

# Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 18 Issue 9

October 2025

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**Advertising copy MUST be received by the 13th of the month**

**[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk)**

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

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.

## Gardening Club update



AUGUST was the members social. September's meeting will have Ian Condon talking about Tresco, featuring the exotic plants in the sub-tropical gardens.

Results of the sunflower competition. The tallest sunflower at a very impressive 8ft 1in or 246cm was Dave Payne and the largest sunflower head was Miles Courtney at well over 40cm!

*Elaine Willcox*



## Parish Council meeting notes

Here is a summary of the updates and discussions from the September Parish Council (PC) meeting.

The HIP at the top of Huntley Down is now fully open and can be accessed via Coles Lane.

The willow tree at the memorial will be tidied up in January.

A road sweeper has been requested to clear straw from the village roads and pavements.



Planning:

- P/MPO/2025/04448 Land South Of Milborne Business Centre, Blandford Hill. Modification to remove the requirement for affordable housing provision on viability grounds. The site is for 61 properties, originally 40% (24) would be affordable homes properties. Cllr Stephens shared some research that she had done in order to understand affordable housing. She shared that the Huntley Down development included six affordable homes intended for part ownership/part buy, but none were taken up that way. Instead, they were managed by a social housing association and offered to those on the Dorset housing list. The properties then go out to anyone on the Dorset housing list to bid for them. There is no legal requirement for affordable homes to be allocated to local residents. Currently, 15 households with Milborne St. Andrew postcodes are on the housing list, and three more have ties to the village – making 18 in total. She highlighted that the development site is a brownfield location and would benefit the community facilities (eg school, shop, pub, village hall, church, and so on). While she supports the development, she believes the application should still include some affordable housing. PC agreed to not support the proposed change, as councillors had not seen the viability assessment and felt affordable housing should remain part of the plan.
- P/VOC/2025/04848 The Chapel, Chapel Street. Convert existing chapel to a self-contained annexe/holiday unit to allow unrestricted residential use. It was agreed to support the application.

Spring into Action – A request for £50 was approved to fund the planting of native bulbs – bluebells and snowdrops – around the village. This continues last year's successful daffodil planting initiative.

There was an initial discussion about the Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation 2025. This is not yet a formal proposal, but DC is seeking feedback. The government has set a high housing target for Dorset. Landowners were invited to put forward sites for potential development. Milborne has six sites, two of which have planning applications that are with DC. The other four are greenfield sites. No sites have been proposed in Winterborne Whitechurch or Winterborne Kingston. Cllr Parker from DC stated that there are many wards that have not put any land forward. DC are looking to build 3,246 homes a year which equates to a total of 55,182 homes between April 2026 and March 2043. A working group will be set up. If you would like to be part of the group then please email [clerk@milbornestandrewparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@milbornestandrewparishcouncil.gov.uk). For information on the plan see the DC website [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-is-changing)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st October at the village hall starting at 7.00pm.

*Jo Whitfield*





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## A Fistful of Bullets – Wild West Murder Mystery Evening

THERE'S trouble brewing in The Stumblin' Stag, St. Anderoo Gulch (better known as Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall!) and the good folk of the village are invited to help solve the crime...

Join us for a special Murder Mystery fundraising evening. Guests will step into the Wild West for a night of drama, laughter, and suspense as they watch events unfold and try to work out whodunnit.

The evening includes a welcome drink, a two-course dinner, and of course plenty of fun along the way. Audience members will be asked to put their detective skills to the test, with prizes for those who correctly guess the culprit – and even for the funniest theories!

So dust off your cowboy boots, don your finest saloon gear, and saddle up for an evening to remember.

Saturday 1st November, 7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Tickets £22 (includes welcome drink and dinner – meat or vegetarian options available)

Cash or card bar open all evening

Tickets available from Linsey O'Neill, 07798 720812 | linsey.oneill@gmail.com. (Entry by ticket only – limited places available) Yee-haw – we'll see you there, partner!

## Watch out for counterfeit pet medicine

A cat named Smokey nearly lost his life after being treated with a counterfeit flea product bought online. The counterfeit product was a copy of a genuine and widely used 'Frontline' tick and flea treatment. The packaging itself looked legitimate but inside was a toxic insecticide that led to emergency surgery. Smokey survived, but his story is a warning to pet owners everywhere.

The Intellectual Property Office is warning that criminals are increasingly targeting pet owners through online marketplaces. In fact, over 18,000 illegal animal medicines and supplements were intercepted last year alone. A recent survey revealed that 60% of buyers were influenced by ease of access in buying online, and 72% wrongly believed the quality of counterfeit products would match the real thing.

Pet owners, beware: counterfeit pet medicines including flea treatments are being sold online and they could make your pet seriously ill. These products are untested, unregulated, and potentially lethal. One pet owner described a fake treatment that smelled like white spirit. Others have reported spelling errors and poor-quality packaging. Both reports can be clear red flags that something isn't right.

So, in general terms, how can you protect your pet?

**Buy only from trusted sources** - such as licensed vets, pharmacies, or reputable pet retailers.

**Check the packaging** - look for spelling mistakes, poor print quality, or unusual smells.

**Be wary of large price discounts** - if the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

**Report suspicious products** - contact Trading Standards if you suspect a fake.

To report something to Trading Standards that doesn't look right, visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/) consumer or, phone the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.



## A busy summer for Milborne WI

WE were welcomed back after the summer break by Christine, our Chair for the evening. We had hosted the Group meeting in July and been delighted to welcome so many members from other WIs to hear Keith Hayman talk about Medical detection dogs. Keith is a volunteer with this amazing charity, which undoubtedly provides independence and a sense of security to those with life-threatening health conditions, and helps keep them out of hospital. Using their superb sense of smell dogs can be trained to detect diseases such as cancer at very low concentrations, leading to early diagnosis.

Keith stressed the enormous potential of the charity's work, liaising with scientists and universities here and abroad to save thousands of lives and transform the future of disease detection. Needless to say, this was a very interesting and informative hour – prompting many questions, readily answered by Keith.

During August, Lin Chatfield hosted a very successful summer supper, delicious food and good company on a truly lovely summer evening. Our thanks to Lin for her hospitality.

At the regular monthly meeting our Speaker, Reg Pengelly, said he was there to encourage us all to read more Thomas Hardy, renowned English poet and novelist known for his Wessex novels. Reg has spent the last 10 years volunteering as a National Trust guide for Hardy's birthplace cottage at Higher Bockhampton and at Max Gate, his house near Dorchester.

It was during this time that Reg discovered his passion for Hardy's family history, including Hardy's formidable mother, Jemima. It was Jemima who ensured her son was well educated. He left school to become an architect's apprentice in Dorchester – in fact that building had a 'blue plaque' to commemorate him living there. Since the recent Gorge Café fire the plaque seems to have disappeared!

Reg went on to outline Hardy's love of poetry which never left him and his fine career as a novelist. Local landmarks and local people were mirrored throughout his books, as well as the disparities and unfairness of social class. Despite wishing to be buried at St. Michael's Church, Stinsford, with his parents and first wife, he had achieved such fame in his lifetime that his executors decided that his ashes would be interred in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey, and his heart at Stinsford. We all enjoyed this talk immensely, it was followed by much discussion.

**Skittles:** we are leaving the league due to travelling distances, but will continue to play home games amongst ourselves.

**Bookends:** Veronica reported that group members had met to discuss the way forward after the sad death of our leader, Carole. 'The Long Song' by Andrea Levy produced a mixed reaction and much discussion. Our next book is 'Driving over Lemons' by Chris Stewart.

Our next meeting on Thursday 9th October, will be an OPEN MEETING at which Alan Jenkins will talk about a *Royal Visit*. Please come along and join us, you will be very welcome.

Pat Bull

### Deadline for the next issue 14th October

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at

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# Rosie's travels: Boscastle to Rock

## Walking Day 19 Boscastle to Tintagel/Tregatta (6.6 miles – 1651ft ascent)

Yippee, another walking day! We started in good old Boscastle just where we left off yesterday and headed west to Tintagel. Mum started clicking straight away as we walked up the hill, she said the flowers looked so pretty, Dad was not so impressed. There was some interesting stiles on this walk, I've just got the hang of those tricky kissing gates and now I have to tackle steps going sideways over walls, still for an intrepid explorer like me it was no problem.

