



Milborne St. Andrew

Reporte^r

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News and Views from around the area

Volume 11 Issue 7 July 2019

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

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

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

Paper copy to any of the team



PLAYERS PRODUCTION – A WORK OF IMPROBABLE FICTION

In the words of the Bard himself, "If this were played upon a stage now, I could condemn it as improbable fiction" – Twelfth Night, Act III, scene IV" and Alan Ayckbourn got that right when writing this play and so appropriately giving it the title "Improbable Fiction". Did anyone really know what they were in for when they sat in the audience?! In fact, did the cast, when they took on their roles?! Six would-be writers meeting to discuss their common interest – writing. The suggestion of a collaboration and off we go every genre brought to life. It had to be seen to be believed with multiple costume changes starting in current day then spanning Victorian, late Edwardian, modern day, sci fi, then "a goblin and squirrel called Sid . . . it can only be a work of fiction can't it?" The whole cast turned out sound performances under the direction of Jo Coetzee in her first directing role for the Players supported by our production crew. Jo has been involved in the group for a number of years starting out as a young performer in panto, which she has always loved but as the years have moved on she has taken a number of roles in plays. She tells me she has enjoyed the challenge of this new role and would do it again!! So, anyway, if you didn't come along to see this play you have missed a treat. Congratulations to the cast and crew, to "Sir Alan" on his 80th birthday and on a script which has been enlightening and challenging to bring to our local community.

Caroline Nobbs – Production Manager





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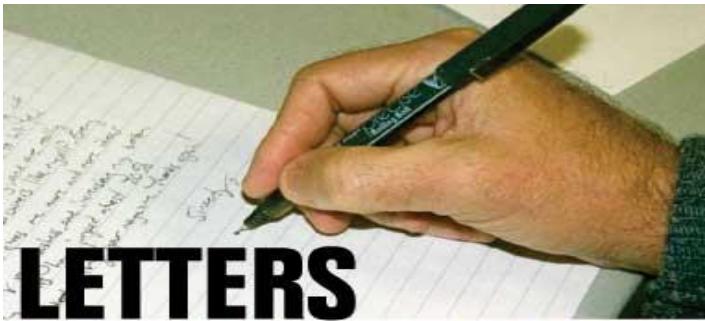
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LETTERS to the Reporter

Thank you

Thank you to those who have cleared the Church path and the path by the old allotments, it is really appreciated by us as dog walkers and I expect many others who have occasion to walk along them.

Chris and Angie Nowell

Is it me? I hope not!

2012 was a good year for the Sports Club in Reporter terms – we made it on to the front page twice that year and the last time was October 2012. Since then there has been plenty of lambs a-leaping; birds a-tweeting; flowers a-blooming and everyone else getting a fair share, some more than others, but nothing about or promoting the sports club!

So it does beg the question “Is it me or is there a bias against the Sports Club when it comes to the front page promotion of the News & Views from around the area?”

Maybe it is not a bias but more a case of preferential treatment! Whatever might be said in response to this the facts represented by the pictures on the ‘Archives of previous issues’ section on the village website speak volumes and makes my case. Come on team, a bit of fair play towards the Sports Club please. We are doing our best to be part of the community, honest.

Richard Lock

The Reporter replies:

We have said before that material for the front page of the Reporter is discussed and finalised at our monthly meeting at the beginning of each month. While the general closing date is the 14th of the month, material that needs a lot of preparation such as the front page needs to be sent in a week before that – or earlier. If you feel that the Reporter is not covering your activity, please send us your photos and articles to print – we can't do it without your input!



Graffiti spree around village

A HISTORIC gatepost, garden wall and signs were vandalised with graffiti recently by, it seems, the same perpetrator. The vandal's 'tag' and other wording were sprayed marking a route along The Causeway into Chapel Street and The Grove. Some time before, signs and pitchside shelters at the Sports Pavilion were also marked with the same tags. The graffiti has since been cleaned up or painted over.



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Hedgehogs and Orchids

HOORAY! After a long time we have an occasional visit from a large hedgehog of unknown sex. We have been putting out food in our cat resistant box with a movement sensitive camera and then last week we had four visits around midnight and 1.00am. We also had a visit recorded on the camera of a cat who after a sniff round and found it was unable to access the food moved away, frustrated. We have not had a visit this week but we are still hopeful. I am hoping to get some more positive reports from anyone else in the village. I know of a regular visit of four to a garden in Pimperne.



On another thought, it seems a particularly good year for orchids although I have not had a proper look within this parish for any. However, on the verge of the A35 at the layby just west of Bere Regis I counted some three hundred Pyramidal Orchids (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*). There have also been six Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*) on the verge by the Rogers Hill turning off the Briantspuddle road. I am hoping the Common Spotted Orchids (*Dactylorhiza hybrid*) will still be present near the footpath from the 'Beeches' towards the south of Milborne Wood.

Pip Bowell



Feel like a couch potato ??!!

WHY not join our small group to have a go at walking football, no skill required only enthusiasm!

We need another few folks to make up our teams, currently we can only have a kick around. Every Tuesday morning one hour session from 10.30am on the Village Hall playing fields.

Good fun and time to put the world to rights during the break! If you need details please phone me 01258837543.

See you there!

Chris Nowell

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A Good Read: The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry

I BELIEVE this is a book which the reader can tailor to their own interpretation. It can be whatever strikes an answering chord. Set in the 19th century it is, as one critic wrote, 'a novel of ideas' a chronicle of change, of people and their environment on the edge. Its link with Dorset's Mary Anning is the inspiration for the main character, Cora Seaborne, a liberated London based widow's (tellingly, after her abusive husband's death, we are told "it was the dog that whined") interest in paleontology. Colchester, where the marsh meets the land is embodied in the novel as Aldwinter more mud than water! It symbolises the tapering of civilisation when there was an urgent dialectic of faith, faith versus science and fact. Cora and her verbal adversary, Will Ransome, a muscular pastor, engage in lively and sometimes darkly passionate discussions on these issues. She, freed from a controlling marriage, he with a beautiful but ailing and increasingly disengaged wife, Stella. Weaving around all the characters both major and minor are ritualism, magic and superstition. The sexual symbol of the serpent moils and coils in the background. Belief in this winged monster has been revived since its first sighting in 1669. It causes outbreaks of madness and hostile confrontation throughout this 'darkly comic' tale. As the author says of her invention "HE sent the serpent into Eden's beflowered garden" causing collateral damage. There is an upswelling of individual and collective guilt against a background of enchantment. The locals with their sightings, unexplained deaths, mirages and visitations. Throughout runs Will and Cora's dialogue each giving reasonable and respectful consideration to the other until an experiment with hypnotism breaks the spell. The children, both local and imported from London, seem to be touched by this strangeness. There are Dickensian supportive characters and contemporary issues both medical and political. Hints of lesbianism, disability and cross dressing. Francis, Cora's son, a child we would now consider to be on the autistic spectrum, collects objects, his mother, people. One of the latter, Martha spans the class, sex and education divides. Poor housing, sickness, drug abuse and alcoholism all feature along with other, important characters such as Charles Ambrose a wealthy M.P., Luke Garrett, a surgeon wishing to push the boundaries



of medical intervention, fixated on the possibility of replacing an aortic valve. He, it is, who outlines one of the other themes in the book "take jasmine...the scent is so sweet that it's both pleasant and unpleasant, people recoil and go nearer, they're not sure whether to be disgusted or seduced. If only we could acknowledge pain and pleasure not as opposite poles but all of a piece, we might at last understand . . .". Even the names have early 17th century resonances. The World's End, home to an earwig ridden, mossy mole catcher, Cracknell, and Traitor's Oak, with connections to the Civil War.

