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80p





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This month's cover photo: The Revd Sarah Hillman lays a wreath on the grave of James Hammett at Tolpuddle church. Photograph Liz Gould. Full story on Page 37.

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## **WELCOME TO OUR PARISH MAGAZINE -**

Welcome to those of you who may not generally read a copy of our monthly Parish Magazine.

It has been in existence for many years, for the Benefice areas of Puddletown, Tolpuddle, Milborne St. Andrew and Dewlish, and its purpose is to cover aspects of Church, Community and Country life.

We hope you enjoy looking through this slightly shorter on-line version, and whether it is reading an article sent in from a contributor or checking out the various advertisements, we hope you will read us again in the future!

If you have a story to tell which readers may like to read - our Editors details can be found on page 3. Get in touch!

*PARISH MAGAZINE WORKING GROUP*

## **A Message to our Magazine Subscribers -**

We know you must be wondering what the future holds for our Parish Magazine, so just a short update here on that for you.

We are fortunate to be able to put a shorter version online here for a while, and are grateful to be able to do so.

Having had a chat with our Printers, we know we are going to be able to resume the printed editions from them, but at this moment in time, we do not know exactly when.

A directive from the Church of England prohibits delivery of their correspondence other than via the Royal Mail at this time. Many of our own Distribution Team are not going to be able to return to that task in any case just yet, until further Government advice comes forth. Many are isolating or shielding.

We are aware that we will owe our Subscribers a couple of months' of issues, and normally at this time of year, we would be about to start up the subscriptions for the 2020/21 year, but that too is halted for now.

Bear with us! We all need to take small steps just now - we will be back in touch soon!

*Parish Magazine Working Group*

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## **THE VICAR'S LETTER**

### **Finding firm ground in the midst of change**

No one, back on January 1<sup>st</sup> when 2020 began and people made resolutions only to break them a few days later, would have predicted how this year has turned out.

We have all had to face change – no one has been unaffected by the coronavirus. Some people have lost more than others – I weep for those whose loved ones have died over this period, hard enough at any time but even more unbearable when they weren't able to say goodbye properly in person or at the kind of funeral they would have wished to give.

My heart goes out to those who have not been able to leave their houses for months and have become lonely and depressed as a result of not being able to join in normal activities or see the people who usually bring them joy.

There's the children who have missed months of schooling – not just academic work but also the learning that comes with the arts and music and the companionship of friends; students facing graduation with no jobs to go to; the uncertainty of how GCSE and A Level results will work out this year as grading is done differently.

And the pain brought to many household as people lose jobs and businesses and struggle financially with anxieties about the future.

Those are just some of the ways that people have been affected, but of course everyone's lives have been changed.

Churches, now beginning to open again for worship, have had a much greater on-line presence – wonderful for some, for instance those who are now too physically frail to attend worship on a Sunday, but who can join again through youtube, Zoom and so on, but excluding for those not yet able to access the internet.

Change is part of the human world – some thrive on it, others get left behind. What has Christianity to say about this?

I can't in a few words give a long academic theological treatise, which will probably be a relief to you reading this. But I remember a verse from the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament, which reminds us that, though change is all around, some things remain the same: "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13.8) In the midst of the turmoil of this life, it means that we can trust always in the love of God, revealed in his Son, who came to show us that some things remain strong whatever we face: love, forgiveness, the worth and value of each human being and grace among others. Continued on Page 9

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When our foundations are shaken, God is able to be a rock for those who trust, and will hold us firm as we face the storms of life.

All we have to do is let go and put our hand in the hand of Jesus who will lead us through the changes we face and never let us go.

*With best wishes  
Sarah*

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## Puddletown Weather

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June 2020		
	Rainfall for the month	60.30 mm
	Cumulative for the year	447.30 mm
	2019 Rainfall for the month	62.70 mm
	2019 Cumulative for the year	365.70 mm
	Temperatures	Max. 32.30° C Min. 6.20° C
	2019	Max 34.30° C Min 4.00° C
	Maximum wind speed	15.20 mph
	2019	16.80 mph

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## The Strangest of Connections:

### How the village of Puddletown is linked to the most secret location in the Dorset

When I moved down to Dorset in February 2002 I braced myself for a totally different way of life. Carrying with me the misgivings and direst of warnings of all those I knew in Hull; within those aforementioned preconceptions I was not disappointed! That most vaunted of phrases “chalk and cheese” really did not sum up the significant differences between Hull and my new home, Puddletown. My move, altogether necessary, had been the best thing I had done, with the exception of marrying the exceptional woman who had prompted my moving in the first instance. The story I am about to tell you is also about a man who, uprooting himself, left his home all for the love of a woman; tragically his tale does not end in happiness rather in sadness. This had nothing to do with the young Mabel, who he had so effectively lost his heart too, an occurrence which quickly led to them being wed but rather a sad result of financial expediency and work travelling arrangements.

