

# *Spreadeagle* winter 2012



With best wishes for a very  
Happy Christmas  
to all our readers



# Christmas Cracker Quiz

**SATURDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**



**AT**

**MELBURY ABBAS & CAMVILLAGE HALL**

**@ 8PM - 8.30PM START**

**£1 PER PERSON**

**MAXIMUM OF 4 TO A TABLE**

**CHRISTMAS WRAPPED RAFFLE**

**BAR WILL BE OPEN**

As we come towards the end of an eventful year, we record changes to come in the villages. Edwin Rayner has resigned from the Parish Council taking with him years of experience of local government and his enormous enthusiasm: thank you Edwin for all you have done for the community in many unsung ways. Mary Harding will be retiring at the end of January and moving away from Shaftesbury: many of us have benefitted from her skills in so many ways and wish her very well in her new life.

We don't know who will become chair of the Parish Council as the meeting will be the day after we collate and staple so there is no leaflet of all clubs and societies this time – wait till Spring. We do know that the Revd. Jan Crossley will be taking over from Mary. To all these people we send our best wishes as they start out on a new journey.

*Sara Jacson and Anne Kaile*

### **Gossip bits**

**Congratulations** to Jane Shepherd who thinks that a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday is a good excuse not to come and help put this copy of *Spreadeagle* together!

**Our good wishes** go to many people in our villages who are facing difficult and painful times.

**Thank you Fiona Legg** for volunteering to deliver *Spreadeagle*

**There are two vacancies** for councillors in Cann Ward on the Melbury Abbas and Cann Parish Council. If you are interested in taking part in local issues please contact Anne Kaile (Clerk) [annekaile1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annekaile1@yahoo.co.uk) or (01747) 854565 for more details.

### **The Revd. Mary Harding**

**John Porter 850670**

As you will know from her announcement in the Autumn *Spreadeagle*, Mary is retiring at the end of January and in due course will move away from Shaftesbury.

During her time with us since she started serving St Thomas's Church here in Melbury Abbas, Mary has made a wonderful impact on many people, not only in our villages, but also throughout Shaftesbury and the surrounding villages. Until Bob's health progressively failed, up to his death earlier this year, he gave every support to Mary's ministry. He is fondly remembered.

I find it impossible to list all Mary's areas of influence but she leaves many memories of her activities as a priest, a pastor and simply as a friend. Her enthusiasm, dedication, sensitivity and attention to every human need have never failed to impress all those who have come into contact with her. She has been an example to us all and will be greatly missed.

***Thank you, Mary – our very best wishes for the future go with you.***

## **Still more village-y stuff.....**

**Susan Kay** wishes all her friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas this year as she is not sending cards, but supporting Cancer charities.

**The Christmas Quiz**, set by Sylvia Dudman this year, will be used at the Christmas Party. As *Spreadeagle* delivery may not reach you in time, the Quiz will be given at the party. After the party the Quiz will be available on the Village Hall website [www.melburyabbasandcannvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.melburyabbasandcannvillagehall.org.uk)

## **Millennium Group**

**Bursaries for young people.** You should find an application form enclosed in this *Spreadeagle*. This year we will be awarding £100 to each successful applicant. Please do apply - this is one way the village can support you.

**Village Archive.** Last time we wrote about the archive and where it is held. Malcolm Potter came to the last Millennium meeting and we discussed this. For the time being it is with Malcolm. He now wonders

**Does Anyone Remember Gilbert Spencer?**

**Malcolm Potter 851857**

The painter Gilbert Spencer [1892-1972], brother of Sir Stanley Spencer, visited and painted views of Melbury Abbas & Cann between the Word Wars. *It is known that he resided in Cann. But where?*

*Did he own or rent a property, or did he take lodgings?*

*Does anyone remember him?*

Many 'Melbury Pictures' exist & may be seen in Public Galleries, e.g. :

'Melbury Beacon' 1939 – Southampton City Gallery,

'Cottage Gardens at Compton Abbas' 1939 – Ashmolean, Oxford

'Budden's Lane' 1939 – Arts Council,

Blackmore Vale from Compton Abbas' 1942 – Tate Britain.

