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Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 18 Issue 5

May 2026

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See page 12

Milborne St. Andrew



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

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.

And the new assistant editor is . . .

ME! A lot of you will know me as in the 18 years I've lived here I tend to pop up in various places, from the history group to the community café. When we moved here I joined lots of things in order to get to know people and of course foolishly volunteered and as everyone knows once you do that they've got you! Being a Londoner, village life is very different and not quite like The Archers as I expected, but I've sort of got used to it. You'll be pleased to know that they haven't let me loose on the *Reporter* yet as I'm still learning the ropes, David is being very patient, but who knows what ideas I might have, so watch this space!

Linda Wright

MSA Food and Wine Club

IN March, 31 members of the club enjoyed Sunday lunch at The Brace of Pheasants, Plush. We were blessed with a lovely day, a beautiful drive, good food and the olde worlde, cosy atmosphere in the pub (not forgetting the delightful company, of course).

One couple experienced an unexpectedly long Sunday countryside drive (which they thoroughly enjoyed, by-the-way). Was the satnav napping in the sudden sunshine or was it dyslexic? Perhaps it was a typo. Whatever the reason our two friends felt that they had viewed a third of Dorset's beauty whilst



passing umpteen pubs **not** called 'The Brace of Pheasants'. What is it about the Food & Wine club and magical mystery tours? Fortunately, M & D, who shall remain nameless, still managed to arrive in the nick of time.

At the time of writing members are looking forward to a talk, tour and lunch at Oxford's Bakery near Sherborne in April.

Penny Pearce

Village Hall AGM

THIS was held on Wednesday 15th April chaired by the President Eric Chrichton who welcomed the trustees and seven villagers. Eric stated that he has been President for 27 years.

Linsey as chairperson reported that the village hall had been well used by a broad range of regular village groups, organisations, private hirers as well as one off community and family events.

The monthly community café remained a popular and valued part of village life and she thanked the dedicated volunteers who make it such a success.

Fund raising and cultural events have been well supported as was the Christmas lights event. She thanked the active and hands-on committee who help keep the hall and grounds safe, welcoming and well presented.

In answer to a question she replied that the hall and grounds are run as a charity and are not run or funded by the Parish Council.

Nigel as treasurer reported that the year ended 2025 with a surplus of just over £5,000 giving the final amount in the account of just over £23,000. Rental income has increased and he thanked Susan, the booking secretary, for maintaining a healthy level of new bookings.

Our solar panels continue to support the electricity costs. He thanked the Parish Council for providing some funding towards the grass cutting and playground inspection but the maintenance of the outside community recreational areas in addition to the Hall itself present a financial challenge.

The main focus for the coming year is to upgrade the play park and grants will be needed to be sourced. It is hoped to provide something for older children and would welcome any ideas that they might have.

The present committee all agreed to continue for another year and three new people have come forward. It is hoped that all groups provide a representative. Eric thanked everyone for coming and especially the trustees for their hard work.

Linda Wright

St. Andrew's Church – Special Appeal Update

THIS is an open letter on behalf of Tony, our churchwarden, and your PCC, in connection with the special appeal sent to everyone in MSA last July.

The appeal to raise funds for works to reinstate a section of floor which has completely collapsed due to woodworm, dry rot and dampness, received a resounding response. You, generous donors, must now be wondering what is happening! We are embarrassed that it has taken so long to respond.

The fact of the matter is that we also applied for two grants to augment the donations. One from a Trust and another from Historic Churches. The major grant application had to be re-submitted due to a change in classification. This delayed matters considerably and, in the meantime, we have not been able to start the work before receiving the grants. The good news is that grant funding has now been approved and works will be underway shortly.

With huge thanks, your generosity will help us maintain our beautiful historic church whilst enabling it to provide modern facilities for all of us and our visitors.

Penny Pearce, Treasurer MSA PCC



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THERE is something special about a room full of people moving to music, sharing smiles and laughter and that is exactly the atmosphere at Move it or Lose it!

Local instructor Pippa Thurgood is helping older adults in the community stay active, independent and socially connected through her uplifting Move It or Lose It! classes.

Move It or Lose It! is a nationally recognised exercise programme created specifically to support older adults to stay active, strong and independent.

Each class focuses on FABS which stands for Flexibility, Aerobic fitness, Balance and Strength. These gentle exercises help improve mobility, strengthen muscles, support heart health and improve balance, helping people continue doing the things they love for longer, from gardening and walking the dog to playing with grandchildren and enjoying days out with friends.

Everything is low impact and accessible, with exercises that can be done seated, standing or supported standing so everyone can take part comfortably. There is no floor work and no pressure, just encouragement to move at their own pace in a welcoming and supportive environment.

The sessions are set to uplifting music and include fun props, with regular opportunities to shake your pom poms! Many participants say the classes are so much fun they hardly realise they are exercising!

Just as important is the social side. The warm and friendly atmosphere helps people connect, build friendships and feel part of a supportive community.

Being active helps us to keep saying yes to the things we love to do and gives us the confidence to try new things. At Move it or Lose it! you will find that the best medicine is music, movement and a room full of laughter.

Classes currently run at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall on Tuesdays at 10.15am and at Merley Community Centre on Thursdays at 9.45am and 11.15am.

Sessions are also available for retirement communities and care homes.

For further information, or to book your first session free of charge, contact Pippa Thurgood at pippa.thurgood@moveitorloseit.co.uk or 07545 241291.

Classes cost £6 per session or £20 for a block of four.

New faces are always warmly welcome.

Young reporters needed



ARE you a young person in the village? Do you have something to say? We would love to get young people involved in the *Reporter*. Perhaps you could write about what it is like to live here, what you do with your time, what your ambitions might be. There must be a lot of budding writers out there so do please write something and see your name in print.

Wednesday Club enjoy a afternoon at Holme

OUR trip to Holme Garden Centre was a great success, the weather was fine and we set off as planned at 2.00pm arriving at 2.30pm. Our booked tables were reserved for us and there was a lovely selection of cakes and pastries to enjoy with our coffee. We then explored the garden centre, a really good selection of plants on sale and very helpful staff. Those who just wanted to enjoy the open air setting sat outside by the pond.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 6th May at 2.00pm is in the village hall. This will be our Annual Meeting, with details of our plans for next year. We are hoping for some new committee members to assist us, so please think about joining us. After the business meeting we will be playing Cornhole – a game of skill, accuracy and fun.

Hope to see you there.

Josie Wright

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Dorset drop-in events announced for flood-affected residents

The Environment Agency and Dorset Council are hosting drop-in events in Weymouth, Blandford, Winterborne Stickland, Sydling St Nicholas and Dorchester.

The Environment Agency and partners are hosting a series of free community drop-in events this spring for residents affected by flooding in Dorset this winter.

After the second wettest January and February on record since 1836, the drop-ins will give local people the opportunity to share their experiences of recent flood events, helping organisations better understand the impacts on communities across the county.