I came across the tale of Albert ‘Bert’ Leonard Groves by accident; well maybe not entirely accidentally but rather as a result of research I was doing coupled with the relentless work that Emma was doing cataloguing the burials in our church graveyard. My work revolved around what was, in essence, the most secretive of places within Dorset. The Royal Naval Cordite Factory (RNCF) situated at Holton Heath, near Poole was, from the time it was conceived and built at Winston Churchill’s command in 1914-15 till its gates closed for the very last time in 1997, cloaked in a shroud of utmost secrecy. This being said, coupled with the fact that during the first half of its life it appeared on no maps, everybody around ‘knew’ of the factory; they may not have known *precisely* what went on there but ‘folks around’ had a pretty good guess that it was probably something they’d rather not know about! Even, after 1932, the Germans knew exactly where it was and, more concerning, its intimate layout and what went on in its myriad of buildings. So precise was this intelligence that when we observe the high definition reconnaissance photos of the factory we can see where detailed notes have been penned in. This rather unfortunate detail is a direct result of the peculiar fact that following the tragic explosion of 1931 the plant involved was rebuilt by the company Schmidt-Meissner and was overseen by three German scientists! Not surprisingly these three individuals were not well liked and generally received a frosty reception from the locals although, in the case of the head scientist, a certain Herr Bressler things were different. Despite his somewhat antisocial demeanour he struck up a friendship with W.E. Groves (no relation to Bert) who ran the petrol station just across the road from the RNCF. The relationship seems to have been quite cordial, with Groves taking the German out drinking and on trips to local attractions. Their friendship lasted long after the war with the two men writing to each other on a regular basis; it is not known though if Herr Bressler ever returned for a visit.

*Continued on Page 13*

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Anyway, let's leave this narrative, interesting though it may be and return to young Albert. He had been born at Melbury Osmund on the second of January 1891, going on to live in Holywell sometime in 1901. In 1911 the local census tells us that, at the age of 20, he had moved to Water Fall Cottage here in Puddletown and was eking out a living as a butcher. However, like so many young people of that time, Bert had heard of the new munitions

factory near Poole; more importantly though he knew just how much more he could earn by changing professions. Albert was no different to a lot of young men and women at that time house maids, kitchen maids and agricultural workers all threw in their lot and went to make explosives.

For Bert there was a very pressing need to up his financial situation since he had just married the love of his life, one Mabel Violet Twiner. It was obvious to the newlyweds that continuing to live in Puddletown was not practical so they moved to Newton Organford where it was somewhat easier for Bert to manage his daily journeys to the factory.

Now that Emma had shared this highly interesting 'titbit' to me; that we had an RNCF worker buried in our graveyard, my interest was aroused. Through my work involved in the securing of a permanent memorial to all who died in Holton Heath's 'cordite years' I knew only too well that Bert's name was not one on it, this perplexed me no end! It was truly mysterious and the only way to solve this conundrum was to obtain a copy of the young man's death certificate. This showed that poor Albert had died as a result of pneumonia which was an exacerbation of influenza he had contracted earlier. The life of this poor sad man, who had moved like myself, through that most compelling of reasons, love, was cut short on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1918 at his home, bravely holding onto the hand of his beloved. Bert was laid to rest on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard-he was only 27.

There can be no doubt that the early curtailment of this young life was a result of harsh weather conditions that winter. His was a tough journey, cycling every day from Organford to 'the Heath' in all the weather conditions that Mother Nature could hurl at you.



*Continued on Page 15*

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What else I know is that once at work, Bert would have been subject to the most appalling working environment one could have imagined; I do not know precisely which section of the RNCF he worked in but most of the varying places that made up the factory were highly unpleasant to work in! Only now are we becoming *fully* aware of the unpleasant effects that the manufacturing of nitro-explosives has on the human physiology.

However, and tragically, this is not the end of our poignant narrative of a one time resident of our lovely village; young Albert shared another, more tragic connection with 'the Heath' he shared the same surname as another worker (once again, not related!) at the factory. Reginald Groves was a Hillman, (Hillman was the appellation given to a worker who 'worked the hill'; one of an elite brotherhood responsible for the manufacturing of the deadliest components of cordite, nitro-glycerine!). On the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1931 at precisely 10.43 Reginald also died but his death and that of Bert's were as different as chalk and cheese.

Albert Groves and his friend's final moments were as of Dante's Inferno; they departed this earth amidst fiery destruction and death. The one thing that every nitro-explosives factory and its work force fear the most had come true: a mistake had been made on the Hill. A batch of nitro-glycerine, undergoing separation, had been erroneously sent to the wrong holding vessel, a container meant for waste acid not explosive. Some of the senior staff were called and a plan put into operation to rectify the situation; unfortunately this did not go to plan and the result was an enormous series of explosions that were heard and felt 10 miles away. At the day's end 10 men, including the Foreman of Manufacturing, his deputy and the RNCF's Head Chemist lay dead with 19 further individuals injured. Naturally, there were inquests held with the verdict that no one was too blame (something that was hotly contested in the case of the Public Enquiry with the Coroner, Ralph Neville-Jones and his jurors having a vehement clash of opinions). There is to be a book published soon about this saddest of days and that too has a link with Puddletown! All in all the author has sought to bring this somewhat obscure of tales out into the open, an unknown piece of the village's history and how it was unknowingly linked to an ultra-secret factory and Dorset's greatest disaster.

*Rod Hughes*





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# Puddletown and Area Parish Council July News

## Play Parks are now open:

After seeking guidance from various organisations including the Parish Council's insurer and feedback from members of the public, the play parks have been re-opened as of 11/7/20.

Whilst we cannot eliminate the risk of the presence of the virus on equipment or provide on-site social distancing measures we respectfully remind that people use the space at their own risk. Useful signs advising how to minimise COVID-19 risks in line with 'current government guidance' have been placed around the playparks along with messages on social media to advise of this. Users should bring their own supply of hand sanitiser / hygiene products for cleaning surfaces before and after use.

## **Neighbourhood Plan Update - Reg.16 consultation:**

You will recall in last month's edition we headlined the Neighbourhood Plan. It is important to us that we keep you abreast of developments each step of the way. Some of what you see below is re-iteration, but please do use the links to review the plan for yourself in order to make your own informed comment within the deadline should you wish to.

