

Reporter

80P WHERE SOLD

News and Views from around the area

Volume 11 Issue 11 December 2019

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Milborne St. Andrew



October Driving Day with the Dorset Land Rover Club

The Dorset Land Rover Club held another very successful Driving Day at one of the sites that the club uses regularly just outside Crossways, near Dorchester. Entry to the event wasn't restricted to DLRC members, as the club opens up these events to non-members as part of its policy of attracting new members!

After a spell of particularly heavy rain, there was plenty of mud at the site for those so inclined to go mud-plugging, whilst there were also plenty of woodland trails and more open, non-damaging areas to keep the nearly 30 drivers who turned up on the day very much entertained.

Vehicles being driven ranged from a very original Series 2 right through to an immaculate Range Rover P38 (well, it was immaculate at the start of the day . . .), with various Defenders and Discoveries making up the numbers.

A special event within the event was the opportunity to chauffeur round two representatives of Mosaic, the charity which is based in Milborne. Each year the Dorset Land Rover Club selects and supports a local charity, and Mosaic – a charity that offers a pathway of support and guidance for bereaved children, young people and their families – is this year's beneficiary. After their thrill-packed rides, Laura Stanley and Sian Haynes (respectively a fund-raiser and a trainer for Mosaic) were presented with a cheque for a little over £1,000 by the Club Chairman, Jon Riddle.

Jon Riddle said: "This sort of driving day gives you an idea of how much we enjoy being part of the club, and it's great to be able to support other people by doing what we enjoy." Laura Stanley replied by thanking all the club members who had helped to raise such a magnificent amount, and added: "This is a wonderful boost for our fund-raising, and will help us to pay for a residential experience in spring 2020." Both Sian and Laura also said that they'd had a great time being driven around off-road, and would love to come again to one of the club's Driving Days!



L-R. Jake Merry, Sheryl Merry, Micheal Webster, Jon Riddle, Ronald Hogg, Rob Elliot, Laura Stanley, Peter Riddle, Sian Haynes.

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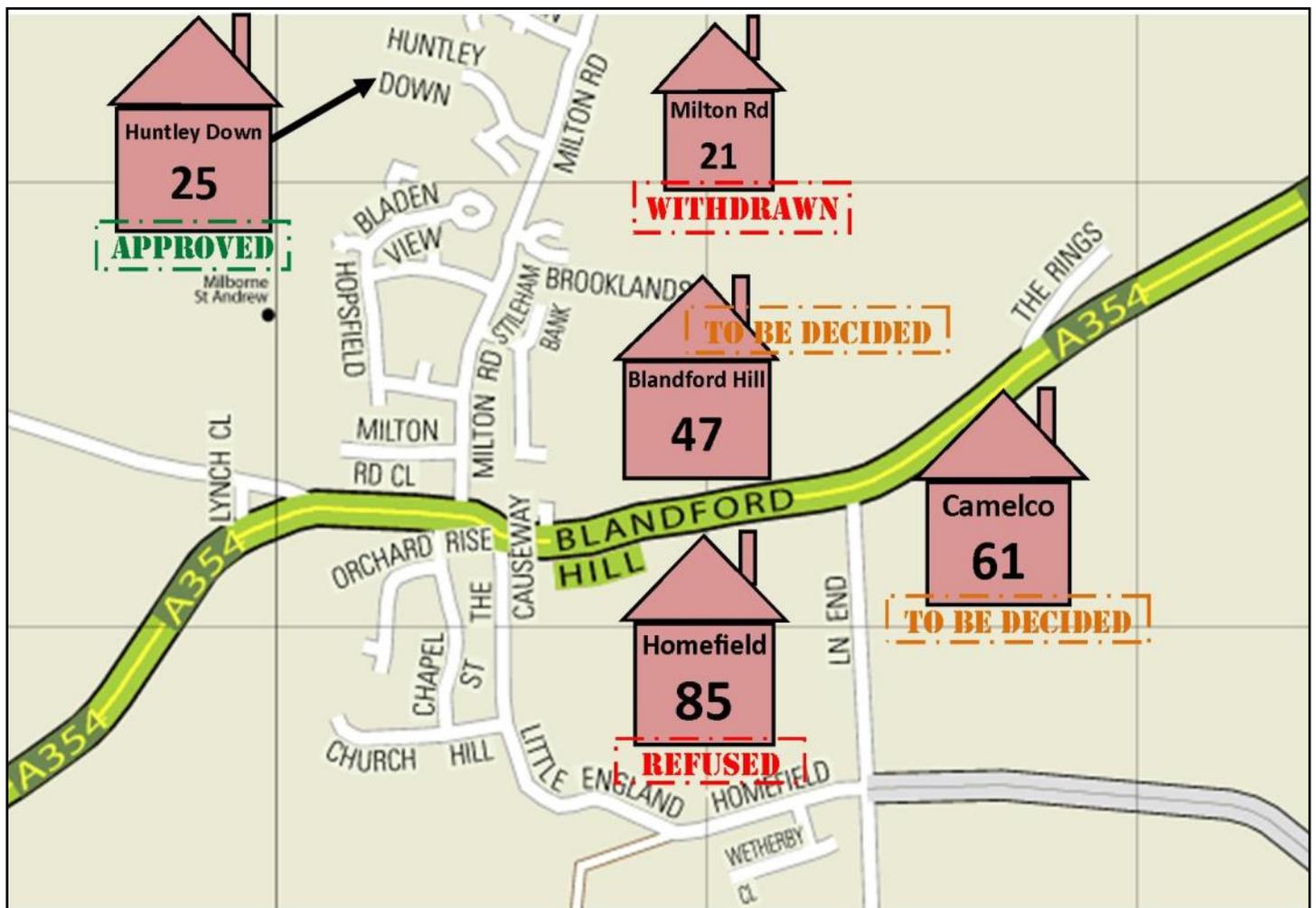
Plan for 85 houses at Homefield refused

THE development that would see up to 85 new homes built on the land between Blandford Hill and Homefield has been refused by Dorset Council due to negative heritage concerns. Planners decided that any benefit of the scheme would be outweighed by “substantial harm” caused to a number of buildings and the Conservation Area, including Gould’s Farm, St. Andrew’s Church and five houses that back on to the site, three of them being Grade II listed. The council said that the application was contrary to two categories of Milborne’s Neighbourhood Plan, as well as other county and national planning policies. They noted that the development’s location, scale and access would be detrimental to the heritage assets and also to “a valued landscape, and to the form and character of Milborne St Andrew”. The proposal would have seen the large pasture field split into two development areas – north and south – with a connecting road between the two across a “species-rich pasture” between them. A new opening onto Blandford Hill was planned for road access. The developer had failed to complete an S106 document with regard to affordable housing, community benefits and protected habitat migration.

The preferred development site in the village’s recently incorporated Neighbourhood Plan is the brownfield ‘Camelco’ site, opposite Milborne Business Centre on the old dairy car park. The application for 61 homes, business units and pre-school nursery is with Dorset Council and yet to be decided, as is the proposal for 47 homes, a nursery and doctor’s surgery on the other side of the road, opposite the Homefield site. These two are the only applications for multi-home developments that are yet to be decided by Dorset Council, since 25 homes in Huntley Down got the green light in September and the proposal for 21 homes off Milton Road was withdrawn in October.

Community Chest pay-out for playtime at school

THE fund for new play equipment at Milborne St. Andrew First School has received a healthy boost from Hall & Woodhouse’s charity initiative. The brewer’s annual Community Chest gives financial awards to Dorset charities and good causes. Friends of School were one of 300 applications to the £26,000 fund and were lucky enough to be one of the 22 charities that were successful this year. Outgoing Chair of FoS, Caroline Richards, was presented with the cheque for £975 at an awards evening held at The Crown Hotel in Blandford. Wooden play equipment including a climbing frame and pirate ship fell into disrepair last year and could no longer be used by the children. Friends of School has been raising money for replacement equipment over the last year and now have sufficient funding to begin the first phase of the project.





Advent Hopes

Seeking inspiration for this letter, I asked some of my family what Advent meant to them. "Chocolate," said Ben (aged 9); "I don't know," said Amity (7). Not a great start!

We did get on slightly better when I asked what the meaning of Christmas was for them. "Giving, and thinking about Jesus," was Amity's response; Ben followed with "Jesus's birthday".