There is so much in this book to give food for thought, to stimulate the imagination. Just the companion for the upcoming summer months' fossil hunting on Dorset beaches.

Carole Fornachon

A date for your diary

On Saturday 28th September, the **Village quiz** takes place in the village hall – so time to get your team together to take part.



THE VICAR'S LETTER

During Sarah's sabbatical we are using the Vicar's letter which is provided by the Parish Pump editorial team. This month The Revd Paul Hardingham considers the benefit of a holiday.

Some porters were hired to carry a group's possessions on a trip through the jungle. The pace quickly increased until the head porter called a halt: 'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'

How often do we feel like this? July is a month when many of us take a break. Jesus and his disciples often took time to withdraw from the crowds: 'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed his disciples were and wanted to give them a break from their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday or taking time off gives us an opportunity of letting go the burdens of everyday life and renewing our rest in him. This enables us to entrust Jesus with our issues and concerns, as we take time aside and declare a holy day or holiday!

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, 'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'. John replied, 'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'



Sunshine and fun for St. Andrew's church

IT seems strange not having Sarah, our vicar, with us but we seem to be coping thanks to all the plans and arrangements that she made before she went off on her sabbatical. Although we miss her, we are managing to continue holding services as usual. Rosie Coldwell has been taking our Parish Communion services while the team continue with their Celebrate service and the lay service leaders deliver the 1662 Said Morning Prayers. The service rota is always displayed in the church's noticeboards.

This month seems to have rushed past and now summer is suddenly here and Easter season has finished. A couple of St. Andrew's regulars joined the Ascension morning service on the top hill behind Dewlish for a simple open-air service. Although we had to start a little late, as several of us were held up whilst the dairy cows crossed the road to the milking parlour, God blessed us with a beautiful sunny clear morning which made the service that much more moving.

It was our turn to host the monthly Messy Church family event in May. The theme was the persistent widow and the judge. There were a variety of workstations for the children which were focused on perseverance. These included running marbles down tubes again and again, persisting to do difficult things like tying a ribbon on a box, thinking of injustices round the world, making placards to demonstrate unfairness, and so on. At the end of this section the story was read by one of the team while some children acted the parts and those who had made placards marched them around adding to the effect of protest. At the end of the session everyone tucked into sausages or fish fingers and chips followed by fruit and fairy cakes. The June session was held in Puddletown church, the theme of this month was Dazzling Disciples; the activities included bread making, rocket disciples, stargazing, decorated stars, etc, the food was sausages in a bun with salad and crisps followed by cakes and fruit. Another successful Messy Church.

I did have an unusual challenge in May. For the last five years, as our old pipe organ is no longer fit for purpose, we have been using an electronic keyboard. However, our organist reported that one of the keys was not working so it had to go for repair. Luckily Harmony Music in Dorchester was able to repair it so we now have a fully working machine again but it did take a while to sort out.

We continue to act out Open the Book stories in our first school; the children do seem to enjoy watching the 'players' act out the story as it is read by the narrator. It is so lovely to see the little ones' engrossed faces. If anyone is interested in knowing more about Open the

Church Services

July 2019

Saturday 6th July

1.30pm Marriage of Timothy Dennis and Janet Ranger Puddletown

7th July – Trinity 3

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------------|
| 9.30am | Parish Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Celebrate ... | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Puddletown |
| 11.00 | 1662 Morning Prayer | Dewlish |
| 4.00pm | Messy Church | Village Hall |

14th July – Trinity 4

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

THURSDAY 18th July

12noon Holy Communion Puddletown
Church Room

21st July – Trinity 5

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 9.30am | 1662 Said Morning Prayer | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Martyrs' Festival Songs of Praise | Tolpuddle |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Puddletown |
| 11.00 | Family Service | Dewlish |

Saturday 27th July

3.00pm Marriage of Andrew Brown and Michelle Hamon Puddletown

28th July – Trinity 6

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

Morning Prayers (Monday to Saturday)

There will be no morning prayers at Puddletown, Dewlish and Tolpuddle until 7th August. Prayers will continue at Milborne on Tuesdays at 8.15am

Church Contacts

Rev Rosie Coldwell
01258 839214

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew
Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466
Sue Britton 01258 837218

Benefice Office

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puddletownbenefice@outlook.com
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Book and what we do, then please get in touch. We always need new storytellers so do think about joining us and find out more about what we do and how you can help. *Pam Shults Churchwarden*

Dewlish Church Notes

WE ARE most grateful to Dewlish Parish Council for their donation of £200 towards the repair of the church window. At present, all the glass has been removed and taken away for re-assembling so I hope that by the time I write these notes again the work on the window will have been completed. We have also received other donations, for which we are most grateful.

After all the hard work preparing for our Open Gardens event, we are hoping for a quiet July! On Sunday 21st July we shall be holding our **Annual Pet Service** at 11.00am. Please do come along, with or without a pet. It's a joy to celebrate the love and companionship that a pet can give.

Daphne Burg

Another great Cream Tea afternoon

ONCE again Sue, at Heathcote House, did us proud by allowing St. Andrew's church's Events Committee to hold a Cream Tea Event in her beautiful garden. Although we thought that it might not be such a nice afternoon, the weather was brilliant sunshine and was so hot that a few people retired to the indoor lounge. The team worked well, having made dozens of scones prior to the event, they prepared them and provided cups of tea (or coffee) to the people who came to support this annual event. Thanks to all who came and those who bought raffle tickets, a profit of just over £200 was made which will help with the costs of supporting and maintaining our village's lovely old church.

The next event will be Curry@Eva's on Thursday 4th July at 6.00p.m. Watch out for the posters and buy your tickets in time as they sell out fast and it is worth coming to.

A date for your diary

Village quiz – Saturday September 28th

To be held in the village hall.

So start getting your teams together.

Reporter Team on Holiday

The Reporter Team will be taking a holiday in August. This means that the next issue will be a joint issue and be published at the end of July.

Deadline for ads and copy for August/September – 14th July.



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.



MSA Food & Wine Club celebrates Dorset Day

SATURDAY 1st June was Dorset Day (the feast day of Saint Wite) and 38 members of the MSA Food & Wine Club celebrated the event with a 3-course meal featuring Dorset fare and a quiz in the Village Hall decked out with Dorset flag bunting.

The evening started with a welcome Prosecco-based drink or two before moving on to fine, tasty home-made Dorset dishes including Blue Vinney and Roasted Cherry Tomato tartlet,

Venison and Hopping Hare pie, Portland Pudding and 3 varieties of Dorset Apple Cake - all prepared by the committee and club members.



Various wines, beers and soft drinks were available at the cash bar and everyone was in a very affable frame of mind when it came to completing the competitive mind-bending quiz questions. A very good evening was had by all.

The Club runs a variety of events throughout the year, some local and some restaurant based, some at lunchtime and some in the evening. If anyone is interested in joining the Club

please contact the MSA Food & Wine Club at
msa.foodandwineclub@gmail.com

Julie Johannsen

14th Leigh Food Fair & vintage/classic car/bike display

Saturday 20th July – Leigh village hall, DT9 6HL
10.00am – 4.00pm

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A variety of interesting vintage/classic cars and motorbikes will be on display.

Barbecued Hamburgers and Sausages, Refreshments, Ice cream, Beer and Cider will be here! Entertainment includes children's activities.

This is proving to be a very successful show, AND will, of course, be in our amazing Village Hall. Please spread the word to your friends and relations – it really is a day NOT to be missed.

Proceeds go to Leigh Village Hall, Hidden Needs Trust, St. Andrew's Church, Leigh and other charities.

