

80P WHERE SOLD

# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 13 Issue 6

June 2021

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See page 21

Milborne St. Andrew

Baby robin



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

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

Paper copy to any of the team.



## Emerging into a new world

I wonder, if butterflies were able talk, what they would say about the transition from chrysalis to the beautiful colourful creatures we know and love. Would they remark on the sense of freedom that comes with fluttering through the air? Would they moan about the dark wet days of summer we get from time to time where all they can do is look for shelter?

I wonder how you are feeling about the forthcoming lifting of many of the restrictions that we have experienced over the past fifteen months or more.

Some people I know are raring to go and can't wait to be able to gather inside and outside with family, friends and colleagues or at large gatherings like concerts and gigs, the cinema or theatre.

But others are fearful: fearful of coronavirus and its effects, afraid that they have forgotten how to be with others, scared that it will all be a bit overwhelming after so long away from the fray.

I imagine that many of us, myself included, are partly joyful at the thought of opening up and partly anxious about what it will mean.

There are difficult decisions to be made about what pre-coronavirus normalities we wish to return to and which we will forego. There are new things we have discovered – how many of them do we wish to retain?

Many of us are out of practice in being with groups of people or mixing with anyone outside those with whom we live. While some are longing for their delayed holidays abroad to happen, others are overawed by the thought of going anywhere further than their own village or Blandford or Dorchester.

How do we navigate these changes? I think there are some things we can do to make it easier for everyone.

Make kindness your default position. Judgement is all too easy but none of us can know exactly what it is like living in someone else's shoes.

Listen to the concerns of those who are anxious about the opening up, before giving them the benefit of your wisdom.

Help those who are fearful of the wider world to take it step-by-step. Why not invite them for a coffee or go with them for a walk before they have to face a larger gathering or more crowded space?

Cultivate a spirit of thankfulness for what you have, rather than focussing on what has been lost (though it's important to find space to lament the losses as well at the appropriate times).

Jesus said: Love your neighbour as you love yourself (Mark 12.31). We're all different, but the qualities of sensitivity, peace-making, offering and seeking forgiveness, gratitude, patience, humility, openness and understanding go a long way towards these ideals of treating others as we would like to be treated.

And at the times when you are feeling vulnerable yourself, remember the words of Minnie Haskins quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast regarding an unknown future: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

With best wishes

*Sarah*

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

You are welcome to join us.

### 6th June – Trinity 1

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

### 13th June – Trinity 2

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish

### 20th June – Trinity 3

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	Pet Service	Dewlish

### 27th June – Trinity 4

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

Sue Britton 01258 837218

### Benefice Office

Emma Hughes

puddletownbenefice@outlook.com

or by telephone on 01305 849039

## Welcome back to lunch!

YOU will all be pleased to know that the Village Lunch will be welcoming you back to the Village Hall this month, on Saturday 26th June. The committee is working hard to make sure we follow all the regulations and The Royal Oak will be bringing the food as usual. All our regular diners will be catered for and looking forward to welcoming any other villagers who would like to join them. If you would like any more details please either phone me, Josie Wright on 839090 or Jenny Balcon, our secretary on 837121.

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## PC Zooms for last time – back to analogue meetings in June

LAST month's Parish Council meeting took place in early May since online council meetings, legally permitted due to Covid last year, were disallowed by central government from 7th May – and face to face meetings would not be possible until much later in the month. The mismatch of the transition from online to conventional meetings was brought up in a round table with North Dorset MP, Simon Hoare, that chair Richard Macnair attended with other Dorset parish council representatives.

Cllr Macnair said that the meeting also highlighted other PCs around the county were experiencing similar problems to Milborne – litter, policing availability, speeding traffic and light pollution to name a few. There was also a consensus about the delays in planning at Dorset Council. In later correspondence, Mr Hoare's office had asked for specific details for him to follow up. With the development at Camelco on Blandford Hill seemingly stalled at the county, councillors discussed the best way forward in tapping into the MP's help. Clerk, Wayne Lewin, said that it would be a large task to collate all emails, letters and details of phone calls relating to the application to pass on to Mr Hoare and asked if it was a good use of his time. It was decided a letter to Matt Prosser, Dorset Council's chief executive should be sent, outlining the stonewalling the PC has received from the council and non-completion of the statutory requirements of Huntley Down to be foremost, with Simon Hoare cc'd.

The first new bench had been installed at the junction of Lane End and Homefield but had gone considerably overbudget – a cost of £372 to install – since there was more work involved than bargained for; digging out, concreting and slab work. The PC had received requests from both the Sports Club and the Village Hall

asking if the benches that they were part-funding could be picnic benches rather than the park bench style originally discussed. Councillors were happy for the change since it fitted both settings.

The Sports Club (SC) was the subject of much discussion regarding two agenda items; one, the request to join the PC's village grass cutting contract and second, a request for dialogue over a planning proposal to install a standalone canopy. On the first point, the SC were looking to have three banks within its grounds cut once a year included in the existing cutting contract, a cost of £300. Councillors were either ambivalent or against the proposal, saying that the local community do not use it enough to warrant inclusion (due to its 'remote location' and that pitches are maintained to a high standard and villagers are told "not to use it") and that the banks are not usable public space so therefore should not be within the contract. Mr. Lock refuted that people were discouraged from using the grounds and that the cutting of the banks would make them usable. For those councillors that were on the fence, Cllr Macnair's point that it is the responsibility of the leaseholder (ie the Sports Club) to maintain its grounds gave them enough of a push to fall down on to the side of refusing the proposal.

On the second item, that of the proposal of an open sided canopy at the Sports Club, which Mr Lock had outlined at the start of the meeting, presenting the idea as a post-Covid plan. Events and functions at the pavilion were limited due to its size and restrictions since last year and he said that some regular users had been lost as a result. He put forward the barn-style structure as having multi-functional uses such as a changing area, kick boxing,

*Continued on page 7*

Introducing the

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Continued from page 5

dog training and for wedding receptions. Cllr Head said that lots of covered spaces were being erected by organisations elsewhere and that habits and attitudes had been changed by Covid. Other councillors looked to the potential pitfalls such as what would happen to the structure if the Sports Club became PC responsibility, ongoing maintenance, whether the ground was suitable and the effect on the landscape.

Most of these concerns were batted away – the structure would require limited groundwork (sockets in small concrete blocks to accept the posts) and the structure could be easily dismantled to negate any maintenance issue – the liability for purchase and installation was the Sports Club’s own. Cllr Witherden said that a decision for any potential planning application would not be in time for any events using the canopy this summer, although Mr Lock said the SC were looking to the future. The clerk reminded councillors that the Sports Club had come to them seeking dialogue and suggested that a site meeting would be the best way forward. This was agreed and a date set for later in the month.

The finer points about a ‘Milborne Womble’ ♻️ community litter pick ♻️ were discussed with much of the debate focused on whether the ‘thank you’ for volunteers ought to be a token for beer or a pint of soft drink and packet of crisps, and where it should take place. Since Covid restrictions are likely to still apply, the chairman reasoned against having a get-together after the litter pick. To earn their beer or lemonade, volunteers would be supplied with PPE and bin liners and dispatched in small numbers to specific areas to clean. If you’d like to be involved, see page 5 for more details.

Volunteers are also being sought by the Community Speed Watch group since some former members have been unable to return now speed monitoring has restarted. If you’re interested,

contact Sue Lawson [sueylawson@yahoo.com](mailto:sueylawson@yahoo.com). The group had completed 13 speed watch sessions between lockdowns last year, recording 24 motorists speeding. Sessions for this year have been planned, including some with the police’s Trucam operator, meaning enforcement notices will be issued.

There will be ‘bikeability’ courses running this August, most likely in the Village Hall car park, for children aged 10 to 12. Three days of the cycling knowhow sessions are planned, a beginners’ course then two following days of advanced courses, which see the youngsters take to the road. The sessions are free of charge but will require a £10 refundable deposit. Children will need to bring their own bikes and helmets and packed lunches are to be supplied by Glenn at Grays Stores. See next month’s *Reporter* for more information on how to take part.

