies to honour Mary the Virgin (Mary the Blessed). On the other hand May Day (which may not always be 1st May) is a day associated with labour and left-wing politics: and this is true across Russia, the UK, and the US: bearing in mind of course that Labour Day in the US is celebrated on the first Monday of September, and only Russia amalgamates Spring Day and Labour Day – which are always 1st May. Russia has held 1st May as both Labour Day and Spring Day since 1918.

Continued on page 31

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## Did you identify this?

The photograph in the April Reporter was taken on Blandford Hill at the entrance to Crown Court

Congratulations to Robin Keller who was the first person to send in the correct answer.

Try your luck this month on page 12.



**Deadline for the June issue is 14th May.**

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Continued from page 29

So, with all that politics and religious stuff cleared up, let's end with some Morris Dancing! The name is first recorded in the mid-15th century as *Morisk dance*, or "Moorish dance". The term entered English via Flemish *mooriske danse*, and appeared in other languages such as German "*Moriskentanz*", *French morisques*, *Croatian moreška*, and Italian and Spanish *moresco/moresca* also around the 15th century. The modern spelling *Morris-dance* first appeared in the 17th century. It is unclear why the dance was so named, perhaps it is because of the fantastic dancing or costumes, and the deliberately "exotic" flavour of the performance. The English dance thus apparently arose as part of a wider 15th-century European fashion for supposedly "Moorish" spectacle, which also left traces in Spanish and Italian folk dance. The means and chronology of the transmission of this fashion are difficult to trace; the *Great London Chronicle* records "spangled Spanish dancers" performing an energetic dance before Henry VII at Christmas of 1494, but Heron's accounts also mention "pleying of the mourice dance" four days earlier, and the attestation establishes that there was a "Moorish dance" performed in England before 1494.

Having read and researched all of this, the conclusions are that May Day is a large European celebration of spring time always held on 1st May. The political May Day or "International Workers Day" is held on the first Monday in May, which may or may not be 1st May (It's Monday 2nd this year). The workers day can be attested as far back as the Second International Socialist Committee, which met in 1889 and made 1st May into Labour Day: something which is not consistent across Europe at all; and even the US have a completely different date for Labor Day. We have also learned that Morris Dancing was once fashionable, and that Henry VII really quite liked it. All I can say in conclusion of all of this is phew; who knew a little question could have so much to say?

Mark Ferguson

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