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Reporter

News and Views from around the area

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May 2021

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



Coming Together

One of the joys of the past few months has been the way in which people from across the four churches in our benefice have come together much more to worship, both in person in our church buildings and on-line at our Zoom services.

It has always saddened me that in the past, when we have had a benefice service on the fifth Sunday, a number of people have chosen to stay away, if the service hasn't been in "their" church. People have differing reasons for this, but at the heart of it is the sense that their particular building in their home village has become more important than worshipping God with others in community.

During the past year, those who have been brave enough to venture outside their own village to join us in worship have realised that it is a positive thing to do. Doing something new or going somewhere different can take courage, but it's worth remembering that it doesn't take many visits for what was new to become what is familiar. And the sense of togetherness and growing friendship and community across our congregations is definitely worth the effort.

The future of rural churches is a precarious one. If we support one another across our village boundaries, we are much more likely to flourish than if we insist on being too parochial. We've all seen what has happened to village shops and pubs over the years – let's not watch our churches go the same way.

On 23rd May, we will be celebrating Pentecost, taken to be the birthday of the Church. That was the day when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem brought together people of many nationalities and languages and united them. Three thousand people were baptised that day – how amazing that must have been! In spite of all their different backgrounds, they were joined by their faith in Christ. People of different cultures found unity and understanding across the boundaries of language and tradition.

We people of Dorset are much more like each other than those people in Jerusalem that first Pentecost day. If they could come together in the power of the Holy Spirit, then surely we can cross village boundaries to worship together.

Look out for information about what we will be doing to celebrate Pentecost Sunday this year. As the magazine goes to press, plans are still being made, but I am hoping that we can have a benefice service and picnic to celebrate the birthday of the Church, our togetherness across the four villages and beyond, and the power of God to create and sustain community.

If transport is the reason you don't come to benefice services, please speak to your churchwardens. We can always arrange lifts to help people attend worship.

With best wishes

Sarah

P.S. It was a wonderful surprise to find a cake waiting for me in St. Andrew's on Easter morning. I send my grateful thanks to the anonymous donor – it was delicious!

Easter, the new beginning



WE were so pleased, at St. Andrew's church, to host a service on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday both of which were well attended. Everyone undertook the social distancing processes with acceptance so all went well. They were lovely services thanks to Sarah's planning and delivery.

Continued on page 7

Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne and Dewlish May 2021

You are welcome to join us.

2nd May – Easter 5

| | | |
|--------|------------------|-----------|
| 9.30am | Parish Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Celebrate | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Dewlish |

9th May – Easter 6

| | | |
|--------|------------------|------------|
| 9.30am | Parish Communion | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Puddletown |
| 11.00 | Family Service | Dewlish |

ASCENSION DAY - THURSDAY 13th May

| | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 6.30am | Morning Prayer | Dewlish Churchyard |
| 6.00pm | Holy Communion | Puddletown |

16th May – Easter 7

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|
| 9.30am | Parish Communion | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Worship in Stillness | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Dewlish |

23rd May – Pentecost

11.00am United Benefice Pentecost Celebration Service and picnic in field at Warren Hill Farm (or barn, if wet).

30th May – Trinity Sunday

| | | |
|--------|------------------|------------|
| 9.30am | Go Fourth | Tolpuddle |
| 9.30 | Parish Communion | Milborne |
| 11.00 | Parish Communion | Puddletown |
| 11.00 | BCP Matins | Dewlish |

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday to Thursday 8.15am; Saturday 9.00am

On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman

(sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com) for the link

This service plan is subject to change; up-to-date information can always be sought from the vicar or Pam Shults as churchwarden

Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 01305 848784

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

Churchwardens

Milborne St. Andrew

Pam Shults 01258 837203

Dewlish

Jim Burg 01258 837466

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James Burg: Maundy Recipient

DURING Holy Week 2021 Queen Elizabeth II wrote to Jim Burg at his home in Dewlish where he has lived for the past 57 years. During that time he has been Church Warden, Scout and Cub Leader for 35 years and cycled over 70 miles for many years, raising in excess of £10,000 for the Church through the Dorset Historic Churches Trust "Ride and Stride". In her letter Her Majesty expressed her delight and personal thanks for all he had done "to enrich the life of (his) community" and, in so doing, made him a Maundy Gift. This takes the form of specially minted silver coins usually distributed in person by the sovereign on Maundy Thursday which is the day before Good Friday. The number of recipients and the face value in pence of the amount they each receive traditionally correspond to the number of years in the sovereign's age. He had been nominated for his contributions to his local church and community by his local diocese's Christian clergy of various denominations where the Royal Maundy service would have traditionally been held, this year



was to have been in Westminster Abbey. Given the current circumstances, that Service could not go ahead this year so letters and money were sent by post. The Queen acknowledged this as an opportunity "to recognise and give thanks for work done by countless people for the wellbeing of their neighbours; work that has often been taken for granted or hidden". Jim's Christian service was described as exemplary. There were two purses. The red purse contained the traditional sum of £5.50. In the past this was an allowance for clothing and provisions, formerly given in kind, and as a payment for the "redemption of the Sovereign's gown". This year the £5 coin commemorates Her Majesty's 95th birthday and the 50 pence coin portrays the 50th anniversary of Decimal Day in 1971. The white purse contains the Maundy coins; silver pennies, twopences, threepences and fourpences, totalling 95 pence, corresponding to The Sovereign's age. All coins are newly minted this year. The Lord High Almoner also wrote from Buckingham Palace expressing his sorrow that they "could not be there in person to recognise (his) Christian service [wishing

that] God continue[s] to bless [him] richly in it". The Queen wrote of Jesus washing the feet of his Disciples the night before his crucifixion something usually done by servants. He gave them a *new commandment* at the time "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you are to love one another". She writes, "by taking the part of a servant, Jesus set an example to the Disciples and to those who, down the ages, would try to follow him". At least as early as the 4th century there was an ancient ceremony commemorating Jesus' words and actions followed in Northern Italy and Spain. Those words were the origin of the word Maundy "*mandatum novum*" (*mandate*). It is with these that the Royal Maundy Service usually begins. Reference is found to one that was held during the time when Augustine was Archbishop of Canterbury. The earliest record is of King John taking part in the ceremony in 1210 at Knaresborough Castle. Its symbolism is an act of humility on the part of the Queen which had been revived in 1932 by George V after 200 years. It has taken place at every Church of England Cathedral, as well as St. David's and Armagh. So this year despite there being no ceremony as it is Her Majesty's 95th year 95 men and 95 women will receive these gifts.

Sadly Jim Burg will not have all the pomp and circumstance which usually attends such occasions but nevertheless for someone who left school at 15 years to become a highly successful builder (his own and several other houses in Dewlish are evidence of this level of skill) moving around Dorset from Buckland Newton to Sturminster Newton attending school at the former from age four years to 15 years he has influenced many lives and enriched others with his quiet and unassuming efforts to support and encourage his local community. Although the pandemic has cut short many of his activities such as scouting exploits and church ceremonies he has looked for ways to bring pleasure and unite both young and old in Dewlish. His wife, Daphne, is an accountant as is his son, his daughter a teaching assistant. His father is a German national who returned to his native country with his wife and younger sons after his oldest son's marriage. So, currently, Jim's two brothers live and were married in Germany (to two sisters) when his parents moved back there. Although starting life as a chapel goer whilst working on a farm owned by the organist, and becoming a Sunday School teacher he moved away from regular worship for some years, but was brought into the Church of England by his own small children wanting him to join them and their mother on a Sunday. (I understand that the 12th century church is regarded as a "Chapel at Ease" and therefore "not a proper parish".) Daphne has been Church Treasurer for 49 years having been brought up in the church, was part of a choir and a Sunday School Teacher. When his children were confirmed so was he, at age 39 years. They married in Dewlish Church as did their children and it is where their grandchildren were christened. Jim is a Lay

Worship Leader who regularly visits elderly people in the Dewlish, Milborne St. Andrew and Tolpuddle parishes taking home communion to them; a Synod representative on the Standing Committee (and the only one without a computer). He takes Morning Prayers using a shortened version of the Book of Common Prayer,

Continued on page 7



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As seen on the **BBC**



Continued from page 3

Our flower arranging team provided us with wonderful displays for Easter Sunday and after, which were lovely to see following the absence of such over the last few weeks. I understand that the team are looking for more helpers to be on the rota to make arrangements especially as we will now be having weekly services in our church again; if you are interested do contact me or Sally Dyer.

It is so nice to look forward to services in our church every week in the coming months (provided no more lockdowns!). The



wonderful job as part of the team; Margaret and Eva thank you very much for all your dedication and diligence over the years, enjoy your rest.