Adults £2, children under 15 Free

It will be opened by Richard Bromell, Director of Charterhouse Auctioneers

Contact Elizabeth Turnbull for more information on 01935 873846 or elizabethturnbull70@btinternet.com
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Superhero dads and gingerbread men at Ladybirds

Continuing with our theme of traditional stories this month our book has been The Gingerbread Man. Lots of activities have been included to incorporate learning targets for the children. Much concentration was needed to cut out little shapes to colour and match to those of the Gingerbread Man. Of course the children learnt the song of 'run, run as fast as you can ...' and retold the story using the farm characters and props. The story telling was extended with the book 'Gingerbread Man 2' where the old fox came good by becoming a master baker making gingerbread for the children. And you probably guessed it we baked gingerbread men, which were

delicious! Not so much the mess created outside with flour, water and ginger powder where the children 'made' pretend gingerbread men. Good job it rained and washed away their mixture.

We couldn't miss making cards for dads (or grandads where appropriate) for Father's Day. The interest of lots of the children is still superheroes so we used this as the picture - a handprint turned super hero with mask and poem insert.

Thank you to all who walked up to see us in our woodland base during the Open Farm day. It was lovely to see you and show off some of our activities there.

Liz Dyer



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Liz Dyer (Leader) on 01258 839117;

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Committee on secretary@milborneladybirds.com



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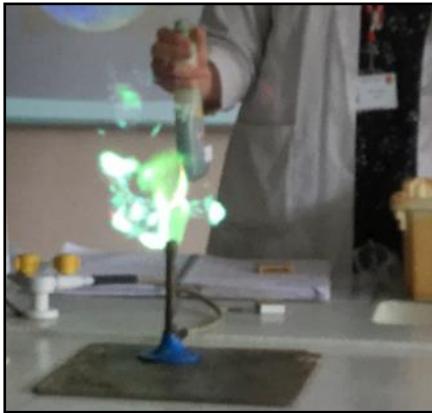
Learning together and having fun



SCHOOL NEWS

To Infinity and Beyond ...

This term, Seahorse class has been learning all about space! We kick started this with a visit to Thomas Hardy School where we investigated the science of space. We discovered the power of a rocket as we blast off with our very own home-made version, worked out which planet we had landed on by watching the colours of the flame, waited for our space shuttle to 'pop' and made alien slime! What a fun-filled day!



Our Year 3 children attended an Athletics Festival which was held at St Mary's Middle School where they met with three other G.T.A.T. schools. The children did several different bases which included running, jumping and throwing activities. They were awarded points for each activity and Mr Daily was going to add up the points to find out the winning school and Year 3 boy and girl. A great morning was had by all and thank you to the Year 8 young leaders who helped run the activities.



In February our Year 1 class planted and grew broad beans and peas. We have also grown and eaten our lettuces. We are now looking after the tomatoes, squash, spring onions, parsley, new potatoes, red and yellow beetroot and radishes which are all growing well. Yum yum!



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

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Saturday 10am - Noon
Sunday 8am - 9am



We need Lifeguards
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For further information about membership or what is involved in becoming a Lifeguard come along to one of our sessions at the Pool, Milton Abbey School or contact us by telephone or email.

Call: 01258 881443 - Lynn or 881524 - Stephen or 880601 - Pat
Email: lynntargett47@gmail.com

Sports Club under New Management

IT is only a question of time maybe and I suspect 2019/20 could be a defining year unless we get more help!!

We need more volunteers to join our team. Good job I included the magic words "maybe" and "could be" because we are starting to make a difference and are getting good feedback along the way, the most recent being:

Thanks Richard. Keys are back in your box. Isabelle had a fabulous 5th birthday party, and those that didn't come to her party there last year, couldn't believe how lovely the venue was. I told them we camp there and they thought it was a fabulous idea!

I love the new coloured walls and definitely love the mirrors!"

"Making a difference" was a strap line I adopted when we were making major changes and improvements to the Village Hall during



organised dog and puppy training classes and we still manage to provide excellent football facilities. The recent Dorset FA Cup finals and the Bankes Charity Cup finals being cases in point.

Large Charity Funday events figure large on our calendar and these include Quinfest on the 6th July and the Four Churches Fete on August Bank Holiday which was previously held at Athlehampton House. We also have two local wedding receptions booked in requiring a large marquee and a whole string of birthday parties for all ages. They all love the facilities, the view and the intimacy of the space ...and the price!

On the football or pitch front, the lower pitch has been brought up to full size status and the new full size goal posts are ready to be sorted so we now have two. This brings with it extra workload both in pitch maintenance and also the post-match cleaning of the changing rooms and Pavilion from what some might call the "heavy use" with lots of mud and sticking plasters around.

BREAKING NEWS!

Something we have been planning and dreaming of achieving

Milborne now has a gents team registered to play in the Dorset League and they will be using us as their home venue alongside Milborne Youth team coached by Andy Brown, Poole Town Ladies who play in the SW Premier division, Portland town and Poole Town Under 18s. Want to know more contact Kelvin 07740383911.

So plenty for us to be getting on with and plenty of opportunities for boys and girls to progress to the highest levels of the game and maybe eventually to represent their country.

However and unfortunately the Sports & Social Club currently operates as a team of three and that is a challenging knife edge place to be. This is okay as it makes the decision making chain pretty short but there is absolutely no room for anything (one) less.

If you didn't already know, Malcolm, our groundsman extraordinaire has broken his leg and will be out of action and banned from his mower for at least six weeks. This is a critical time in the pitch preparation time particularly as we have just applied quite a lot of the weed control/grass fertiliser stuff

(£1,006 worth along with £750 for the verti-draining).

This was purchased at a time when we only had about £4.5k in the bank as our rainy day and operating fund, so in a word (or two) scary seat of the pants stuff!

We have put in place some emergency (interim) measures and people from outside the village are providing us with some limited pitch maintenance support because the teams are now pressing us for pre-season friendlies and training. So we do need a more long term solution because the big elephant in the room is:

"What if it was a permanent inability to help or continue by any member of the existing team?"

A cunning plan to avoid closure of the sports site

Our objective is to get more people, of any age, to come and join the team and make a positive contribution to this very important community asset. We have been running an advert to this effect for several months but have no takers as of yet!

Perhaps people have been listening too much to the "Fake News" that abounds from the gossiping classes and have been frightened off from helping. If you are worried about what to expect all of our users tell us a very different story, one of a relaxed, friendly but 'let's get things done' attitude, where everyone's views and contributions are welcomed and taken on board, if possible. We are always ready to listen and are not scared to try and make things happen or to fail.

What has been encouraging is the large number of people who have answered our call to assist us with the car parking arrangements at the Milton Abbey Street Fair on 27th July. We are the co-ordinators of the car parking and it only requires a two hour stint... Interested?

If you are worried about committing large amounts of time attending meetings ... Don't. We are a "can-do - get on and do it" bunch as meetings tend to be the place where people go to say no to everything". We communicate in other ways using all available means at our disposal.



The Sports Club is no longer the millstone that it was, it is not smelly and is becoming well loved and well used as a well-being centre. So from Sept 2016 with £250 in the Bank, monthly outgoings of over £400 and an £1,800 utility bill debt, we are now debt free, have done a lot to enhance the facilities and reduce our regular bills and have over £5,000 in the Bank and a very supportive client base. Not forgetting the Fibre Optic broadband at £1 per month

Your help and involvement can take whatever form it likes, helping with the cleaning, booking, decoration, match day refreshments, treasurer, grounds maintenance, advice, marketing ... whatever.

The bottom line (ish)

It would be a terrible day if under the terms of our lease, we had to hand over the keys to the Parish Council and walk away and let them get on with the show ...so just get in touch and make a BIG contribution to making a difference too!!