In our day, the marketing managers seem to have a good sales tool for their products by packaging them in cardboard behind 24 small doors and putting a premium price on them. Children may think Advent these days is about chocolate; adults are lured into believing it's about make-up, whisky, gin, luxury food items, scented candles, coffee, cheese, perfumes, if modern calendars are anything to go by. The most unusual one I've come across this year is the Inkvent calendar, selling at a mere £67(!), which provides a new bottle of fountain-pen ink for each day of December until Christmas Eve.

This has totally turned the original meaning of the Advent calendar on its head. In the past their purpose was to help us wait for and anticipate the arrival of God's gift of Jesus at Christmas time; now it seems they are about instant gratification.

This desire to have things and to have them now is part of modern society – and not I think a healthy one. It highlights the gaps between those who have and those who don't; it causes stress and unhappiness and a constant desire for more rather than a sense of gratitude for what we already have. Our lives become a whirlwind of activity and doing, and we become less able to stop and allow ourselves to savour the experience of just being.

The busier we are, the more important it can be to take that time to stop and rebalance our lives. Let me encourage you this Advent to make time each day to stop and be. Perhaps the opening of an Advent calendar door could be the prompt you need. Whether it be five minutes or 25 minutes, why not find a place where you can sit and just be? If you're a person of faith, use it to become aware of God alongside you, not requiring anything of you during that time than that you enjoy being in divine company.

If we use Advent well, we will find we reach Christmas in a more receptive frame of mind, less stressed and with more space to reflect on and welcome the Christ-child into our hearts and lives. After all, the simplest celebrations are often the most enjoyable.

With best wishes for a peaceful Advent and a Happy Christmas

Sarah

Milborne Church Notes

Anticipation

It is only the beginning of November as I write this, but already the world seems to be preparing for Christmas. Shops are full of exciting decorations, cards and all sorts intended to brighten our homes. Unfortunately, not many of these items relate to the real purpose of Christmas.

Of course, for Christians throughout the world, it is an extremely important and busy time of the year to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. However, for those involved with organising and preparing services and other related activities, there is so much to do. Advent starts and with it comes many celebratory seasonal services in St. Andrew's, such as the carol service, Midnight Mass, Christmas morning Celebration, Christingle as well as the regular services in December. No wonder Sarah and churchwardens look so tired at the end of the Christmas period.

November can also be a busy month in our church. At the beginning of the month we hosted the service of remembrance and thanksgiving for those who have died. Those who attended felt that the service was conducted respectively by Sarah and many were comforted. All who were there were invited to light a candle in memory of departed loved ones.

The Remembrance Sunday Service was attended by many people. The church was beautifully decorated thanks to the flower arranging team. As per tradition, the list of men from the village who died in both the 1914–1918 war and the 1939–1945 war, was read out whilst a candle was lit for each of them. The congregation then processed to the memorial

Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne and Dewlish December 2019

1st December – Advent Sunday

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

8th December – Advent 2

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 8.15am | 1662 Said Communion | Puddletown |
| 9.30 | Parish Communion | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Puddletown Praise | Puddletown Church Room |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Dewlish |
| 5.00pm | United Carol Service | Tolpuddle |

SATURDAY 14th December

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
| 6.00pm | Carol Service | Milborne |
|--------|---------------|----------|

15th December – Advent 3

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------|------------|
| 9.30am | Family Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | 1662 Morning Prayer (said) | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Family Service | Dewlish |
| 3.00pm | Christingle | Milborne |
| 6.00 | Carol Service | Puddletown |

22nd December – Advent 4

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|------------|
| 9.30am | Go Fourth | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Parish Communion | Milborne |
| 11.00 | 1662 Morning Prayer | Puddletown |
| 3.00pm | Carol Service | Dewlish |

24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

| | | |
|--------|---------------|------------|
| 3.30pm | Crib Service | Tolpuddle |
| 5.00 | Crib Service | Puddletown |
| 11.30 | Midnight Mass | Milborne |
| 11.30 | Midnight Mass | Puddletown |

25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------------|
| 9.00am | Christmas Holy Communion | Dewlish |
| 9.30 | Christmas Holy Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 10.30 | Christmas Celebration | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Christmas Praise | Puddletown |

29th December – Christmas 1

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 11.00am | United Benefice Holy Communion | Puddletown Church Room |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.15am Saturday. 9.00am

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

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.

stone when very many villagers were present. Sally and Rev Sarah led the brief ceremony, which included the two-minute silence, to honour those who have died whilst in service.

This year our church's Events Committee is planning to hold a celebrational meal to mark St. Andrew's day on the 30th November. This year is a fish themed meal to honour the patron saint of fishermen and fishmongers. As usual at our themed meals there will be entertainment after the food. We hope it will be enjoyed by all who come.

The Christmas Fair will be on the 7th December this year, watch out for posters.
Pam Shults Churchwarden

Dewlish Church Notes

WELL, here I am once again writing the church news for December. Where does the time go!?

The final sum raised by Jim and Adam for their "Ride 'n' Stride" cycle ride was £1,030, a really good amount. This has now been sent

to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, and we are awaiting half to be returned to our church.

Our **Christmas Bazaar** will be held on Saturday 7th December at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Stalls will be cakes and produce, toys, new items and gifts, Christmas decorations, books and puzzles, a raffle and a special raffle for a Christmas hamper. Any donations are very welcome but most important is seeing you all there!

On Thursday 19th December we shall be **singing carols at the Oak** at 8.00pm. Dianne is kindly supplying the mulled wine and mince pies, and there will be a collection for Shelter. We introduced this last year and we all had a most enjoyable time. Please do join us.

The **Carol Service** is on Sunday 22nd December at 3.00pm in our church. If your children would like to take part, please contact Jim (Tel: 01258 837466). The collection will be sent to the Children's Society. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Village Hall.

Christmas Day Holy Communion is at 9.00am – an early start!

Finally, a *Very Happy Christmas* to you all!
Daphne Burg

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784

E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

Rev Rosie Coldwell 01258 839214

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

Christmas carols around the village

Get ready for a festive treat, Milborne schoolchildren and parents will be singing carols house-to-house on Friday 13th December, starting at 5.30pm setting out from the village hall. (You have been warned!) Friends of School will be raising

money for the continued development of the school playground. All are welcome to join the wassailing around the village.



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SCHOOL NEWS



The Keystage 1 DASP Multiskills event was held at St. Mary's Middle School in Puddletown in the middle of November. Our team, Nayte, Finley, Sophia and Bea, represented Milborne and were joined by other First Schools in the area. Some of the skills tested included running, catching and throwing. The top favourite being the large bouncy gym balls!

We came third, so well done to the team, you did yourselves proud!



Trees for Dorset came to visit our Year 3 children

Peter Rothman, a teacher paid for by 'Trees for Dorset' and other volunteers came into school to work with the Year 3 children. Their tasks for the day were to collect different leaves, sort them, identify them by using a 'yes and no' question sheet about their characteristics, look closely at them using magnifying glasses and draw them.

The children then talked about how leaves rot down into compost using worms. They then made their own wormery and were going to find out if the worms preferred a certain type of leaf over another. They cut up examples of oak, sycamore, horse chestnut, hazel and silver birch into thumb-nail size pieces and laid the same number of each leaf on top of the soil in the wormery box. Pete then added six worms.

The children were given a chart to keep a weekly record of how many of each leaf were left on the top of the soil to find out which one the worms preferred.



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

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

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Floods, long grass and parking the bus, Part II

MILBORNE residents were given the stark warning at November's Parish Council (PC) meeting that "if the village does nothing, then nothing will happen". Steve Lord, of the Flood Warden Team was addressing the meeting with an update to flood prevention and associated works in the village and made the point that it required residents to inform Dorset Council (DC) of potential flood risks or of suffering flooding incidents. He spoke about problems such as debris that clogs drain gullies, the path of surface water down the hills into the centre of the village and maintenance work that is outstanding, including silt traps on the Dewlish road and gullies on Chapel Street. Mr Lord said it was necessary for householders to get in touch with DC to make them aware that all is not well. Cllr Witherden, who chaired the meeting in place of Cllr Macnair who was not able to attend, asked Mr Lord if the PC could add its weight too with appeals to DC. A resounding 'yes' was the answer, and councillors agreed the clerk would write to Highways, with technical advice from Steve Lord.

Before this, Mr Lord set out the Flood Team's goals and the current situation. Their aim, he said, is to avoid residents' homes being inundated rather than the unrealistic target to stop flooding completely. "Being prepared" was key; residents' responsibility in protecting their own homes and the team providing advice via their early warning system – using groundwater data from boreholes – and helping to clear the watercourses (see opposite, Bere Stream Maintenance). Cllr Witherden noted that DC's recent draft plan did not mention flooding at all and suggested residents should request of Dorset Council that it is included.

