

MILBORNE PORT MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2023

45P



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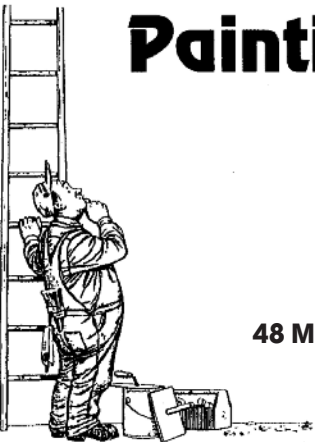
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A LETTER FROM REV FRANK

Greetings, people of Milborne Port,

The world has opened up to me. Yesterday I was fitted with two hearing aids which I am getting used to. When my ear itches I go to scratch it but find that it is full of plastic. I have discovered that the clock ticks, that scratching my head makes a row, that I can no longer pretend not to hear my wife asking me to do something. I can proudly answer the real question and not the one I think I heard.



This month the year turns. Autumn turns to winter, the shortest day heralds the newness that will come with next year. Traditional music wins the battle for our attention. Old stories are told again, and we find them still fresh. In the last throes of the year we remember the birth of a child. What might have been an insignificant birth would have passed by like any other, but people were looking for something to change their lives. They had been searching their traditions; some were looking at the stars. Like the seeking of all lost things their searching led them to the most unlikely place. The old promises of God became flesh in front of them, expected but still surprising.

The people of what we call The Holy Land were weary of occupying armies and harsh government. The one they welcomed was not out to change their enemies but to change the world, including themselves. The angels sang (we think they had trumpets), the earth shook. Culture was going to be shaken. As a son he was harsh to his mother, claiming his independence. As a friend he loved. As a fellow he bore responsibility for human nature. The world did not like the suggestion that its government might be characterised by love and punished him horribly. After all this time we still look to him for inspiration and as a part of God we can have faith in and be joined to in the eternal task of building a world of opportunity and peaceful coexistence.

This December, prepare for Christmas by weeping for our brothers and sisters in places like Ukraine, Russia, Palestine and Israel and the hungry lands. Pray that common humanness will win through, pray that we may learn the lessons of conflict, follow the shepherds to the lowly places and the wise men to starry hope. Sing your hearts out in love for the child who surprised us and grew into a man who challenges us. I can hear the world afresh, what a gift.

Frank Wright

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

19th November Matthew Simpson, Charlotte Simpson

WEDDING

25th November (Goathill) Emma Fairclough and Nicholas John

RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS

17th November Heather and Damian Storey

CREMATION

20th November Charles Hamshaw-Thomas



Christmas Tree Disposal

Toomer Tree Services will again be offering their Tree Disposal Service for natural trees. Hang on to your tree until January 6th 2024 and they will deal with it for you! Full details next month.

CHURCH HOUSE 100 CLUB

Results of the November Draw

1 st Prize	£30	Mrs M Gledhill
2 nd Prize	£20	Mr J Perkins
3 rd Prize	£10	Anon (No. 72)



Congratulations to **Jane Hewitt**, who took this month's cover photo.

We are always excited to receive new pictures of scenes in and around the village, for use on future covers and in the Milborne Port Calendar.

Please send high-res, landscape format images to

magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

Thank You

Wick Charity Music Fest would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that supported our event on 9th July. We raised a grand total of **£9000**, which was split equally between the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and the Eve Appeal (raising awareness, research and funding for Woman's Gynaecological Cancers)



We recently held a presentation evening to present our Cheques to the Charities.

Wick Fest will be back in 2024 on 6th July. Our charities will be Headway and a local children's charity.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The total for The Royal British Legion Milborne Port and Henstridge District is £3,515.73. This year, the best we have ever done. Thanks to everyone who has helped and raised money in these villages, for our Men and Women in our Forces who now need our Help.

The Royal British Legion would like to thank Di and Dave at The Tippling Philosopher for having Poppies and The Tombola sale on the 21st and 28th October. Margaret Curtis kindly supplied the tombola.

Edwina and Millie kindly also allowed us to sell Poppy items and a tombola in the library. Harrison came to the Lego Morning and created a lovely poppy. Thank you, Harrison.