Attendees will also be able to speak directly with representatives from the Environment Agency and Dorset Council, and partner organisations like Wessex Water to find out what support may be available to them.

The events will also provide practical information on how residents and communities can build resilience against future flooding, including through the Flood Warning Service, preparing flood plans, and Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.

Ron Curtis, Environment Agency flood and coastal risk manager for Wessex, said:

“We know that flooding can have a devastating and long-lasting impact on people’s lives, and it’s vital that we hear directly from those affected.”

These drop-in events are a chance for residents to tell us about their experiences so we can better understand the challenges communities in Dorset are facing.

We also want to help people feel better prepared for the future, and our teams will be on hand to share practical advice on how to protect homes and build resilience against flooding.

Councillor Nick Ireland, Leader of Dorset Council, said: Supporting our communities through and beyond flood events is a priority for Dorset Council.

These drop-ins are a great opportunity for residents to come and speak with us face to face, ask questions, and find out what local support is available to them.

Recording flooding incidents is important; the more information we have about where and how flooding is occurring, the better placed we are to plan and target our response effectively.

We encourage anyone who has been affected by flooding this winter to come along, share their experience, and have their voice heard.

Drop-in events will run from 3.00pm to 7.00pm at the locations below. Residents are welcome to attend whichever is most convenient for them:

- Thursday 14th May – Pamela Hambro Hall, Winterborne Stickland, DT11 0NT
- Thursday 21st May – Sydling. St. Nicholas Village Hall, DT2 9NX
- Thursday 4th June – Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester, DT2 9WG

No advance registration is required, but those wishing to register their interest or find out more can email floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk.



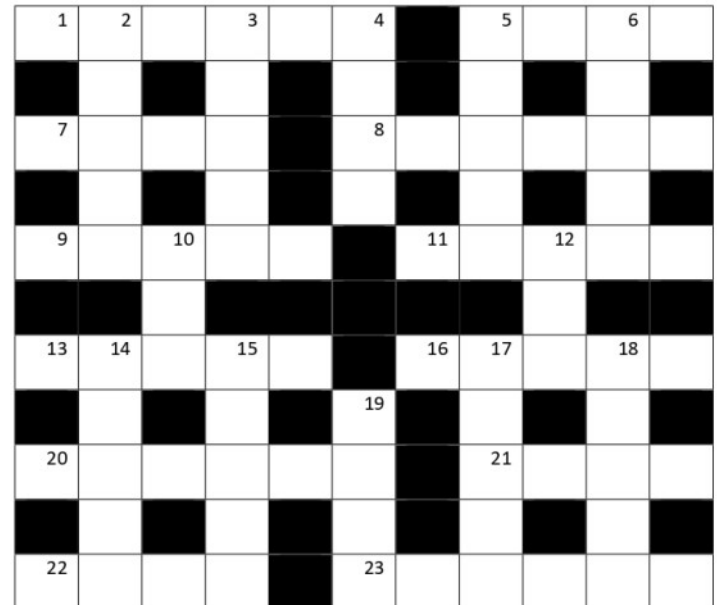
Junior corner

Across

- Tuesday before Lent
- Transport cost
- Daze
- Lately
- Distress signal
- Tree from Colorado?
- Lion Group
- Native Pole
- Inform
- Roman Garment
- Aspire
- Place of Sale

Down

- A Place to stay
- Possessor
- Common Currency
- Confronts
- Scope
- French Friend
- Dog or cat?
- Cowboy Show
- Front Path
- Aquatic Mammal
- Bird of America
- Appear



Picture

What is this?



Quiz

- How wide is a singles tennis court?
- What colour are the Gruffalo’s Eyes?
- What is the largest Island in the world?
- What is a bowline?
- Which National Charity has It’s HQ in Poole?

Answers on page 25.

Deadline for the next issue 14th May

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at
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Maternity Leave

We wish Dr Emily Woodcock all the very best as she heads off on maternity leave – in fact by the time of the printing of this publication, your little one may have already arrived!

London Marathon 2026

We would like to thank all those who supported Dr Stephanie Shutt with well wishes and donations as she ran the 2026 London Marathon in April to raise vital funds for the Evelina London Children's Charity and the amazing work they do for children and their families.

We are so proud of you Stephanie!

Hello Spring!

If you started 2026 with healthy intentions, how did it go? If things didn't stick – or never really got going – please don't feel discouraged. Spring is a time for fresh starts, and is a great chance to reset, refocus, and begin again.

If you would like help in finding weight loss or stop smoking assistance, local activity or social groups, financial support, or you would like someone to simply listen, our surgery Social Prescribers are there for you!

To speak with either Anna or Kelly, please call the surgery on 01258 880210 and leave a message with our admin team, or complete a 'Contact Us' form on our surgery website www.masurgery.co.uk/social-prescribing and they will get back in touch with you.

Age UK Welfare Benefits

The Age UK Welfare Benefits Team work directly with those of State Pension age and above, visiting them at home to help apply for a range of benefits including:

- ◆ Attendance Allowance
- ◆ Pension Credit
- ◆ Council Tax Support
- ◆ Housing Benefit
- ◆ Revisions to existing DLA and PIP claims

They are also on hand to point people in the right direction when it comes to accessing social care and applying for a Blue Badge.

If you or someone you know could benefit from their support, please get in touch by calling 01305 269444 or sending an email to enquiries@ageuknswd.org.uk.

Surgery Closures

The surgery will be CLOSED on **Saturday 2nd May** and **Monday 4th May** 2026 for the Early Bank Holiday, and **Saturday 23rd May** and **Monday 25th May** for the Late Bank Holiday.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused. For out of hours care or advice during closures, please call 111 or go to www.111.nhs.uk. In the case of an emergency, call 999.

Village History Group

OUR next speaker will be Martin Papworth who is a retired archaeologist having worked with the National Trust for many years. He will give an illustrated talk about Badbury Rings and other adjacent archaeological features.



We will meet on 13th May at 7.30pm in the Function Room of The Royal Oak. A small fee of £3 is asked for which contributes towards paying the guest speaker. I suggest if you want to buy drinks at the bar, that you come earlier than 7.30pm.

Hopefully in October we will have the talk about the 'Battle of Britain over Dorset, 1940' which had to be postponed at the end of last year. I will circulate more information nearer the time.

Anyone is welcome, please feel free to join in.

Pam Shults

Food allergies and intolerances

If you have a food allergy or intolerance, it is important that you have the information you need to make safe food choices. There are allergen labelling laws that require food businesses to provide you with information about what is in your food, whether you are eating out or making your own food at home.

