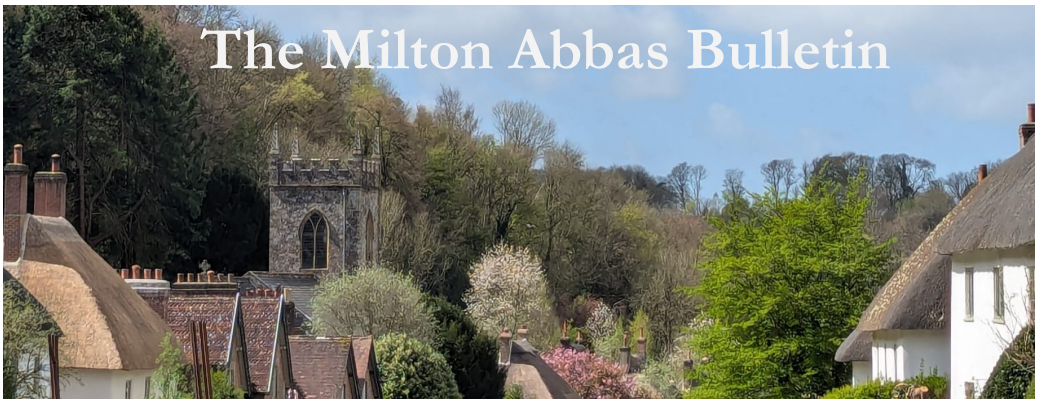
August 2026

Issue 24



Welcome!

Hello All and welcome to the latest bulletin edition!

August is a relaxing month in England. A time for no school, the much needed and planned for family holiday, delicious barbeques, seaside trips and just chilling on a beach. Make time for sandcastle building, a paddle in the sea, kayaking or paddle boarding, bike riding, walking or perhaps a bit of kite flying or crab-bing (www.rhubarbandwren.co.uk/how-to-go-crabbing/). Check out your local area for what's on offer www.visit-dorset.com/things-to-do/

The days are at their warmest as we approach the end of summer, and the green of nature is punctuated with the colours of ripe berries in the hedgerows. Harvesting has happened early this year due to the heatwave and fields being ripe and ready in July. The skies in August are filled with martins and swallows, particularly over fields, while woodpigeons are often still nesting and may be seen defending their eggs. Blackbirds are attracted to the ripe berries in the hedgerows, and grey squirrels populate gardens and parks, searching for hazelnuts, although most are not yet ripe.

It's the perfect time of year to go out Owling (or owl-spotting) on a dry, clear night. As long as you don't mind going out at dawn or dusk that is. It is also the best month for spotting Britain's bats and reptiles. Snakes and lizards can be found in sunny spots, and are easiest to see early in the mornings.

Butterflies and bees can still be seen pretty much everywhere and in heathlands, you can also hear grass-hoppers giving their distinctive mating call, so it is important to seize the moment and enjoy the remainder of the summer, while making plenty of time for tranquillity and reflection.

Head into the garden for some easy garden games, ball games and obstacle courses can keep small people entertained for hours. Get out the water guns or a few buckets of water and cool down with some messy fun, or make your own shade with a homemade tepee or tent made of sheets.

Of course, you could always just get out a deckchair and enjoy a few hours reading in the sunshine. Set up a few lanterns and relax into the evening.

The birthstone for those born in August is the peridot. This sparkling lime green gemstone has long been associated with power and influence. It is believed to ward off feelings of negativity and anger, and help the wearer to attract love.

August's birth flowers are the gladiolus and the poppy. The gladiolus, sometimes known as the "sword lily", is a tall plant known for its spikes of flowers in an array of bright colours. It is a particular favourite in summer bouquets, and symbolises calm, integrity and remembrance.

August also marks some birthdays, happy belated Birthday to Brain Lawrence, who turned the grand age of 90 on 30th July, and happy birthday to Lottie Baker on the 10th, Jennifer Harrison on the 15th and Baz Towers on the 21st, plus happy wedding anniversary to Mal and Catherine Howorth on 12th August.

