



Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2019

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Milborne St. Andrew

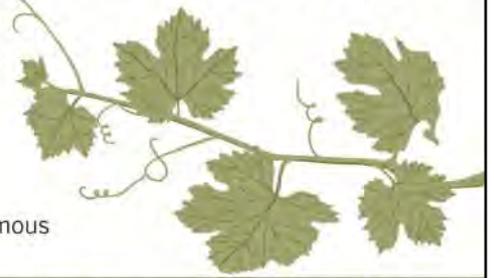


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Lamb hotpot, carrot and swede mash
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Monday 21st January**

Everyone welcome young and old alike
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Josie Wright 839090 or Jenny Balcon 837121

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

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

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team

St. Andrew's Christmas Market

ST. ANDREW'S church held their annual Christmas market in the village hall. Father Christmas arrived with a sack of presents, after his drive around the village. Mulled wine, mince pies and soup were available, and many homemade gifts and cakes were for sale. There were also games, a tombola, guessing the weight of the cake (7lb 2oz) and a large raffle. Children could make cards, angels and snowmen and have a glitter tattoo, with many toys for sale. Many thanks to Pam Shults and the ladies on the St. Andrew's Events Team who raised over £650 for the church.

Josie Wright, photos by John Wright



View the Reporter each month in colour at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index

Remembering Alfred John Parsons 1876-1920



ALTHOUGH the anniversary of the ending of World War One may have passed it did not, of course, mean that there were no more deaths. Many soldiers returned home badly injured or suffering from illnesses contracted while fighting abroad.

One hundred years ago, in 1920, a village lad Alfred John Parsons was one of those soldiers. Alfred was born in Stalbridge in 1876 his father dying when Alfred was a baby. By 1901 he was a baker living in Milborne St. Andrew and boarding with Benjamin Baker and family. In 1906 he married a local girl Maud Joiner and in the 1911 census he is living in Chapel Street with his wife and daughter Elsie; later that year his son Raymond is born.

It was November 1915 when Alfred enlisted in the Dorsetshire Regiment, he was 38 years old and his next of kin was his wife Maude at Mayflower Cottage, Milborne St. Andrew. He was not mobilised until June 1916 when he was sent to France. By the end of the year he had been treated three times for a "cough" and in January 1917 he was in a sanatorium in England where he stayed until July. His medical records make sad reading; he is thin and anaemic suffering from TB "attributable to service in the present war – exposure in the trenches on active service in France". It meant that for Alfred the war was over and he was awarded a disability pension being no longer fit for active service. His military character had been very good, he was 41 years old. His pension was 27s 6d per week and an allowance for two children of 11s 8d.

Sadly, on 3rd January 1920 at the age of 42 Alfred died at home and was buried in our churchyard on the 8th January. His is one of the three Commonwealth War Graves that we have in Milborne St Andrew.

Linda Wright





MILBORNE ST ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL



Learning together, playing together

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 3 and Year 4 Safewise Trip

PUFFINS went on a trip to Safewise in Weymouth and had a fun, fact-filled, educating day. The day was split into two sessions – fire safety and road safety.



During the fire safety session, children spent time in "Hazard House", watched a sofa catch fire and burn, crawled under smoke, learnt and practiced the BA shuffle and to "stop, drop and roll".



The road safety session was held on the road system at the centre where the children played the parts of pedestrians and traffic. The children particularly loved this traffic session as they got to ride on mobility scooters!

Milborne St. Andrew Memory wall

AT the start of November, Puffins class discussed the centenary of the end of the First World War. They not only found it really interesting, but said they wanted to make something to symbolise remembering the soldiers. They made poppies to put up around the school as part of Remembrance Day. After they had been up for a few weeks, Puffins took the poppies down, made a collage out of them and took a photo of this collage and presented it to look like a large poppy. Then, along with other members of the community, they put the collage photo up as part of the 'Memory Wall' outside the village hall to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.



CONTACTS

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

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Hunt

School Secretary: Mrs B Hosford

Chair of Governors: Matt Way

FOS Chairman: Mrs Caroline Richards

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362 Fax: (01258) 837170

FIZZ POP Science ...



A wet Friday morning got off to a sparkling start with a visit from the Fizz Pop Science club. All the children and some enthusiastic parents were treated to a variety of exciting experiments, involving bubbles and flames! One pupil even had his head in a bubble! This was an exciting introduction to the Fizz Pop after school science club that will be starting in January. I think there will be lots of children eager to join!

Mrs Plant



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Ladybirds busy getting ready for Christmas



IT'S that time of year when we're all busy making and learning about Christmas. The children have all made and decorated their own folder to keep all their makes for family and friends. Our activities have involved reading the Nativity. The older children have made little books of the Nativity by cutting out and sorting into sequence the events and sticking the pictures into a book which they then coloured in. This year we are performing the Nativity at our end of term party, and so far the rehearsals have gone well - fingers crossed the performance to families will go just as well. The younger children have chosen what animal they will be - bit of a variation on the traditional version as we may have a lion and a dinosaur and some Kings may be princesses!

All the children have been making

items to take home and we have incorporated learning opportunities of scissor use, 'writing' counting, patterns and size comparisons. Great concentration can be seen in the picture of threading little beads onto pipe cleaner tree branches.

We wish all our friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Dyer



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Call in to see us at the village hall or contact Liz Dyer (Leader) on 01258 839117; 07771 512427; liz@milborneladybirds.com Committee on secretary@milborneladybirds.com

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Counterfeit goods – What is the real threat?

WHEN we think of counterfeit goods we probably think of films, music and clothes, but what about electrical goods, cosmetics, or toys? These all have to meet certain safety standards set down in law. These standards are there to protect the consumer.

Counterfeit goods may not meet these standards: 98% of a batch of apple electrical chargers tested failed to pass one or more of the safety tests; tests on counterfeit lipsticks have found 300 times the permitted amount of lead in them; In 2016 airbags for vehicles which turned out to be counterfeit were found; in 2017 one Trading Standards service seized 88,000 counterfeit toys in the run up to Christmas. All of these failed safety tests and all highlight the potential harm to the public from counterfeit goods.

If something on sale seems to be too good to be true then it probably is. Organised crime groups play a large role in the supply of counterfeit goods and they obtain significant financial benefit from doing this.

Top tips to help you avoid buying counterfeit goods

1. When buying online check the spelling and grammar on the website and of the URL – often the people behind these sites do not pay a lot of attention or care to this detail. Fraudsters may also try to deceive you by slightly changing the spelling of a well-known brand or shop in the website address.
2. Look to see where the trader is based and whether they provide a postal address – just because the web address has 'UK' do not assume the seller is based in the UK. If there is no address supplied or there is just a PO Box or email be wary.
3. Deal with reputable sellers – only use sites you know or that have been recommended to you. If you have not bought from the seller before then do your research and check online reviews.
4. Get the trader to tell you if they provide an after-sales service, warranty, or guarantee.



For further advice on this, or to report something to Trading Standards, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.



A new challenge for the New Year

ARE you looking for a challenge this New Year? Longmead Community Farm, on the outskirts of Milborne is looking for new



The Dunkleys' Farewell



AFTER twenty two years of close and widespread involvement in the village, Shirley and Peter Dunkley are moving to Nottingham. They have regrets but are looking forward to being nearer their eldest daughter and her family. They bade goodbye to neighbours thanking them for being 'such good people to live amongst'. They have both been prime movers in many ways and will be greatly missed. Sadly missed by them will be their dog, Maisie, who will be moving to live with Sue and Laurie Benn.

