



See page 5

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Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 18 Issue 9

October 2026

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Milborne St. Andrew

Winner of the Reporter
photographic competition





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Community events at the Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall, half page or less free of charge, other community events in Milborne St. Andrew at half the above rates for half page or less, all subject to availability.

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

msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

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

Enquiries and copy to: **msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk**

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

Paper copy to any of the team.

Celebrating 111 Years of the WI

On the 16th September The Womens Institute celebrated **111 years** of connection, empowerment, community action and creating positive change.

To celebrate, we were asked to wear purple and green colours of the suffragettes. Many members wore these colours. at our monthly meeting on the 10th September.



The winner of the *Reporter* photographic competition



ENTRIES to the *Reporter* photo competition were thin on the ground, with the lure of a prize of £25 and, possibly the greater reward (!), the chance to see your photo gracing the cover of this magazine not enough to tempt more people to enter. But we thank those that did and commend the quality of the few pictures that our judges had to decide over. In the end, Rob Greening's stunning photo of horizontal lightning over the line of trees on the hilltop at Deverel Farm, with a suitably foreboding, but beautiful, sky.

The children's competition yielded exactly zero entries, which is a disappointing result – clearly the village's under 16's don't need the cash! The adult competition didn't fair that much better, but we do appreciate those that did engage with the photo brief.

The photo (above) shows Rob Greening (right) accepting his prize of £25 from *Reporter* editor, David Payne.

MSA Gardening Club



THE next meeting for the MSA Gardening Club will be Thursday 15th October. We are delighted to welcome Bridget Kitley who will be giving the group a talk and live demonstration on the art of propagating plants successfully. Attendees are requested to bring an 8-inch diameter pot filled with potting compost for hands-on practice. A great opportunity to learn, try and ask questions. All members and visitors are very welcome. £2 for visitors – refreshments included.

Jobs for the garden:

- Plant daffodils, crocuses, and hyacinths in borders or lawns
- Clear up fallen rose leaves to prevent diseases such as black spot from over-wintering. To avoid the spread of damaging fungi, don't compost the leaves
- Keep fallen apples and pears on the lawn or borders to provide a vital sugar feast for late butterflies, blackbirds, and thrushes
- Plant hardy vegetables like garlic, broad beans and spring cabbage.

Kim Legg





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Milborne's Miss Dorset heads for GB final

CATHERINE SPENCER from The Rings, Milborne St. Andrew, won the prestigious Miss Dorset competition and will go on to compete in Miss Great Britain in October.



A professional dance graduate, she was crowned the winner of the Miss Dorset 2026 beauty pageant on Sunday 31st May at The Village Hotel, Bournemouth.

Catherine narrowly missed out on winning in 2025, coming in second place, but was the winner of Miss Photogenic. The 29-year-old returned to the competition this year and impressed the judges to take home the title.

As a dance graduate, Catherine has spent years helping women build confidence through movement, encouraging them to feel strong, empowered and comfortable in their own skin. Away from the studio and her career as a sales representative for a local company in Ferndown, she's also no stranger to a challenge – she

quite literally took a leap of faith by completing a skydive in support of A-Sisterhood, raising awareness for the charity's work empowering women and girls around the world.

Catherine said: "Last year gave me a taste of what this competition could offer, and I knew I wanted to come back.

"To win Miss Dorset this year is an incredible feeling. I've met some amazing women through the competition and I'm excited to make the most of the year ahead."

With the crown now secured, Catherine is looking forward to working with local organisations, supporting charitable causes, continuing her work supporting women's confidence and wellbeing, and making the most of every opportunity the title brings.

Catherine will now go on to represent Dorset at the 81st Miss Great Britain Final, taking place in Leicester in October, where finalists from across the UK will compete for one of the country's most prestigious pageant titles.



Charity Auction in aid of Changing Strides Equine Therapies

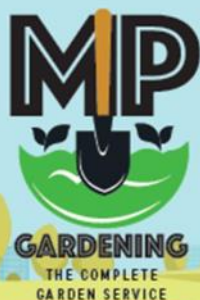
CHANGING STRIDES EQUINE THERAPIES is a new local charity aiming to provide therapeutic alternative provision for children and young people who do not thrive in mainstream education or who are socially excluded or have special educational needs. All charity provision will be provided at Luccombe Riding Centre, a BHS approved centre, and delivered by an experienced team of employees and volunteers.

We are holding an Auction on Saturday 10th October at Milborne Village Hall (details on the advertisement on page 18) and would be extremely grateful for your support either in offering an item or service we could auction and/or coming along to the auction to help us fundraise. For further information or tickets for the auction contact Sue Hodder on 07739 469946 or suehodder01@talktalk.net.

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MUSIC AT ST PETER'S Dorchester

WE HOPE that you can join us at St Peter's Church Dorchester for the fantastic range of choral services, concerts and musical events on offer during October!

There is a cathedral-style service of Choral Eucharist on Sunday 4th October at 10.30am, which includes Mozart's 'Missa Brevis in G K.140' as well as music by Grieg and Philip Stopford. The service is free to attend and all are very welcome.

There is Choral Evensong on Saturday 10th October at 4.30pm, which includes Stanford's 'Beati quorum via', the Burton 'Preces & Responses', Brewer's 'Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in D' and Elgar's rousing anthem 'Great is the Lord'. The service is free to attend and is followed by a glass of wine.

In a change to the published programme, renowned organist David Davies is the soloist in the lunchtime concert on Saturday 17th October between 12.30pm and 1.00pm. David trained as an organist, pianist and conductor at Eton College; Magdalen College, Oxford (where he was organ



scholar); and the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University. He has held church and cathedral organist positions both in the UK and the USA, most recently as Assistant Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral, so it promises to be a wonderful occasion. Admission is free.

There is another service of Choral Eucharist on Sunday October 18th at 10.30am with music by Parry, Palestrina and the contemporary Norwegian composer Ole Gjeilo. The service is free to attend. A second service of

Choral Evensong is also on offer on Saturday 24th October at 4.30pm, with music by Biebl, Chilcott, Reading and Dyson followed by a glass of wine.

There is a weekend of music to mark the feasts of All Souls and All Saints, beginning with our annual musical meditation for All Souls – 'Flights of Angels' – on Friday 31st October at 5.00pm. The programme of music, which includes Tavener's 'Song for Athene', Vaughan Williams's 'The Lark Ascending' (performed by solo violinist with organ) and Morten Lauridsen's 'Lux aeterna', is framed with words from scripture and poetry. The service is free to attend and all are welcome. In contrast, Choral Eucharist on Sunday 1st November at 10.30am has a celebratory mood with Bob Chilcott's 'Little Jazz Mass' (accompanied by a small jazz ensemble) featuring as the setting. This service is also free to attend.

Finally, tickets are now on sale for two more exciting concerts: Bach by Candlelight (a performance of the Goldberg Variations by Royal College of Music harpsichord scholar Markus Sadler on Friday 13th November at 7.00pm) and Handel's Messiah (performed by the singers and instrumentalists of Music at St Peter's on Saturday 12th December at 5.30pm). Tickets for both performances are £15 and can be booked online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-peters-church-dorchester

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

Your cancellation rights

IF YOU arrange for a business to do some work for you then you may be legally entitled to a 14 day cooling-off period which must be given to you in writing. This includes services such as gardening, roofing, home improvements, and many more.

You have this legal right to cancel and get a full refund if you agreed for this work away from the trader's premises, so for example you agreed for the work to be carried out when you were in your home, or garden, or on the street.

You don't automatically get a cooling-off period if you have something specially made, for example made to measure curtains or windows, or if you invite the business into your home for urgent repairs, such as immediately mending a burst pipe.

Your cooling-off period begins the day after you agree to have the work done. The business must give you details of how to cancel in writing. If they don't provide these then your cooling-off period is extended by 14 days from the date you do receive them in writing.

The trader may provide you with the written cancellation notice and then ask you to agree to them starting the work before the 14 days cancellation period is up. If you decide to sign to agree this then you'll have to pay a part of the agreed price if you later wanted to cancel. The amount you pay will depend on how much was already completed.

If the business began the work during the 14 day cooling-off period without your signed approval, you then have the right to cancel and get a full refund of all costs.

If this has affected you then you can speak with an advisor, access suggested letter templates, and



report to Trading Standards by visiting the Citizens Advice consumer helpline at citizensadvice.org.uk/ consumer or phoning 0808 2231133.

