

May 2026

Issue 21



Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the May edition of the Bulletin

This is the month to get out in our gardens, though do watch out for late and sneaky frosts that can damage tender young plants, try and plan planting summer bedding towards the end of the month. Other jobs are to hoe off weeds in your vegetable patches, open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days, mow lawns but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife, or mow less often so flowers can bloom. Check carefully for nesting birds before clipping hedges, lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs. plus watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand if causing damage. Try and water early or late in the day in order for the garden to gain maximum benefit.

Interesting facts and dates for the month of May are:-

1st May is both Labour Day and the traditional May Day with celebrations across the UK

4th May is Lisa Baker and Stuart Drivers epic wing walk in aid of Weldmar Hospicecare

5th May – 1930 Amy Johnson was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

6th May- 1840 The world's first postage stamp, the 'Penny Black' stamp, became valid for use in the UK. Plus on this day in 1954, Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes.

7th May is Dawn Wyatts birthday

8th May – 1945 VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

9th May - Captain Blood attempted to steal the crown jewels in 1671

10th May- 1994 Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa.

11th May is Alan Bolts birthday

12th May- 1820 Florence Nightingale was born.

15th May - The Romans believed this was the birthday of Mercury, the messenger and son of Zeus who could travel with the speed of thought.

18th May – 1955 The first Wimpy Bar opened in London.

18th May – 1991 Helen Sharman became the first British woman in space.

21st May – 1946 Bread rationing introduced in the UK.

28th May – 1908 Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond books, was born.

29th May – 1953 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Everest.

29th May - Oak Apple Day, an historic celebration rooted in England's political and royal history. It honours the restoration of the British monarchy on May 29, 1660 – the birthday of King Charles II and when Charles II famously hid inside an oak tree to escape capture after the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

30th May is Ellie Paynes Birthday

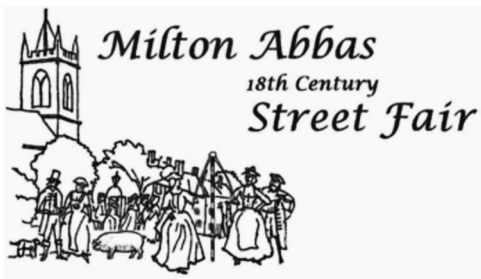
30th May - 1431 Joan of Arc was burned at the stake.

30th May - Death of King Arthur in 542

There are two birth flowers which make up the month of May. The first is Lily of the Valley, and the second is the Hawthorn Blossom. The precious stone is an Emerald.

Don't forget that Teddy Rocks is on the bank holiday weekend and will cause some lengthy traffic queues on the approach to Charisworth Farm on the A354. Happy May everyone.

Regards as always,
Mrs Ed



Milton Abbas Street Fair

Greetings fellow villagers of Milton Abbas.

Next year's biannual Street Fair is scheduled to take place on the last Saturday in July as per tradition. For some of you I appreciate that it is like Marmite, you either love it or hate it. The bottom line is that it generates much needed funds, and these go on to provide grants to various charities within our parish.

We need people to come on-board and join the organising committee to help us achieve a successful 2027 Street Fair. The whole committee consists of a:

- Chairperson - there to orchestrate and dot the i's and cross the t's, plus liaise with the trustees of the street fair.
- Treasurer - there to manage the books and the comings and goings of the street fair bank account.
- Secretary - minute taker for our regular update meetings and also to liaise with Dorset council over closing the street, plus raffle prize organiser.
- Events and media - responsible for updating our web page, promoting the fair via media, radio and advertising.
- Entertainment - books the dancers, music and bands, plus arranges the street fair bar etc.
- Stalls - responsible for bringing in rural and interesting crafts and helping to plan the layout on the day.
- Operations - everything from loos, to first aid, to bins, to radios, to PA system and more!
- Carparks - liaising with our local farmers to rent the fields we use and organise the volunteers for the day itself.

We have three committee members that have remained on the committee that have in the past been responsible for organising the Entertainment, Operations and Stalls.

We need people to step into our vacant roles and thus enable us to keep this fabulous village tradition alive. We have two people potentially interested in the secretary role and Events and media. Can you help at all, or know someone who possibly could?