We wish them well and many happy years ahead on the banks of the River Trent.
Carole Fornachon

volunteers for its Monday Volunteer Programme. If you have cooking, woodworking, DIY or gardening skills, then the charity would love to hear from you. Monday volunteer days start at 10.00am and finish at 4.30pm and include plenty of tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and a nice cooked lunch as well.

The Longmead team is looking for the following skilled people:

- Someone willing to assist our cook in the kitchen preparing lunch for up to 20 people.
- A couple of people with wood working / DIY skills to assist our present experienced volunteers with building our new goat hut and various other projects going forward.
- From the spring we are in urgent need of gardeners – both for the kitchen garden and our much neglected flower borders; our current team needs more hands!
- A volunteer willing to take on the challenge of finding an outlet for our excess organic produce to help our current funds.

If you are interested, please contact April on 01258 837960 or email april.whalley@longmead.org

Longmead has been a haven for Dorset families in crisis for over ten years, providing a calm and caring environment for people to have time out from their troubled lives and experience a different way of life. Families are given the opportunity to participate in activities together, whether working with the goats, pigs and other farm work on the smallholding or craft activities. As the charity says, its values are about 'doing with' rather than 'doing to'; the emphasis is on taking part, together.
Ed Richards

Wednesday Club party in the pub



WE began our Christmas Party at The Royal Oak with pass the parcel with forfeits which got us in the mood, followed by Jenny's left and right game which was sabotaged by Dave Andrews but caused lots of hilarity!

Dave later turned into Father Christmas with assistant elf Lin, giving everyone a Secret Santa present. Sarah, Jo and their crew provided us with a delicious tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, pork pies and lovely miniature fancy cakes, washed down with tea and coffee. A big thank you to them all. What would the village do without our Royal Oak?

After our New Year lunch at The Frampton Arms we will look forward to another year of talks, visits and great friendship. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Jenny Balcon on 837121 or Sheila Burton on 839033.

Lis Watts
photos supplied by
John Wright



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What to do in the aftermath of Christmas?

CHRISTMAS cards are a great way to send a message of love to family and friends during the holiday season. But there always comes that time in January when the decorations come down, the tree gets recycled, and you're left wondering what to do with the pile of Christmas cards you have lovingly received. Rather than just throwing them away, or storing them for decades in the attic, why not **upcycle** the cards to give them a renewed lease of life? Take a look at some of the creative ways you can reuse your old festive greeting cards below.

1. New Year's Eve decorations

There's no need for Christmas cards to only be useful at Christmas. Turn them into stylish *New Year's Eve* decorations. Cut them up, paint them and stick pieces together to make decorative garlands and bunting.

2. Table place settings

If you have a fancy meal planned for New Year's Day, or any other time of the year for that matter, you could upcycle your Christmas greeting cards into lovely table place cards. Cut squares or rectangles from your festive cards – the white back section is particularly useful, as you can paint or ink your guests' names onto this.

3. Next year's Christmas decorations

If you are guilty of being a bit of a sentimental hoarder, then this one is perfect for you. It means that you can hold onto your greeting cards from loved ones for another year. By the time next Christmas comes around you'll be ready to upcycle them into some amazing Christmas decorations, including tree hangings, wreaths and shelf ornaments.

4. Gift boxes

Christmas cards can also be turned into effective Christmas gift boxes. Cut the original cards into pieces and sew them together for little boxes. If you don't want to sew, you can always just fold the card together or use glue.

5. Gift tags

In keeping with the Christmas theme, old greeting cards also make great upcycled gift tags. Cut out the central motifs from the cards (perhaps with pinking shears), then write your message on the white back.

6. Bookmarks

Are you always losing or running out of bookmarks? Why not use your old Christmas cards to make a selection of new ones, so you'll always have one at hand to pop inside the next book you read.

7. Recycle

If you don't fancy being creative with the cards, you can always just recycle them. The cards that are made from paper are perfect for recycling, however the glitzy ones that have glitter, foil or fancy added pieces can't be recycled in the usual way. Take off these extra bits before putting the cards in your recycling bin.

8. Give them to charity

An even better idea than recycling them in the usual way, is by donating the cards to any charities that make use of them. However in my search whilst writing this article I found that many have now stopped accepting them, such as AgeUK, the Woodland Trust, and the Marine Conservation Society, all of whom have a vested interest in preserving increasingly rare plants, trees and animals. Last year these organisations could not cope with the volume of cards received. If you would still like to support Age UK, please consider *making a donation* instead. Just £7 will provide them with the card, glue and other materials needed to make 500 cards for isolated older people who may not receive any other cards on their birthday. However if you do not wish to 'get creative' there is now no need to wonder what to do with Christmas cards once the festive season is over.

You can either place your old Christmas cards, lights and wrapping paper from 26th December 2018 to 8th January 2019 in recycling boxes provided in Sainsbury's stores – the extended date for online customers is until 14th January 2019. If you are one of these, your cards, lights and wrapping paper can be collected by your delivery driver, making it even easier to support this initiative. They will be recycled by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). You will probably see the FSC logo on the back of at least one of your Christmas cards this year. The FSC label on a product is your guarantee that the wood or paper it contains is not the result of illegal logging or damaging forestry practices. As well as greeting cards, you can see the logo on forest-friendly wrapping paper, tissues,

books, furniture, kitchen utensils, wooden gifts and a whole variety of forest products. FSC certified Christmas cards are available from many other retailers both large and small. FSC UK is a registered charity dedicated to protecting the world's forests, and you can support this work by recycling your Christmas cards and wrapping paper at Sainsbury's.

Recycling paper results in less waste going to landfill sites and reduces the pressure of demand on forests worldwide. FSC UK has been chosen, once again, as Sainsbury's charity partner for their Christmas card recycling scheme and will benefit from a financial donation based on the weight of cards collected. The donation will be put toward their education and out-reach work to raise awareness of FSC and the importance of responsible forestry.

Any embellishments such as ribbons or glitter cannot be recycled so should be removed first by simply tearing off that section. Batteries should also be removed from musical cards and disposed of at battery recycling points. If you wish to donate locally, Ann Guy, who lives in Hopsfield (01258 837131), will gratefully receive them to make into Christmas cards to sell on for Macmillan Trust funds. Also, June Maitland upcycles hers into Christmas hats (see picture on page 23).

What to do with wrapping paper? North Dorset District Council (NDDC) will accept wrapping paper in their household recycling collection scheme, but be aware that the materials that go into making some wrapping paper result in it not always being accepted for recycling:

- Wrapping paper is often dyed, laminated and/or contains non-paper additives such as gold and silver coloured shapes, glitter, plastics etc which cannot be recycled
- Some wrapping paper is very thin and contains few good quality fibres for recycling
- A lot of wrapping paper has sticky tape attached to it which makes it very difficult to recycle.

Before recycling, remove any sticky tape and decorations such as ribbons and bows as these cannot be recycled. Wrapping paper can only be recycled if it passes the scrunch test – simple paper wrap can be recycled but foil or glitter-decorated paper cannot and needs to go in the general waste.

Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling

Over Christmas and New Year, your usual rubbish, recycling and food waste collection days will be different. The Friday 28th December collection will be on Monday 31st; Friday 4th January collection will be on Monday 7th and Friday 11th will be Saturday 12th.

Extra rubbish and recycling?

- The council will collect up to two extra sacks of rubbish beside your bin on your first rubbish collection after Boxing Day
- they will collect extra recycling that won't fit in your bin if placed in your own boxes, with glass kept in a separate box
- Household Recycling Centres are open from 10.00am to 4.00pm daily, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Garden waste collections over Christmas and New Year

The **Garden Waste service** is suspended over the Christmas and New Year period. The next Garden Waste collection in Milborne will be on Friday 11th January. The Dorset Waste Partnership no longer collects *real Christmas trees* at the kerbside. If you buy a real Christmas tree there are options for what to do once you've finished with it:

- if you have a garden waste collection, you can cut your real tree into small pieces and put it in your garden waste bin
- real Christmas trees can be taken to your local *Household Recycling Centre* and placed in the garden waste container for composting, free of charge.

Please note that the following local organisations are running Christmas tree collections to raise money for charity. Slots are limited, so please book early: Weldmar Hospice; Dorchester: Diverse Abilities; Blandford.

Residents are also being asked to consider more eco-friendly options such as home composting, or buying a rooted tree that can be kept in the garden until next year. Artificial Christmas trees will also not be collected by the (Dorset Waste Partnership) DWP. If you can't keep it to use again, please take your tree to your local Household Recycling Centre.

Continued on page 23

Carole Fornachon

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Small Businesses in MSA

Number 15: The Bespoke Furniture Maker

TUCKED away on busy working Rogers Hill Farm in Edwardian, 1910 renovated farm buildings is Simon Thomas Pirie Ltd. This self-proclaimed 'micro business' comprises seven people and has been there since 2007. Simon, whose first degree was in fine arts specialising in sculpture became attracted to 'all things wood'. Feeling unsure of his direction and then working in agriculture he heard a talk given by Roy Tam and David Colwell from Trannon, an award winning team of Royal College trained furniture designers based in Salisbury who make steam bent furniture. His design ethos was also influenced by a visit to Japan in 1992 as the aesthetic is one of pared down simplicity with a mix of the traditional and modern.



This was so influential that he undertook a twelve month John Makepeace course at Hooke Park College founded following the successful Parnham College course in Beaminster. Its radical vision has inspired a generation of craftspeople to work with native English woods using sustainable methods. He has

become one of the most successful of Makepeace's students who chose to stay and work in Dorset. He designs and makes beautiful

contemporary furniture for customers across the UK and further afield. Of the Hooke Park Course, Simon says it was an intensive 'monastic' year whose principle was to use low quality forest trimmings. He describes it as 'a



Forestry course with end products'. Other students there were doing architecture and other disciplines creating a 'vibrant ethos'. This was underwritten by Bournemouth University and whilst completing the course and attaining his Masters degree, he furnished the University's boardroom with tables, chairs and credenza, a live product that 'launched' him on his future career. He also taught furniture



design in the evenings! Bournemouth University became an important client until he set up his own business in 1998 at Slepe, based in dusty farm buildings. Whilst setting up and buying woodworking machinery he commented that this technology is more accessible and the investment is lower than that designed for plastic or metal. Simon describes having a 'pragmatic approach to design'. He can look at a tree and see an immediate link between product and environment. This he puts down to what he learnt at Hooke Park, that everything seems to link, to have a relationship and understanding. He can also 'play' with other materials, plastics, glass, steel. Surprisingly he states that wood is currently unfashionable despite its renewability as a material unlike stone for example. A shift in public opinion currently at an early stage. Customers come because their furniture looks a particular way. They have a strong aesthetic which either sits comfortably or not. They often do work for other architects and interior designers. His work is design

led. He describes it as a 'design studio that makes furniture'. They make outdoor pieces such as his floating benches made of scorched and scrubbed oak stocked by Liberty's of London, the 'floating' arm and back he says is a 'nice trick and makes you look twice' (to be seen in the Tudor Arcade, Dorchester), public art installations, kitchens, whole houses, a variety of pieces such as a ceremonial mace. Stools for the Learning Centre at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), furniture for the Watts Gallery, desks and folding tables for St Hughes' College, Oxford University (now their China Studies Centre), in Norfolk, a kitchen. More locally, Church gates at Affpuddle, the nave altar at Morden and other ecclesiastical products; a suite of bedroom furniture in Poole for clients of ten years' standing. He speaks of forming strong relationships with clients some of whom he has known for over twenty



years. They have become in his words 'ambassadors' for his work. Logistically to complete local stuff is easier he says so there is always a large percentage of such commissions.

Such is the volume of work he is about to build an extension to the workshops on land behind his current premises. This will double the size of the buildings and is a reflection of the amount of business undertaken despite lean and difficult times in the past. They still make the same amount of what he terms 'pure' furniture such as a chest of drawers. 70% of their business is now fitted furniture, media walls, libraries, kitchens. The latter three or four a year, each one three to four months work, depending on their size. They try to balance large and small projects by juggling the schedule. John Beaves has been his business partner and workshop manager a 'skilled cabinet maker and organiser for 17/18 years' together with Mike Smith, Tom Cornick, Bradley Rowland, Mike Clifton-Day also cabinet makers, who, together with Briget Pirie covering all office administration, form a unique synthesis of skills. Simon gets the work in conceptual design and, working with another new design partner, Boris Kan, they produce visualisations. Favoured wood is UK based timber such as sycamore, ash, walnut, oak. The latter he explains is the only really durable wood for outdoor pieces. They also use coloured veneers which are sliced to produce a 'mirrored' effect in the grain. Other techniques include 'fuming' and scorching which provides a natural weatherproofing as well as striking artistic effect for outdoor furniture. His aesthetic he explains, harking back to his earlier influences, is 'classic with a contemporary twist, quintessentially English'. When customers come to him he says they embark on a collaborative process with an essentially practical perspective, commenting "It's a lovely way to make a living". Simon is also very involved as Chair of Dorset Visual Arts and setting up Dorset Art Weeks also organising Dorset Art Trails reminding us that it was John Makepeace himself who started a similar event in Oxfordshire and suggested we run them here. They have won many awards latterly from the Design Industry magazine for their 'Bliss Kitchen', for them a prestigious award as they were chosen by their peers. He runs apprenticeship schemes and encourages those who are interested to go and talk to him as they are starting a new one next year.

If you wish to contact Simon his address is; Simon Thomas Pirie, Bespoke Furniture and Luxury Kitchens, The Courtyard Workshop, Rogers Hill Farm, Briantspuddle, Bere Regis, DT2 7HJ; telephone number is 01929 471900; Website: simonthomaspirie.co.uk; Email: mail@simonthomaspirie.co.uk *Carole Fornachon*

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018 and Act of Remembrance



11th November 2018 was a pivotal year being the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, which came into effect at 11.00hrs 11th November 1918. The whole country marked this event with Acts of Remembrance as we did here in Milborne St. Andrew. It was really good to see so many attend the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial Stone. I am told well over a hundred people were there to pay their respects.