"The Draft Puddletown Neighbourhood Plan was made available for public consultation from 25th November 2019 – 10th January 2020. The Steering Group have considered all responses and some changes have been made. The new draft along with additional supporting documents was approved by the Parish Council on the 12th May 2020 and subsequently was submitted to Dorset Council for them to conduct a regulation 16 consultation.

The regulation 16 consultation is now underway. This will be residents last opportunity to formally comment on the plan. **All comments should be submitted to Dorset Council by Friday 7th August.** Details can be viewed on the Dorset Council website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans/puddletown-neighbourhood-plan.aspx>

The consultation is the responsibility of Dorset Council and any comments should be submitted to them during the consultation period rather than the Parish Council. All documents can also be found on the PAPC web site at:

[http://www.puddletownareaparishcouncil.co.uk/Puddletown\\_Neighbourhood\\_Plan\\_24839.aspx](http://www.puddletownareaparishcouncil.co.uk/Puddletown_Neighbourhood_Plan_24839.aspx)

Following the consultation, the plan will need to be inspected by an external examiner before proceeding to referendum. Due to Coronavirus, the referendum may not take place until May 2021. The plan however will hold significant weight once the examiners' inspection is concluded."

*Continued on Page 19*

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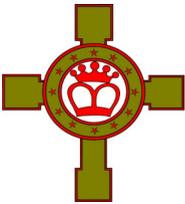
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### **Fly tipping:**

Fly-tipping continues to be a problem at Chine Hill. The Environment Agency and Dorset Police have launched a joint investigation. The Parish Council will keep passing updates to those responsible for the investigation, but any additional information from residents would be gratefully received.

### **August PAPC meeting:**

Will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August. This may remain a virtual online meeting, depending upon current Government guidance. In which case, the log in information is always available on the agenda for the meeting which can be found on the PAPC website. As always, residents are welcome to attend and bring any issues or concerns during the open forum at the beginning of the meeting. For information, all meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.



## **St Mary's Middle School**

We have come to the end of the most unique and challenging term for staff and pupils since I started teaching 23 years ago. I want to thank all of my staff for their efforts in keeping the school open throughout the holidays and for all their efforts in contacting pupils and working remotely with their classes during the lockdown period. I would like to highlight the work of my pastoral support team and especially those who have rung every vulnerable family each week and arranged for a constant supply of food vouchers. I need to acknowledge the amazing effort from parents who have had to become teachers at home and keep their child motivated. And lastly, but by no means least, the pupils for their efforts over the last few months. I am sure that we will never see another school year like this again!

It was so nice to see our lovely Year 8 pupils back in school this week when we had a chance to celebrate their four years as a pupil at St. Mary's. I want to thank them for their good behaviour and for allowing all of the staff to enjoy the event as well. We gave out several awards, some last Wednesday and some via our virtual assembly and I would like to congratulate all of the winners and hope that you feel rewarded for your ongoing hard work this year. They have been a fantastic year group as they have progressed through the school and we will miss them all. Best of luck for the future 'Year 8' and we look forward to seeing what you go onto achieve in the coming years.

I hope that the year 2020/2021 is calmer and more predictable.

Have a lovely, relaxing and safe summer break.

Best wishes

*Darren Ayling—Head Teacher*

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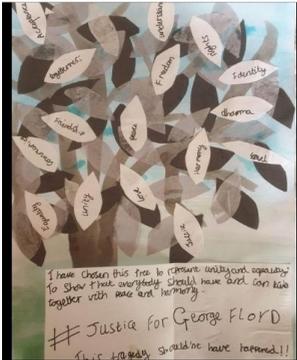
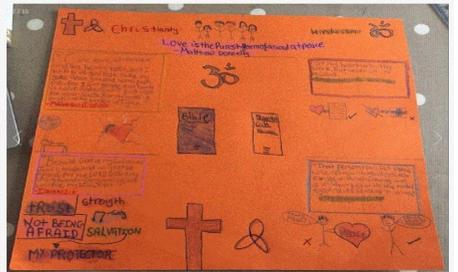
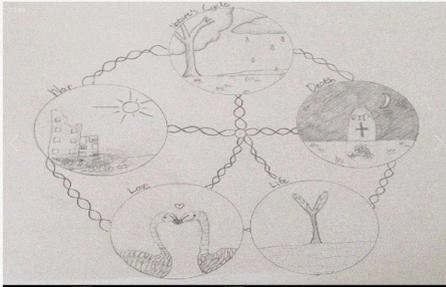
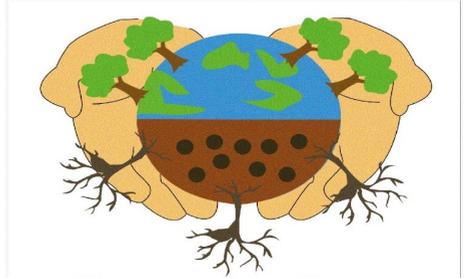
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## A Month on the Farm – July

After some wonderfully dry weather, thankfully some rain did come to help the crops, but was too late for some of the winter barleys, as instead of ripening evenly, parts of lighter fields were starting to die off.

With the grain stores cleared, cleaned, swept, hoovered and fumigated and with the sunshine forecast we have been able to get the big green combine harvester out into the fields of barley, firstly in 44 acres here, then one smaller very steep rented field at Waterston, and then onto the hills above Cheselbourne and in spite of the unusual weather a pleasing yield of grain and straw.

Following soon after the combine, came the balers, one baling large rectangular bales which are easy to haul and stack in the barns, also some in round bales which have been left at the sides of the fields, so can be fed to cattle whilst grazing on the turnips and then a couple of hundred were baled using a traditional conventional little baler, these bales are really useful for the lambing pens and also friends with horses or other pets rather like them, they are stored along with a similar number of hay bales, which again we have made this weekend in the middle of July, from two fields we cut with the intention of baling and wrapping as silage, but like the a smaller field in May the sun shone and the grass dried well, so hay was made.