In the UK there are 14 legally identified allergens that food businesses should inform you about if they are used as an ingredient in foods. These are: **Cereals containing gluten** such as wheat, **Eggs**, **Fish**, **Milk**, **Celery**, **Crustaceans** such as prawns, **Molluscs** such as oysters, **Mustard**, **Sesame**, **Peanuts**, **Soybean**, **Lupin**, **Tree nuts** such as walnuts and **Sulphites** and **Sulphur Dioxide**

There are lots of ways that businesses can provide allergen information to their customers. They can be emphasised in an ingredients list on the packaging, be listed on menus or signage next to the food, or be given on websites. In some situations, signage may tell you how you can obtain the allergen information verbally, for example, you may be advised to speak to a member of staff who will ensure the information is made available to you.

If you have an allergy or food intolerance it is important that you check the allergen information that is given carefully and if appropriate ask staff about your own particular needs, so you can be sure that the food you buy is safe for you to eat. If you are unsure or you don't feel the person you are speaking to understands your needs, don't be afraid to ask for the manager or someone who may be better able to help you.



If you come across a business who is not meeting allergen information requirements you can report this to Dorset Council Trading Standards by visiting www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or phoning the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133. Your information will be passed to Trading Standards.

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Christianity Distorted

As the Easter Season progresses – it continues until Pentecost, which this year is on 24th May – I have become increasingly disturbed with the way that Christianity is being used as a justification for violence and war.

I was particularly shocked and outraged by the prayer uttered by Pete Hegseth, the US Secretary of War, during Holy Week, in which he asked God that “every round find its mark against the enemies of righteousness,” and that the US task force might perpetrate “overwhelming violence of action against those who deserve no mercy”. He continued: “let justice be executed swiftly and without remorse that evil may be driven back and wicked souls delivered to the eternal damnation prepared for them.”

This is a prayer that calls on God to direct violence with precision and to bring about the destruction of enemies without mercy. I want to say, as clearly and carefully as I can: that this is a profound distortion of the Christian faith.

It presents God as one who blesses our violence, takes sides in our conflicts, and delights in the defeat of those we name as enemies. This is so far from the message of Jesus, who calls us to “love our enemies”, “do good to those who hate you”, “bless those who curse you” and “pray for those who mistreat you”.

Sadly, others often misjudge Christianity because they are engaging with a distorted view of the faith. Alongside this, I read a recent article by Emma Duncan in *The Times*, arguing for the superiority of secularism over religion. She writes: “The high point of the Christian calendar feels like an appropriate moment to celebrate my own religion: the absence of one. Non-belief is looking pretty good in the light of religion’s contribution to war in the Middle East and to intercommunal tensions back home.

“Among the many virtues of secularism is the fact that my co-religionists and I don’t hate anybody for their faith . . . nor do we use our creed as a justification for bombing people . . . nor regard our adversaries as “wicked souls” who should be delivered into “eternal damnation” (Pete Hegseth).”

In response to her, I wanted to say simply: “Nor do I.” The faith by which I live is centred around a Jesus, who on the cross said: “Father, forgive them.” Not “defeat”, “destroy” or “condemn”.

If faith leads us to despise others, we must ask whether it is truly shaped by Christ at all. The Christian tradition, at its best, has never been about enforcing belief or asserting superiority. It is about seeing every human being as made in the image of God, deserving of dignity, compassion, and care. It has inspired the building of hospitals and schools, the abolition of slavery, numerous food banks, community enterprises and countless quiet acts of kindness that never make the headlines.

Of course, the Church – like all human institutions – gets things wrong. Its history is mixed, and sometimes deeply painful. But those failures do not define the heart of the faith; they call us back to it.

If the Christian faith is to mean anything in our world, it will not be because it has won an argument or asserted itself more loudly than others. It will be because it has, in some small but real way, reflected the love of God at its heart.

With best wishes,

Sarah

Notes from St Andrew’s

WE were nearly halfway through Lent when I last wrote, and here we are in the Easter season. Our Mothering Sunday Service, led by Tony, was so well attended that we ran out of service sheets and posies! The service was based around three “Mothers” – Mother Church, Mother Mary, and our own Mothers. Complaine continued to be well

Continued on page 13

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

May

3rd May – Easter 5

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

10th May – Easter 6

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

ASCENSION DAY – THURSDAY 14th May

7.00am	Morning Prayer	Dewlish Churchyard
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Puddletown

17th May – Easter 7

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Worship in Stillness	Milborne
11.00	Parish Communion followed by APCM and bring-and-share lunch	Puddletown
11.00	Family Service	Dewlish

24th May – Pentecost

9.30am	Parish Communion, followed by APCM for Milborne and Dewlish	Milborne
10.00	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	BCP Matins (traditional language)	Puddletown

31st May – Trinity Sunday

11.00am	United Benefice Holy Communion followed by bring-and-share lunch	Warren Hill Farm DT2 7UH
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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
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Looking Ahead to Summer

It has been a wonderfully busy month for our pupils, filled with hands-on learning, real-world experiences, and the excitement of new discoveries across science, geography, and food technology.

Year 5 Dive into British Science Week

Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous Science Deep Dive Day in celebration of British Science Week. One of the absolute highlights was a visit from the *Explorer Dome*, where pupils were immersed in awe-inspiring scientific demonstrations and interactive learning.



We extend our sincere thanks to the St Mary's School Association for generously funding this memorable experience for the children.

Year 6 Experience Science on the Farm

Meanwhile, Year 6 spent a glorious spring day at the farm as part of their topic on *diversity and genetics*. During their visit, they learned about local ecosystems, explored how different species support one another, and even met some exceptionally cute furry residents along the way.



A huge thank you goes to Chrissy Hancock of Wessex Wild Grazing, Tincleton, for hosting our pupils and giving them such a terrific, hands-on learning opportunity.

Year 5 Explore Puddletown Through Fieldwork

Back in the village, Year 5 swapped lab coats for clipboards as they spent a morning conducting geography fieldwork in Puddletown. Pupils completed detailed field sketches, recorded both pedestrian and vehicle volumes, and have since analysed

their data back at school - producing graphs and discussing what their findings might tell us about local transport patterns.



Full English Feasts in Food Technology

When they're not diving deep into science or investigating Puddletown's traffic flows, Year 5 have also been turning up the heat in Food Technology. Every student has now

cooked a full English breakfast, always a much-anticipated moment in the school year. The hallways were filled with delicious aromas - and if staff were lucky, the odd spare sausage!

Appeal for Support – Summer School 2026

Finally, we are appealing to our community for support to help run our annual Summer School for Key Stage 2 pupils during the upcoming summer holiday. This initiative is particularly aimed at supporting disadvantaged children through the long break.



We are immensely grateful for the funding previously provided by Dorset Council; however, this funding is no longer available. To keep this valuable opportunity running, we are now seeking financial support from alternative sources.

If you believe you may be able to help - or know someone who might - please contact the school office. Any contribution, large or small, will make a meaningful difference to our pupils. Thank you. More photos on pages 13 and 23.