I wish to thank the Revd. Sarah Hillman for leading the prayers and those that contributed on the day. As always it was sad that we are missing the likes of Tony Dyer, who died suddenly this year.

It was great to see so many organisations and individual family members lay wreaths this year to commemorate all those who died or were injured as a result of war. Thank you. Some 13 wreaths in total were laid.

Gren Elphinstone Davis provided the public address system, which considering the weather conditions was very kind of him. I hope it still works after it has dried out.

The Royal British Legion Poppy appeal this year was again supported by our local businesses and St. Andrew's Parish Church and I wish to thank them on behalf of the Legion. There was no house to house collection as I am unable to encourage volunteers to come forward in sufficient numbers to cover the village. However, the collection was as follows:

St. Andrew's Parish Church	£237.55
Grey's Store	£220.50
The Post Office	£153.74
The Royal Oak	£117.05
The Hambro Arms	<u>£39.87*</u>
Total	<u>£768.71</u>

*The Hambro Arms requested a Poppy box as one had not been supplied by their British Legion representative and I was able to oblige at short notice.

This is a magnificent amount for a small village and I wish to thank everyone who was able to contribute. You can be assured that the money goes to help the work of the Royal British Legion.

On a personal note it has been a privilege to organise the annual Poppy collection and Act of Remembrance since the death of Peter Vacher-Dow in 2014 but with the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War I have decided to step down from this task. I look forward to someone picking up the challenge and of course will help with advice and contacts where I can.

Thank you for your support.

Michael Hopper

Milborne Movies are showing The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

on Friday 18th January 2019

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

Doors and bar open at 7.00pm and film starts at 7.30pm

LONDON, 1946: Juliet (Lily James), a charismatic and free-spirited writer, receives a letter from a member of a mysterious literary club started in Nazi-occupied Guernsey. Her curiosity piqued, Juliet decides to visit the island. There she meets the delightfully eccentric members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. This is both an old-fashioned romance and a detective story, all set on the beautiful island of Guernsey, with a wonderful cast of actors led by Lily James.

Come and brighten up your January with us!

Do you have room in your heart and your home for a child? Could you offer stability for a young person needing short or long-term care?

A DORSET foster carer is using her experience to encourage people to do the same, after a sharp increase in the number of children needing care in the county.

Jo Thomson, 48, and her husband Mark have fostered seven children over the last four years, aged four to 16. She also hosts Dorset's Children in Care Awards, where foster parents, looked after children and care leavers are celebrated.

So she was the natural choice to be Fostering Engagement Officer in a new project for Dorset County Council, which needs to recruit many more foster carers directly to avoid high agency costs and meet a growing need.

Jo said: "My daughter Amy was 14 when we decided to foster. Mark has older children, however effectively Amy is an only child and we thought it would be good for her.

"Our first placement was a 10-year-old girl, who had appeared seemingly out of nowhere after having been home schooled outside the area and therefore not in the system. She had simply appeared at social services.

"The girl stayed with us for six months and, happily, was able to return to her family when their circumstances changed.

"This being the first placement, it was challenging for Amy, but we sat down and talked it through and we all decided to carry on. I'm so glad we did.

"Amy recently secured a job working with children and much of the interview focused on her experience of fostering. It's meant she has an understanding of kids from many different backgrounds. So it's been very positive.

"We decided to drop back to offering short breaks while Amy was doing her GCSEs, then we took on a girl from Weymouth, who ended up staying with us for six months before going back to her family.

"I now offer short breaks to fit in with work. One boy, aged eight, comes to us every four to six weeks and we have a teenage girl who comes every month or so for the weekend to give her long-term foster parents a break."

It's certainly a myth that you cannot work if you foster. Jo has run her own fitness classes, SlimDance, for nine years now, and she and Mark run another health and wellness business together. This is on top of their day jobs.

"All of our jobs fit in together and we still have time to foster," she says. "It's a great balance. It's said if you love your job you never work a day in your life and that's true for me – I love everything I do.

"My social worker is brilliant. We always talk things through with her before taking a placement to see if it's going to be suitable for us and for the child. The child usually visits first; we find out what they like to eat, what their routine is etc, beforehand.

"I know it can be traumatic for children going into a foster home, but in our experience they haven't been. It always amazes me, but they've just been very practical about it and come in, and settled. They have no expectations, and no fear.

"Fostering brings its challenges and frustrations. You are battling for that child, sometimes, making lots of phone calls trying to get them the help they need. The rewarding part is seeing their confidence grow, seeing them engaging with school more. One girl suffered from terrible night terrors when she arrived, but they lessened over time.

"Of course you get attached, but it's different to adoption. One of the most rewarding things is seeing a child ready for the next stage and moving on."

The demand for foster care in Dorset is growing. If you have a spare bedroom and are aged over 21, we'd love to hear from you. To find out more go to www.fosterindorset.com, or email fosteringenquiries@dorsetcc.gov.uk, or call 01305 225568.

Community Contacts

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

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

COUNCILS

North Dorset District Councillor	Emma Parker	01258 881631
	Jane Somper	077103 95359
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Sandra Sims	01258 837132
	Chair: Andrew Booth	01258 837284
Parish Council – Milborne St. Andrew	Clerk: Colin Hampton	01258 837011
	Chair: Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Floods A354 problems contact the Highways Agency		03001 235000
Dorset Direct		01305 221000
dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk www.dorsetforyou.com/reportroadproblems		
Environment Agency Floodline		03459 881188
South West Highways hello@swhitd.co.uk		01404 821500
Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline		03458 505959
MSA Flood Warden, Non-Emergency Only: Mark Johnson		01258 839060

GENERAL – ADULT

Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
Wednesday Social Club	Sheila Burton	01258 839033
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471732

GENERAL – YOUTH

Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scout Group (Secretary)	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Claire Tudge	07970 734162
Youth Club age 8 – 13 years	Joanne Miller	07940 017577

POLICE

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

SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Headteacher:	Sharon Hunt	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Matt Way	
Friends of School Chair:	Caroline Richards	

SPECIAL INTEREST

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Dog Training Behaviour	Natasja Lewis	01305 849221
Food and Wine Society	Julie Johannsen	01258 839004
MSA Allotment Society Chair:	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
Secretary:	Anna Cullen	01258 837143
MSA Gardening Club	Ann Guy	01258 837131
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
Tai Chi	Brian Burton	01258 839033
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

SPORT

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

Football – Under 14s

Manager/coach	Andy Brown	07427 503373
Treasurer	Simon Buckingham	01258 839122
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports & Social Club	Chairman: Richard Lock	01258 837929
	Bookings: Richard Lock	01258 837929
Tap Dancing for Adults	Kevin Selby	01305 250386
Tennis	Stephen Lang	07916 312452
Yoga (at school)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Saira Francis	01258 880505
Yoga (at village hall)	Sarah Ryan	01258 839230

VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish

Chair:	Bernie Cosgrove	01258 837152
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Pam Shults	01258 837203
Booking Secretary:	Alison Riddle	01258 837148