Some spring lambs went to market, which is one place that social distancing does affect things, as the sellers are unable to see their stock sold, but as in previous months it is easy to social distance on a tractor or pulling wild oats from a wheat crop in a 20 acres field. Even loading a 29 tonne grain lorry with the newly cut barley we can do distancing as the driver is in the lorry directing the load and the other is on the loadall with a tonne bucket on the front, of which four lorry loads have already gone to the grain merchant into a store for later use, we will be paid for it at the end of September!

Now before the wheat harvest gets underway, there are such jobs as the dreaded TB testing of all the cattle on the farm, which takes four days in the one week when all the cattle will also get a squirt of fly deterrent on their backs as they go through the handling race, to help keep the flies off them, along with other jobs such as topping grasslands of thistles and docks.

*Wakely Cox*





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## August Wordsearch—The Transfiguration

Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. This is often identified as either Mount Tabor (there is a great church up there today), or one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which overlook Caesarea Philippi. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His disciples. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples, and a divine Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.



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CLERGY	The Revd Sarah Hillman (Vicar)	01305 848 784
	Sarah.c.hillman@outlook.com	
RETIRED CLERGY	Rosie Coldwell	01258 839 214
	The Revd Sue Turner	07775 710 429
CHURCHWARDENS	Vacancy (Puddletown)	
	Vacancy (Puddletown)	
	Hilly Cobban (Tolpuddle)	01305 848 552
	Julie Bonner (Tolpuddle)	01305 848 027
	Pam Shults (Milborne St Andrew)	01258 837 203
	Vacancy	
	Sue Britton (Dewlish)	01258 837 218
	Jim Burg (Dewlish)	01258 837 466
BENEFICE OFFICE	Emma Hughes	01305 849 039
(www.puddletownbenefice.org)	puddletownbenefice@outlook.com	
<b>PUDDLETOWN CONTACTS</b>		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Alcoholics Anonymous	
Area Parish Council	Peter Churchill	01305 849292
	Email:peter.churchill.gooner@gmail.com	07407 235798
Area Parish Clerk	Mrs A Bendall	01305 849 596
	puddletown@dorset-aptc.gov.uk	
Bell Ringers	Robin Mears	01305 848 021
Carer's Association		
Children's Society	Dawn Loveless	01305 849534
Church Room	David Jeffreys	01305 848 211
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	Wednesday: 3.00pm to 5.00pm	
	Friday: 3.00pm to 5.00pm	
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County Councillor	Emma Parker	
Cricket Club	David Stevens	07720 411 952
Cubs, Scouts & Beavers	Alf Justin	01258 839 080
Football Club	Steve Brown	07789 821 408
Flower Rota	Heather Mears	01305 848 021
Footpaths & Rights of Way	Phil Drake	01305 848560
Friends of Puddletown Church	Ursula Pomeroy	01305 264 516
Friends of Puddletown Library	Mary Berry	01305 848 557
	Steven Buck	01305 848 575

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<b>DOCTORS</b>		
Puddletown Surgery	Dr J Griffiths, Dr C Burnham & Dr J Bond	01305 848 333
Puddletown Surgery (Dispensary)		01305 849 329
Out of hours medical advice & NHS Direct	Out of hours medical advice & NHS Direct	111
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows	Amy Knight	01305 848 602
Handbells	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Mini-Soccer/Youth Football	Jon Palmer	07891 173 999
Neighbourhood Plan	Paul Langdon	01305 848 307
Organist		
PCC Secretary	Emma Hughes	01305 849039
PCC Treasurer	Bob Todd	01305 849 048
Puddletown Countrywoman's Club	Sylvia Hanby	01305 849 562
Puddletown CPPP	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/puddletownplaypark">www.facebook.com/puddletownplaypark</a>	
Puddletown Pumpkins Toddler Group	Kelly	07786 916515.
Puddletown Society	John Ridout	01305 848 940
Recreational Multi Games Area	David Knight	07890 260 320
Recreation Ground Pavilion	Liz Knight	01305 848 380
Royal British Legion (RBL)	S Ridout	01305 848 940
Rugby Club	Ray Stephens <a href="mailto:puddletownrfc@hotmail.com">puddletownrfc@hotmail.com</a>	07966 412 467
<b>SCHOOLS</b>		
Pre-school	Sharon Brown <a href="http://www.puddletownpreschool.co.uk">www.puddletownpreschool.co.uk</a>	01305 849 533
Pre –school	Laura Evans	
First School (Head Teacher)	Mr D Hunwick <a href="http://www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk">www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk</a>	01305 848 206
St Mary's CE Middle School	Darren Ayling—Head Teacher	01305 848 293
Short Mat Bowls		
Sunday Church Creche	Vacancy	
Sunday Seekers	Lynda Skinner	01305 849 485
Village Hall Caretaker/Bookings	Kevin Smith <a href="mailto:puddletownvh@gmail.com">puddletownvh@gmail.com</a>	07706 798271
Village Hall Committee Secretary	Nancy Vincent	01305 848 218
Yoga	Mandy Cooper	07713 47737