"Making Milborne more beautiful" was how Clerk, Wayne Lewin, described the proposed maintenance regime of cutting grass verges and hedges at 36 locations around the village. Quotes are being sought, but £4500 has been earmarked for the work, half this sum was already being spent on Village Hall and church grounds, as was pointed out by a resident. There was also concern from the public about the scheme not being wildlife friendly – cutting at the right times for nesting birds and frequency – but councillors were happy for the plan to be moved forward.

The recently approved Neighbourhood Plan had flagged up that the village's Conservation Area (CA) has not been assessed properly, Cllr Witherden said. She advocated an appraisal project to evaluate the aspects that contribute to the identity of the area. It would, she said, "tell us what is special and what isn't". Councillors agreed to put aside £3,000 for expert advice that will be required.

A request for funding came from St John's Ambulance, who invited the PC to donate £75, £300 or £1,000 to the charity. Councillors decided to offer not even a cup of sweet tea and sympathy, since there was not a local connection to justify it. Residents present went further, saying it was a "misuse of public funds" if cash was to be given. It was speculated that the charity was 'doing the rounds' of Parish Councils, but MSA PC would not be one to donate.

Following on from last month's PC headline, councillors were again 'parking the bus' – more literally since the community transport scheme was being manoeuvred into the long grass (into those verges not on the list of 36?!), but proposed instead a 'community activity fund'. The clerk suggested it could be used for anything from supplying tea and biscuits after the Remembrance Day ceremony to a community barbecue in the summer. The funds available would be the same as for the charabanc idea; £1,000.

Buses – and more precisely where they stop – provided the subject for more bus talk as Cllr Cherry asked the history of the current stop westbound in The Square and the previously mooted change to near the BT exchange. The safety of children waiting on a narrow pavement and visibility for road users were concerns. It was agreed that it would be discussed at the **next full PC on Wednesday 15th January.**

Ed Richards

Bere Stream Maintenance

FOLLOWING several years of professional maintenance through the Environment Agency who will no longer pay for the clearing out, this is the first year the stream has been cleared out below March Bridge in partnership of village volunteers, Flood Wardens and Mark Frampton, the riparian owner. Carried out in September, the work was completed in approximately 24 "person hours" by Arthur Yeo, Giles Pugh, Alan and Linda Caldwell, Stephen Bowman, Mark Johnson and myself. This is an essential part of the Village Flood Plan for



preparing the village for winter and possible floods. In particular I would also like to acknowledge the time patience and negotiating skills of Joy Robinson who has agreed a River Maintenance Plan with the EA to ensure a balance between the need to maintain this stretch for water vole habitat and flood water relief.

Without this work the village would remain extremely vulnerable to extremes of flooding and the community response will form part of our ongoing commitment to reduce the flooding threat to the village. Next year we are hoping to enlist more volunteers to help in this vital work.

Photos below shows before, after and I have to say it is very satisfying to see the river flowing so well. Our efforts clearly have made a difference! Thank you to all.

Steve Lord
Flood Warden Team



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“Alexa – what is my flash briefing?”

DORSET Police is introducing a new channel for local communities to get the latest news from the Force.

Through the new Dorset Police Flash Briefing skill for Amazon Alexa members of the public can now access free daily updates with the latest news and appeals delivered straight from the Force’s Media Office into their home.

The briefings include witness appeals, missing people appeals, investigation results, court updates, crime prevention advice and information about the Force’s performance.

The Alexa voice service, which can be accessed through an Amazon Echo smart speaker as well as other Alexa enabled devices, gives users the opportunity to create a tailored experience in relation to many areas including news bulletins.

Chief Constable James Vaughan said: “We are always keen to embrace new technology and so far only a few police forces offer this way of keeping up to date with what is going on in the local area. It is very exciting that we are now one of them.

“Connecting with as many people in Dorset as possible is very important to us and the Alexa voice service offers a very convenient and direct way to quickly access an overview of our work.

“Different groups of our community want to receive information through vastly diverse methods and this is an addition to more traditional channels, such as our website, social media channels, Dorset Alert and reports in the media.

“Many of our releases are appeals for help from the public. By enabling the Dorset Police Flash Briefing skill for Amazon Alexa, not only do you get an insight into the complex and varied work our officers and staff do, you can also quickly get involved in helping us solve crime or find vulnerable missing people.”

A silver lining to a black cloud at History Group

THE History Group were disappointed that our speaker, John Smith, had to cancel at the last minute but it was decided to run the meeting despite no presentation from him. Encouragingly there were still enough people who came to have an interesting meeting.

As a last-minute topic, we found out about hurdle making and those men from the village who were involved in this trade. Eva brought a lot of information along as her brother-in-law has been a hurdle maker for many years, as is his son. Although a lot of technical information it triggered interesting discussions.

The group discussed potential speakers and topics. Hopefully, John Smith will come in the earlier part of the year to deliver his presentation. One member suggested a challenging subject which was agreed we could explore. There are intriguing ‘footings’, of a village or homestead, that can be seen in one of the fields to the west of Weatherby Castle. It was decided that at our next meeting, we will have a ‘workshop’ session using maps, books and articles from different sources, to try to find out and record collated information about the ‘lost village’. All are welcome to join this meeting.

We will not be meeting in December but we will start again on the 8th of January 2020.

Pam Shults



The Reporter team would like to wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Milborne Remembers

AT the Remembrance Service held on 10th November the Last Post was sounded and the two minutes silence held ending with the Reveille. Sally Dyer read out a list of those from Milborne St. Andrew who gave their lives in both World Wars followed by Laurie Benn reminding us of those moving words by Lawrence Binyon

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
When you go home remember us and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today.’*



Wreaths were laid, followed by the Reverend Sarah Hillman leading those gathered in prayer. She spoke of the violence of war, the distress of grief, the depth of love felt for those in death as in life. Remembering those civilians whose lives were disfigured and thoughts for those peacemakers and keepers of the peace. Also that those who bear the burden of leadership be granted the gifts of wisdom as they work towards reconciliation. She wished that in this broken world we have the grace to pray for our enemies and to turn them into friends, to keep

faith in the future whilst working towards justice for all and rest for the departed.

The ceremony ended with a rendering of the National Anthem.

Carole Fornachon

The Gardening Club get busy!



IN October the Gardening Club committee had plans to refresh the planters on the corner of Milton Road. Unfortunately, on close inspection one of them was found to be rotten and had to be removed.

Quick as a flash, committee member and skilful woodworker Arthur Yeo built a new one! Now both planters have been planted with many bulbs to be enjoyed in the spring. All materials and bulbs have been donated by the MSA Gardening Club.

Angela Johnson



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A Yuletide – Dorset Dialect Poem

WITH many a traditional Christmas coming up in Dorset it is good to look at one of our best known pastoral poets, William Barnes, born in Bagber in 1801, a native speaker of the Dorset dialect, (derived from Saxon and Norse) he worked initially as a solicitor's clerk in Dorchester returning there from Mere where he founded a school to found another before being ordained. By the time of his death in 1886 he had written 800 poems in the Dorset dialect also inventing words and phrases. There is a bronze statue to his memory in Dorchester outside the church of St. Peter's. As Thomas Hardy commented "His rustics are, as a rule, happy people, and seldom feel the sting of the rest of mankind . . . [the poems are] tinged with a golden glow – the light that never was" This is a Christmassy tale of Grandma's wedding shoes and how she kept them together with a lock of Grandpa's hair. Although in dialect it is easy to translate!

Grammer's Shoes

I do seem to zee Grammer as she did use
Vor to show us, at Chris'mas, her wedden shoes,
An' her flat spreaden bonnet so big an' roun'
As a girt pewter dish a-turn' d upside down;
When we all did draw near
In a cluster to hear
O' the merry wold soul how she did use
To walk an' to dance wi' her high-heel shoes.



She'd a gown wi' girt flowers lik' hollyhocks,
An' zome stockens o' gramfers a-knit wi' clocks,
An' a token she kept under lock an' key, -
A small lock ov his hear off avore 't wer grey.
An' her eyes were red,
An' she shook her head,
When we all a-look'd at it, an' she did use
To lock it away wi' her wedden shoes.