Embrace the month filled with sunshine, fresh starts and endless possibilities. Let this be a time to slow down, soak in the moments and chase what truly matters. Here's to making every day count and creating beautiful memories.

Mrs Ed x

Milton Abbas Street Fair 2027

As initially reported last month, the Milton Abbas Street Fair for 2027 (31st July – get it in your diaries!) is now officially taking place – and your new organising committee are off their starting blocks and up and running. We are all very excited to be bringing this unique village event back to you next year and we will not let you down. If you are relatively new to the village and have never experienced one before, then you are in for a treat.

Some of us are old hands and have attended many and are well acquainted with the Street Fair's history and format. I (along with my partner Anne) will have lived in the village for ten and a half years by the time the fair happens. This by no means makes me a true 'old hand' but hopefully has given me sufficient knowledge and experience to make a difference, trying to make the event run smoothly and helping us all to pull the whole thing together.

The fair takes place every two years on the closest Saturday to St. Sampson's days (28th July). This was the day granted for a market fair by King Athelstan to the ancient town of Middleton, which as many of us know suffered an undignified demise, but from whose ruins our beautiful village arose in the adjacent valley.

It was then to be generations later before the first official 18th Century Street Fair took place here exactly on St. Sampson's day in 1973 (when appropriately 'Yesterday Once More' by the Carpenters was in the UK top ten!). This meant that residents could experience, as authentically as possible, just a little of what things might have been like back then.

The history is all around us; we just need something magical like the Street Fair to take us back and live it for a day. While we cannot offer Georgian prices, we can offer ourselves other things Georgian. Many choose to dress up in outfits from this period (ish!), take on their new personas and make jolly fine spectacles of themselves!



We do this partly for fun, partly for our own embracement of what we own and where we belong, but very importantly for the many local charities who deservedly benefit from our proceeds.

Milton Abbas Street Fair 2027 (Cont)

I do know that for some of you creating the magic is a lot to ask. We need to move our cars, park in a field for a night or two and lend our lawns to stallholders. But without your tolerance and support this quintessential and unique event could never happen.
Speaking of support, we are very keen to hear from anyone who would like to help us out in any way – both on the day, before or even afterwards. Whatever your skills, whatever you can offer – we probably need it!

You can contact me directly by email or phone:

Rmoreton9@gmail.com
07814579246
And you can find more details on the official Street Fair website
www.miltonabbasstreetfair.co.uk
Thank you so much

Milton Abbas Riding for Disabled Group offer therapeutic horse riding to young disabled children on Tuesdays 5-6.30pm and Fridays 10-12 noon in term time. We are a charity (Reg. no. 1177691) entirely run by volunteers and we raise our own funds to enable us to operate.

If you would like to consider regular volunteering with us, please contact Sue Hodder on 07739 469946 or suehodder01@talktalk.net Thank you so much.

https://rda.org.uk/

You can also find us on facebook:-

https://www.facebook.com/p/Milton-Abbas-Riding-for-Disabled-Group-MARDA-

Milton Abbas Friday Football

Many know about the unfortunate closing of The View Café at Milton Abbas Sports Field. Hayley Bridge has always strongly supported the local football team, which was saddened but remains resilient and continues to unite the community.

Friday Evening Football

Every Friday evening, football enthusiasts gather for a friendly match at Milton Abbas Sports Club. The games commence at **7pm**, offering an opportunity for players to unwind and enjoy the sport.



Game Format and Participants

Our football is played on a small-sided pitch, accommodating 5, 6, or 7-a-side teams. The football group includes players ranging in age from their late twenties up to their sixties. Among the players are a couple of former professional footballers, (in their senior years) while the rest simply appreciate the chance to play and enjoy the camaraderie of the game and a cold drink after the session, currently pitch side.

We began Friday football in April 2024 and today have 20 players and play all year-round using winter floodlights and a new line marking machine donated by Wyke Regis Football Club in Weymouth to help “up our game.”

Participation in games on Fridays is available to those who are interested. There is no requirement to attend every game, and **no** fitness test is necessary to play.