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@stmarys.wessex.ac website: www.stmarys.wessex.ac

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Continued from page 11

supported, and it was a joy to welcome people from other parts of the Benefice and beyond. Our final Service was on the evening of Easter Day; although it has been suggested that we meet once a month for Compline. On Good Friday, we kept the "Last Hour" at the Cross, when Tony led the Liturgy of the Day. It was one of those Services when everything came together to make a very moving act of worship. Our singing must have been good, as a person visiting a grave in the Churchyard extension commented after the Service, how well we had sung the hymns!! On Easter Day, we met "Early in the morning", but not while it was still dark. Sarah celebrated our Easter Eucharist in a beautifully decorated Church and preached a stirring sermon. Thanks go to Lin and her team for the beautiful floral decorations, which transformed our Lenten severity into joyful colour. Our thanks are also due to those who helped create our Easter Garden, which has been much admired. Money for Easter Lilies and flowers was collected in memory of loved ones departed. Thank you for your generosity. A list of those commemorated in this way will remain in the Church until Pentecost; they were remembered in prayer at our Easter Service.

Now we look forward to the "Merry month of May", a month dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. As some of us have been known to sing, "O Mary, we crown thee with blossom today, Queen of the Angels, and Queen of the May".

Pentecost/Whitsunday falls on May 24th and coincides with our joint APCM with Dewlish after the 9.30am Eucharist in Milborne. The Spirit's wisdom and guidance are much needed as we seek our way forward. Do come along to that meeting (and the Service preceding) if at all able. We are looking for a Secretary to the P.C.C., as Angela, who has been a very devoted and thorough secretary, has decided to step down. We thank her for her long and dedicated service.

On May 31st, there is a Service at Warren Hill Farm, Puddletown, at 11.00am for the Benefice.

A verse from a hymn written by George Timms, former Archdeacon of Hackney, who died in 1997, reflects on Mary and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

"Sing we, too, the joys of Mary, when she saw the risen Lord,



And, in prayer with Christ's apostles, waited on His promised word:

From on high, the blazing glory of the Spirit's presence came,

Heavenly breath of God's own being, manifest through wind and flame."

Tony (Churchwarden)

Dewlish Church Notes

WE HAD a wonderful congregation for Mothering Sunday - nearly 40 in all. Along with our own churchgoers, we were joined by a lot of visitors. And what a joyful occasion! Jim led the service, posies were distributed, and Sue made some delicious individual simnel cakes. Thank you all!

We were also very pleased with the result of our Spring Sale: we raised £520 for church funds. Again, it was great to see so many people, including our friends from neighbouring villages. Many thanks to all who gave so generously to the stalls, and to those manning them.

The next day, Palm Sunday, we hosted the Benefice Service in the church. Sarah led the service, and this was followed by a wonderful bring-and-share lunch. Super food, ladies! It is so good to get together with our friends from the other churches. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.

Our **Joint AGM** with Milborne Church will take place following the service at Milborne on Sunday 24th May at 9.30am. If you are on the Church Electoral Roll you may vote in the election of officers. We would welcome any input into the way we are running Dewlish Church affairs and, hopefully, keep our church open for the next few years.

Daphne Burg

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Rosie and Katie are halfway there (only 315 miles to go!)

Lizard point to Kennack Sands

A very nice path on this walk but there were quite a few ups and downs and it did get a bit warm at times and we were all glad when it got a bit breezy later on. Lucky for us pups there were a few streams for us to cool our paws in, some of them were a bit muddy but we didn't mind (Dad did though).

We stopped for lunch at a place called Cadgwith where me and Katie got to have a nice paddle in the sea. There were lots of seagulls fighting over scraps of fish for their lunch, me and Katie had a special lunch of roasted butternut squash, yummy. As we were leaving the beach Mum had a nasty trip on the concrete, she couldn't say rude words because there were a few people sitting nearby but I bet she thought them in her head! Fortunately she was ok but her glasses looked a bit wonky after. Then to add insult to injury poor Mum got bitten by horseflies, fancy horses having their own special flies!

Kennack Sands to Coverack

After another roundabout trip on two giant tin boxes on wheels, we finally started where we left off yesterday. Me and Katie made a quick dash for the beach before that spoilsport Dad called us back, he just wanted to get on with the walk. Mum finally managed to snap me rolling on my back in the grass, I was a bit muddy but not too undignified.



Us pups had a great time clambering over the rocks, Dad said we were like mountain goats, I think he meant that as a compliment. We turned a corner and nearly bumped into a big lumbering horse on the path, not sure what he was doing in the middle of nowhere! He started to follow us but Mum had a word with him and he stopped, we'll have to call her the horse whisperer. Today's walk was full of surprises, a bit later a group of huge brown cows appeared out of the mist (lucky it wasn't Gorillas), once again Mum told them to 'shoo' and they did.

The path then turned into a jungle and us pups had trouble fighting our way through the undergrowth, Mum said some rude words when she got stung by nettles and even Dad moaned about getting scratched by brambles. Eventually we made it to Coverack in time for Mum to get her cream tea and Dad had a beer, Mum did save us a tiny bit of her yummy cream.

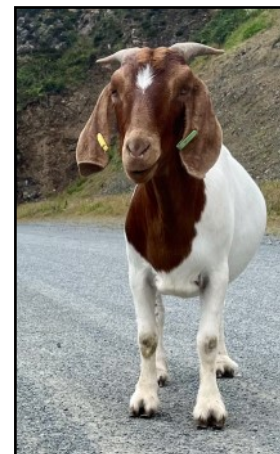
Coverack to St Keverne

Started back in lovely Coverack, bumped in to a nice lady with two Labrador dogs (bound to be a nice lady if she has Labradors) and the Oldies had a long chat! Eventually we got started on the walk, usually it's Dad keen to get started but today it was us pups. It was an easy walk with no big ups or downs so Mum was happy.

We came across a herd of cows right next to the beach, since when did cows become beach bums! They let us all pass without

any nasty business but Dad kept me on the lead just in case I investigated their 'business'! We soon reached the bit where Dad and Katie walked back to fetch the little tin box, no hanging around for giant tin boxes today yippee!

Mum went for a dip in the sea brrrrrr! She tried to get me and Katie to go in with her but no fear, we'll wait till the water warms up a bit. Still she seemed to enjoy it and we had a nice picnic on the beach!



St. Keverne to Porthallow

Just a little stroll today, only 2.8 miles Dad said (although he's not always right at measuring) I was quite pleased as my little paws needed a rest, so did Mum's. We walked around an old quarry and it wasn't the prettiest walk so Mum didn't do much clicking. She soon started clicking when she saw a herd of goats, they looked a bit special with their brown heads and white coats, Mum looked them up and said they were Boers, they never said much but wouldn't call them boring.