If you do fancy a role in nurturing this tradition, please contact Karen Mott on:

gatemoore@yahoo.com.

Milton Abbas Lunch Club

The April Lunch Club will be on **Weds 14th May at The Reading Rooms**. All villagers over 55 are welcome, and we provide something warming and hearty to fill your tummy!

Freddy Robinson will be cooking Main, while Jane Harley will be tackling Pud!

The cost for the meal will be £5 per head, payable to Trevor Payne on the day

To book your place, please email Jennifer by 8th May:

hrrssnsup@aol.com



Actual Table Layout may Differ from the Above...



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->

Maternity Leave

We wish Dr Emily Woodcock all the very best as she heads off on maternity leave - in fact by the time of the printing of this publication, your little one may have already arrived!

London Marathon 2026

We would like to thank all those who supported Dr Stephanie Shutt with well wishes and donations as she ran the 2026 London Marathon in April to raise vital funds for the Evelina London Children's Charity and the amazing work they do for children and their families.

We are so proud of you Stephanie!

Hello Spring!

If you started 2026 with healthy intentions, how did it go? If things didn't stick - or never really got going - please don't feel discouraged. Spring is a time for fresh starts, and is a great chance to reset, refocus, and begin again.

If you would like help in finding weight loss or stop smoking assistance, local activity or social groups, financial support, or you would like someone to simply listen, our surgery Social Prescribers are there for you!

To speak with either Anna or Kelly, please call the surgery on 01258 880210 and leave a message with our admin team, or complete a 'Contact Us' form on our surgery website and they will get back in touch with you:

www.masurgery.co.uk/social-prescribing

Age UK Welfare Benefits

The Age UK Welfare Benefits Team work directly with those of State Pension age and above, visiting them at home to help apply for a range of benefits including:

Attendance Allowance

Pension Credit

Council Tax Support

Housing Benefit

Revisions to existing DLA and PIP claims

MA Surgery - Cont.

They are also on hand to point people in the right direction when it comes to accessing social care and applying for a Blue Badge.

If you or someone you know could benefit from their support, please get in touch by calling 01305 269444 or sending an email to:

enquiries@ageuknswd.org.uk.

Surgery Closures

The surgery will be CLOSED on Saturday 2nd May and Monday 4th May 2026 for the Early Bank Holiday, and Saturday 23rd May and Monday 25th May for the Late Bank Holiday.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused. For out of hours care or advice during closures, please call 111 or go to www.111.nhs.uk. In the case of an emergency, call 999.



THE VIEW
Coffee Shop

Opening Hours

Mon 9-4	Tues- CLOSED
Wed 9-4	Thurs 9-4
Fri 9-4	Sat 9-4
Sun 10-3	



Wing Walking for Weldmar !

On 4th May 2026, Lisa Baker and Stuart Driver will be undertaking a Wing-Walk on a vintage Bi-Plane at Compton Abbas Air-field to raise funds for Weldmar Hospice.

Weldmar recently provided palliative care for our beloved friend, Bev Martin, and we were blown away by the fantastic work they undertook for her and her family

Weldmar needs to raise more than £27,000 every day to provide specialist care for adults in Dorset with life limiting illnesses, and support for their loved ones. Just 19% of these costs are met by the NHS, the rest comes from the generosity of the local community.

If you are able, and would like to support this genuinely fantastic cause, then please use the QR code or follow the link below to help Lisa and I meet our target:

[www.justgiving.com/page/stuartandlisa?
utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=021](http://www.justgiving.com/page/stuartandlisa?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=021)

Thank you all – it's been nice knowing you...
Stu & Lisa x



Strawberry Cottage Studio



Louise Freir at Strawberry Cottage Studio is currently preparing for Dorset Art Weeks; a very exciting couple of weeks where artists all over Dorset open their studios or venues for visitors. Louise's studio will be open each day between 23rd May (bank holiday weekend) and 7th June, except for Tuesdays.

This year, she will be displaying her usual work of pen and watercolour miniatures of the local area, some animal acrylics, silk paintings, fabric creations and also some new work inspired by a trip to Japan.

A few unicorns might also be found if you are lucky!

Please do pop in during the event – Louise would love to see you. Booklets can be found around Dorset and also in the Reading Room, the Hambro Arms and St James' Church.