The next incident involved more cows on OUR path, Dad sent Mum in front to have a word with them and that worked, they headed off into the greenery. I then spotted a bench I thought Mum would like a rest on, it had a plaque on it saying 'In memory of 'Harry Hill MBE', Dad thought he was still alive but perhaps it's a different man. We soon got to a lovely stream for a paddle and for once Dad didn't shout at me to get out, maybe because there was no mud!



Rocky Valley, what can I say, it was stunning, flowers, rocks and sea, great place for a stop and lots of clicking. Dad said they had been here before with my predecessor Abbie and so Mum had to pose with me and

Katie on the same rock and Dad did some clicking (very unusual)! We soon got to Tintagel and Mum had a bit of a moment, last time she walked here she had been looking up at the new bridge and tripped and hurt her hand and ended up at Bude A&E, she won't be doing that again!

We quickly walked on to Tregatta and away from the crowds of humans and I found Mum a nice bench to have lunch, a nosey seagull soon joined us but we are wise to their thieving ways and hung on to our food so he was unlucky! Back in the tin box Dad was treated to a nice Sunday roast, he soon forgave Mum for stopping to click everything all day.

## Walking Day 20 – Tregatta to Port Isaac

We started this walk where we stopped yesterday at Tregatta, lots more different stiles today, this time they had holes for us clever dogs to squeeze through. We trotted through Trebarwith in the blink of an eye, sadly we were too early for a pit stop at the Port William, maybe another time as we had heard good reports of it. A bit further on we spotted a signpost that told us



we weren't even half way, none of us minded as we were having a great time.

Mum was getting peckish so we stopped at a lovely cove near Jacket's Point, Mum forgot she was hungry and was click, click, clicking away until Dad poured the

coffee. Me and Katie had a good lunch, Dad had saved us one of his sausages, yummy, then we had a cooling paddle and a drink in the stream. It was a bit of a steepy climbing up out of the cove but Mum was still smiling at the top and still kept smiling when more cows were on OUR path again, Dad let Mum overtake so she was in front and they moved away nicely for her.

After a few more downs and ups and downs we were soon at Port Gaverne which Mum remembers as a sleepy little place but when Dad suggested we stop for a drink she said 'No way' it was far too noisy with music blaring and it must have been bad for Mum to refuse a drink! We carried on around the bend to her favourite place, The Golden Lion in Port Isaac and were lucky to get a table on the tiny terrace overlooking the beach, perfect end to the day!

## Walking day 21 – Port Isaac to Polzeath

Bloomin' Go Cornwall bus let us down again, Dad had to drive from Wadebridge to Polzeath and park there, then we got a bus to Port Isaac so it was a late start. Mum wasn't happy as she couldn't pop in her favourite shop as Dad wanted to get on with the walk!

We marched past where Doc Martin lives and looked out for Buddy but sadly no sign of him. As usual it was up and down a few big hills to Port Quin. That Katie kept getting told off for going exploring but we were good when we got near to Port Quin because it was lunch time and we always get treats.

Lots of clicking by Mum today but no ice cream at the end of the walk just a drive back to the caravan for a siesta, (us pups like siestas).

## Walking Day 22 – Polzeath to Rock via Pentire Head

Instead of a rest day today Mum said 'let's do this easy walk while the weather is good', huh, did she study the weather forecast, we eventually got to Polzeath in the rain (the effing bus didn't turn up so Dad had to take us in his tin box). Mum dived into the National Trust coffee shop at Pentire Head and got her caffeine fix under shelter. It soon brightened up and me and Katie had a great time racing around the grassy headland, Katie was off like a mountain goat as usual and Dad had to keep using his silly whistle to try and get her back, some chance!

We headed back to the busy beach at Polzeath but quickly carried on past and stopped for lunch on a bench near Daymar Bay, I'm always on the lookout for good benches for Mum to stop at, I always stand next to the good ones so she doesn't miss them. We carried on then towards Rock along the path in the sand dunes which was a nice change. Dad was on a mission as usual so we marched up the hill to the bus stop only to find it was cancelled and we had a two hour wait, he had to buy mum an ice cream to cheer her up, she saved some for us pups and lucky for me Katie didn't want hers, yummy!

Bye for now, love Rosie





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# Milton Abbas Surgery

## Welcome to the Team

We are delighted to announce that Dr Jon Dent has officially joined the partnership at our practice, effective from 1st September 2025. Dr Dent did his last year of GP training with us as a Registrar from August 2021 for 12 months, and then he joined us as a salaried GP from January 2023.

We would like to welcome our new Pharmacist Janine who will be working with us on Mondays doing medication reviews for patients.

We would also like to welcome Frances, our new Receptionist, to the surgery Admin Team. Francis is taking over in Reception for Kelly on a Friday. Kelly has reduced her hours at the surgery due to an increase in caring responsibilities but will continue in her Social Prescribing and Carers Lead role for the surgery.

We are also very pleased to welcome back Tracy, who has returned to help us with our phlebotomy appointments!

## Annual Flu and Covid Vaccination Clinic

We will be running our annual Flu & Covid Vaccination Clinic for our over 65yrs old eligible patients on Saturday 4th October 2025 at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall. This clinic will be for booked appointments only.

Please note, the criteria for Autumn 2025 Covid vaccinations has changed. Only adults aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults, and individuals who are immunosuppressed aged 6 months and over, will be eligible. We are unable to give vaccines outside of these cohorts. Please see our surgery website [www.masurgery.co.uk](http://www.masurgery.co.uk) or Facebook page for more information.

## Cervical Screening Results

Starting in September, the NHS plans to trial sending cervical screening results through the NHS App. If your test result is negative, you'll get a message and notification in the app. If you don't read the message within 72 hours, a letter will be sent to the registered address as a backup. Any abnormal results will continue to be delivered by letter.

To access the app, you need to be signed up to online services at the practice. Speak to one of our receptionists if you are unsure whether you have online services. To download the NHS App and turn on notifications go to [www.nhs.uk/nhs-app](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app). If you would like help to set up and use the app, please speak with our Social Prescribers at the surgery who can signpost you to local help and support.

## Dorchester Carers Nook – A Space for Those Who Care

Are you a carer? Then the Dorchester Carers Nook is here to support you. Created by carers for carers, this monthly drop-in offers a warm welcome, practical advice, and the chance to connect with others who understand the challenges and rewards of caring. The drop in takes place every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10.00am – 12.00pm at the Dorchester Connect Day Centre.

## What's on offer?

- Carer Café – Meet other carers, share experiences, and enjoy a well-earned break (**no booking needed for carers, just drop in**)
- Activities for the cared-for person – Supervised sessions to give carers some breathing room (**pre-booking required**).
- Information & Advice – Access to local charities, health services, and community organisations.
- On-Hand Support – From Primary Care Network teams, Social Prescribers, and Long-Term Condition Coordinators.

For more details, please see the news section at [www.masurgery.co.uk](http://www.masurgery.co.uk) or contact the surgery Social Prescribers.

## Milborne Movies – Friday 17th October

THIS month, Milborne Movies is delighted to present The Salt Path, based on the bestselling memoir by Raynor Winn and starring Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs.

The story follows a couple who, after losing everything, embark on an inspiring journey along the South West Coast Path – a route that will be familiar to many of us here in Dorset. The film captures both the beauty and the challenges of life on foot, exploring themes of resilience, love, and the healing power of nature.

Join us at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall (DT11 0JX) on Friday 17th October at 7.30pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm). As always, tickets are just £6.50 and include an ice cream or a drink – excellent value for a night out on the big screen, right here in the village.

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## Squashbox Theatre brings spooky fun to Milborne St Andrew!

THIS October half-term, Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall will be filled with thrills, laughs and a touch of Halloween magic as Artsreach presents Squashbox Theatre's Shivers & Shadows.

Monday 27th October at 2.00pm

Join Craig as he inherits a creepy old mansion from his great Uncle Vladimir and discovers the strange characters and spooky secrets within its walls! Expect clever puppetry, live music, comedy and plenty of ghoulish giggles along the way.

Perfect for families (recommended age 6+), this is a fun-filled show guaranteed to get everyone shivering, shrieking – and laughing!

Children are invited to come along in fancy dress, with prizes for the best costumes.

After the performance, there will also be a shadow puppet making workshop (One hour, £4 per child – booking essential as places are limited).

