

Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 18 Issue 1

January 2026

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We wish all our readers a very
Happy New Year



See page 7

Milborne St. Andrew



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Advertising copy MUST be received by the 13th of the month
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Enquiries and copy to: **msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk**

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

Hot Fingers Delight a Full House at Milborne St Andrew Village Hall



MILBORNE St Andrew Village Hall was filled to the rafters on Saturday 29th November as Hot Fingers delivered a truly memorable evening of vintage acoustic music. With every seat sold, the atmosphere was buzzing even before the first note was played – and the band did not disappoint.

Frontman Tom 'Spats' Langham charmed the audience from the outset with his effortless musicianship on guitar, ukulele and banjo, as well as his warm, engaging vocals. His easy humour and infectious enthusiasm set the tone for the whole night. Alongside him, Malcolm Sked showcased his remarkable versatility on tuba, sousaphone and double bass, providing the rhythmic foundation that kept feet tapping throughout the hall.

Vocalist Emily Campbell captivated everyone with her rich, expressive singing, bringing both elegance and energy to the performance. Multi-instrumentalist Danny Blyth moved seamlessly between clarinet, guitar, mandolin and harmonica, adding colour and flair to every piece.

The programme was a joyful musical journey through the 1920s and 1930s, offering everything from hot jazz and gypsy swing to country blues, gospel, and even novelty foxtrots. Each number was delivered with warmth, wit and incredible musicianship, and it was clear from the smiles around the room that the audience loved every minute.

It was a night full of nostalgia, humour, and toe-tapping rhythm – an evening where the village truly came together to enjoy live music at its best. A huge thank you to Hot Fingers for a wonderful performance, and to Artsreach for bringing such high-quality acts to our rural community.

Judging by the enthusiastic applause and the buzz as people left, one thing is certain: if Hot Fingers return, they'll be welcomed back with open arms – and likely another sold-out crowd.



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Milborne Players Pantomime; Sinbad in Space

THE Milborne Players are polishing off their rehearsals this month! With our talented musical director leading the way and weekly stage rehearsals buzzing with energy, this year's pantomime promises to be one of our most imaginative yet. Expect an eclectic mix of space-themed stories, mischief, and plenty of laughter to brighten up those winter evenings. You – quite literally – won't find another pantomime like this anywhere in the galaxy.

☀ Why wait? February is only next month. Grab your tickets now to lift the post-Christmas melancholy and pop something in the bag to cure those winter blues. We promise you a galactic evening of panto nonsense, cheeky jokes, and community spirit. If you've been following us on Instagram or Facebook, you'll have seen some of the behind-the-scenes fun and character teasers... but nothing beats experiencing it live!

☀ How to get your tickets:

Box Office: Call 01258 839085

Village Londis Store (Milton Road): Cash only please

Community Café: Debit card payments available

Tip: Don't leave it too late – we'd hate for you to miss out on the fun.

☀ Performance Dates:

Thursday 12th February 2026

Friday 13th February 2026

Saturday 14th February 2026

For all other things panto, contact Gren on 07876 793319 or visit our new website www.milborneplayers.org.uk *Kate Hawker*

Burning better

AS the weather turns colder you can take a few simple steps to reduce the impact of woodburning stoves and open fires on both your health and the environment. Research reveals that only one in 10 people are aware that domestic burning is a major source of pollution that can seriously harm people's health.

The 'Burn better' campaign, led by Defra, is encouraging anyone who uses a solid fuel appliance to make small changes to their burning habits which can significantly improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions from domestic burning.

The campaign highlights that tiny particles released from stoves and open fires can damage the lungs and other organs, posing serious health risks. However, there are multiple benefits to be gained by adopting cleaner burning practices.

Tips to Burn Better:

- Regular maintenance of your stove or open fire means it will perform better, use less fuel to produce more heat, and produce fewer harmful particles.
- Have your chimney swept at least once a year. Soot and tar build up in your chimney over time, reducing its efficiency and increasing the risk of chimney fires.
- Make sure you are choosing the right fuels for your stove. Choose cleaner alternatives, such as dry wood and manufactured solid fuels, as they produce less smoke and pollution and are cheaper and more efficient to burn.
- Burn dry wood, freshly cut wood should be air-dried for at least two years before use.
- When buying bagged fuel look out for the 'Ready to Burn' certification mark.

Some types of solid fuel have been banned from sale due to their high pollution levels. These include sales of wet wood in

small units (less than two cubic meters), and traditional house coal for domestic heating. If you see banned solid fuel for sale report it to Dorset Council Trading Standards, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or, phone the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Wednesday Club in Celebratory Mood

WE had our Christmas meal at the Ashley Wood Golf Club again this year. It was a lovely, friendly gathering with many of our members attending. The meal was really good and the service was excellent. Our Chairwoman Jenny Balcon and the committee were thanked for their efforts.

Jenny told members that our New Year party in the Village Hall will be on Wednesday 7th January and would members please contribute a small amount of sweet or savoury eatables. The committee will provide mulled wine, orange juice, tea or coffee. The members were enticed by the promise of a special raffle on the day!

If you would like to join the Wednesday Club, it has a small annual subscription. We meet in the village hall on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.00pm. *Josie Wright*

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Rosie's Travels – Newquay to Perranporth



HAD an early start but when we got to Crantock beach the tide hadn't gone out yet so we had to wait for a bit until we could cross the bridge, Dad got impatient and crossed the boardwalk when it was still a bit under water, Katie dashed after him and thought she could walk on water but realised she couldn't when she tried to overtake, that gave me and Mum a good laugh.