HEALTH

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



Milborne Movies

Friday 18th January
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

Supported by 

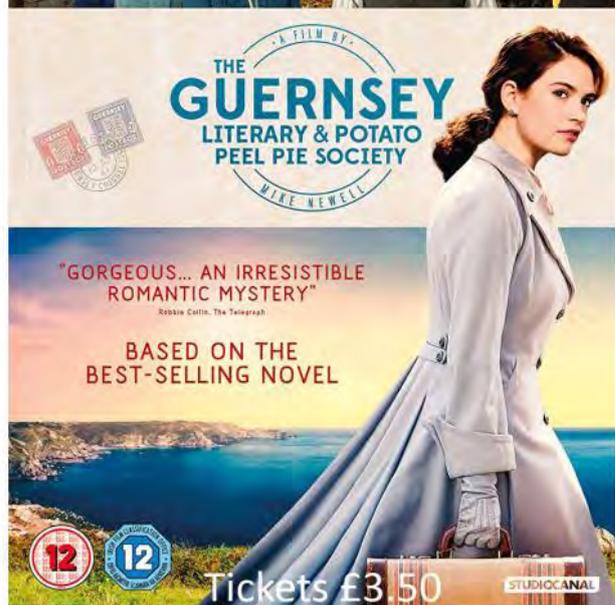


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Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

Community Events Diary

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

January

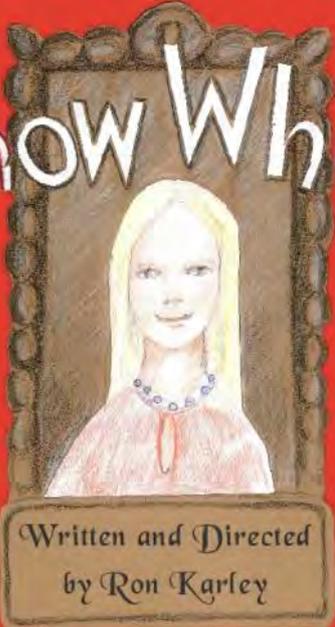
- Tuesday 8th** **Walking Football** recommences Village Hall MUGA 10.30pm.
- Wednesday 9th** **Wednesday Club** Christmas meal at The Frampton Arms 2.30pm – see page 00.
- Thursday 10th** **WI meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm.
- Monday 14th** **Village Lunch AGM** The Royal Oak 12.15pm
Everyone welcome
- Monday 14th** **Mid-day deadline for Reporter** Send copy and pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Reporter team. **Do not** send direct to the editor.
- Wednesday 16th** **Parish Council** Village Hall 7.30pm.
- Friday 18th** **Milborne Movies** *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie society* Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 15 and 16.
- Thursday 17th** **Gardening Club** presentation on orchids, given by Jocelyn Jenkins. Village Hall 7.30pm – see pages 25 and 30.
- Saturday 26th** **Village Lunch** Village Hall 12.15pm – see page 2 for menu.

February

- Friday 8th to Sunday 10th** **Snow White.** The Milborne Players Village Hall – see below and page 29.

The
Milborne Players
present

Snow White



Written and Directed
by Ron Karley

February 2019
8th, 9th, 10th at 7.30
Matinee 10th at 2.30
Tickets are £7 and available
from the box office 01258 839085
and the Milborne St Andrew Londis

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

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

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

Regular Bookings at the First School

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

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

- Tai Chi** Tuesday mornings 9.30 run by Geoffrey Bellinger. Local contact Brian Burton 839033.
- The Busy Bees** Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Claire Tudge on 07970 734162.
- Nightsabre Dog Training, Behaviour and Rally Group.** Tuesday mornings; Wednesday evenings; Saturday mornings. Contact details 01305 849221.
- Yoga** (Mellulah) Thursday (evening); Friday (mornings)
- Private parties, birthdays, wedding** receptions check online calendar.
- U14 Football matches** check online calendar
- Ladies Premiership** (regional) matches check online calendar
- Dorset FA** (gentlemen) matches check online calendar
- Check the Sports & Social online calendar on the village website for any other events you might be able to join in with.

Hey You! YEAH - YOU!!
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HELLO, sme again

our scrabble score may not add up to much but we are starting to make a BIG difference and we are looking for someone like you to help push things on even more

MSA Sports - Pitch up & Help



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New Year's Hope

Doing the Reverse Advent Calendar (see December Vicar's Letter) led me to some reflections on the resolutions we make at New Year.

Normally these would entail trying to do something that will improve us – lose weight, give up smoking, spend more time with our partner, get fit, learn a new skill and so on. All great things to do, and I have benefited greatly from my decision last year to lose weight, as many of you know (three stone off and counting!). I really couldn't let the "zero birthday" pass by without wanting to look Fab at Fifty!

Why is it, though, that we are much less likely to make resolutions that enhance the lives of others? We know about the difficult lives some lead, but it is all too easy as we go about our day-to-day business to push them out of mind. Setting aside something each day of Advent for the Food Bank made it much harder to do this, because each day I was faced with making the decision about what I could give that would enhance the life of someone else, in this case a person with a particular need.

I'm writing this letter in early December as that's what publication dates require, so I haven't quite got past Christmas to the New Year in my mind. However, I have decided that this year my New's Year's Resolution will be based not on doing something for me, but on expressing my care and concern for others in some way.

Generosity is one of the gifts God loves to see in the world. I hold dear the Bible verse which says "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9.7). Generosity springs from love. God's generosity to us arises out of God's love for the world. We have so much, although often we are slow to acknowledge that.

One of the best ways of becoming increasingly generous is to become increasingly grateful. As we acknowledge the good things in our lives, our hearts focus on what we have rather than what is missing. That is why some of the poorest Christians in the world are also able to be the most joyful and generous. I'm humbled when I hear them speak of gratitude for so little, and their willingness to share what they have, meagre though it be, with others. It seems that somehow the more we have in material terms, the more we take for granted, and the less willing we are to share.

Jesus commended the poor widow for giving her two small coins to the Temple treasury (Mark 12.41-44). In his eyes, she had given far more to God than the wealthy people who gave a great deal more in material terms but which they'd never miss. It's the spirit with which the gift is given that counts not the value in pounds and pence.

With best wishes

Sarah Hillman

Happy New Year from St. Andrew's church

WHAT a year it has been, I feel so blessed that our church continues to be used by many villagers. During the last year there has been the regular weekly services attended by faithful worshippers. As you will know we routinely have a variety of different services ranging from the very formal 1662 said Morning Prayers to the informal Celebrate services (which start with breakfast) and the Parish Communion services. However, we also have a variety of services for special occasions such as Easter, Christmas, Remembrance Sunday, Harvest, Healing and many others. Information about these is always advertised in the Reporter and on notice boards. Our lovely old church is also used as a venue for special services ranging from marriages, baptisms, funeral, Christingles, as well as the first school services (Easter, Harvest and Christmas). The church is also a great place to host talks, events and concerts, to which all are invited.

Christmas time is a very busy time of year in the church as in everybody's lives. Over the Advent season the church has hosted or organised many extra special services including Lessons and Carols by candlelight, Christingle, Midnight Communion, Christmas Day service as well as the regular services.