Tickets and information: [www.artsreach.co.uk](http://www.artsreach.co.uk) or call 01258 839060

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## Wednesday Club news

WE have been out and about over the summer. First a cream tea in Josie and John's garden in August. September we were out again, this time to Walford Mill, Wimborne, when we again had tea and scones after visiting the craft shop next door. This was a new venue for us and was greatly enjoyed.

In October we are back in the village hall for a hectic game of cornhole; has to be seen to be believed! If you would like to join us, we meet in the village hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm.

# Carole Ann Fornachon

CAROLE and Peter Fornachon came to Milborne St. Andrew in May 2002 and lived in Byways, Little England (the house with a squirrel on the shed), until her death this year on 27th August, aged 85. She was born a “Kentish Maid” in Belvedere, Erith in 1940. Her childhood was spent in Kent, later she lived in Armagh NI, Kingsdown Kent, Staffordshire, Salisbury, and finally Dorset. One of her regrets was not being allowed to go to university, where undoubtedly she would have been a shining light, given her unquestionable intellect, and her command of the English Language. She joined the *MSA Reporter* in 2012. Her contributions were numerous and varied, all enhanced by her unique style of writing, for example the “Have You Met” series, and Small Businesses series, including The Burger Van and The Lawnmower Man.

She contributed regularly with her Bookends Good Read synopses and had orchestrated 12 episodes of The Ways of MSA. She wrote quite beautifully and would always ask Peter to read every article before it was sent to the editor. He did so faithfully finding very little to comment on. He once said “I don’t know how you do it, it’s so beautifully written”.

She loved her weekly volunteering activities. She was a Kingston Lacy guide for 15 years, Salisbury Cathedral guide for four years and a guide for the Dorset Museum in Dorchester. Through in-depth reading, and research she became most knowledgeable about every topic engaged with and in whatever walk of life or situation in which she found herself. Whatever she turned her mind to, all was pursued with the same fervour.

At 16 she left school and started working in the War Office as a Clerical Assistant. Wherever she was employed she was always helping people, be it as a teacher, Water Safety Officer, Health Education Officer, and she published a handbook, called “AllChange”, for primary school staff and children coping with loss, grief, bereavement and life changes.

She moved to Dorset in 1987 and became a Probation Officer until she retired. She continued to do many volunteering jobs helping others including the Blandford Tourist Information Centre, Fashion Museum, Dorset Advocacy, Macular Degeneration Group to name but a few. She never really retired, living her life to the full.

What was she really like, I will segue through aspects of her life, her character, her likes and dislikes. She was an indefatigable and strong woman, fiercely independent, knew her own mind, did not suffer fools gladly, particularly those she considered to be bullies. She was more interested in helping people rather than progressing to management. She was extremely loyal to friends and family. I have received these observations: “I know I will never again have the honour of saying such a strong and wonderful person wanted to be our friend”, “Such a vibrant person”, “a thoughtful caring warm friend”, “A lovely woman, with a kind and beautiful heart”, “such a special person”, “such an exceptional person full of dry wit, energy, and humour and compassion for others”, “I must confess that Carole scared me a bit when I first met her! But then I began to like her and then I REALLY liked her”, “When I started volunteering at Kingston Lacy Carole was incredibly kind and helpful to someone who was terrified”, “She was such a wonderful woman and a core part of the Kinston Lacy team”,



“She was such a very special lady”, “The world is a sadder place without Carole”. The following two messages, received following her death, would have appealed to Carole’s sense of humour – from a wheelchair bound friend suffering from M.S. – the text message “Nooooooo! OMG darling . . . nooooo!” and finally a message from an old friend “O shit that’s awful news”.

She was an early riser always keen to get on with life, she was tall, elegant, obsessive about being thin (her younger son used to call her “stick insect”). For 40 years she was a vegetarian. She was a superb gifted cook who improvised liberally – everything was so easy. She was well educated in healthy, whole food nutrition. Christmas and Birthday fare was legion. She liked real ale, red wine (all wine had to be aged in oak barrels). She could down a pint as easily as anyone and liked her vodka and lime. She had an abundance of energy, leaving me trailing in her wake. She loved exercise of any sort, she ran, swam, danced, played squash, but her preference was walking by the sea. When we met in 1996 she gave up running because it would take her away from me (I did not, could not run!)

She was claustrophobic, acrophobic and arachnophobic. She was a film buff, started when as a child she would go out by herself and find some accommodating couple who would escort her into the cinemas. She loved black and white films especially Murder and Mystery, Film Noir and Biographies. She did not like Westerns, Science Fiction or Dystopian genres.

She loved music, could sing and used to go to Soho jazz clubs, walking the London streets in bare feet. Some of the music she liked included Doris Day, Cleo Lane, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, George Michael and musicians Julian Bream, Chris Barber, Miles Davis, and many others. She was also an avid reader among her favourites Hilary Mantel, Patricia Highsmith, Dorothy Whipple, Henning Mankel, John Le Carre, Virginia Woolf, Per Wahlöf and Maj Sjöwall and many others. Her knowledge of music, lyrics, the written word and art was encyclopedic. We shared and augmented each other’s likes and dislikes.

She did not own a television until the early seventies – a neighbour took pity and gave her a small black and white set. She bought me a colour TV and until the day she died we watched muted colour, in fact our children would often comment whilst watching a film or TV in our house – we didn’t know that film was in black and white!

She felt she had brought up three children all by herself both emotionally and financially and was a devoted mother to Guy, Sophie and Duncan. She had two stepdaughters, Anna and Natalie. She was grandmother to Aisling, Joshua and step grandmother to Flynn and Tula and this year became a great grandmother with the birth of Juniper in February.

She was known as Carole, Carolepeter or Grandcarole. Carole was a very good person, sensitive, well liked, conscientious, gifted, kind, understanding, compassionate and forgiving. She was well versed in music, literature, She taught me a lot about many things. She designed, I built. She cooked, I did the housework. I shall miss my special person, the understanding, the sharing and the deep love we had for each other. In good Raymond Chandler speak “Farewell My Lovely”

Peter





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



## From Field to Table – With Thanks

As usual, October is the month when we hold our Harvest Festival services. Harvest is always a special time in our villages. You don't need to look far to see the signs of it: tractors and trailers on our roads, stubble fields glowing in the evening light, and barns slowly filling with this year's crops. For those who work on the land, the long hours and hard work of the past couple of months have been very real, as are the relief and satisfaction when the grain is safely in. Many farms finished harvesting earlier than normal this year; the yield and quality of crops across the country this year has varied, but many farmers have been affected badly by the lack of rain. Gardeners will have found the same with some of their fruit and veg, though blackberries, apples and some other fruits have been in abundance on trees and bushes.

For me, Harvest Festival is always about two things: gratitude and dependence. Gratitude, because a whole host of people and factors contribute to the food I eat. I don't grow it myself, so without them I would be hungry.

Farmers and gardeners sow and tend crops with great skill, but ultimately we rely on things outside our control – sun, rain and the turning of the seasons. It's good to pause and express our gratitude for the things we so easily take for granted: food on our tables, community around us, and the beauty of the countryside where we live.

Dependence can be harder to admit. We like to think we're self-sufficient, and most of us work hard to be just that. Yet Harvest Festival reminds us that we are always, in the end, dependent – on the land, on each other, and above all on God. It's not weakness to acknowledge we need each other, but something to celebrate.

When we bring our gifts into church at Harvest, whether tins for the foodbank or produce from the garden which is auctioned off to raise money for charity, it's like an act of prayer. We're saying thank you for what we've received, while recognising our dependence on others and on God for all that we have.

In our generosity, we are also enabling others to receive the gifts of creation that they may not otherwise be able to access. I am reminded of Gandhi's wise words: "the earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed".

May we have thankful hearts and generous hands.  
With best wishes

*Sarah*

## Notes from St Andrew's

AUTUMN has arrived with a vengeance. No sooner than we were wondering how long the heat would last, before someone flipped the switch, and the rain and winds arrived.

We celebrate harvest thanksgiving on Sunday, 5th October, with a Service at 9.30pm, led by Tony. All are most welcome to attend. Gifts of produce and goods suitable for "Nourish" (the Blandford Foodbank) can be taken to the Church on Saturday, the 4th, or brought along to the Service.

A huge "Thank you" to those who responded with such generosity to our appeal for funds to repair the floors in the toilet cubicles. We are incredibly grateful and will be organising a thank you in due course.