Space is being offered to community events, local information and other listings in the two PC noticeboards (Village Hall and Milton Road), although the inclusion of selected local businesses advertising drew some concern from councillors.

Cllr Witherden gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan refresh, saying the working group had met twice and had gone through the plan. The task now is to encourage as many residents as possible to participate in the consultation. The Conservation Area appraisal is being carried out at the same time and the report from a heritage expert suggested to shrink the northern area around Crown Court and Milton Road yet include more areas to the east of The Causeway and around Gould’s Farm since it represents features of historic field systems.

The PC Annual General Meeting preceded the monthly meeting and councillors volunteered for officer responsibilities. Cllr Macnair was reinstated as chair and Cllr Redding as vice chair, both unopposed.

*Ed Richards*



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# Milton Abbas Surgery

## Carers Week 7th – 13th June 2021

Carers Week is an annual awareness campaign that celebrates and recognises the vital contribution of the UK's unpaid carers – supporting family members and friends who are older, have a disability, mental or physical illness or need extra help as they grow older. Carers have been under extraordinary pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many caring around the clock without access to support.

In view of this, we would like to let carers know the following:

- Kelly is our Social Prescribing & Carers Lead at the surgery, and she is here to provide unpaid carers with information on the support available to them. If you would like to speak with her, please call the surgery on 01258 880210.
- We have updated our Carers Packs at the surgery which now include the booklet called 'If Only I'd Known That' produced by The Leonardo Trust, as well as details of support services and other helpful information. Please ask at Reception if you would like a pack.
- We also now have a dedicated page on our surgery website ([www.masurgery.co.uk](http://www.masurgery.co.uk)) for carers with links to resources, support, and events. Carers may also find it useful to follow our surgery Facebook page @miltonabbassurgery for the latest surgery news and useful information.
- Thank you to all unpaid carers out there. You are doing a fantastic job and you are not alone – we are here for you should you need us.

## The importance of attending review appointments

Have you been invited for a review appointment for your Long Term Condition (for example diabetes, asthma or COPD), but haven't quite got round to booking one yet? Every patient needs to be assessed regularly to ensure they get access to the healthcare they need. If you have a long-term chronic condition, we might ask to see you at least annually, to check how things are going and to see whether we can improve the management of your condition. We can chat about any developments and improvements in treatment, and any concerns you may have. If we've invited you for an annual review, please make an appointment if you haven't already; we'd love to talk to you about how things are going.

## Smoking, tobacco and vaping

If you're a teen smoker, or anyone who smokes, you might want to think about giving up. Your long-term health can be seriously affected by smoking. It's not just your health, though; smoking can seriously damage your wallet.

If you're 16 and smoke ten cigarettes a day until you retire, you'll have spent almost £130,000 on cigarettes in today's money. This tool will give you an idea of how much you spend on smoking: think about what you could spend it on instead! <https://www.nhsinform.scot/stopping-smoking/calculate-my-savings>

Live Well Dorset offer a great support package to help if you'd like to give up smoking. Live Well Dorset also provide help if you'd like to reduce your alcohol intake, lose weight or exercise more. You can contact them on 01300 233105 or 0800 840 1628, or visit their website: <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/>

Finally, a small plea from our team: if we have phoned you and left a message for you to call the surgery, please can you do so? The demand on the reception team has increased dramatically recently, particularly regarding covid vaccinations. We have to make a lot of phone calls in a day, and it takes up so much of our time having to chase people who don't return our calls. Thank you for your help and understanding.

*Gillian Brindle, Business Manager*

## Digital champions return to face-to-face advice sessions

DORSET residents can once again get face-to-face advice on any digital queries such as setting up and using devices including phones, tablets and PCs.

Digital champions have started to return to Dorset libraries to help people who are struggling to get online. Meanwhile the Digital Hotline will keep running to help people who can't get to the face-to-face sessions.

Digital champions ran sessions in Dorset's libraries and community venues until the start of last year, covering enquiries ranging from how to switch on a computer and use it for the first time through to specific technical queries.

However, when the Covid pandemic struck these sessions had to stop and since then Digital Champions have been helping people with their digital queries through the telephone hotline.

Mike Watson is one of the volunteer digital champions. He said: 'In face-to-face support sessions the digital champion can see the exact issue and suggest a range of actions. If the first doesn't work, we can immediately try something else.'



'An informal relationship develops between the Digital Champion and the user, and as the user starts to make progress dealing with the technology, genuine learning happens.'

The sessions will be spaced apart to allow full cleaning and other Covid secure requirements will be in place. Perspex screens will separate the user and the digital champion or two computer screens will be available to maintain distance between them.

Slots are currently limited to Dorchester on Thursday afternoons and Gillingham on Saturday mornings, with Weymouth, Littlemoor and Ferndown planned to follow soon. Anyone who can't access these can still use the Digital Hotline (01305 221048 10:00 – 12:00 Mon-Fri).

Councillor Peter Wharf, deputy leader for Dorset Council, said:

'It's great to see that our volunteer digital champions are able to start supporting people again in this way as face-to-face sessions are the best way to help people who struggle with technology to develop their digital skills.'

'Part of our digital vision for Dorset is to enable it to be a digital place. We want to help residents learn new digital skills which will make their lives easier.'

'Businesses will have access to people with the digital skills they need and together we will be able to use technology to make a real difference to people's lives.'

Face to face slots with digital champions must be pre-booked to ensure they are Covid secure. If you, or someone you know, would like some help from a digital champion with a digital query, just call the Digital Hotline.

Two other community venues have also re-opened their digital help sessions, so you can also book slots at:

- Sturminster Newton Community Learning Centre (within The Exchange) on Monday and Wednesday mornings by calling David on 01258 860905 or emailing [snclc@btconnect.com](mailto:snclc@btconnect.com)
- Yarn Barton Centre, Fleet Street, Beaminster on Wednesday mornings by calling 01308 805060.

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# Mesopotamia and the Ancient Sumerians part 2

I THINK that it is about time that I introduced you to the Sumerians. In the modern world most of our mathematical functions are based on the number 10. The Sumerians worked to a base of 60. Using the left thumb, they counted the sections of each finger on the left hand, which amounts to 12. They then transfer that 12 to a finger on the right hand. Repeat with the left hand and transfer THAT 12 to the right hand etc. When all 5 fingers on the right hand are full it makes 60. All of their calculations were based on the numbers 12 or 60, and that is why today, we have 60 seconds in a minute and 60 minutes in an hour. In many parts of the world daylight lasts for 12 hours, as does night time, giving 24 hours as a day. Even our angular measurements have 60 as a base, 360° to a circle for example.

The Sumerians were very well organised with their city layouts and organisation of workers, trade and government. They were, 5,000 years ago, at a standard of organised civilisation that wouldn't be reached by many peoples around the world for thousands of years.

Quite a few of the Cuneiform tablets found talk about a great flood. One of these tablets is known as the "Ark Tablet" because it gives in great detail instructions to Atrahasis, who was told by his God, Ea, to break down his house and build an Ark to save him and his family from the flood that the Gods were going to send to destroy mankind, because "they were making too much noise!".

But what of this 'Ark'? What would it look like? Our traditional idea of an Ark is that it looked much like a boat with a hut on the top, a traditional 'Noah's Ark' known and loved by many people for countless generations. In Mesopotamia at the time when the Flood is supposed to have taken place, and on the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates, the most common shape of a craft to travel on water with, was round. Most of these vessels were small only carrying two or three people at best, but many were much larger and used for carrying goods along the rivers. Even today, many of these vessels are still made using plaited reeds with a coating of pitch on the outside, to waterproof the boat.

From a book called "The Ark before Noah" by Irving Finkel, there are many details about these coracle shaped boats, in fact in collusion with a film company they actually built one about one fifth of the diameter of what was considered to be the original "Atrahasis" Ark, about half the size of a football pitch. The dimensions and details of how to build this Ark were given in the translations from the Ark Tablet mentioned earlier, and in any case, the Tablet describes the Ark as round.