She could tell us such teiles about heavy snows,
An' o' rains an' o' floods when the waters rose
All up into the housen, an' carr'd away
All the bridge with a man an' his little bwoy;
An' o' vog an' vrost,
An' o' vo'k a-lost,
An' o' pearties at Chris'mas, when she did use
Vor to walk hwome wi' gramfer in high-heel shoes



Ev'rt Chris'mas she lik'd vor the bells to ring,
An' to have in the zingers to hear em zing
The wold carols she heard many years a-gone,
While she warm'd em zome cider avore the bron';
An' she'd look an' smile
At our dancen, while
She did tell how her friends now a-gone did use
To reely wi' her in their high-heel shoes.



Ah! an' how she did like vor to deck wi' red
Holly-berries the window an' wold clock's head,
An' the clavy wi' boughs o' some bright green leaves,
An' to meake twoast an' eale upon Chris'mas e ves;
But she's now, drough greace,
In a better plice,
Though we'll never vorget her, poor soul, nor lose
Gmfer's token ov hear, nor her wedden shoes.



William Barnes

(ov: of; avore; before; wedden; wedding; girt: large, great; bron: brand, branch; clavy: mantelpiece; drough greace: through grace)

Carole Fornachon

Copy for the January issue must be received by 9th December

Wilde time at the 'best yet' Blues Night

The latest in the popular Blues Nights featured a good friend of mine, harmonica wizard, Will Wilde, whom I have known since his time at the prestigious Brighton Music Institute.

His career really took off from then both musically and with his day job as a harmonica tutor, but a recent serious motorcycle accident nearly put paid to it. Through sheer guts and determination (bearing in mind it's his living!) Will is nearly back to full health, apart from occasional back spasms. His precious vocal chords are intact and it was a pleasure to invite him and his three piece band to the village.

Whilst a lot of his set list comprises original compositions - some never before played in public - it was the covers that drew the most appreciation from the audience of a 'certain age'. From the raucous 'The Wizard' (Black Sabbath) to the wonderful Parisienne Walkways (Gary Moore/Phil Lynott) – where you could have heard a pin drop - the music was something to behold. Peter Green's 'Love That Burns' brought the noise level down again. Special guests Zoe Schwarz and husband Rob Koral, from Blue Commotion (previous guests), joined the band for a great call and response rendition of a classic blues song, before Will brought the house down with his stunning version of Deep Purple's 'Lazy' .

A great evening, with a good few punters saying it was the best yet, I'll have to pull something out of the bag for the next one, whenever, or more importantly if, we do it all over again next year.

Clive Rawlings, photos by Paul May



Recycle your Poppy



Royal British Legion supporter, Sainsbury's is offering poppy recycling in all of its stores. Look for the recycling boxes at all their customer service desks. They're sent back to the RBL Poppy Warehouse in Aylesford, dismantled and reused for next year's appeal. Don't delay. Your swift action will save the RBL up to £100,000.

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

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| 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: Wayne Lewin | 07419 136735 |
| | 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@swhitd.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 | Sam Elliott | 07873 762035 |
| 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 | Richard Macnair 01258 837912 |

SCHOOL

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Milborne First School | | |
| Headteacher: | Sharon Hunt | 01258 837362 |
| Chair Governors: | Matt Way | |
| Friends of School Chair: | | |

SPECIAL INTEREST

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Bellringers | Pip Howell | 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 | Bruce Dyer | 01258 839117 |
| 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 |

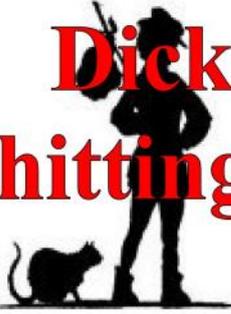


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Community Events Diary

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

December

- Wednesday 4th** **Wednesday Club Christmas Party** The Royal Oak 2.30pm – see page 21.
- Friday 6th** **Milborne Movies ‘The man who invented Christmas’** the Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm tickets £3.50 at the door – see pages 27.
- Saturday 7th** **Christmas Bazaar** Village Hall, Dewlish – see page 7.
- Saturday 7th** **Christmas Fair** in aid of St. Andrew’s Church 4.00pm Village Hall – see advert on page 10.
- Monday 9th** **The Reporter deadline.** Copy and photographs by mid-day.
- Thursday 12th** **WI Party night**– see below.
- Friday 13th** **Christmas carols around the village** Friends of School 5.30pm from the Village Hall.
- Saturday 14th** **Carol service** St. Andrew’s Church 6.00pm – see page 6.
- Sunday 15th** **Christingle service** at St. Andrew’s Church 3.00pm – see page 6.
- Sunday 22nd** **Carol Service** Dewlish Church 3.00pm – see page 7.
- Tuesday 24th** **Midnight Mass** St. Andrew’s Church 11.30pm – see page 6.

January

- Monday 13th** **Village Lunch AGM** The Royal Oak, 12.15pm. All welcome to attend

Milborne St. Andrew WI

THE Speaker for our November meeting was Hazel Wilson whose talk was entitled “Undercover Agent”. It was a cold evening outside but inside the Village Hall it was all warmth and fun. Hazel had worked in a number of stores in Bournemouth selling corsets and bras. She kept us highly amused with her stories and even brought samples with her. It was an evening not to be missed! The competition for a “Surprise Item” was won by Sheila Burton.

Congratulations were given to Jenny Preston on her appointment as County Chairman for the Dorset Federation of WI’s. We’re all very proud of her! Val Andrews then gave us a report on the Federation meeting in October while Veronica Herridge told us of the latest book, “We’re All Made of Stars” by Rowan Coleman which was quite well received by the Reading Group.

Our meeting in December will be party night. Don’t forget your donations to this year’s chosen charity “Riding for the Disabled” See you all there!

José Thomas

 Have you got a funny story you'd like to share? Or joke, anecdote or anything that would make us and the village chuckle?! The Reporter would love to share your funnies, so get in touch:

msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk,

[facebook.com/MilborneReporter](https://www.facebook.com/MilborneReporter) or see one of the team.

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.
- Beavers** Friday 5.30–6.45pm
- 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.

George, Eileen and Michael Way

Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear.

Veronica, David and Paul xxx

All copy for the **January 2020 Reporter** must be received by mid-day **9th December**. Please send copy via e-mail to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk



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Christmas Stilton and egg mousse

CHRISTMAS was such an exciting time for us children in the 1950's, not just because of the expectations of a pillowcase full of presents but there was so much to look forward to. I remember so well the anticipation and sheer joy of opening up a window of our advent calendars every morning to discover, not a chocolate, but a tiny picture of an angel or a shepherd or a donkey. My brother and I were thrilled, we could hardly wait for the next day's offering.

So many things to do, including the hanging up of home-made paper chains from the picture rail with drawing pins, decorating our very battered tiny artificial Christmas tree with a much loved selection of home-made decorations (no colour coordination in those days . . .) carol singing from door to door with our friends, Church carol services, school nativity plays and all the festive cooking and household preparations.

There was not much spare money around at home, we knew not to expect new bicycles or other expensive things at Christmas. Practical presents like socks and hand-knitted jumpers were always a feature. Often our gifts were passed on by other members of our large extended family. I still remember the wonderful gift of a very old, battered and re-painted sledge given to me by my Auntie Freda; to me it seemed even more special because it had been played with by my cousin James.

However, one year I unwrapped a present and was completely nonplussed. Auntie Shirley had asked mum what I would like as a present and, as I was pony-mad at that time, she'd suggested any book about horses or riding. When I saw the gift tag and the shape of the wrapped present, I was really hoping for something equestrian but when I tore off the paper I discovered "The Observers Book of Geology". We were all a bit baffled, as no one in our family really knew what "Geology" was. Flicking through the pages I soon discovered that it was all about rocks. I'd like to be able to say that this book inspired a lifelong love of petrology but I'm afraid that's not true. It was quite a challenge to write my thank you letter to Auntie Shirley after Christmas, what could I say?

Thank you letter writing was an onerous task, mum's rule was that they had to be written and posted to arrive before the New Year. We had a very large family. Each year, straight after Boxing Day, my brother and I sat at the dining table scratching our heads and sucking our pens. At school we used wooden pens with a metal nib which were dipped into re-fillable white ceramic ink wells set into the desks. One Christmas we were given brand new fountain pens as a special present from mum and dad. They had a small metal lever at one side which you could raise and lower over a bottle of ink to refill the little rubber tube inside. This was a messy and rather hit and miss process and I always seemed to get more ink on my hands than in the pen. Plastic ink cartridges were invented in 1953 but they weren't widely available until the late 1950's. Ballpoint pens (Biros) were beginning to be available after the war but mum insisted we use proper pen and ink for a formal letter of thanks. Mum was on hand to assist with the orthography and would shout out the letters of each word we needed from the kitchen where she was busy making turkey rissoles from all the leftovers. She was very strict and any mistake with spelling or even the tiniest blot of ink meant re-writing the whole letter.