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Young Farmers (Dorset)		01305 263 947
<b>TOLPUDDLE CONTACTS</b>		
Craft Club	Teresa Turner	01305 849 060
Orchard Meadow	Anna Bendall—Clerk to	01305 849596
PCC Secretary	Jayne Brayshaw	01305 849 314
PCC Treasurer	John Taylor	01305 848 552
Streetfair	Annette Pitman	01305 848 219
Tolpuddle Home Group	Simon Dodd	01305 848 171
Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust	tolpud- dleostrust@btinternet.com	tolpuddleostrust@btinternet.com
Tolpuddle Toddler Group	Maria Palmer	07717 506020
Tolpuddle Village Meeting	Julia Johnstone, Clerk.	tolpuddlemeeting@yahoo.com
Tolpuddle Village Show	Jo Austwick	austwickjoanne@gmail.com.
Village Hall Bookings Sec.	Diana Foreman	01305 848 419
Village Hall Chairman	Peter Walton - pdwal-	01305 848 034
Whist Drive	Diana Foreman	01305 848 419
Yoga (Iyengar)	Sue Chapman	01305 848 053
<b>USEFUL &amp; EMERGENCY NUMBERS</b>		
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Dorset Community Action	info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk	
Dorset County Hospital		01305 251 150
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<b>DEWLISH CONTACTS</b>		
Cricket	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837 696
Ladies Group	Judith Bridgen	01258 837 157
Parish Council	Andrew Booth (Chair)	01258 837 284
Village Hall (Chair)	Bernie Cosgrove,	01258 837 152
Village Hall (Sec)	Alex Carter	01258 837 312

**CONTACTS PAGE - Please help us keep these pages up to date by notifying us of any changes****MILBORNE ST ANDREW CONTACTS**

Allotment Society	Joy Robinson	01258 837 661
Archery	Sheila Ryall	01258 837 504
Athletics (Information)	David Pearson	01258 837 057
Badminton	Bruce Dyer	01258 839 117
Bellringers	Pip Howell	01258 837 329
Busy Bees Group (Under 5s)	Claire Tudge	07970 734 162
Cribbage	Peter Anthony	01258 837 089
Food & Wine Club	Rose Frost	01258 837 921
Football (Youths)	Andy Brown	07427 503 373
Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837 061
Ladybirds Playgroup	Liz Dyer	01258 839 117
Milborne First School	Sharon Hunt (Head Teacher)	01258 837 362
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837 033
Nightsabre Dog Training Group	Natasja Lewis	07896 275 357
Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 470 333
Parish Council	Richard MacNair	01258 837 912
	Wayne Lewin (Clerk)	07419 136 735
Patient Voice Secretary	Nigel Hodder	01258 880 229
Pilates	Claire Barratt	07703 648869
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880 044
Scout Group	Sam Elliott	07873 762 035
Sports Club	Richard Lock (& Bookings)	01258 837 929
Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880 601
Tai Chi	Brian Burton	01258 839 033
Tap Dancing (Adults)	Kevin Selby	01305 250 386
Tennis - Member's Secretary	Richard Hawker	07383 309 037
Village Hall	Pam Shults (Chair)	01258 837 203
	Alison Riddle (Bookings)	01258 837 148
Wednesday Social Club	Sheila Burton	01258 839 033
Women's Institute	Lesley Clarke	01929 471 732
Yoga –at First School (Iyengar)	Sue Chapman	01305 848 053
Yoga—at Village Hall	Sarah Ryan	01258 839 230
Youth Club (8-13 years)	Joanne Miller	01258 881 496



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## St John's Church, Tolpuddle

Well- we had been warned that coming out of Lockdown would be more testing than hunkering down and yes indeed it is.... we have had the church open on Wednesdays and Sundays through July - with full protection rigour and keeping secure records in case we need to track and trace. Our Treasurer agreed that we could keep the chancel

lights on to brighten the church up a little and so that visitors could appreciate Marion's beautiful flowers. Plans are now afoot to commence services- at this point in time Sarah is consulting with our congregation to see who will feel comfortable coming to church and what services will be available. We are aware that they might be limited initially.

I do hope that some of you have been accessing the on-line services that Sarah has presented weekly, I have found them very stimulating and enjoyed the opportunity to sing along safely (without an audience). She has also set up a fortnightly Zoom in which we can be interactive. Many of us have had to embrace technology, which initially took us out of our comfort zone, but has now become a regular means of communication. I myself have also taken the opportunity to telephone some old friends, the friends to whom we always send a Christmas Card saying we will be in touch! Now we can actually visit people at a safe distance and we are beginning to feel a little normal. But we can't forget those who have been severely affected by Covid19 - either physically, emotionally or financially. We remember especially those who have had to cope with a loss and burials through this period - those of Sherilyn and Poppy King.



Indeed another of the graves in our Churchyard has also been adorned with flowers this month- as wreaths were laid on Hammett's grave in a short ceremony arranged by Tom de Wit in the absence of the Martyr' Festival. Marion and I made these for him using garden and wild flowers donated by the villagers and attached to willow wreaths, all biodegradable. I believe there was a really impressive "Virtual" festival for people to visit which I thoroughly recommend.

I would also like to suggest a visit to our Living Churchyard which is truly beautiful this year, huge thanks to all those inspired people who have persevered to get this.

*Continued on Page 33*

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I hope someone can catalogue all the different flowers, although now even I might be able to do this as Julie Batchelor has introduced me to a great App for this!

As to the future of our church and its finances - who knows? We have had to cancel many of our fund raising activities BUT Ride and Stride is to go ahead—do join in with this if you possibly can.

Meanwhile- stay safe and happy

*Hilly & Julie*

---

## TOLPUDDLE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

**Registered Charity No. 257403**



Tolpuddle Village Hall is now open again for hire following the Coronavirus lockdown.

The Hall Committee have carried out a risk assessment in line with Government guidance and have put in place a series of measures to help make the Hall as safe as possible against Covid 19. These include introducing a one way system for entering and leaving the building and using the toilets, installing hand sanitisers at various points, reducing access to the kitchen and installing foot operated pedal bins.