After several years and a lot of hard work, our churchyard is starting to look cared for and awash with beautiful wildflowers. We are slowly moving the old compost heaps and starting to build a 'dead hedge'. In order to do this, we need to remove a lot of the existing 'compost materials'. If anyone wants to help, please take away some of the branches and foliage that has been put at the



back of the church to put it in your garden waste bin or take it to the tip. schedule will be the same as before the restrictions and these can be seen on our church notice boards, in the Parish Magazine and in the Reporter. We will still have to adhere to social distancing procedures and look forward to filling our church every Sunday.

We are delighted to welcome a few new volunteers onto our cleaning rota and our churchyard working party, thank you all who continue to support us and help out. Two of the women who have regularly cleaned the church have now retired and we thank them for all the years that they have done a

wonderful job as part of the team; Margaret and Eva thank you very much for all your dedication and diligence over the years, enjoy your rest. After several years and a lot of hard work, our churchyard is starting to look cared for and awash with beautiful wildflowers. We are slowly moving the old compost heaps and starting to build a 'dead hedge'. In order to do this, we need to remove a lot of the existing 'compost materials'. If anyone wants to help, please take away some of the branches and foliage that has been put at the back of the church to put it in your garden waste bin or take it to the tip.

Thanks to a member of the Gardening Club, we have been told that a patch of daffodils in the west side of the 'old' churchyard are of a 'heritage' status and have been identified, as believed, to be the variety to most likely be: N. Pallidiflorus. It was sold in the 1900s as Pallidas Preecox. Another good example of why wildflowers should be encouraged in churchyards.

Pam Shults, Churchwarden

Continued from page 5



and Family Service; is involved in Milborne St. Andrew School's "Open the Book" sessions once bringing down the house with a version of David and Goliath when he toppled the 14 feet giant in front of a hall full of delighted children! His sense of high enjoyment and contentment in all he does is palpable. Due to his efforts at inclusive, fun filled activity particularly for Dewlish children he is approached by them each year hoping for parts in his legendary Nativity play. This has become a colourful, technical event full of light and sound even during lockdown when a giant screen was erected to portray the Christmas story together with recorded readings.

What are his responses to the Maundy money gift? He feels privileged but above all "humbled" and "honoured that someone had taken notice of what (he) had been doing", saying, he had never expected such an amazing thing to happen and thinks he has been living an unaware life just going from day to day doing whatever was needed to be done. By his very words it is clear that Jim Burg has taken to heart the words in *Matthew 11* "whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant . . . just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve".
Carole Fornachon

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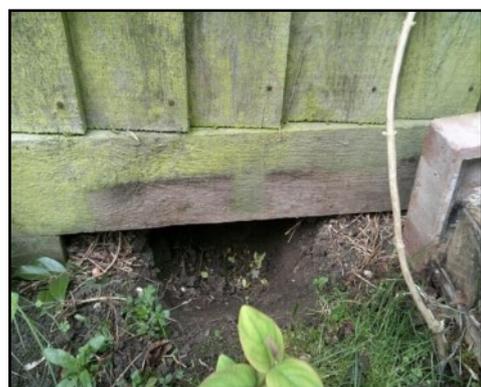
Be mindful of Hedgehogs this spring

THE season has started already for our wild hedgehogs and although I know of hedgehogs being seen in other villages it is only recently that I have had a really good report of as many as five being recorded in a garden in Milborne St. Andrew. Following that report I have put reminders on the verges of the main road for drivers to beware of hedgehogs strolling nonchalantly in the road. It is encouraging to see similar signs at the entry to other villages. Unfortunately, one has been seen run over on Basan Hill on the road to Puddletown and more recently on the Blandford road just outside the village. As they come out of hibernation they



will be hungry and possibly disorientated. On top of that they will have the need to breed and will be seeking a mate. Following that, with luck there will be hoglets seeking their fortune by wandering around for food and shelter.

I urge you to try to ensure that you are mindful of looking out for them both in your garden where you can feed them and give



them access to shelter as well as ways through and on to other places. Hedgehogs may travel up to two kilometres in one night so they find ways through to investigate and find food.

I have heard recently that the school are in the process of acquiring some new fencing. I am hoping that they allow access routes for hedgehogs into and out of the grounds as these grounds are an ideal habitat for hedgehogs, where they may have a

variety of shrubs and undergrowth with shelter which is ideal for them and their natural food.

Photographs show a litter of hoglets and two possible holes for hedgehogs.

Pip Bowell

Dewlish Church Notes

I AM delighted to report that Jim was awarded Maundy money this year. He was one of 95 recipients in the country to receive it for services to the Church. It was scheduled to be given by the Queen in a service at Westminster Abbey but that was not to be of course because of the Covid restrictions.

We were told that this practice has taken place since the 6th century, and it commemorates the Last Supper, and Jesus washing the disciples' feet. This washing was actually carried out by the monarch until the 18th century but then ceased.

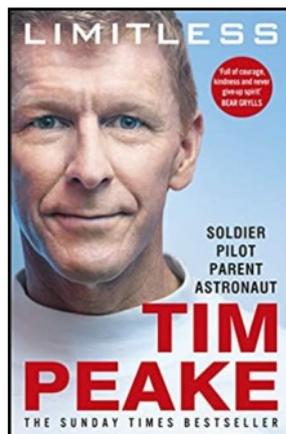
Jim feels very honoured to receive the money – silver coins with a face value of 95p (to represent each year of the Queen's life), a newly-minted £5 coin to celebrate the Queen's 95th birthday, and a 50p coin to mark 50 years of decimalisation.

Well done, and congratulations, Jim! Congratulations also to Mrs June Kellaway of Cheselbourne, who also received the Maundy gift.

Our church looked beautiful for Easter. Many thanks to the ladies (and man!) who decorated it. The service had its normal format but without hymns. Instead, Sarah chose some lovely music to accompany our communion service. Now we are hoping to return to our 11.00am service each week, and pray that this time our emergence from lockdown will be permanent!

Daphne Burg

Limitless – The Autobiography of Tim Peake



THIS is a well-written, easy to read book, detailing Tim Peake's life from childhood in Chichester, through careers as a barman, Officer Cadet, helicopter pilot and astronaut. His style is down-to-earth, often self-deprecating, and full of those funny dits that military folk seem to gather about them during life. It speaks also of his marriage, his children, and his aspirations for the future of science and scientists inspired by space travel. There are photographs, and

some rather moving sections as well as some 'laugh out loud' moments. (RSM 1st Battalion, Royal Green Jackets particularly.)

It's a deeply personal account of his experiences. Whether from school, from Operation Raleigh in Alaska, from Northern Ireland, Bonn, the USA or the International Space Station he comes across as a deeply thoughtful, intensely positive person, who can see the wider picture of what's happening around him, and the reasons why sometimes life gives disappointments amongst the successes, through no fault of your own. He pulls no punches about the effect his choices had on his family life, and I particularly think he is incredibly lucky to have found his wife, who has truly been his partner throughout all of this.

I really enjoyed this book, the stories, the tales of adventures and the interesting people Major Peake met along his way. From schoolteachers, CCF instructors and Sandhurst interviewers to colleagues on Operation Raleigh, astronaut candidates and experienced space travellers, all make up part of the wonderful life described here. It's an inspiring read, and I recommend it to readers of all ages.

Susan Wilson

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There has been a pause in first vaccinations for patients under 50 but we are hopeful that these will continue once further supplies of vaccine become available. If you are invited to attend for a vaccination, either at the Atrium or another centre please take up the offer and have your vaccination. If you have booked but are unable to attend, please cancel your appointment so that another patient can be invited.

Did you know that May is National Walking Month?

Walking is a fantastic way to keep active and maintain a healthy heart. I am sure that some of you discovered the benefits of a daily walk during the past year for your physical and mental wellbeing. Don't let those good habits that you have developed disappear. Instead why not organise your own walk this May and raise money for the British Heart Foundation and its life saving research. See www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/fundraise for more ideas.

Or perhaps now you have mastered the habit of going for a walk, you would like to challenge yourself? Why not take a look at the NHS running plan for beginners – Couch to 5K. See www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise to download the weekly programmes.

Whatever you end up doing this May, let's keep on moving forward. Do something today that your future self will thank you for!

Diabetes awareness

Diabetes is a significant cause of ill health in the UK. One in ten people over the age of 40 in the UK are now living with a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Incredibly, more than half of all cases of type 2 diabetes could be delayed or prevented. Minor lifestyle changes can make a significant difference to your risks. What steps can you take to reduce your risk? If your risk score shows you as being of high risk for diabetes, please make an appointment with one of our nurses.

Learning disabilities

If you're aged 14 or over and are on our Learning Disability Register, we'd like to see you at least once a year for a check-up, and to see how you're getting on. If you've received an invitation for a health check because you or someone you care for has a learning disability, please make sure you attend so we can check your general health and make sure you're feeling well. If you think you should be on our register but aren't sure if you are, just give us a call and we'll have a look for you.