Nowadays I am always delighted to receive thank you letters from my young relatives; some are still painstakingly handwritten and some are in the form of emails and texts. I've even had a thank you video sent from her phone from one great niece, showing her playing her new recorder with her whole family enthusiastically accompanying her on kazoo's!

This month's recipe is for Stilton and egg mousse. Stilton was my father's favourite cheese but it was an expensive luxury and we only ever had it at Christmas. We all loved it and ate it with Christmas cake and mince pies in true Yorkshire style. I can't remember there ever being any leftovers to use up.



Ingredients

1 sachet of gelatine powder (or vege-gel) and 150ml water
3 hard boiled eggs
175g Stilton cheese
150ml soured cream or creme fraiche
Juice of ½ lemon Salt and pepper 2 egg whites

Method

Sprinkle gelatine powder on 150ml cold water in a small saucepan, leave to stand for 5 minutes then heat very gently and stir until it becomes transparent. Remove from heat.

(NB if using vege-gel it's very important to follow the packet instructions)

Put shelled eggs, quartered, into a blender and add crumbled cheese, creme fraiche, lemon juice and the slightly cooled gelatine liquid. Blend until smooth and add seasoning to taste, I find a few twists of salt and pepper really enhance the flavour, but it is very much a matter of personal taste. Cool until just beginning to set. Whisk egg whites until they stand in peaks then very gently fold into cheese mixture. Pour into individual ramekin dishes or an oiled mould and chill until set. I use an oiled straight sided one-pint soufflé dish and when it is turned out it looks like a whole cheese. Turn out just before serving and decorate with chopped celery leaves. Delicious with home-made Melba toast.

The mousse keeps for a few days in the fridge and is very handy to bring out as a change from the inevitable cold turkey over the Christmas and New Year period. Melba toast is one of those accompaniments which has fallen out of fashion, but is well worth the effort to make in bulk as it keeps in a tin for weeks, any ready sliced bread will do. Look on the internet for instructions/recipe. It is very satisfying to make although you have to concentrate and watch it like a hawk while it is under the grill. So very much better than anything out of a packet when served with pate or cheese. Serve it with Manchego cheese and quince jelly if you want to impress.

The poem I've chosen is one of my early childhood favourites. Good King Wenceslas is associated with Christmas but I've always had a lot of sympathy for Bad King John and his 'hopeful stocking'. I also felt sorry for whichever poor child lost their brand-new red India rubber ball on Christmas morning, did they get into trouble?

King John's Christmas

A. A. Milne

King John was not a good man –
He had his little ways.
And sometimes no one spoke to him
For days and days and days.
And men who came across him,
When walking in the town,
Gave him a supercilious stare,
Or passed with noses in the air –
And bad King John stood dumbly there,
Blushing beneath his crown.

Continued on page 21

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

Continued from page 19

King John was not a good man,
And no good friends had he.
He stayed in every afternoon . . .
But no one came to tea.
And, round about December,
The cards upon his shelf
Which wished him lots of Christmas cheer,
And fortune in the coming year,
Were never from his near and dear,
But only from himself.

King John was not a good man,
Yet had his hopes and fears.
They'd given him no present now
For years and years and years.
But every year at Christmas,
While minstrels stood about,
Collecting tribute from the young
For all the songs they might have sung,
He stole away upstairs and hung
A hopeful stocking out.

King John was not a good man,
He lived his life aloof;
Alone he thought a message out
While climbing up the roof.
He wrote it down and propped it
Against the chimney stack:
'TO ALL AND SUNDRY – NEAR AND FAR –
F. Christmas in particular.'
And signed it not 'Johannes R.'
But very humbly, 'Jack.'

'I want some crackers,
And I want some candy;
I think a box of chocolates
Would come in handy;
I don't mind oranges,
I do like nuts!
And I SHOULD like a pocket-knife
That really cuts.
And, oh! Father Christmas, if you love me at all,
Bring me a big, red, India-rubber ball!'

King John was not a good man –
He wrote this message out,
And gat him to his room again,
Descending by the spout.
And all that night he lay there,
A prey to hopes and fears.
'I think that's him a-coming now!'
(Anxiety bedewed his 'brow.)
He'll bring one present, anyhow –
The first I had for years.'

'Forget about the crackers,
And forget the candy;
I'm sure a box of chocolates
Would never come in handy;
I don't like oranges,
I don't want nuts,
And I HAVE got a pocket-knife
That almost cuts.
But, oh! Father Christmas, if you love me at all,
Bring me a big, red, India-rubber ball!'

King John was not a good man,
Next morning when the sun
Rose up to tell a waiting world
That Christmas had begun,
And people seized their stockings,
And opened them with glee,
And crackers, toys and games appeared,
And lips with sticky sweets were smeared,
King John said grimly: 'As I feared,
Nothing again for me!'

'I did want crackers,
And I did want candy;
I know a box of chocolates
Would come in handy;
I do love oranges,
I did want nuts!
I haven't got a pocket-knife –
Not one that cuts.
And, oh! If Father Christmas had loved me at
all,
He would have brought a big, red,
India-rubber ball!'

King John stood by the window,
And frowned to see below
The happy bands of boys and girls
All playing in the snow.
And while he stood there watching,
And envying them all . . .
When through the window big
and red
There hurtled by his royal
head,
And bounced and fell upon
the bed,
An India-rubber ball!

AND, OH, FATHER
CHRISTMAS,
MY BLESSINGS ON YOU FALL
FOR BRINGING HIM
A BIG, RED,
INDIA-RUBBER
BALL!



Village Hall news

FOR several months we have been looking at parking at the village hall. People using the hall were unable to park as local residents were parked there. We were thinking that the parking area would have to be locked. However, following meetings with the residents and with their co-operation the problems seem to have been resolved. We will continue to monitor the situation but we thank the residents for their help in this matter. If you do have problems with parking for your event please let us know.

A reminder that we are still looking for someone to help with maintenance at the hall. Even if you can only offer a small amount of time anything would be grateful. For more information please contact Pam (01258 837203) or Sarah (01258 839230). The committee do their best to keep the hall and play park in order but extra help is needed to help with some of the tasks.

Can we also remind all hall users to stack the chairs correctly, they will only fit on the frame if they are the right way round! There is a diagram if you are not sure.

Finally, please support film nights and Arts Reach events at the hall; see adverts for these events in the *Reporter*. *Linda Wright*

Milborne St. Andrew Wednesday Club

ON Wednesday 6th November we held our AGM. The revised Constitution was presented to members and accepted as were the accounts and next year's programme booklet was handed out. We followed this with bingo games together with our usual raffle, tea and biscuits.

Our next meeting will be the Christmas Party on 4th December at The Royal Oak at 2.30pm. If you haven't yet signed up for it, contact Jenny and she will add your name. It was decided to give to charity this year rather than have presents. The chosen charities are "Julia's House" and "Alzheimer's Society". Please put your donation in an envelope with the chosen charity named. I do hope Father Christmas will still be coming!

Our January meeting will be different this year. We will be meeting in the Village Hall at 2.00pm on 8th January 2020 (note the date!) for a "bring and share" party. If you have a burning itch to be part of the entertainment please let Harry know and he will be delighted to include you on his list.

José Thomas

How good is your English?

Here is a challenge for you. Construct a sentence that has the word "had" eleven times consecutively, without any other words in between. Punctuation is allowed. *Answer p 29*



Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club

The Gardening Club does not meet in December. We start again on 16th January 2020 in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm, when Linda Wright of Greensleeves, the lawn treatment experts, will talk to us about all aspects of lawn maintenance.

For more information about the MSA gardening club contact Ann Guy, 01258 837131.

Mark Johnson

Copy for the next Reporter must be received by 9th December

'The Wound in Time'/Remembrance

CAROL DUFFY'S appointment as Poet Laureate gave her the opportunity to react in a personal way to public events and commemorations so as to offer the people of the nation an opportunity to pause and think about the subject in a new way. As did this poem for the centenary of the 1918 armistice giving a name to the 'Pages of the Sea' images in the sand across many beaches last year, managed by Danny Boyle.