Rain stopped play at Wednesday Club

OUR September meeting was supposed to be a demonstration by Penny Pearce on how to play Pétanque on the court on the Village Hall field. Unfortunately the longed for rain decided to come on that day so our meeting was held in the Hall instead. Penny talked about the game and how it is played which was very interesting. Some members then played Cornhole (another throwing game) while others played cards, dominos, Rummikub and Boggle. All very enjoyable and of course a chat and a cuppa. Next month we will be having a talk from Julia's House. New Members are always welcome, First Wednesday of the month, Village Hall 2.00pm.

Lin Chatfield

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More* Than a Movie October Film Night

Friday 16th October at 7.30pm
Milborne St Andrew Village Hall
Doors and bar open at 7.00pm
£6.50 – cash or card

Our October *More* Than a Movie* brings *Is This Thing On?* to the Village Hall – a warm, funny and surprisingly poignant comedy-drama starring **Will Arnett and Laura Dern**, and directed by Bradley Cooper.

And there's a great story behind the story . . .

The film is **loosely inspired by the real-life journey of British comedian John Bishop**, who made the remarkable leap from an ordinary working life to stand-up comedy in his 30s.

In the film, Will Arnett plays Alex, a man whose marriage is falling apart and who finds himself facing middle age, divorce and the question of what he actually wants from the rest of his life. Looking for a new direction, he wanders into the world of New York stand-up comedy – and discovers an unexpected talent and a completely new side to himself.

Meanwhile, his wife Tess, played by Laura Dern, is dealing with her own frustrations and the sacrifices she has made for their family. As the two try to navigate separation, co-parenting and changing identities, the film asks whether love and commitment can sometimes take a different form.

The real John Bishop story has some striking similarities. In his 30s and facing the end of his marriage, Bishop famously put his name down for an open-mic night – initially, rather more interested in getting into the comedy club without paying the entrance fee! That chance decision ultimately changed his life.

So, if you've ever wondered "What if I started again?", this could be the film for you.

And remember, *More Than a Movie really is more than a movie!** For just **£6.50**, you get the film on the big screen **plus your choice of an ice cream or a drink**. There'll be a bar before the film and during the interval too.

Come along, bring a friend, grab a drink (and perhaps an ice cream!) and enjoy a great film right here in the village.

A FRESH NEW LOOK FOR THE VILLAGE HALL GROUNDS

IF you've walked past Milborne St Andrew Village Hall over the summer you may have noticed something rather exciting has been happening outside. Over the past weeks we have been working hard to transform the top field, clearing away years of brambles weeds and overgrown vegetation. The old bike track that had disappeared, has been cleared (including the removal of 117 tyres!) and a new track installed (see poster for the 4th October).

The difference is incredible with the area now opened up into a much more attractive and usable space for everyone in the community. Now parents can keep an eye on their children wherever they are playing. The installation of a couple of benches gives a wonderful view.



There is still plenty more to come. We will be fundraising for additional play equipment aimed at older children. Our vision is to create an outdoor space that offers something for everyone – a place where families can play, meet friends enjoy community events or simply spend time in the outdoors.

We hope that you will enjoy this fantastic place as much as we do. We would also like to ask everyone to help us keep it looking its best by taking litter home, treating the area with respect and ensuring it remains a safe, welcoming and enjoyable place for everyone. Watch this place for further updates – we are excited to see how the area continues to develop .

Linsey O'Neill (Chair Village Hall)

Did you identify this?



The August/September picture was taken in the Drawn leading from Chapel Street to The Causeway.

Nobody sent in the correct answer.



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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Farewell

The Vicar leaves, so, what happens now?

The Church of England is known for doing things its own way! This means that, unlike most organisations, there is a gap before any appointment process for a new incumbent takes place. As an example, in the parishes I am going to, the last service taken by the previous Rector was in October last year; my licensing service, when I officially begin my new role, is on Tuesday 3rd November, so they will have been almost exactly a year without a Rector. There may also be some rearrangement of the benefices in the local area, so there is no guarantee that the present grouping will remain as it currently is.

This may be an unsettling time for everyone, but it doesn't mean that the churches shut up shop and stop functioning. Sunday worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals, community activities, work in our schools and so on will continue. There may sometimes have to be changes in the rota of services because of the availability of visiting clergy, but there will still be services in the benefice every Sunday. If transport is a problem when there isn't a service in your own village, then do please talk to the churchwardens.

The wardens will be key people during the vacancy, and usually the first point of contact for anyone seeking pastoral care, information, weddings, baptisms, home communions, visits and so on. They will be supported by our Licensed Lay Minister, Margaret Rickard, who lives in Puddletown, and Emma Hughes, our benefice administrator. You will find all the necessary contact details elsewhere in this publication.

Anyone who would like to make a pilgrimage to Ledbury for my licensing service there will be warmly welcomed there – it's on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.00pm.

As I mentioned last month, everyone is welcome to come to my farewell service on Sunday 11th October (11.00am. in Puddletown church) and party (12.30pm in Puddletown Village Hall).

And so, after fifteen years and rather a lot of magazine letters, this is my last one. Thank you for reading them and for your feedback on what I have written, for your friendship over the years, and for all the conversations and encounters along the way.

There is only one way now to sign off – in the words of a well known musical: *So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, Good bye.*

May God bless you all

Sarah

News and Notices from St Andrew's

SINCE I last wrote, we have had a very warm summer. After the heat of the past weeks, it is refreshing to take the dogs for a walk on these cooler mornings and evenings, although it soon gets dark now. There's a distinct feeling of autumn in the air as the seasons change, as they have done for aeons. We are reminded of the promise to be found in Genesis: *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."*

We have had two lovely Baptisms; one during the Parish Eucharist, the other on a sunny Sunday afternoon. As the latter was probably Sarah's last in Milborne before she leaves, it was interesting to note it was her 25th such Service here. But the Font has witnessed Baptisms since c1150, reminding us that Priests and people come and go, but the Faith endures. On another Sunday, we welcomed Michael and Janine Adcock, who were visiting from Northern Ireland, along with their son and granddaughter. Michael and Janine were married in Milborne Church in September 1986. Janine wrote, "The Service, and the welcome, were everything we hoped for – and more." Sarah included a special prayer for the couple during the Service.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving will be at 9.30am on Sunday, October 4th, and Tony will lead it. Gifts of produce, and items such as dried or canned food and toiletries are

Continued on page 13

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

October

4th October – Harvest Festival/Trinity 18

9.30am	Parish Communion	Tolpuddle
9.30	Harvest Festival	Milborne
11.00	Harvest Festival	Puddletown
	<i>followed by bring-and-share lunch</i>	
6.00pm	Harvest Festival	Dewlish

Thursday 8th October

2.00pm	Puddletown First School	Puddletown
	Harvest Festival	

11th October – Trinity 19

11.00am	Sarah's Farewell Service	Puddletown
	with Holy Communion	
	<i>followed by a party in the Village Hall</i>	

18th October – St Luke

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

26th October – Bible Sunday

9.30am	tbc	Milborne
10.00	Go Fourth	Tolpuddle
11.00	tbc	Dewlish
11.00	BCP Matins	Puddletown
	<i>(traditional language)</i>	

DAILY MORNING PRAYERS

Monday – Thursday. 8.30am; Saturday. 9.00am
On Zoom, please contact Margaret Rickard at
margaretmary227@gmail.com for the link.