If anyone has information/anecdotes I would appreciate their sharing this knowledge with me for the Village Archive. Contact either through the *Speadeagle*, telephone or E-Mail - [malcolm.potter9@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.potter9@btinternet.com)

**And from Chapel Cottage:** when Ann and Brian Hughes were buying Chapel Cottage, a man from Cann Common who used to live in the cottage in the 1950s came to see them. In the rush and muddle of the move, they do not know who this was. They would be fascinated to know, please! Can whoever you are make contact either by phone (853911) or email [brian.hughes48@gmail.com](mailto:brian.hughes48@gmail.com)

## **North Dorset District Council**

**Jules Speers 07980886397**

Progress has been made in a number of key areas this autumn, largely through a great deal of effort by the Parish Council and good engagement with the County Council. The dialogue has mainly been directed at our County Council member Angus Campbell, who is also the leader of the Council and therefore an individual with a significant amount of influence.

**The first meeting** was in conjunction with Compton Abbas about the Travellers' encampment just to the north of Twyford. It is good to see a plan being agreed and now we hope for a successful eviction with the support of the County Officers.

**The second meeting** was about Dinah's Hollow and at the instigation of Brian Hughes, who put forward a very good case and outlined a number of options to reduce the burden of traffic on Dinah's Hollow and the damage it is causing. From a highways perspective Angus Campbell was convinced and is working towards a short term solution with the highways officers; not a bypass I am afraid. From a District perspective, the area of interest is in trees and maintaining the tree preservation order on that area. The trees under the preservation order will remain unless there is imminent danger to life and the focus is now on ensuring the owners of those trees maintain them correctly to ensure their longevity.

**The annual budget** beckons in the first quarter of next year and so work starts now on identifying areas that require focussed spending in North Dorset and any potential options for savings. Having reduced the budget available significantly in the last few years, there are always difficult decisions to make, and there don't seem to be many options. This will be debated in more detail during the Council budget workshop on 12th December.

**The second tranche** of the Dorset Waste Partnership is being instigated in North Dorset next year and so we will come under the new regime. More details can be found at <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/recyclefordorset?LGNTF=79> but it is now fully in use for Christchurch and running well. Some of the figures are astounding ; the Christchurch depot took in 1.4 tonnes of food waste in Oct and over 80 tonnes of garden waste.

**At the Council meeting** at the end of October Deborah Croney was appointed as the new leader of North Dorset District Council, replacing Peter Webb. Thank you to Peter for all his hard work during his years as leader.

*Finally, as the beautiful autumn colours have now been blown (or rained) away and a cold snap seems to be coming in, I hope I can wish you a very Merry Christmas season.*

**The rumour is not true.** We send best wishes to John Giles who lost his mobile home, all its contents as well as a vehicle also destroyed by fire. This was not arson.

## **Parish Council**

**Brian Hughes - Vice Chairman 853911**

It has been an eventful few months during which our Chairman Edwin Rayner has retired from the council after many years of service. We thank him for all the energy and time he has spent guiding us through the first stages of life under the Localism Act although in truth, as yet, little has changed, and for his efforts to make Guys Marsh part of our very scattered Parish. We wish him all the best for the future.

During these months we have joined initiatives to work with Shaftesbury Town Council and our adjoining parishes on matters of mutual interest. This has led to a wider co-operation with South Somerset and South West Wiltshire and a group called the Wessex Working Group. This could lead to more pressure for improvements to our infrastructure including roads, watch this space!

We are currently talking to Dorset County Council on two issues which affect our Parish, the first being the problems surrounding the travellers who have moved on to St James Common. This is a problem which also affects Shaftesbury and our adjacent parish neighbours Compton Abbas. We have adopted a joint approach and hope to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

We have had concerns about Dinah's Hollow for many months following landslips that have deposited several tons of earth on the road. Heavy goods vehicles travelling at speed have been eating into and undermining the banks. The speed limit both up and down through the Hollow is exceeded by the majority of traffic which is adding to the problem. Support is being sought from the North Dorset District Council whose officers made the Hollow subject to a 'woodland TPO' (tree preservation order). It has been described by them as follows; '*Dinah's Hollow is a significant and important amenity and landscape feature located in a highly visible place next to a busy road. The trees grow on steep sided banks creating a tunnel of vegetation, trees, flowers and ferns. It is characteristic of a vanishing Dorset landscape of sunken lanes and damp dark hollows of self-set trees and ferns*'. We agree with this but it is now in urgent need of the protection they promised.

We met our County Councillor, Angus Campbell, and our North Dorset District Councillor Julian Speers, at Dinah's Hollow to inspect the damage being caused and we are grateful for the time taken from their busy schedules. They are helping us in our dialogue with DCC Highways to find a solution which adequately protects this vital amenity. Councillor Campbell is also assisting with advice and support concerning the events at St. James Common.