It is a sonnet, as were many of the best-known poems from the war-poets, but it's a twenty-first century sonnet: she offers us the concept and its potential for a certain kind of reflection and meaning, as she has done many times previously in similar poems. The title brings together the idea of a *wound* as a lasting scar as well as a physical injury and links it with the passage of time, perhaps reminding us of the idea of time healing all wounds, except that she goes on to develop her idea that this has not happened. Sadly, we can't print it for copyright reasons but as an introduction to remembrance her use of powerful imagery, linking *time* and *tide* . . . *Death's birthing-place* are wonderfully and effectively compact, as are *birthing, nursing* and *hatching*. Also, the alliterated as the men sail off to France or Flanders, and the *end of God* as so many men lost their faith during the slaughter. The latter half of the poem is quieter, calmer as Duffy acknowledges the intention behind the men's sacrifice – *love you gave your world for* – even though that was not the actuality. And then come the lessons not learned, reinforced as she moves into the present tense: *we learn nothing from your endless sacrifice: war continues unabated a century later; the futility of it all*. There are a couple of clever echoes of earlier poems, I think: to Wilfred Owen's famous *Dulce et Decorum Est* in *Poetry gargling in its own blood*, and to Philip Larkin's fiftieth anniversary poem *MCMXIV in the town squares silent, awaiting their cenotaphs*.

I think this is a very fine poem and a worthy commemoration of those times; I think Duffy balances the horrific waste with the good intentions and reminds us that it's our – contemporary – responsibility that nothing has changed. Hence our continuing need to create what has become known as **Remembrance Day** (or informally as **Poppy Day**



owing to the tradition of the remembrance poppy) It is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth Member States since the end of the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty.

The tradition of Remembrance Day evolved out of Armistice Day. The initial Armistice Day was observed at Buckingham Palace commencing with King George V hosting. Following this inauguration

by King George V in 1919 Remembrance Day is observed on 11th November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of First World War on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "*at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month*", in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5.12 and 5.20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11.00 am.) The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28th June 1919. And a "*Banquet in Honour of the President of the French Republic*" during the evening hours of 10th November 1919. The Treaty of Versailles was the most important of the peace treaties that brought World War I to an end. The Treaty ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers.

Location: Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles.

Condition: Ratification by Germany and three Allied Powers.

Signed: 28th June 1919

Many artillery units continued to fire on German targets to avoid having to haul away their spare ammunition. The Allies also wished to

ensure that, should fighting restart, they would be in the most favourable position. Consequently, there were 10,944 casualties, of whom 2,738 men died. On the last day Augustin Trébuchon was the last Frenchman to die when he was shot on his way to tell fellow soldiers, who were attempting an assault across the Meuse river, that hot soup would be served after the ceasefire. He was killed at 10.45am.

Prolongation

It is worth remembering that The Armistice was prolonged three times before peace was finally ratified and that the seeds of the Second World War were sown into the conditions. During this period it was also developed.

- **First Armistice** (11th November 1918 – 13th December 1918)
- **First prolongation of the armistice** (13th December 1918 – 16th January 1919)
- **Second prolongation of the armistice** (16th January 1919 – 16th February 1919)

Trèves Agreement, 17th January 1919

- **Third prolongation of the armistice** (16th February 1919 – 10th January 1920)

Brussels Agreement, 14th March 1919

Peace was finally ratified at 4.15pm on 10th January 1920.

Carole Fornachon

Tip of the Month – December

Welcome to Tip of the Month for December and a reminder that these messages are specifically created for, and sent only to Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and members, so please feel free to share them with your membership.

November is the month when we really notice how the days are getting shorter and so it is important to ensure that your lighting is up to the job in readiness for winter. This month we are going to consider home security lights and keeping safe on the road at night.

Home Lighting

- Interior lights make it easier for passers by to see into your home, so always close your curtains as soon as the light starts to fade.
- Install "Dusk to Dawn" security lighting. The lights will come on when daylight starts to fade and will go off when it becomes light again. This can be manually overridden if you do not want the lights on all night. The lights use low energy bulbs and give out low level lighting making it easy for you to see people approaching your property. This type of lighting will not cause an issue for your neighbours and is better than movement activated lighting.
- Use automatic timer switches to turn on interior lights when it gets dark, even if you are only out for a couple of hours

Using the Road

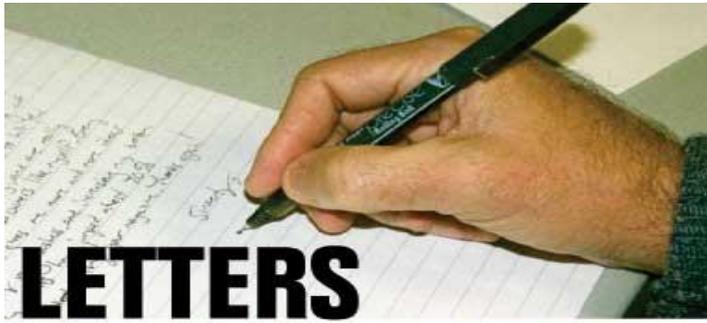
We have all seen cars on the road with only one working head light and it may be tempting to use your vehicle before it is fixed, but doing so is not only against the law, it is also dangerous as it is confusing to oncoming road users, not to mention reducing your ability to see any hazards ahead.

Not only should you keep lights in working order, they also need to be kept clean and clear and this doesn't just apply to car drivers and motorcyclists, it also relates to users of mobility scooters that have lights fitted and to cyclists who must have working lights on the front and rear of their cycles when using them on the road at night.

It is safer not to ride your horse or drive a horse-drawn vehicle at night, but if you do, you will need to show a white light to the front and a red to the rear, you should also fit reflective bands to your horse above the fetlock joints.

Pedestrians and dog walkers should also make sure that they are easily seen by wearing reflective clothing, or carrying something fluorescent or light in colour, you can also purchase reflective collars for your dog.

Whatever your mode of travel, make sure that you can see and be seen, both in poor visibility and at night to prevent unnecessary accidents.



LETTERS to the Reporter

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Sally Dyer for organising the Remembrance Day gathering at the stone on November 10th this year. Also, I am very grateful to Michael Hopper who has previously organised this for many years. Thanks are also due to Gren Elphinstone-Davies for the PA system and to all who played a part in the event. We had fine weather this year and it was good to see so many people attending, including a few children. Wreaths were laid on behalf of village organisations and I also laid a wreath on behalf of the War Widows Association.

Several people have asked me about the significance of the white cross:

The founders of the War Widows' Association decided that they wished to lay a tribute made of flowers to their fallen loved ones. They chose white chrysanthemums because they were plentiful in November and the herb Rosemary is included as it signifies remembrance. The shape of the cross was chosen as it reflected the wooden cross which traditionally marked the place where a soldier had fallen on the battlefield.

The roll call of the dead villagers, the Last Post and the two-minute silence were, as ever, very poignant and it was so heartening to hear everyone joining in the unaccompanied singing of our National Anthem.

Lest we forget.

Rose Frost

Neighbourhood Plan – a Baton or a Stick

Dear Ed (Richards) very many thanks for your impartial reporting of the Parish Council meeting and thanks also for hiding from any faint hearted readers the details of what I saw as a very hostile verbal attack on my integrity and my right to have a view that is different to the Councillors with the Reporter phrases "There were heated exchanges" and "There were testy exchanges".

Clearly I had touched a nerve and I was not naive enough to believe that by giving the Council a prior copy of my article on page 11 as part of the Sports Club grant application I had NOT handed the Councillors a stick to beat me with. So I knew what was likely to be coming when I entered the arena even without the pre-meeting inside information . . .

These "testy" exchanges were clearly designed to humiliate (my opinion) and to try and put me back in my box with a range of heated comments suggesting that my views were irrelevant and not shared by anyone else. I was alone . . . take that! My response "so what is wrong with that, if that is my view and I am comfortable with it, then so be it"

Since the meeting I have been comforted by the fact that I am no longer isolated and NOT the only one holding such views.

My crime was to suggest that the Neighbourhood Plan outcomes were something that the Parish Council should pick up and run with by setting them as their objectives too. A 'leading by example not a "do as I say not as I do" lobbing bricks at developers (one in particular) approach'.

It is also more than just defending the one line housing target

buried on page 13 of 2.8 dwellings per year that has been repeated more than once of late.

Clearly I was exposed at the meeting as not even reading from the same book let alone being on the same page as the councillors but I believe that the 60 page document is more than just about setting planning policies for Dorset Council to follow and "what we can get out of developers". (Council's Nov Reporter comment on page 29).

To me it also lays down the foundations for what the community expects the Parish Council to shape and deliver in the future. A near recent similar situation being when the Village Hall trustees of 2006 were brave enough to conduct a community based survey writing:

Dear Friends

As trustees of the Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall we find ourselves at a cross-roads in making decisions regarding the future development of the facilities we are able to offer.