After an unexpected up and down we were in Porthallow, nothing much to shout about, a very rocky beach and a few cottages, still Mum and Dad gave us some of their cheese and crackers, which made a change from chews. Then Dad waltzed off without us, Katie cried like a baby, I joined in by howling like a wolf but Mum got cross so I shut up (Katie didn't). Eventually Dad turned up in the little tin box on wheels and we all went back home for a snooze.

Porthallow to Helford

A ride in a posh tin box on wheels today, no buses so Dad splashed out on a taxi, only problem was we had to sit in the boot (me and Katie, not Mum and Dad). Bit of a special day today as we passed the half way marker so only 315 miles to go!

Quite an easy walk today, not too many ups and downs but I got a bit hot in the afternoon, I kept showing mum lots of benches but she just said 'well spotted Rosie' and marched on, didn't she know that I wanted a sit down! The river was next to the path and me and Katie found a way down to the water to cool off, bliss.



Who knew our Dad was famous, he has a place named after him and a church and he is also a saint, had to stop off for him to have his picture taken! Eventually we arrived at our destination, The Shipwrights in

Helford and sat next to a nice family with a dog called Mabel. Poor Mabel was sad because her brother had passed away yesterday but Mum cheered her up with a treat.

Bye for now, love Rosie (and Katie)



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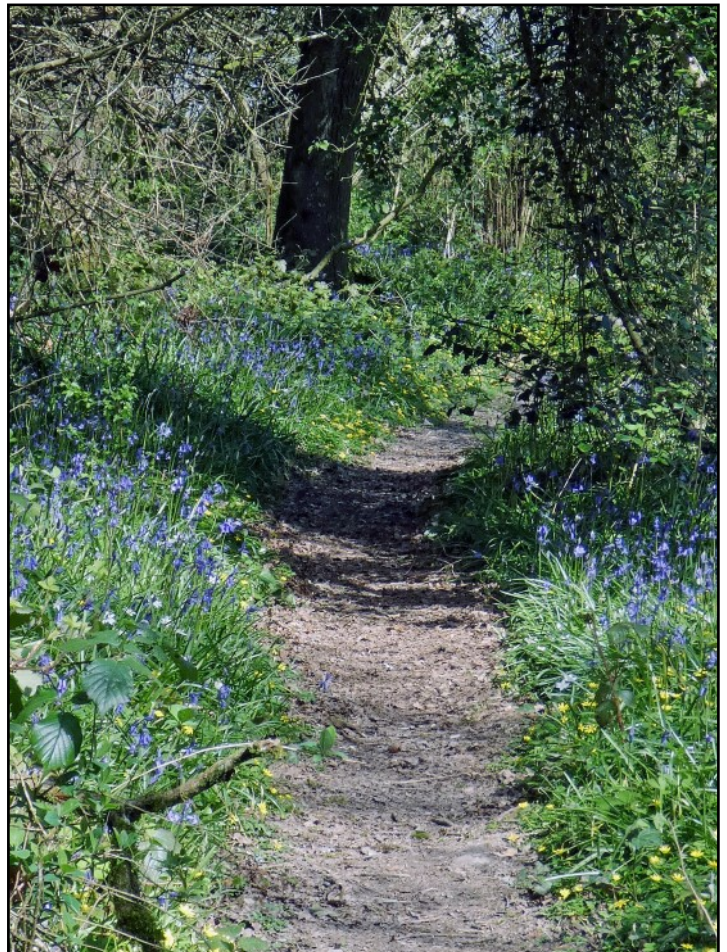


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Take a walk in Milborne wood and see the beautiful bluebells.



LETTERS to the Reporter

Almost every month you probably get a flier through your door, telling you of the film that will be showing in the village hall. This is thanks to a splendid group of people who each deliver to their own road or patch. At the moment there are enough, but sometimes one or more of them can't do it, usually because they are away. Would you be willing to do a round occasionally? It doesn't take very long, and our village is a pleasant one to walk around! If so, please email me saryan6630@gmail.com
Many thanks Sarah Ryan

Dear Editor,
Can I appeal to all people putting or removing notices on poles with staple gun or drawing pins to take extreme care not to drop any staples or pins on to pavement. Having helped Dave to repair TWO punctures on his mobility scooter. The first with drawing pin and on Saturday on way to Community cafe a staple. I wonder if anyone else has experienced a puncture or pin in the sole of the shoe or pets paws.
Kind regards Val Andrews

Dear Editor,
I rent a garage to store my classic car, an MGB. Unfortunately, the door of the garage has broken and I am waiting a repair. Meanwhile, I thought to try some temporary work from inside. This did not work and the door became stuck with me on the inside. I did a fair amount of pushing and shaking to achieve a result but was unsuccessful. Meanwhile four young lads had heard the clatter and saw the door shaking. They were convinced the garage was haunted. But notwithstanding their concern, approached and called to the 'ghost' inside. I replied, and in response they asked if they could help. 'Yes', I said, 'Hold the bottom of the door to maintain a small gap for me to crawl out'. They did this and were clearly relieved that I was a real person. I thanked them, but not enough. This letter is to show that not all youngsters are bad. I thank their parents for having children with a good sense of responsibility to help others. Pip Bowell

Found

The jigsaw piece that was missing from a box sold at the Community Café in February/ March has been found. It has been handed to the editor so if you would like it please contact him.



MSA Gardening Club getting ready for their annual plant sale



THE MSA Gardening Club will not be having their normal meeting in May as we will be hosting our Annual Plant Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th May 2026 between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Do come along and support our sale, all plants will have been grown by members of the Gardening Club. Coffee, tea and cakes will be available to purchase and there will be a tombola along with details of the village Sunflower competition. **Please note that this is a cash only event.**

Jobs for the garden:

- * Plant out dahlia tubers and cannas after all risk of frost has passed
- * Apply liquid feed to tulips, daffodils and other spring bulbs to encourage a good display next year
- * Sow batches of salad leaves and stir-fry crops every few weeks to provide continuous pickings
- * Leave a few weeds such as dandelions to provide food for wildlife. Some species lay eggs on leaves, while others feed on their nectar and pollen

Kim Legg



MUSIC AT ST PETER'S Dorchester

We hope you can join us at St Peter's Church Dorchester this month for the many concerts, choral services and musical events that are taking place!

There is a service of Choral Eucharist on Sunday 10th May at 10.30am featuring Michael Haydn's 'Missa brevis in C', William Harris's 'Holy is the true light' and Groeck's 'Totus tuus'. The service is free to attend and all are warmly invited to stay for refreshments afterwards.

The monthly lunchtime concert is on Saturday 16th May between 12.30pm and 1.00pm, and features clarinettist Natalie Burton and pianist Rob Taylor in a programme of works by Finzi and Copland. Admission is free.

There is a service of Choral Eucharist to mark the feast of Pentecost on Sunday 24th May at 10.30am. The music includes Mozart's 'Missa brevis in F K.192', Grayston Ives's 'Listen sweet dove' and Tallis's 'O Lord give thy Holy Spirit'. The service is free to attend and all are welcome.