We will shortly have a Parish Council web site where we can publish meeting dates, minutes and agendas for information. We hope this will open an avenue for you to contact us on any matter of concern and help with community awareness

Again – WATCH THIS SPACE.

**W.I.**

**Sylvia Dudman 853695**

Autumn has been another busy season. At our September meeting Nikki Hale told us about the different types of icing, cutters and gadgets she uses when making celebration cakes for friends and family. We then tried our hand at making rosebuds from sugar paste with varying degrees of success. Unfortunately we were unable to take part in the Beacon Group Skittles Tournament this year – hopefully everyone will be fit again by next time!

October was particularly busy: several of us went to see The Herbal Bed at Shaftesbury Arts Centre early in the month, Sue Minshaw paid a welcome return visit to our meeting demonstrating Autumn Flower Arrangements. Everyone was given a free raffle ticket afterwards, the lucky winner taking home the lovely arrangements. On October 18<sup>th</sup> eleven members went to the AGM in Poole when the main speaker was Adam Henson of Countryfile fame.

It was our turn to host the Autumn Group meeting this year. Mr Pearce from Semley Antiques brought a number of items on which we answered questions. He also talked about some of the antiques which members had brought. A delicious buffet supper and raffle ended the evening.

At the November meeting Juliet Bichard and Adrian Goldsack told us about the work of Citizens' Advice, a very worthwhile organisation.

We are ending the year at the Royal Chase Hotel, the Beacon Group Carol Service and our December meeting which will be a social evening.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

**Roy Phillips 01747 853122**

Martyn Underhill Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset is a former Detective Chief Inspector from the Sussex Police Force. Over the next 10 weeks he will be preparing his policing plan within the £117m Dorset budget. Among his priorities will be to put the victim first, greater support for Neighbourhood and other watch schemes and to finally get Community Speed Watch underway. The latter will particularly be welcomed by villages in North Dorset. His first task will probably be to appoint a new Chief Constable. Crime is low and across Dorset it has reduced by 17% over the last year. Please check your shed alarms and security lights as there is often a rise in crime in the run up to Christmas. Please advise your neighbours if you are going away. Do not leave valuables or Christmas presents on show, either at home or in your car when out Christmas shopping. I have details of security devices which make excellent Christmas presents. Be wary of pickpockets when shopping in larger towns. If you see anything suspicious or unusual always report it immediately to Dorset Police on 101 and you may prevent a crime. Please also telephone me and I will alert everyone on the e-mail list.

*Have a Merry Christmas and a happy crime free New Year!*

## Hedge planting at the Community Field

**Sara Jacson 853688**

Thanks to the Woodland Trust, the village has 420 free saplings as part of their Jubilee Wood celebrations! Well over 280 were planted one November morning which means that there is now a complete hedge around the field. It was so good to have Grace, Flo, Rosie and Harry to help as well!



There are some saplings left over which **must be planted where they are in public view**. If there are any landowners with public rights of way through or on the edge of their land who would like to have some saplings – mixed native trees for autumn colour – then please contact me.

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**At last!!**



In 2000 a new plaque was made and put on the trig point on the Beacon. As well as having some quirky inaccuracies, it was stolen not long after being put there. The Millennium Group would like to thank Nic Griffin for all he has done to get a new and accurate plaque as well as putting it in situ – a really excellent result. This plaque is of no commercial value so we hope very much that it will stay to be enjoyed by those who not only climb the Beacon but also want to know what they are looking at.

## VPA

**Julie Meade 828 024**

What a busy year! We began with the Spring Meeting and a talk by Mike Rawlins on his take on showing veg. Castle Gardens member's evening came next, where we were treated to a talk and more importantly 25% off our shopping!! Then we went on a mystery tour finally arriving at Libby Dinely's garden and her Clematis collection. Lunch was held in the Folly and then we went to Hop Gardens for a look at my garden, cream tea and an update every few minutes on the big match at Wimbledon. The Annual Show was as successful as the spring/summer weather would allow. Everyone who entered won a prize and it was good to see people enjoying home-made cake for tea. Finally we held our AGM in September, with a Gardener's Question Time. The "experts" managed to answer all the questions and as usual the raffle and auction were well supported.

Next year we have booked a speaker, talking about veg growing at the Spring meeting, the trip to Castle Gardens is in the diary and I have an idea for the outing. There will be more details in the next issue.