On Saturday, September 13th the first wedding in two years took place at St. Andrew's when Richard Pye married Molly Ryan. Richard has long associations with the village, as he is a grandson of Betty and Jim Miller, who farmed Goulds Farm for many years. Sarah was on holiday, so the ceremony was performed by the Reverend Keith Magee, Rector of St. Peter's, Dorchester. The Church had been decorated in autumn colours, complete with Oats from the family farm, under the direction of Chris Garside of Briantspuddle. The Altar frontal used was one which came from a redundant

*Continued on page 13*

## Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne with Dewlish October

### 5th October – Harvest Festival/Trinity 16

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Harvest Festival	Milborne
6.00pm	Harvest Festival Parish Communion	Puddletown
6.00	Harvest Festival	Dewlish

### Monday 6th October

2.30pm	Milborne First School Harvest Festival	Milborne
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### Thursday 9th October

2.00pm	Puddletown First School Harvest Festival	Puddletown
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### 12th October – Trinity 17

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
11.00	Puddletown Praise	Puddletown Church Room
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
5.30	Sunday Reflections	Tolpuddle

### 19th October – Trinity 18

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

### 26th October – Bible Sunday

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
10.00	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	Parish Communion	Dewlish
11.00	BCP Matins (traditional language)	Puddletown

### DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday – Thursday. 8.30am; Saturday. 9.00am  
On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman  
(sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com) for the link

## Church Contacts

Vicar Sarah Hillman 07350414483  
E-mail: sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com

### Churchwardens

**Milborne St. Andrew**

Tony Fox 07368 145584

**Dewlish**

Jim Burg 01258 837466

Sue Britton 01258 837218

### Benefice Office

Emma Hughes


puddletownbenefice@outlook.com  
or by telephone on 01305 849039

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PREPARE TO BE  
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**SHIVERS AND SHADOWS**

**Milborne St Andrew Village Hall.**

**Monday 27th October, 2pm**

**Tickets: £8. £6 U.18s £24 Family**

**Post-show workshop. £4 (booking essential)**

**Tickets: Artsreach.com or 01258 839060**

## Twelfth Night; Kingston Lacy 18th July 2025

### *Nothing that is so, is so*

THIS was an amazing and hilarious production performed by *The Lord Chamberlain's Men*. They style themselves as "the UK's premier all male theatre company", with direct links to the history of William Shakespeare. So they present his works as he first saw it, all male, in the open air and with Elizabethan costume, music and dance. Sitting under the same stars that



Shakespeare sat under and hearing his poetry brought to life, the company offer an unparalleled, authentic excellent and magical experience, one that is truly unique. They are renowned for productions of great vivacity, clarity, quality and accessibility. Their productions champion authenticity whilst breathing fresh, new life into these extraordinary plays. The company is based in amongst the beating heart of London's

theatre world but tours extensively throughout the United Kingdom, mainland Europe as well as wider international shores.

### *If music be the food of love play on*

This was a stunning example of their versatility and ability to rouse their audience to laughter and admiration. The plot was complex. Orsini, Duke of Illyria is desperately in love with Countess Olivia. But she, in mourning for her twin brother, considered drowned in a shipwreck (from which she was rescued), has sworn off all men. Now she disguises as a man and enters Orsini's court as a servant disguised as a man. Everyone's world is then turned upside down. Sent to woo Olivia on Orsini's account Viola is stunned to find herself the object of Olivia's affection and, as Olivia falls in love with Viola, so Viola falls in love with Orsini. Add Viola's twin Sebastian into the mix and the scene is set.. Romantic confusion, mistaken identity, infamous cross-gartered yellow stockings and riotous disorder abounds in this hilarious and lyrical romantic comedy about love, its many and glorious facets, and the mess it can make of us all.

*O Time, thou must untangle this, not I. It is too hard a knot for me to untie.*

Carole Fornachon

*This is Carole's last contribution to the Reporter. Carole had been a committee member and a valued contributor to the Reporter for many years, with articles, interviews and book reviews. She will be sadly missed by us all.*

Editor

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**MILBORNE ST ANDREW VILLAGE HALL DT11 0JX**

**Friday 17th October at 7.30pm**  
Doors and Bar at 7.00pm





*Continued from page 11*

church in North London. It is attributed to G.F. Bodley, a famous Victorian architect and designer. Tony played the organ, and a group of singers from the village sang "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" during the signing of the marriage document. It received a round of applause and received encouraging reviews at the reception. The bells pealed forth before and after the Service. Thank you to Robin Mears for organising a team of ringers. We wish Richard and Molly every happiness in their life together. Keith Magee returned to celebrate the Parish Eucharist the following day as we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Cross.

We are grateful to Nicola Pye, Richard's mother, for paying for damp treatment and painting in the Church, and to Richard Andrews for conserving and repainting the east wall of the Chancel. It has made the church a much lighter and more welcoming place. We are grateful to all our benefactors and supporters who enable the life of St. Andrew's to continue.

We welcomed Isaac Arthur Roper into the Church by Baptism. We pray for him, his parents, Godparents, his brother, family and friends. Sarah conducted the Service and gave the Baptismal Candle, whilst Tony played the organ and presented the Bible on behalf of the Church Community.

We offer our sincere condolences to Peter and the family of Carole Fornachon, who died recently. Carole was very active in the village, and her presence and wisdom will be missed.

At the end of the month, the clocks go back an hour, and I am reminded of words from a Harvest hymn:

"The ever-changing seasons  
In silence come and go.  
But thou eternal Father  
No change or seasons know."

Enjoy the Autumn

Tony (Churchwarden)

## Dewlish Church Notes

AUGUST has been a busy month in the church: we had the glorious wedding of Elsa and Michael – many congratulations! – and then there was the Pop-up Market stall which was a great success, raising £300 for church funds. Thank you so much for the many donations of cakes, produce, jams, etc. and also many thanks to our wonderful helpers on the day.

At the end of the month we held our Benefice Farm Service, led by Sarah and hosted by Sue at Parsonage Farm. This was followed by a bring-and-share lunch – delicious, as always! A huge thank-you to Sue and her family for all their hard work, and for supplying hot drinks for us all. Although the weather was windy, the rain, thankfully, held off! The collection has been donated to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I.).

And now to October. Please don't forget our **Harvest Festival Service** which will be held in the church at 6.00pm on Sunday 5th October. Donations of produce will be most welcome. This will be followed the next evening by our **Harvest Supper and Auction** in the Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm. The supper costs £9 (£5 for children), and we invite you to bring your own drinks. Andrew will once again be conducting the auction, and the money generated will be donated to WaterAid so please give generously! Hope to see you there!

*Daphne Burg*

**Deadline for the next issue 14th October**

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at  
[msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk) or give to a member of the team

## Carole Fornachon – A Book Club tribute

Carole had many friends and varied interests, but for those of us who form 'Bookends' in Milborne she was our leader, our friend.

Carole took over as leader in 2018 when Shirley Dunkley left the village. She was our guide in discussions, encouraging debate, making sure everyone had a voice, and, above all, always listening. She made it such a fun way to read books, always lively and enthusiastic. The mundane tasks, including liaising with the library over collection and choice of books were carried out by Carole with the minimum of fuss, and books arrived every month without fail, as if by magic.

Carole's love of literature and reading was always evident, so much thought went into her reviews of each book, both with us at the book club, and for the *Reporter* every month. Our meetings are held at each others' houses throughout the year, but our Christmas get-together was always spent with Carole. The festive season transformed her house: so many memories are there of her festoons of wreaths, garlands and twinkly lights, not to mention the mulled wine and refreshments.

Forever generous with her time, we gathered unexpectedly for our July meeting in Carole's country garden on a blue and sunny day, and, as ever, there was much chatter and laughter. We were not to know that this would be our last time with Carole, but it is a memory to treasure. Carole was our friend; we will miss her leadership, her sense of humour, but most of all, we will miss Carole.

*Pat Bull*



*Could you spare an hour a month, and get some exercise into the bargain? One of the regular film flier distributors has moved out of the village and therefore can no longer do her round. Could you take it on?*

*Hopsfield, house numbers 1 to 33, need you! If you are interested, please email me ([saryan6630@gmail.com](mailto:saryan6630@gmail.com)).*

*Many thanks,*

*Sarah*

## Yoga for You

Practising yoga for a very short time each day has amazing benefits.... but you need help deciding what it's best to do. I teach individually, whether your prime interest is maintaining your health, healing, or spiritual development.