This film has been shown on Channel 4, so if you can find it, it is worth a watch.

I think that I will add here a little note about the names used in this era. I had some difficulty with working out who is actually who, particularly the two main characters, Atrahasis and Utnapishtim. From what I have read, they are the same person. Over thousands of years, and being translated between different languages, the name has changed. Also some names can obviously be abbreviated and this can cause problems for the researcher. In fact, Utnapishtim has been noted as shortened to (Uta)-na'ish(tim) and the central portion, 'Na'ish' was pronounced 'Noah' in Palestine from very early times.

Because of the exploits of Atrahasis the Gods decided to give him 'eternal life' and that brings us to another character called Gilgamesh.

The Babylonian version of a story about a King called Gilgamesh describes how he decided to find the secret of everlasting life which the Gods had bestowed on his ancestor, Utnapishtim (or Atrahasis!). Gilgamesh made a long and very difficult journey "over the waters of death to the island in which Utnapishtim eternally lived in order to stand in the assembly of the Gods and obtain the "secret of everlasting life".

Brian Burton

# Artsreach Open Air Theatre

Bec Applebee presents *Oh Mary!*

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CORNISH actor Bec Applebee's acclaimed solo physical theatre show '*Oh Mary!*' heads to Dorset this summer for an open-air tour with Artsreach. Based on the incredible life story of Mary Bryant, '*Oh Mary!*' tells the true story of an 18th century Cornish Highway woman who survived the raw brutality of life as a convict, sailing halfway around the world to Australia. Mary is at the heart of one of Maritime's greatest escapes. This is an epic, little known story of personal strength, bravery, loss and of an indomitable human spirit.



Brought to you by Bec Applebee, well known for her work with internationally acclaimed companies Kneehigh Theatre, Dalla and the Tosta Band. The show features a driving soundtrack recorded by bands Dalla and Radjel, with narrative by Anna Murphy (Kneehigh, BBC Radio 4), choreography by Helen Tiplady (Cscape Dance, HFC) and directed by Simon Harvey (Kneehigh theatre, O Region).



Please bring a chair/rug and dress for all weather. Full guidance including covid information available online and when booking. To book, visit [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk) or ring Angela, 01258 839060.

Sarah Ryan

What do you call a row of men waiting for a haircut?  
*A barbercue.*

Two antennas got married.  
*The ceremony was boring but the reception was good!*

# Continuing the growing theme at Ladybirds

LAST month I wrote about the frogspawn we were given. This developed into what seemed like hundreds of tadpoles and was moved to a larger tank. After what seemed to be a very long time the tadpoles developed legs and rapidly became froglets. The children enjoyed checking on them every day. Then one day 2 girls were looking at the froglet sitting on the rock when we heard a squeal and there was the little frog on the floor – certainly a big leap for such a little animal. The frogs have now been released.

Now the update on our runner beans. We planted them outside and over time growth slowed and we decided they needed some 'food'. The older children in the afternoon session carefully mixed nettles and water then left it to make fertilizer. They all

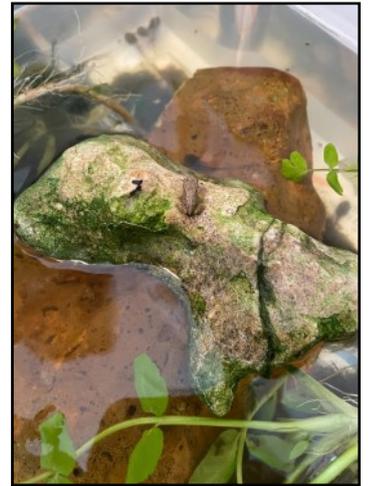
thoroughly enjoyed the 'dangerous' activity, learning how to handle nettles safely. All totally agreed after a few days the mixture smelt horrible – definitely like fertilizer!

To continue the food growing knowledge the children chopped up some fruit and vegetables – the melon was by far the favourite. With soil in a tray Ladybirds planted root vegetables which proved much harder to cut up – with persistence the swede, carrots and parsnip became lots of pieces. Our artwork included farm fields made with rollers in paint and tractor collages from different pre-cut shapes.

The school starter afternoon sessions have been running with the older children practicing skills they will need when they enter school. They are all progressing well and contrary to news reports that children will be entering school further behind than usual we feel this is not the case for our children.

Thanks to Dave for repairing our shop the children have spent many hours playing shop, selling seeds (seed packets made by us), flowers, food and anything else they found in the room. The shop front can also be a puppet show and the curtains provide many opportunities for imaginative role play.

Liz Dyer



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# An historical orbit around the village for retired spies

IF, BY some remote chance, an old dog-eared, tatty and faded letter drops onto your door mat addressed to a Mr Harrison, Duck Street, Middleton, don't bother trying to redirect it. Be in no doubt, the communication will never reach him. The remains of his dwelling – thanks to one Joseph Damer – lie submerged beneath the ornamental lake within the southern boundary of Milton Abbey. The envelope will also lack a stamp, having been entrusted to The Royal Mail at least seventy years before the first Penny Black stamps became mandatory adornments. Either throw the letter in your green recycle bin or take it along to the Antiques Roadshow the next time Fiona Bruce rolls into town. I will reveal more about Harrison's tale of woe as I ramble.

Today's little jaunt will centre on Milton Abbey. Beginning at the lodge that stands at the head of Milton Road, I will complete a four mile orbit of the ecclesiastical edifice. It's 7th May and although a week late, The Abbey building is the Maypole, I am the Greenman who will fleet footedly weave my nimble way around the estate, celebrating the end of winter, encouraging plants to clamber out of the ground and daring the sun to climb higher in the sky. I have parked the Yaris in Milton Abbas, opposite The Old Rectory, an eye catching elegant Georgian number with a Purbeck slate roof and lunette feature window that fans out over front door. It breaks the mould from the rest of the regimentally thatched workers cottages that snake away up the hill. Leaving the turning to Hilton to the right, I complete my descent to the base of the valley. Well established trees drape and frame my view across the lake, with the Abbey poking its head above more trees in the near distance. I lean on the iron railings and try to imagine the bustling small town of Middleton,

wondering what it would look like today if it had not been for Damer, who decided Middleton and the pesky lawyer Harrison were a blot on the blueprint of his plans for a grand, aristocratic landscape.

Feeling a bit vulnerable to the traffic on the thin strip of grass between the road and the railing, I make my way along to the small lodge, passing between the impressive gate piers that guard the southern portal of the estate and begin crunching my way along the gravel drive, the lake now on my right hand side. On the far bank, fishermen try their luck. Geese honk and ducks practice their take offs and landings. The clumsy but graceful sight of a duck executing a feet first controlled crash landing never fails to amuse me. Whatever is left of Harrison's house sits beneath webbed feet, anglers' floats and ill-fated maggots. It is just over two hundred and fifty years since it last saw the light of day or gulped in the clean fresh country air of mid Dorset. Harrison was the last of the inhabitants of Middleton to resist Damer's quest to wipe the town from the map. Having purchased Milton Abbey in 1751, Damer proceeded with plans to reshape the surrounding valley, attached his large Gothic revival style mansion to the fifteenth century Abbots Hall of the Abbey, and gave himself the title of Lord Milton, 1st Earl of Dorchester. The town of Middleton was noisy and smelly. It nuzzled up to his garden wall and didn't fit in with his vision of a fashionable showpiece country estate with which to impress visiting guests, such as King George III. He certainly didn't want the urchin children of the town jumping over his wall asking him if they could have their ball back. One by one he bought out the townsfolk, resettling them in the new uniform village of Milton Abbas. Only Harrison remained, eventually taking his squire to court but despite winning, the tap was turned on. Damer watched on from the Abbey belfry like Mr Withers, the fairground owner in Scooby-Doo, wringing his hands in glee as Middleton disappeared beneath the new water feature.