Please call Martin Kelly on T: 07802 260393 or E: martin@redmailer.co.uk



Milton Abbas Local History Group

Hello to all our readers,

Firstly, one of our members, Clive Barnes has been researching The Ruins. He has delved into the accounts of Lady Carline Damer at Hoare's Bank. She was Joseph Damer's daughter and inheritor of the entire estate at his death in 1798. Clive has found that it was probably designed by the famous architect Sir James Wyatt and was probably erected around 1807-1811. We would love to hear from anyone who has visited The Ruins and could share their memories and photos with us. As usual there is plenty more information on our website blog where you can contact us.

Secondly we have had another enquiry about the Milton Abbas Youth hostel in to our website. There must be quite a few people in Milton Abbas who can still remember it in the 1950s and 1960s. Certainly several people who stayed there as hostellers have been in touch asking where it was. We are fairly sure we have located it, but we would like to hear from our readers to ensure that we get our facts right, and any photos would be very helpful. So please get in touch on our Contact page.

One of the most visited pages on our website is now 'The Great Famine and Pestilence 1315 – 1322', which is a page I wrote in May 2023. I am surprised that the medieval history of Milton Abbas has become so popular! I am still working on this part of its history and my next piece will explain what it might have been like to live and work in Milton Abbas at this time.

Our program of talks will start again on October 7 with our AGM and a showing of 'Pubs, Ponds and Power' with a talk by Pamela Phillips on how we got involved in the making of this BBC programme, presented by Ben Robinson.





MA Surgery

Annual Flu Vaccination Clinic

We will be running our annual flu vaccination clinic for our over 65yrs old eligible patients on **Saturday 3rd October 2026** at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall. Please save this date as we would like as many of our eligible patients to attend; further details including whether we will also be doing Covid vaccinations will follow closer to the time.

Details of dates and locations for the flu vaccination clinic for our eligible patients under 64yrs old will also follow.

Patient Voice

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 22nd September 2026** at **7.00pm** in The Reading Rooms, Milton Abbas.

All patients over 18yrs old are welcome. We would really appreciate support in how we can improve our service provision and would love to hear what patients of all ages and back-grounds have to say. Why not come along to our next meeting?

To view minutes of the last meeting in June, please see our surgery web-site www.masurgery.co.uk/patient-participation-group-1

Communication Support Needs

Everyone deserves to be seen, heard and supported to live a full and meaningful life.
We want everyone to feel comfortable accessing our surgery. If you have any communication or support needs related to a learning disability, autism, ADHD, or your mental health, please let our Social Prescribers Anna or Kelly know.

They'll be happy to help and support you in finding the best way for us to meet your needs.

Volunteers Needed

Could you spare a little time to make a big difference?

We're looking for volunteer befrienders to support people who live alone, spend a lot of time on their own, or who are housebound. Just a 15-minute phone call every few days – or even once a week – can brighten someone's day and help them feel less alone.

If you can spare a little time each week, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Anna or Kelly on 01258 880210 or send an email to mawellbeingteam@dorsetgp.nhs.uk
Please share to help us find more volunteer befrienders.

MA Surgery (cont)

Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall Open Day

Our surgery Wellbeing Team will have a table at the Winterborne Whitechurch Village Hall Open Day on **Saturday 22 August 2026**, from **11.30am to 3.30pm**.

Come along to find out more about the groups and support our Wellbeing Team offers, as well as the other activities taking place at the village hall.

The Age UK LifeBook

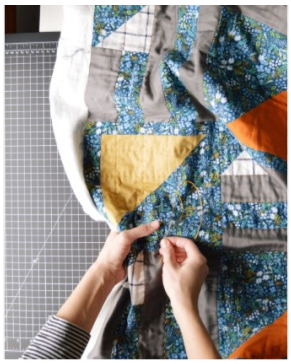
We all have lots of things to remember – and it can sometimes feel overwhelming trying to stay on top of it all.

The Age UK LifeBook is a way to keep all your important information in one place. So, when you need to dig out some details about a pet, an energy supplier or a savings account, you know exactly where to look.