It was a lovely walk and I found Mum the perfect bench to sit on for coffee, overlooking the beach at West Pentire. Dad's not keen on beaches so thought it would be better to walk across the hilly dunes instead of the nice flat beach, Mum was not a happy bunny as she said it was like walking across the Sahara (whatever that is). Katie and me didn't mind, we had a good time chasing each other up and down, it was easy going for us with our four legs. At last we reached Perranporth to catch the bus back to where we started, no time to stop for an ice cream sadly.

Perranporth to St. Agnes



A bit of a trek out of Perranporth to start the day at the top of the cliffs we walked through some strange landscape, it looked a bit like the moon (not that I have ever been to the moon)! There were big chimneys which Dad said were from the tin mines in the old days, he should know he was around in the old days.

We got to St. Agnes in time for lunch and I found

Mum a bench with a good view of the beach, no special titbits today, just boring chews.

St. Agnes to Portreath

The big tin box dropped us off in St Agnes nice and early so Dad was happy as he likes to get started at the crack of dawn! The sun was shining and me and Katie were raring to go, we soon got to a lovely little beach called Chapel Porth and rushed into the sea to cool our paws. We couldn't linger too long as Dad said we still had a long way to go.

Just when we thought we were nearly at the end of the walk there was a huge hill with a million steps, Mum was not amused, still when we got to Portreath she said it had been worth the effort as there was a nice cafe on the beach.



Portreath to Gwithian

This was an unusual walk, it was just me and Mum, poor Katie had hurt her leg and had to rest so Dad stayed behind with her. Mum was quite excited to be walking by herself, she could stop to look at the birds and flowers when she wanted to and admire the view or just have a breather whenever she felt like it. I was excited too as I could take my time and sniff every single interesting smell without being told to hurry up!

It was a lovely day and the walk started with a big uphill as usual and a lovely view from the top looking back over the beach. There weren't too many ups and downs so we didn't need to stop at too many benches even though I stopped at each one incase Mum wanted a rest. Mum stopped to click her phone at lots of things and was happy to see a little bird I think she called a stonechat, it wasn't made of stone and it wasn't chatting, it was singing at the top of a bush.

It was a long way and we were both glad to see Dad at the end waiting in the car park with Katie. It was a lovely walk but I think we both missed walking with Dad and Katie really.



Gwithian to Hayle



Quite a short walk today so Katie came along with us as her leg seemed better. We started walking in the sand dunes but after a while Mum and Dad decided it would be

easier to walk along the sandy beach, it was much easier for them, Katie and me don't mind where we walk as long as we are off the lead! Mum got hungry so we stopped for an early lunch then it was back along the dunes for a bit then passed lots of building sites, flats, flats and more flats then hey presto we arrived back at the car.

Katie enjoyed being back on the path and I enjoyed having her back for company even though she can be annoying sometimes.

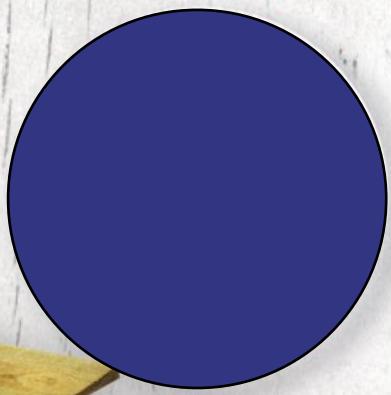
Bye for now, love Rosie





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A day in my life 6th November 1953 – Part 2

I HAVE lunch at gran's house, about a quarter of a mile away. Her house is very old, you have to go outside to the toilet and she has that scratchy toilet paper. Hanging over the mangle in the yard is a tin bath. When she wants a bath she carries it inside and fills it with kettles of hot water. Her downstairs rooms are all in a row; scullery, kitchen and sitting room. In the scullery is the gas cooker on little legs. The sink has one tap – cold. To keep things cool she has a meat safe. It is like a little wooden cupboard, but the door and the sides are made of metal with lots of little holes punched in.

In the kitchen is a shiny black range, with a fire in the middle and an oven on each side. Opposite the range are three doors all the same, all in a row. The first is the larder, the second is the coal hole and the third hides the stairs. The kitchen is the only room with any lighting and it isn't electricity like my home, it's gas. It's fun to watch gran lighting the gas. There are two little chains hanging down attached to a bar. She pulls one little chain and you can hear the gas hissing out. She then has to strike a match and light it quickly, but it still makes quite a loud POP. The only other kind of lighting she has is candles. The street lights are gas too. Each evening a man walks round with a long pole that he pokes into each lantern and magically the light comes on.

When the milkman's horse clops down the street, gran is always ready in the front garden with her bucket and shovel – if the horse 'obliges' outside your house you shovel it up and put it on the garden to make the roses grow.

After my lunch, it's back to school for more lessons, then home. I stop at the sweet shop for a penn'orth of sherbet from a huge jar. The shopkeeper weighs it and puts it in a twist of paper. The grains are huge like sand and bright, bright yellow and so is my finger, as I wet it and dip it in.

When I get home there's a lovely, steamy smell. Mum has been doing the washing. We are lucky as we have a washing machine called a twin tub. The clothes are washed in one half, then lifted into the other side where lots of water is whirled out. It's like magic!

Mum says, 'Just light the fire in the front room for me, it's all ready.' Yesterday's newspaper is scrunched up at the bottom of the grate, then some sticks, and then on top the shiny, black coal. I strike a match and light the paper and the yellow flames lick up.

I read my 'Girl' comic until tea time; it's got lots of school stories and adventures.

After tea I wonder if dad will play a record. They are as big as dinner plates and break ever so easily. But tonight he says, 'How about a game. 'Monopoly' or cards?' 'Cards please!' So we play, 'Happy Families' and 'Beat your Neighbour' until it's time for our programme. Dad turns on the radio at 6.30 and we listen to, 'Dick Barton – special agent' – it's a serial and we always listen.