**For information, ring Sarah Ryan 01258 839230**

or email: [saryan6630@gmail.com](mailto:saryan6630@gmail.com)

[www.sarahryanyoga.co.uk](http://www.sarahryanyoga.co.uk)

# Are you a Jeremiah or a Pollyanna?

IF SOMEONE is described as “a bit of a Jeremiah,” it means they are seen as a pessimistic or gloomy person, often warning about disasters, misfortunes, or continually complaining.

The phrase comes from the biblical prophet Jeremiah, who is known for his Lamentations and prophecies of doom regarding the downfall of Jerusalem. Over time, his name became associated with people who always predict bad outcomes or emphasize suffering.

So, being “a Jeremiah” suggests a character who is:

- Gloomy
- Prone to lamenting or complaining
- Expecting the worst
- A doomsayer or pessimist

If you are described as “a bit of a Pollyanna,” it means you are excessively or unrealistically optimistic, always finding

something to be glad about even in difficult or negative situations.

The term comes from Pollyanna, the heroine of Eleanor H. Porter’s 1913 novel, and the 1960 film with Hayley Mills. (It was remade in 2003.)

Pollyanna played “the Glad

Game,” where she tried to see the bright side of everything, no matter how bad it seemed.

So, a “Pollyanna” character is:

- Cheerfully optimistic (sometimes to the point of naivety)
- Positive-thinking even in adversity
- Likely to downplay problems or refuse to see the negative.

So, for this month’s article, rather than feeling depressed at the thought of a long winter, I am channelling my inner Pollyanna!

After enjoying this wonderful summer of sunshine, I felt a sudden pang of regret for its passing, but then I had second thoughts . . .

I remembered that it is nearly time to make Yorkshire Parkin, (recipe in October 2016 edition of the *Reporter*) – enjoying a generous slab with a cup of tea in the afternoon after a bracing autumn walk is such an indulgence. This naturally led me to looking forward to lighting the wood burning stove, the joys of kindling, logs and the scent of smoke. Setting a match to the stack of wood instantly brings back warm and happy memories of the open coal fires of my childhood.

I enjoy baking all the year round and during the autumn months I like to make my Christmas puddings, cakes and mincemeat in readiness for assembling our children’s and grandchildren’s Christmas hampers. Setting to work in my warm and cosy kitchen when the rain is streaming down the windows is very comforting, the heat from my gas oven and the smell of warming spices soon infuses the whole house.

There is a lot of whinging about how Christmas comes much

too early, with things like mince pies available in the supermarkets from August, but no one is forced to buy them and many people like to spread the cost of Christmas gradually rather than all in December. Perhaps we should just be grateful for well stocked shelves all the year round? Personally, I make it a rule to enjoy celebrating the village Harvest Festival, then Halloween, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day before giving a thought to Christmas.

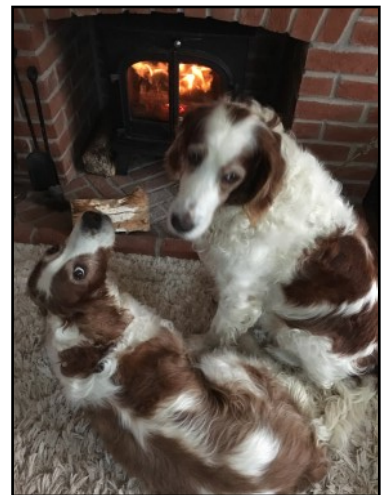
Getting away from the festivities, another of the pleasurable feelings of autumn is when the thermostat controlling the central heating kicks in on the first chilly morning and the bathroom feels so warm and welcoming. The luxury of getting dried after a shower with a towel pulled from the heated towel rail is still something I appreciate every day. Growing up in the 1950’s, our house was heated by two coal fires downstairs with no heating at all upstairs. Visiting the bathroom to get washed in the morning during the colder months was a bit of a challenge and the weekly bath an endurance test!

The garden can look a bit straggly in the autumn but some plants are in their heyday. It really lifts my spirits to see the purple Michaelmas daisies, and the rose bushes seem to keep flowering as long as they are deadheaded regularly. Fuchsias, marigolds and many other plants bravely keep blooming until the first frosts and the humble pansy brings a welcome splash of colour throughout the autumn and winter. The apple tree we planted five years ago has produced a bumper crop this year and the sight of the rosy fruit is a cheerful reminder of other apple trees from much-loved long -ago gardens.

My birthday is just a few days before Christmas and a couple of years ago I was given a furry heated throw as a present. I count it another of life’s pleasures to wrap myself up, curl up with a good book and bask in the gentle warmth. It is economical to run too and means I’m not tempted to tweak the central heating thermostat.

With all the warm weather and sunshine this year the blackberries were ready early, but there are still sloe berries to come. Homemade sloe gin (recipe November 2010) is a quintessential English drink and it’s so easy to make. Also, Christmas Spirit liqueur (recipe December 2010) and Christmas pudding liqueur (recipe November 2019) make welcome presents at any time of the year, but especially in the colder months. A liqueur glassful of something warming and delicious is very comforting in the dull dark days and certainly helps to boost morale; especially so if shared with friends and family, of course.

When all the crowds of summer visitors have left, the roads are much quieter and it’s easier during the autumn and winter months to find a car parking space in any of Dorset’s tourist destinations. When the weather is looking gloomy this is an excellent time to visit indoor attractions like museums and stately homes. After reading Carole Fornachon’s article in the August/September edition of the *Reporter* we were inspired to





visit Dorset Museum in Dorchester and it was a great way to while away a very wet, cold and blustery afternoon.

A few more suggestions of things to do to bring a smile to your face this Autumn -

1. Buy a few bulbs to plant up in pots in anticipation of the Spring to come.
2. Go for a walk to Milborne Wood then drop in to The Royal Oak on the way home. Or, if you are feeling more energetic, walk to the Martyrs Arms at Tolpuddle, The Oak at Dewlish or Langham's vineyard.
3. Bake an indulgent chocolatey Brooklyn Blackout Cake to celebrate the clocks going back (recipe October 2017).
4. Make a traditional steamed sponge pudding and serve with custard and an extra dash of cream. Sticky ginger pudding with whisky-Mac sauce is perfect for colder days (recipe November 2016).
5. Visit Blandford Fashion Museum in October or November (it closes December-January to change the exhibits). They have an excellent tea room.



6. Watch YouTube for inspiration when carving your Halloween pumpkin. Make some cinder toffee to give away as treats (recipe November 2018).
7. Look into joining U3A. The University of the third age is targeted at anyone retired or semi-retired, most members are over 50 but there is no minimum age and membership is open to anyone not in full time employment ([www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)).
8. Write a daily diary or journal. Keep it positive. Make sure it is Pollyanna not Jeremiah writing it!
9. Download a bird identification app. Autumn is a good time for birdwatching as many species migrate.
10. Write a letter to someone you admire. I recently wrote to JK Rowling to say how much I enjoyed reading her latest Robert Galbraith book "The Hallmarked Man" and how I appreciated her brave stance on gender identity. I enclosed a stamped addressed envelope and, although it's very long odds, I'm hoping for some sort of response, even if it's just a generic reply.

So don't let the shorter days and colder weather get you down, remember spring will soon be here . . . Happy autumn!

*Rose Frost*

## Dave and Val's diamond anniversary

DAVE AND VAL Andrews were delighted to be able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends at The Royal Oak on Saturday 13th September.

After the longest time apart in all of those 60 years they are back under one roof.

They would like to thank everyone who sent their good wishes, visited, supported and transported Val whilst Dave was in Poole and then Blandford Hospitals since his accident on 26th June.

Thanks also the many cards and gifts including the one from the Palace.





# St. Mary's CE Middle School, Puddletown

## *Inspire today to shape tomorrow*

### Welcome to a new school year at St Mary's!

We hope you enjoyed a relaxing summer break; it's feeling like a long time ago already!

The new school year is well under way and St. Mary's is once again bustling with the excitement of catching up with friends, new learning and the incredible range of opportunities that make the school the stimulating, vibrant place it is.