It also ensures that your loved ones have the details they require if they ever need to sort something out on your behalf. If you know anyone who would benefit from the Age UK LifeBook please call them on 0800 169 65 65 for a free copy.



Friday Quilters!



Fridays from 9:30 to 12:00 in the Milton Abbas Reading Room.

You do not have to be a quilter! Bring your knitting or anything else that you are currently working on.

We stop for coffee, tea & biscuits or, if you are lucky, a piece of cake! We will be very pleased to see you.

Further details from **Anthea - 01258 269348**



The Hambro Arms

Hours:

Mon-Tue: Closed
Wed–Fri: 12pm-3pm 6pm-Close
Sat: 12pm-Close
Sun: 12pm-Close





www.thehambroarms.co.uk/

info@thehambroarms.co.uk

01258 721594



SMITHS
DORSET



Contact info

smithsdorset

07821 175268

smithsdorset@outlook.com

Smiths

Coming up

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

Seafood Saturday

Our signature Seafood platters of Fresh native seafood, Crevettes, Prawn Cocktail, Mackerel Pate, potato salad, sauces, warm breads and fries. Live Music from 7pm by Andy Grant £55 per person. Includes food and entertainment. We kindly ask for a £10 per person deposit at the time of booking to secure your table. Wine, beer, cider, and soft drinks available to purchase on the evening.

Find out more >

Coffee Stop

Every Tuesday St James Church opens up its south aisle to welcome villagers and passers-by in for a cuppa and a slice of cake.

All are welcome! It is a great way to meet other villagers and catch up on things.

The coffee stop runs from **11am until 12 noon** and we charge just £1 for a drink and another £1 for a slice of cake!

All proceeds go to the up-keep of our beautiful church.



Steeptonbill Farm Shop

Selling fresh, locally-grown produce all year round!

Opening hours:
Monday to Thursday: Closed
Friday to Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

Contact Steve at steeptonbill@gmail.com for all your seasonal produce

Steve currently has New Potatoes, French Beans, Swede, Onions, Strawberries, Courgette, and some fabulous Steeptonbill Sausages to go with it all!

Lots going on!

Maybe a little early, but here's a great recipe for an Autumn Vegetable Hash using some of Steve's ingredients:

https://www.bonappetit.com/recipe/potato-and-autumn-vegetable-hash?srsltid=AfmBOoo_TkHjDZW78bAQJD1hY_Yaeq-rcsuQYijYEZuEUktTrCJUtwow



Milton Abbas Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has paused for August so that everyone can enjoy their summer breaks!

It will restart on 9th September, with Sue Hodder taking on Mains, and Freddy Robinson tackling desert

Keep an eye out for details in next month's Bulletin



Milton Abbas Art Group



Milton Abbas Art Group exhibition success!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Milton Abbas Art Group's recent summer exhibition!

Bathed in lovely sunshine, the event was a resounding success. We kicked off with a brilliant, bustling preview evening, and the momentum continued throughout the exhibition. Featuring work from 9 talented local artists, each bringing their own unique style. The exhibition saw fantastic sales and received countless wonderful comments.

It was a joy chatting with everyone about our work in the iconic setting of Milton Abbas. Beyond the tremendous support from our local community, we were thrilled to welcome international visitors from countries including Canada, Australia, Latvia, and South Wales!

The weekend also generated plenty of exciting interest from prospective new members.

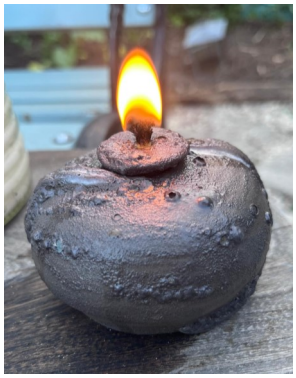
Interested in joining us?

Our group is all about encouraging art in the local area. We keep our membership fees low and offer an annual opportunity to showcase and sell your work in our group exhibition.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you! Please drop us an email at :

Miltonabbasart@gmail.com









Thought for the Month



No thought for the month as Reverend Lewis is still on sabbatical.

This began on 1st June, and he has set up a blog called 'sacred pause' for some writing, photos and videos. He has put a few posts up this past month.