Church Contacts

Margaret Rickard
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Churchwardens

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Tony Fox 07368 145584

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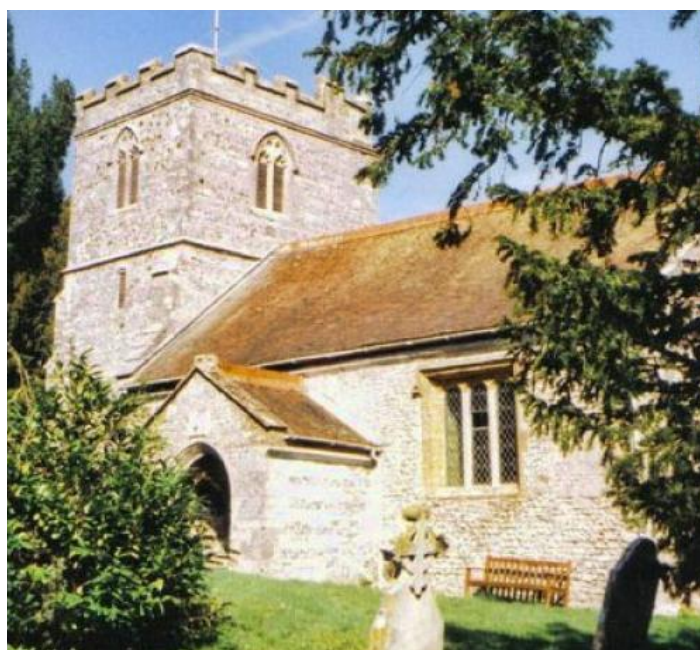
Continued from page 11

welcome. We will take the latter to “Nourish”, the Blandford Foodbank. Do come along and join in singing the lovely Harvest hymns. Refreshments follow the Service.

Sarah’s last Service in the Benefice is on October 11th, in Puddletown, at 11.00am. We invite as many as possible to join in giving thanks for her ministry in the Benefice during the past fifteen years. There will be a party in Puddletown Village Hall from 12.30pm onwards. You are invited to the party, even if you have been unable to attend the Service. We recall words of Dag Hammarskjöld, “For all that has been, ‘Thanks’; for all that is to come, ‘Yes!’” We pray for Sarah (and Theo) as they move to pastures new

We have undertaken work to bring our electrical systems up to standard, and we hope to have more efficient heating by winter. The handrail from the gate to the porch is being conserved and repainted (Silver, to make it more visible). The Noticeboard at the bottom of church Hill has been repaired, too. We are grateful to Dan, Richard and Ed, respectively.

Looking ahead, and since the first Sunday in November is the



1st, notice is given of Services that day. In the morning at 9.30am, Tony will lead a Service for All Saints’ Day. In the afternoon, at 3.00pm, we will hold our annual All Souls’ Service, when we give thanks for those family and friends whom we have loved and lost over the years. If you would like names of loved ones read out, please give them to Tony by the last week of October. Come along and light a candle in remembrance of someone you love. Tea, coffee and cake will be served after the Service. Margaret Rickard, our Lay Reader, will conduct the Service.

Words from a favourite hymn of many remind us not only of the changing seasons, but also of God’s changelessness as we enter a new chapter in the life of our Church, and as we say “Goodbye” (God be with you) to Sarah.

“Summer and Winter, and Springtime and Harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness . . . morning by morning new mercies I see,

All I have needed Thy hand has provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Tony (Churchwarden)

Dewlish Church Notes

OUR Pop-up Market Stall and tea and cakes event was a great success. It was amazing that we had such a wonderful array of fruit, vegetables, flowers, jams and chutney all donated to our stall. Many thanks to all our contributors. Our “kitchen staff” were also kept really busy serving the super cakes, teas, etc. Thank you, then, to all our helpers, and to all those who donated the delicious cakes which were very much enjoyed. It was such a great all-round effort by everyone to support our church. In the end we raised the fantastic amount of £342 – such a great help, especially as we have just had to pay £2,272.14 for the church insurance!

Please do come to our **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 4th October at 6.00pm. We again welcome donations of produce, in thanksgiving for our garden crops which have suffered so much during the very hot, dry summer. The following evening (Monday 5th October) we shall be holding our Annual **Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce** in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm. A donation from this event will be sent to WaterAid. Can you please reserve your seats (ring 01258 721514) for the supper by 29th September as numbers are needed for catering. The cost per person remains at £9.00.

Everyone is invited to **Sarah’s leaving service** on Sunday 11th October at Puddletown Church at 11.00am. This will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. All good luck, Sarah, in your new church position in Ledbury on the borders of Hereford/Worcestershire.

Daphne Burg

- MILBORNE ST ANDREW -
★ **VILLAGE HALL** ★
BIKE DAY
★ **FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!** ★

11:00AM START
SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER | **MILBORNE VILLAGE**

NEW BIKE TRACK
Come and try our brand-new bike track, constructed especially for the park!
Suitable for ages 7+.

BIKE REPAIRS
Bike repairs available – donations are welcome.

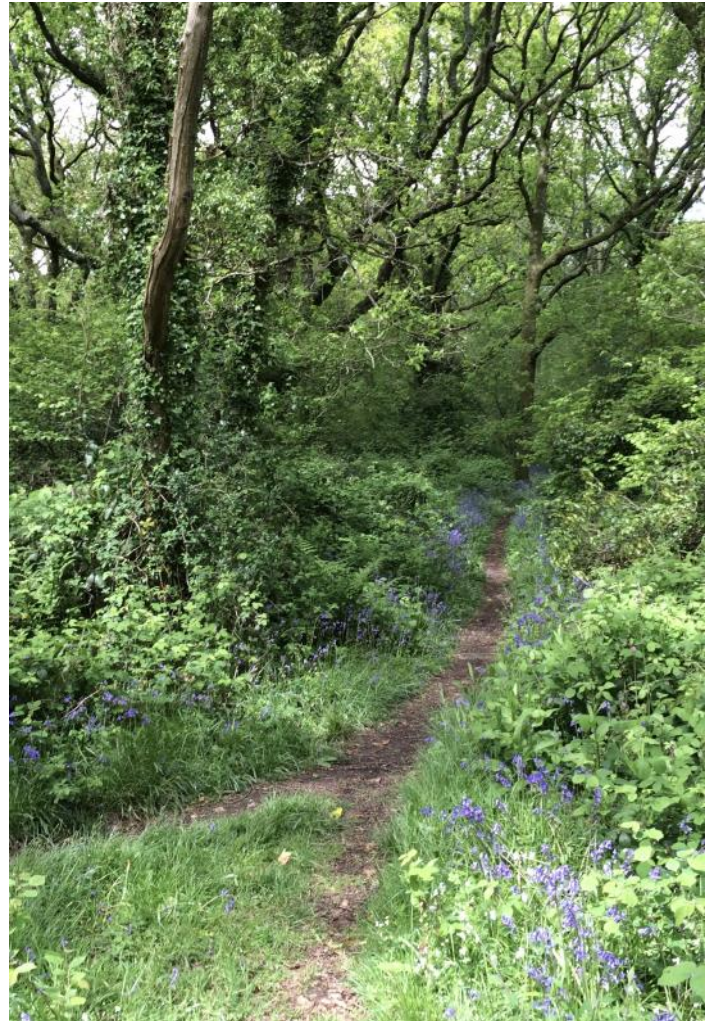
FUNDRAISING
We're aiming to raise **£500** for the charity to purchase additional equipment and create a shelter with water-harvesting facilities.

FAMILY RIDES ★ **GAMES** ★ **REFRESHMENTS** ★ **RAFFLE**

Bring your bike and enjoy the day!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MILBORNE ST ANDREW VILLAGE HALL
★ **- HELPING TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES** ★

Runners-up in the photographic competition



DWP Impersonation Scams

THE DWP have started to increase checks of pension credit claimants. This means some pension credit claimants will be asked to provide more information about their capital and income. This might include submitting bank statements and other information. The DWP confirmed that being selected for review does not mean that the claimant has done anything wrong and that they will treat claimants sensitively throughout the process.



Due to the risk of scammers who seek to defraud claimants by pretending to be the DWP, affected claimants should check that requests for information are actually coming from DWP before handing over sensitive information. Affected claimants should contact the DWP directly to ensure that requests are coming from the Pension Service.

Claimants should call the Pension Service directly on 0800 731 0469 and not on any telephone numbers, text messages or email address provided by potential fraudsters.

Subscription scams

Rogue advertisers are camouflaging their content on popular websites. There might be a prompt saying 'click to continue', which is a disguised advert. It's designed to blend into the website's normal content. The prompt can take people to requests to give card details. This might result in people accidentally signing up to a subscription.

Which? advises people who have been scammed to contact their card provider to stop any future payments. If the subscription company won't refund, people can ask for help from their bank.

You can read about adverts leading to 'scamscriptions' on Which? website.



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

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



Our School Values

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

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

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

Milborne St Andrew First School

School News

We are pleased to welcome all of the children for a new and exciting school year ahead. Everybody is starting to settle into their new classes and new routines with growing confidence. It has been lovely to see many different examples of teamwork at playtimes and during lessons they have shown. In lessons they have been supporting each other and having a go at new learning. It has been lovely to witness the children sharing and showing kindness to each other.