As I make my way along the track adjacent to the lake, I begin to notice just how green things are beginning to turn. Trees are beginning to haemorrhage leaves. Beneath the cover of thick woodland to my left, bluebells jockey for position with wild garlic. After a short while, the path swings left and begins to climb uphill into Lower Lodge Plantation. The going here gets a bit tougher. The winter rainfall has washed errant lumps of flint and woody obstacles down the escarpment and I have to watch where I put my feet. Things get easier as the path summits at a forestry commission barrier. A sign on the sturdy iron gate advises me that I am not invited any higher, which is fine by me. Here the path drops to my right, and I proceed down a more forgiving slope. A deer crosses ahead of me and thrashes off into the safe haven of the thick undergrowth. Although it is a warm morning, the plantation feels damp and smells musky, the feeling of dampness magnified by the proliferation of sprawling ferns.

Civilisation heaves into view once more at the conclusion of the descent. On a gate hanging from a tall, dark red brick wall that looks like it may conceal a Victorian kitchen garden, I am instructed that due to our old friend COVID 19, unless I am a pupil or staff at Milton Abbey School I am not allowed to enter the grounds beyond. I don't have my 'Just William' disguise, or my 'Goodbye Mr Chips' fancy dress costume with me today, so I steer sharp left along the level path at the foot of Melmoth's Hill. OS25 now tells me I am in Ruins Plantation. A pile of robbed

*Continued on page 18*



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# A personal view: Size really does matter!

I RECENTLY came across this letter from Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council in support of the Sports Club. It sets out the covenant that was set up to deliver sporting and recreational opportunities for the community. This remains the sole objective of the Sports Club team who may only total four in number but continually punch above their weight, providing a valuable service to the community for the right reasons and despite all the odds.

*To whom it may concern,*

*I confirm that Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council are the owners of the Milborne St. Andrew Sports Field at Lane End, Milborne St. Andrew.*

*In addition, I confirm that Milborne St. Andrew Sports Club are acting on behalf of, and report to, the Parish Council on all matters relating to the Sports Field.*

*I trust that this information is sufficient for your needs, but if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Parish Clerk who will be happy to help further.*

This was signed by Derek Clarke as the Chairman and dated 16/01/2001 and made in support of a grant application to the Football Foundation for the build of the Pavilion: Outcome: Grant of £256,927 as 73% of £354,337 approved 5th July 2001

Pinch me, I must be dreaming!

That was in the heady days of 2001. We are now in 2021 and the joint working arrangement has not panned out as expected. I would really like to be taking this opportunity to be welcoming the community back to the future expectations of 2001 not to the reality of 2021. Things are a lot different and challenging now even without the ramifications of opening up post Covid. *(Disclaimer: these are my personal views NOT those of the other members of the team or necessarily the official view of the Sports Club Management Committee).*

Anyway, by the time you read this you will have missed the six Dorset FA Cup Finals held over the late May BH. Hopefully, you went along to watch or just to sit on one of the four picnic benches that are now dotted around the site, one of which is specifically designed for either a wheelchair user or a pushchair. When it gets darker, or you want to hold an event after dark then one or all of the eight portable floodlights will be available. When the new season starts the Milborne team will now be able to practice on-site illuminating an area the size of half the main pitch

There are now two community goals provided, one full size and one for younger children and there has been renewed interest in bookings for birthday parties. One will be a return of the crazy train setup and I cannot wait to have a crafty go before the party goes arrive!! A local village couple will be arranging their wedding reception so expect to see a marquee pop up on the distant horizon anytime soon and the local campers of 2019 are expected back too.

They will all notice a major difference and upgrade of the inside facilities including, repainting; a new kitchen; new lighting; a Bluetooth sound system; sound reduction panels and hopefully will be suggesting even more improvements to be undertaken.

Since COVID three of the regular users have been lost because of the spatial limitations created by social distancing and going forward more may be lost or will be unable to be

attracted in order to keep the facilities open.

Even with the funding support from the Football Foundation the Club cannot survive by football revenue alone. SIZE DOES MATTER and in 2019 the limitations of size and design was already having a negative impact on the range of activities possible with some having to be turned away.

The Club, having moved from an income stream of £5k in 2016 to £16.5k of income in 2019 now finds itself back in the realms of square one. We literally and physically cannot allow the grass to grow under our feet and it takes over £3,000 per year just to manage the outside space, grass; pitches; banks; hedges etc and then there is the utility bills, rent, paying for the Council loan to buy the site and essential maintenance items. (gas, electric, music, water, feminine hygiene units, etc).

However, the Sports Club team does have a possible 'Post COVID' plan up its sleeve in the form of an open sided barn style canopy that will provide the opportunity to provide undercover recreational facilities. Langham Wines and others have recognised the potential such a structure could have on their survival. It requires very little in the way of groundworks and that any side panels would not require foundations to be excavated.

A possible size is 10m x 30m and maybe it should be sited at the lowest point of the site alongside the lower pitch. If the height to the eaves could be in the region of 2.7m it might be capable of having the sides dressed out with drop down marquee sides.

A number of potential local users and uses have already been identified: Beavers and owners at dog training would love it, kick boxing would return, the football teams could use it for changing or spectator area. Open air film nights, barn dances or a covered stage for performers would be possible and when draped out it could be a low cost wedding reception marquee venue for local people. The Friends of School also said it would be an ideal venue for an open air market, so plenty to think about but hopefully you noticed the "ifs"; "maybes"; "possible"; "mights", etc. Nothing in this is a "given" that this project will actually come to fruition in its current form. It is just a vision to be bashed around but the initial feedback is very positive.

The open style nature of the structure and the siting in the lowest part of the site would avoid harm to the views and the landscape and enhance the recreational opportunities available within the community.

The first stage of this project was and is for the Sports Club to obtain the initial consent of the Parish Council to proceed. A brainstorming project appraisal is required by opening up a dialogue with the Council, user groups and the community to maybe flesh out some ideas, design considerations and so on.

Subject to a fair wind, the second stage would be to obtain the consent of the Council to even be allowed to present a Planning Application for the structure. Only then could the Sports Club move forward to the tendering and completion stage.

The Council was unable to agree to stage one at the May meeting but hopefully things might get the green light at the June meeting just to move past "GO" whether we return to those heady collaborative days of 2001 or not, is another matter entirely, but entirely in the hands of the Council!

All of this pre-supposes (another flaky term) that during the process it doesn't all become unnecessary, undoable and not worth the effort of trying to push fudge uphill because things



are back to pre COVID and another priority takes priority.

The most likely alternative priority being the Sports Club current involvement with Low Carbon Dorset on a renewable energy grant funded solution with the outcome of the Sports Club becoming carbon neutral.

In the meantime, the toilets still need cleaning, windows washed, fascia painted, floors buffed and polished, invoices sent out, fudge pushed uphill as well as looking after the needs of our users.

Bottom line:

You will be made most welcome if you want to play a part in serving the community. So please do not be put off coming forward and joining the team.

*Richard Lock*





# MILBORNE ST. ANDREW FIRST SCHOOL

Learning together and having fun



## SCHOOL NEWS

THE whole school had a visit from some very unusual animals, brought to us from the "Mad4Animals" roadshow. The children had a chance to handle some of them including an owl, hissing cockroaches, giant land snails, a tentec, a couple of smaller snakes and a giant PYTHON! The tarantula was held by an adult voted for by the children. A great time was had by all.

Raccoons have been lucky enough to have visits from Mad4Animals and Wessex Wild. Both visits were fun and informative looking at animals in farming and more unusual animals that we were able to handle in person. Chrissy from Wessex Wild helped us think about where our food comes from and the experts from Mad4Animals taught us about caring for all creatures and learning about them so we don't fear them. The children were incredible and both visitors commented on how inquisitive they were and what excellent questions they asked. Another proud Milborne moment!

The class also had a wildflower sowing ceremony to create a new meadow area near our pond to encourage insects and give us another reason to stop and stare awhile!