The Hall will be thoroughly cleaned once a week including wiping of frequently-used surfaces. However hirers will need to be responsible for further wiping of surfaces before and after use, for maintaining a tracing list (with contact numbers) of those attending events and retaining it for 21 days and for ensuring that appropriate social-distancing rules are observed during hire.

In the current circumstances, the Hall Committee have agreed that, for the time being, there will be no charge for hiring the Hall for community social activities open to all, such as coffee mornings and social get togethers. We have all been fortunate so far to live in an area with low incidence of the disease, but many of us have missed the social interaction which lockdown has necessitated. We hope that this will be eased by making the Hall available in this way.

**It will, though, be necessary for someone to hire the Hall for such events and discharge the hirer's responsibilities as mentioned above.**

For those wishing to hire the Hall for "commercial" use, we will temporarily reduce the current hourly charge of £7.50 per hour to £5 per hour to allow for the reduced access to facilities within the Hall (in particular the kitchen).

We are very fortunate to have received a grant from the Government to help us through this period when our income is virtually nil.

*Continued on Page 35*



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We would also like to acknowledge with grateful thanks a substantial contribution (£1,000) from the Unite Union in recognition of the fact that the cancellation of the Martyrs Festival will mean the the loss of an important source of income for the Hall this year. We intend to use this grant for further improvements to the Hall.

*Peter Walton, Chairman Village Hall Management Committee*

## **Tales from Piddle Valley Vets**

### **A cautionary tale, the tortoise, and the dog.**



There are probably many of us who have for a number of years been merrily enjoying allowing our tortoises to wander around the garden, watching them foraging and having fun. Then there is always the game of 'hunt the tortoise' always a source of great amusement on a rainy day when they like to hide away. Our dogs are not usually an issue with the tortoises, they don't interact overly, after all they haven't got a lot in common, you would think. However, there is one crucial factor that tends to be overlooked, a tortoise shell is made of bone, and to a dog that is a walking treat.



Sadly, we do get a number of tortoises in who have been chewed by dogs, usually the dog is owned by the family, and 'has never done this before'. The damage can vary from a slight nibbling on the edge of the shell to something far more serious. One such case came in to us recently, Trevor the tortoise was happily minding his own business when he became the latest victim of an overplayful dog. Trevor suffered very severe damage to his shell and was brought straight in to us, at this point the prognosis was very guarded.

Trevor needed some very intensive care, his shell had been badly damaged at the front and was dressed and bandaged, he had fluid therapy, assisted feeding and was very closely monitored for 4 days and nights.

Often a tortoise with these kind of injuries seems to be doing okay and then can suddenly fade, this was the worry with Trevor so he was under very careful nursing observations as we all waited to see how he would recover. Thankfully he was one of the ones who made it, despite being small enough to sit in your palm he is a little fighter and was determined to win.

After four days he was allowed home and has been back to see us a couple of times, looking better each on each visit. In time he may need reconstructive surgery on his shell but at the moment other tissue has to regrow first, it will be a long



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journey, but he's taken the all important first steps and is well on the way. He has been allowed into the garden again which he loved, munching his way round, albeit without his canine companion this time.

Apart from Trevor being such a strong little creature the speed in which his owner got him to us played a part in his survival. If this should happen to your tortoise, no matter how little damage there may appear to be it is imperative that you get them into the surgery as soon as you can. The effect of the injuries may not be visible to you, and they need to be checked out. The moral of the story is keep your tortoises away from your dogs, they are not a chew toy despite being enclosed by bone!




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## **When is a Festival hardly a festival - when it is on line!**

The Festival was kept alive this year by an on-line event as some may have noticed from their screens. It was fun for those who took part but not really quite like the real thing which has taken place every year since 1947 and intermittently before the Second World War.

On Sunday 19th July when the Big Rally would have taken place a small procession wound its way from the Martyrs Tree to the Methodist Chapel. It was led by Lorraine playing a violin with the Tolpuddle Branch Agricultural Workers banner carried by myself. Ray and Jim marshalled the traffic and a few from the village accompanied the banner including Penny, Margaret, Andy, Steve the postman, Rosie and Liz amongst others. The whole event was filmed by Tom de Witt of the TUC and his colleagues and went out on-line at 2.00 pm. The TUC did not wish the event to be a trade union function and that is why there was only one old traditional trade union banner. It was organised around the village of Tolpuddle and its residents. People came out to clap as we passed along and it was a jolly occasion.

The on-line event also featured film that had been made earlier. Wreaths were laid on the grave of James Hammett. Sarah Hillman the vicar laid one on behalf of St John's Church. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Methodist Church, the residents at the Memorial Cottages, the TUC and the people of Tolpuddle as well as the family of James Hammett who is buried in the Churchyard and was the only one of the six "martyrs" to remain living in the Dorchester area until the end of his life. The event on-line featured singers and musicians as is the case at the festival.

The TUC hopes that the Rally & Festival can be held as normal next year.

*Tony Gould.*

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## Reducing my carbon footprint – part 3

My previous two articles have described doing the two things which the government says we will all have to do in the next 20 years – ditch the gas boiler and the petrol/diesel car. It was reasonably easy but imagine doing this for 20 million boilers and 30 million cars! Together with the electricity generation and infrastructure! We will all need to work together.

But this is only the start – heating and cars account for only a quarter to a third of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. So, what next?

Clothing accounts for around 10% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions together with intensive land/water usage to grow cotton.

In the UK we buy 2 tons of clothes every minute - more than double what we bought a few decades ago. Clothes are cheap – my first pair of Levi's cost about £6 in the early 1970s (4 weeks' paper round money). That's around £85 after inflation – a similar price. But a pair of cheap jeans in Woolworths was £1.75 - £25 now, which is much more than the £10 you pay at Primark or Asda.