The Royal British Legion had their Annual Dinner at Something Else Fishy. Our thanks to Martin and Nicky Else. Paddy Hughes, the poet, was our guest speaker. He was wonderful, and much enjoyed by all who heard him. *Maggie Pelly*



Well Done Lexie! At the end of October Lexie Coombs travelled to Bali to compete in the UIPM Biathlon and Triathlon world Championships. Lexie performed incredibly well in the intense heat, humidity and shallow water. She achieved a respectable seventh place in the individual U11 Triathlon event (shoot, run, swim, shoot, run, swim) and secured a team silver with her two GB team mates. She also finished in seventh place with her partner Christopher in the team relay. Great results at her first ever world Triathlon competition!

News from Milborne Port Parish Council

'No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.'
H.E Luccock



The Parish Council is very keen to welcome more councillors into its membership and we encourage as many Milborne Port residents as possible to put themselves forward for this very important role.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

Maybe you are new to the Parish and want to become involved with local matters, or maybe you have lived in the village for all of your life and you are now looking to give something back. To qualify, you must be 18 or over and on the electoral register. The Parish Council is involved in many different activities, from local planning matters, to managing the open spaces and working with our community groups, to delivering projects. If you have time to spare, skills and experience that you could bring to the role and a genuine interest in our village, why not consider putting yourself forward to become a councillor?

Do get in touch to find out more about the process of becoming a councillor by co-option; you do not need to wait for an election! If you would like to talk to us about the councillor role, pop in to see us in the Parish Council Office any Tuesday morning between 8.30 am and 12.30 pm or on a Wednesday by appointment; you can also call us on 01963 251268 or 07375 892631 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are also happy to assist with printing off the forms for you and with their completion. The deadline for applications is very soon! Midday on **Monday 4th December 2023**.

Time to grow a garden?

Have you been thinking about taking on an allotment at our Gainsborough site but have never quite got round to putting your name on the waiting list? December is tenancy renewal time and when there is most 'movement', with some tenants deciding to give up their tenancies. Let us know if you would like to take on a half or full plot and we will inform you as soon as some suitable becomes available.



Parish Council Meetings in December

Full Council: Tuesday 5th; Planning and Environment Committee: Tuesday 19th.

Meetings take place in the upstairs chamber of the Town Hall and start at 7 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can address the meeting with questions or comments from 7-7.15pm.

Simon Pritchard – Parish Clerk clerk@milborneportpc.org.uk

Nathalie Hetherington – Deputy office@milborneportpc.org.uk

Find us on Facebook! Search: Milborne Port Community Council

Parish Council Website: www.milborneportpc.org.uk

Milborne Port Calendars for 2024

will be on sale throughout December at Wayne's Butchers and The Tippling Philosopher, and at the Winter Fair at the school on 9th December.

At only £5.00 , they make a great little gift and have fantastic photos of the village for each month.

DON'T MISS OUT!

BIG Change at the Village Hall

There has been much discussion by Members of the Village Hall Management Committee over the last four or five years on how to involve more Villagers in the operation of the Halls. This has now reached the point where the current Trustees can no longer continue to operate the Village Hall without help. On behalf of the Management Committee I submitted the following statement to the October Meeting of the Village Parish Council:

Since the Village Hall was built over 40 years ago the Trustees and Management Committee have been able to successfully provide the facilities for the village where they can relax, connect, learn and celebrate. They have relied on the expertise of volunteers who have joined the Committee, become Trustees and taken on roles in the organisation.

In recent years it has been impossible to find new people to join the Committee and share the load of running the Hall. Those who are doing so are now stretched to the limit.

The Trustees and Management Committee are very keen for the Hall to continue to be available for the Village in the future as a wonderful hub for village activities. Therefore, the Trustees and Management Committee have decided unanimously to seek to pass the responsibility for the management of the Hall to the Parish Council.

Since then, there have been a number of meetings between the Hall Trustees and Parish Councillors about how this was to be done. At the November full council Meeting, the Parish Council agreed that it would become the Sole Trustee of the Halls. They will be looking for a part time person to assist with the running of the Village Hall and an advertisement will be issued shortly.

We are all working towards the transfer to be from 1st April 2024. Some of the existing Trustees have expressed interest to sit on the new Parish Council Village Hall Committee to support the Parish Councillors as they take on this important Village facility.