## 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

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Continued from page 13



out masonry, some of it ecclesiastical looking, stone arch or window mullion lies strewn next to the path. It's the turn of a squirrel to take umbrage at my intrusion; it too peels off into the undergrowth but without the snapping of twigs and branches produced by Bambi. Rounding the right hand corner I am greeted by the extraordinary sight of a ruined folly, probably built by the Carl Hambro who acquired the Abbey in 1852. The interesting tumbledown structure, a listed Grade II Scheduled Monument represents the ruins of a chancel and transept of a gothic church. It's eerie, spooky at midday: don't even go there at midnight; even Scooby-Doo, Shaggy, Fred, Velma and Daphne may well give this a miss after nightfall. Against the northern aspect, standing beside the stonework is an impressive elderly yew tree that sits in nicely with the Gothic architecture. Incidentally, Hambro's son Charles and Joseph Damer were both elected Members of Parliament for Weymouth at the 1868 and 1741 general elections respectively. I spend some time here; it's my kind of place.

The view across the lake now gives way to a panorama containing the impressive Abbey building, with Damer's 16th century mansion seemingly grafted onto the older place of



worship. It is indeed a bit of an architectural juxtaposition. Sir Frederick Treeves noted in his book, *Highways and Byways in Dorset*, 'Here, on a lawn and amid the flower-gardens of a private mansion is a cathedral! No other building is in sight. It is a strange thing to meet with, a great grey house, and a great grey church, standing, side by side, in a hollow in a wood'. The very substantial 'cathedral' with the large house set out next to it have since been joined by modern school accommodation and classrooms. Treeves would have been even more perplexed by these additions. The field between myself and the Abbey is occupied by a large herd of Friesian cows. In the middle distance they pull off a passable impression of the 101 Dalmatians, leisurely chomping their way across the grassland.

Breaking out of the undergrowth, I turn right at the end of the path and walk the short distance up the hill to join the Hilton to Milton Abbas road and turn right again. There are a lot of cyclists using this section of the road today, some with very expensive looking carbon fibre bikes. Others opt for mountain bikes, an elderly peloton startle me as they pass, their silent machines powered by electricity. They drift away into the distance and beyond, their speed distorted by their electrical assistance and I feel like I am watching an old black and white Buster Keaton film where everything happens twice as fast. One of the Friesian cows noses over to see what I'm up to. The number 53 04 is stamped on her rump. She poses for a picture, with the Abbey in the background, produces a very large fart then begins to devour the cowslip that is growing in the hedgerow.

This is as near to Milton Abbey as I will get today, the road arcs to the right, passing the immaculate sports pitches. I duck left up the footpath immediately beyond the turning for Delcombe Farm, continuing my orbit. The path rises and to my left the valley leading up to Delcombe Manor looks lush and green, flanked on each side by plantations. A 1769 estate plan identifies the open floor of the valley as 'The Great Lawn', and also shows the enclosing wooded belts. The higher I climb, the steeper it gets and I join the Milton Abbas Heritage trail deep within Pidgeon House Plantation, bearing right at the head of the incline. Following the black arrows on the marker posts, and with a bead of sweat forming above my eyebrows, the path leads me down to St. Catherine's Chapel, parts of which date from the late 12th century. I try the door handle. The chapel is locked. A set of grass steps, known as 'The Great Stair' leads away down towards the Abbey, of which I have now today viewed from all four of its aspects.

As I near Steeptonbill Farm Shop and turn left out of the trees up towards Catherine's Well, a man with a pair of expensive looking cameras around his neck, and a bag that looks like it may contain other items of expensive camera equipment approaches me. His stride is perilously broken by a tree root protruding from the ground. I look away, certain that several hundreds of pounds worth of Japanese optical equipment is about to be trashed. The man lurches forward, begins what looks like a seemingly unrecoverable plummet that will surely see his nose make contact with the Milton Abbas Heritage Trail, but then makes a magnificent gravity defying recovery to remain upright. As he regains his stride we greet each other, he slightly sheepishly. Feeling for him, but immensely impressed by his agility, I tell him I too have just suffered the same fate further back – little white lie – and advise him to watch where he puts his feet. Past the farm shop, the land meets the sky way off in the distance over the Purbeck Hills and I pass through the gate into Catherine's Well, a modern 'suburb' of Joseph Damer's

original Milton Abbas. All is quiet on this residential cul-de-sac. A black cat ambles lazily across the road, perhaps going home for a siesta. Just before the junction with the main road, a signed footpath directs me to the right and I drop down through a path strewn with Galium Aparime, or 'sticky willy' into olde worlde Milton Abbas, joining The Street opposite The Commonwealth War Graves cemetery. 'Sticky willy' is the summer foliage you can covertly attach to other people's clothes. It doesn't just have to be people you know. Kate and I spent a happy afternoon on the banks of the River Thames near Wallingford innocently adorning strangers with this fun plant. We even managed to successfully attach a strand to an American tourist who we followed around Hardy's Cottage. Kate's sister wasn't so lucky; her first attempt ended in failure, her enthusiasm and poor timing leading to a bemused look from her chosen victim.

So here I am, Milton Abbas. The result of a social divide; rich against poor. A new village hidden in a valley, out of sight and out of mind. Even from the bottom of the village, a child with strong right foot would surely not possess the power or range to land a pig's bladder football onto Damer's lawn. My view of the village differs from that of the early settlers who moved here from 1773. At the top of the village stands The Hambro Arms. There was certainly no such establishment here to begin with. Joseph Damer frequently visited London for business and had witnessed the gin epidemic that was ravaging the capital. In 1736, the Middlesex Magistrates were already decrying gin as, 'the principal cause of all the vice and debauchery among the inferior sort of people'. It would be fourteen years after Lord Milton's death that a licence for a public house for the (by now) very thirsty villagers was granted. The building next to The Hambro Arms, now a chapel, was once the parish poor house and the village had to wait almost a century for the first school to be opened here. I finally complete my circle and arrive back where I started. Returning to the subject of American tourists, we have a friend who lives in one of Joseph Damer's cottages. One summer's afternoon, he was settling down to a nice cup of tea in his front room when a woman's face appeared at the window. A pair of enquiring eyes scanned the room. The face turned away and remarked to her transatlantic husband, 'It's nat a museum honey, they have a VCR'. Our friend has told visitors and tourists, tongue in cheek, that Milton Abbas is a haven for retired spies. It conjures up images of Kim Philby ordering a dry Martini in The Hambro Arms, or George Smiley exiting the post office with a book of first class stamps. It seems that every time I venture through Milton Abbas village, I see our friend. It is a standing joke between Kate and myself; 'Did you see him today when you drove up to the surgery? Was he around'? He doesn't know that I know that I see him every time. I guess you could I am spying on him!

One last interesting fact before I go. Did you know that the layby just past Deverel Farm just north of Milborne St. Andrew on the road to Winterborne Whitechurch has a spying connection? One night in the 1950s Harry Houghton, a member of the infamous Portland spy ring responsible for this country's biggest leak of military secrets during the Cold War, rendezvoused with two Russian agents on a deserted beach on the island. Houghton was told not to speak to the two men, who were wearing wellington boots and had landed from either a trawler or a submarine. He was to drive the men to the layby where they would be met by another car which would take the two enemy agents on to London.

Keep it a secret; don't tell anyone I told you. *Rich Hawker*

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## Village Hall open at last!

WE are now in the first stage of opening; all Covid precautions are in place. It is in June that the final restrictions will be lifted. The Village Lunch will be taking place and Arts Reach will be performing an outdoor event on Saturday 26th June with "Oh Mary". Film night will resume on Friday 2nd July and the Village Hall AGM on the 28th July. Line dancing and yoga are recommencing and we hope to welcome more user groups back soon.

Sadly some woodworm have decided that the hall floor is a tasty treat so that will be treated in the half term and the flat roof seems to be leaking; like any building there is always something to be done! We are delighted that Ian Karley has agreed to do the maintenance checks on a regular basis.