'Seven o'clock, bedtime – school in the morning.' 'Don't tease it's Saturday tomorrow.'

Saturday morning pictures at the Odeon with all my friends. We sing, 'The more we are together' every week. We watch a cartoon, a short film and then the serial – we shout helpfully all the way through – lovely!

I think about it lying in bed. I'm too excited to sleep. I'll read a bit more, I've got lots of books, 'Black Beauty', 'Little Women', 'Heidi'. I've found my 'School Friend Annual for 1952', I hide under the blankets with my torch and turn the pages. 'Are you reading up there? – Go to sleep!'

'Goodnight.'

Josie Wright

Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club – January Meeting



HAPPY new year to everyone in the village from MSA Gardening Club. We are looking forward to a new programme from a new committee in 2026.

Our first meeting is on Thursday January 15th at 7.30pm in the village hall. Pip Bowell will be bringing his stock of bonsai trees to demonstrate their winter pruning and he is also going to show everyone how to start a new tree. So, if bonsai growing is a hobby you would like to start, you are very welcome to join us, either for the whole year – only £12, or any month as a visitor for just £2 – refreshments included! *Angela Johnson*

Music at St. Peter's Dorchester

HAPPY New Year from all at St. Peter's Church Dorchester! There is plenty of music for you to enjoy this month and beat those January blues! We hope you can join us for some or all of the many fantastic concerts, services and musical events taking place.

We begin the new year with our candlelit Epiphany carol service on Saturday 10th January at 4.30pm. Alongside traditional hymns, carols and readings there will be glorious choral music by Gustav Holst, Francis Poulenc, Felix Mendelssohn, William Crotch, Peter Cornelius and Philip Stopford. This service is free to attend and all are very welcome.

The lunchtime concert on Saturday 17th January is given by soprano Sarah Palfreman-Kay, who is accompanied by Ian Davis. You can enjoy 30 minutes of songs and arias from across the ages between 12.30pm and 1.00pm. Admission is free.

On Sunday 18th January at 10.30am there is a service of Choral Eucharist, with some fantastic music including Howells's 'Here is the little door', Victoria's 'Missa O magnum mysterium' and Berlioz's 'The shepherd's farewell'. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Finally, Choral Evensong takes place on Saturday 24th January at 4.30pm. The music includes Tallis's 'Salvator mundi', Richard Seal's 'Preces and Responses', the 'Evening Canticles in D' by Brewer and Bairstow's rousing anthem 'Blessed city, heavenly Salem'. The service is free to attend, all are welcome and warmly invited to stay for a glass of wine afterwards!

Keep up with events via our website: www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org or by following us on social media: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/musicatstpetersdorch> – X (Twitter): @musicatstpeter – Instagram @musicatstpetersdorch. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, subscribe through the website or drop us a line at: musicatstpeters@mail.com All of our social media and contact details can be found at: linktr.ee/musicatstpeters.

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A January ABC

January is the month of resolutions, as we all know, but I wonder how long they usually last. I know mine rarely reach the end of the month, and it's an annual story at my local gym. It's packed out in the first month of the year, full of keen people, but by December only the most committed remain.

So I wonder this year whether there's a gentler approach that might last beyond the first few weeks. That's where my ABC for the coming months comes in.

- **Attentiveness** – rather than going for the big gesture, let's make a point of noticing the small everyday things that make a difference to people and lift our eyes above the dark, gloomy days of January. Focussing on the positive and being grateful for the things we might otherwise miss is a gentle way to lift our spirits. There is a long Christian tradition of reaching the end of the day and thanking God for what has been good. This can help tune us in to the small acts of goodness we might otherwise miss or take for granted: the kind word, the smile, the helping hand.
- **Beginning again** – New Year's resolutions are about helping us to be different in some kind of way, whatever we choose that to be. There can, however, be a sense of failure when we don't manage to keep them, when yet again we miss the mark. After a few lapses, we often give up. And try again next year. But it doesn't need to be like that: new beginnings don't have to wait for January. Life contains a series of trying things out, failing and starting again; that's all part of being human. People often misunderstand Christianity and think it's about being good. But at heart that's not it at all. Christians believe that at the centre of their faith is a relationship with God through Jesus, whose very nature is love. One way that love reveals itself is by giving us innumerable new starts when we get it wrong. Perhaps planning for a full year of new starts may be more realistic than trying to make a resolution.

- **Continuity** – many things don't need changing at all. So let's celebrate those and carry on doing them. The everyday kindnesses, the helping a neighbour in need, the cups of tea, the volunteers who run the groups that enhance our village life. Why change what already brings joy and contributes to community?

With best wishes for
the coming year

Sarah



Notes from St. Andrew's

I WRITE this on a very wet and windy afternoon, not unlike so many of late! We have just celebrated the Second Sunday in Advent, with all the Christmas celebrations ahead of us, but by the time you read this, they will be in the past. And yet, the meaning of Christmas, Emmanuel, God with us, is something to be celebrated every day.

The Service on Advent Sunday was well attended, and it was good to welcome people from across the Benefice. A very enjoyable Bring-and-Share lunch followed the Service.

We will keep the Feast of the Epiphany at our Milborne Praise Service on
Continued on page 13

Services in the Benefice of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne with Dewlish January

4th January – Epiphany

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Milborne Praise	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion	Puddletown
11.00	BCP Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Church Room Dewlish

11th January – Baptism of Christ

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

18th January – Epiphany 2

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

25th January – Conversion of Paul

9.30am	Parish Communion	Milborne
10.00	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	BCP Morning Prayer (traditional language)	Puddletown
11.00	Parish Communion	Church Room Dewlish

DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday – Thursday. 8.30am; Saturday. 9.00am
On Zoom, please contact Sarah Hillman
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Church Contacts

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As seen on the **BBC**



Continued from page 11

January 4th. This is when we recall the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus, bringing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. We will offer symbolic representations of these.