Choral Evensong takes place on Saturday 30th May at 4.30pm. The programme of music includes Gibbons's 'Come, Holy Ghost', Martin Neary's 'Preces & Responses', Blair's 'Evening Service in B minor' and Elgar's 'The spirit of the Lord'. The service is free to attend and followed by a glass of wine!

Finally, our latest Summer Music Brochure is now available either to download from www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org or in printed form at the back of the church. Please help yourself to one if you are passing!

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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Hellebore



Primrose

Climate Crisis film screening

AN important film concerning the climate crisis is being screened in the Village Hall in May. The People’s Emergency Briefing, fronted by naturalist Chris Packham, features leading climate scientists, environmental experts, and public figures including Deborah Meaden and Jennifer Saunders.

Climate and nature breakdown will affect every constituency in the country, from health and food systems to infrastructure, security to economic stability. This crisis is more serious and immediate than many understand. There is strong evidence that bold, urgent action will improve lives and livelihoods, but the window of opportunity is narrowing as we delay.

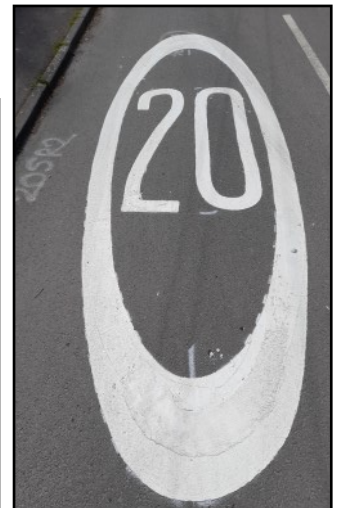
In November 2025, the National Emergency Briefing brought together leading experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people in Westminster. That evidence is now on the public record. The aim of the film is to bring together people in local communities across the UK to hear the evidence and discuss how to respond – ideally together with their MP.

The 50-minute film combines authoritative scientific content from the Westminster event with reactions from members of the public and some more familiar faces – designed to help audiences process the information on a more human level. It delivers the frank facts about the threats, but also the enormous benefits if Government leads genuine emergency action.

Many of those attending the event commented that although the facts are alarming, they felt a sense of optimism about confronting the challenge together and seeing a pathway to a better future.

Please come to the Village Hall on Friday 15th May to watch the film, which will start at 7.30pm

IT’S OFFICIAL !



The south of the village is now a 20 mile per hour zone!



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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.

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

Can you identify where this is in Milborne?



Be the first to send your answer to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to any member of the Reporter team (Reporter team members can be found on page two).

No prize, just a bit of fun.
Answer in the June Reporter.

Public consultation continues into proposed fire station closures

THE ongoing public consultation into the potential closure of eight fire stations by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service will run until Friday 15 May.

The eight locations under consultation are all on-call fire stations: Bradford on Avon, Charmouth, Cranborne, Hamworthy, Maiden Newton, Mere, Ramsbury and Wilton.

Chief Fire Officer Andy Cole said: "Nobody wants to close fire stations but, despite saving over £15 million in the last ten years, our financial position remains very challenging due to a 19.5% cut in funding provided directly from Government. We still need to make sure our operational staff have the equipment and training they need to stay safe, and we've pared back our Corporate staff numbers as much as possible. This isn't Plan A, we've worked through many difficult options before this point."

He added: "The elected Members of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority are responsible for keeping the Service sustainable, and they recognise that tough decisions need to be considered.

"This consultation is therefore essential. We understand that people care about what this means for their community. That is why we want them to tell us what they think, and if there's anything important that we might have missed. No decisions have been made. The final decision will be made by the Fire & Rescue Authority at their meeting on 30th June. We would urge our residents to have their say via our survey or the upcoming online meetings."

In-person meetings have been held already in six of the eight locations, with further dates booked for Charmouth and Maiden Newton in April. There will also be an online meeting for each location during April.

Full details of these, FAQs, station-specific data, the consultation leaflet and the survey can be found at www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures

A paper copy of the survey can be requested by calling 01722 691000 during office hours, or by emailing consultation@dwfire.org.uk

Did you identify this?

The April picture was of
The Hurdles, The Causeway



Nobody sent in the answer
Try your luck this month opposite.
Send your pictures, news and articles to the Reporter at msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Team.
Team members can be found on page two

Sailor Bob's Crossword

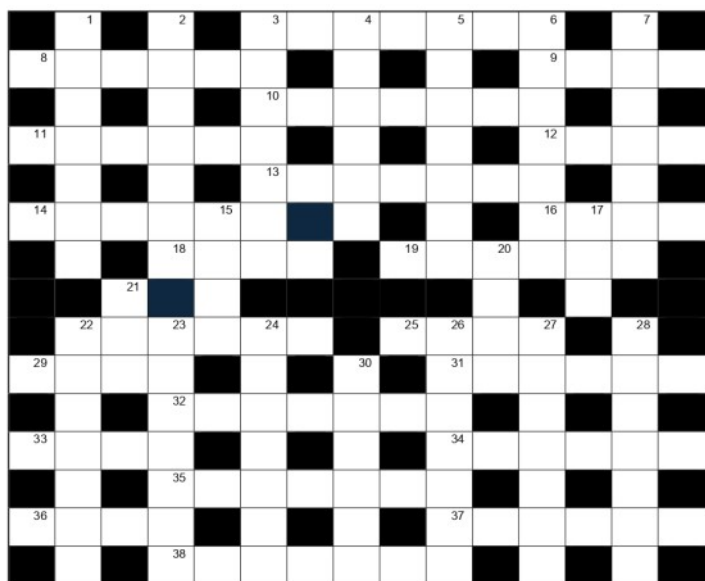
Answers on page 25

Clues Across

- 3 Commonplace
- 8 St Morita Ice Run
- 9 Substance with pH less than 7
- 10 Beaming
- 11 Sodium Bicarbonate
- 12 Religious painting
- 13 Tasty Molluscs
- 14 Posh Cake
- 16 Breaking Waves
- 18 Shortly
- 19 Little Islands
- 22 Beads
- 25 Brick Carriers
- 29 Cheese
- 31 Contest
- 32 Tennis Player, Ilija
- 33 Wooden Shoe
- 34 Hindu Manifestation
- 35 Fasting Holiday
- 36 Peaked Cap
- 37 European Peninsular
- 38 Republic on Northern edge of 37

Clues Down

- 1 Craftsman
- 2 Eludes
- 3 Port
- 4 Woman slain by Perseus
- 5 Reviewer
- 6 Painter: Henri Emile Benoit
- 7 Oriental Robes
- 15 Atmosphere
- 17 ... Mabusu, Dancer
- 20 Outdoor Pool
- 21 Little Bed
- 22 Answers
- 23 Spanish Drink
- 24 American CV
- 26 Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia
- 27 Slandered
- 28 Jakarta pre independence
- 30 Man Goose



Where Is It?