As is usually the case, the school remained very busy throughout the summer break. Once again, the fabulous Mrs Doak and her dedicated team of staff, ran our annual summer school during the first week of the holidays. Over 40 Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a wide range of activities, from swimming to planning and making the refreshments for a picnic for parents and siblings. The family picnic on the school field was a lovely way to round off the summer school. Massive thank you to all the children for being so fabulous and to the staff for giving up the first week of their holiday to make it such a success. We are very grateful to Dorset Council for providing us with the funding to run our summer school. Over



the summer holidays we also had solar panels fitted to the roof of the school hall to further reduce the school's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint and reduce our energy bills. During the last few weeks we have enjoyed enough sunshine to generate roughly half of the school's electricity needs!

We are all looking forward to welcoming prospective new pupils and their families to St. Mary's for our big Open Evening on Tuesday 21st October, 6.00–8.00pm. This is an important event for the school and we would be very grateful if you would spread the word far and wide.

There will also be opportunities for new and existing parents to come in to see our fabulous school in action; look out for information about our up-coming open mornings on the school website and on the school's Facebook feed. If you are a parent of a child in Year 4, we would love to welcome you to these events. Please contact the school office by phone or email (see below) for further information.

Thank you as always for your valued support and very best wishes to all our pupils and their families for a happy and successful term.







## St Mary's

CE Middle School Puddletown

### OPEN MORNINGS

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 9.30am - 11.00am

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 9.30am - 11.00am

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 9.30am - 11.00am

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 9.30am - 11.00am

### OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 6.00pm - 8.00pm

We invite all parents of Year 4 children to join us for our school Open Mornings and Open Evening where you will have the opportunity to meet our staff, tour the St Mary's site and find out what it is like to be a part of our wonderful school.

To confirm attendance, please email [office@stmarys.wessex.ac](mailto:office@stmarys.wessex.ac) - we look forward to welcoming you.






For the latest news, follow us on Facebook

## CONTACTS

**For further information, admission details or to arrange a visit, please contact the school office**

Head of School: Tim Ennion

Chair of Governors: Adrian Whiting

St. Mary's School Association: Chairpersons: Briony Hosford and Marie Chappell

e-mail: [office@stmaryscemiddle.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscemiddle.uk)

website: [www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCEMIDPUDD>

Tel: 01305 848293



## Milborne Pétanque – ça va!

Throughout the summer a merry band of ‘boules buddies’ has been playing rain or shine (fortunately, mainly shine – sometimes flipping hot). The giant cat litter tray is being well and truly used for its intended purpose!



It's a game that keeps us all guessing – will the next throw be a disaster or bang on? The unpredictability of our efforts produces squeals, shouts, suspect muttered exclamations, spats between spouses, fist pumps and tactical

directives from team members from ‘don't aim for the jack – knock their nearest boule out of the way’ to ‘the next throw could jeopardise our win – throw wide’. Most importantly, it produces a great deal of fun.

One player (for the purpose of this article, let's call her ‘Anna’) managed to ping the jack right out of play. “It's not giant tiddlywinks, Anna!”



This called for general discussion and a re-visit to the rules.



Thank goodness the Village Hall had the foresight to build a double court. Interest is expanding to the extent that most weeks both courts are being used simultaneously. Our happy band continues at 2.00pm on Thursdays (other days and times available). Do come to watch or have a go. Remember, all

equipment is provided by the Village Hall. Email: milborne.petanque@gmail.com for arrangements to borrow equipment.

Penny Pearce *p.p. Boules Buddies*

### Deadline for the next issue 14th October

Please ensure that your anti-virus software is up to date before e-mailing.

**send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at [msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk) or give to a member of the team**

The Reporter would welcome any new advertisers in this well-read magazine.

## ‘Cowboy’ cosmetic procedures

The Government has announced a crackdown on what it calls ‘cowboy cosmetic procedures’ amid growing concerns, about unqualified people, carrying out high-risk treatments, with little or no medical training.

Some treatments have caused serious harm. Many victims of botched procedures have been young women who have been influenced by adverts on social media, and as a result have suffered burns, infections and nerve damage.

Under the Government proposals only specialised healthcare providers that are registered with the Care Quality Commission will be able to perform procedures such as non-surgical ‘Brazilian butt lifts’.

There would also be stricter oversight for lower-risk cosmetic treatments, such as Botox injections, lip fillers and facial dermal fillers, through a planned local authority licensing system. People administering these procedures would be required to meet rigorous safety, training and insurance standards before they can legally operate, with practitioners who break the rules being subject to enforcement and financial penalties.

New restrictions are likely to prevent high-risk cosmetic procedures being carried out on under-18-year-olds without the authorisation of a healthcare professional. The Chartered Trading Standards Institute has commented that age restricted sales could be taken further, such as making a clear UK-wide minimum age for all high-risk aesthetic treatments. This would mirror existing protections for tattoos and sunbeds, and help prevent young people from being exposed to dangerous beauty trends promoted online.

Better regulation of the products used in these treatments might also be included in any new law. Many injectable substances such as fat-dissolving agents and intravenous drip skin lighteners are sold online with no checks on safety, legality, or medical suitability. Regulation could allow removal of unlicensed, untested, and unsafe products from online marketplaces and social media platforms.



The new law will be subject to public consultation and parliamentary review before being introduced. It's likely that Dorset Council Trading Standards will be given a role to help protect people further under any new law.

**W.I. Open Evening**  
*All welcome*  
**Thursday 9th October**  
**7.30pm**  
**Village Hall**  
**Talk by Alan Jenkins**  
**“A Royal Visit”**

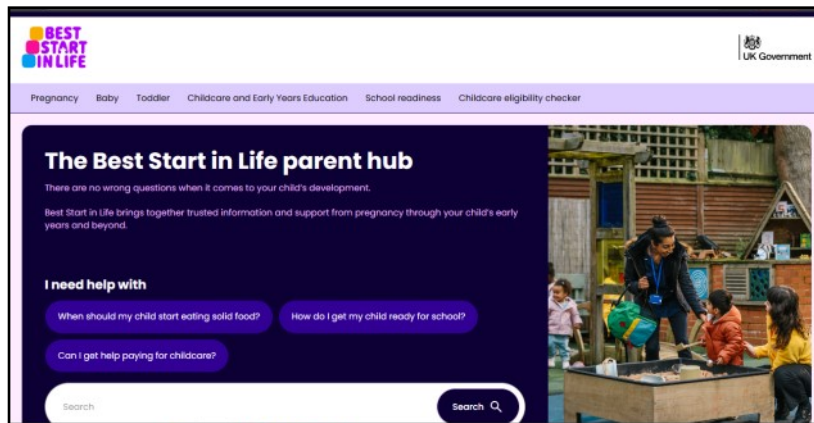
(Security involved around a Royal Visit)

£3.00 entry to include tea and biscuits

## Experiencing weather at Ladybirds

Autumn is giving us lots of opportunity for learning. The season has already thrown all sorts of weather at us – rainbows, thunder, wind, sun and heavy showers. Whilst chat about the weather is a national occupation we've been taking a moment to enjoy it through our senses. We've sat under a big tarpaulin in the rain and then stood under the trees to listen to the different sounds this makes. We've experienced the wind blowing our hair and felt how warm the sun makes our skin feel. We've also got quite wet in the rain.

We've made autumn paint by picking and squashing blackberries! With the addition of shaving foam this has become blackberries and cream. We've talked about which berries we can eat and which one we leave for the birds to eat; the blackberries were



delicious! Its mid September as I write this so there's more time for us to make the most of the autumn and the learning that nature brings to us.

Do have a look at the Government's new website 'Best start in life' it now includes the pages that were previously on the Childcare Choices website. This is now the new place to look for what funding your child may be eligible for. If you are looking for a future preschool place please get in touch.

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**Respect For Self – We are kind to ourselves and responsible for our own learning**

**Respect For Others – We are kind to each other. Our differences make us stronger**

**Respect For Our World – We are part of nature. We will work together to make the world a better place**

Welcome back to all our children and families. The summer holidays feel like a distant memory as we embark on the autumn term! This academic year, our school will be becoming an OPAL school, making our playtimes even more magic! The OPAL programme is the result of 20 years of research, working with schools to make sure all children have access to the benefits of play. Here at Milborne, we have invested in some new playtime equipment, including a brand new sandpit which has been a total hit.



Last week we had a visit from Harold the Giraffe. Harold came along to school to support our PSHE lesson through Scarf. The children absolutely loved him and Mrs Cheeseman couldn't resist a photo with him! Harold makes our children's PSHE lessons so enjoyable



and they're always sad to see him go!