Please note

The surgery will be closed on **Saturday 1st May 2021** and **Monday 3rd May 2021** for Early Spring Bank Holiday and **Saturday 29th May 2021** and **Monday 31st May 2021** for Spring Bank Holiday, so please be aware of this when ordering and collecting medications.

Gillian Brindle

More catch-up notes from the WI

SPRING is here, many of us have had our vaccinations, the path out of lockdown is mapped and we look forward to sunnier and happier times. Meanwhile, the WI, both in our village, and nationally, continues its work. Despite not being able to hold our regular monthly meetings in the village, communication between members carries on. Jenny Preston, Federation Chairman, as well as one of our own members, regularly emails to update us.

At the moment our Annual Meeting at the Poole Lighthouse in October is still on course to take place. Speakers include Amanda Owen, the Yorkshire Shepherdess, and Dr Annie Gray, historian, author and broadcaster. This is an event which has always been well attended. It is hoped nationally that events, walks and craft sessions will resume before too long.

Even without their monthly get-togethers, book club members have managed to read their way, with some relish, through a number of books over the past year. Carole Fornachon has played a pivotal role in this, distributing and collecting each set of books as well as our feedback summaries. Thank you, Carole.

Much appreciated also have been the lovely 'goody bags' each of us have received at Christmas and at Easter. Many thanks to Nelda and Lin who walked around the village distributing these little parcels; they have been much appreciated.

Looking forward to when we can all meet up again. *Pat Bull*

Ladybirds Easter raffle winner



Thank you to Ladybirds for the lovely hamper that I won in the Easter raffle. John and I had many happy years helping Ladybirds, a wonderful playgroup.

Josie Wright

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

Never mind the Melcombes, mind the Gap

FOR this month's piece, I have returned nearer to home, swapping the dismantled Somerset & Dorset Railway for the ancient droves and paths around Melcombe Bingham and Ansty, a short ten minute drive from Milborne. The old faithful OL25 map suggests my carefully plotted route will take in some historically significant points. I have been eyeing this walk up for a while. The two factors that have caused a delay to this expedition are, firstly, the overhead conditions; the views from today's summits are purported to be a little bit special so I need the visibility to be good. Secondly, someone in the know has told me that conditions underfoot can be very heavy during the winter months, and I really don't fancy stomping around on the rooftop of Dorset like a mud-caked yeti.



I have left my car at Cross Lanes, where the road from Cheslebourne becomes Hartfoot Lane, which then leads into the bright lights of Melcombe Bingham. The former telephone box on the junction has been turned into a book swap and I peruse the titles, which are mainly novels. *The West End Front*; *The Wartime Secrets of London's Grand Hotels*, by Matthew Green catches my eye. The front cover depicts high kicking can-can girls sporting gas masks and tin helmets plying their trade in The Ritz Ballroom. The only publication I have to offer as a swap is the owner's handbook for my Toyota Yaris, which I doubt many of the good folk of Melcombe Bingham have read from cover to cover. The conclusion of my book is somewhat lame, the owner being instructed as to what grade of oil is suitable for the 1.3 litre engine. It lacks credible characters and the plot is a bit difficult to understand. The section you would refer to if you wanted to adjust the clock or tune the radio being particularly bamboozling. I leave the book, but will return another day with a more suitable swapsie. An unusual green fingerpost at the crossroads directs me up the private road, onwards towards Higher Melcombe Farm. Game on.

Melcombe Bingham is one of a number of place names that contain the word Melcombe in this locality, and is the modern settlement. Behind me, a mile or so away, is the deserted medieval village once known as Bingham's Melcombe. Not much remains to be seen here apart from the Manor House and the parish church of St. Andrews. The village is thought to have been deserted from about 1400. The Bingham family lived at Bingham's Melcombe from the 13th century and were responsible for building both the church and the Manor House. A headstone in the churchyard bears a touching memorial to a Thomas Bingham: 'who came into this world on November 13th 1710 and left it on June 26th 1711', his mother hoping that, 'his dust may never be disturbed'. Sir Frederick Treves, a native of Dorchester and a prominent surgeon, an expert in anatomy and author who famously befriended Joseph Merrick (dubbed 'The Elephant Man' due to his deformities), wrote of the Manor House in his 1906 book *Highways and Byways in Dorset*: 'The little mansion is of grey stone, warmed by many centuries of sun.' Two days before his coronation on 24th June 1902, the then to be King Edward VII was diagnosed with acute appendicitis. Treves, as an Honorary Sergeant's Surgeon to the royal household was summoned to Buckingham Palace. The

future King insisted that an operation should not take place as this would scupper his crowning. Treves told the Monarch in waiting that if he were not permitted to operate there would instead be a funeral. The procedure took place on a table in the Music Room. The next day, Edward was sitting up in bed, smoking a cigar and became king as planned. Treves died in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1927 aged 70. His ashes are buried in Dorchester's Weymouth Avenue cemetery, just up from Tesco.

The lane rises gently and runs out of buildings. In the distance away to my left, the white sight screen beyond the wicket at Cheselbourne cricket club punctuates the early spring greenery. It's April 9th today, the late morning sun feels warm on my face but when it hides behind high, white sight screen coloured cloud, the temperature drops dramatically. Nature has a playful way of teasing us into the spring season. One or two balmy warm days and we begin to wonder where we left the factor 20 last August, believing we are beyond Jack Frost's icy reach. We are reined in as the wind turns northerly, making jackets flap and teeth chatter. Two days after this walk I was engulfed in a surprise hailstorm whilst wearing only a t-shirt, shorts and flip-flops. Beyond a small brick pumping station the lane becomes flanked by uniformly planted trees on one side, interspersed with a variation of subtly different coloured daffodils. Nordon Hill, a flint escarpment, rises to the right and at the end of this promontory concealed in a leafy bluff is The Dorsetshire Gap, the focus of this ramble.

The lane joins three other paths in a kind of starfish formation in front of a motley collection of agricultural buildings. Ahead, the track leads on towards Higher Melcombe and its associated farm. I take the third exit at the tentacle-like junction. The weathered signpost confirms that I am on course for The Dorset Gap. This is where you may need to pin back your ears as it gets a little bit complicated, not in terms of navigation, but in terms of Melcombes. As I mentioned earlier, the Melcombe dynasty extends way back into history. Beyond the fence at the left hand edge of the field the remnants of Melcombe Horsey, a deserted village believed to date back to Saxon times can be detected by its tell-tale earthworks that litter the field. The parish derived its name from the Horsey family who were Lords of the Manor here during the reign of Henry VIII. Melcombe Horsey is now known as Higher Melcombe, which in turn, in days of yore has itself also been referred to as Upmelcombe or Overmelcombe. During this medieval period, Bingham's Melcombe was known as Nethermelcombe, from the old English word Neotherra, meaning 'lower', to distinguish it from its neighbouring settlement. Confused? Don't worry, so am I, and it doesn't really matter anyway.

I plough on, leaving the Melcombes to it. Lyscombe Hill provides a towering backdrop to the view ahead. The path I am taking rises gently, before being swallowed up in a dusty steeply banked track. The little dickie bird who told me to delay my journey through the gap had given me sound advice. What would have been very deep thick mud a few weeks ago has now dried to a hard light grey surface and, as the path bears right, the incline rises again making a mid-winter assault on The Gap; probably something akin to the Front Line at Flanders or Ypres during The First World War, minus the human carnage, dried biscuits and tins of bully beef. Wild garlic is out in force on the steep banks either side of me. Although not yet in flower, I can smell its pungent aroma. All of a sudden in the leafy ravine I reach The Gap. Here, four ancient trackways meet on the crest

of the ridge. Centuries old ridgeway pathways from Devon and Wiltshire converge here. The gap is a crossroads where people and animals moving east/west along the high ground were able to access the north/south tracks. A prominent four-way signpost gives directions onwards.

A sense of quiet mysticism floods through me; I'm caught for a moment in a time trap. This main crossing point has seen people come and go since humans first occupied the land here. Prehistoric tribesmen have walked before me, taking advantage of the gap in the ridge, crossing from the chalky south Dorset ridges to the wet fertile plains of Blackmore Vale. All around me is evidence of this activity, the nearby hilltop cross dykes and barrows and the incomplete Iron Age hill fort at Nettlecombe Tout a short hop along the westerly path, and of course the medieval settlement of Melcombe Horsey now far below me. The many have worn these paths into the deep gullies or Holloways seen today. I am standing on a motorway junction from another age. I begin to imagine trains of pack horses laden with goods, highwaymen, vagrants, rag-tag pustule-covered plague victims, snippets of conversation in old Dorset dialect. Or is that just the rustling of the wind in the still bare tree branches. As more permanent and substantial turnpikes were constructed and with the dawn of the railway age, traffic across the gap dwindled and the past lives of clinking horse harnesses and simple folk in smocks shrunk back into the undergrowth. The Gap may not have changed much over the intervening years



and is an ideal space to leave the modern world behind and hit the reset button.