Those of you who see me wandering around the village in tatty clothes for working on the house would think I am not a great fashion lover. True, but I do like to dress up now and then. My focus has previously been on trying to buy clothes that have been manufactured ethically. You may remember we had an ethical clothing retailer in the old dairy a while back – but they closed when austerity reduced the amount people could spend on clothes. I now try and buy clothes made in the UK, where hopefully working conditions are good.

I think the quality of clothes is now poorer: back in the 1970s, way before international container shipping became so cheap, M&S promoted the fact that most of their clothes were made in the UK. I found an unopened M&S shirt when cleaning out my parents' house and wore it for work. It lasted much longer than my modern shirts from Goulds.

I have always been torn between natural materials (nicer next to one's body) and synthetic performance materials (easier to wash and dry). Cotton has an enormous water footprint (about 7000 litres to make a pair of jeans) and a high carbon footprint due to intensive agriculture (the weight of CO<sub>2</sub> released is 20 times the weight of the garment).

Synthetic materials require oil extraction, refinement and lots of chemistry and of course do not break down in the environment. Also, we now know about microfibres being released during washing. I use a Guppyfriend to catch them.

I have always worn my clothes until they are only fit for the rag bag (they can still go to clothing recycling! – 11 million tons of unrecycled clothing goes to landfill in the UK every year). So what am I doing to reduce my clothing footprint?

The only thing I could do was buy less! And buy good quality so they will last longer. Last year the only new clothes I bought were two nightshirts from UK made by British Boxers (the house is now too well insulated for my thick nightshirts!)



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I have resisted all the emails with sales and money off. I will have to buy some things as my old clothes wear out but that will be all.

I am not suggesting that we all go to such extremes but the average garment in the UK is only worn seven times. Because clothes are cheap, we do not value them.

So my ethos is: value my clothes, wear them more times and recycle them (charity shop or rag collection as appropriate).

Next month - Food

*Andy Mott*

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## **Ride + Stride 12 September 2020**

Dorset Historic Churches Trust provides funds to help parishes keep their churches weatherproof, warm and available for worship and wider public use. In 2019 grants totalling £106,500 were awarded to 16 churches. Most of the Trust's income comes from the annual sponsored Ride + Stride. In 2019 £84,623 was raised by participants of all ages and abilities. 50% of all money pledged was returned to the churches nominated by the riders or striders, so everyone benefited.

Ride + Stride will take place this year on Saturday 12th September 2020. It will be a modified event to take account of Covid 19 restrictions. This means that churches may not be open, refreshments and WCs may not be available and participants may have to self record their own efforts. This is to minimise any risk of infection between people or contamination of churches.

However it will still be an opportunity for a great day out in Dorset, on bikes, horses or on foot to raise some much needed funds for your church and churches across the county.

If you are not able to take part, you are still able support Ride + Stride by sponsoring one of riders or striders. Remember that half the sum pledged will be gratefully used by the Trust to sustain our wonderful churches and the other half will be given back to the parish that they nominate, or other nominated charity.

If you would be interested in taking part, please get in touch with me –

*Hilly Cobban* [hilcobban@gmail.com](mailto:hilcobban@gmail.com) ( 07817557367)

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# Milborne St Andrews Church News

## St Andrews Church – what next!

Although our government has said that we can now hold services in churches again, we are sure that things will not be as they were before this pandemic climate.

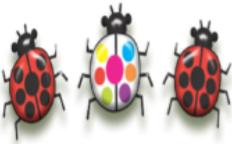
We know that there will have to be lots of strategies to avoid spreading ‘the virus’ including ensuring thorough cleaning, social distancing, track and trace, no singing of hymns, if there is communion then no kneeling and there will be no wine. What we don’t know is how many people will feel safe coming to a service.

As I write this, the Rev. Sarah Hillman is doing an online survey to see what will be the best way forward. This could mean that we may not have any services in St Andrew’s church or that the number held will be less than before. Hopefully by the time this is published we will have more of an idea.

If you haven’t been to the graveyards recently, you may not have seen all the wonderful wildflowers and the neatness of most of the area. In the old churchyard behind the church, our volunteers cut back a lot of shrubbery last year and this has encouraged more wildflowers to grow. New volunteers are always welcome, if you are interested do give me a call.

*Pam Shultz*

St Andrew’s Churchwarden



Milborne Ladybirds Playgroup

## Could you be our new team member?

Milborne Ladybirds are looking for an enthusiastic person to join our small group of dedicated adults in September. The position is to cover maternity leave (1 year) of our Deputy Leader and ideally requires experience in Childcare, Safeguarding, Planning activities, maintaining Learning Journals and a sense of humour! If you are interested or know someone who is please contact me [liz@milborneladybirds.com](mailto:liz@milborneladybirds.com) or 07771 512427.



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## A Summer walk from Milborne.

‘Many roads can take you there, many different ways. One direction takes you weeks, another takes you days’. So proclaimed George Harrison in the lyrics of his 1968 song *Dehradun*, a tune penned about the Indian city of the same name. This line has become my mantra as my finger hovers over OL25 the explorer map I use to plot my routes. Today I’m heading south towards Tolpuddle. I’m not planning on taking weeks or days as I would like to be home for lunch. On a fresh summer’s morning you can’t beat striding down The Causeway, bearing right at the war memorial before turning left to join the footpath that takes you past Manor Farm. The elaborate weather worn stone pillars that once formed a gateway here take you through to open country. A beige, ladies’ sunhat has been perched on one of the style uprights; it has been here for a few days now, an item of lost property that needs reuniting with its owner. Although it is just past eight o’clock in the morning, the sun is beginning to show some ferocity and I toy with the idea of borrowing the hat, electing to leave it as it isn’t really my style.