Are there any local companies who would be able to sponsor some wet weather gear for us? It would be massively appreciated, please contact us if you can!

Look out for our 'Mini Reporters' – coming next month. A group of our wonderful year 4's, writing their very own article to give you an insight into what it's like at Milborne First school.



## CONTACTS

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

**Head of School:** Michelle Cheeseman

**School Receptionist/Admin Assistant:** Holly Winning

**Chair of Governors:** Paul Tasker

**FOS Chairman:** Kate O'Kelly

e-mail: [office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@milborne.dorset.sch.uk)

website: [www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk)

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### OUR VERY HOT SUMMER HAD SOME ADVANTAGES AT TILLY WHIM

We had quite a few unusual birds that visited the bird bath as they obviously were very thirsty! I always make sure it is kept topped up in hot weather.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Top left</i>     | Long tailed tit I've never seen on the bird bath. |
| <i>Top right</i>    | Greenfinch female not normally on a bird bath.    |
| <i>Second left</i>  | Goldfinch with reflection.                        |
| <i>Second right</i> | Great tit.  |
| <i>Third left</i>   | Long tailed tit with juvenile blue tit.           |
| <i>Third right</i>  | Chaffinch male I've never seen on a bird bath.    |
| <i>Bottom Left</i>  | Juvenile Robin.                                   |

*Heather V Hogg*



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# A Tribute to Carole Fornachon (Part One)

Like many of you, I was terribly saddened to hear of the untimely death of poor Carole. As I've stated elsewhere, I never met her face to face, but we chatted on the phone, over email, and via WhatsApp at least once a month in producing articles for this magazine.

We had planned two pieces together: (i) one on the contrast between jobs in 1881 and nowadays; and (ii) the terrible language used in the past on official documentation such as census returns and baptismal records to describe people who were different from what 'traditional society' expected.

The second piece will pull no punches, and Carole will be delighted with that! For now, I'll write my half of the first of those pieces, and add a line as to what Carole intended to write.

I've written about the various village censuses before. As a reminder, in 1881 separate censuses were collected for MSA, Milborne Stileham (MS) and Milborne Churchstone (MCh), and the numbers of people in each part of the village were MSA 281, MS 291 and MCh 23, a total of 523 altogether (excluding the inmates at the industrial school).

What was especially useful and interesting about the 1881 census was that it collected individuals' professions. My first book on the *Ways from MSA* showed that most of my family were agricultural labourers (AgLabs), and unsurprisingly this is the leading profession given in the 1881 census; there were 28 AgLabs in MSA, 36 in MS (including three who added 'Carter' to specify more precisely their role), and 2 in MCh. However, to that I must add 2 more 'Carter[s] on farm' in MSA, 4 farmers in MSA (with three giving more information: '450 Acres 12 Men 2 Boys', '80 Acres 3 Men 1 Boy', and 950 Acres 9 Men 14 Boys), 4 farmers' sons, and 1 farmer's assistant. In MS, there is a farmer of '420 Acres Employing 4 Boys 9 Men'. Furthermore, there are 5 individuals in the MSA census who are 'Gen[eral] & Ag Labourer[s]', and 5 more with the same description in MS. There is also a 'Saddler & Farmer of 50 Acres Employs 3 Men & 1 Boy' in MS. In MSA, there is a Shepherd and a Shepherd's Boy, as well as one 'Woodman', three Grooms (one adding 'on farm') and a 'Harness maker'.

As to other jobs, in MSA there are 6 Bakers with 4 of them being described as 'As[sistan]t[s]'. The other two are also Grocers. Still in MSA, there are 2 Builders, one of whom is also a 'Farmer [of] 14 Acres Employ[ing] Sev[er]al Men', and 2 Bricklayers. There are also 2 Castrators (ouch!), 3 Domestic Servants (presumably working for the rich farmers or ministers), an Engineer, an Errand Boy, a Gardener, 2 Glovers, another Grocer, a Hosiery Stocking Knitter, 2 Innkeepers, 2 Ladies School Teachers, 2 more 'Pupil Teacher[s]' and one 'Teacher Of Public Elementary School', 2 Launderesses, and a Midwife. Two individuals are described as 'Partner[s] in Firm of J.L. Fowler & Co Traction Engine Prop[r]ietors Etc', with 2 more Traction Engine Drivers. A further individual is described as 'Senior Partner In J.L. Fowler & Co Coal Factory'. There is one 'Serjeant Dorset Police', a Shoemaker, 2 Tailors (one of whom is also a Draper), and finally a 'Wesleyan Minister of Dorchester Circuit'.

In MS, we also see an 'As[sistan]t Mast[e]r & Bailiff', an 'As[sistan]t Matron of Reformatory [School]', a Baker, a Bandmaster, a Bootmaker, 2 Carpenters (one unemployed), 2 Carriers, a Coachman, a Dairy Man and 2 Dairymaids, 4 Domestic Servants

Continued on page 25

# Junior corner

No prize just a bit of fun. Answers on page 25.

## Where in Milborne is this?



## Junior Quiz

1. If you are in Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch, in which country are you?
2. What is a Fid?
3. What is found at the end of the rainbow?
4. When diving on it's prey, what is the fastest British bird?
5. Which International Organisation was found on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in 1908?

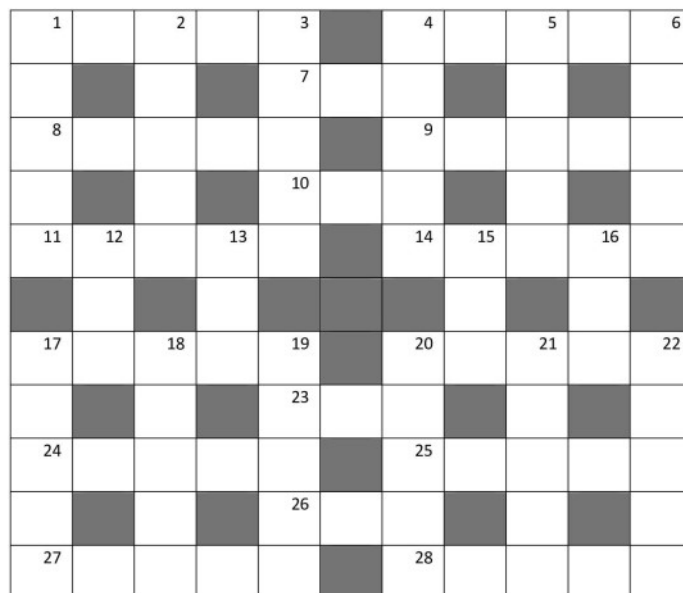
## Junior Crossword 7 - Clues

### Across

1. "Die With A \_\_\_\_\_" Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars
4. Amphibians
7. Meadow
8. Join
9. Powder From Cacao Beans
10. Dove's Sound
11. Brown Bread
14. Clever
17. Vagrant
20. Shovel?
23. Part Of A Play
24. Put In A Line
25. Beneath
26. Finish
27. Head Bone
28. Mountain Cry

### Down

1. Gush
2. Spanish Island
3. Choose
4. Rolled Tortillas
5. Capital City Of Ghana
6. Mine Entrance
12. Paddle
13. Total
15. Land Chart
16. Primary Colour
17. Song By Sabrina Carpenter
18. French Farewell
19. Jury, Committee
20. Home Work Room
21. Totalled
22. Join



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Junior Quiz Answers

- 1. On the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales
- 2. A wooden spike used to splice ropes
- 3. The rainbow has no end, it is a circle but only the upper part is visible
- 4. Peregrine Falcon. It can reach speeds of over 240mph when diving at prey
- 5. The Boy Scouts Association founded by Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Where is this found?  
By the War Memorial

S	M	I	L	E		T	O	A	D	S
P		B		L	E	A		C		H
U	I	I	T	E		C	O	C	O	A
R		Z		C	O	O		R		F
T	O	A	S	T		S	M	A	R	T
	A		U				A		E	
T	R	A	M	P		S	P	A	D	E
E		D		A	C	T		D		N
A	L	I	E	N		U	N	D	E	R
R		E		E	N	D		E		O
S	K	U	L	L		Y	O	D	E	L

Continued from page 23  
(two unemployed), a Draper & Postmaster, a Draper’s Assistant, 2 Dressmakers, an unemployed Footman, a General Dealer, the ‘Governor of Reformatory [School]’, and a Hawker. There are 2 ‘Parlor Maid[s] Out Of Employ’, a School Mistress, 5 Seamstress-es, 2 Shepherds, a Shoemaker, a ‘Smith & Farrier Employing 1 Man’ (who I’ve written about before), an unemployed Stable-boy, 2 Washerwomen, a Woodman & Thatcher, and a Work Boy.  
In MCh there is a Cook, a Glover, a House Maid, a Lady’s Maid, and a Maiden Lady, although I don’t see how that’s a pro-fession! There’s also the ‘Priest of Church of England’ for whom most of the previous people are working. Finally, we see a Shep-herd and 2 Thatchers.