Maybe with this in mind, a visitors' book has been left in a sturdy plastic box next to the gate that commands a glimpse

of the view to the north. I duly sign the book, acutely aware that Dick Turpin, aboard Black Bess may appear through the undergrowth whilst I write and relieve me of my iPhone, and car keys. There is clearly lots of equine traffic still present here today in the form of horse shoe imprints in the hard bridleway clay. Eager to push on - and slightly concerned I may be stuck forever in a time warp - I replace the lid on the box, pat my pockets to check I still have my phone and keys and climb out of the Gap via the path signposted Bulbarrow Hill. Through the gate, the Holloway continues along the side of Nordon Hill.

The path rises to the top of the hill and I am now spoilt by two conflicting views which both simultaneously try to grab my attention. Away to the right, I can see the downland of south Dorset lifting and falling away to the Purbeck Hills beyond. If I pan left, I see Blackmore Vale. God - or someone - has thrown a huge green cloth over this large expanse of flat rich land. The greens vary in colour, hedges and coppices give way to a horizon of hills far away in the distance. Somerset and Wiltshire are both visible from here. Once again, the lack of condensation trails from aircraft signifies the strangeness of the past year. In the left



hand corner of the field a gate leads on to the last rutty path of the day and I skirt Cony-gar-Copse to my left. From my lofty vantage point here I look over the trees and see that some of them have been savagely mown down by the strong winter winds. Robust looking trunks have been snapped in two, their tops now facing planet Earth, the bark twisted and mangled looking, like a huge discarded banana skin. Every now and then a pheasant cackles, far down below on the valley floor. Again the exit from the field is via a farm gate at the left end and I pass through Melcombe Park Farm yard and down the lane. Here, in a field below the farm, some nicely built eco pods have been built, complete with grass roofs. The view across the Vale even from this reduced height is still stunning. Since leaving the Gap a few minutes ago, the path ahead has been a section of The Dorset Ridgeway that I mentioned in last month's article. I wave goodbye to this as I swing sharply to my right at Breach Wood where more pheasants busy themselves in the undergrowth.

It's a straight run down Cothayes Drove and back to civilisation. The hawthorn is beginning to flower and buzzards circle over the adjacent fields looking for their lunch. Entering the village of Ansty at the end of the Drove, I see the unusual sight of a robotic lawn mower silently going about its work. These clever little chaps are set in motion by their handlers and are then left to their own devices to quietly traverse and trim the lawn. They change direction automatically when they encounter an obstacle or obstruction; I'm not sure what happens to them if the garden contains a pond?

My encounter with Ansty is a brief one. I join Hartfoot Lane and turn right back to my starting point. Directly in front of me at the junction stands another telephone box, which still seems fit for purpose. Cothayes Drove, from where I have just come, is again waymarked by a green fingerpost labelled Melcombe Park Farm. The parishes split just to the right of the phone box and a regulation sign proclaims Ansty to my left and Melcombe Bingham to my right. Ansty is an interesting place; its name means, 'narrow path' and it seems to possess its fair share of local folklore. Clive Hannay, writing in a 2012 article for *Dorset Life* revealed that during the 1970s there was a move made to revive some of the village's historic customs, one of these being Randy Day. On this designated day the young men of the village would arm themselves with decorated bamboo canes, or 'randy poles' and chase the girls of the village. If the men successfully touched any girl with their pole, they were (in theory) allowed to have their way with the young maiden! The idea to restore this practice was actually proposed by the local vicar at the time. The vicar also organised a housebrick push. Terry Mears pushed 298 house bricks weighing over half a ton, nine yards in a standard wheelbarrow. The enterprising curate was also behind a record breaking 121 people sitting on each other's knees in a circle with no other means of support.

I weave my way back along Hartfoot Lane, passing cottages that bear testament to their former use, the Old Schoolhouse, the Old Forge to name a couple. It has been a shortish walk, about three and a half miles and I close the loop just after 1.00pm. As I drive away towards home I switch on the radio. Something doesn't sound right and I soon realise that lots of commentators are referring to the Duke of Edinburgh in the past tense. Indeed, Prince Philip has passed away at Windsor Castle just short of his century. Out for 99. It's a sad day for us all; the Queen has lost her Consort of 69 years and husband of 74 years. They don't make them like that anymore.

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. 10th June 1921 – 9th April 2021; may his dust never be disturbed.

Rich Hawker

A project for the future

MARION Clemens, who is already well known in the village for her efforts to clean up our dog waste and as the representative for Trophy Pet Foods, has begun a scheme for children to grow their own runner beans. Having posted this suggestion on Facebook back in February she found herself distributing a kit of three seeds and bamboo canes, compost and six inch pots with recycled string to tie the plants up together with an explanatory leaflet to each of 22 children who responded in early March. The children's ages range from two and a half years to 14 years. The seeds are already planted and some are shooting up.

In September their individual harvests will be recorded and the winner will be the child with the largest amount. Prizes still to be revealed. The purpose of this interesting exercise is to encourage children to grow their own food in order to be self

sufficient in the future, and to learn to recycle and reuse. The seeds are from Marion's own plants which in their turn have been saved over the years.

She writes in her explanatory leaflet that, as a small child, she always gardened with her grandfather when it was the tradition to swap seeds with neighbours. Her firm belief is that children should be learning to take care of the planet, lower their carbon footprint and consider the next generation. So the pots will be returned to her for reusing. Marion is to be applauded for this innovative scheme which chimes well with other family efforts made during the lockdowns.



take care of the planet, lower their carbon footprint and consider the next generation. So the pots will be returned to her for reusing. Marion is to be applauded for this innovative scheme which chimes well with other family efforts made during the lockdowns.

Carole Fornachon

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Sweet chestnut bursts into life

Friends of (Milborne St. Andrew First) School



IF YOU were wondering why some of the village's house's had letters in their windows over the Easter holidays then wonder no more. Friends of School ran an **Easter Trail** for families to participate in while out on their walks around the village – trail maps were £2 each and there were three prize bundles up for

grabs; winners were picked at random from the maps handed back in to Grays Stores and were then announced on Facebook. Thank you to all those who offered to display a letter; we will definitely be running a similar event again so if you didn't make the cut this time then we will certainly be asking again in the future.

The BIG news in the Friends of School camp this year will be the launch of a campaign to raise funds to completely refurbish the School's playground; this will include resurfacing the playground before new and exciting activity trails can be painted on top – as you can imagine, this will be a costly exercise so we will be actively seeking our village's support in lots of different ways . . .

With playground refurbishing in mind, a small group of committee members visited the site over the Easter holidays to give the playground a bit of a tidy up. A special mention goes to our Co-Chair, Marie Chappell and her family, for the time they spent sourcing materials from donors in order to re-felt the roof and repair damaged boards to the playhouse. It has given the playhouse a new lease of life! Thank you also to everyone in the



village who donated plants, paints, timbers, felt, compost and their time. It is greatly appreciated!

Friends of School have recently launched a new Facebook Group called '**Preloved Uniform and Children's Clothing Sale**' to help reuse and recycle not only school uniform but lots of other children's clothing. So, even if your children do not go to school in the village, there may be other items of interest to buy for a very reasonable price so please join the group on Facebook, which is linked to our Facebook Page (Friends of Milborne St. Andrew First School). For anyone who has any items they would like to donate, there is a black wheelie bin on the school site which is accessible during the school day. There is also a large green textiles recycling bin on the school site for all other items; if you have difficulty in transporting your clothing items then we would be happy to collect all clean, bagged items from your doorstep by previous arrangement.

A call out for raffle prizes – one of the events we will be running in summer will be a raffle so, if you have links to a business and would consider donating a gift of goods or services for us to use as a prize in return for some social media shout outs and newsletter mentions, then we would be really happy to hear from you by email (msa_fos_chair@outlook.com)

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed being able to spend time outdoors with family and friends once again. We are very much looking forward to being able to plan for more socially engaged events over the summer and beyond now that restrictions are easing.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Friends of School Committee



Get the New Year off to a great start and visit us for some fantastic food!

We are open to the public all year round!

New menu starting January 2021!

Serving food between

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/ 01258452253 /
email: info@clubhouse1896.com



ABBEY SWIMMING CLUB

We are a social club run entirely by volunteers, For less than £2 a week you can swim 3 times a week in a 25m pool. Any age welcome.



Whilst we are not swimming at the moment, we hope to be back in a few months time. Watch this space for news.

We need Lifeguards

Become an RLSS qualified Lifeguard in return for club membership training

We provide



For further information about membership or what is involved in becoming a Lifeguard contact us and you will be added to the list to be notified when we are swimming again.

Call: Stephen on 01258 881524 or Pat on 01258 880601



Do you need transport for surgery and other medical appointments? If so, we can help.

Milton Abbas Neighbourcar is an established voluntary transport scheme covering the area served by Milton Abbas surgery. We can take you to medical appointments and certain social events.