As we look forward to 2026, we remember words from the Letter to the Hebrews, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever." Words of hope assuring us of Jesus' unchanging, eternal nature, character, and faithfulness. Words offering immense comfort and assurance that His promises and love are constant, despite the chaos in the world around us. Even if we agree with words often attributed to Martin Luther, "I know God is in control, I just wish He'd make it a bit more obvious!" Or, as I've sung at many a Watchnight Service on New Year's Eve in the past,

"He will never fail us, He will not forsake,
His eternal covenant, He will never break!
Resting on His promise, what have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient for the coming year."

May I, on behalf of all of us at St. Andrew's, wish you a very happy, healthy, and blessed New Year.

Tony (Churchwarden)

Dewlish Church Notes

OUR Remembrance Day Service was very well-attended, especially at the War Memorial for the first part of proceedings. Jim led the service, while John laid the wreath and put out the tributes to all those named on our War Memorial. Some of us then continued our service in church, and afterwards enjoyed some welcome refreshments in the Village Hall. Many thanks to all who contributed on the day, including the trumpeter. Well done!

We have just held our Church Christmas Bazaar, and I am delighted to report we made the very good amount of round about £630. This was all due to the wonderful donations for stalls and raffles, and the hard work put in by the people who manned the stalls. It was lovely to see so many people there, and to be able to meet up with friends and supporters of the event. We are most grateful to everyone.

Now we are looking forward to the Church Carol Service (on Sunday 21st December at 3.00pm) and the Christmas Day Service (at 9.00am).

January is always a quiet time for the church but spring and all the Lent and Easter events – and, we hope, better weather! – will be on their way ere long.

A happy and peaceful New Year to all.

Daphne Burg



Military background? Find out more about becoming a police officer

DORSET POLICE'S police officer recruitment drive remains under way, and we are welcoming applications from individuals who are new to policing, those with military experience and transferees from other forces.

To help provide potential candidates with all the information they require to apply, we invited the public to ask questions about joining us on a Q&A session live on social media. This event gave the greatest number of people the opportunity to join in, and a recording is now available for those who didn't watch it live.

Officers and staff from the Force were live on our main Dorset Police Facebook account to answer questions about being a police officer, but specialist staff from recruitment and Positive Action are still available to talk through the application process.

Applications to become a police officer are open now and we are offering:

- Four different entry routes to suit your interests, qualifications and experience.
- A buddy to all applicants to help support them through the recruitment process.
- Relocation package to all transferees.
- Military experience is accepted instead of qualifications.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Callaghan, of Dorset Police, said we welcome "any questions transferees and ex-military personnel may have about becoming a police constable or a detective constable in Dorset.

"We will of course address questions from applicants who are not currently serving in the police or the military, so all who are interested in a career in policing are welcome. There are four entry routes open to join us based on experience and education, regardless of whether you have a degree or not. We are looking for people with skills, experience and commitment to public service who are passionate about making a difference to the communities of Dorset.

"You can ask experts who live the job any direct questions you might have about the application process.

"We are hoping that people will be inspired to join us and love Dorset while we continue to make it a safe county for everyone."

He went on to say that he hopes that this new campaign will be just as popular as the previous one, and

"We love Dorset, and we want more people to join us and experience what our wonderful county has to offer."

The Reporter team wish all our readers, distributors, advertisers and all those who contribute to the content of the magazine

a very Happy New Year

Deadline for the next issue 14th January



St Mary's

CE Middle School Puddletown

Inspire today to shape tomorrow

HAPPY New Year everyone! To kick off 2026, we have decided to do something a little different! Back in December, we invited our Head Girl, Bunny, to write a diary entry to record a day in the life of a student at St Mary's in 2025! If you would like to let us know what life was like for you at school, especially if you went to St. Mary's, we would love to hear from you! Please share your experiences by emailing our school office – office@stmarys.wessex.ac

Dear Diary,

Today was a busy Tuesday at school.

I woke up, brushed my teeth, had breakfast then got on the bus as usual although my bus was a little late today but it's ok because I didn't miss registration. We gathered in our classroom, read our books for a bit and took the register, then it was time for the first lesson, Maths. We were looking at adding, timesing and subtracting fractions and we did a few test style questions on it. For me the questions were quite hard. I just couldn't wrap my head around it but I think I'm getting the hang of it and hopefully I can learn a bit



more tomorrow. My next lesson was English which was better. We are studying war poetry and got to try a drama task looking at a poem called 'We are children of a lesser war' which was fun. We got to go in groups, I went in a group with my friends and we made up some actions to our verse. I found it much easier than maths!

After that it was break and me and my friends got our snacks (I had chocolate biscuits yummmmm) and went out to the playground. It was very cold today as it's nearly Christmas but no snow, just rain, which is sad because I really want it to snow this December. I'm still crossing my fingers.

My highlight of the day was definitely DT. This week I have textiles and we are making fabric tapestry pictures inspired by nature. We got to use the sewing machines and learn lots of different techniques such as applique, ink transfer and batik which will all be incorporated in our final designs. It's not quite done yet but hopefully it will look great. After DT I had lunch, I was so hungry. I had a really good lunch today. It was tomato pasta with some veggies and snacks as well yumm! Me and my

friends ate in the hall and chatted about Christmas Jumper Day on Friday. I'm going to wear my jumper with baubles on it! Also on Friday, we have the annual Christmas carol competition final. It's where all the classes get into groups in their music lessons and try to create the next best Christmas hit. Whoever wins gets a trophy at the end! My group's song made it into the final so we are now performing it on Friday!! I'm a bit nervous but I'm glad I'm not doing it alone and that I have my group with me. My final lesson of the day was science and we got to do experiments! We were looking at rocks and crystals and whether crystals grow faster when at cold, hot or room temperature. My group discovered that they grow faster in hot temperatures so we recorded all our results on a table. Then it was time to pack up. I went back to my classroom for lesson six where we did our collective worship power point about the Christmas story.