We have just had a wonderful visit from the Coram SCARF team. The children learnt about acceptance, about themselves, and emotional regulation.

We are focusing on the virtue of 'Unity' this half term and the children are thinking about how they can work together and help each other. They are learning about the importance of showing each other respect. In assemblies, we have been talking about how we can be 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. We have been exploring how unity and teamwork are important within a school. The children have been learning a song called 'Together' which they have been singing well in assembly.

We held 'Meet the Teacher' Meetings and it was lovely to share the topics, expectations and information for the year ahead. A new after school activities programme has begun and the children have taken up a broad range of activities on offer. We have seen sports stars in the making,

sewing stars, children who have written their first musical notes, children who have composed tunes on glockenspiels and children who have been having fun outdoors.

We are ever so pleased to share the news that our New EYFS base is completed and working well. The children are enjoying learning through play in the different zones. The lovely openness and size of the new room gives the team lots of possibilities and space to do some exciting activities with the children and lots of flexibility. Lots of people have had a 'wow' moment when they have come in to see the redesigned and newly decorated room.

Following this, we would like the opportunity to share this with anyone looking for a Reception or Pre-School place. You will be made most welcome at 9.00am on Wednesday 30th September, if you are able to attend.



CONTACTS

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

Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo Amy Belcher.

School receptionist: Christine Potter

Chair of Governors: Paul Tasker

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

website: www.milborne.dorset.sch.uk

Tel: (01258) 837362

Seasonal Autumn Food

AFTER the astonishingly sunny, hot and dry summer we have been blessed with, it was such a relief when we experienced the first cooler, rainy day. It reminded me of the time when I lived in Cyprus and soon tired of the inevitability of constant heat and sunshine.

The normal British climate suits me much better, but after a summer of salads and barbecues it's good to get back to cooking proper autumnal food. When the rain is streaming down the windowpanes and a cold wind is howling down the chimney, to my mind there is no better place than my nice warm kitchen with something delicious simmering away on the hob.



Among the seasonal foods available now are blackberries, apples, pears, plums, damsons and figs. Hazelnuts and walnuts usually arrive towards the end of September.

I'm very fond of all game. Venison is available at this time of year and, although the pheasant season begins in October, frozen pheasant breasts are available all year round. Two good sources of game are *Dorset Wild Venison* based in Troytown and *Mato's Butchers* in Blandford. There are numerous online sources too, the *Wild Meat Company* will supply a mixture of venison, pheasant, partridge, wood pigeon and wild boar, which is ideal for this month's recipe of game pie.

There are quite a few good reasons to eat game, particularly if you enjoy traditional British food.

Why eat game?

- **It is genuinely seasonal.** Game naturally fits the British autumn and winter table – venison, rabbit, wild duck and, when in season, pheasant and partridge.
- **It is usually very lean.** Venison in particular is naturally low in fat while being rich in protein, iron and other nutrients.
- **It can be locally sourced.** In Dorset, game may have travelled only a relatively short distance from the countryside around you, especially when bought from a local butcher or game dealer.
- **It makes use of a natural resource.** Much British deer management is necessary to control populations and protect woodland and crops. Eating the meat means the animal is not simply culled and discarded.
- **It has a distinctive flavour.** Venison has a deeper, more interesting flavour than ordinary beef, while pheasant and partridge have a delicate gamey taste.
- **It suits traditional cooking beautifully.** Game is particularly good in **pies, casseroles, stews and terrines**, with autumn

ingredients such as mushrooms, blackberries, apples, damsons and red wine.

- **It can be a very special meal.** A well-made game pie or venison casserole feels rather more interesting and celebratory than an everyday roast.

Some years ago, I was given a cookery book entitled 'Cook Now, Eat Later' and it is such a useful resource. I like to be prepared for when my family visit, often with little or no notice, so I try to keep a stock of ready-made food in the freezer. I always have a large casserole, a dozen Yorkshire puddings, a fruit pie or crumble and a selection of homemade nibbles ready for those last-minute situations. Also, I find that as I get older, I get tired more quickly and can no longer cook all day long and then be the "hostess with the mostest" in the evening.

So, this month's recipe is for a cook-ahead game pie. It staggers the workload so that it's not too tiring to do all in one go. Just one word of warning, when reheating anything make absolutely certain that it has reached a bubbling boil before serving. Better still, use a thermometer probe to make sure your food is completely safe.

The quantity in the recipe is for a pie to serve 12. Of course, you can halve it but it freezes well, I dish up any leftovers into individual portions which are so useful – just make sure they are labelled!

Game Pie – serves 12

Ingredients

- 2.5 kg diced mixed game
- 350g diced smoked bacon



3 tbs Bisto original or cornflour
 3 tbs oil
 3 large sliced onions
 3 large chopped carrots
 3 chopped celery sticks
 4 crushed garlic cloves
 2 tbs tomato puree
 500ml red wine
 500ml beef or game stock
 2 tbs Worcester sauce
 2 bay leaves
 4 sprigs of thyme
 6 crushed juniper berries
 2 tbs redcurrant jelly
 Salt and pepper
 2 x bouquet garni

Pastry

500g plain flour
 150g butter
 150g lard
 2 tsp salt
 100ml cold water
 1 beaten egg for glazing

Method

Brown the meat and bacon in the oil in batches in a heavy based casserole then set aside.

Add onions, carrots and celery to the casserole and cook for 10 mins.

Add garlic and tomato puree and cook for a further minute.

Add red wine, stock, Worcester sauce, bay leaves, thyme, juniper berries and bouquet Garni. (I tie a piece of string to the bouquet garni to make it easier to locate and remove at the end of cooking)

Bring to the boil then simmer on the hob for about two hours until tender. It's important to check for tenderness, some meat cooks more quickly, some needs a bit longer. When tender, cool quickly and then freeze until ready to assemble the pie.

Make the pastry by blitzing the fats, flour and salt in a food processor then add the water and pulse until it forms a ball.

Chill for half an hour then roll out.

Draw a line round your inverted empty pie dish on a sheet of non-stick paper.

Put the paper on a baking sheet then roll out the pastry and cut to fit the shape.

Decorate and brush with beaten egg before baking.

When golden brown, cool the pastry, wrap and freeze until ready to serve the pie.

To finish the pie

Reheat the defrosted meat in a pan and add approximately three tablespoons Bisto original or cornflour mixed to a paste with some of the meat liquid. Cook for 5 minutes and then strain the meat mixture through a sieve so that you have some gravy to serve with the pie.

Put the thickened meat mixture in the pie dish, cover tightly with foil and put in the oven until boiling.

10 minutes before serving put the defrosted pastry on top of the pie and heat the whole pie in the oven.



I like to serve this pie with fresh vegetables and dauphinoise potatoes cooked the day before and reheated in the oven at the same time as the pie.

I've chosen this autumn themed poem to finish with. I had to learn it by heart during a detention at school and I can still remember it 60 years later. Everyone recognises the first couple of lines, I like its message that *all life changes and passes, so don't mourn what has gone. Appreciate the beauty of what is here now.*

Ode to Autumn – John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
 To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,
 Until they think warm days will never cease,
 For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
 Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
 Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
 Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
 S pares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
 And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
 Steady thy laden head across a brook;
 Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
 Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too, -
 While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
 Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
 Among the river shallows, borne aloft
 Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
 And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
 The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
 And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Rose Frost





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LAURA DERN

IS THIS THING ON?



**FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER AT 7.30PM
DOORS AND BAR AT 7.00PM**

MILBORNE ST ANDREW VILLAGE HALL DT11 0JX

In aid of Milborne First School

MILBORNE FAMILY FIREWORKS NIGHT 2026

7TH NOVEMBER

Gates open 6pm | Firework display at 7.30pm

At Milborne Sports Pavilion

Tickets £2/£4 • Under 2's free

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Please Help Us **MAKE A
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On **SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER**, we are holding an **AUCTION EVENING** to raise invaluable funds for **Changing Strides**, our new therapeutic alternative provision opening this September at **Luccombe Riding Centre**.