James Crow

Chairman, The Milborne Port Village Hall Charitable Trust

Village Hall Movies

September 2023 saw the return of film to the Village Hall when we started a new partnership with Filmflixs, a local company, based in Blandford Forum.

As usual, we invited our Selector Panel to choose the five films that they would like us to screen. *Oppenheimer* was the clear winner of the panel members, but due to delay by the Studio we were unable to have it as our first film, and we started instead with *A Man Called Otto* starring Tom Hanks in September and *Allelujah*, starring a number of big names, led by Jennifer Saunders, in October. *Oppenheimer* was screened in November. The three-hour film meant that we started earlier and in addition to drinks on arrival, Christine and Jenny, our Bar Staff, were kept busy during the interval as well!

At the moment, we are awaiting the titles that will be available for the Winter/Spring 2024 season, but when known the programme will be published on the Village Hall website and each month in this magazine. The dates for next year are (all Tuesdays) 23rd January, 27th February,, 26th March and 23rd April. Would you like to be involved in selecting the titles that we will be screening? If so, please send an email to films@milborneportvillagehall.org.uk and you will be added to the Selectors Panel.



November is often known as the month of remembrance. In school, we sold poppies, wrist bands and slap on bracelets. We marked Remembrance on Friday 10th by coming together as a whole school at 11 o'clock to observe the two minutes silence.

A week later, on Friday 17th, we remembered children who are less fortunate than we are by raising money for the BBC Children in Need appeal. The children wore non-school uniform and many wore something spotty. In addition, we sold lemonade at break time as a special treat and ran 'Guess how many sweets are in the jar' competitions in each class.

As December approaches, we turn our attention once more to Christmas celebrations. Our youngest children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing a Nativity Play entitled 'A King is Born'. We will hold our Carol Service in St John's Church on Tuesday 12th December. The school choir will sing at the Tuesday Luncheon Club on the same day, having sung at Wells Cathedral the evening before.

Our school Winter Fayre is on Saturday 9th December, from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm and you are all warmly invited to come along. There will be a variety of stalls and refreshments will be available.

I hope that you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Jonathan Rodd

Headteacher

Milborne Port Primary School
01963 250366



Winter Fair
At Milborne Port Primary
School
9th December
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All welcome

The school choir will be opening the event at 11 a.m.

Stalls from local businesses
Cafe selling lunch
Festive Games
Visit Father Christmas

This is a cash only event.

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

St Peter's
Church, Goathill
Sunday 17th December
at 3 p.m.

Christmas Carol
Service

All welcome



Living with pain is a pain but there is hope!

Do you live with a long-term persistent pain condition? Does it affect your emotional wellbeing and get you down? Does it stop you sleeping well? Does it restrict your daily activities and stop you doing the things you want to do?

The Rural Practice Network (a group of 5 local GP surgeries covering Castle Cary, Bruton, Wincanton, Queen Camel & **Milborne Port**), has a non-medical pain management programme called Live Well with Pain – the Ten Footsteps – which is available to people registered with any of these 5 surgeries. The programme covers understanding pain & the brain, acceptance, pacing, goal setting, getting active, relaxation & mindfulness, sleep, communication, managing moods, medication and nutrition and managing setbacks.

Knowing you are not alone coping with pain is important, so there are Live Well with Pain cafés for people to come together to share experiences and discuss ways of managing and living well with pain.

- A monthly in-person Live Well with Pain café meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Abri communal lounge in Wheathill Close, Milborne Port (DT9 5EU) from 11.30-12.30pm. Drop in for a free cuppa and a chat with others in the same situation!
- There's a monthly **online** Live Well with Pain café on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7.00-8.00pm on Microsoft Teams.

If you are interested in hearing more, please email sue.crisfield1@nhs.net or call 07749 418850 or send a message through the Rural Practice Network Facebook page.
<https://livewellwithpain.co.uk/ten-footsteps-programme/>

Introducing Local Businesses

An occasional series giving Milborne Port service providers a chance to introduce themselves

The kitchen and bathroom have to be two of the most important features in any home - not only providing practical solutions for all family life but giving an opportunity to express individual style and taste.

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If you would like to introduce your service to magazine readers, whether or not you have a paid advert with us, contact the editor, magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk.