*Have a great Christmas but don't forget to plant your onion seeds on Christmas day ready to prick out in the New Year giving them time to grow huge for next year's Show!!*



## Manor Farm Produce

Geese • Turkeys • Chickens



*Raised and grazed in our Dorset orchard  
makes for contented birds, flavoursome  
poultry and delicious free range eggs.*



**CHRISTMAS ORDERS  
NOW BEING TAKEN**



Hannah\_kay@rocketmail.com  
01747 851215 • 07967 009 353

Nigel and Hannah Kay  
MANOR FARM • MELBURY ABBAS  
SHAFTESBURY • DORSET SP7 0DZ

## St Thomas' Church.

**Revd. Mary Harding 850464**

Through the Sundays before Christmas, which we call Advent, we wait with excitement for the birth of the baby Jesus, which is our Christmas celebration. We wait as the prophets of old did, for the coming of the Messiah. We wait with John the Baptist who baptised Jesus in the Jordan River. We wait with Mary his mother as the nine months of her pregnancy passed. And then we celebrate the birthday. But we can only celebrate because we know that Jesus grew up and showed that he was and is the Messiah, the Son of God, promised so long before. He lives with us now, and teaches us how to live in his light and eternal life.

So, at Christmas this is what we celebrate. We celebrate the birth of the baby, but more importantly the Messiah, the Saviour, promised by God, who will come again in glory. Through his death and resurrection (which we celebrate at Easter) we can all know Jesus Christ, and know that he walks with us through our lives.

This year, as always, there will be our familiar pattern of services for Christmas.

Sunday 23rd 6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service

Monday 24th 11.30pm Traditional Midnight Holy Communion with Carols

Tuesday 25th 10am Family Celebration Holy Communion with Carols and Blessing  
The Crib.

Sunday 30th 10am Team Service at Enmore Green. There will be no service at  
Melbury Abbas.

At the end of January I shall be retiring. I feel so privileged to have been able to be your minister, your pastor, your friend. Thank you. I shall find it very strange to launch myself into a new life without your love and support. But a new life with new adventures awaits and I look forward to the future, as well as holding many memories of our growing up together for a while along life's pathway.

Revd. Jan Crossley (852545) will be taking over the care of Melbury parish.

There will be a Team Service of Celebration and Farewell here at St Thomas's on Sunday 27th January. It would be lovely to see you then as well as over the Christmas season



**ST THOMAS'S PRESERVATION SOCIETY** invite you to their  
Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30  
till Noon at Ivy Paddock (bottom of Zig Zag Hill.)

Bring & Buy - Home made cakes and goodies - Raffle

## **Bell Ringing**

**David Wheeler**

*For the first time ever, we have a report from the Captain of the ringing tower. Bells have played an important part in village life over many centuries and we are fortunate in this village to have such a committed team of ringers. Please do consider joining them, learning a new skill and continuing a wonderful tradition. Ed.*

For a small tower where most of the Ringers do not even live in the village, it has been a busy year in the Melbury Abbas Tower. Not only have we managed every monthly service, but there have been a couple of weddings, Easter, the Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Remembrance Sunday, all celebrated with a full complement of bells. Not that we have finished for the year of course - there is still the Christmas Carol Service and Midnight Mass to come, and our regular Monday evening practices also continue.

A change of scenery entailed a mass exodus to St James one evening, the first time some of the band had rung more than five bells, and two of us also attended a Guild course, exploring the delights of four Wiltshire towers. In the meantime two of our members continue to regularly ring at Motcombe and elsewhere.

Apart from ringing, we had a remarkably successful Tower Tours day on Jubilee Sunday as part of the village celebrations, when we invited all and sundry to climb the steps and see the ringing chamber, the bell chamber and for the brave and/or curious, a visit to the rooftop. We had hoped to attract a couple of new members which sadly was not to be, but everyone agreed that it was an experience not to be forgotten.

This year also saw the formal retirement of Tower Captain Graeme Gatehouse. Being less fit than he was, Graeme was beginning to find the steps a bit of a challenge, and he stood down as Captain bringing an end to a long history of the Gatehouse family in Melbury Abbas. He was duly presented with an engraved pewter tankard.

My thanks to our regular ringers : Rodney Atwood, Tavy Bradley-Watson, Yvonne Gallimore, Judith Williamson and Richard Poole, and also to the "occasionals": Geoff Bichard, Hilary Poole and Paul Dewey who have been more than willing to step in when we found ourselves short on numbers.