The studio is also open when Louise is home and the sun is shining, and with the pub now open up the top of the street, why not have a peek in the studio after your scrumptious lunch?

Contact Louise to open by appointment, for commissions or for other enquiries:

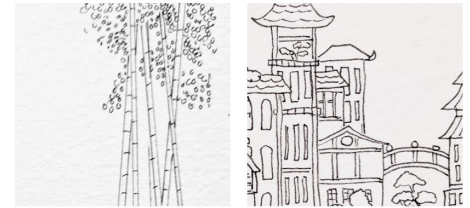
www.StrawberryCottageStudio.com

□ lfreirart@gmail.com

[@louisefreirart](https://www.instagram.com/louisefreirart)

Dorset Art Weeks: www.dorsetartweeks.co.uk

Thank you very much for supporting your local businesses.



Thought for the Month

Dear Friends,

I remember learning the Ten Commandments as a child, and how the one about keeping the Sabbath holy always seemed the strangest. The others felt clear enough - about honesty or kindness - but this one? A command to rest? It didn't quite fit. And yet, over time, I've come to see that perhaps Sabbath is something deeper: not just stopping, but a kind of quiet resistance - to busyness, to constant activity, to the sense that we must always be productive.

I also remember when Sunday trading laws began to change, and how suddenly Sainsbury's at the end of the road was open on a Sunday - and how this was 'big news.'

We live in a 24/7 world, where we are bombarded by news, email, social media, and events. Not that this is all bad, of course, but it can feel relentless at times. A clergy friend of mine has just returned from a sabbatical. Her first job was to open her email, where she discovered 3,000 messages! It makes me feel giddy just thinking about where you would even begin.

Like my friend, the Bishop of Sherborne has granted me a sabbatical. From June to the end of August, I'll be stepping back from my usual parish duties - a time of rest, reflection, and learning after several busy years here in the villages and churches of the Winterborne Valley and Milton Abbey.

Put simply, a sabbatical is a chance to recharge and gain a fresh perspective. Over the summer, I'll focus on three things. First, a proper rest - something we all need from time to time. Second, time with a few Christian communities, including the Iona Community, as well as visits to Hilfield Friary and the Nazareth Community in London. Third, some reading and reflection on how people experience faith and community differently - especially those who are neurodiverse - so that our churches can be as welcoming and inclusive as possible.

While I'm away, everything here will carry on much as usual. Services will continue, support will be available, and parish life will remain in good hands.

It feels a little strange to step back, but I'm very grateful for the opportunity. I hope to return with renewed energy and fresh ideas for village life.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and support. If you are someone who prays, I would be grateful if you kept me and the parish in your thoughts over the summer.

With best wishes,

Rev'd Lewis

St James Services

Services in May at St James

10th May – 10:30am Communion Service with hymns

17th May – 9:00am Traditional Prayer Book Communion

24th May – 6:00pm SoulSpace (meditative and contemplative)

Special Services

Ascension Day – 14th May – 7:00pm at St Catherine's Chapel

31st May – 10:30am at Milton Abbey (Benefice service for all churches in our group)

Computer/Repair 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.

In the spirit of sustainability and community action we're considering joining the growing list of communities running Repair Cafes. We are looking at the idea of a once monthly Repair Cafe to be held alongside Computer Cafe on a Thursday morning - 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Reading Room, Milton Abbas.

As such we're scouting for volunteers who are willing to offer their time and skills to help advise on and repair: small electrical items, tools, clothing and textiles, small wooden items, ceramics, bicycles, etc - saving money and treasured items from going to landfill.

If you think you can help please come and chat to Richard at Computer Cafe or email Sara and Richard at: sara_and_richard@yahoo.co.uk

See <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/> for more information on Repair Cafes

TURNWORTH DT11 0EE
SUNDAY 24TH MAY 11:00 – 16:30



PLANTS & PRODUCE CAKES & A CUPPA
LIVE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN



IN OLD RECTORY GARDEN
PLEASE COME & SEE US!!!