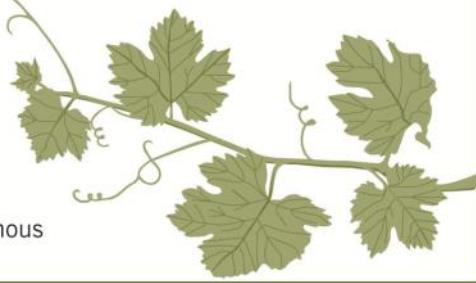
Richard Lock

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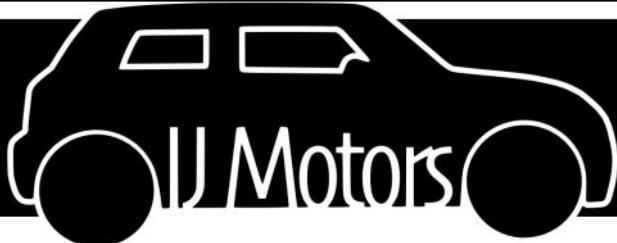
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Milton Abbas Surgery

Staying Safe in the Sun

IN the past 10 years, skin cancer rates in the UK have increased by 59% in men and 36% in women. Men who spend long periods of time outdoors are being urged to protect themselves against the sun this summer amid a rise in the number of people being diagnosed with skin cancer in the south of England. Farmers, builders, sportsmen and gardeners are all being targeted to, "Cover Up, Mate" because of their prolonged exposure to the sun – men are a particular focus because research indicates that they are much less likely than women to slap on the sunscreen.

National Farmers Union South West Regional Board Chairman, James Small, said: "Working in the rough, tough world of farming, we often want to brush things off and just get on with the job, but there are times when that kind of resilience can come back and bite you and this is one of those. We owe it to ourselves and our families to take the risk of skin cancer seriously and above all if we are bothered by something to not dismiss it, but get it checked out."

Top sun safe tips include:

- Use at least factor 15 sunscreen in the sun and use plenty of it
- Apply sunscreen to all exposed skin – don't forget your neck and ears and your head if you have thinning or no hair
- Wear sunglasses and a hat
- Take particular care if have fair skin, moles or freckles, red or fair hair, or light-coloured eyes.

Gillian Brindle Business Manager

Deadline for the August/September Reporter is mid-day Sunday 14th July.



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June's Parish Council report

LAST month's PC meeting began with a plea from the floor for the meeting dates to be publicised more to reach a wider village audience. The resident noted that the previous *Reporter* had stated that few members of the public had turned out for the Annual Parish Meeting in May. He suggested that the forthcoming meeting dates could be published in this magazine to encourage more villagers to attend. Point taken!

Councillors discussed an email from the Sports Club which warned that the facility may need to be passed back to the Parish Council since the current committee has vacancies, with others possibly stepping down, and emergency measures in place to cover Malcolm, the groundsman, who has a broken leg. Chairman, Richard Lock, suggested that the Village Hall and Sports Club could amalgamate, with the VH committee managing both sites, with support from the Parish Council. Mr. Lock wrote that the two sites are complementary and it would be expedient to have all of the community and wellbeing facilities under one umbrella. He noted that the Sports Club is in much better health, both financially and functionally, and that it is well loved and used by many different users.

It was agreed by councillors that the VH committee was where the decision lay as to whether to take on the responsibility of the club, although it was said that they were totally separate organisations and that additional responsibilities would be borne by the VH trustees. It was agreed, however, that a working party be set up in the light of Mr. Lock's email and, since the annual review of the PC's Statutory Documents was on the agenda, the Sports Club's entry in the Risk Management document should be amended to 'High'.

The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) comes before the cabinet of the Dorset Council next week, where it is hoped it will be approved. The next step would then be a referendum for residents to vote on the document if it is approved at cabinet. This is provisionally planned for August 8th at the Village Hall and will follow council and Parliamentary election conventions. Full details will be posted to all residents in a leaflet in due course.

Two planning applications came before councillors for alterations to village houses. Straitford House on Blandford Hill has plans to increase living accommodation, and other associated works. Councillor Witherden noted that more parking spaces will be needed since there is an additional bedroom planned, citing the NP's and Dorset's standards on parking provision. The other planning application was at Chapter House on Chapel Street for minor works, which was passed with no comment.

Cllr Cherry had been contacted by a resident about cars being parked too near to road junctions in the village. Councillors acknowledged the problem, but are powerless to enforce parking laws, saying it is the territory of police and Highways Department. However, Cllr Cherry appealed for residents to be thoughtful of others when parking their vehicles.

An email has been sent to Dorset Councillor, Emma Parker, about the condition of the new road surface to the Ashley Barn Road. Cllr Macnair said that pot holes were still visible despite the works carried out and that the new surface could be damaged by heavy rainfall.

Chairman, Richard Macnair, presented retiring Clerk, Colin Hampton, with a token of appreciation on behalf of MSA Parish Council, for his service as this was the last meeting he was to preside over. Mr Hampton has been clerk of the PC for over six years and has undertaken the role with great professionalism and diligence. The *Reporter* would like to extend our best wishes to Colin for a very happy retirement – well deserved!

Ed Richards

Residents are warmly invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting, which takes place on Wednesday 17th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Community Contacts

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

Please let the Reporter know if
any of these details change

COUNCILS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Dorset Councillor | Emma Parker | 01258 881631 |
| Parish Council – Dewlish | Clerk: Sandra Sims | 01258 837132 |
| | Chair: Andrew Booth | 01258 837284 |
| Parish Council – Milborne St. Andrew | Clerk: Colin Hampton | 01258 837011 |
| | Chair: Richard Macnair | 01258 837912 |

| | |
|---|--|
| 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@swhtd.co.uk | 01404 821500 |
| Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline | 03458 505959 |
| MSA Flood Warden, Non-Emergency Only: Mark Johnson | 01258 839060 |

GENERAL — ADULT

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

GENERAL — YOUTH

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Safer Neighbourhood Team | PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard |
| Home watch Co-ordinator | Richard Macnair |
| | 01258 837912 |

SCHOOL

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Milborne First School | Sharon Hunt | 01258 837362 |
| Headteacher: | Matt Way | |
| Chair Governors: | 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 | 07896 275357 |
| 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 – Information | 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 | 07703 648869 |
| Football – Veterans | Paul David | 07841 506839 |

Football – Under 14s

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

VILLAGE HALL

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Dewlish | Chair: | Bernie Cosgrove | 01258 837152 |
| | Booking Secretary: | Margaret Groves | 01258 837617 |
| Milborne St. Andrew | Chairman: | 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 |

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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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| July Wednesday 3rd | Wednesday Club visiting the Walled Garden at Morton for tea and cake – see page 27. |
| Thursday 4th | Curry@Eva's 6.00pm – see page 26. |
| Wednesday 10th | Village History Gro- see up " <i>Harry Beaves' ancestors who emigrated to New Zealand</i> " The Royal Oak function room 7.30pm – see page 25. |
| Thursday 11th | WI meeting Village Hall Sarah Lock will talk about the restoration of Blandford Parish Church – see page 25. |
| Friday 12th | Milborne Movies "Stan and Ollie" Village Hall doors open 7.00pm film starts 7.30pm tickets £3.50 – see pages 16 and 25. |
| Saturday 13th | Garage Sale Swiss Cottage, Dorchester Hill, MSA 10.00am to 4.00pm – see page 19. |
| Sunday 14th | The Reporter deadline. |
| Wednesday 17th | Parish Council meeting , Village Hall 7.30pm. |
| Thursday 18th | MSA Gardening Club "Alternative plants in alternative places" Village Hall 7.30pm £2 non members – see page 24. |
| Saturday 20th | 14th Leigh Food Fair and vintage/classic car/bike display 10.00am to 4.00pm – see page 9. |
| Saturday 20th | Susie Edwards' Memorial Service Milton Abbey 2.30pm – see page 19. |
| Sunday 21st | Annual Pet Service Dewlish Church 11.00am – see page 9. |
| Saturday 27th | Village Lunch Village Hall 12.15 to 2.00pm £7 per head – see page 2 for menu. |
| Saturday 27th | Milton Abbey Street Fair. |