CHURCH SERVICES

(including the Principal Service Readings)

Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St John's: Daily at 9 a.m.

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24- end

10:30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Darkness into Light	Charlton Horethorne

Wednesday 6th December

10:30 a.m.	Mid-week Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

9:00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Goathill
10:30 a.m.	Parish Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Carol Service	Stowell

Wednesday 13th December

10:30 a.m.	Mid-week Communion	Milborne Port
6:30 p.m.	Carol Service	Milborne Wick

Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

1 Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

3:00 p.m.	Carol Service	Goathill
6:00 p.m.	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
6:00 p.m.	Carol Service	Milborne Port

Tuesday 19th December

6:00 p.m.	Longest Night	Milborne Port
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Wednesday 20th December

10:30 a.m.	Mid-week Communion	Milborne Port
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FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent

Romans 16:25-end, Luke 1:26-38

3:00 p.m.	Crib/Christingle Service	Milborne Port
5:00 p.m.	Carol Service	Charlton Horethorne
11:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass	Milborne Port

Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14

Monday 25th December Christmas

Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20

10:30 a.m.	Christmas Service	Charlton Horethorne
10:30 a.m.	Christmas Service	Milborne Port

Wednesday 27th December

10:30 a.m.	Patronal Festival Holy Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas

Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

10:30 a.m.	Benefice Service	Charlton Horethorne
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Wednesday 3rd January

10:30 a.m.	Midweek Communion	Milborne Port
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Sunday 7th January Epiphany Sunday

Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

9:00 a.m.	Holy Communion	Charlton Horethorne
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Milborne Port
6:00 p.m.	Evensong	Stowell

A message from Bishop Ruth –

Time to Re-member

I am shortly leaving Bath and Wells for a time to serve as interim Acting Diocesan Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry. You may know that the city of Coventry saw some very heavy shelling during World War 2, which resulted in the destruction of the Cathedral.

A new Cathedral has since been built and stands alongside the old ruin as a testament of hope. Though different in style, there's a harmony of old and new. It shows us where conflict can destroy, peace can be found as we seek to live together as the people of God.

This marrying of modern and traditional styles of architecture, helps us to consider how we fashion the life we are called to live as Christians in our communities. It is not that we put aside our differences nor require others to conform to our own shape or form. Rather we recognise the value of listening fully to others and learn to hear the voice of God. Determining to value the worth of each contribution and discerning together a faithful walk with God.

This season of Remembrance encourages us to look back and to value the contributions of those who have gone before us, giving their lives in the service of others. It is not about glorifying the concept of war and conflict but the desire to establish a peaceful world for all. As we look back, so we are invited to look forward and commit to establishing a world where all have a place and where the Prince of Peace, Jesus, is our example.

Coventry is the home to the Community of the Cross of Nails. A community of reconciliation based around the cross fashioned by iron nails found within the ruins of the Cathedral following the fire. Its mission is to live out the practice of peace-building, encouraging people across the world to learn to be reconciled with themselves and one another, as they find reconciliation with God, through Christ.

As I leave here, I do so with plenty of memories, many happy, occasionally sad. Often the latter are those where I have got things wrong and failed to live up to my calling to be the grace-filled child of God I long to be. So, if I have let you down, I am sorry and please pray for me, as I will for you, that God continues to reconcile us to Himself and to one another.

And as we hold our acts of remembrance this month, may we become **re-membered** (put back together), as the people of God.

Bishop Ruth

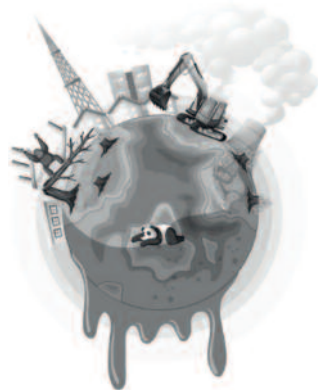
Milborne Port Climate and Nature Action Group



We have the solutions: show love & give hope this Christmas

I'm in my sixties and am struggling with climate anxiety – I find it heart-breaking to consider what it must be like for young people to live with the knowledge that at all levels their elders could be addressing the climate crisis that will otherwise scupper their future but are largely ignoring it. “I don't make a difference” said 8,000,000,000 people. The result? We are still burning (directly/indirectly) **more** fossil fuels every year. Unbelievable. And at current rates of consumption, we will have used up the entire remaining carbon budget to stay within ‘safe’ limits within 6 years. The Earth's vital signs are already literally going off the charts. How will our children and grandchildren feel in 6 years about the part we have played? Will we be able to look them in the eye when say we love them?