By Jan Beaumont[®]

A lot of my things have gone missing
And its driving me right up the wall
For though I have searched till I'm blue in the face
I just cannot find them at all.

The first thing I lost was my glasses
Which gave me a feeling of dread
When I finally found them I felt such a fool
They were perched right on top of my head!

My balance, it seems, has gone AWOL
And I now find I have to sit down
As I can't put my pants on while I'm standing up
Or you'd find me right there on the ground!

My energy also has left me
I feel like just staying in bed
My get up and go simply got up and went
And so now I do nothing instead.

Flexibility sadly has scarpered
There are things that I scarcely can do
Painting my toenails is now in the past
And unfortunately cutting them too!

My memory seems pretty good but
I often get days and dates wrong
I go for appointments a whole day ahead
Or at times when I just don't belong.

I feel that I'm not a whole person
As I've lost just so many damned things
But I must stop worrying as I have now learned
That sadly it's what aging brings.

So cut me some slack when you see me
For things could be much worse by far
Thank goodness, I've not 'lost my marbles' as well
Although I'm unsure where they are!



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National Lottery backing to protect archives and improve access at Dorset History Centre

Dorset History Centre (DHC) has received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for its 'Past Lives, Future Proofed' project.

Made possible thanks to National Lottery players, this exciting project aims to provide new, expanded secure, environmentally-controlled storage for Dorset's physical archives along with improvements to DHC's public spaces.

In addition, DHC will be able to deliver a major programme of public engagement activity to help make archives accessible to a wide variety of people.

Development funding of £603,777 has been awarded by the Heritage Fund to help Dorset History Centre progress their plans to apply for a full grant of £3.8 million.

Dorset History Centre is home to over 1,000 years of the county's recorded history – unique paper, parchment, photographic and film material relating to people, places and events.

Over 35 years since the building first opened, the climate-conditioned repositories are approaching capacity and this project will address a pressing need as well as funding collections and engagement work including the urgent preservation of digital assets.

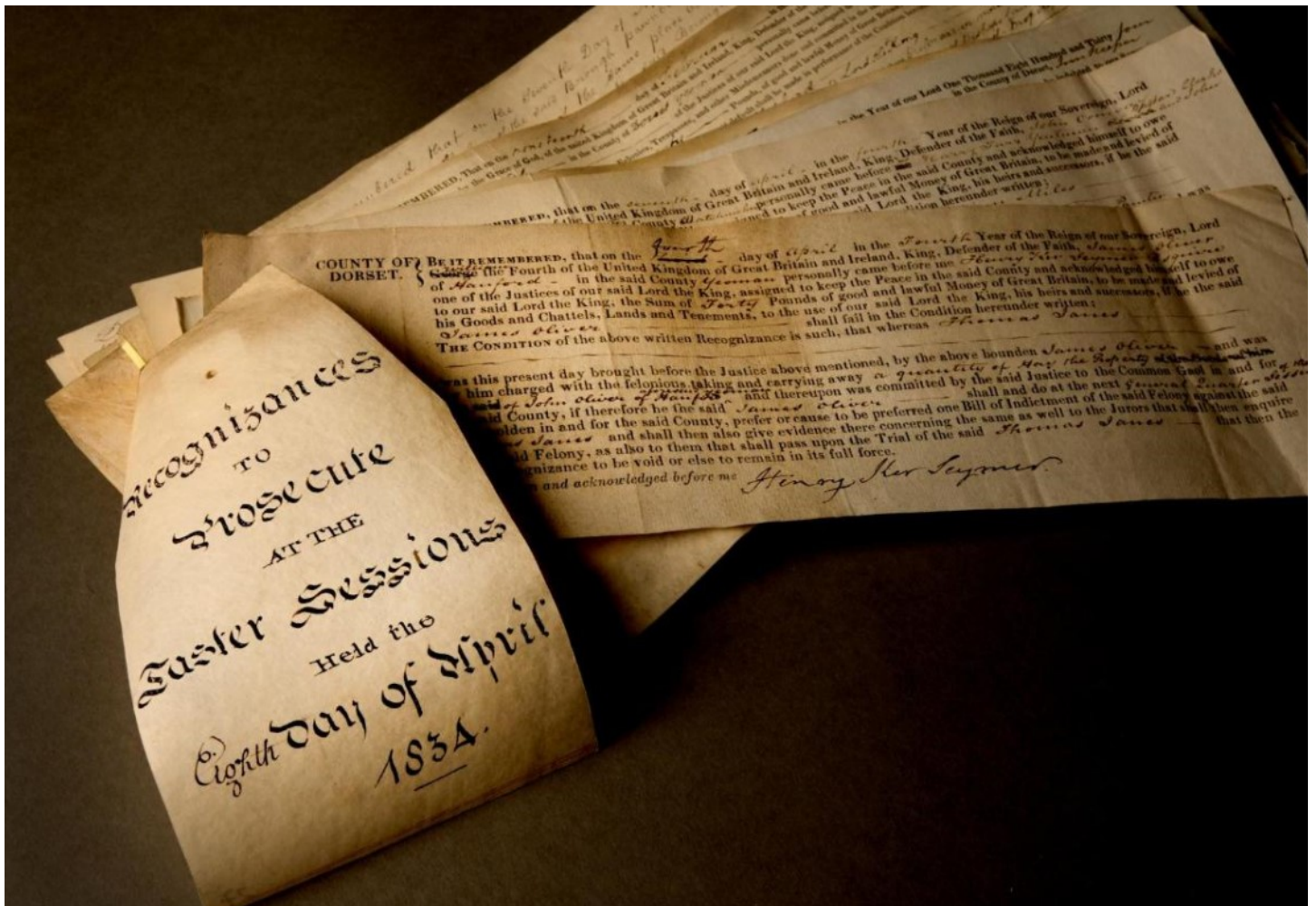
The Heritage Fund support will provide DHC with the capacity and skills it needs to face the next several decades of safeguarding Dorset's cultural heritage.

DHC will work with arts organisations and practitioners to identify archives for preservation as well as under-represented communities whose cultural heritage does not yet form part of the county's archival holdings. The project will also open up access to Dorset's significant Quarter Session court records dating from 1709 working in partnership with museums.

The development phase of the project will last for 18 months. There will be opportunities for the wider public to get involved either as volunteers or in consultation with DHC over its plans to extend and improve the building. Volunteering opportunities will be advertised on our website.

Cllr. Ryan Hope, Dorset Council's Cabinet Member for Customer, Culture and Community Engagement, said: "We are thrilled to have received this initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players we can now develop our plans to enhance our excellent archive service and to ensure the preservation and accessibility of our cultural heritage for future generations."