Free Parking & Entry; Dogs on Leads Welcome; Cash Preferred

FUNDS RAISED FOR REPAIRS TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Turnworth Day

Sunday 24th May 2026

11.00am - 4.30pm

DT11 0EE

In aid of historic church with
Thomas Hardy connections

- Delicious teas & cakes
- Plants, Crafts & Produce
- Live music & family fun
- Bric-a-Brac, Books & Raffle
- Large garden setting
- Dogs on leads welcome
- Free entry & parking
- Cash preferred please

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 still has Purple Sprouting available, plus lots of Chives. Also available to purchase are various early stage plants for your garden or allotment, including Cabbage, Leaks, Runner beans & Lettice

NEW POTATOES COMING SOON!!





The Hambro Arms

BEX AND THE CITY



playing live at

The Hambro Arms

Milton Abbas

Bank Holiday Monday

**4th May
4pm**



www.thehambroarms.co.uk/

info@thehambroarms.co.uk

01258 721594

Pie Night every Friday!

Steak & Guinness

Chicken, ham & leek

Game, red wine & thyme

Butternut squash, sage & spinach

Sunday Roast!

Beef, Pork or Turkey

All the trimmings!

12pm - 3pm every Sunday

Booking advised

Hours:

Mon-Tue: Closed

Wed-Fri: 12pm-3pm 6pm-Close

Sat: 12pm-Close

Sun: 12pm-Close



Milton Abbas Local History Group

MILTON ABBAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We are continuing with our regular meeting in the Reading Rooms on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm.

Last month's talk was about a deserted Medieval Village (DMV) - Elston in Sydling St Nicholas. During most of its existence it was owned by Milton Abbey and we have documents which show who lived there and how much rent they paid. Anne Brown who is a member of our history group and of Sydling St Nicholas History Society has researched Elston over time and has shown how it gradually dwindled away over the centuries.

Many such DMVs shared the same fate and it was not the Black Death of 1348-9 which caused the demise of such villages. DMVs are much studied by historians and archaeologists and are an important part of social and cultural history.

The next talk on May 6th is by another of our members - Clive Barnes - who will be showing us some of the graffiti which can be found in Milton Abbey.

The talk on 3rd June will be by another of our members - Anne Gwatkin - who is researching Milton Abbey as part of her PhD and she will be discussing her findings on Abbot Middleton who had such an important part to play in the rebuilding of the monastery, the Abbey church and of course founded the Grammar School in 1521.

We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Please support us and all the work which our members are doing to understand Milton Abbas in times past.

All are welcome - if you'd prefer to join via Zoom, please contact simonmartin@btinternet.com for details. Refreshments are provided.

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.



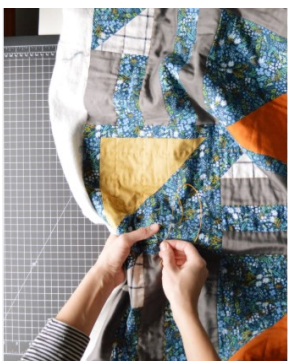
Friday Quilters!

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**



SMITHS
DORSET



SUNDAY
ROASTS
& Afternoon Jazz

MAY 3RD
From 3pm
PORLOCK
the band

Booking via langhamwine.co.uk



May 8th

*Seafood Platters
& Nina Garcia*

MA Football

MA Football kicks off on Friday evenings @ 6:30pm. We play on Milton Abbas Sports Field where we can see the sea and play on an excellent small sided pitch to suit 5,6 or 7-a- side games.

Our aim was to gather players of 50+ and get a little bit fitter each week. In truth we have some players in their 40's and had some younger ones too in their 20's as occasional visitors supporting their Dad.



Would you would like to play Football on Fridays? You don't need to be super fit and only need trainers with a grip for the grass pitch.

Contact Martin Kelly: Tel: 07802 260393

WhatsApp or Email: martin@redmailer.co.uk

Milton Abbas Sports Ground

Hello fellow villagers.

Milton Abbas Sports ground needs your help please! As many of you are aware it has been lovingly restored by a brilliant team of people (you know who you are, and we thank you) We have a brilliant and enthusiastic committee behind the sports ground, and we now want to grow the sports ground and its use.

We have such an abundance of space for fabulous sports to be played and potential opportunities for us as villagers in Milton Abbas to benefit from, but we need to know what you would like to see there.

We can also have events that will enable us to welcome surrounding villages into our fold.