However much more or little we have all changed the climate by the end of this defining decade, it is worth remembering that every extra fraction of a degree that the Earth warms beyond 1.5°C or 2°C above pre-industrial levels will result in more misery and suffering for more people including ourselves.



The most urgent and important thing to do **right now** is stop funding new fossil fuels; (we already have enough in the pipeline for the transition to renewables and the money needs to be spent on infrastructure that will sustain us).

We need to take responsibility for our families' future and actively show politicians that we care about the climate by lobbying them about our concerns and in how we vote. Some politicians don't think we'll vote with climate in mind. We need to show them that they're wrong.

Spare a bit of time, sign up to be a non-partisan climate canvasser with Greenpeace - search Greenpeace climate vote – this project will show all political parties that they need to step up their climate policies.

Here's One Thing To Do for Christmas: Make sure our own children and grandchildren, and other young relatives, will have the comfort of knowing we loved them enough to do all we could to keep a safe climate – and make a Christmas pledge of what you will do for their future.

milborneportclimateaction@gmail.com
<https://network23.org/milbornecan/>

And find us on Facebook

The Robin

Unlike so many UK birds, which are in decline, the UK Robin population has increased by 45% over the past 50 years (source: British Trust for Ornithology) giving it Green Conservation Status. Certainly Milborne Port appears to have a thriving population. When out and about the first indication that a Robin is close by may be its distinct 'ticking' alarm call or, if you are lucky, a burst of its incredibly tuneful song.

Surprisingly tame compared to other garden birds, the Robin is a common visitor to bird tables; particularly enjoying an offering of mealworms, chopped fruit and suet. In freezing conditions, a Robin can lose up to 10% of its body weight in a single night (source: The Woodland Trust) so bird food is an important lifeline in a harsh winter.



Robins are with us all year, but we seem to see more of them around the village in winter. This may be because their numbers are increased by migrant robins from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, or because



fledgling Robins, which are speckled brown in colour, have developed their red breast by winter. Perhaps we may simply be more 'tuned' into them as Christmas approaches, as Robins have been depicted on cards and various Christmas decorations since Victorian times. Feisty, curious and always a joy to observe - no wonder the Robin is one of the UK's favourite birds!

Jane Hewitt

Milborne Port Gardening Club

Today the sun is shining and looking into my garden I notice that there are still a few roses in flower and even some primroses peeping through; the remaining leaves on the trees are in full beautiful autumn colours, and in many parts of the garden it is still intensely green. Probably many of you, like me, complain at times about our weather but without these wet, temperate conditions we would not be able to have the type of typical English garden that so many of us love. A good few years ago my husband and I worked in the USA. We lived in Madison, Wisconsin which has a continental climate with hot summers and intensely cold winters. It was impossible to create a garden with much more than grass and very hardy shrubs and in order to survive the winter the grass had to be a type that becomes completely dormant so the winter landscape was either brown or snow-covered! On our first winter visit to the UK I could not believe how green it was even at Heathrow. So let us love our island climate, bless the gulf-stream, and welcome the warm rain.

We have just had our AGM and unfortunately as expenses rise year-on-year we decided to increase our annual subscription to £20.00. This will not become effective until the year beginning Jan 2025 so existing members and new members will still be able to join in January for £14.00.

In December we will have our Christmas Party with some fizz and mince pies and enjoy making some seasonal decorations. The meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12th in the Village Hall starting at 7.15 p.m. For any member who cannot make the meeting and indeed to all magazine readers we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you want to know anything more about the Club, or join us, then please come to any meeting or contact the secretary (pamalexander@btinternet.com). We welcome guests to our meetings with a fee of £3.00.

Pam Alexander



I'm very pleased to say that our first Afternoon Social, which took place in October, was well attended by an equal number of WI members and non-members. Everyone seemed happy to have a drink and piece of cake (or even two slices) and just chat, so a very pleasant couple of hours passed. By the time you read this, we will have had another afternoon open meeting in November and our third, and final one of this year, will take place on Thursday, 21st December, when it will be a chance to have a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas and just relax for the afternoon. These afternoons are free for members, but we make a modest charge of £3.00 for non-members. Do come along if you're free and want some company.