Then it was home time! I got back on the bus for my journey home with my friends.

Overall, I had a great day and I hope tomorrow will end the same, but I am very tired and so looking forward to the Christmas holidays!

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

website: www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk

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

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Sarah McQuaid in Concert – Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

ARTSREACH is delighted to welcome internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter Sarah McQuaid to Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall on Sunday 25th January at 7.30pm.

A recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ards International Guitar Festival, Sarah is widely praised for her warm, distinctive voice and her exceptional musicianship on guitar, piano, and more. Reviewers describe her performances as “stunning”, “mesmerising”, and “a complete package”, with shades of Joni Mitchell and the emotional depth of Karen Carpenter.

Her latest live album and video series, The St Buryan Sessions, has been hailed as her finest work to date, and this concert offers a wonderful opportunity to experience her music in an intimate setting.

Sunday 25th January at 7.30pm

Tickets:

£12.50 adults £6 under 18s £35 family

Available online at artsreach.co.uk or by phoning 07983 231956

Bar, refreshments and ice creams will be available

This event is presented by Artsreach with support from Arts Council England and Dorset Council. Don't miss what promises to be a truly memorable evening of live music.

Milborne Movies and More – January Film Night

At Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall

MILBORNE Movies and More is delighted to start the new year with a wonderfully feel-good screening on Friday 16th January. Our next film is Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, the latest instalment in the much-loved Bridget Jones story.

This new chapter finds Bridget navigating life, love, and unexpected challenges with her trademark humour and honesty. Warm, funny, and full of heart, it's the perfect film to brighten up a winter evening.

Friday 16th January

Doors and Bar Open: 7.00pm

Film Starts: 7.30pm

Tickets: £6.50 (includes the film plus your choice of a drink or ice cream)

Do come along for an enjoyable evening with friends and neighbours. As always, everyone from the surrounding villages is very welcome. Why not start the year with a good laugh and a great community night out?

Deadline for the next issue 14th January

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at 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.

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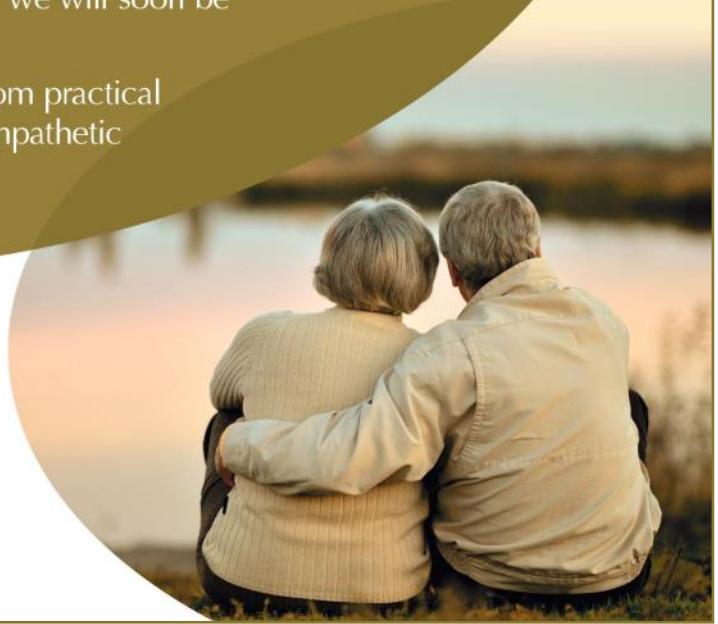
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Would you like to be part of the team that produces a valued community asset? Yes, we're looking for new people to join our friendly group at the **Reporter** and help to run the village magazine that has served Milborne for the last 16 years. Are you interested in helping us continue on into the future with commitment and maybe some fresh ideas? It could also be the ideal opportunity for you to add some experience to your CV.

So how about it? We'd love to have you aboard!

If you'd like to get involved or just to know a little more, then get in touch with editor, David Payne, or email

msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk



 **The Milborne Players Present**
Sinbad in Space Written by Ron Karley

12th, 13th, 14th February - 7.30pm
Saturday matinee - 2.30pm

Milborne St Andrew Village Hall

Doors open 30 minutes before performances

Tickets: £9.00 available from:
* Box Office 01258 839085 or *
* the Londis shop in Milborne St Andrew *

For more information visit www.milborneplayers.org.uk

Milton Abbas Surgery

New Year's Resolutions

Lifestyle change doesn't have to be huge and overwhelming. Sometimes the smallest changes add up to the biggest impact.

Why not ease your way into a healthier you with some simple and achievable bite-sized wellbeing boosts by joining one of our Wellbeing groups run by our volunteer health champions? We have a beginner's line dancing group, walking group and crafting group.

You can find out more details on our surgery website under the Wellbeing Team page. Alternatively, you can contact Anna or Kelly, our Social Prescribers at the surgery either by calling 01258 880210 or by completing the "Social Prescribing Contact Us Form" on our website and they will be happy to help.