So the hall is open for business - and don't forget you can pay "contactless" if you prefer. *Linda Wright*

## Wednesday Club update

AT the recent Wednesday Club committee meeting a considerable amount of thought, time and discussion went into when we could start up again. We came to the conclusion that it would be much safer to start our meetings again in July. Although it was suggested that we meet outside in June, this would be half term week and if the weather is fine it may be noisy in the play-park. *Jenny Balcon*

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



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



## Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club

### Environmental Gardening for June

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

#### Pollinators

Some summer bedding plants attract more pollinators than others. Consider incorporating pot marigolds, single poppies, tobacco plants and antirrhinum.

#### Butterflies

To attract red admiral and peacock butterflies, plant nectar rich flowering buddleja.

#### Your pond

Always make sure that your pond provides a ramp for wildlife to come and go. Leave any weeds pulled from the pond to dry out close by so displaced pond life can return to the water.

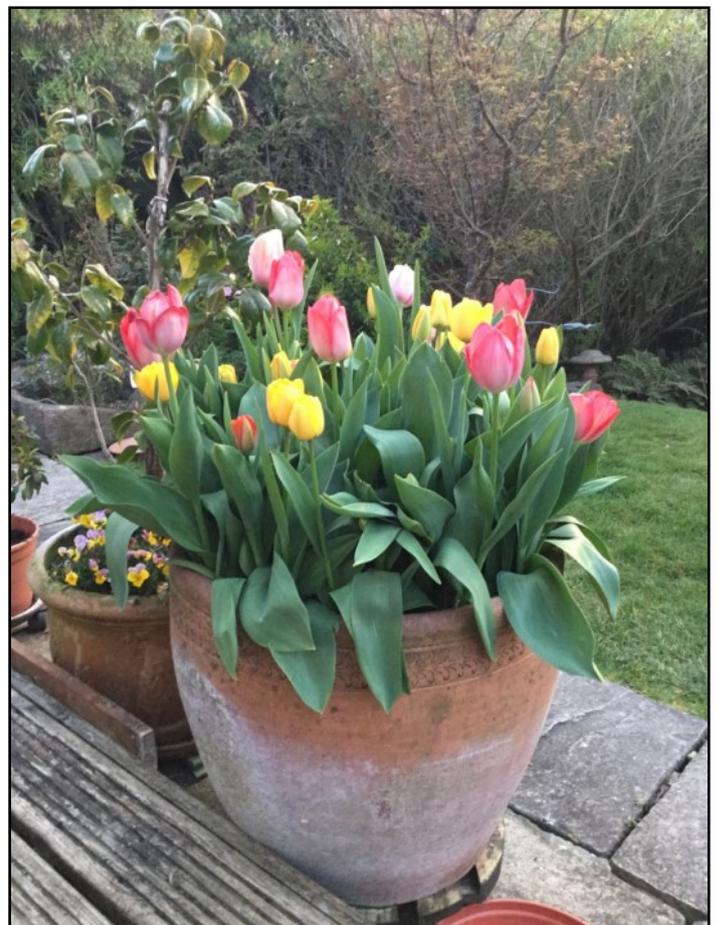
#### Lawns

Remember to let areas go 'wild'; you'll be able to enjoy the flowers normally hidden in short grass. Even flowering dandelions, daisies and clover attract many insects.



As the recent gales have damaged so many garden plants here is a lovely deep purple oxalis with pale pink flowers enjoying a sunny window sill.

Lis Watts has sent in this picture of her tulips.





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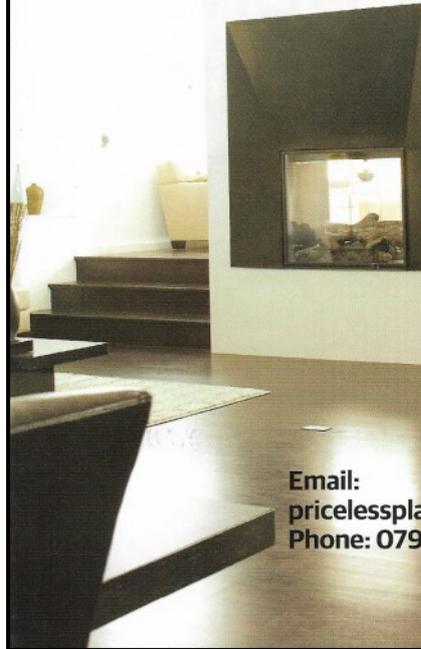
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## Milborne Movies again!

Friday July 2nd at 7.30pm, at the Village Hall,

The Causeway, Milborne St Andrew

Doors and bar open 7.00pm

Tickets cost £5, which includes a drink or an ice cream (contactless payment preferred)

## A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood

WHEN I saw a trailer for this film, I knew immediately that I wanted it for our first film. It is set in 1990s Pittsburgh and stars Matthew Rhys and Tom Hanks, who plays a good person beautifully (not an easy thing to do!) Here is what one (British) reviewer wrote:

‘When a movie has you blurry eyed by the end but also leaving feeling warm and satisfied, you know it has been crafted into something unique between being moving and heart-breaking.

‘Every shot feels special and important and every performance is sincere. Marielle Heller is a powerhouse director, an expert at quiet moments in film and we are lucky to have someone create such incredible art.

‘You will be hard pressed to find a movie that fills you with more warmth than *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood* and I suspect it will become a firm favourite for those gloomy, rainy days.’

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## News from St. Andrew's Church

THE last month has seen our services in church return to the pre pandemic monthly rotas which are our team led Celebrate service, two communion services and the recently added Worship in Stillness. Timetables of services are displayed on the two church notice boards, in the church porch and on page three of this magazine. We welcome visitors and hope to see new faces coming to one or all of our services. There are two parish communion services a month, a Celebrate service which is a team led informal service and the Worship in Stillness service, which is a lay led service of readings and music on a different subject each month. If anyone wants more information just contact me or Sarah Hillman, our vicar.

We have all come to accept the measures implemented due to Covid-19 and they have now become routine. There have been benefits, such as having a variety of hymns, music and songs to listen to and welcoming other parish members into our services. As we are now allowed to sing outdoors a few of us gathered after the last Celebrate service to sing in the churchyard. But we look forward to times when we can socialise again and share refreshments in church.

After the long period of not having flowers in church, it has been lovely over the last few weeks to see beautiful arrangements in church again, thanks to our team. I understand there are vacancies for more flower arrangers should anyone wish to join them.

As I write this, we are preparing for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be on Zoom. Over the last few months Many services and meetings have been on Zoom for those who have braved the first few sessions and eventually found how to navigate the systems to 'unmute' and to turn on the camera.

Our Events Committee did a fantastic job on the 5th May of providing and distributing 35 meals consisting of a curry, rice, naan bread, mango chutney and Dorset apple cake. They were very pleased to hear how much the 'customers' enjoyed their home deliveries. The group of six women are exceptionally resourceful people and have managed to raise thousands of pounds over the years which help to maintain our church. They are a very valued team.

*Pam Shults, Churchwarden*

## Dewlish Church Notes

HAVE you noticed how beautiful the wild flowers are in our churchyard? We have been truly blessed to have primroses, violets and cowslips growing in abundance. A wonderful sight.

It is so good to be back in church each Sunday, and we are so looking forward to being able to sing again. At the moment we are lucky to be able to have Sarah taking the two Holy Communion services and Jim taking Morning Prayer and the Family Service.

Jim is hoping to have a **Pet Service** in the churchyard sometime in June so please do come along (with your pets, of course!). See the list of services for the date.

On 22nd, 24th, 26th and 27th June **the garden will be open at Yarden Cottage** between 1.00-5.00pm. We are providing refreshments, with all profits from these going to our church. We would be so grateful for any donations of cakes. Will you please let Daphne, Sue or Marg know if you can contribute. Thank you. The gate proceeds will be going to the National Gardens Scheme charities.