WE ALSO NEED MORE DRIVERS – you can commit whatever time suits your circumstances.

Ring 01258 470333 to register or to obtain more information.

**Local villages covered:
Milborne, Cheselbourne and Dewlish**

Mesopotamia and the Ancient Sumerians part 1

WESTERN civilisation and written history only goes back, at most, 2,000 years, and for quite a lot of that time most people lived in relative poverty. A great stabilising force during that period was religion.

In what is now modern day Iraq, there are two rivers which you may have heard of, the Tigris and Euphrates. The area in relatively recent times has been called Mesopotamia (the land between the two rivers). Part of this land was called Sumer, where the cities Ur and Babylon were situated, and this is the area that I wish to enlarge on. The region has very fertile soil, and may actually have been the original setting of the Garden of Eden.

The story of the Ancient Sumerians goes back to about 5000 years BC, even before the Great Flood which has Noah as its most famous character. Many historians are puzzled by the Sumerians, as their language and facial characteristics are markedly different from the surrounding races. Nobody is quite sure where they came from.

During archaeological excavations in this area hundreds of thousands of clay tablets have been discovered. These tablets appear to be the first form of writing ever discovered, anywhere in the world. The writing is known as 'Cuneiform', from the Greek 'wedge shaped', and they date back as far as about 3500 years BC. They have been found in several different languages, with Sumerian as the one that was unknown until a tablet was found containing a passage in 'Old Persian' along with the same passage in Sumerian and Elamite, thus allowing them to be translated in much the same way as the Rosetta Stone enabled the translation of Egyptian hieroglyphs. Many of these tablets give minute details of the ancient life in Ur, even to the names of the mill girls and their quota of rations, so much about the early history of that area is better known than our own.

Even before the first pyramid was built in Egypt, a mound (or Tell), at Muggyor was towering 75 feet above Ur, with a Holy Place to the moon God, Nammar, enthroned on the top plateau. That was 4,000 years ago, about 2000BC.

Expert British archaeologist, Sir Charles Leonard Woolley, led a joint American-British team in 1923 to investigate the innumerable mounds left by the static habitation of people stretching over centuries. Houses were built on the ruins of other houses and the ever-rising heap was surrounded by the rubbish thrown out by the inhabitants. Not for him the tower of worship or Ziggurats: he and his team dug down through layer after layer of artefacts, all dated according to the type and style of pottery fragments found at each level of habitation by ordinary man.

In 1929 they eventually got down to "ground level". They found it to be pure clay of a kind that could only have been deposited by water! The simplest explanation was that it must have been the accumulated silt of the River Euphrates in bygone days. However, surveys showed that the foot of the shaft where the upper level of the clay appeared was several metres above the river level.

An attempt was then made to dig through the clay. After 10 feet, the archaeologists did not find virgin soil: they discovered fresh evidence of human habitation. The pottery was hand made, not turned on a potter's wheel, as were the pots found above the clay strata, and there was no evidence of metal implements – before the clay had been deposited, it was a stone age. The GREAT FLOOD – therefore, was the only explanation of the massively thick clay deposit, which separated two epochs of settlement.

Ever cautious, Woolley had other shafts sunk, with the same result in some shafts to show that the area inundated was 400 miles long by 100 miles wide – local, not world wide, but in any way BIG!

The Great Biblical Flood we are interested in did occur. The time was 4000BC. and 4,000 square miles of flood.

Brian Burton

Wren, Jane Beacon Goes to War

by DJ Lindsay



THIS book is an adventure story set in the Second World War. It's a novel, written as though it were a biography. In researching the lives of Wrens at that time, the author has read widely, both official documents and autobiographies, and has spoken to surviving Wrens from that era. Thus the description of life, authority and social mores

of the time are very realistic and sometimes it's hard to remember that it is a work of fiction. The anecdotes and descriptions of characters seem to fall straight from the stories told by my Aunt and Uncle, who both served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

The story follows a Wren, Jane Beacon, an experienced sailor who wanted to 'do her bit' and volunteered for service before the general call-up for women, which pulled my aunt into the service. The first chapter describes in great detail the evacuation from Dunkirk, and the work of the small boats which helped the Allies to rescue a third of a million men after France fell to the Germans.

The book continues with the well-drawn characters set against the hardships of service life, from being strafed by your own side, to the curmudgeonly Naval Command Structure that hated having women in 'their' Navy, and the various strong women who helped to reform the WRNS, which had been disbanded after the First World War. I hadn't realised that corporal punishment still existed, and the WRNS were subject to the disciplines of Naval Cadets, which included caning of bare buttocks. The descriptions of naval daily meals, camaraderie and traditions are an added bonus to a story which rattles along at an excellent pace.

This book is most definitely worth a read; it's a ripping adventure story, and an education for younger folks as to the battles that needed to be fought to give ladies the equalities we enjoy today. *Susan Wilson*

Village Hall open? Let's hope so!

AT the time of writing the Village Hall will be able to open to all from May 17th. Hopefully Boris won't change the date so do look on our website for any last minute alterations. All the Covid regulations are in place so let's hope user groups will be happy to return even if in a limited way. Ladybirds have been using the hall for a couple of months and all has gone well. It will be lovely to report next month that it is business as usual!

Linda Wright



MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun



SCHOOL NEWS

RABBITS class have enjoyed some physical fun, developing our travelling skills on, over, under and through the apparatus.

We have been creative choosing different ways to move around using all our different body parts as well as travelling at different levels . . . some of us moved in high narrow shapes others in low wide shapes and when Miss Wittman shook the tambourine we froze, holding a shape balance.

Red Nose Day! The children enjoyed sharing their jokes with the teachers and class. We then laminated them and strung them up on the school fence line to share with our parents and the local community as well. Hopefully you may have seen them whilst out and about near the school. We raised a fantastic £154.00!

Science Week finale. The children designed and made their own boats for Science Week, but as the weather wasn't very pleasant, we delayed their maiden voyages. Each class walked down to the Milborne stream and staff launched each boat whilst the children watched their creations float downstream. We unfortunately 'lost a few' but those we could retrieve safely were retrieved. As with anything like this, some got stuck where staff were unable to reach and then relaunched themselves when everyone had returned to school. So you may have seen a boat or two on their own unaccompanied journey.

EASTER Activities at Milborne. The children were challenged to use their creative ideas to decorate one egg with whatever design they wanted. We had some marvellous entries, there are some very talented children at Milborne.



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: David French

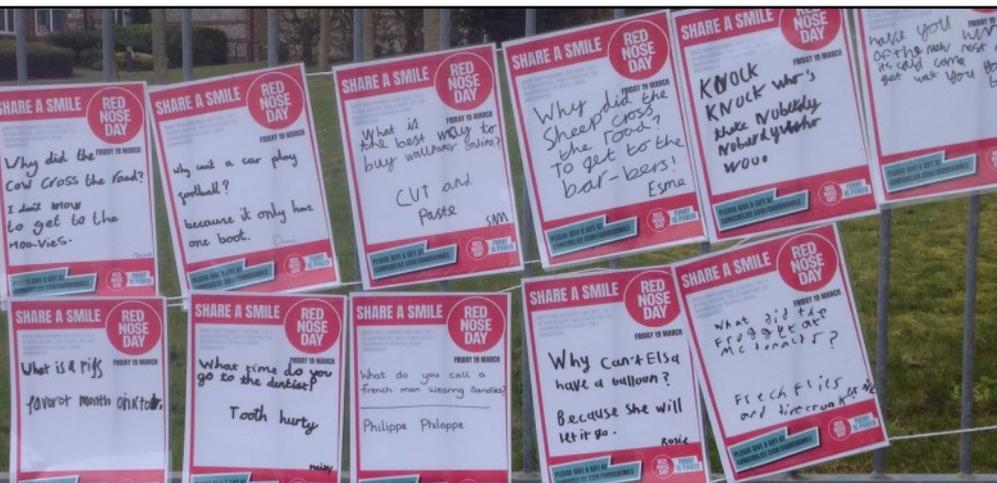
FOS Chairman: Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362

Fax: (01258) 837170



News from Longmead Community Farm

THE news from Longmead Community Farm this month is a mixture of happy and sad. We were so sorry to lose our beloved Wally, our gorgeous old goat who many will have made friends with over the years as they walked down the bridle path. Wally was dearly loved and cared for but he had, sadly, reached an age and condition that it was felt to be in his interests to enjoy a long deep sleep. We are all still grieving his loss and have gladly welcomed our Monday volunteers back as it is good to be with friends at times like this. We really couldn't do without our Monday volunteers keeping the house and farm running. If you are interested in volunteering, please do contact me. The details are at the end of the page.

Our new wardens, Lee and Ella have been in situ for the last few months and have become a positive and integral part of the team. I look forward to them sharing their story of settling in at the farm in future editions.