Building Brighter Futures



**MILBORNE ST ANDREW
VILLAGE HALL**



**GATES OPEN
18.30**



**AUCTION
STARTS
19.30**



**AMAZING FOOD
INCLUDED
IN TICKET PRICE**



**BAR
AVAILABLE**

**TICKETS
£20**

**TO INCLUDE
AMAZING FOOD**

As a registered charity (Charity No. 1216433), our aim is to provide an alternative educational setting for children who do not thrive in mainstream education, offering therapeutic, hands-on learning with horses in a safe, supportive environment.

We're looking for donations or experiences to auction to raise invaluable funds

We would be grateful for:



DONATIONS
of goods, services
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to auction



RAFFLE PRIZES
Big or small,
all donations
are appreciated



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Items, experiences
or services
to auction



*Every donation helps
change lives*



If you can help, please email us:
changingstridesequinetherapies@gmail.com
luccomberidingcentre@gmail.com



PLEASE HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE BRIGHTER FUTURES

Could you be a Flood Warden?

*Help Milborne be
better prepared*

Our village needs volunteers.
It's a vital role, but you
won't be doing it alone.



**Work as part
of a team**

With the support of the
Parish Council, EA and
local villagers.



**Use local
knowledge**

Help keep people
informed and identify
where help is needed.



**Training &
equipment provided**

Full support from the
Parish Council and EA.



A real difference

Protecting our village
and adding to the
community's resilience.



Ideally live in a
safe part of the village.



Not a huge
commitment.



A role that brings
real value.



Interested? Email for more details:

msafloodaction@gmail.com

Coo! PC ponders planning, flooding and . . . pigeons

SEPTEMBER'S Parish Council meeting covered a wide range of issues, with planning, traffic and flooding again featuring heavily, alongside questions about pigeons and speeding. That is, vehicles speeding, not pigeons racing along The Causeway and other village roads.

There is some concern about the change to planning regulation – the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is being revised and clerk, Wayne Lewin, told the meeting that this could mean planning officers will have powers to approve housing developments of up to 500 homes without referring to committee. He will update councillors after attending two Dorset Council (DC) meetings – one with planning officers and the other with Dorset councillors. The Dewlish Road and Blandford Hill applications will now not be adjudicated on until after the new NPPF is published. The Camelco application is still ongoing; the developer Bracken Group has said they are waiting on a new Section 106 agreement from DC.

Results of the consultation on the traffic management scheme outside the pub are due later in September and, because of this fact, Mr Lewin refuted the comments on Facebook that the majority of residents were against the widening of the pavement at the expense of the road width. The plan – which has a budget of £150k, half coming from the parish – moves to the next stage which can involve approval by delegated power. If approved, work may start in the spring next year. Central government money, via DC, will fund enhancements to the Blandford Hill westbound bus stop, with a 'cage' being installed – the yellow lines that mark the stop and make it an offence for other vehicles to park within it. Parking restrictions would apply from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

Following the flooding at the beginning of the year, a community flood review is being compiled by DC, with Milborne's investigation being undertaken by a Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch officer. The report is not due until later this year and no major flood alleviation work is expected until it is completed. DC's Highways department has accepted responsibility of the Bere Stream at March Bridge but it has said that to clear it in isolation of other riparian owners would be ineffectual. Buying road signs that divert drivers away from flooded village roads was proposed since the promise of signs from DC has not yielded any as yet. Cllr Macnair said he had attended a meeting of the village's Flood Action Group recently and the findings closely aligned with the PC's.

Local government ward boundaries are undergoing review, with the village's ward proposed to change to include Dewlish, Turnworth and Winterbornes Stickland and Houghton, with Puddletown and Tolpuddle chopped out. If approved, the new ward will be named Milborne and The Winterbornes. Residents can view and comment on the consultation until 9th November; to do so, go to lgbce.org.uk and click the Dorset page.

Speeding on Milton Road was raised by residents over the summer which led the PC to discuss whether the light-up speed indicator signs are in the right positions to be effective. Residents who were concerned at speeding in excess of the 20mph limit on The Causeway may welcome the news that Community Speed Watch has two new locations approved on the road which will help gather data.

It was made clear that the defibrillator outside the shop is still usable even though the unit is not lit up. An evening training session has been proposed through the equipment provider, although a resident who contacted them around two months ago has yet to receive a response.

The proliferation of the pigeon population in the village was brought to the PC's attention by a resident of St Andrew's View, who was concerned for residents' physical and mental health being affected. Early morning noise and pigeon poo on properties and cars were some of the issues that



plagued residents and could be detrimental to people with COPD or asthma. Also, he noted that since pigeon numbers had increased, other bird species' visits to his garden were much reduced. Other residents at the meeting agreed that the pigeon population has grown a lot and was a nuisance. The PC said there was nothing they could do but Clerk Lewin would write to DC's health and safety team.

With the next meeting not until November, residents were urged to bring ideas for spending in the parish to the council for that meeting. Benches and suchlike have been proposed and funded previously, but villagers are invited to propose anything they like (within reason) and be involved with making it happen. Proposal for a village peregrine falcon to deter randy, pooing pigeons incoming?

Ed Richards

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 4th November at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

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.

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



SPOTLIGHT . . .

This month the spotlight is ...
Our village shop—Gray's Stores



HOPEFULLY everyone has used the shop which is a real asset to the village. So many rural communities have lost their shops so we need to treasure ours!

Originally just a bakers (and the ovens are still there!) at one point there were three bakeries in the village. From the census records the Baker family (an apt name!) were shown running it from 1871 through to 1911 when Benjamin Baker was a baker and a grocer. In 1921 it was run by Eli and Florence Grayer and in the 1939 register it was run by Llewellyn Gray. The building was originally only as big as to the doorway and then extended into the car park; seen in the photograph below.



Glenn and his team took over from Tony Lage in 2012. The shop is now bright and airy stocking a wide range of goods. Glenn said that he enjoys running the shop and it was a good decision to move here, the only downside has been Covid which was a challenging time (when everyone was very grateful to him for providing a shopping lifeline) and, of course, the flooding which presents many difficulties.



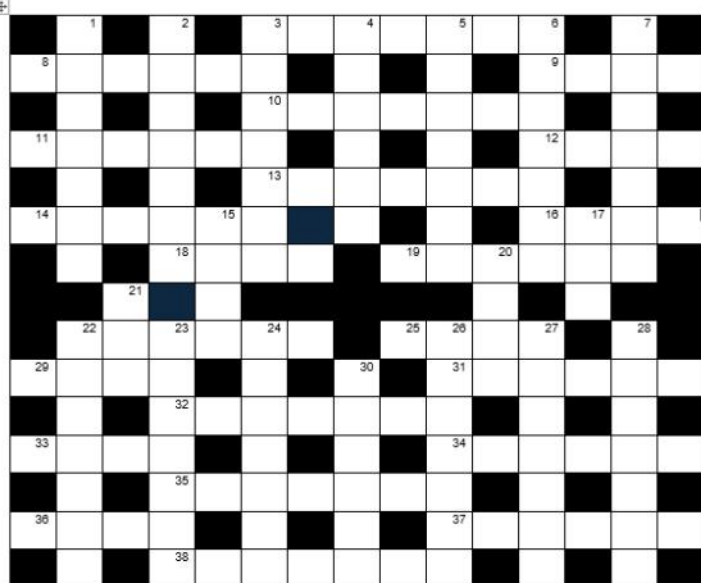
Sailor Bob's crossword

Across

3. Cloud
8. Run
9. Italian Bubbly
10. Stomach Medicine
12. Drug
13. Lack of Sophistication
14. Castor and Pollux
16. Espy
18. Change Course
19. Bloodsucking Fly
22. Mediterranean Country
25. Songbird
29. & 31 PM
32. Mean
33. Company
34. Italian City
35. Chanted_
36. Mountain Lake
37. Biblical Book
38. Modified

Down

1. Balls
2. Cooky
3. Containing Tin
4. Keep
5. Tokens
6. Unhappiest
7. Harry H Corbett Character
15. Indian Bread
17. 23rd letter in the Greek Alphabet
20. Currency
21. Lettuce
22. Simon _____, "El Libertador" (1783-1830)
23. Endurance
24. Inactivity
26. Changed
27. Colourless Inert Gas
28. Keen
30. Seabird