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)
Players Monday 8.00–10.00pm MH
ABC Line Dancers Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH
Wednesday Club first Wednesday 2.00–4.00pm MH
Zumba Wednesday 6.00pm 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 every fourth Wednesday 7.30pm
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

Kickboxing Monday evenings 4.45–5.30pm Kanga (guide ages 5–8), 5.30–6.30pm Stripes (guide ages 9–13), 6.30–7.30pm ladies class, 7.30–8.30pm all ages and abilities. Contact Nikki Rich on 07752 199409.
Tai Chi Tuesday mornings 9.30am run by Geoffrey Bellinger. Local contact Brian Burton 839033.
The Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30–11.30am 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).
Boxing style fitness Friday 12noon–1.00pm. Contact Nikki Rich on 07752 199409.
Ballet style fitness Friday 1.00–2.00pm. Contact Nikki Rich on 07752 199409
Private parties, birthdays, wedding receptions check online calendar.

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

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How Puddletown's booklovers led the way in the fight to save their library

IT WAS six years ago in 2013 that Puddletown became the first community in Dorset to take over and run its own library. Since then the library has thrived, going from strength to strength with the support of council's library service, which supplies the books.

The people of Puddletown and surrounding villages provide everything else.

They raise the rent for the library building and the money to heat and maintain it. They provide the volunteers to open the library four days a week. They clean the place and make it a welcoming facility its users and supporters value so much.

Now that it is running so smoothly and efficiently it is easy to forget what a struggle it was to save the library from closure.

Ten years ago the then County Council was forced by central government cuts to its funding to find millions of pounds worth of savings – and closing libraries seemed an easy way to cut costs. Local authorities are obliged to provide their citizens with a library service but the law does not say how many libraries are needed to meet this obligation. Dorset had been one of the most active counties in providing libraries in small communities like Puddletown so it was hardly surprising that a dozen or so of its smaller communities were threatened with losing their libraries.

Puddletown quickly set up The Friends Of Puddletown Library to fight to save it. It seemed the Friends faced an insurmountable task back then. The running costs of keeping the library open amounted to many thousands of pounds a year and it was not clear that there would be any contribution from County Hall in Dorchester.

So the Friends set about a vigorous and highly profitable money raising programme. They quickly spotted that they had two world famous writers – and library lovers – living in the villages they served.

Both Julian Fellowes, an Oscar winning screen writer and creator of Downton Abbey, and Kate Adie, the recently retired chief foreign correspondent of the BBC, offered enthusiastic support. Both came to talk about their lives at packed meetings in Puddletown. The money raised at these sessions and the vocal backing of this famous pair enabled the Friends to make plans for running their village library for themselves.

Puddletown Friends had become a leading member of a group of ten communities fighting to save their libraries, a group which quickly won the support of West Dorset's MP. The political pressure this group was able to bring to bear on the councillors in Dorchester eventually produced a deal by which Dorchester would continue to supply an ever-changing supply of books as long as the Puddletown community would meet all the other costs.

So it was that in January 2013 Kate cut the ribbon to mark the opening of Puddletown Library as the first in Dorset to be run by the people it serves.

Our library was saved. And it is open and there for you still. Why not drop in (it's next to Puddletown's village hall opposite the old school on the High Street) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and see what's on offer?

Local small-ads

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Garage sale at Swiss Cottage, Dorchester Hill, Milborne (opp garage on A354) to include fishing gear, de humidifier, household goods, bric a brac , pictures and much more. Saturday July 13th 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Wanted – Bric a Brac for St. Andrew church's stall at Milton Abbas Street Fair. Please contact Pam on 01258 837203 or Eva on 01258 837468

Armenian Genocide – The Great Crime of World War I by David Charlwood

THIS book is one of a series published by Pen & Sword under the heading 'History of Terror'. It covers from original documentation and photographs, the fate of over a million Armenian Christian people during the period 1915–1919. I was aware of this barely-remembered genocide, which is a criminal offence to mention in Turkey, and this book fills in many details.

It's a quality paperback, printed on decent paper, with many photos, fortunately in black and white, given the subject matter, and answers many questions such as where these people were, why the Turks wanted to be rid of them, how they engineered it and how they fooled foreign allies into believing their motives. Adolf Hitler and the Nazis learned much from this in their treatment of Jewish victims of their regime. Sadly the Armenians are not remembered so widely – perhaps because persecution of Christians is acceptable in the modern world? Within ten years of the ending of the Great War, all intentions to pursue through the courts the murderers and the people who ordered them to march scores of thousands of women and children into the desert and kill them, seem to have vapourised in the realpolitik of scooping up land and power as the Ottoman Empire ended.

I was surprised to see how widely the Armenian people were spread across what we now call Eastern Europe and the Middle East – from Baku in the east to Izmir in the west, Deir-ez-Zor in the south to Tblisi and Samsun, the Black Sea Port, in the North. Most of the remaining population are in Syria, and parts of eastern Europe, not a place that's been a safe haven in the intervening hundred years.

The author has chosen to put Henry Morgenthau, US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, at the centre of the story. He realised what was happening and tried unsuccessfully through diplomatic and charitable channels to stop it. Unfortunately, when the USA entered the war, much of his paperwork was burnt in the Embassy, but his diaries, correspondence and posters in the US raising funds remain, and form a useful archive.

There is a comprehensive bibliography and the author has obviously read widely to produce this book, which is concise, clearly and sympathetically written and very informative.

Susan Wilson

Village Hall news

HOPE that you have liked the new crockery now in the kitchen – no more towering piles of saucers! Paul David and Mark Shrive have done a wonderful job on the zip wire base which will hopefully last longer than previous bases. The wooden log walk in the playground is due to be repaired; it's a popular piece of equipment with the children. Also in the play park the big green frog litter bin should now be in place – so no excuse to leave litter!! At any rate we will be watching you as our new CCTV is being installed!! Linda Wright

Susie Edwards Memorial Service

SATURDAY 20th July 2019, 2.30pm at Milton Abbey

Mum wanted everyone attending to bring a small bunch of flowers, that can be swapped with someone else's bunch, so that everyone goes home with some flowers.

All donations will be split
between
Marie Curie
and
The Eve Appeal.
Many thanks
Tor



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Kedgeree fish pie

EVERY year in the 1950s our family went away on holiday at the end of July. We looked forward to our two weeks in a caravan in Wales all year and the only downside to this was having to leave our miniature dachshund Fritz behind as the campsite rule was strictly no dogs allowed.

The first year we went away without Fritz we left him at a boarding kennels. When we came to collect him at the end of the fortnight, he had spent the whole two whole weeks trying to dig his way out of his small wooden cage/kennel and his little black nose was covered with a red and sore looking scab and his front claws and paws were broken and bleeding.

The next year mum had arranged for him to spend the two weeks with her brother and his wife, twenty miles away in Leeds. Auntie Dorothy and Uncle Harold had neither children nor pets so it took a lot of negotiation on mum's part. Mum had only recently passed her driving test after her third attempt when she volunteered to take Fritz to his new temporary home the night before our holiday. My dad belonged to the generation who had started to drive before the driving test was introduced in 1935 and he was rather dismissive about women drivers in general and Mum in particular. I volunteered to go with her in our car, a brand-new Austin A35 and my Dad's pride and joy.