The trustees rose to the challenge of the many negative comments made by the community and by the active users and by 2011 virtually all the negative aspects had been eliminated, resulting in great improvements being made.

So on reflection, I still contend that it should be about the Parish Council doing the same and picking up and delivering with others, (including the Sports Club) the opportunities set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The operative words in this process being: proactive, energy, enthusiasm, meeting challenges, overcoming obstacles, working together, setting examples for developers. My final plea; please leave personalities at the door and out of the decision making process, I am not convinced that they are.

Anyway, thanks again Ed and are you any clearer as to why the Sports Club grant was reduced to £250, one third of the cost of a duplicate notice board, because we both heard two reasons given, one by the Chair and one by the Clerk?

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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The answer to the "Modern Art" article on page 27 of the November Reporter is held over to next month due to lack of space.

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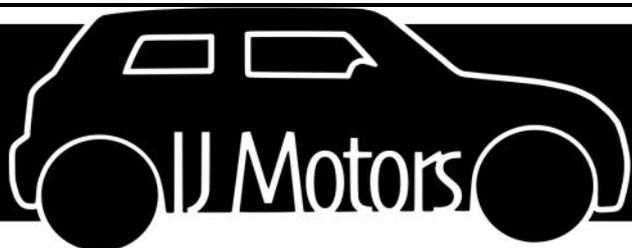
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Round Robin Ramblers

The local villages walking group

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

Sunday 1st December – 1.30pm (*note earlier starting time during winter*)

Minterne Magna and Cerne Abbas

Meet in car park opposite the church in Minterne Magna
Grid reference: ST 769110 on OS Explorer Sheet 129 (approx. 4.5 miles)

No Wednesday walk in December due to proximity to Christmas.

Sunday 5th January – 1.30 pm (*note earlier starting time during winter*)

Broad Oak and Sturminster Newton

Meet at Fiddleford Mill car park, off A357 from Sturminster Newton to Shillingstone.
Grid reference: ST 802135 on OS Explorer Sheet 129 (approx. 4.5 miles)

Please note:

- Who** All welcome including well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners. No pre-booking required just turn up.
- Wear** Suitable clothing for wet conditions and location, walking boots or Wellington boots.
- Bring** Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).
- Pace** We go at the pace of the slowest.
- Terrain** Expect mud, inclines and stiles.
- Aim** Keep fit, enjoy the Dorset countryside and each other's company.
- Legal** We look after one another but in the end you are responsible for yourself.

A message from your Flood Team

In September, Flood Wardens and a few willing volunteers cleared vegetation from the Bere Stream just beyond March Bridge. At this time of year it's important to keep the stream flowing freely at this point, obstructions to the flow could cause water to back up causing flooding in The Square.

In November, Flood Wardens met with representatives from Dorset Council. The issue of debris, straw, mud and excessive surface water creating a raised risk of flooding to homes has been raised with Highways and Brian Richards Flood Risk Management Team. The matter is being looked at and further meetings are planned to consider poorly positioned and easily blocked gullies on the A354 on Dorchester Hill and gullies in The Square.

We have had a wet autumn. The drainage system and the Bere Stream have coped well so far but the Environment Agency are warning that ground water levels are rising very quickly. What can residents do to help themselves and their neighbours?

1. Keep an eye on drain covers outside your house and along the road. If they are covered with leaves move the leaves aside, it will have an immediate effect on the amount of water flowing along our roads.
2. If you're worried that your property is at risk of flooding, you might consider buying a Gravitas HydroSnake. Easily stored and deployed, they are available to buy from Wickes and Screwfix. Alternatively, you might prefer to store sand and sandbags.
3. If you have been affected by recent heavy rains and fear that your property is threatened by surface water run-off **PLEASE** contact DCC via the Dorset Council website to report your concerns as a matter of urgency as decisions for budget allocation will be prioritised in the spring. Every complaint will strengthen our efforts to get improved drains and clean roads in and around The Square. More information to follow. In the meantime, use the link below to follow the groundwater levels in our valley. <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/station/9049> *MSA Flood Team*

Dear Flood Warden,

We are sending this email as an early heads up to the winter ahead and as an invitation to attend Groundwater drop in sessions in November.

We have been closely monitoring the Groundwater Levels across Dorset and Wiltshire after the recent rainfall events. This time of year is traditionally when we expect to see recharge to aquifers as the crops have been harvested from farmlands, there is more exposed soil with the ploughing season well underway and as the temperature drops this in turn allows most of the rainwater to be absorbed into the ground as the growing season comes to an end.

We have noticed the recharge season started earlier this year due to the wetter autumn that we have experienced, in fact bore hole levels across Dorset and Wiltshire are recording levels considerably above average for this time of year.

Henry Quinney of the Flood Wessex Team.

The flood team are aware of these.



Summer Lodge brings the sunshine to Longmead

THE heavy November rain stayed away as a group of volunteers from Summer Lodge Country Hotel, Evershot, came to help our regular Monday volunteers.

Organised by head gardener Mike Francis, they came armed with secateurs and hedge trimmers, ready to make use of one of the two volunteer days that the company provide annually to all staff to support the community. Even better than that, they brought with them fresh bread and a hearty veggie korma, prepared in the Summer Lodge kitchens to feed us all for the day!

The team were amazing. They were keen to help tidy the garden and grounds for our fundraiser on the 30th November and they worked with such vigour that, by the time I had brought them out a mid-morning cuppa, the front garden was unrecognisable. The care, effort, dedication and pride the team took in their work was astonishing and the end results were a real credit to them.

Watching Longmead buzzing with people working, talking, laughing, lunching together was a real privilege – the house is here for the community and it was great to see it filled. Mondays are a great day at Longmead, our volunteers are really the heartbeat of the



place and we couldn't carry on the work we do without them. The additional boost of volunteers for the day really allowed the whole team to crack on with their autumn tasks with a sense of accomplishment.

It was a really enjoyable day for all. I know that the Summer Lodge staff got a huge amount out of the day and we really want to thank their employers for setting up this forward-thinking scheme for all of them to come. They

are now part of the Longmead family and welcome any time. Many thanks to Dave, Clive, Bob, Des and Meg, our regular volunteers for helping make the day a success under Dave's watchful eye. You, and all our volunteers, are awesome.

If you are interested in volunteering at the farm, regularly or on an adhoc basis, with the animals, the land, family work or administration we would love to hear from you. We are also interested in people planning a return to work or starting to work who would like to volunteer to build up their confidence or develop skills to add to a CV. Please call Sarah for a chat on 01258837960 or email h.cooper@longmead.org



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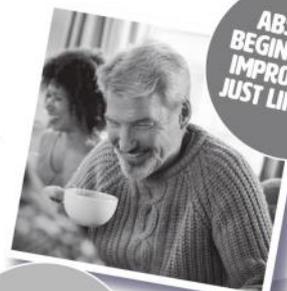
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Milton Abbas Surgery

A message from Dr Julian Rees: Milton Abbas Surgery has a high antibiotic prescribing rate and we have been asked by Public Health England and Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to look closely at our use of antibiotics and we are doing this during December. This should enable currently available antibiotics to last longer by reducing antibiotic-resistance in our community.

We have already purchased an in-house blood testing machine to help differentiate between simple viral illnesses and those requiring antibiotics (the only such machine in Dorset, paid for by patient donations). We are also working on a more evidence-based method of processing urine infection samples. You'll find we are less likely to prescribe for coughs, sore throats, and ear infections and will be "safety-netting" our advice with patient information leaflets.

We have nominated December as our "antibiotic target month" and you may notice other small changes to our practice in this time. Our initial aim is to reduce our antibiotic use by 7.6% to meet national prescribing rates. To learn more about what we're trying to achieve and why, look at <https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/about-antibiotic-resistance/>.

If you are over 65 you are entitled to a free flu vaccination. If you haven't yet had one this year but would like to, please call the surgery to make an appointment. There has been a shortage of vaccines for **eligible** children and we are only able to order these in small numbers: again, please contact the surgery.

We would like to inform our patients of our opening hours over the festive season. These are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Monday 23rd December | as usual |
| Tuesday 24th December | as usual |
| Wednesday 25th December | CLOSED |
| Thursday 26th December | CLOSED |
| Friday 27th December | as usual |
| Saturday 28th December | as usual |
| Monday 30th December | as usual |
| Tuesday 31st December | as usual |
| Wednesday 1st January | CLOSED |
| Thursday 2nd January | as usual |
| Friday 3rd January | as usual |
| Saturday 4th January | as usual |

Our dispensary team request that you only order your normal supply of medication over Christmas. There is no need to stockpile as this may cause shortages for other patients as well as increasing the workload for an already very busy team.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supports the surgery, including our patient group, volunteer drivers and of course our fantastic staff team for helping provide an amazing service to all of our patients. Merry Christmas.