*Daphne Burg*

Deadline for the next issue is mid-day 14th June.  
Send your stories and pictures to [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)

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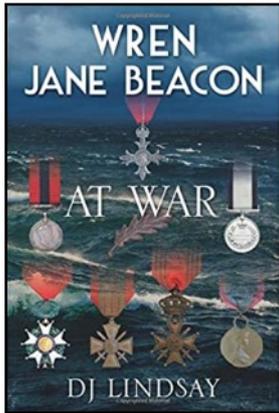
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# Wren Jane Beacon At War

by D J Lindsay



THIS book is the second in a series of Adventure Stories set in the Second World War, featuring Wren Jane Beacon. It picks up her story as she recovers from the physical and mental injuries incurred on her trip in a small boat to Dunkirk to rescue soldiers and others, and also the way the Navy dealt with her actions. It's a vivid description of the impact that war has on people, and a reminder to us all of what was sacrificed by everyone who has fought to keep this country safe

from those who would harm us. In addition it's a good introduction to themes which we think are new today, such as 'should women serve in front line roles'? 'Should one generation protect the next, and if so how far?' and the outright sexism which was rampant in many opinions current at the time.

In addition to these big themes, the story continues of a trailblazing lady given command of a small boat working in Dover Harbour to free up men to work on the big ships of the Royal Navy, the many achievements and adventures of its two-woman crew, and the diverse ways the Wrens helped one another having formed good relationships on their initial training course.

Of course, with many men and women away from home for the first time, affairs of the heart are involved and some interesting topics around sexual liberation, ignorance and healthy relationships appear. The story ends with her finding what looks to be the love of her life, and leaves the way open to see whether this will actually be her 'happy ever after' in a future book.

I enjoyed this book very much, but as the story progresses from the rip-roaring adventure of the Dunkirk trip, and becomes, slightly more mundanely, about Naval Discipline, affairs of the heart, and women striving to make their way in a man's world, I feel it has lost a little of the impetus and excitement of the first book in the series. I look forward to reading the next one.

*Susan Wilson*

Deadline for the next issue is mid-day 14th June.  
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# The Women behind the Masks

IN recent times the *Reporter* has lauded the role of helpful villagers. It is time to highlight the quiet dedication to community activities from which the village and its church has benefitted from years of work by the St. Andrew's Church Events Committee. The group was set up in 2013 to provide a forum for social events to be organised by a sub group of the Parochial Church Council in the hope that it would also offer the opportunity for fundraising. This



comprises six women led by Pam Shults (Church Warden); Rose, Carolyn, Hazel, Di and Jenny. Too modest to be photographed or to give their surnames. The first mention of them in print was in 2014 but they had been active for many years prior to that date. Their purpose, as stated at their inception, was to organise events which provide opportunities for socializing with the added benefit of funds to maintain and protect the church. The most recent example of this were the Curry Suppers delivered to the door together with naan bread,

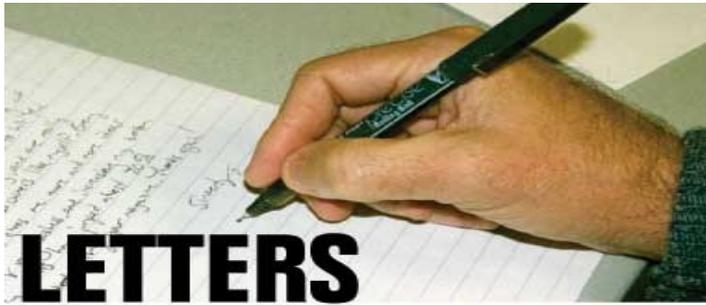
chutney and Dorset apple cake for dessert. 35 of us enjoyed this treat and £350 was raised.

Masks have been made now for over 12 months, selling at only £2 each (compared with Samantha Cameron's at £26 !) Much of the donated material was recycled. At the beginning three of the members were making eight a day each, now the demand has fallen to four a week each. In 2014, £2,102+ was raised through many events; in 2019 £1,402 was raised and in 2020/21 with the addition of masks, £2,800 has been made to swell church funds. Many give more than the asking price. The outlets for masks have included The Burger Van and the Village Stores. It is important to state here that none of these helpers claim any money for the ingredients and makings of curries or of masks and give their considerable outlay of time for free. It is a mixed group, not all of them are church goers, all are philanthropic by nature.



The vicar always makes efforts to support these happenings which have included themed Dinners, Cream Teas, Quizzes, the Christmas Market, Skittles Evenings, Car Boot Sales, Milborne's Marvellous Mini-Market, Family Fun Days and Dog Shows (the latter for the Benefice). Their latest venture is to hold an innovative Swish evening when clothes and accessories are taken and exchanged. During Carolling around the Christmas Tree, food was available for donations. For some of these, if held on their premises, The Royal Oak provides the food. They aim to run at least one event a month with the exception of January. Hopefully, once restrictions are lifted, the Curries and the Teas will be held in gardens as before. Often speakers are engaged on topical and historical subjects or for pure entertainment as with the all female singing group Canzonetta. These, too, are in abeyance pending the lifting of current rules. Village life is enhanced by these efforts and taking advantage of them when they arise not only ensures their continued survival but builds on an emerging community spirit as evidenced by Facebook posts.

*Carole Fornachon*



# LETTERS to the Reporter

Dear Editor

Following the death of my most beloved husband Ron on March 30th at home, I would like to express my thanks to our wonderfully supportive friends and neighbours. They have been very kind and attentive and I am grateful to them for their thoughtfulness. Thank you everyone.

I have been asked by some if donations would be acceptable to any charity. The family and I have decided that we would like to nominate the Milton Abbas and Milborne St Andrew surgery. Any donations can be sent to the surgery with a covering letter indicating that they are in memory of Ron Hagan.

The doctors and nurses at the surgery were involved in all aspects of Ron's treatment during the three years of his illness. They supported us throughout this time with great kindness and excellent care, but especially during the latter months. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Nicky Hagan.

## Enjoy shopping in the fresh spring air . . .

and supporting local producers. Dorset Food and Drink (DF&D) members will be 'popping up' at various venues this spring along with traders from the Dorset Farmers Markets.

These markets are a great place to shop for a great range of local produce and products. Choose from homemade Scotch eggs, sausage rolls, tarts, and crumbly local cheese. Locally made artisan gin, sweet treats, cider, beer, coffee beans, preserves, spicy sauces, dairy and fruit and veg!

Springtime pop-up markets coming soon:

- **Saturday 29th May:** Borough Gardens, Dorchester
- **Saturday 5th June:** Tank Museum, Bovington
- **Sunday 6th June:** Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair, Borough Gardens, Dorchester
- **Saturday 26th June:** Borough Gardens, Dorchester
- **Saturday 3rd July:** Tank Museum, Bovington.
- **Sunday 4th July:** Nothe Fort, Weymouth.

## Dates for your diary

June

**Saturday 12th Village litter pick** – see page 5.

**Wednesday 23rd Parish Council and Annual Village Meeting**  
Village Hall 7.00pm – see page 5.

**Friday 25th and Saturday 26th DorsetFest** – see page 8.

**Saturday 26th Village lunch** Village Hall – see page 3.

**Saturday 26th Artsreach** Village Hall – see page 11.

July

**Friday 2nd Milborne Movies** – see page 31

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# Did you know??!! !

THEY used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery . . . if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor".

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot . . . they "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell . . . brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof . . . hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs".

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination

would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

The country is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive . . . So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth . . . now, whoever said history was boring?

*Heather Hogg*

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## News from Trading Standards: Helping you to recognise a scam

SCAMS can affect us all, but certain types of scams are more likely to target people by age. If you recognise your age group, then you may recognise a scam.

'Young people' aged 18 to 24 don't represent the largest group of people falling victim to scams, but numbers of scam victims in this group is rising. In particular, young people are a growing proportion of victims of online and identity fraud. Having grown up with technology they are often confident in their ability when using the internet. This can lead to them feeling that they are unlikely to fall for internet scams, making them complacent and increasingly vulnerable. Research shows that over half of young people are unlikely to report scams.

'Life established' people in their 40s to 60s are the group most affected by scams. Part of this is due to the fact that they are most likely to report scams, but also because certain demographics within this group are targeted due to their circumstances. For example, this group tends to be more settled and has access to financial assets. This makes them more likely to be targets of scams, such as pension scams, dating scams and property scams.