Sue and Ginny have been busy developing our Woodlanders project and along with the hard work from Paul, Lee, and our Monday volunteers, our woodland has been transformed into a natural wonderland. Sue has kindly written a few words about it.

Woodlanders at Longmead

"Play is the highest form of research" – Albert Einstein

At Woodlanders we follow closely the ethos and practices of a forest school curriculum.

Woodlanders strongly supports and reflects the whole farm's underpinning ethos: family therapy at Longmead is based upon Martin Seligman's PERMA model of well-being and happiness which develops five core elements; Positive emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning and Achievement. Our woodland learning is a natural extension of this model and encourages the children to:

- explore connections between humans, wildlife and the earth;
- regularly experience achievement and success;
- reflect on learning and experiences;
- develop confidence in supported risk-taking (being risk-aware rather than risk-averse);
- develop personal and social skills;
- work through practical problems and challenges;
- use tools to create, build and manage;
- discover how they learn best;
- pursue knowledge that interests them;
- learn how to manage failures;
- build confidence in decision making and evaluate risk;
- develop practical skills;



- develop language and communication skills;
- improve physical motor skills;
- understand the benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle;
- explore the world through their senses.

At Woodlanders we use natural resources to stimulate imagination, creativity and investigation. Activities can include:

- shelter building
- natural art
- fire lighting
- animal tracking
- bug hunts
- tree investigations
- climbing and balancing
- woodwork using tools e.g. musical instruments, jewellery, decorative items
- creating bug homes and bird feeders
- collecting, identifying and sorting natural materials
- team games

Our sessions are suited to all ages and abilities. The aim is to develop the person as a whole, increasing self-confidence, resilience and well-being through learner-inspired experiences.

Our sessions are designed to:

- foster care, appreciation and respect for wildlife and the natural world;
- help participants to develop self-confidence, resilience and well-being;
- develop physical abilities and help participants stay active and healthy;
- heighten self-awareness and improve emotional and social skills;
- promote co-operative and group working;
- encourage participants to take care of themselves and others;
- broaden knowledge and understanding of the natural world.

We are lucky to have a wonderful half acre site of natural woodland. This is mainly made up of mixed deciduous trees: beech, ash, hazel and elder. The site has some natural paths created through it to decrease footfall and lessen the impact on the rest of the woodland.

We have designated functional areas, including a fire circle, mud kitchen, den building area and natural climbing areas. We hope to install a rope swing in the near future.

Recently, we planted a designated area with woodland wild flower seeds and are very excited to see what grows and what the flowers help to attract! The woodland has a variety of bird and bat boxes, and bird feeders, many of which the children have made themselves.

Children are always encouraged to 'leave no trace' and minimise their impact on the site. This will include:

- Finding out about the different animals and plants that live in the woodland;
- Learning to respect animal homes;
- Careful observation of live animals;
- Leaving deadwood lying in place;
- Taking all materials and litter with them when they leave;
- Ensuring that the site is left as they found it;
- Giving back to the environment through planting, creating habitats and being involved in the natural management of the site such as coppicing, path maintenance and species protection.

We are really excited to be developing this project and will soon be offering regular sessions. If you are a parent or carer, or a school or community group, interested in sessions at the Farm please contact Sarah at sarah.cooper@longmead.org or call 01258 837960.

Take care and stay safe, with love from all the team at Longmead.



Names

By Jan Beaumont ©

You can often tell just where you're from
By the name you got at birth
I thought that I'd investigate
For all that it was worth.

Our name is our identity
It makes us quite unique
So here below I'll list some
Then you'll know of what I speak!

If you are from the USA
You could be Betty-Jo
Or even Chuck or 'Randy'
(Do we really want to know?)

In Oz they're pretty down to earth
You'll know just what I mean
There's Kylie and there's Bazza
And let's not forget Charlene!

The Brits however are more staid
When naming their offspring
But Nigel, Henry, Sybil
Somehow doesn't have that ring.

The Scots give quite historic names
Like Angus, Hamish, Rory
And then there's William Wallace
We could not forget his story!

The Irish have such lilting names
Siobhan, Saoirse, and Niamh
But just trying to pronounce them
Is more tough than you'd believe!

We've Klaus and Karl in Frankfurt
Alejandro in Seville
There's Pedro down in Mexico
And Myfanwy up in Rhyl.

And right here in New Zealand
We have people from all places
There's Aroha or Sione,
Who are from quite different races.

We're very multicultural
In these Pacific Isles
And we have many ethnic names
And just as many smiles!

So if you have a little one
Just choose the name with care
For it can be delightful
Or a cross they have to bear!

Deadline for the next issue is
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and pictures to
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Food and Wine Club Easter food photo competition

THESSE are the winning entries from our April competition. The overall winner was judged by a panel of 'experts'(!) to be Penny Pearce for her entry. They agreed that the description just edged it in front of all the competition by a nose!

"With muffin [sic] much to do during lockdown, and missing seeing the Arolla Valais blacknose sheep on my walks down The Grove, I made these for my own little lambs this Easter."

The runners up, in no particular order, are entitled "Hot cross Bunnies" "Nobody wants a soggy bottom!" "Easter eggs", "Lemon Meringue Pie", "Slightly deaf Easter Bunny" and "Grannies crispy crackling" (The traditional Simnel cake is the prize) Thank you to all the participants, the judges' mouths were watering!

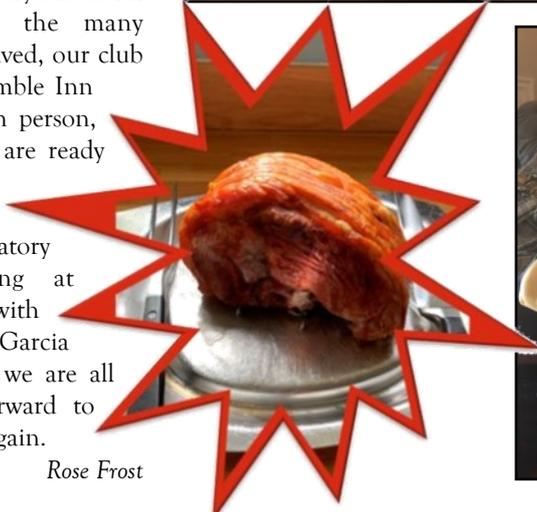
Forty-nine members took part in our Food and Wine Club March event on Saturday 20th March. This was a delicious Doorstep Delivery meal from "The Thimble Inn" at Piddletrenthide organised by Steve and Linsey O'Neill, and was their brilliant brainwave from the beginning. As ever, ably supported by our committee who helped with distribution, truly a case of "many hands make light work".

I don't know about you, but there have been times over the last difficult year or so when I have despaired of things ever getting back to normal, then suddenly, someone, out of the blue, suggests a really good idea and hope is revived!

Thank you so much to all our members who have supported us and have taken part in this very successful event. Judging from the many positive comments received, our club hopes to visit The Thimble Inn on a future occasion in person, en masse. I hope they are ready for us!

Our next event in May will be a celebratory "Fizz Friday" evening at Langham Wine Estate with entertainment by Nina Garcia when, needless to say, we are all very much looking forward to meeting up as a group again.

Rose Frost



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Spring is in the air at Ladybirds

IT'S that wonderful time of the year when everything bursts into life and there is so much to learn about. Thanks to Rose and Ed Frost we have been studying frogspawn and learning the lifecycle of frogs. At the time of writing this we have a tank of tadpoles which we await to turn into froglets. In this instant world of today some children find it difficult to understand that some things take time to develop. On checking the tadpoles every day, a boy comments "they STILL haven't got legs!" Perhaps that's just as well or we might turn up one morning and find lots of frogs jumping around the hall.

Another growing project that we thank Marion Clemens for is her runner bean planting kits. The children planted the three beans and have carefully watered them. We now have two healthy looking bean plants - what happened to the third is a mystery. It's possible that one was pushed further into the soil and is yet to appear. We watch and wait. Whatever the outcome it is learning that not everything grows the same and some things don't grow at all.

In March we did activities around St. David's Day which we followed up with St. Patrick's Day. We talked about lucky things and created a big picture of a rainbow using finger painting. This is on the board in the hall to share with other hall users when they finally return from lockdown.

Of course, we have had lots of Easter fun activities this month. Creating pictures of decorated eggs, making clay chicks, learning what hatches from eggs, playing with the dinosaurs, counting and matching patterned eggs, playing vets for the Easter bunny and finally we had an Easter egg hunt on the field. Not real chocolates out there but card ones. The photo shows some of the children holding these as they return to the adults. At the end of the day all children went home with their made basket containing some chocolate eggs in praise of all the hard work they have done this term.



We are planning for the summer term and the new school year in September. So if you have a child who wants to join us in the next two terms, knock on the hall door for a starter pack or phone me (07771 512427) and I'll get one to you. Life is still not quite back to 'normal' so currently we aren't able to show prospective starters inside but can in the outside area or from the kitchen hatchway.