Gillian Brindle
Business Manager, Milton Abbas & Milborne St. Andrew Surgery



Ladybirds and Busy Bees' Halloween party

LADYBIRDS pre school and Busy Bees playgroup would like to say a big thank you to all the helpers, donors and attendees to our fundraising Halloween party! We made £320.50! All the children looked great and the slimy lucky dip was very popular!

Milborne Movies are showing The Man Who Invented Christmas on December 6th at the Village Hall, The Causeway Doors and bar open from 7.00 for 7.30pm start Cost £3.50, tickets on the door

THE Man Who Invented Christmas tells of the magical journey that led to the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge (Christopher Plummer), Tiny Tim and other classic characters from A Christmas Carol. The film shows how Charles Dickens (Dan Stevens) mixed real life inspirations with his vivid imagination to conjure up unforgettable characters and a timeless tale, forever changing the holiday season into the celebration we know today. The cast is excellent and the beautiful photography captures a fairy-tale-like nineteenth century London.

If anyone would like a lift to the hall on film nights, please contact Sarah Ryan on 01258 839230. And if you are able to join those offering lifts, please call too.



Milborne Movies
at the Village Hall
on the BIG screen

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Milborne Movies

Friday 6th December
at 7.30pm

Doors and Bar at 7.00pm

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Milborne St. Andrew Sports Club 20:20 Vision

Looking forward we have already booked in a return of Quinfest on 4th and 5th July and at the time of going to print, maybe also the Church Fete will be returning again on August Bank Holiday.

Another wedding reception is booked in for May and the VDub group have promised to return following getting washed out and having to cancel recently. We even have our first kids' party booked in (and paid for) for January and in the run up to Christmas there are a number of private parties and courses booked in. So it is now becoming necessary to "book early to avoid disappointment" and we do hate saying "No" and try everything possible to fit everyone in but no one takes priority. Any conflicts we put users in contact to see if they can come up with a cunning plan; if not first come, first served. Check out the online calendar on the village webpage.

The new group starting in January is a Baby Signing Group and we wish them every success, that was a new one on me but the more people you speak to you realise that there is a real need for such a service.

Door dollies will soon be provided, and I don't mean the type usually found outside night clubs. These dollies will be placed at the bottom of the main doors to try and cut down the draughts whistling under the doors. Not so necessary for the kickboxing but definitely for the Yoga group . . . maybe.

Had a bit of a glitch with the fire alarm at the recent Ladybirds/ Busy Bees Halloween fundraiser that has now been attended to but if there is anyone out there who would like the challenge of managing the over-engineered facilities please step forward. IT IS A CHALLENGE BUT WORTH IT.

We have lots of other ideas on how we can improve our facilities just need the people to make it happen and we have no hesitation in repeating our call for helpers. We self help wherever we can, so cannot afford the luxury of paying for cleaners, grass cutters, match day helpers, grant hunting. **VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED** - NO JOB IS TOO SMALL if it HELPS shares the workload.

A sod lifter upper (or two) would also be most useful particularly on match days or after as part of the pitch repair/preparation process. We desperately need someone to help Malcom with the pitch preparation too. It is a nine acre site and having a team of one for this aspect is not a good long term idea, so if you are or know someone that is interested please get in contact.

Malcolm has a lot of knowledge that he wants to share he also has a good selection of jokes to help the time go by.

Our recent Council grant application fell well short of what was requested so our U15's will have to remain out in the wet, cold and wind until we can find the necessary within our own reserves or from other sources. When a response of "Why do you Bother" is directed at me during the meeting I say "because I care" but I can also read the other possible message "Why do you keep bothering us when you know the answer?"

We could put up our prices but we have not done so for the past two years and the local U15 team benefit from the premium pitch prices we charge others. In 2015/16 the cost to the local team was



£150 (everything provided, pitches, goals, nets) for 2019/20 it is £160.

As with the Village Hall, the School, the Pub, the Sports Club could not exist just relying on local punters so we will continue to be open to all in order to continue to provide and subsidise the facilities and opportunities for local users.

On the rebound. Just received notification that our planning application for rebound netting behind the goalmouths that adjoin our boundaries has just started its process soon everyone will have an opportunity to make

comments. If it is passed, and it has already cost £465 to submit, we can then move forward and provide six metre high posts with 50 metres of ball rebound netting in order to stop balls being kicked over the respective hedges into the farmer Michael Miller's field or Lane End. The cost of this being £3,000.00. If only the players could be taught to shoot on target, we could have avoided this but then scores would be more like a netball match and there would be a lot of despondent goalies around.

We shouldn't have to say this every time but following a discussion pitchside with a passing dog walker during last Saturday's match . . . we ARE an open public recreation space provided by the Parish Council and managed by the Sports Club . . .

YOU ARE WELCOME . . . you can come in just keep out of the two pitch goalmouth areas . . . they are our income source just like the skittle alley is to the pub, so just use the spare goals we have provided.

In years to come such discussions will be difficult because there will be a hedge pitch-side. In March 2020 we have another 420 hedging plants as part of the Woodland Trust tree pack initiative being delivered so might need some helpers for that too. Last time the lower pitch hedge of 420 plants was finished in the dark under the glare of car headlights!!

Joggers, walkers, takers in of the view all use us and we are glad to see you we also keep the grass pathway outside cut to assist the many walkers, dog walkers that use Lane End.

Sports Club 20:20 Vision . . . Onwards we go . . . *together!!*

Richard Lock

Were you had?! from page 21

Mary just beat Tom to the English prize because she, where Tom had had "had", had had "had had"; "had had" had had a much better affect on the examiner.

November really is a wonderful time of the year at Ladybirds

A GREAT way of keeping warm during our last Woodland session before spring was lighting the fire and cooking Scotch pancakes. For some reason everything is so tasty when cooked and eaten outside and they were enjoyed by children and adults. Again we send thanks to the farmer who gives us access to their woodland for this invaluable learning experience for our children. The winter months will see several of the trees felled due to ash dieback which is sad but necessary to maintain a healthy woodland.

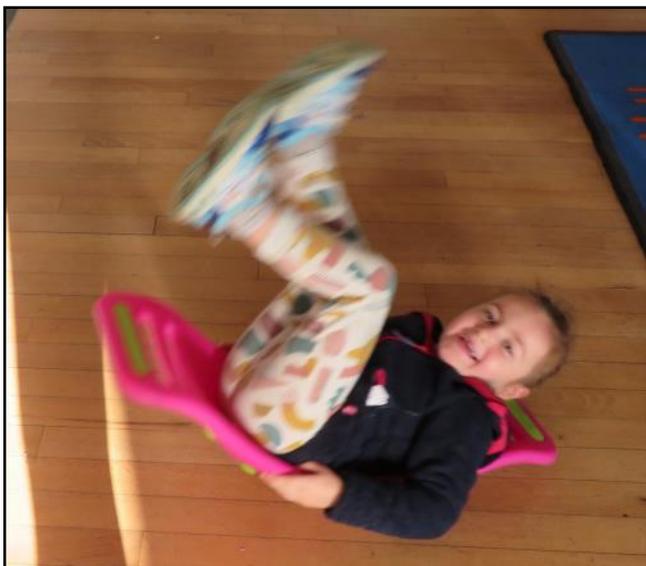
November is a busy month. We talked about the children's experiences of trick or treating and learnt that they loved dressing up and going out with their elders around the village. We read one of our favourite stories, 'Room on the Broom'. While in the woods we made some witches' broomsticks and brought them back to the hall to act out the story. Also outside some interesting experiments took place making potions that change colour and foamed in containers.

The fireworks topic lead to some great artwork with pictures made from splattering paint, using a salad spinner and toilet roll 'flowers'.

On Remembrance Day we walked to the Memorial just before 11.00 and looked at the poppy wreaths and crosses. We sensitively talked about the brave soldiers before returning to the hall to make poppy pictures.

We have a new piece of exercise equipment – a teeter popper – which is like a wobbleboard with suction pads. The children (and a member of staff) had fun trying it out. This will help develop balance and core strength.

And finally we thought we would share some drawings of 'my mum' – we really love them and hope you do. *Liz Dyer*



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