Mum and I set off in the car, Fritz balanced his front paws on the dashboard and had his back legs on my knees in the front passenger seat and he occasionally snuffed his nose out of the open quarter light window, no seat belts or dog guards in those days. As a very newly qualified driver Mum was a bit nervous about finding the way on her own, but we were confident of getting there in the end. Of course, there was no sat nav to rely on, only pre-war maps which were very out of date. Also, no car radio or Sony Walkman, iPad, iPod or any other in-car entertainment. This didn't matter one bit to us as we sang songs at the tops of our voices most of the way there:

- "My old man said follow the van and don't dilly dally on the way"
- "The quartermasters stores"
- "Ivan Skavinsky Skavar" (Mum was word perfect in this lengthy ballad)
- "Chips and fish, chips and fish, Oh what a wonderful dish"

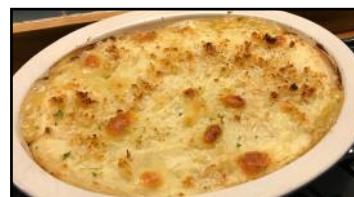
Fritz howled along to the chorus and I'm sure all three of us felt proud of our musical abilities. After that lengthy repertoire we were quite glad to arrive in Leeds and have a cup of tea to refresh our vocal chords before the return journey.

Fritz seemed to be very happy in his new temporary home. I had written a long and minutely detailed set of instructions in a red "Silvine" exercise book about his daily diet, routine and care. This lengthy document described everything about Fritz's preferences, including the fact that he liked to wear his ears inside out rather than conventionally so we felt able to leave him behind to be thoroughly spoilt by Auntie Dorothy. I'm not sure Uncle Harold was altogether convinced, he thought dogs should live outside the house in a dog kennel.

On the way back Mum noticed that our car seemed very sluggish and went slower and slower up the hills. We sang our songs at full volume despite this setback and tried to ignore the strange burning smell which seemed to grow stronger with each mile.

On reaching home at last and explaining the situation to Dad it was quickly found out that mum had inadvertently left the handbrake on all the way home, so our holiday would have to be postponed until it could be fixed. My dad shook his head and frowned in disbelief at first but then suddenly laughed out loud and gave my mum a big hug when the funny side of it struck him. I think he had begun to worry about what had happened to us when we were so late back. With no mobile phones then it was impossible to let someone know if there was a problem.

Luckily the local garage was able to fix the handbrake the very next day so we were soon on our way to Wales. All four of us harmonising to "Chips and fish, chips and fish, Oh what a wonderful dish"



Chips and Fish

Some people in Yorkshire, they like Yorkshire puddings

People in Paris like frogs

When I went to Blackpool for my holidays

I met with the shawls and the clogs

A Lancashire lass as I happened to pass

Took a fancy to me on the spot

A-courting we went, I says "You smell of scent;

Is it lilac?" she says: "No it's not, it's . . ."

(Chorus)

Chips and fish, chips and fish

Oh what a champion dish

Oh what a smell when you fry 'em

Just get a bob's worth and try 'em

Put some salt and vinegar on

As much as ever you wish

And when you get home you won't want any more supper

When you've had a bob's worth of chips and fish

We walked hand in hand down the edge of the strand

And we kissed by the silvery sea

We spent half an hour on top of the tower

Had cod and five penn'orth for tea

The time came to part, I was sick to my heart

To the station we had to make haste

She boarded the train, and we kissed once again

And oh, how I savoured the taste, of . . .

(Chorus)

Now travels I've had, Hong Kong, Trinidad,

I've partaken of every cuisine

Italian spaghetti my stomach upset, ee

By gum, and those curries are mean

You get nasty diseases from eating French cheeses

And German frankfurters are worst

And though I like to eat stewed tripe and pigs' feet

There's one dish'll always come first, its...

(Chorus)

I'm sure everyone in Milborne knows about our wonderful Friday night fish and chip van and also that The Royal Oak has delicious fish and chips available on its menu all day, any day. So, this month's recipe is for Kedgeree fish pie.

This fish pie has all the flavours of kedgeree; smoked haddock, hard-boiled eggs and a curry-flavoured white sauce with a hint of parsley. Instead of rice, the ingredients are cooked under mashed potato with a breadcrumb and cheddar cheese topping. This recipe is well worth trying, less bland than many fish pie recipes.

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 750g King Edward or other floury potatoes
- 50g butter
- 400ml milk
- 300g smoked haddock
- 10g parsley
- 2 tsp curry powder (tandoori spice for preference but any will do)
- 2 tsp flour
- 1 tbsp fresh fine white breadcrumbs
- 1 tbsp grated Cheddar cheese

Method:

Boil the eggs for 9 minutes. Peel under cold water. Peel, chunk, rinse and boil the potatoes. Drain. Melt 25g butter in 100ml milk, add to the potatoes and mash. Meanwhile, place haddock skin-side down in a pan. Add milk. Simmer, turning after 5 minutes. Cook for a further 5 minutes or until the fish is just cooked through. Melt remaining butter in a pan over a low heat and stir in the flour and curry powder for a couple of minutes. Off the heat, strain the fish milk into the pan, stirring briskly as you return to medium heat, using a whisk if lumpy. Simmer, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add salt to taste. Use a knife and fork to ease the skin off the fish. Flake into a gratin dish. Cut chunks of egg over the top, add chopped herbs and spoon the sauce over. Cool, spread the mash over. Dust with crumbs and Cheddar cheese.

Bake at 200C/gas mark 6 for 20 minutes or until golden.





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Pets' Corner

WATCHING daytime telly is supposed to be a complete waste of time, but I must confess to sometimes watching "Escape to the Country". Once you've seen one episode you have seen them all really, everyone seems to want a large kitchen, enough room to keep hens in the garden and to be within walking distance of a village pub. (Come and live in Milborne I often think.)

When I first came to live in Milborne St Andrew nearly twenty years ago, keeping chickens was one of my dreams, but I knew nothing about them. I quite fancied a pretty chicken house looking a bit like Hansel and Gretel's cottage but thankfully I was persuaded that a plastic house would be more practical and could be blasted clean with a pressure hose without getting damp and soggy. Chickens, I soon discovered, are amazingly messy birds and need cleaning out weekly and their nest boxes need attention daily to keep the eggs clean. Also, plastic doesn't house mites and has few cracks and joints for pests to lurk in.

You also need good neighbours who are willing to care for them when you go away on holiday as there are no kennels or catteries for chickens! You can't just put a couple of chickens in with someone else's flock as they will attempt to peck each other to pieces. Luckily, we have the very, very best of neighbours - something that is never even mentioned on Escape to the Country!

Our first two point-of-lay chickens arrived and we named them after our mothers-in-law, the black one was Betty and the ginger one was Joan. We grossly underestimated how high and far they could fly and we quickly had to learn to clip some feathers from one wing. Our birds were very determined though, so we ended up having a fully enclosed run for them which was fox proof as well. Also, if you let your birds free range in the whole of your garden they will soon reduce it to a desert. The next additions to our flock were named after our mothers, Ada and Winifred, then the following ones were named after our grandchildren, we have now run out of grandchildren's names now so our last addition was named Auntie Lily.