**We hope you'll join in with events this Christmas  
and look forward to seeing you!**

## WHAT'S ON continued

### FEBRUARY

Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>		WI: Pancake Party
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Council Meets
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>

### MARCH

Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>		WI: Natural History Stories: <i>Bill Raymond</i>
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>by the end of the day, please</b>	<b>Spreadeagle copy due</b>
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7.30 @Grove Farm House</b>	Collate and staple Spreadeagle

**THIS SPREADEAGLE COULD NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT HELP. THANK YOU THIS EDITION TO** Sue Breach, Sylvia Dudman, Nic Griffin, Mary Harding, Ann Hughes, Brian Hughes, Anne Kaile, Hannah Kay, Susan Kay, Julie Meade, Ian Merefild, Carol Messer, Roy Phillips, John Porter, Malcolm Potter, Joan Roscow, Jane Shepherd, Julian Speers,

**And as ever, an enormous thank you to all the collators, staplers and deliverers – we can't manage without you!**

**Next Spreadeagle is due to be with you in the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March**

All copy by Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March to

Sara Jacson 853688 [sara@thejacsonfamily.org](mailto:sara@thejacsonfamily.org) Grove Farm House SP7 0DE

*Spreadeagle* dates for 2013

	<b>Copy needed by</b>	<b>collating and stapling</b>
<b>Spring</b>	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer</b>	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>Autumn</b>	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Winter</b>	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December

**Please** can you let me know if these dates won't work for your organisation? They could be modified slightly, but are based on this year's dates.

# WHAT'S ON UNTIL THE NEXT SPREAD EAGLE

All events are at 7.30 in the Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Posters are put on notice boards for most events in the village.

## Village Hall Bookings

All the Booking details and Hiring information are available on the Village Hall website;- [www.melburyabbasandcannvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.melburyabbasandcannvillagehall.org.uk)

This is now attracting attention from wider afield and will villagers please advise anyone interested in hiring the village hall, particularly for social and/or business functions, to take advantage of this website. Postcode: SP7 0DB

If this is not possible or for normal renewals, please contact

Christine or Malcolm Potter on. 01747 851857 E mail;- [christine.15@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.15@btinternet.com)

## DECEMBER

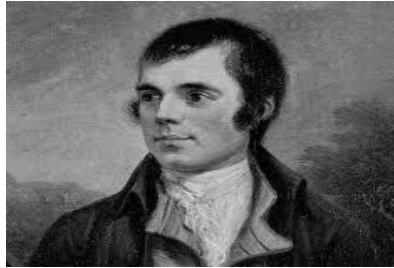
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Council
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 onwards	Village Christmas party
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>		WI: Social evening
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 – Noon at Ivy Paddock	Christmas Coffee Morning
	8.00 for 8.30	Christmas cracker Quiz Night
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	all day	Christmas market in Shaftesbury
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> .	9.30 onwards in church	Decorating for Christmas
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30 in church	Candlelit Carol Service
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30 pm in church	Midnight Holy Communion
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Happy Christmas everyone!</b>	
	10.00am in church	Family Holy Communion
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am at St John's Enmore Green	Team Service

2013 Happy New Year!

## JANUARY

Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>		WI: Tourist Information <i>David Taylor</i>
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	various places in village	<b>Library van</b>
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 for 7.30pm	Burns Night Supper
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 in church	Mary's Farewell Service
	<b>From 11.15 ish. In the Hall</b>	<b>Farewell Party.</b>

# BURNS' NIGHT SUPPER!



**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013**

**7PM FOR 7.30**

**MELBURY ABBES & CANN VILLAGE HALL**

*A Scottish Piper will pipe in the Haggis.*

*Address to the Haggis by Robbie Burns*

Haggis, Mashed potatoes & Swede with Onion Gravy,  
Lemon Syllabub and a Glass of Port

*Traditional Dress optional, or wear a piece of Tartan*

*Tickets cost £10.00 Available from Village Hall on Monday &  
Thursday evenings also from*

*Christine Potter : Tel 851857 Ann Griffin : Tel 855720*

**PLEASE COME - ALL ARE WELCOME**

**AND OF COURSE THE BAR WILL BE OPEN!**



# **Time To Party!**

## **It's Christmas Time**

**on**  
**Saturday 8th December from 7pm**  
**at**

**Melbury Abbas & Cann Village Hall**  
**with**  
**Party Games**

**Kevin the Magician**

***Christmas Quiz***

**Hand bell ringing**

**Wrapped-up Christmas Raffle**

*Entrance: a plate of food to share*



**All Welcome, Bar Open**