(Image courtesy of Dorset History Centre)



Deadline for the next issue 14th May

Send your articles to the Reporter by e-mail at msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

Answers to Sailor's Bob's Crossword
From page 21



View the Reporter each month in colour at www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/Reporter/index

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Junior page answers



What is it – a blister pack of tablets



Quiz

- 27ft (8.23m)
- Orange
- Greenland
- A knot
- RNL

Young reporters needed

ARE you a young person in the village? Do you have something to say? We would love to get young people involved in the Reporter. Perhaps you could write about what it is like to live here, what you do with your time, what your ambitions might be. There must a lot of budding writers out there so do please write something and see your name in print.



Deadline for the next issue 14th May

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msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

What's on in May

- Tuesday 5th** **Move it or Lose it** 10.15am Village Hall – see page 5.
- Wednesday 6th** **Wednesday Club AGM** followed by a game of Cornhole Village Hall 2.00pm.
- Wednesday 6th** **Parish Council** meeting Village Hall 7.00pm.
- Friday 8th** **Bridge** The Royal Oak 2.00pm.
- Saturday 9th** **Annual Plant Sale** Village Hall 10.30am to 12.30pm.
- Wednesday 13th** **Village History Group** Martin Papworth will give an illustrated talk about Badbury Rings and other adjacent archaeological features. The Function Room The Royal Oak 7.30pm.
- Thursday 14th** **Deadline** for the June *Reporter*. Send your articles and photographs via email to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk or give to a member of the Team.
- Thursday 14th** **WI** The Health of our Seas Village Hall 7.30pm.
- Friday 15th** **Film People's Emergency Briefing** followed by discussion. Village Hall 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm.
- Friday 22nd** **Bridge** The Royal Oak 2.00pm.
- Sunday 24th** **Joint APCM** with Dewlish after the 9.30am Eucharist in St. Andrew, Church Milborne.
- Thursday 28th** **Pie Night** The Royal Oak.

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.
- Petanque** Thursday 2.00pm weather permitting.
- 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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Have you got a funny story you'd



like to share? Or joke, anecdote

or anything that would make us and

the village chuckle?! The Reporter would love to share

your funnies, so get in touch:



msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk,

[facebook.com/MilborneReporter](https://www.facebook.com/MilborneReporter) or see



one of the team.



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Community Contacts

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

More information about many community organisations can be found on www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

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

Petanque	Penny Pearce	07887 877016
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203

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

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997
Parish Council Dewlish	Clerk: Amanda Crocker	
	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
	milbornestandrew@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	

Dorset Council Services: For matters relating to roads repairs, bins, litter, environmental health, planning, footpaths and parking, www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or call 01305 221000

Flooding: Environment Agency Floodline 03459 881188

Environmental Incident: Environment Agency Hotline 0800 80 70 60
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

South West Highways 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

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		01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Paul Tasker	
Friends of School Chair:	Kelly Gale	
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	Penny Pearce	07887 877016
MSA Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837661
MSA Gardening Club	Dawne Pearson	07950 540235
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793319

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

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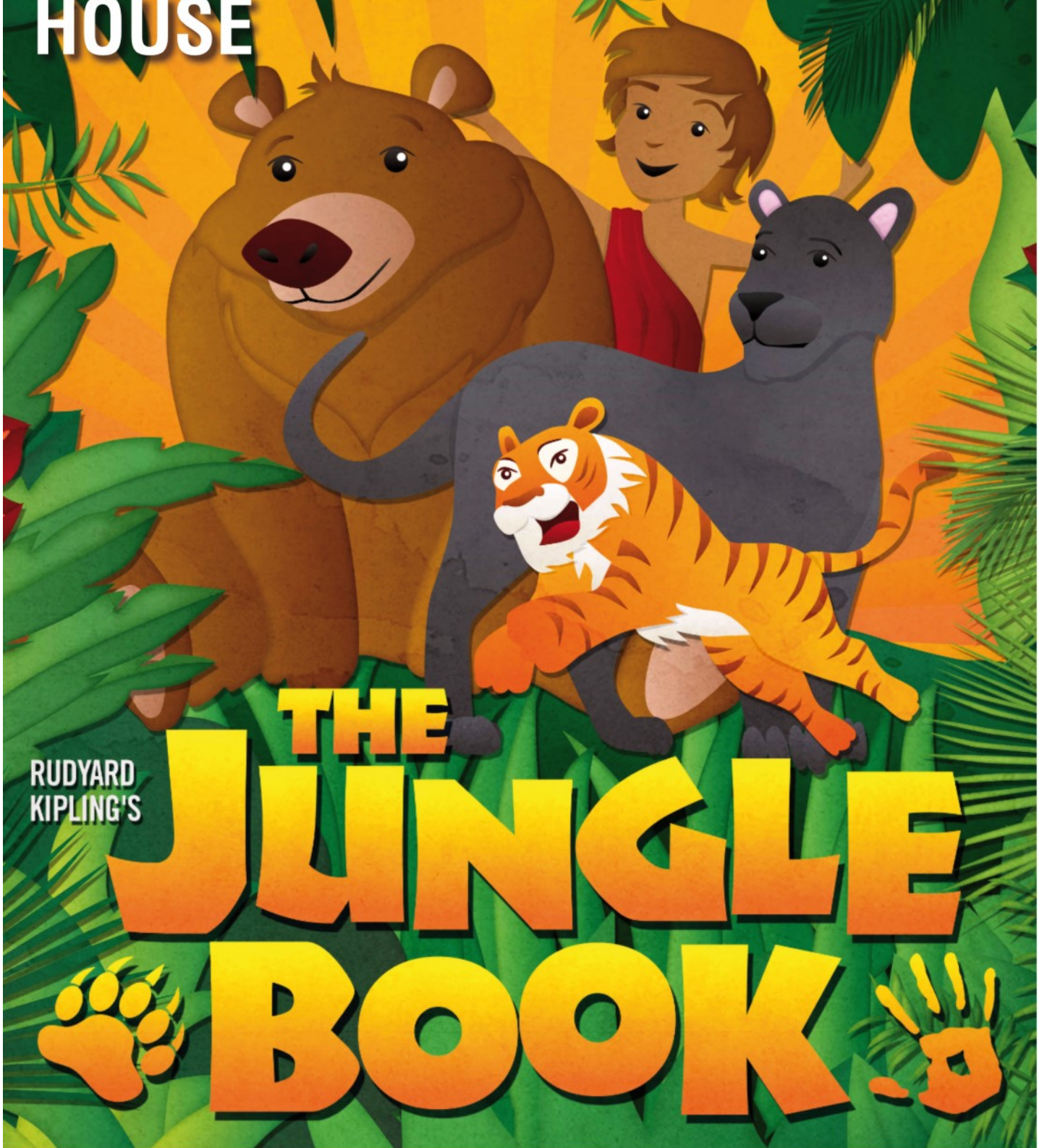
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