Our present chickens are Wilhelmina, Scarlett and Auntie Lily. Wilhelmina is at the top of the pecking order despite being the smallest in size. She, quite surprisingly, lays the largest eggs and rules her little flock with the ease of a born leader. Auntie Lily is second in command and Scarlett is bottom of the pile. They get along remarkably well, just a bit of light pecking now and then to reinforce the chain of command. Their run has a clear plastic cover over the top of it with a thick layer of bark chippings on the ground. Because the litter is nearly always dry, they spend a lot of their leisure time digging down to make deep pits

and then taking long and satisfying dust baths. Sometimes they make one communal pit and sometimes individual pits, at times you can only see their heads poking up and for some reason it reminds me of the trenches of WW1.

Whatever Wilhelmina does, the others follow suit. She decides when it's time to eat or drink or preen or scratch round or dig a dust bath. When she goes up the ladder to the nest box to lay her daily egg the other two go after her and sit outside the nest box until she has finished. They are all quite elderly chickens now and can often be found mid-morning or mid-afternoon sitting on a tree-branch perch in a patch of sunshine, closing their eyes and having a little siesta. If they are disturbed, they quickly wake up and pretend that they were really only resting their eyes . . .

Wilhelmina and Auntie Lily are tame and friendly but Scarlett dislikes any human intrusion into the run and will peck hard enough to draw blood if you are off guard. They all love food and keep an eye out for the appearance of any treats or snacks. Their run is just outside my kitchen window so they rush to one end of the run when they see me preparing vegetables. Mushy strawberries or tomatoes are their favourites but they will eat most vegetable peelings and left overs. Fighting and squabbling breaks out frequently when carrot peelings are on the menu and the pecking order is ignored for a while in the free for all.

They are such interesting creatures to keep as pets, each one has their own traits and habits but they can be surprisingly fierce and savage at times.

A young fledgling blackbird once inadvertently hopped into the chicken run and the whole flock attacked it and killed it within seconds. By the time I had dashed outside to rescue it and got the run door open there were just a few bloodstained feathers left.

Chickens are cheap to feed (just chicken feed really) and of course lay the most delicious eggs so probably pay for themselves. We have been lucky health wise with ours although we once had to take one poorly chicken to the vets (but she couldn't be saved) and we had one chicken who had an attack of gapeworm. Specially medicated food sorted her and she made a full recovery.

So provided you are prepared for both the ups and the downs of chicken keeping I would thoroughly recommend them.

Here is a picture of our three eating the sprout, carrot and parsnip peelings from our Christmas dinner last year. Scarlett is preparing to launch an attack on me - talk about biting the hand that feeds it!

Rose Frost



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18th July**



Refreshments



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Superfast broadband . . . it's the Norm in Dorset

A friendly new face is showing people in Dorset how easy it is to get better broadband.

Digital Norm is a fun character developed by the Superfast Dorset programme. His family switches to superfast broadband and saves money at the same time.

Norm has been appearing in town centres, local newspapers, on council buses and social media. And there's an online animation showing how Norm and his family transform their home WiFi.

More than 97 per cent of Dorset premises can now get superfast fibre broadband and over half of homes and businesses have already switched, making it the norm in Dorset.

These faster, more reliable connections mean everyone can be online at the same time, quicker downloads, TV and films on demand and video calling without the annoying lag.

But the uplift in speeds isn't automatic – you must contact your internet provider and ask to switch to fibre broadband.

Superfast Dorset won Government funding to create the Digital Norm campaign including the short film, which can be seen at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/superfast. If you need a little help using computers or the internet phone 01305 221048 and Superfast Dorset will match you with one of its Digital Champion volunteers in your area.



Living with Dementia at the June WI

ALTHOUGH not a natural part of ageing, it is a sad fact that along with an older population, many of us have loved ones who live with dementia. Our speaker, Bridget Townsend, works in a care home, and is a Dementia Friend and Champion. As part of an Alzheimer's Society initiative Dementia Friends encourages people to chat, share stories and thus change the way people think about dementia. Although losing your memory is part of this disease, it can also affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks. Bridget stressed that it is perfectly possible to live well with dementia. Depending upon swift diagnosis and the progression of the disease, many are still able to work, drive and communicate for a good many years. Our respect as well as support and understanding is vital.

We were encouraged to become a Dementia Friend, to help to create dementia-friendly communities, and thus turn understanding into action. Finally, one of our own members put the whole issue into context by relating in a moving way her own late mother's decline into dementia, and the effect this had on her close family. We were left with much room for thought.

To come: Friday 21st June is the date for our summer supper, hosted, as ever, by Sheila Ryall in her lovely garden. Hopefully the sun will shine on us all. Our summer outing will be on Thursday 15th August at Sculptures by the Lake, to include a cream tea. This venue is highly recommended.

Jenny's colourful and interesting report after her attendance at the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth, included the good news that the two resolutions we had recently been asked to consider had gone through; 96% supported the *Call against the decline in bus services* and $^{31}\pm$ voted for *Don't fear the smear*.

Bookends members had met to discuss a classic '*Wives and Daughters*' by Elizabeth Gaskell, and as usual our reviews were mixed. We move on to another classic, this time '*Age of Innocence*' by Edith Wharton.

Josie reminded us that support for the food bank was increasingly important as the school holidays approached, and this is the time many children go hungry. Donations continue to be welcome at the WI and the church, as well as the local supermarkets.

At our next meeting on Thursday 11th July, Sarah Loch will talk about the restoration of Blandford Parish Church. The exhibition will be for a church related item. We would be delighted to see you there.

Pat Bull

More interesting facts about our village organisations

At our last Village History Group meeting we found out more about the history of St. Andrew's church from the first century to the Victorian times. The land in Milborne was bequeathed to Milton Abbey monks who developed a small chapel. Over the years, changes in ownership of the land gave rise to changes in the building and of the parish. The last major change was when St. Andrew's was refurbished and extended at a cost of £3,000 following plans drawn up by George Edmund Street, a famous architect.

The group also heard about the history of the Wesleyan Chapel and its creation in 1867. We were told how successful their Sunday school was, how the members enjoyed parties, outings and how the building needed repairs. The chapel was finally sold in 1988 due to the fact that services had been suspended the year before and there were no longer any trustees from Milborne St. Andrew.

Following the information, we had some interesting discussions about the different religious organisations and listened to some members who could remember the building when it was still in use.

The research and write ups will be part of the booklet that the History Group members hope to publish in the future. If anyone wants to write a piece, they are very welcome.

Next month Harry Beaves will be telling us about his ancestors who emigrated to New Zealand. If it is anything like the previous talk he gave, it should be very good. It will be held in the The Royal Oak function room on the 10th July at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along.

Pam Shults

All copy for the **August/September Reporter** must be received by mid-day **14th July**. Please send copy via e-mail to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team.

Milborne Movies are showing 'Stan and Ollie' in Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall on Friday July 12th Doors and Bar open 7.00; film starts 7.30pm

John C. Reilly and Steve Coogan star as Laurel & Hardy, one of the world's great comedy teams, and they are ably supported by the rest of the cast. We see them setting out on a variety hall tour of Britain in 1953, when, diminished by age and with their golden era as the kings of Hollywood comedy behind them, they face an uncertain future. But as the charm and beauty of their performances shines through, they re-connect with their adoring fans. The tour becomes a hit, but Stan & Ollie can't quite shake the spectre of Laurel and Hardy's past; long-buried problems, coupled with Oliver's failing health, start to threaten their precious partnership. This film is both very funny, and poignant and tender. It is "a film made with an enormous amount of care and affection. And Coogan and O'Reilly don't just perform. They resurrect."

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ART CLASS STARTS SOON!

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GREAT NEWS for all our readers looking for something fun to do over the next few months! Our current class is full but we are now taking enquiries for our next part-time Art Class, which starts soon. This is a new 14 week part-time art class (once a week for 3 hours).

Absolute Beginners to Improvers - Just Like You!