Liz Dyer

Milborne Ladybirds

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Committee on secretary@milborneladybirds.com

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Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club – Longer days for gardening!



THE days are getting longer and on warmer days you can choose to stay outside a little later and enjoy your garden. Sally Dyer has sent in a photo

showing an array of daffodils and tulips sunbathing below a wonderful pink camellia. Ann Guy has sent in a photo of her lovely new greenhouse and so will be able to grow all sorts of flowers, fruits and veggies that love heat and protection . . . have fun Ann!



Environmental gardening for May

Courtesy of the RHS magazine 'The Garden', the Gardening Club offer you top greener gardening tips for the beginning of May.

Wildflowers

Attract pollinating insects to your garden by sowing wildflower seed in a bare patch of border or lawn.

Garden birds

Keep birdfeeders and birdbaths clean and fresh for the benefit of the birds. Fledglings can choke if fed whole nuts or large pieces of birdfood.

Nesting birds

Before pruning, check hedges and shrubs for nests; if frightened away the parents will abandon their nests.

Early pollinators

Don't cut your grass too short or leave it unmown. Cutting grass too short prevents clover and other flowering plants from providing pollen and nectar. It can cause insect carnage . . . so please think about it.

Mark Johnson

R.I.P. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

By Jan Beaumont ©

The flags are standing at half mast
There's sadness all around
As someone loved so much has passed away
It matters not your place in life
We all shed tears the same
And the Queen will be heartbroken on this day.

We're sending our condolences
We know how deep the pain
As tears for what is lost must fill her eyes
And whether Queen or commoner, our loss is felt the same
On the day a true beloved partner dies.



Following the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in April the Union Flag was flown at half mast on St. Andrew's church for a week as millions around the world mourned the passing of the Queen's consort.

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.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | | 5 | | | 4 | |
| 7 | | | 9 | | 4 | | | 1 |
| | | 5 | 3 | | 8 | 7 | | |
| | 3 | 4 | | | | 9 | 6 | |
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| | 7 | 1 | | | | 3 | 2 | |
| | | 9 | 6 | | 5 | 1 | | |
| 6 | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 8 |
| | 4 | | | 3 | | | 5 | |

Peter Dunkley 1932 – 2021

PETER and Shirley Dunkley moved to this village to live for 25 years and contributed greatly to the life of this community. Shirley was Chair of the School Governors for eight years and Governor for 10 years. She was involved with the WI producing plays and poetry readings, serving on the committee at one time President of the MSA branch, vice chair of the WI County trustees and rep for the Combined Arts running drama workshops and producing plays at County level. Peter was on the Village Hall Committee and worked on the, then, village plan. They were long time members of the Garden Club with Shirley chair for three years. She founded the Bookends Book Club 17 years ago writing a monthly A Good Read for the *Reporter*. Peter was coordinator of all census data collectors. He also gave French lessons in the local school. Sadly, Peter died whilst they were living in their new home in Nottingham. Shirley has written an obituary for him which was published in a newsletter instigated by her to keep her fellow retirees in their apartment block together during lockdown. I reproduce it here:

Carole Fornachon



“My dear husband Peter died on Friday March 19th in the city hospital, Nottingham. He had been taken in following a fall and his general frailty and five and a half years of dialysis for kidney failure proved more than he could manage.

Born in South London, an only child, his primary education was much disturbed by WW2 and evacuation and he ended up attending eight different junior schools. At the end of the war he transferred to Harberdashers' Aske's School, staying until his A Levels in 1951. There he discovered acting, rugby football and classical music, passions that lasted his lifetime.

In 1951 he left school not knowing what he wanted to do, and started National Service in the Royal Fusiliers. Then his life changed forever when he was transferred to the Intelligence Corps and sent by the army to Cambridge to study an intensive Russian language course. He spent the last year of his service as a translator and interrogator for Russian soldiers deserting the West. This taste of the academic life inspired him to apply to Exeter College Oxford and he was accepted in 1953 to study English.

This is where I come in! We met in the early weeks of term as we waited to attend a lecture, when he asked me if I would take

part in a play reading. 68 years later we were still together. After his degree, Peter gained a prestigious traineeship with the BBC and spent the next 32 years working in television. He made programmes for News, Current Affairs, Education, Continuing Education, the Money Programme and Panorama. He travelled the world making documentaries, he pioneered language teaching programmes in French, Russian and Italian, he covered every election and devised a magazine programme for the deaf in sign language called See Hear. He spent seven years as Director of Arts programmes for the Open University when it first began.

Meanwhile, we married in 1958 and soon had Anna, Matthew and Charlotte who were truly his pride and joy. After retirement we moved for an idyllic 25 years to Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset, where he involved himself in CAB, the organisation of two censuses and yet more acting. We moved here in December 2018 and he loved his view of West Bridgford life from the lounge window.

He would have been 89 on March 30th and felt he had enjoyed a full and interesting life. As he always said about his time spent at the BBC “it's better than working!”

Shirley Dunkley

Trading Standards news

Rogue trader jailed for fraudulent trading across four counties

A man who worked on a range of home and garden maintenance jobs at consumers' homes in Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Devon has been jailed for participating in a fraudulent business.

On 22 March, at Bournemouth Crown Court, Thomas Edward Turner (aged 41) of Oaktree Farm Caravan site, Odstock Road, Salisbury, was sentenced to two years and eight months imprisonment.

Fraudulent behaviour was identified at eight properties where he had worked, carrying out a mix of roofing, guttering, driveway and path repairs, moss removal, jet washing and garden work. These properties were in Ferndown; Christchurch; Exeter, Devises; Andover and Shipton Bellinger in Hampshire. A catalogue of excessive charging, unnecessary work and charging for work not done was revealed when these cases were investigated by trading standards officers from Dorset.

His men would start work immediately and undertake unnecessary and sub-standard work at grossly inflated prices. The victims paid in advance for the work by cash or bank transfer. Investigation of Turner's bank accounts led to the details of seven other victims being traced and together they were found to have lost over £100,000 between them. Turner later admitted to a total of £70,000.

The court heard that Turner would approach elderly and often vulnerable victims and frighten them into believing that their roofs had serious problems which required immediate attention. Two of the victims were in the later stages of dementia and one was registered blind.

If you suspect there are rogue traders in your area please report them to Trading Standards by phoning the Citizens Advice Consumer Service freephone 0808 223 1133. If you believe a doorstep crime is in progress call 999. When selecting a trader to carry out work for you then consider Trading Standards approved traders at Buy With Confidence or call 0808 223 1133.





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Milborne St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan

Let's keep it strong!

May 2021

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IN LAST MONTH'S REPORTER WE GAVE YOU A HEADS UP ABOUT REFRESHING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, AGREED IN 2019.

But it now needs to be revisited to make sure it still reflects our villagers' priorities.



TALK TO US!

See our [facebook page](#).
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We said we would go through the existing plan and pull out some things that could potentially benefit from some extra work especially as things move on and change around us. We said we would ask what's important to you, what are your priorities and what we should pursue.

So here we are. True to our word we've combed through the existing plan, we've picked out some stuff we believe needs some attention and here we are now asking you for your thoughts and input.

So what is this thing called a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is about *what* development takes place *where*, in and around the village. The idea is that the local community get together to look at the evidence, agree the best solutions for meeting local needs, that then form the 'blueprint' for developers to follow.

*It's really important that we have up to date information about our community, its needs and opinions. To help us gather this information, we'd be grateful if as many households as possible could **complete a short questionnaire** at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MSANPR-Q1>. If you are unable to access the internet to complete the questionnaire online, hard copies will be available to collect from the shop.*

Housing

Do we need to find land for more housing?
Whilst there is a shortfall in the wider Dorset area, there is already quite a lot of development planned in the village:

- Huntley Down Phase 2: 25 new homes granted at the field at the end
- Camelco (A354 / Lane End): mixed scheme of housing (up to 61 homes), business and pre-school nursery building – this was the site included in the plan and we expect it to be permitted soon
- Fox View Phase 1b: 5 new homes still to be built
- Fox View Phase 2: 7 new homes granted.

So is there any benefit of identifying more housing land through this review?
Do we need to make any other changes to the size and type of homes that are coming forward to better meet local needs?



Parking

Is on-street parking still an issue, and, if so, can you help us with getting better data to justify local standards for any new developments?

Priorities? YOU DECIDE!

What are our priorities for infrastructure funding:

- new pre-school building?
- traffic calming on the main road?

What else should we strengthen?

What other policies should we strengthen or change? We now have some more evidence on our local heritage that we could use in the plan, as well as updates relating to improved building performance standards. This includes a draft Conservation Area appraisal – which can be seen online at www.milbornestandrew-pc.org.uk/community/milborne-st-andrew-parish-council-7786/gallery/ and includes proposed changes to the boundary.