If you want to follow along the link is below:

https://mysabbaticaljourney2026.wordpress.com

Computer Cafe



Got an issue with your computer or mobile phone?

Come along to the Reading Rooms on a Thursday between 10am and 12 noon and we will see if we can help. We ask you to buy a drink and a piece of cake for £2 to cover our costs.

Pews News

August 2026

Services in August

Sunday 2nd August
Winterborne Stickland
10.30am - Morning Worship
Rev Sue Litchfield

Sunday 9th August
Winterborne Clenston
10.30am Prayer Book Communion
Rev Hilary Bond

Sunday 16th August
Whitechurch
10.30am Communion
Rev Janet Smith
Milton Abbas
6pm SoulSpace
Debbie Albery

Sunday 23rd August
Winterborne Houghton
10.30am Communion
Rev Arthur Houston
Turnworth
10.30am Communion
Rev Janet Smith

Sunday 30th August
St Catherine's Chapel
10.30am Iona Communion Booklet
Rev Hilary Bond

Bible Readings

Sunday 2nd August - 9th after Trinity
Isaiah 55. 1 - 5/Matthew 14. 13 - 21

Sunday 9th August - 10th after Trinity
1 Kings 19. 9 - 18/Matthew 14. 22 - 13

Sunday 16th August - 11th after Trinity
Isaiah 56. 1, 6 - 8/Matthew 15. 21 - 28

Sunday 23rd August - 12th after Trinity
Isaiah 51. 1 - 6/Matthew 16. 13 - 20

Sunday 30th August -13th after Trinity
Jeremiah 15. 15 - 21/Matthew 16. 21 to end

Rector - Rev'd Lewis Pearsen
revlewispearsen@gmail.com - 01258 880482
Chaplain to Milton Abbey School - Tuesday
Day Off- Friday

Admin & Pews News - Jennifer Harrison
wvmbenefice@gmail.com
www.wvmbenefice.co.uk

Services in September

Sunday 6th September
9am Turnworth - Communion
10.30am Stickland - Morning Worship
10.30am Whitechurch - Communion

Sunday 13th September
9am Stickland - Prayer Book + Communion
10.30am Milton Abbas - Communion
10.30am Clenston - Prayer Book + Communion
4.30pm - Houghton - Outdoor Harvest in Churchyard

Sunday 20th September
9am Milton Abbas - Prayer Book + Communion
10.30am - Stickland - Communion
11.30am - Whitechurch - Cafe Church

Sunday 27th September
10.30am Houghton - Celtic Style Communion
6pm Turnworth - Harvest
6pm Milton Abbas - SoulSpace

Upcoming Events
Whitechurch 15th August 3 - 5pm cream Teas £5

Houghton 13th September 4.30pm Outdoor harvest

Whitechurch 18th September 7pm Geoff Sound Engineer £10

Rev'd Lewis - Sabbatical

From June-August 2026, with Bishop Karen's encouragement, I will be taking a sabbatical: a period of rest, retreat, and study after years of ministry. Sabbaticals renew clergy spiritually and physically, whilst also encouraging shared leadership and fresh perspectives within parishes.

During this time I will be doing a number of things, firstly I will have some time on retreat, I will visit a number of communities of prayer across the UK to see what we might learn from them. I will attend a number of difference types and styles of church and will also be doing some research into neurodiversity and faith development. I plan to keep an online journal with video, writing and photos at the link below if you want to occasionally see what I'm up to.

https://mysabbaticaljourney2026.wordpress.com



July Picture Quiz Result:

Last month's picture seems to have foxed even Mr Towers!

Maybe this was too difficult, and certainly it's a bit tucked away. This is a one of the gateposts on the track near Lower Lodge. It's got a fabulous gnarly texture going on!

August Picture Quiz:

Do you know where this was taken? Recognise the image?

Drop us an email and let us know!

The first correct responder gets their name in next month's MA Bulletin.



Articles and Feedback Gratefully Received:

MiltonAbbasBulletin@GMail.com

or contact:
Paula Driver
Stuart Driver