It is at this time of year, that those of us responsible for the organisation and running of the whole of this Christian church's provision, are so very thankful for all who support and help to maintain St. Andrew's church as a viable place of worship. This includes the priests Sarah and Rosie, the lay worship leaders, the Parochial Church Council members, those who volunteer to read lessons, deliver intercessions, help with communion, act as sides people, ring the bell, make the tea, decorate the interior (especially the flower arrangers), regularly

Church Services January

6th January – Epiphany

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Celebrate	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Dewlish
4.00pm	Messy Church	Milborne

13th January – Baptism of Christ

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

THURSDAY 17th January

12 noon	Lunch-time Communion	Puddletown
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20th January – Epiphany 3

9.30am	Family Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	1662 Morning Prayer	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

27th January – Epiphany 4

9.30am	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
9.30	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	1662 Morning Prayer	Puddletown
11.00	Family Communion	Dewlish

Morning Prayers (Monday – Thursday 8.15am Saturday 9.00am)

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

Church Contacts

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

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

or by telephone on 01305 849039



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.

clean the building, do the laundry, maintain the churchyards and many other tasks needed to support the ministry of the Word. To you all we say a great big THANK YOU.

As always, we welcome anyone who would like to join us in worship or who would like to volunteer to support the church in any other way. If you would like to talk to someone about how you can be involved contact me or Sarah Hillman (contact detail on page 18).

We wish you all a happy New Year and hope that you look forward to a new phase of your life in 2019.

Dewlish Church Notes

WE ARE most grateful to have received £258.10, which was donated in memory of the late Rodney Parsons. Thank you.

I am delighted to report that our Christmas Bazaar raised £640.48 for church funds. This included a splendid donation of £60 which was the profit from that morning's Community Coffee Morning. Thank you so much, Carole.

The sale was most enjoyable; stalls were weighed down with lovely items, and there were very warming refreshments on hand! A big thank-you to all our helpers, and to the people who made donations to the stalls and raffle, and monetary gifts. It was lovely to see so many there, including our friends from neighbouring villages.

Daphne Burg

Thanks to many for your support

ST. ANDREW'S Church Events Committee are so very grateful for all the support many of you have given in 2018. The events that the committee organised over the last year have been well attended including a talk about Tyneham, a craft fair, the Canzonetta concert, cream teas, a curry night, a handbell and singing concert, the annual themed meal event and of course the Christmas market. They have also run stalls at the Athelhampton Five Churches Fete. These events are designed to be an opportunity for social enjoyment as well as a way of fundraising for the church. Over the last year the events raised over £1,400 which helps to fund the running and to maintain the church, the building and the churchyards.

Thanks to those who regularly support these events which are open to all. But the biggest thanks go to the committee members who work so hard to plan and deliver the events giving so much of their time and freely donating their efforts, time and items such as cakes, raffle prizes etc. What a fab group.

Watch out for events which will be run in 2019 knowing that they should be good and that all are invited. Adverts will appear in the *Reporter*, on Facebook and posters around the village.



LETTERS to the Reporter

Thanks to Lloyd Fraser

Many thanks to Lloyd Fraser for once again supplying a Christmas tree, and to Peter and Shirley Jackson for decorating it. It was first put up at the school and then moved to St. Andrew's church after the end of term. It has been a lovely festive decoration that has been enjoyed by a large number of people, and we are all very grateful for the gift.

Pets' Corner

ROBBIE

ROBBIE (Robertson as in marmalade) is completely dark ginger with stripes and spots but no white at all. He came from the RSPCA at Kingston Maurward and is two and a half years old. He eats well and has filled out his large frame. The garden and close have been explored and



he has met up with two other cats, no trouble, just sorting territory. Robbie plays with several toys and scratching posts. His favourite is a bamboo ball with a bell inside which he chases round batting it about. He is mischievous and pulls books from the shelves and shoes from the wardrobe. In order to get me up in the morning he jumps on the bed

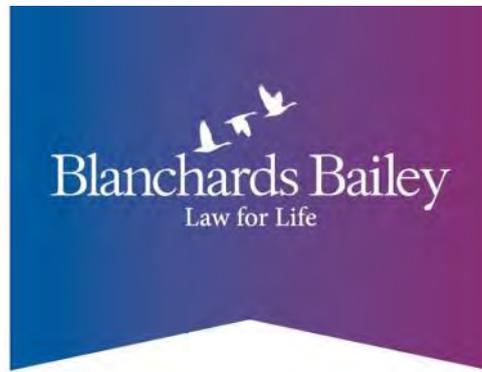


and kicks and then pushes things off the bedside and dressing tables. He likes to be up on something like window sills and bookcases. One quiet moment I found him on top of the lounge door! Default position is flat on his back asleep on the dog's bed or in the armchair. It is usual to find a pair of back feet against my head at night. He is one happy cat which has fallen on his paws after a tough time.

See Robbie in colour at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter. Do you have a pet to go into our **Pets' Corner**? Please send photographs and a little text telling us what they get up to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

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Village Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Village Lunch was held as usual in the village hall, forty diners attended. When the food arrived from The Royal Oak, Sarah Fox was thanked and presented with a bouquet and the kitchen staff were given chocolates to share.

The delicious lunch was eaten amidst great merriment, There was a very enjoyable raffle with the prizes being chosen after breaking a balloon with a number inside.

The committee was thanked by David Andrews.

Why not join us for village lunches on the last Saturday in each month!

Anyone wishing to attend the lunch must ring Josie Wright 839090 at least a week before – all are welcome.

The menu for the following month is usually printed on page two of this magazine.



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The Tears of a Clown

by Josie Wright

HALF an hour left, just the face to do and I'm ready. Either my eyesight's going or this mirror's too small; better get a bigger one for next time. Clowning's not what it was when we were young, eh Evie? They looked after you in those days.

I'll have to get some more of this white next week; the pot's nearly finished. Spread it round – grief, startled myself there. I look like the ghost of the old year. How I miss you Evie. Married 40 years ago today – would've been anyway.

Got to concentrate – get the mouth right – I must be getting old, look at all those wrinkles. Damn it – that's crooked – where's the cold cream, I've never botched it before.

That's better, you'd never know. My hand must've been shaking – it's this flaming pain in me arm, catches me now and then.

Reminds me of that night we met in the ring, Evie. You were like a little fairy, leaping and dancing on your pony. Clowns were doing some business with the old fire engine, spooked the horse and down you came, into my arms for ever. Or so I thought.

Stop snivelling, get a grip, those kiddies will be waiting.

Just the eyes to do – carefully does it – there we are – lovely.

'Urry up Charlie, only ten more minutes!'

'Coming.'

Cheeky little sod, no respect. Red nose and that's it – this damned arm's been aching on and off all day. Here we go! Bloody hell! Pain's shot right across me chest then, must sit down again for a minute, really took me breath away. Could do with a cup of your tea, Evie, you're the only one who ever made it just right.

Got to get moving – if I can just reach me jacket – that's it.

On with the show – end of the year tonight, end of . . .

'Charlie, you silly old bugger, you're on. Stop messing about, what yer lying there for?'

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Continued from
page 11.

Recycle your old Christmas cards



Old Christmas cards are cut into shapes with shears in themes, e.g robins joined together with staples folded and flattened! You could also make a Christmas tree made out of an old book!

Flogging dead horses is not a good idea

BY the time you read this we hope that your New Year's resolution will have been to react positively to the call for volunteers to help with the Sports Club survival plan.

As we speak there has not been the expected rush of volunteers to join our merry band so we continue to tread water rather than push things on developing the facilities into a well-being centre for the benefit of local community.