The course is designed to be fun for absolute beginners who have never picked up a brush before through to Improvers.

Step-by-Step Guidance

We adapt to each student's needs and give them all the guidance and help they need to develop their artistic skills. The curriculum is fun, comprehensive and interesting. Over the course we will explore four different media; pencil drawing & sketching, oil pastel painting and techniques, painting and blending with water colours and acrylics. Step by step tuition in the basic techniques and secrets needed to create beautiful pieces of art.

Still Life to Landscapes

By the end of the course, students have created a minimum of 8 pieces of their very own original art they can enjoy forever, from simple still life and flower studies to beautiful countryside landscape scenes.

This fun course is a great way to meet new friends and develop new skills.



Young at Heart

This course is a brilliant way to learn new skills you will be able to enjoy forever. It is also a great way of meeting new friends and to have a fun experience you will always remember and cherish! It is open to adults of all ages.

Meet New Friends, Learn New Skills

This part time course is over 3 months, so will give you plenty of time to master your new hobby.

Limited Places

To maintain a high standard to our classes and the tuition you will receive, classes are kept to small numbers – so places available are limited! We recommend that if you are interested you call us now for details.

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Finding a local Trading Standards approved trader

ARE you worried about rip-offs and rogue traders? If so then Dorset Council Trading Standards can help identify reliable workers for the job you need doing.

Businesses across Dorset have signed up to the national 'Buy with Confidence' scheme, giving local people a wide choice of established traders committed to fair trading and good customer service. This helps protect you as a consumer of goods and services and it helps support reputable local.

'Buy with Confidence' covers all kinds of work from plumbing and decorating, to car servicing and gardening, from local business all over the county and beyond.

Our members have been visited in person and audited by Trading Standards officers to make sure they comply with consumer protection laws and more recently with modern day slavery requirements for the added confidence that vulnerable workers are not being hired to undertake work for you.

We take customer references and make sure complaint procedures are in place if needed. In addition, criminal records checks are undertaken for staff who work in or around your home.

It doesn't stop there! Once a business joins 'Buy with Confidence' they are monitored by Trading Standards through customer feedback, complaint monitoring and every three years are re-visited for another audit.

We would always encourage you to choose a Dorset based trader. However, as the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme is also run by all our neighbouring local authorities, then the pool of Trading Standards approved traders is much greater than just those who are Dorset Council approved.

Other trader approval schemes are available but remember, only 'Buy with Confidence' has this level of Trading Standards approval and access to a nationwide database of complaints made by consumers so we can truly vet them.

To find a Trading Standards approved 'Buy with Confidence' trader. Visit the national 'Buy with Confidence' website at



www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk
where you can search for local
traders around your postcode.

Alternatively call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline who can search for you on 03454 04 05 06.

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HMRC Alert What you need to know

ACTION FRAUD has experienced an increase in the reporting of malicious calls and voicemails, to members of the public purporting to be from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Fraudsters are spoofing genuine HMRC telephone numbers to deceive their victims over the phone. The fraudsters state that as a result of the victim's non-payment of tax or other duty, the victim is liable for prosecution or other legal proceedings in order to settle the balance. The fraudsters suggest victims can avoid this, by arranging payment to be made immediately by methods such as bank transfer or by purchasing iTunes gift cards.

If the victim is hesitant or refuses to comply, the suspect makes a threat such as immediate arrest, sending bailiffs to the victim's address or, in some cases, deportation.

Often, the period for which the tax is allegedly due is distant enough to guarantee the victim will have little, if any, paperwork or ability to verify the claims. Once the money is paid the suspects sever all contact with the victim.

In genuine cases, HMRC will initially make direct contact with you via post/letter and potentially follow up that letter with a phone call at a later date.

If HMRC contact you via telephone they will quote the reference number on the initial letter you should have received. HMRC will not discuss something you are not already aware of, like a tax investigation, and will **not** demand immediate payment.

It is vital that the public exercise caution when receiving messages or telephone calls of this nature.

What you need to do

Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information. Just because someone knows your basic details (such as your name and contact details), it doesn't mean they are genuine. Instead, contact the company directly using trusted methods such as a known email address or phone number.

Legitimate organisations wouldn't ask you to pay taxes, bills or fees using an iTunes gift card, or any other type of voucher. If you're contacted by anyone that asks you to do this, you're likely the target of a scam.

Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision. Under no circumstances would a genuine bank or some other trusted organisation force you to make a financial transaction on the spot.

Report Phishing attempts. If you receive a call, text or email of this nature and have not lost money, you can report this as phishing to Action Fraud

Wednesday Club

'THE kite flying in China failed to take off' due to the failure of the speaker to arrive. The afternoon was rescued by members of the club with various recitations, jokes and limericks.

On Wednesday 3rd July we are visiting the Walled Garden at Morton for tea and cake, transport will be at the Village Hall to leave about 2.00pm. New members very welcome.

All copy for the August/September Reporter must be received by mid-day **14th July**. Please send copy via e-mail to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the team.

SUDOKU

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

No prize, just a bit of fun.

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THEN . . .



Then and Now Notice how you couldn't even see Corner Cottage because of 'Butler's Garage' on the corner. The road was widened in the mid 1970's after the garage had gone and the cottage called Buttons and Bows was for sale. When it rained and the road was slippery, cars would often slide into that cottage. There was no Village Hall and the telephone exchange was much smaller than it is now.

. . . and **NOW**



Open Farm Sunday at Field Barn



DORSET farms got involved with the national 'Open Farm Sunday' initiative in early June, including Field Barn Farm, just on the outskirts of Milborne. The farm, managed by Scott and Leanne Bagwell, opened their gates wide to the public, with over 1,500 visitors taking the opportunity to take a look at what goes on at one of our local agricultural businesses. There was plenty to see and do down on the farm, together with organisations such as Dorset Wildlife Trust on hand to showcase their work.

Visitors were able to experience life on the farm, and a selection of animals was on display in one of the barns. Lambs were a big hit with the children, while in a pen next to them pigs made the most of the warm afternoon, snoozing on the straw whilst having an ear scratched by youngsters. Some rams were penned together, including a 'teaser ram' – one that has been vasectomised – to bring on the ewes hormonal cycles, and there were also bullocks inside the barn.

Outside there was a display of impressive agricultural machinery necessary for efficient, modern production in arable farming, as well as a fascinating array of working vintage diesel engines and generators, some dating back to the 1920s. Scott gave tractor and trailer rides to give visitors a tour of the farm to learn more about the various crops grown. Examples of wheat, barley and oil seed rape that are all grown in the surrounding fields were on display to touch and smell along with examples of food products that can be made from them – including a range of beers! Dorset Wildlife were on hand to talk about their 'Get Dorset Buzzing Campaign' and how farming practices can be sympathetic to wildlife.

Milborne St. Andrew Friends of School worked hard throughout the day serving refreshments, with a fabulous assortment of homemade cakes, along with cold drinks, coffee and tea (kindly donated by Dorset Tea). As a result FoS raised £481 which will go towards the school playground equipment fund.

Ladybirds preschool, which during the summer and autumn term run a woodland day once a week based at the farm, had hands-on examples of the fun activities that they do during these woodland days for families to get involved with. These included plant printing onto fabric, a mud kitchen, wooden medal-making and a rope swing to play on.

Ed Richards, photographs by Steve Chappell



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What's on in July



Tuesday 2nd
Bingo and Raffle

Eyes down 6.30pm
Raising funds for Friends of Milborne St Andrew first school.

Thursday 11th
Sausage Fest
Not for the veggie hearted
£10.95 per head

Thursday 25th
Pie Night
£10.95 per head

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from 6.00pm
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