At our usual Thursday evening meeting this month we were treated to 'Tales of a Somerset Soap Maker' by Nichola Penn. We were given a practical demonstration where she made the soap in front of us, and also showed us some slides of her work. Nichola and her husband live in North Somerset and her business has progressed from their little cottage to a unit on an industrial park. They attend local craft and produce fairs and also sell online.

At our meeting on Thursday, 14th December, we will be having our usual fish 'n' chip supper - it's very convenient as Martin and his staff don't have very far to deliver! I'm sure we will have a couple of Christmas themed quizzes or poems after the meal. This is for members only as we need to cater accordingly.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you on Friday mornings when we will be selling coffee/tea and cake/biscuits during the morning from 10.30am until just before 12.00. We are very pleased to see members, friends, strangers and library-users sitting, drinking and chatting.

Christine Porter

Friends of Milborne Port Library

Thank
You

As the year draws to a close, (and what a year it has been), it is time to say thank you. Thank you to our lovely library staff, they are doing a great job. We know how much they are appreciated from the comments we receive. The library was worth fighting for! It has become what we always hoped, a place for the community to gather, meet friends and be welcomed, also sharing with the Glovelies at their Friday coffee morning oh! and the books of course ! Grateful thanks are also due to Rick and Andy for all the work they do. There is so much that would not have happened without their efforts.

Lego Club: Saturday 9th December between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

12th December – Knit & Natter and games



Christmas Storytime & Craft: Tuesday 19th December at 3pm in the library. No Storytime on 23rd December

Christmas Closing Times: The library will be closed on Tuesday 26th December. Open as usual on 29th December. Get books for your Christmas read by 22nd December

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Peace in the New Year



Mary Clothier marydmc38@gmail.com

Milborne Port History and Heritage Group



There will be no talk in December but the exciting programme for our 2024 talks and walks is currently being devised, and we will be publishing it directly to our members and on our website later this month; we will also continue to publicise our events in this magazine and via our Facebook group on a monthly basis, so keep an eye out!

To help us with our fundraising, the very talented Milborne Port architectural draftsman, Paul Heath, has designed, produced and donated to us five beautiful and high-quality greetings cards featuring five of some of our most interesting historical buildings: Ven House, London Road; The Mission Hall, Combe Hill; St John's Church; Brecon House, North Street; and Gardeners Cottage and gatehouse, Thimble Lane. We are selling *The Paul Heath Collection* at £5 for five cards – a bargain considering how much a single greetings card can cost these days! The set is bound together with a simple but stylish brown paper band and a sticker with our logo. *The Paul Heath Collection* would make an excellent Christmas present! You can see the cards on our website: <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk/publications-and-resources>

We are, of course, very grateful to Paul for his generosity. Do get in touch if you would like to order a set, or if you would like to order any of the other items featured on our website.

Picture Quiz

Last month we showed you a smiley couple from around the 1920s or 1930s, the man wearing glasses and ready for a cricket match. I am afraid that we had no identifications! They will have to remain a mystery couple for now...

This month... Does anyone recognise the two from this wonderful photograph?



Remember that you can follow us on Facebook for updates on talks and events, and for signposts to articles that are new to our ever-evolving website: <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk>. We have many people now posting brilliant material onto our Facebook pages, so if you are a Facebooker, it is well worth checking out these contributions.

Nathalie Hetherington

The December Night Sky

We are all like the bright moon, we still have our darker side.

Kahlil Gibran

Yule is a pagan celebration of the winter solstice marking the longest night of the year. The overall theme of Yule is about rebirth and renewal - from this point forward the days gradually grow longer until we reach the summer solstice. Candles and bonfires represent the slow return of the light.

1st: Start of meteorological winter.

9th: Close approach of the **Moon** and **Venus**. Both rise in the East at about 4:20 am and are lost in the dawn by 7:20 am.