The path leads down to a clump of beech trees where I will be bearing right instead of heading directly towards Tolpuddle. A rope swing hangs over the adjacent brook; perhaps generations of Milborne youngsters have enjoyed endless summer days here, trudging off home across the fields when their tummies begin to rumble? I am now heading west along a chalk path at the foot of a valley, through three fields where the view to my right opens up and I can see traffic on the A354 consisting primarily of courier vans and supermarket delivery lorries. Very few cars, a sign of the times. At the end of the fifth field, past a tumbledown barn the path swings left becoming enclosed between rustic hedges. There is an active badger sett to carefully negotiate before topping out on the crest of Lords Down. The view from here is a fantastic panorama, the vastness of Puddletown Forest right around to Bullbarrow hill all framed beneath a clear blue azure sky.

I begin to drop down towards the A35. My map indicates I should pass a triangulation point here on the field boundary but I fail to locate it. I’m not doubting Ordnance Survey, fair play to them they have been mapping this country since 1745, maybe I just didn’t look hard enough. The footpath cuts diagonally across a field before becoming metalled. It then skirts the dual carriageway, swooping beneath it in a modern concrete underpass, a complete juxtaposition to the ancient landscape I have just trekked. Dropping down into Tolpuddle the path becomes Central Farm Lane. Joining the old A35 in the village it is hard to imagine this was the predecessor to the modern adjacent road. I soon remember how leisurely things were, even forty years ago when we would travel between Dorchester and Bere Regis in my dad’s Austin Cambridge. The worst case scenario back then was getting held up by a clanking, whirring milk float, or having to wait to pass the pinch point in the village as a coal delivery lorry was unloaded by a man in blue dungarees, his eyes a stark white against a sooty face.



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Leaving the bulky Martyrs' Tree on my right and passing a couple of stands selling early summer plants, my route takes me off the main road and up the steeply inclined road at Whitehill. It seems to get steeper the more I ascend and I breast the summit with a bead of sweat above my eyebrows. My mind wanders longingly towards the beige hat perched on the style at Manor Farm, but it really isn't my style... I cross paths with the A35 again and stop a while on the overbridge. Covid-19 has reduced the normal constant flow of traffic, the vehicles themselves even seem to be lacking their usual hustle and bustle, as if proceeding cautiously into the unknown.

At this point I could take a direct route back home, but I choose to bear right and follow the course of the old Roman Road that will lead me in true Romano road building fashion, gun barrel straight down to Ashley Barn on Snag Lane (Ashleyus Barnus, Snagus Laneus as the Roman invaders may have known it). Here I pick up the Bere Regis to Milborne St Andrew road where it kinks right then left. The Roman road continues straight on as a narrow grassy path. Ahead of me looms the familiar sight of Wetherby Castle and I know I am nearly home. We can see the tree capped fort from our spare bedroom, or as we call it 'Monty's Room', named after our ginger cat who has taken up permanent residence within. A sort of feline Julian Assange. The fort is worth a visit; I've crisscrossed it on some of my lockdown walks and its earthworks can be accessed either by a signposted path from Snag Lane, or from the path at the end of The Causeway where it joins Little England. Pieces of Roman pottery ware were found here by antiquarians in the nineteenth century. In the twenty first century all I found was lots of sheep poo.

As I crest the hill and enter the environs of our village a police car crawls down the lane towards Bere Regis. The female officer gives me a friendly wave and I return the gesture with my plaster encased arm in acknowledgement. I have been out for just over an hour but haven't seen a single soul; it would have been a fair cop! I easily made it back before lunch and even managed to sneak in some elevenses before I unfolded OL25 to see where tomorrow would take me. If George Harrison had chosen to retire to Milborne St Andrew instead of Henley on Thames, would he have penned a little ditty extolling the virtues of our green lanes, tracks and paths? If he was still with us might he have accompanied me to find the elusive triangulation point on Lords Down? Why not see if you can stumble upon it.

*Rich Hawker*

## Do you have holiday accommodation in Tolpuddle?

We are adding an additional page to the village website ([www.tolpuddlevillage.co.uk](http://www.tolpuddlevillage.co.uk)) as this is a busy holiday area with little accommodation available.

It is hoped that this will bring more business to the local area and enable more holidaymakers to enjoy our beautiful countryside.

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*Julia Johnstone*

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## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OTHER FAMILIES IN WEST DORSET?**



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Do you have parenting experience and 2-3 hours a week available to visit a local family in need? Home-Start West Dorset is looking for volunteers to offer practical and emotional support to families with children under five.

Families require help for many different reasons, including loneliness and isolation, multiple births, poor mental health, illness or disability, housing or financial stresses; or maybe they are just finding parenting a struggle. Covid 19 has also meant many families in Dorset have been finding life particularly hard for the last few months.

Home-Start West Dorset is a well-known local independent charity that has operated across West Dorset, Weymouth, Portland and Sherborne since 2009. All volunteers undertake a 26-hour training course, spread over multiple weeks, which gives them all skills and tools they'll need. Once matched with a suitable family, our volunteers continue to be fully supported, including a personal supervision every six weeks.

During this time of social distancing the charity has successfully moved its support to on line; still giving weekly support through phone and video call, texts and post. Kelly Rolfe, one of the charity's organisers says, "As lockdown guidelines have eased, many more families have been pushed towards a vulnerable status and we're getting increasing amounts of referrals. We are aiming to organise a new volunteer training course as soon as it is safe to do so, and are looking for women and men with parenting experience, aged 18 and over, to apply now so that we can get going again as soon as possible."

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