'Older people', over 70s, are often targeted by scammers. Research has found that 75 is the average age of reported scam victims and those over 70 suffer the highest detriment. Older people tend to fall victim most to phone and mail scams. Figures from National Trading Standards show that older people are deliberately targeted more than other demographics. This group also sees the largest proportion of people who are recurring victims of scams.

If you have fallen for a scam and you want advice on what to do then call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline freephone 0808 223 1133 or visit their website at Citizens Advice Consumer Service

Why not become a 'Friend Against Scams'? Over 2,300 people in Dorset already have. Visit [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk)



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# The Time of my Life

## Josie Wright

COULD it have been a last snatch at life in the fast lane before it was too late? Or just sheer cussedness as John had just retired and we had endless free time together? Whatever the reason, I decided after 36 years as a wife and 30 as a mother I would acquire a new label – undergraduate.

I had always loved reading – totally indiscriminately. So now was my chance for ‘Educating Josie’.

I’d start with an ‘A’ level. I was accepted on an evening course, although my prospective tutor, a young woman half my age, seemed rather unnerved at my naked enthusiasm. Two days before I was due to start a polite young man phoned to tell me the course was cancelled due to lack of support. So I’d finished before I’d started. “But would you be interested in joining the teenagers in college? It’s a two year course, an hour every day.” “I am fifty two you know.” “Excellent, a mature student will bring depth to the course.” At fifteen stone I thought perhaps more width!

My first day was full of surprises; they didn’t have desks any more, and we sat in a semicircle around Sian our tutor. My fellow students regarded me with great suspicion – a spy in the camp! I just listened very quietly for the first few sessions until Sian read us a piece which she told us was a poem. “Are you all happy with that?” “I don’t understand, why is that a poem, it doesn’t rhyme or scan?” I had opened the floodgates – when you’re sixteen saying, “I don’t understand”, is very uncool, but if I was prepared to admit my ignorance, they were very happy to join me. I was one of the gang! We struggled through *King Lear* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* together. We found that women writers were worth reading – well, some of them. We studied Wilfred Owen’s harrowing verses and John Donne’s brilliant yet extremely mucky poetry – if you thought the double entendre was the prerogative of Frankie Howard, you couldn’t be more wrong!

For my course work, I decided to compare *Far from the Madding Crowd* with *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*. Unfortunately the former was very long and the latter very steamy, but I struggled on with help from the gang and somehow finished with an ‘A’.

Although my classmates saw me as one of them as they egged me on to ask questions, I was also ‘agony granny’ hearing their troubles. I helped with homework, mopped up tears as I heard about boyfriend woes and listened to excited plans for the future.

In those two years I learned as much about myself, remembering my own early uncertainties, as I learned about literature. The joy of sharing part of those young people’s lives and learning together was one of the happiest times of my life. Wilfred Owen – First World War poet Wilfred Owen and his parents lived very comfortably for the first two years of his life with his maternal grandfather. After his death and payment of debts, they had to move to a much less salubrious neighbourhood. Mrs Owen never doubted that young Wilfred would restore the family to its ‘rightful gentility’. She was a devout Christian – this greatly influenced him all his life. He was beloved, cosseted, sickly and spoilt, turning him at an early age into a pompous little prig.

He rejected authorised religion at the outbreak of war, unable to come to terms with – ‘thou shalt not kill’. He worked in France as an English tutor until 1916 and then served on the front line from January 1917 to May 1917, later invalided out with shellshock. Returned to fight August 1918, he was killed 4th November 1918, he was 26.

He had a fascination for gloom, darkness and secret things even pre-war, later the horror of young men being mutilated add to the poignancy of his poems. These are the poems to which we owe our vision of the reality of the Western Front – of hell on earth.

## Walking for body and mind

MANY more people are walking now than they were 16 months ago. People walk for many different reasons – to talk to others, to exercise the dog, to be by themselves in Nature, to exercise themselves, to get healthier . . .

My experience with yoga makes me believe there are a few things that can help most of us enrich our experience of walking so much more. These are some of them.

When you walk, walk tall. Try to have your shoulders above your hips, and your head at the top of your neck. This may sound odd – but have a look next time you are out: so many of us (me included) tend to walk around with our head poked forward . . . it’s as though we are always thinking about where we are going to, rather than where we are now. Often our shoulders are rounded, tense, hunched around our ears. These positions are to do with the way humans respond to stress – but we shouldn’t be still in them when we are wanting to relax. Allow your shoulders to drop out to the sides and down, toward gravity.

(I do know, again from personal experience, that this isn’t always possible: if you have hurt your lower back, or indeed any part of your body, then you are going to be moving much more stiffly – but actually, even in such cases, it can often help to try to stand and walk a little straighter, and to release as much tension as possible.)

If you can become aware of your breathing, then you open up another dimension, with massive health benefits, physical and mental. Focus first on your exhalation, trying to breathe out more completely before you breathe in. Don’t worry about breathing in deeply – you will automatically breathe in more if you exhale well. The exhalation is related to letting go, to relaxing, to getting rid of stuff the body doesn’t need any more. The breath should ideally be quite quiet and subtle, except for those times when we need a lot of extra oxygen quickly, as, for instance, when we are running. Hardly anyone in our society breathes well nowadays: we don’t realise how we all live in a semi-permanent stressed state. So often, when I become aware of my breathing, I realise that it is very shallow, and I am breathing out very little.

Try, too, to spend a little of your time just appreciating the world around you – it rests the eyes to be able to see things a long way away, so look at the horizon, look at faraway trees and hills and birds. Listen to the sounds of Nature. See what you can smell. This deep engaging gives many benefits which have been proven again and again – stress levels lowered, general health improved, depression lifted, anxiety calmed, a wider vision. Usually we all live in our head, and that often means worrying about the past or the future. If we can stop thinking about things, even if just for a little while, and instead be aware of the present moment (which is very different from thinking about things!) then we gradually start to connect more fully with life.

Lastly, if you are lucky enough to be walking with a dog, allow it, as much as possible, to indulge its interest in all the different smells it is aware of. It contributes enormously to your dog’s enjoyment of the walk. Use those times to bring yourself back to breathing more fully, and appreciating the world around you. (And please, when you see me around the village, obviously not following my own advice, be kind and don’t point it out!). Sarah Ryan

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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](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk)

## COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk:	
	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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)  
 South West Highways [hello@swhitd.co.uk](mailto: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

## POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact		101
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	101
Safer Neighbourhood Team	PC Dave Mullins and PCSO Luke Goddard	101

## 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	Gren Davis	07876 793319
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

## SPORT

Hardy Country Bowmen	Mike Healy	01300 342134
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
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)	Angela Johnson	01258 839060

## VILLAGE HALL

Dewlish		
Chair:		
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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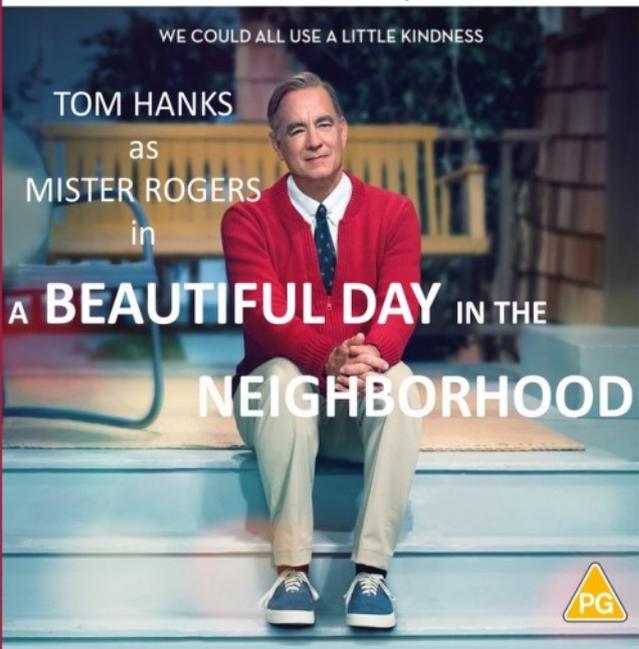
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