Deadline for the next issue 14th October

Junior Corner

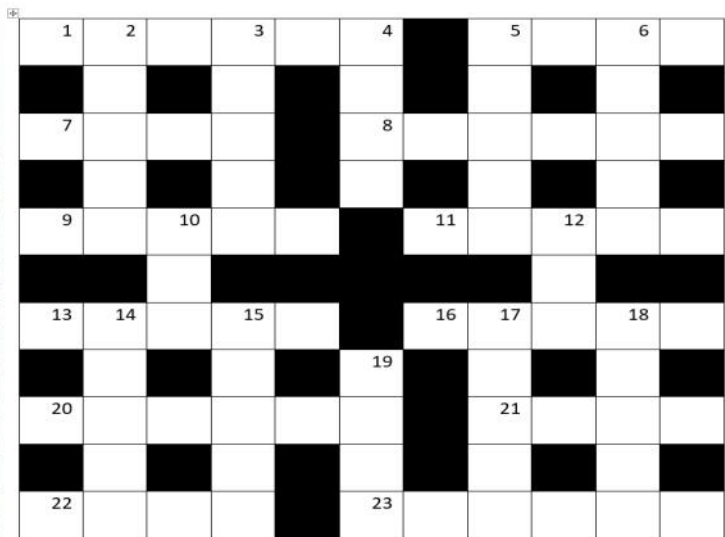
CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Horse house
- 5 Band of 3
- 7 Joins the wheels on a car, pram etc
- 8 Tree lined street
- 9 Japanese Port City
- 11 Small amphibians
- 13 Back of a boat
- 15 Fencer's weapon
- 20 Worn away
- 21 ____ Gallagher or Neeson
- 22 Black, Brown or Polar
- 23 Help

DOWN

- 2 State chosen by Ella Langley
- 3 Mixture
- 4 Trading Web Site
- 5 Not Here
- 6 Native of Greenland
- 10 Card
- 12 TV Doctor
- 14 Prime Number
- 15 Found On A Bike
- 17 UK Principality
- 18 Wanders



Picture

What clock is this?



"C" Quiz (all answers begin with the letter "C")

- 1 The County Town of Essex
- 2 Small dog breed
- 3 Young Swan
- 4 Easternmost town in Dorset
- 5 Ape closely related to humans

Answers on page 29



Arts Reach and Milborne St Andrew Village Hall Present

TALES FOR AN UNRULY AUDIENCE

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With tales of witches & wizards, wise men & fools.

Village Hall Friday 2nd October 7.30 (Recommended 7+)

Bar opens 7pm

£13, £6 (u18s) £35 (family) tickets online: artreach.co.uk or 07983 231956.



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St Mary's

CE Middle School Puddletown

Inspire today to shape tomorrow

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

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

The new school year is well under way and St Mary's is once again bustling with the excitement of catching up with friends, new



learning and the incredible range of opportunities that make the school the stimulating, vibrant place it is.

As is usually the case, the school remained very busy throughout the summer break. As well as the usual decorating and IT upgrades, Dorset Highways and contractors spent the summer break on the school site carrying out much needed pedestrian safety improvements to the road system in front of the school main gate. The project included installing new drop curbs and safety bollards, resurfacing and repainting the



roads, and installing a range of traffic calming measures. The project was initiated by a collaboration between our student council and Puddletown Parish Council. Our students identified the need for pedestrian safety improvements and footpath upgrades through a photographic survey of the area. Our Parish Council supported us and submitted the students' report to the County Council who agreed to take action. All in all, a great achievement by our students who should be proud of themselves! The project is scheduled

to be completed during the October half term break when resurfacing and upgrades to the footpath that runs along Coombe Road will be carried out.

We are all looking forward to welcoming prospective new pupils and their families to St Mary's for our big **Open Evening on Tuesday 20th October, 6.00-8.00pm**. This is an important event for the school and we would be very grateful if you would spread the word far and wide. There will also be opportunities for new and existing parents to come in to see our fabulous school in action; look out for information about our up-coming open mornings on the school website and on the school's Facebook feed. Children, and parents of children in Year 4, are very welcome to attend these events. Please contact the school office by phone or email (see below) for further information.

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

Open Evening

★ 2026 ★

Tuesday 20th October 2026
6.00pm – 8.00pm

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

Meet our staff

Tour the St Mary's site

See our wonderful school in action

Discover what it is like to be a part of our fantastic school

Open Mornings

Friday 2nd October 2026	9.30am – 11.00am
Thursday 5th November 2026	9.30am – 11.00am
Thursday 3rd December 2026	9.30am – 11.00am
Thursday 14th January 2027	9.30am – 11.00am

To confirm your attendance, please email Mrs Gaughan in the school office, office@stmarys.wessex.ac

We look forward to welcoming you! ♥

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: Chairperson: Lizzie Nicholls

e-mail: office@stmarys.wessex.ac website: www.stmarys.wessex.ac

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCEMIDPUDD> Tel: 01305 848293

Milton Abbas Surgery

Welcome to the team

We would like to give a warm welcome to Beckie, who is joining our surgery Dispensary Team. We also wish Alice all the best in her maternity leave. We will miss her but look forward to meeting the new arrival!

Stoptober

You are doing the best thing you can for your health by quitting smoking – and you don't need to do it alone. Whether this is your first attempt or you've tried before, the LiveWell stop smoking team can help you choose a free stop smoking offer that works around your life and provide the practical advice to help you stay on track.

They offer one of the most comprehensive ranges of free quit options in the county: group or one-to-one coaching, patches, gum, vapes, medication, Allen Carr Easyway, and a premium quit app. Sign up or find out more at www.livewell-dorset.co.uk/stop-smoking.

Milton Abbas NeighbourCar

NeighbourCar is a voluntary organisation offering patients transport to and from medical establishments. To make use of the service you must be registered for which there is a one-off charge of £5 to help cover administration costs.

To book ring 01258 470333, leave a message, and the coordinator will get back to you as soon as possible. Please note they cannot provide a "same day" service due to the voluntary nature of the operation.

They are always looking for more volunteers so if you could spend a little time and would like to join them as a driver, please ring the number above.

On Track

On Track is a dedicated wellbeing event taking place on Thursday 8th October at The Tank Museum, recognising the unique experiences and challenges faced by those in and around the Armed Forces.

The event is open to all members of the Armed Forces community, including regulars and reserves, service families, the bereaved, service leavers, veterans and anyone connected to life in the forces.

With a focus on the power of positive, supportive communities and their impact on mental health and wellbeing, whether you're looking for support, helping someone close to you, or simply want to find out more about the resources available, On Track is here to help.

For more information and to reserve your free ticket, please visit The Tank Museum website www.tankmuseum.org/events/on-track

Dorset Blind Association – Low Vision Day

Dorset Blind Association are holding a free information event for anyone affected by sight loss.

When: Saturday 21st November 10.00am–2.00pm

Where: The Dorford Centre, Dorchester

Whether you've recently been diagnosed with sight loss, have been living with a visual impairment for many years, or are supporting a loved one, this event is a great opportunity to discover the help, support and services available to help people live independently and confidently. The day will bring together specialists, exhibitors and support organisations from across Dorset, offering information, advice and practical support. Everyone affected by sight loss is welcome.

A busy year in a beehive – at the WI

WE were welcomed back after the summer break by Nelda, along with two new faces, Michelle and Jane. We celebrate WI day this month, 111 years of connection. Echoing the suffragettes we were asked to wear shades of purple, to get together in groups of three (111) and take snaps of the trios.

Hilary Green, from Crossways WI, had been invited to talk to us about her long history of bee-keeping. Hilary started by emphasising '*that you don't keep bees, they choose to stay*'. There are many methods bee-keepers have to encourage bees to stay, and different schools of thought. Anyone thinking of making a start is advised to contact a trusted bee-keeper and ask for advice.



Honey bees move from flower to flower spreading pollen in a hugely efficient way. Hilary has diligently covered and visually recorded each stage of the honey production in her hives: the colony of bees, the importance of the Queen who can lay a huge number of eggs in a season, the worker bees and the drones. Within the construction of the beehive itself, each section has its own particular use, leading to the final extraction of the honey. The bee-keeper will watch what is happening within the hive throughout the seasons, checking whether everything is ok or not!

And finally, 35lbs of honey, of differing colours and consistency depending on the pollination sources, a moment of pride for the bee-keeper. Needless to say this was a very interesting and informative hour – prompting many questions, readily answered by Hilary.