Keeping Warm

As the colder weather arrives, here are a few reminders for keeping warm and safe:

- Dress in layers to keep warm. Several thin layers work better than one thick layer of clothing.
- Use hot water bottles, electric blankets, and wheat bags. Do not use both a water bottle and electric blanket at the same time though!
- Heating your home. If you are not very mobile, are 65 or over, or have a health condition heat your home to at least 18C. Draw curtains at dusk and keep doors closed to block out draughts.
- Eat the right foods. Make sure you are eating well, with at least one hot meal a day. Try to eat a balanced diet with lots of fruit and veg to get nutrients.
- Keep as active as possible. This is a great way to keep warm.
- Be prepared if you are heading out. Wear warm footwear with non-slip soles, and keep hands, heads and faces warm.
- Check on older neighbours and relatives. Make sure that they are safe and well, are warm enough (especially at night) and have enough food and medicines so that they do not need to go out during the very cold weather. If you are worried about a relative or elderly neighbour, please contact your local council or call the Age UK helpline on 0800 678 1602.

If you are struggling with heating costs, you may be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your home. Please speak with the Citizens Advice Energy Advice Team by calling 01929 775500 or email energyadvice@cabnet.org.uk.

New Year Opening Times

Monday 29th December – Open as usual

Tuesday 30th December – Open as usual

Wednesday 31st December – Open as usual

Thursday 1st January – CLOSED

Friday 2nd January – Open as usual

New Year's Message to all our patients

May the New Year bring you happiness and peace and be filled with new adventures. Wishing you a joyous 2026 from all of us here at Milton Abbas Surgery!

Keeping your home safe shouldn't take the sparkle out of the festive season

As many of us travel to see friends and family, homes may be left empty for days at a time – something opportunistic thieves know well. But we also want to feel safe and secure when spending time at home, too. That's where simple, modern security can make all the difference.

Here are some simple winter and festive ways to help keep your home protected:

- Put your radio on a winter playlist – A softly playing talk radio station can make it sound like someone's pottering around indoors. *Not that we stole this idea from a popular film.*
- Guard your home with "Operation Snowy Footprints" – If we are lucky enough to get snow, create a few fresh footprints near your property to make it look recently visited.
- Let your curtains multitask – Thermal curtains keep the warmth in and nosy eyes out, turning your home into a snug little winter grotto – a cosy double win.
- Set up a "festive light decoy" – Use timers or smart plugs to switch fairy lights or lamps on and off at different times throughout the evening. It creates that warm, lived-in glow, and from the outside, it looks like someone's home enjoying a mug of hot chocolate (even if you're miles away).
- Give your house a winter 'check-up' – Creaky gates, loose latches, or dodgy outdoor bulbs can send the wrong signals; a quick once-over keeps things secure and quieter in the wind.
- Do a "digital winter tidy" – Update passwords, disable old smart-home devices, and check which apps still have access to your cameras or security tools.
- Give Your Wi-Fi a secret-agent alias – Rename your network something like "Surveillance Central" or "Definitely Not an Empty House". It won't stop crime, but it might make your neighbours smile, and confusion is a surprisingly good deterrent.
- Create a "thief-unfriendly garden" – Plant prickly winter shrubs near fences and rear windows for a touch of seasonal charm and security. Holly isn't just Christmassy – its festive sprigs make your garden both merry and mildly unwelcoming to unwanted visitors.
- Create your own "Neighbourhood Ninja Network" – Agree with trusted neighbours to keep an eye on each other's homes over the winter – and all year round - and optionally give the Whatsapp group an unnecessarily dramatic name. Something like Winter Watch or Silent Night Security Crew.
- Use smart security to protect your home from those on the Naughty List. Systems like SimpliSafe help deter intruders and send instant alerts, so you know what's happening at home from anywhere.

Christmas with the WI

THIS was a festive gathering – following our now traditional, and always enjoyable, party lines. Jose Thomas, herself a former early years teacher, read a nostalgic account of a children's nativity play, and Jenny Preston a Christmas poem. As ever there was a delicious supper and the opportunity for a social get-together, with generous raffle prizes. We look forward to getting together again in the New Year. Please join us on Thursday 8th January, when Pip Bowell will talk about his 'Trip to the Antarctic'. *Pat Bull*

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Sailor Bob's Crossword

Answers on page 21

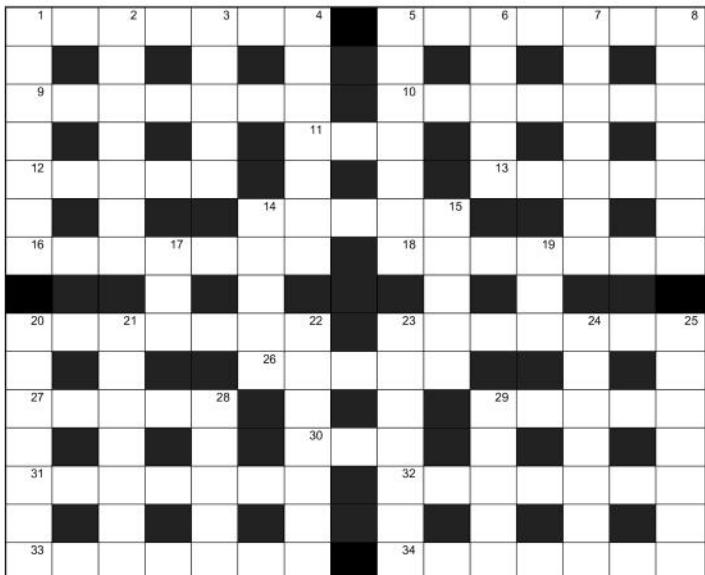
Clues

Across

- 1 Bird
- 5 Devilish
- 9 East African Capital City
- 10 Board Carriage
- 11 Shy
- 12 Percha, Dental Rubber
- 13 Sir Francis or Charlie?
- 14 Picture and Letter Puzzle
- 16 Dog Breed
- 18 Dried Fruit
- 20 Winchester Zoo
- 23 Living Museum in Co. Durham
- 26 Rank
- 27 Fortify with concrete
- 29 Adhere
- 30 Self
- 31 Isolated
- 32 Pervert
- 33 Tusked Whale
- 34 Innocence