Exciting times ahead!

Please feel free to email your ideas and thoughts to:- miltonabbaspavillion@gmail.com

Many thanks!

M.A.S.C.C.



Services in May

SUNDAY 3RD MAY

9am - Turnworth (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Morning Worship)
10:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Communion)

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

9am - Winterborne Stickland (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Milton Abbas (Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Clenston (Prayer Book Communion)
4:30pm - Winterborne Houghton (Cafe Church)

ASCENSION DAY THURSDAY 14TH MAY

7pm - St Catherine's Chapel (SoulSpace with Communion)

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

9am - Milton Abbas (Prayer Book Communion)
10:30am - Winterborne Stickland (Animal Blessing Service)
11:30am - Winterborne Whitechurch (Cafe Church)

PENTECOST SUNDAY 24TH MAY

10:30am - Winterborne Houghton (Celtic Communion)
6pm - Milton Abbas (SoulSpace)

SUNDAY 31ST MAY

10:30am - Milton Abbey (Benefice Service)

Bible Readings

Sunday 3rd May - 5th of Easter

Acts 7. 55 to end/John 14. 1 - 14 (white)

Sunday 10th May - 6th of Easter

Acts 17. 22 - 31/ John 14. 15 - 21 (white)

Sunday 17th May - 7th of Easter

Acts 1. 6 - 14/John 17. 1 - 11 (white)

Sunday 24th May - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2. 1 - 21/ John 20 - 19 - 23

Sunday 31st May - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40. 12 - 17, 27 to end/ Matthew 28 6 to end

Upcoming Events

16th May - Winterborne Wanderers
6 mile walk around Ansty & Hilton

24th May - Turnworth Village
Event

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

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

Services in June

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

Winterborne Stickland
10:30am - Communion
Rev Tina Stirling

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

Winterborne Clenston
10:30am - Prayer Book Communion
Rev'd Arthur Houston

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE

Winterborne Whitechurch
10:30am - Communion
Bishop Karen Gorham

Milton Abbas

6pm - SoulSpace
Ian Bromilow

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

Winterborne Houghton
10:30am - Communion
Rev'd John Wood

Turnworth

6pm - Compline
Jenny Tory

This is a scaled book service rota from June - Aug whilst Rev'd Lewis is on Sabbatical. This is a great opportunity to visit other churches and to both bless them, and be blessed by them

Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) are an important moment in the life of every parish, offering an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look ahead with shared purpose. At the APCM, church members review reports on various areas of church life, celebrating what has been achieved together while prayerfully discerning future priorities. It is also the time when key representatives, such as churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), are elected. Open to all on the church electoral roll, the APCM encourages participation, transparency, and a sense of collective responsibility, ensuring that the direction of parish life is shaped by the voices and gifts of its community.

Houghton 26th April (following the service)
Turnworth - 27th April at 10:30am
Whitechurch - 3rd May (following the service)
Clenston - 7th May at 5pm
Stickland - 7th May at 7pm
Milton Abbas - 20th May at 6:30pm



April Picture Quiz Result:

Last month's picture

Well done to Baz Towers for the first correct response once again!

This is a part of the "The Byre" sign on the left hand door of The Hambro (although I also think it looks like one of the chaps from ABBA after a rough night out).

We did have one other guess which was way off, but I'm not revealing any names!



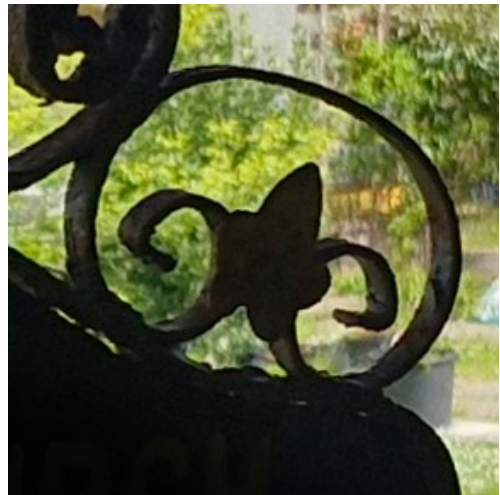
May Picture

More difficult this time to try and throw Mr Towers off the scent!

*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