13th: **New Moon**

13th – 14th: **Geminids meteor shower**, could be one of the best meteor showers of the year with little interference from moonlight as we are close to the new moon. To locate Gemini, find the constellation Orion by looking for the three bright stars that make up his belt. This asterism is very easy to find as the stars are aligned, equally spaced and of the same brightness. Then find Rigel the bluish star that lies below Orion's belt. Trace a line from Rigel to Betelgeuse, the brightest red star above Orion's belt. Continue the line beyond the constellation for approximately twice the distance between Rigel and Betelgeuse and you are now entering the constellation Gemini.

17th: Close approach of the **Moon** and **Saturn**, they will appear at dusk at about 4:20 pm in the South and will set at about 9 pm in the Southwest.

22nd: **Winter Solstice**, the Sun is at its lowest point in the sky. On this day we will have our shortest day and longest night. Also, close

approach of the **Moon** with **Jupiter**. Both rise in the East at about 4:20 pm they reach their greatest altitude at about 8:20 pm and set next day in the West by 3:00 am.

27th: Full Moon: the Anglo-Saxon name for December's Full Moon is 'the Moon before Yule', after the winter festival of the same name.

Sunrise and Sunset

1st: Sunrise 7:50 am Sunset: 4:09 pm

31st: Sunrise 8:04 am Sunset: 4:13 pm

In Milborne Port, the first day of the month is 08 hours, 19 minutes long. The last day of December is 07 hours, 59 minutes, so the length of the days gets 20 minutes shorter in December 2023.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas with good viewing conditions,

Ganymede

MAGAZINE DEADLINES

All entries for the December issue of the magazine to the editor please by Saturday 16th December at 12 noon latest.

Distributors at the church on Friday 22nd December at 2 p.m.

Editor's email :

magazine@milborneportchurches.org.uk

All email contributions will be acknowledged. If you do not receive a reply, or if you are unable to use email, please ring 01963 33495



MILBORNE PORT CONTACTS

PARISH CHURCH: ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Staff

Priest-in-Charge	Rev Rona Stuart-Bourne	07515 119952
Reader	Mrs Pat Elliott	250353
Churchwardens	Mrs Jacquie Hall	250328
	Mrs Nicki Edwards	nickiedwards19@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Ms Helen Solomon	250248

Other Useful Church contacts

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Vergers	Mr & Mrs Ronnie Goodman	01963 845082
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Tower Captain & Sec:	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
PCC Secretary	Mrs Susan Wales	250660
Church Treasurer & Stewardship Recorder	Mr Paul Springett	220790
Church House Treasurer	Mr Ben Grundy	bengrundy@mpchouse.org.uk
Parish Church of St Peter, Goathill:	Church Warden: Mrs Trudy West	250611
Milborne Wick Church:	Prowarden: John Sprake	250243
Church House Bookings:	www.mpchouse.org.uk or Christine Porter	250821

OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES

Roman Catholic Church (Wincanton)	hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk	
ReBorne Community Church	Minister Adrian Bright	07975 755032

OTHER INFORMATION

Doctors	Drs Wyer, Bulley, Smith, French, Esteves, Palanisamy & Robertson	250334
Vet	Southhill Veterinary Group, The Old Glove Factory, 1-2 North Street, Milborne Port	250255
Primary School	Head Teacher Mr J. Rodd	250366
Clerk to Parish Council	Mr Simon Pritchard, Town Hall	251268
Registrar	Ms S Shire	435008
Spirit of Milborne Port	Claire Andrews	07729 582 669
Village Hall	Booking Clerk: Mr M Lancaster	251217
WI Contact:	Christine Porter	250821
Police	Non Emergency	101
	Emergencies	999
PCSO on duty (Wincanton)		101
Library	At the Town Hall Tuesday 9-12.30 and 2-4.30, Friday and Saturday 9-12.30	07396 587767
Pharmacist	Ty and Mansur Lawal, Milborne Port Pharmacy	250259
Over 65s Tuesday Lunch Club	Anne Salkeld	250529
	Alison Flynn	06896 678267
	Chris Chiswell	07713 030782

Milborne Port community website and diary **www.milborneport.org.uk**

Parish Council website **www.milborneportpc.org.uk**

Benefice website: **www.milborneportchurches.org.uk**

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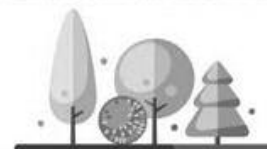
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