And to Business: Thanks to Lin for hosting the very successful summer supper in her lovely garden, much enjoyed by everyone; and to Josie and John also for hosting the quiz team. The Group meeting is at Winterborne Kingston later this month, and the DFWI Annual meeting at the Lighthouse in October. Plans are already in hand for our New Year lunch at Ashley Wood Golf Club, a venue much enjoyed in previous years.

The bookclub met to discuss their latest read '*The Ministry of Time*', a sci-fi thriller which divided opinion amongst members. They move on to '*Broken Threads*' by Mishal Hussein.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th October, when Heather Hogg will share '*My love of America*'. We are asked to bring along a photo of 'Where in the World' as the subject of a quiz. Please do come and join us; we always look forward to welcoming new people.

Pat Bull



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MSA Flood Action Group – an introduction

THE events of last January caught most of us unawares. What quickly became evident, however, was just how unprepared and unplanned we were for dealing with a major flooding incident as a community.

While basic equipment, namely sandbags, were available, there was a lack of leadership and coordination to help steer villagers and vehicles safely through what was, for many, a bewildering and worrying situation. Much of the immediate response came down to the good nature and efforts of local residents, with a small band of people helping fill and deliver sandbags, attempt to control traffic and provide any other help needed in the hours after it became clear that Milborne was experiencing a severe flood at its heart.

The full extent of the impact on the village is still not known. The number of properties, land and outbuildings affected has not been fully established, as reporting through the Flood Online Reporting Tool (FORT) is voluntary. Nevertheless, Milborne was identified as one of the 30 areas in Dorset Council's investigation of the effects of Storm Chandra, that will result in a community flood review. This is intended to examine what happened and assess the response of the various agencies involved.

A meeting chaired by Simon Hoare MP at the village hall in April was well attended and highlighted both the level of concern in Milborne and the risk and appetite for action on behalf of the agencies. Residents are rightly concerned that the likelihood of a flood similar to earlier this year is very real with little in the way of concrete action.

Against this background, a group of affected villagers came together and has continued to work with the Parish Council and relevant agencies on matters specifically relating to flooding. The group, MSA Flood Action Group, is open to anyone who would like to get involved in helping the village become better prepared for future flooding. Its focus is on practical community action around flood defence, mitigation and preparedness. A particular gap is that we have no active Flood Wardens, of which ideally there would be at least two to share the role. It is a supported position with a wider support network – please see the poster on page 18..

There is, of course, no suggestion that a village group can prevent flooding or solve all the problems associated with it. But January demonstrated that being better prepared, knowing who can do what, and having people ready to coordinate a response could make a real difference when the next major incident arrives.

After the Flood: What Happens Now?

In response to the county-wide devastation and disruption caused by Storm Chandra in late January this year, Dorset Council (DC) approved an investigation into these events and effects at May's cabinet meeting. Councils have a statutory duty under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate flooding incidents of this nature. DC is to satisfy this legal duty by producing two types of report – Strategic Flood Investigation Reports, where the scale or consequence of flood requires a detailed study; and Community Flood Review Reports, where locality focused investigation is appropriate. Milborne St Andrew is to receive the latter investigation, which is underway with the council officer assigned to our report gathering information. The Community Flood Review parameters are specifically: explain what happened in the village; clarify roles and responsibilities of organisations and land owners; identify actions to improve

resilience and support the community to understand and prepare for future flooding. The funding that DC has at present assigned to flood resilience is £5m, set against the fact that Milborne is one of 30 communities undergoing a flood review.

The Flood Action Group offered to meet with the report writer to provide context to what happened in our village. Some of the group's members were pleased to attend a meeting in September with Paul Ambrose, acting for DC, and Mike Holm, of the Environment Agency.

An immediate concern is the underreporting of flood-affected homes; officially, DC believes that only three properties in Milborne were flooded. We know this to be incorrect and that many more than this have informed the council via the flood risk management email that was advised after the April meeting. It's clear that there is a disconnect between council reporting systems, although Mr Ambrose said the right way to do so was through the FORT system – Flood Online Reporting Tool (search: Dorset Council FORT). Dorset Council makes clear that a flood report from a property is **not published or shared with insurers**. Why is reporting important? DC and other agencies use these reports to inform their investigations and actions. So, not reporting could affect funding levels and flood works. The flood group intends to carry out its own survey but if you haven't completed FORT, please do so.

Something that affected most of village residents during the flood was access, whether on foot to the shop, surgery, pub, park, post box and so on, or by vehicle. When the waters rose and roads began to flood, there was no help from any agency to begin with and latterly, extra stocks of sandbags arrived and, later still, Milton Road was officially closed. We believe an emergency system should be in place, ready to deploy *before* disaster hits. Whether this be traffic control on the A354 and swifter closing of other roads is open to discussion. What is clear is the Parish Council does not have a current flood emergency plan in place and Milborne does not have a single flood warden. Volunteers are desperately needed to help support the community – please see the poster on page 18.

The report writer is eminently aware of Milborne's flooding history, as the many reports, reviews and indeed articles and front pages of the Reporter over the years can testify. Our issues are topographically-based – a valley village with a chalk stream. We generally see floodwater first from springs, then when the Bere Stream bursts its banks. Surface water from the hills either side exacerbate our problems. The culverts under the A354 can't cope with the volume of water and the increase in the height of the road surface over decades means the road acts as a dam. Would increasing the volume of the Bere Stream help? Riparian owners have a legal responsibility to keep the banks and bed free of obstructions – clearing excessive plant growth, green and manmade debris. It's evident that not all do. Furthermore, many years' worth of silt, flint, rubble and rubbish have built up. But since it is a chalk stream, it is protected by law, overseen by the Environment Agency. To carry out more than minor works requires a permit, which can cost £1,000 – although in practice this overall cost can rise to £5k when necessary surveys are undertaken. But can the village afford *not* to do this?

We await DC's Community Flood Report with great interest – it is planned to be produced in draft by the end of October and be presented for public engagement in the village.

Please see the poster on page 18.

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Northern Landscapes at Tincleton

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th October 2026: Alberto Dalgo on classical piano “Northern Landscapes”

ALBERTO DALGO will come from his home town of Milan in Italy to play a concert he titles “Northern Landscapes”.

“Northern Landscapes” begins in the woods. Schumann’s intimate *Waldszenen* takes us into a forest that defies explanation: a few steps, a glimmer of light between the trees, a barely perceptible movement. The *Waldszenen* are fragments of a place that reveals itself in hints, like a memory that refuses to be grasped. Then comes the water. Liszt, through his transcriptions of Schubert’s *Lieder*, draws three faces: the wide sea, a stream that speaks softly, a calm surface that reflects the light. Three simple images, three breaths. The landscape changes again. Grieg’s *Ballade* Op. 24 is a more rugged, more bare land. An ancient theme that returns, transforms, rises again. Like walking in the wind: few lines, few colours, everything necessary. And in the end, an opening. Chopin’s “Heroic” *Polonaise* bursts in like an oblique ray: direct, luminous, affirmative. A gesture that needs no explanation. Thus the journey ends: forest, water, rock, light. The north, reduced to its essence.

About Alberto Dalgo



Alberto Dalgo attended the three-year course at the Imola International Piano Academy as a pupil of Leonid Margari-us. He graduated with top grades and honour mention in Piano Performance from the Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali in Pavia, where he also earned a Master’s Degree with honours under the tuition of Maestro Andrea Turini. He competed in various national and international piano competitions, where he always

received high praise for his performances. He was awarded first prize and Grand Prix CMF at the Concours Musical de France, first prize at the Imka International Piano Competition in 2017, at the Bellagio (Como Lake) International Music Competition 2015, at the Acerbi International Music Competition 2014, at the J.S. Bach Competition in Sestri Levante, and others. He performed as a soloist, in trio, with orchestras and other chamber groups in prestigious venues, including Auditorium Gaber (Società dei Concerti di Milano), Teatro Verdi in Salerno (with Orchestra Filarmonica Salernitana), Teatro Fraschini and Collegio Ghislieri in Pavia, Teatro Comunale de l’Aquila (Istituzione Sinfonica Abruzzese), Teatro Filodrammatici in Cremona, Società Filarmonica di Trento, Conservatorio di Brescia, Teatro Edì and Castello Sforzesco in Milan, Teatro

Comunale di Piacenza and several International Festivals (Piceno Classica, Dino Ciani Festival, Cinque Terre International Festival, Accademia dei Cameristi and others). He periodically performed in Milan (his home city), Brescia, Pavia, S. Giovanni Valdarno.