Help us by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MSANPR-Q1> - whilst we can't promise it will be more fun than the Census, it shouldn't take any more time! This will give us the answers to help update the plan. After this, the next steps will be to consult on a revised draft plan (yes, we know, more consultation!) before it is handed over to Dorset Council to be vetted. The survey will remain 'open' until the end of May.

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The Joy of Aging, Not

By Jan Beaumont ©

You get to an age where you need to have tests
And some aren't that nice to have done
But you need to get checked so you just go along
You must always protect Number One.

When you're young you don't realise
How much your health means
Then one day you're not young any more
And you're up for all manner of things you don't like
In time there's procedures galore.

And the more the years pass you just seem to acquire
A cupboard that's chock full of pills
You could open a chemist with all that you've got
For they add up with each of your ills.

So you have to make sure that you still can afford
All the cost that the age increase brings
And the premiums you pay just to cover them all
Is something that certainly stings!

You think that tomorrow just never will come
When you're not that young filly or buck
So just do the right things while you've still got the time
Then one day you'll not run out of luck!

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

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Mark's riding dapper for a cause

FROM Barnstaple to Newcastle, Bournemouth to Liverpool and communities right across the world, tens of thousands of classic and vintage-style motorcycle riders will be buffing their bikes and waxing their moustaches ready for May's Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (DGR). The charity bike ride raises funds for men's health charities and Milborne's Mark Brady has been getting dressed up and taking part in it since 2015. This year he plans to ride the Bournemouth and Poole event again, although in previous years he participated in the London rides – he and Diane, his wife, moved to Milborne from west London last summer.

The charity bike ride began ten years ago in Sydney as a way to unite enthusiasts of niche motorcycles whilst raising money for prostate cancer research and men's mental health – as the organisers put it, 'Riding dapper for a cause'. Over the past ten years the global event has raised \$27.45m for men's health charities. Mark says, "The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride could easily be seen as an excuse to dress up and ride motorcycles – it is! – but at its heart is a much overlooked and underfunded cause. Over 130 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every day in the U.K. and many avoidable deaths occur as a result of late diagnosis due to ignorance, embarrassment or simply turning a blind eye to the symptoms."

Mark will be taking part in the Bournemouth and Poole ride on the 23rd May – the exact route will be announced to registered riders shortly before the event to deter bikers pitching up and joining in, this inevitably due to Covid. The 40 to 50 mile route will take in lots of town and country roads, giving plenty of opportunity for people to catch the spectacle of preened gentleman astride their even-more preened machines. Mark says, "The day is great fun. Everyone makes a huge effort to dress appropriately and prepare their bikes so they look the part. Modern bikes, particularly sports-bikes, are discouraged and the majority turn up on interesting old bikes, traditional



roadsters, modified bikes, choppers and one-off customs. The meet before the start is a highlight, but currently not part of the event because of the pandemic. Dress of the day involves facial hair (carefully trimmed and usually waxed), open faced helmets - so the facial hair can be fully appreciated - lots of tweed, loud waistcoats and cravats and the occasional monocle, cigarette holder or pipe."

Mark plans to ride his Indian Chief, a 2014 1800cc V-twin....or perhaps his classic 1969 BMW R50/5 500cc flat twin.... or maybe even his 20 year old Harley Davidson Wide Glide.... decisions, decisions, but any one of them would fit the bill for the DGR. Motorbikes have been his constant for the past 46 years, never being without at least one since he was 17 years old, owning 21 in total in that time. If you've got an interesting or classic bike in the garage and fancy taking part in the DGR, why not join in on Sunday 23rd May? Have a look at www.gentlemansride.com or search for videos of past events to get a flavour of the day.

If you'd like to support the charities of the DGR – the organisation, Movember, distributes the funds raised to prostate cancer causes and mental health charities that focus on issues such as suicide prevention for men – then contribute via Mark's blog on the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride website <https://gfolk.me/goggles>

Ed Richards



Swings in the play park

THERE is a space that has been empty for a while. It has been suggested that we put a fully support swing there. We were about to order one but would like to make sure that what is put there is suitable. If your child would benefit from such a swing please contact Sarah Ryan (01258 839230) to discuss your child's needs. The basket swing, which is very popular, is beginning to wear and we will be investigating either a refurbishment or replacement.

Linda Wright

Players news

Just to let you know that the two audio plays 'The Looking Glass' and 'Box and Cox' are very nearly ready. Keep your eye on www.milborneplayers.org.uk and you might be the first member of the public to enjoy listening to them.

If you haven't managed to listen to 'A Christmas Carol' it is still available on the Player's website.

Regards from Jo Coetzee and Dot Karley

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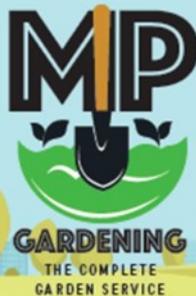
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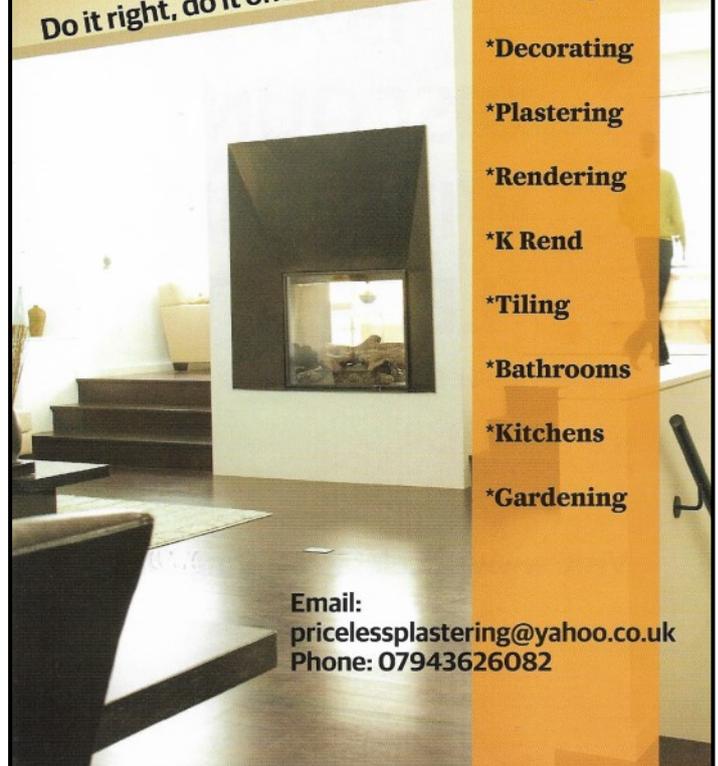
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email: mandpgardening@aol.com

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NEVER let anyone into your property unless you know them.

To find an approved trades person or report an incident to Trading Standards, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0345 404 05 06** or visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

If you suspect a rogue trader or distraction burglar is at your door, call the police on **999**.



www.dorset.police.uk

Sweet Red Nose Day!

ON March 19th Megan O'Kelly held a sweet sale outside Milborne First School in aid of Red Nose Day. The sale was held in a Covid secure way with wrapped sweets having been prepared three days before! The young fund-raiser said "I want to do something for those children who have had a bad year due to Covid". A big well done for all your efforts Megan, the total raised was £105! This included sales made at the end of the day on a pop-up stall outside the local shop – she even managed to sell to three



guys in a very flashy BMW and when asked who the sweets were for they replied "us!" – you're obviously never too young for Haribo! Megan would like to thank everyone who bought sweets and helped her raise the money, she would also like to make a special mention to Glenn for allowing her sale to continue until 5.00pm and to Phillip at the Post Office for the donation of red ribbon to tie the sweet bags.

Kate O'Kelly.



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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 – | Clerk: Wayne Lewin | 07419 136735 |
| Milborne St. Andrew | Chair: Richard Macnair | 07774 081551 |

Dorset Council Services: For matters relating to roads repairs, bins, litter, environmental health, planning, footpaths and parking, www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or call 01305 221000
Flooding: Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188
Environmental Incident: Environment Agency Hotline 08008 807060
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency
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

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Milborne Ladybirds | 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: | David French | |
| Friends of School co-Chair: | Marie Chappell and Natalie Dennis | |

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 Club | Rose Frost | 01258 837921 |
| MSA Allotment Society Chair: | Joy Robinson | 01258 837661 |
| Secretary: | Anna Cullen | 01258 837143 |
| MSA Gardening Club | Sally Dyer | 01258 837061 |
| Milborne Players | Roy Sach | 01258 837033 |
| Round Robin Ramblers | Ian Bromilow | 01258 880044 |
| 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: | Sarah Ryan | 01258 839230 |
| Booking Secretary: | Alison Riddle | 01258 837148 |

HEALTH

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bere Regis Surgery | | 01929 471268 |
| Milborne St. Andrew Surgery | | 01258 880210 |
| 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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Andrew & Sarah Fox

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