The so called "*debacle of the fibre optic*" continues with a plan to lay the cable before Christmas. Our (my) "wriggling" to keep the project alive as the situation changed during the Government grant application process rather than giving up and going home was viewed with suspicion and given as a reason not to support it and another councillor made his view known prior to the meeting with the following extract of his missive:

Dear Colin,

Thank you for the email regarding the Sports Club internet connection...

To then link this debacle with other grant applications by using the VAT element as a source of funding does make one think that Mr Lock has a very poor grasp of business and financial procedures.

Please feel free to read this as a contribution to the Agenda item as I will be in Stalbridge hopefully causing some discomfort at the DAPTC.

So there we have it along with another Councillor's comment at a formal meeting when I first joined the committee and told that "I was the best thing since sliced bread and if anyone can get things moving then I could" – only to be told by Malcolm two days later that the same councillor stopped him in the street with "I see that you have taken Richard Lock onto your committee, what for? He's nothing but trouble!"

Putting that backhanded support and the usual unsubstantiated derogatory comment to one side, what is for certain is that "carrying on as we are with the type of support that we are getting from the community and the Parish Council" is not going to be a viable option for much longer, nor is flogging a dead horse! So watch this space. If you see a sign "Under New Management" on the gates then things will be changing.

Anyway, to end on a more positive note we have applied for a Lottery grant to improve the facilities with: timed/PIR outside

lighting, hand driers, loft insulation, ball rebound netting, portable training floodlights for the U14s, CCTV for the building and storage facilities and improved walkways.

If we get it, "*good-o*". If not we know the price of things and can start to knock them off our to-do list.

We have also just heard that The Woodland Trust has accepted our application for a Community Tree Pack of some 140 saplings that will cover an area the size of a football pitch which will be delivered in March 2019... Steady on now!

Being mindful of the contents of an email that greeted me when I first joined the committee and my alleged *a very poor grasp of business and financial procedures* these saplings will be used to provide a native hedge alongside the pitch and the public footpath and we will continue to keep the Pavilion open for business.

EXTRACT of Email

Subject: Outstanding Football Foundation M&E survey – Chief Operating Officer Reminder

The deadline date for you to complete and return your M&E survey has now passed.

The terms and conditions of your grant award clearly states that your project is subject to monitoring and evaluation and that it is compulsory this information is made available to us.

Failure to complete your M&E survey by this date will result in this issue being escalated to the Football Foundation's CEO for his review; which could result in the Football Foundation initiating legal action to claw back the full value of our grant.

Main grant amount £256,927.

The information we collect is crucial in demonstrating the impact that our grant has had on your organisation's site; moreover, this information helps ensure that we receive future investment from our funding partners.

If you completed your survey today, please disregard this email.

So all this is us just treading water, paying half of the loan taken out by the Council to buy the land before the formation of the Sports Club AND to meet the Football Foundation terms and conditions so as to avoid a slight increase in council tax if the grant was clawed back!

Richard Lock



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The Changing Years

by John Wright

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

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

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

Things were tense at the concert. Philip arrived at the last moment so he had only a brief introduction to her parents and then sat next to them coughing and fidgeting, and he was clearly not able to sing the carols in tune.

Rebecca ushered her king to the manger when the time came for the gifts to be presented, but she hadn't anticipated his interest in her shawl. He was fascinated by the gold embroidery and gave it a huge tug telling the whole audience 'Here's some more gold for Jesus.' Rebecca hurriedly left the stage wearing an old pair of jeans and a T-shirt proclaiming

'Who loves you, Baby?' By the time she had finished back-stage Philip had already left.

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

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

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

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

They all felt that normality had returned the next weekend as Rebecca went back to university, Dad got ready to go back to work, and Mum put away the Christmas decorations ready for another year of keeping house.

'It'll all be better next Christmas,' thought Rebecca. It would certainly be different; no Christmas concert, no Philip, and no Granny.

Governors sought by Middle School



ST. MARY'S CE Middle School in Puddletown is looking to the local community in its search for governors to join the school. The school would benefit from people with a wide range of skills and experience. You may have experience of finance or legal affairs or human resources or overseeing projects; you may have a deep understanding of your local community. The many roles of a governor means that there are areas that can suit people of differing backgrounds and with a diverse array of skills.

The governors work as a team, in close co-operation with the Headteacher and all staff at the school, which is a part of the Greenwood Tree Academy Trust. Responsibilities of the governing team include ensuring the educational performance of the school is kept in check, making sure the school's budget is well spent and ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Anyone interested should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of the tenure. For further details you can visit the Diocese website: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/schools1/governors/>

To set up an informal chat with the Headteacher or a Governor please contact the clerk on 01305 849077 or email abonham@stmaryscemiddle.uk

Gardening Club news



JANUARY is the start of a new gardening year and

Club members think beyond the grey wintry days and dark evenings to the spring, planning the flowers, fruit and vegetables to be grown and enjoyed. There is so much to look forward to . . . would you like to join us?

Whether you are a seasoned gardener or a complete novice it's great to share your interest with like-minded people, to chat together, be encouraged and to learn from each other. The Club has a programme of events that starts on Thursday 17th January with a presentation on orchids, given by Jocelyn Jenkins.

Club meetings are held each month at the village hall. Annual club membership costs £11 and then members pay £1 when they come to a meeting, refreshments are included and there is a printed programme of events for you to keep. There are many advantages to being a member including outings, garden centre discounts, competitions etc. but if you would prefer to visit us at the village hall from time to time it's simply £2 at the door.

You simply won't find a friendlier bunch of people so do come and join us at the village hall on 17th January at 7.30pm. You will be most welcome.

Mark Johnson

Deadline for the February issue is mid-day Monday 14th January. Send your stories and pictures to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk.

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Hogmanay Haggis pie

A VARIATION of this recipe was published by Delia Smith in 2009, but I first came across the dish when visiting Scotland in 1974. The Scots are well known for being a frugal and thrifty race and this is a very good way of using up leftovers especially after a Burns supper or a St Andrew's Night supper when Haggis, neeps and tatties have been served. Also, it's one of those one-pot dishes that can be prepared well ahead and just heated up at the last minute, requiring no further accompaniment apart from Whisky sauce. If, like me, you hate the taste of whisky, just serve it with onion gravy as an alternative. It's ideal to serve at a New Year's Eve party.

On this first ever visit to the north of Scotland I found the local accent quite difficult to comprehend but also the different phrases used made it tricky to follow some conversations. Having come back from an afternoon shopping in Elgin I was asked "Did you get all the messages while you were doon the toon?" Of course, it was easy to work out "down the town" but I was thinking along the lines of telephone messages or telegrams and it took me a while to realise that messages = shopping. Then I was asked if I had time for "a wee fly cuppie" which translated into wee = little, fly = quick, cuppie = cup of tea.

The day after I arrived was Hogmanay and I was introduced to the ritual of first-footing. We visited nearly every house in the village which was showing a light in a downstairs room. It seemed very odd to me that we were knocking on the doors of complete strangers. Everyone was made welcome whether Sassenach or local and after sharing a good few drams we all seemed to be speaking the same language! The next morning my brother-in-law announced "ma heid's mince" and I knew instantly what he was talking about . . .