As well as all this, some retired people list their previous pro-fessions, and sadly there are 7 Paupers, as well as people who are unemployed. Of course, many women have no profession listed but are extremely busy performing ‘Home Duties’ in very trying circumstances: there isn’t much money, and families are typically large.

Carole would have contrasted this historical view of what was clearly a very busy village over 140 years ago with what’s hap-pening here now, in her own inimitable way which I have no hope of mimicking. Most of the farming jobs have of course been replaced by machinery, which drove many away from small villages towards larger towns, like my family who went to London and then to Bournemouth where I was born much later. I’ll continue my tribute to Carole in next month’s Reporter.

Andy Way

Deadline for the next issue 14th October

What’s on in October

- Wednesday 1st

Wednesday 1st  
Sunday 5th

Thursday 9th

Thursday 9th  
Saturday 11th

Tuesday 14th

Thursday 16th  
Friday 17th

Monday 27th

Thursday 30th
- Wednesday Club** playing Cornhole Village Hall 2.00pm.  
**Parish Council** Village Hall 7.00pm.  
**Harvest Festival** St. Andrew’s church 9.30pm.  
**WI** Open Meeting talk by Alan Jenkins about a *Royal Visit*. Please come along and join us, you will be very welcome. – see page 5.  
**Chinese theme night** The Royal Oak.  
**Community Café** Village Hall 10.00am to midday.  
**Deadline** for the November *Reporter*. Send your articles and photographs via email to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Team.  
**Gardening Club** Village Hall 7.30pm.  
**Milborne Movies** *The Salt Path* Village Hall 7.00pm.  
**Halloween magic** as Artsreach presents Squashbox Theatre’s *Shivers & Shadows*. Village Hall at 2.00pm – see page 5.  
**Pie Night** The Royal Oak.

What’s on in November

- Saturday 1st
- Wild West Murder Mystery Evening**  
7:00pm for 7:30pm start Village Hall  
Tickets £22 – see page 5.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

- Players** Monday 7.00pm weekly.  
**Move It Or Lose It** Tuesday 10.15am.  
**Line Dancing** Tuesday 7.30pm weekly.  
**Wednesday Club** 2.00pm 1st Wednesday monthly.  
**Yoga** Thursday 3.30pm weekly (term time only).  
**Karate** Thursday 5.10pm weekly.  
**Women’s Institute** 7.30pm 2nd Thursday monthly.  
**Gardening Club** 7.30pm 3rd Thursday monthly.  
**Artsreach Events** – look out for the posters.  
Check the Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the Sports & Social Club

- Pilates** Monday 6.30–7.30pm.  
**Yoga** (Iyengar) Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm.  
**Stitchcraft** (kids) Wednesday 4.15–5.15pm and 5.30–6.30pm, Thursday 4.00–5.00pm  
**Surgery Wellbeing Papercraft Group** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 1.30–3.30pm.  
**Sewcial Crafters** (adults) Thursday 1.00–3.00pm and 5.30–7.30pm  
**Yoga** (Mellulah) Friday mornings.  
**Beavers** Friday 5.30–6.45pm.  
**Football** Saturdays and Sundays.  
**Private parties, birthdays, wedding receptions** check online calendar.  
Check the Sports & Social online calendar on the village website for any other events you might be able to join in with.

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# Community Contacts

More information about many community organisations can be found on [www.milbornestandrew.org.uk](http://www.milbornestandrew.org.uk)

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

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

Dewlish Village Hall		
Chairman:	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617
Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall		
Chairman:	Linsey O'Neill	07798 720812
Booking Secretary:	Susan Poet	07866 313999
MSA Sports & Social Club	Bookings: Philip Smith	07776 561105

## COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997
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	dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
	Chair: Chris Uden	07973 167117
Parish Council	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Richard Macnair	07774 081551
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**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

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**Environmental Incident:** Environment Agency Hotline 0800 80 70 60

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South West Highways [hello@swhitd.co.uk](mailto:hello@swhitd.co.uk) 01404 821500

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

## GENERAL — ADULT

Bellringers	Robin Mears	01305 848021
Moonlight Swing Band	Gillian Pink	01305 260731
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
Wednesday Social Club	Josie Wright	01258 839090
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471732

## GENERAL — YOUTH

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Denise Saunders	07483 857613
Milborne Ladybirds	Samantha Mercer	07767 450967

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## SCHOOL

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Chair Governors:	Paul Tasker	
Friends of School Chair:	Kate O'Kelly	
St. Mary's Puddletown	Tim Ennion	01305 848293

## SPECIAL INTEREST

Bridge Group	Laurie Benn	01258 837720
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837089
Dog Training Behaviour	Natasja Lewis	07896 275357
Food and Wine Club	Steve O'Neill	07490 691121
MSA Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
MSA Gardening Club	Bill Love	01258 837677
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793319

Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203
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## SPORT

Hardy Country Bowmen	Mike Healy	01300 342134
Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Karate	Peter Thompson	07873 116118
	wessexmartialarts@gmail.com	
Move it or lose it	Pippa Thurgood	07545 241291
Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Football – Milborne Sports	Kelvin Dormer-Woolley	07544 725855
Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839
Skittles – Dewlish	Simon Ross	01258 837606
Tap Dancing for Adults	Kevin Selby	01305 250386
Tennis	Rich Hawker	07393 309037
Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Saira Francis	01258 880505
Yoga (at Village Hall)	Angela Johnson	01258 839060

## HEALTH

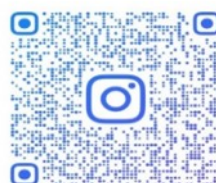
Bere Regis Surgery		01929 471268
Milborne St. Andrew Surgery		01258 880210
Milton Abbas Surgery		01258 880210
Puddletown Surgery		01305 848333
NHS for non-emergencies		111
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	07983 013781

## Milborne Players' news

Our 2026 pantomime Sinbad in Space 🚀 is cast! We are all now embarking upon our exciting rehearsal journey. Our resident writer has added some extra sparkle and polish to the script to ensure our performances are full to the brim with wit, energy and merriment. Make a note in your diaries of our pantomime dates: 12th, 13th and 14th 📅 February.

For any queries about the pantomime, please contact Kate on 07804 600204, or head to our Facebook page, The Official Milborne Players. As always, we welcome anyone who wishes to join our posse of volunteers backstage and front of house.

**In other news . . .** we are proud to announce the launch of our new website and we'd be grateful for any feedback. In particular, we have a special request to all the *Reporter* readers to complete a three-question survey about how we can make buying our tickets as accessible as possible. Please visit [www.milborneplayers.org.uk/survey](http://www.milborneplayers.org.uk/survey). Thank you in advance for this.



📷MILBORNE\_PLAYERS

In addition to the website, the Players now have an Instagram account! Scan this QR code with your phone to visit us:

We have loyal followers of our Facebook page, and it's been our intention for some time to extend our social media presence. We think we bring joy and warmth to the village: if we can entice new audiences in and around Milborne – as well as retain our existing loyal audiences - that would be such a thrill for us.

Kate Hawker





ATHELHAMPTON HOUSE

# Tudor Week

27TH - 31ST OF OCTOBER

OPEN 10AM-4PM

LAST ENTRY 2PM

**Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds,  
and smells of Tudor life at  
Athelhampton House**

Activities throughout the day range from trying Tudor food, dancing, and clothing, to having a go at writing with a quill or kicking a Tudor football.

Come and see demonstrations of how a whole host of different crafts were done in the 16th Century, and maybe have a go at a few!

Be prepared to spend the whole day in the house and gardens; in this fully interactive event, you'll be more than just a visitor - you'll be able to become part of the Tudor community for the day!

Book tickets here:

01305 848363

[www.athelhampton.com](http://www.athelhampton.com)

Photos by Jane Tearle  
and Dorset Morrisarty