He founded the Hopper Piano Trio, with musicians Gianluca

Montaruli (cello) and Federico Piccotti (violin), with whom he recorded pieces by Smetana, Shostakovich and Castelnuovo-Tedesco for the Da Vinci Classics label. The album was broadcast on Radio Tre and Radio Classica, and received an excellent review in the magazine ‘Musica’.

He held solo recitals at the Ateneo de Madrid, at the Robinson College in Cambridge, at the Berlioz Auditorium in Courbevoie (Paris), at the Auditorium and the Euthérpe Hall in Lèon, at the Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Badajoz (Spain), the National Music Museum of Lisbon, the Fundación “Casa de Bragança” in Vila Viçosa (Portugal), at the Galiffet Palace in Paris, at the Italian Institut of Culture in Oslo.

(see Tincleton Gallery website for more info)

– As usual drinks & nibbles will be served.

– All concerts start playing at 8pm. Please arrive after 7:30pm.

– Tickets £20 each.

– To order tickets please email info@tinctongallery.com or call Tincleton Gallery on 01305 848909.

Milborne Pétanque Update

THROUGHOUT the year the Thursday afternoon pétanque group has been steadily growing in popularity. So much so that, at the time of writing (3rd September), we have a list of 18 players. Of course, not everyone plays every week, but we

regularly have between eight and ten on court, sometimes more. Fortunately, we can run two games concurrently due to the foresight of the village hall to provide a double-width court, but a comfortable maximum is 12 (two teams of three X two).

I know that there are other people interested and am excited to say that we intend setting up another weekly session. Of course, anyone can play at any time. This is not an exclusive members club. But, if we have another known regular session on, say, a Tuesday morning (other days are available), it opens-up opportunities for those who can’t make their normal session to then join in with another group of friends. It will work both ways, with sessions open to all. I say ‘friends’ because we are a very friendly group who just want to have fun.

Some of us from the Thursday group are happy to set up a second session, give tuition (ha! ha! we are not experts), and get the boules rolling. NO EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY. Via the grant that the village hall received, plus personal donations, we have ample boules for players to use.

If you are interested, please email milborne.petanque@gmail.com or call 07887 877016.

Now for the next throw . . .

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Junior Corner Answers

Picture quiz

Westminster (Houses of Parliament) – Big Ben is the name of one of the Bells

C Quiz

- 1 Chelmsford
- 2 Chihuahua
- 3 Cygnet
- 4 Christchurch
- 5 Chimpanzee

Sailor Bob's answers



Squishy Toy safety

SQUISHY TOYS are soft and pliable, often with a liquid or gel filled feel when squeezed. Squishy toys come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Many people enjoy squeezing them for play, to relax, or relieve stress. They are very young child appealing, and as a current craze can be found for sale in many different places, even sellers who don't usually sell toys.

While lots of squishy toys are safe, buyers should be aware that Dorset Council Trading Standards are becoming increasingly concerned that some products on the market do not meet legal safety requirements. Some examples have been classed by the UK Regulator as posing a serious chemical or physical risk.

If you own a squishy toy, or are thinking of buying one, then check that it includes, or that it was included when bought, the information required by law. Missing safety information can be a warning sign that a toy may not comply with toy safety regulations and therefore be unsafe:

- UKCA or CE mark
- An age restriction warning with a reason
- Identification mark such as batch or lot code.
- The name and address of the manufacturer. If the manufacturer is outside the UK, the name and address of the manufacturer and the importer into the UK are to be used instead.

It is also important to examine the toy itself. Be cautious if a squishy toy has a strong chemical smell, feels unusually sticky, leaks liquid or starts to break apart easily. These could be signs of poor quality. Younger children may put toys in their mouths, so damaged or poorly made products can create additional risks.

If you have a toy without the required markings, or if your toy has become unsafe under normal use, then stop using it. You can report any concerns about toys to Trading Standards. You can also report seeing toys for sale that don't have the required legal markings. Report to Trading Standards by visiting www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or, by phoning the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.



What's on in October

Friday 2nd

Tales for an unruly audience Village Hall 7.30pm see page 31.

Sunday 4th

Harvest Thanksgiving service St Andrew's church 9.30pm.

Sunday 4th

Bike Day Village Hall 11.00am see poster on page 13.

Wednesday 7th

Wednesday Club a talk from Julia's House Village Hall 2.00pm.

Thursday 8th

WI Heather Hogg will share 'My love of America'. Village Hall 7.30pm.

Thursday 8th

Caribbean theme night The Royal Oak.

Saturday 10th

Community Café Village Hall 10am until midday.

Saturday 10th

Auction in aid of Changing Strides Village Hall 6.30pm see page 18.

Sunday 11th

Benefice Service Sarah's last service in the Benefice. Puddletown 11.00am followed by a party in the village hall.

Wednesday 14th

Deadline for the November *Reporter*. Send your articles and photographs via email to msa.reporter@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday 15th

Gardening Club Bridget Kitley will give a talk and live demonstration on the art of propagating plants Village Hall 7.30pm.

Friday 16th

Film night *Is This Thing On?* Village Hall 7.30pm.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 7th

Fireworks Night Sports Pavilion from 6.00pm.

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 1.00–3.30pm.

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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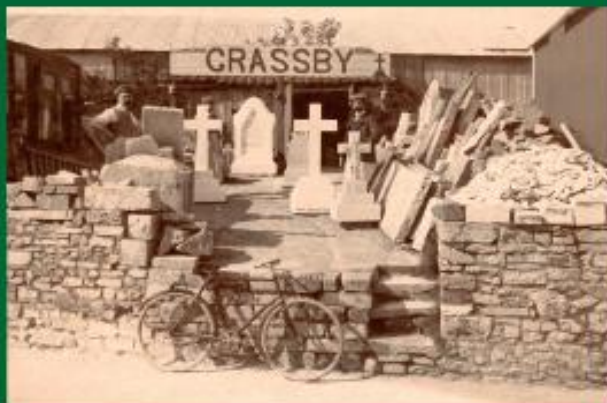
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Community Contacts

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

Dewlish Village Hall		
Chair:	Andrew Barnett	07511 663096
Booking Secretary:	Margaret Groves	07796 456959
Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall		
Chairman:	Linsey O'Neill	07798 720812
Booking Secretary:	Susan Poet	07866 313999
MSA Sports & Social Club	Bookings: Philip Smith	07776 561105

COUNCILS

Dorset Councillor	Emma Parker	07411 149997
Parish Council Dewlish	Clerk: Amanda Crocker	
	clerk@dewlishparishcouncil.gov.uk	
	Chair: Mike Fell	07963 194109

Parish Council		
Milborne St. Andrew	Clerk: Wayne Lewin	07419 136735
	clerk@milbornestandrewparishcouncil.gov.uk	
	Chair: position shared	

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@swhltd.co.uk 01404 821500

Wessex Water Sewerage Floodline 03458 505959

GENERAL — YOUTH

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Denise Saunders	07483 857613
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POLICE

Police – Non-emergency contact (North Rural team) 101
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SCHOOL

Milborne First School		
Head of School	Rachael Brown	01258 837362
Chair Governors:	Paul Tasker	
Friends of School Chair:	Kelly Gale	
Milborne Ladybirds	TBA	
St. Mary's Puddletown	Tim Ennion	01305 848293

SPECIAL INTEREST

Bellringers	Robin Mears	01305 848021
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
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470333
MSA Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	07969 677870
MSA Gardening Club	Dawne Pearson	07950 540235
Milborne Players	Gren Davis	07876 793319
Moonlight Swing Band	Kevin Morgan	07902 615307
Petanque	Penny Pearce	07887 877016
Village History Group	Pam Shults	01258 837203
Wednesday Social Club	Josie Wright	01258 839090
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471732

SPORT

Hardy Country Bowmen	Mike Healy	07748 440000
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Karate	Peter Thompson	07873 116118
	wessexmartialarts@gmail.com	
Move it or lose it	Pippa Thurgood	07545 241291
Pilates (at Sports & Social Club)	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Football – Milborne Sports	Kelvin Dormer-Woolley	07544 725855
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 Village Hall)	Angela Johnson	01258 839060

HEALTH

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

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AN AUDIENCE WITH

HENRY VIII

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HOUSE & GARDENS

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