Test your knowledge of these Scottish words and phrases (answers at the end of this article):-

1. Lang may your lum reek
2. Haud yer weesht
3. Gie it laldy
4. Bahookey
5. Drooket
6. Skelp
7. Clype
8. Lyart
9. Mealie Jimmy
10. Meddum

Haggis pie recipe

Ingredients

Leftover cooked haggis (if making this dish from scratch then precook the haggis according to the instructions) if there isn't very much leftover haggis then mix it with a few chunks of cooked sausages
Mushrooms sliced and fried in butter
Mashed neeps (swede)
Mashed potatoes
Cheese for topping

Method

Grease an ovenproof dish and put a layer of haggis on the bottom
Add a layer of mushrooms
Add a layer of mashed neeps
Top with mashed potatoes and a good sprinkling of cheese
Bake in the oven at gas mark 6 / 200°C for around 45 minutes – 1 hour (depending on size) until the top is well browned and the food is piping hot right through.
Serve with whisky sauce or onion gravy.



A Scottish joke for New Year's Eve.

Nicola Sturgeon is being shown around an Edinburgh hospital. Towards the end of the visit, she is shown into a ward with a number of people with no obvious signs of injury or disease.

She goes to greet the first patient and the chap replies: "Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face, Great Chieftain o' the Puddin'-race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place, Painch, tripe, or thairm: Weel are ye wordy of a grace As lang's my arm."

Ms Sturgeon, being somewhat confused by this reply, goes to the next patient and greets her. The patient replies: "Some hae meat, and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it, but we hae meat and can eat, and sae the Lord be thankit."

Then the third patient starts rattling off: "Wee sleekeit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie, O, what a panic's in thy breastie! Thou need na start awa sae hasty, wi bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an chase thee, wi murdering pattle!"

Nicola Sturgeon turns to the doctor and asks: "Is this the mental ward?"

"No" the doctor replies, "It's the Burns unit."

Answers

Lang may your lum reek = long may your chimney smoke (wishing someone a long and healthy life)
Haud yer weesht = shut up, keep quiet
Gie it laldy = give it maximum effort
Bahookey = bottom, backside
Drooket = drenched
Skelp = beat, hit
Clype = telltale
Lyart = streaked with white (grey, grizzled)
Mealie Jimmy = White pudding
Meddum = a tickling in the nose denoting that a visitor is expected

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Gold for walking guide Martin

YEARS of hard work and a passion for our local coastline have paid off for Milborne's Martin Curtis, who has won gold at Dorset Tourism's recent awards ceremony. Jurassic Coast Guides, Martin's walking and fossil tour company, won top place in the Guided Tour of the Year category at the Tourism Awards' black tie event at Poole Lighthouse in November. And, if being recognised by the county's awards body wasn't enough, he was also judged Highly Commended by South West England Tourism Excellence Awards soon after. Martin said, "I didn't expect to win gold – it still hasn't sunk in yet, but it's great to be recognised for my hard work".



Martin and Clare at the awards evening

Jurassic Coast Guides offers the best of our stunning coast, with informative fossil walks on Charmouth beach and longer guided walks on the Jurassic Coast path. His business was assessed by Dorset Tourism in part by a 'mystery shopper'; a judge booked his services incognito and noted and marked Martin's performance on every aspect, from his marketing and the booking process to the service itself. Jurassic Coast Guides scored highly in every category, judged to be very professional yet giving a personalised and friendly guided walk. Martin's level of training was noted – he is a Mountain Leader, among other qualifications – with this being far in excess of any competitors in the field. The mystery shopper said they had not really been interested in fossils beforehand, but after being on the beach with Martin showing how to spot and recognise different specimens, the judge was fascinated. In the 'Customer Service' section, the comment, "Absolutely excellent. Really knows the coastline and his fossils" was made. High praise indeed!

Martin does know the Dorset coastline inside out, having been brought up close by and, as a child, spending many weekends poking about in rockpools or walking the challenging but stunning coast path – something his father had done as a boy with Martin's grandfather before him. This rich pedigree has made Martin who he is now; passionate about his coast, with expertise to match. On social media he uses the hashtag #theboyfromthecoast, which pithily tells the story of his background and authenticity, something impossible to contrive. That boy is now passing on his enthusiasm for the coast to visitors as an award-winning professional guide. Martin said, "This award offers me great opportunities for the year ahead working on the Jurassic Coast. Dorset is key within the UK tourism trade, so it's great to be a part of it and I feel fortunate to work in such an amazing location".

Ed Richards

Have you something to share?

Send your stories and pictures to
msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

THE MILBORNE PLAYERS' SNOW WHITE PANTOMIME'S A COMING

By the time this issue has dropped through your letter boxes, folks, the Coke lorry will be on its way back into hibernation for another year but look what you have to look forward to! From the pen of the author himself, Ron Karley:

As the 'dame' makes an undignified entrance in a bottomless sedan chair, you'll know that it's panto time again. Laughs abound in our production of Snow White, which, even with many unexpected innovations, somehow manages to keep more or less to the traditional story. It's been great fun to rehearse and prepare this family show, and now it's your turn to enjoy it all.

Find out what happens when Snow White tries to cook a dinner, and when the whole cast gets lost down a diamond mine. And above all, shout and boo at the ultimate baddie, our dreadful Queen!

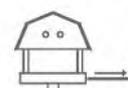
Caroline Nobbs, for the Milborne Players

Village Hall latest news

We were pleased to welcome our President Eric Crichton to our last committee meeting. We continue to try to change our status to a CIO but the usual amount of red tape is slowing proceedings. We have had a tree report done and the only one that needs removing is a "weed" tree that is growing on the boundary with Fairfield. Another visit to inspect the kitchen from environmental health resulted in a good report so nothing needs doing. The new fire doors are being problematic as they are too easy to open and not locking properly! Hopefully the company can rectify this.

The next film night is Friday 18th January and we will be showing The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.

Hope that you liked the hall decorated for Christmas and the committee wish everyone best wishes for 2019. *Linda Wright*



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This Month

at the MILBORNE ST ANDREW GARDENING CLUB



ALL ABOUT

Orchids

WHEN

THURSDAY
17th January



Refreshments

VENUE

The Village Hall—7.30pm



Open to All — everyone is welcome

Entry: £2 non members

THEN . . .



Then and Now What's striking about this month's location is how the road was used; what is now just a thoroughfare was previously a market and meeting place. Notice also how the road level has risen by the height of the wall piers far right.

. . . and NOW



THE ROYAL OAK



A family friendly traditional village pub in Milborne St. Andrew

Andrew and Sarah Fox welcome you to their family run freehouse in the heart of Dorset. Situated on the A354 between the towns of Dorchester and Blandford Forum, found in the traditional Dorset village of Milborne St. Andrew. Offering a delicious range of food and drink in a welcoming atmosphere.

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY



Thursday 10th
Curry Night
£10.95 per head



Thursday 31st
Pie Night
£10.95 per head



CARVERY EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY

12 noon to 2.30pm

£8.95 (Friday only)

From 6.00pm

£10.95

Smaller appetite

£8.95

Children

£5.95

All day Sunday

£10.95

Booking recommended

Dorchester Hill, Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset DT11 0JG
Visit www.theroyaloakmilborne.co.uk
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TO BOOK CALL
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