Down

- 1 West African Country
- 2 Flyer
- 3 Wine
- 4 Alan TV journalist/show host (d 2013)
- 5 Famous French Anti-Semitic Political Affair
- 6 Silenced
- 7 Falls
- 8 Unit of Light
- 14 Kingdom
- 15 Above
- 17 Bovine
- 19 Half a Drum?
- 20 Extra Terrestrial?
- 21 Proofreader, Auditor
- 22 Sideways
- 23 Alexander Russian Chemist/Composer
- 24 Copy
- 25 Healthy Science
- 28 Prepared soil
- 29 Italian Island



SUDOKU

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

No prize, just a bit of fun.

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

Editor's New Year Quiz

Largely based on Dorset

Answers on pag 21

1. Where and in which year was Hubert Parry born. He is best remembered for his music for the hymns "Jerusalem" and "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind".
2. Who won the first BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in 1954 and where in Dorset was he educated?
3. Where and in what year was Alan Car born
4. In which year did Thomas Hardy die.
5. Who was the first disc jockey to broadcast on BBC Radio 1 at its launch at the end of September 1967. He was educated at Castle Court School in Parkstone, Poole
6. Who designed and engraved the windows in Morton church?
7. Dorset Blue Vinney is a kind of what?
8. Which famous person was killed in a motorbike accident at Clouds Hill in Dorset?
9. In what year did Bournemouth and Christchurch become part of Dorset?
10. Name the Abbey half a mile east of Wool
11. How tall is the Cerne Abbas giant?
12. Name the Tolpuddle Martyrs
13. Where in Dorset would you find "The Cobb"?
14. Name the Dorset cliff which is the highest point on the South Coast?
15. Which is the longest river in Dorset?
16. What is the highest point in Dorset?
17. How many rivers drain into Poole Harbour
18. What is a Dorset Knob?
19. How many bells in the village church tower?
20. Who was the first person who vaccinated his family against Smallpox
21. Where was the first scout camp held in 1907?
22. Where would you find the Fossil Forest?
23. Which famous castle on the Isle of Purbeck was built by William the Conqueror?
24. Old Harry Rocks are connected by a chalk ridge-line with which Isle of Wight landmark?
25. Durnovaria is the Roman name for which place in Dorset?
26. Weymouth was famously a popular holiday spot for which royal?
27. Which deadly disease arrived in Weymouth in the 14th Century?
28. What is the largest iron age hill fort in Dorset?
29. Found on Monmouth Beach at Lyme Regis, David Attenborough's "Sea Dragon" is the fossil of which prehistoric creature? A – Ichthyosaur B – Plesiosaur C – Ammonite
30. In 1588, eight ships from Dorset assisted in the destruction of which fleet?



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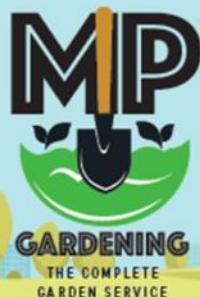


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Answers to Editor's quiz on page 19

1. Bournemouth 1848
2. Christopher Chataway, born 1931 and educated at Sherborne school
3. Portwey Hospital, Weymouth June 14th, 1976
4. 1928
5. Antony Kenneth "Tony" Blackburne
6. Laurence Whistler
7. Cheese
8. T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)
9. 1974
10. Bindon Abbey
11. 55 metres (180 ft)
12. George Loveless, James Loveless, John Standfield, Thomas Standfield, James Brine, James Hammett
13. Lyme Regis
14. Golden Cap – at 191 metres (627 ft) it is the highest point on the south coast of Great Britain
15. River Stour, at 60 miles in length
16. Lewesdon Hill, at an impressive height of 279m (915 feet) 2 meters higher than Pilsdon Pen and 5 meters higher than Bulbarrow
17. Four, River Frome, River Piddle, the Corfe River and the Sherford River
18. A kind of biscuit. These hard, dry savoury biscuits are made by the Moore's company.
19. Six
20. Benjamin Jesty
21. Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour
22. On the cliffs to the east of Lulworth Cove
23. Corfe Castle
24. The Needles
25. Dorchester
26. King George III
27. The Black Death
28. Maiden Castle
29. Ichthyosaur
30. The Spanish Armada.

Answer to crossword on page 19



What's on in January

Thursday 7th	Wednesday Club New Years party Village Hall 2.00pm.
Wednesday 7th	Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7.00pm.
Thursday 8th	WI Talk by Pip Bowell on a trip to Antarctica Village Hall 7.30pm.
Friday 9th	WI New Year Lunch 12.00pm.
Saturday 10th	Community Café Village Hall 10.00am to midday.
Wednesday 14th	Deadline for the February Reporter. Send your articles and photographs via email to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Team.
Thursday 15th	Gardening Club talk and demonstration on growing bonsai trees. By Pip Bowell. <i>All Welcome.</i>
Friday 16th	Milborne Movie <i>Mad about the Boy</i> Village Hall. Door and Bar open 7.00pm film starts 7.30pm.
Sunday 25th	Sarah McQuaid , singer songwriter, Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 15.

What's on in February

Wednesday 4th	Wednesday Club Village Hall 2.00pm.
Wednesday 4th	Parish Council meeting Village Hall.
Thursday 12th	Sinbad in Space
Friday 13th	Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 14th	Matinee Saturday 2.30pm <i>See page 20.</i>

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

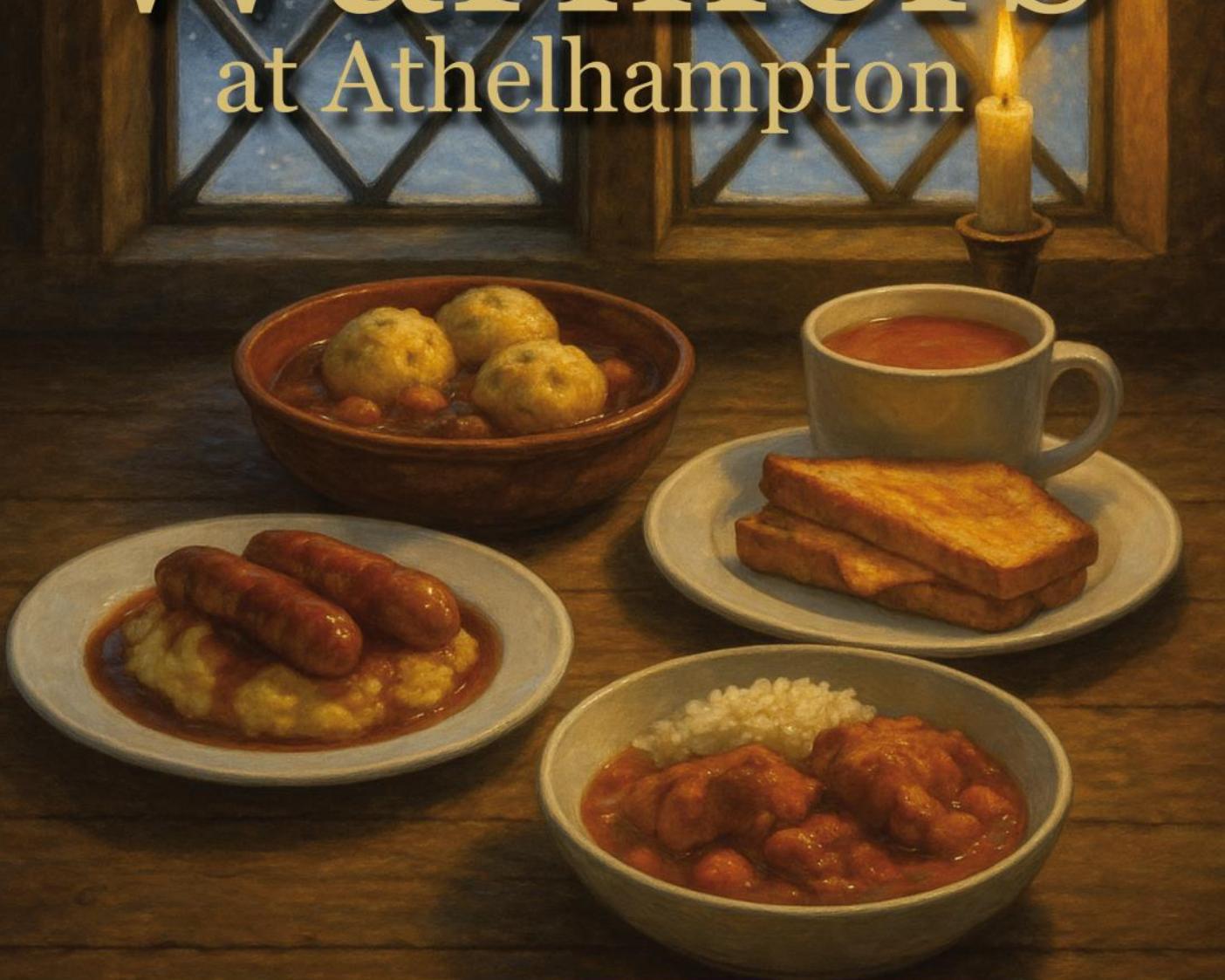
Please let the *Reporter* know if any of these details change

COMMUNITY CENTRES			Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203
Dewlish Village Hall					
Chairman:	Andrew Barnett	07551 839296			
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	01258 837617	Hardy Country Bowmen	Mike Healy	01300 342134
Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall			Circuit training	Grace Martin	01305 213885
Chairman:	Linsey O'Neill	07798 720812	Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Booking Secretary:	Susan Poet	07866 313999	Karate	Peter Thompson	07873 116118
MSA Sports & Social Club	Bookings: Philip Smith	07776 561105			wessexmartialarts@gmail.com
COUNCILS					
Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997	Move it or lose it	Pippa Thurgood	07545 241291
Parish Council Dewlish	Clerk: Amanda Crocker	dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	Pilates (school)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
	Chair: Chris Uden	07973 167117	Football – Milborne Sports	Kelvin Dormer-Woolley	07544 725855
Parish Council	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735	Football – Veterans	Paul David	07841 506839
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Richard Macnair	07774 081551	Skittles – Dewlish	Simon Ross	01258 837606
	milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk		Tap Dancing for Adults	Kevin Selby	01305 250386
Dorset Council Services: For matters relating to roads repairs, bins, litter, environmental health, planning, footpaths and parking, www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or call 01305 221000			Tennis	Rich Hawker	07393 309037
Flooding: Environment Agency Floodline		03459 881188	Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Sue Chapman	01305 848053
Environmental Incident: Environment Agency Hotline		0800 80 70 60	Yoga (at Sports & Social Club)	Saira Francis	01258 880505
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency			Yoga (at Village Hall)	Angela Johnson	01258 839060
South West Highways hello@swhtd.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			
POLICE					
Police – Non-emergency contact (North Rural team)		101			
Contact us Dorset Police Online is dealt with in exactly the same way as non-emergency 101 phone calls.					
SCHOOL					
Milborne First School					
Head of School	Michelle Cheeseman	01258 837362			
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	Dawne Pearson	07950 540235			
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793319			

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